

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CONNECTION

JUNE/JULY 2008  
VOL. 2 ISSUE 3

Crawford County UW-Extension Program in Community & Economic Development  
225 N. Beaumont St. Prairie du Chien, WI 53821, 608-326-0224, [laura.brown@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:laura.brown@ces.uwex.edu)

*Events & Ideas in Community & Comprehensive Planning  
Business & Economic Development, & Local Government,*



## New Community Resources Available on Crawford County Website

Crawford County website, [www.crawfordcountywi.org](http://www.crawfordcountywi.org) contains a wealth of information about County offices including information on the various departments and what services those departments offer to the public. A meeting calendar may be viewed which will give you information on when the various county meetings are held as well as the agenda for those meetings. The Crawford County directory is another valuable tool for the public to use. This directory is kept up-to-date with the names and addresses of supervisors; town clerks, treasurers and assessors, plan commissioners, and town and village officers. A hard copy of the directory may be obtained from the County Clerk's office. The County Comprehensive Planning Sub-Committee has also added a page with updates on the comprehensive planning process. This includes meeting announcements, information about planning, agendas, minutes, and plan documents for public review.



## CRAWFORD COUNTY WISCONSIN GOVERNMENT

HOME    FAQs    Official Directory    Meeting Schedule



### COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

[Click here to view the Crawford County Code of Ordinances](#)

[Click here for information on Tourism in Crawford County](#)



## Public Libraries Boost the Economy

"Wisconsin's public library system contributes more to the state economy than many people may suspect. A study commissioned by the Department of Public Instruction found that for every tax dollar invested in public libraries, Wisconsin sees a return of over four dollars. DPI's Richard Grobschmidt says part of that return comes from the over 3,200 jobs created by the state's 388 public libraries. However, the materials and online resources offered through each of those locations also helps to create an estimated 3,000 more jobs across the state each year. Grobschmidt says libraries are also expanding the economy by helping more people access the Internet. He says it levels the playing field for those who can't afford a computer or high speed Internet access, which can make it easier for them to find jobs and access online educational tools." Source Wisconsin Radio Network [www.wrn.com](http://www.wrn.com)

## Want to Save Money on Gas? Share A Ride!

Offer or request a ride on this website [www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/crawford/cnred/rideshare.html](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/crawford/cnred/rideshare.html) (or Google "Crawford County Community Development"). To post simply email or fax the following information to Laura Brown [laura.brown@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:laura.brown@ces.uwex.edu) fax 608-326-0226.

First name: If you are SEEKING or OFFERING a ride:  
Leaving from: Going to:  
Date of travel or ongoing:  
Preferred contact info:  
Willing to share cost of gas? y/n  
Any other relevant information: Date posted:

*By submitting this you agree to your information being posted on a public website. Crawford County UW Extension and its affiliates are not responsible for the outcome of these listings.*

## Retreat Highlights Economic Impact of the Arts

On May 1 artists from around Crawford County participated in the UW-Platteville Office of Continuing Education's ArtsBuild retreat; the first phase of an Alliant Energy Foundation civic grant focusing on "Community Arts - Regional Vision." The retreats will be followed later this year with additional technical assistance and networking opportunities throughout the region. Participants learned how supporting the Arts may help to grow local economies. According to Arts Wisconsin, cultural tourism is the leading reason cited by travelers for visiting a community. According to Americans for the Arts and Dun and Bradstreet there are 43,559 full-time arts related jobs in Wisconsin. Wisconsin's nonprofit arts industry generated over \$418 million annually in economic activity, over 15,000 full time jobs and \$61,840,000 in state and local government revenue, according to Arts and Economic Prosperity III, the latest study of the economic power of the arts. For more information visit [www.artswisconsin.org](http://www.artswisconsin.org) or [www.uwplatt.edu/cont\\_ed/artsbuild](http://www.uwplatt.edu/cont_ed/artsbuild)

## Crawford County Tourism Council Focuses on "Silent Sports"

The Crawford County Tourism Council, a standing committee of Community Development Alternatives, is focused on developing events and activities that will bring additional visitors to Crawford County for extended stays. To create more visitor traffic for its seven participating communities, the council has developed several concurrent events on the weekend of September 20 and 21; anchored by the fourth annual Driftless Area Art Festival. The council has added the first annual Kickapoo BRAVE Ride, a bicycling event, to its "Crawford County Celebrates" slate of weekend events. The Council has placed an emphasis on "silent sports" activities, including biking, hiking, camping, canoeing, fishing, and birding. The emphasis is consistent with the strategy of promoting Crawford County as a haven for outdoor activities, highlighted by its unique topography and unparalleled scenery. The long-range Strategic Plan for the council calls for the development of addition bicycle routes and trails, and more recreational opportunities along the Kickapoo River. Questions regarding tourism promotion can be directed to Eric Frydenlund, Tourism Coordinator, at 326-6658.

## Regional Inventors & Entrepreneurs to Rendezvous in LaCrosse

Thursday, June 26 from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m. Speakers begin at 4:30. Cleary Alumni & Friends Center on the UW-La Crosse campus. Several local Inventors & Entrepreneurs Club have partnered to host "Catch the Culture: A 7 Rivers Regional Inventors & Entrepreneurs Rendezvous." The event is FREE and open to the public and provides a regional forum for new and existing business owners to share ideas, connect with like-minded people, and learn business skills from successful business owners in the region and state. Speakers include Stuart Anders, President and CEO of Allied Industries, LLC and Ivan Davis, serial entrepreneur and leader in the movement toward community oriented business. Contact Laura Brown at 608-326-0224 or Jan Gallagher at the UW-La Crosse SBDC at 608.785.8783.

## "Green Government" Helps Governments Save Money..

### ..and the Environment

Launched in 2007, the National Association of Counties (NACo) Green Government Initiative provides comprehensive resources for local governments on all things green, including energy, air quality, transportation, water quality, land use, purchasing and recycling. NACo serves as a catalyst between local governments and the private sector to facilitate green government best practices, products and policies that result in financial and environmental savings. NACo is hosting the following FREE Webinars (interactive online classes). Waste Management, Recycling and E-Waste 101 Thursday, June 12, 2008, 1:00pm - 3:00pm / Communicating Your County Climate Protection Message Wednesday, June 18, 2008, 12:30pm - 2:30pm Central LEED for Existing Buildings Thursday, June 26, 2008, 1:00pm - 3:00pm. Visit [naco.org](http://naco.org) for more information and future classes.

## Local Resources for Job Seekers, Businesses, Inventors, & Entrepreneurs

### Small Business Development Centers

Business workshops, training, and counseling SBDC Lacrosse  
[www.uwlax.edu/sbdc](http://www.uwlax.edu/sbdc) (608) 785-8782,  
 Email: [gallaghe.jani@uwlax.edu](mailto:gallaghe.jani@uwlax.edu) SBDC Platteville  
[www.uwplatt.edu/swsbdc](http://www.uwplatt.edu/swsbdc) Phone: (608) 342-1038 Email:  
[swsbdc@uwplatt.edu](mailto:swsbdc@uwplatt.edu)

### Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission

Revolving loan fund for businesses [www.mrrpc.com/Business\\_Revolving\\_Loan\\_Funds.htm](http://www.mrrpc.com/Business_Revolving_Loan_Funds.htm) 608-785-9396

### CouleeCap, Inc

Business counseling and technical assistance (608) 796-2926  
[Janelle.Olson@couleecap.org](mailto:Janelle.Olson@couleecap.org)

### Wisconsin Job Center

These sessions are held at the Wisconsin Job Center in Crawford County at no cost to you! The Job Center operated under the guidance of the Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Board, Inc. [ccjobcenter@mhtc.net](mailto:ccjobcenter@mhtc.net) [www.wvjobcenter.org](http://www.wvjobcenter.org)

# Crawford County Comprehensive Planning Update

June 1, 2008

Dear Clerks, Plan Commissioners, and Interested Citizens,

We are writing to update you on the progress of the Crawford County Comprehensive Planning Sub-Committee and to inform you about resources that are available to your town or village. The Sub-Committee will be posting updates from the comprehensive planning process on a new page on the Crawford County website. Town and village plan commissioners are also now listed on the Official Crawford County Directory available from the county website as a PDF file.

**[www.crawfordcountywi.org](http://www.crawfordcountywi.org)**

**Comprehensive planning updates, resources, meeting notices and agendas**

In March 2008 the County Comprehensive Planning Sub-Committee contracted with the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission to provide assistance with developing and writing the plan. First steps involved compiling the results of a county survey, adopting a public participation plan, and writing an existing conditions report. The adopted public participation plan is available on the county website. Results of the County tax-bill survey are available by town. To receive your town data by email or CD please contact Laura Brown, 608-326-0224 or [laura.brown@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:laura.brown@ces.uwex.edu). The first public information meetings regarding the plan are scheduled for Fall 2008.

The Regional Planning Commission is in the process of compiling county-wide demographic and population data for an existing conditions report. This data will also be made available to towns and villages. Contact Laura Brown at the number above or the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission at 1-608-785-9396 to receive copies of this data. Mapping data will also be available for use later in 2008.

The County Comprehensive Planning Sub-Committee is committed to respecting the interests of towns in the planning process and making data accessible for town use. Towns are free to use the county plan as a model in the development of their own plans but many elements will need to be updated and tailored based on the specific conditions in your community. In order to meet state requirements towns will not be able to simply adopt the county plan as their own without making some significant changes.

We look forward to your involvement in the planning process!

Sincerely,

Members of the Crawford County Comprehensive Planning Subcommittee: Pete Flesch, Harriet Behar, Tom Cornford, Mike Kilburg, Don Daentl, Phil Mueller  
 Laura Brown, Crawford County UW Extension Community Development Educator

## GET INVOLVED!

The County Comprehensive Planning Sub-Committee meets

**Every third Wednesday  
 7:30 PM at the Crawford County  
 Highway Department, Seneca**

Meetings are open for public involvement and comment. The public may also comment on the plan at meetings of the Land Conservation Planning and Zoning meetings held at the Crawford County Administration Building in Prairie du Chien at 10:00 am on the first Friday of the month.

In place of the June County Sub-Committee meeting, UW Extension will offer **"Implementing the Plan"** **Wednesday June 18, 6:30-8:30 P.M at the Crawford County Highway Department in Seneca.** A networking potluck starts at 5:45. Please call 608-326-0224 to pre-register.

# Comprehensive Planning Workshop Series

## Implementing the Plan

Previously scheduled for Thursday, May 22  
has been rescheduled for

**Wednesday, June 18, 2008**  
**Workshop 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm**

**Potluck at 5:45**

Crawford County Highway Building  
21515 State Highway 27, Seneca

We'll explore tools like as zoning and subdivision regulation  
educational, voluntary and fiscal tools for implementing your plan,  
as well as the role of the plan commission in implementation



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**\*\* COME EARLY FOR A POTLUCK \*\***

We'll have plenty of fresh strawberry shortcake on hand! Bring our community plan documents, ideas, and a dish to pass to the potluck at 5:45. This will be an informal opportunity to get to know others working on comprehensive planning and share your plan ideas.

**PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED**

Please call the UW Extension office or Laura Brown,  
[laura.brown@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:laura.brown@ces.uwex.edu) if you plan to attend 608-326-0224

Learning for life

## UW Researchers To Complete Crawford County Downtown & Tourism Studies

University of Wisconsin Economic Development specialists Gary Green and Bill Ryan from the Center for Community Economic Development are working with the local UW Extension office in Crawford County on two separate studies. Ryan is working with Prairie du Chien Downtown Revitalization on a business and customer survey in Prairie du Chien's downtown area. Green's study focuses on the economic impact of local foods and involved a survey of restaurants and farmers in Crawford and Vernon Counties. Results of these studies should be available by early Fall.

## Prairie du Chien Group Working Toward Fresh Local Foods in Schools

Kathleen Hein, a local mom and City Council member in Prairie du Chien, just thought it made sense for local schools to be serving fresh foods grown by local farmers. She and a group of teachers, parents, and interested farmers have met to discuss ways to support "farm-to-School" programs that will support local fresh foods in school meal and lunch programs in the Prairie du Chien Schools. On April 22 Hein was featured on a panel of southwest Wisconsin citizens who are helping to change the way we think about buy, and serve foods.

## The "Natural Step" Toward Sustainable Development

In a presentation entitled "Sustainable Development: Is it Going Mainstream" Professor Jerry Hembt from the University of Wisconsin Northern Center for Community and Economic Development discussed historic trends in economic development that have led to more mainstream thinking about economic and environmental sustainability. According to the Brundtland Report published in 1987, sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." A new framework called "The Natural Step" is bringing this concept to the local level in the form of municipal commitments to become "eco-municipalities" and small citizen study circles. These citizen groups discuss ways to make communities more sustainable based on the Natural Step Framework. To learn more about Natural Steps Discussion Groups in the area contact Laura Brown at 608-326-0224.

## North Crawford Partnership for Students in Health Careers

On May 1st 50 students from four area High Schools boarded a charter bus to attend the Body Worlds Exhibit at the Milwaukee Public Museum. The project was designed to enhance student interest in health careers while also increasing their awareness of the variety of careers available in the health care industry. This experience was made possible through a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) grant through the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. North Crawford School District was one of 13 statewide recipients of this STEM Grant. Tarasa Lown, North Crawford School to Work Coordinator, spearheaded the project collaborating with Mary Heath from De Soto, Lori Hines from Boscobel, and Nancy Becker from Prairie du Chien High Schools. Sherry Quamme, RN, with the SW Wisconsin Area Health Education Center, consulted to the project and provided follow up through student career exploration groups after returning from the trip.

## Making Moolah Student Business Workshop

June 17 and 18, 2008, UW Platteville This 2 day workshop is for students entering 7th and 8th grades in the Fall of 2008. Participants will develop a website for a business, learn the ups and downs of marketing and talk to local business owners. The entire workshop is hands-on learning with games & activities. Families are invited to hear presentations on June 18, 2008. At 11:30am there will be a message from a local business person and at 12:00pm students will present what they have created for their new products or businesses. Visit [www.uwplatt.edu/soa/makinmoolah.html](http://www.uwplatt.edu/soa/makinmoolah.html) for more info.

## Upcoming Inventors & Entrepreneurs Club Meetings



All meetings are FREE and open to the public. Contact Laura Brown 608-326-0223 for more information.

### How to Survive as A New Business with Vernon Vineyards

Tuesday, June 10, 6:30 PM Gays Mills Community Building Bob Starks and Loren Cade of Vernon Vineyards

### What Makes a Good Business Idea

Tuesday, July 8, 6:30 PM Gays Mills Community Building with Jan Gallagher, LaCrosse Small Business Development Center

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Laura Brown, Community & Economic Educator  
Crawford County UW Extension  
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## **Who Is Crawford County UW Extension?**

Laura Brown- Community Development Educator  
Jane Schaaf- Family Living Agent  
Vance Haugen- Agriculture Agent  
Amy Mitchell- 4-H Youth Development Agent  
Karen Snitker—Program Assistant  
Sharon Steele- Program Assistant

*Receive this newsletter by email! Contact Crawford County UW Extension at 608-326-0223 to update your email address or receive paper copies of the resources above. Please submit local Community Development events, successes, & news items to Laura Brown [laura.brown@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:laura.brown@ces.uwex.edu)*