

**CITY MANAGER**  
**CITY OF PALM COAST**

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**Stage 2 Media Results For**  
**RICHARD HOUGH II**



This report reflects media results through 3/28/25.

## **FINALIST CANDIDATE MEDIA SEARCH RESULTS**

The media search results have been prepared for the exclusive use for the City of Palm Coast, FL.

SGR does not and indeed cannot represent either (1) that all of the information is true, correct, and/or accurate (though SGR makes every effort to obtain all relevant information to provide, including – when appropriate – an explanation or additional detail from a candidate) or (2) that the information is legally appropriate for consideration in the decision whether to hire. For example, information about a person that shows they are in a protected class (race, color, religion, sex and national origin, age, or disability, in addition to others) should not be considered in hiring but may be provided by SGR since it is publicly available and may be discovered and brought to City of Palm Coast's attention by members of the public. City of Palm Coast should consult with its own legal counsel and/or human resource professionals for advice in this regard.

You will find in the Table of Contents pertinent information relating to the candidate beginning with the Findings if any. The Findings will provide any negative, questionable, or controversial articles regarding the candidate. It is highly recommended to view these findings in their entirety.

The remainder of the media search provides links to social media resources, google search information, and newspaper articles where the candidate is mentioned. Click and open each article to view the information provided. The type of link is identified in the Table of Contents.

In addition, SGR uses Lexis Diligence, a proprietary platform to perform critical due diligence research for your organization. This can also be found in the table of contents.

It is strongly recommended that each link is opened and read in its entirety.



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## Richard Hough II

### **Social Media and Business Resource Links:**

Wisconsin County  
HWY.org

<https://wiscohwy.org/Sys/PublicProfile/67068187>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100004271138256>

LinkedIn

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/richard-hough-44b1367b/>

Facebook Mention

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/635782954597528/posts/1147416976767454/?\\_rd](https://www.facebook.com/groups/635782954597528/posts/1147416976767454/?_rd)

**Richard Hough II**

**Google Articles and Newspaper Links:**

**March 12, 2025**

<https://flaglerlive.com/cty-council-cuts-list/>

**February 10, 2025**

<https://www.1059thehog.com/2025/02/10/rock-countys-attorney-defends-process-used-to-vet-county-administrator-candidates/>

**January 28, 2025**

<https://newsdaytonabeach.com/stories/palm-coast-city-manager-search-narrows-with-desire-for-more-applicants.101765>

**January 15,, 2025**

<https://www.mostly90s.com/2025/01/15/rock-county-gives-more-details-on-county-administrator-finalist-finalist-from-illinois/>

**July 29, 2023**

<https://whitewaterbanner.com/walworth-co-public-works-dept-achieves-accreditation/>

**July 18, 2023**

<https://www.fernandinaobserver.org/stories/manager-applications-up-to-42-19-with-crucial-experience,15999>

**March 24, 2023**

<https://www.wmtv15news.com/2023/03/24/new-walworth-county-ordinance-dealing-with-atvutv-use/>

**January 18, 2023**

<https://www.1059thehog.com/2023/01/18/walworth-county-recognizes-wisconsin-salt-awareness-week/>

**April 18, 2022**

[https://www.gazettextra.com/news/walworth\\_county/walworth-county-public-works-staff-to-ask-for-first-highway-repair-budget-increase-in-two/article\\_436ae91a-bf5f-11ec-82f0-1709f8570fdf.html](https://www.gazettextra.com/news/walworth_county/walworth-county-public-works-staff-to-ask-for-first-highway-repair-budget-increase-in-two/article_436ae91a-bf5f-11ec-82f0-1709f8570fdf.html)

**January 03, 2020**

<https://www.nbc4i.com/news/u-s-world/wisconsin-teacher-admits-to-defecating-in-public-park-for-two-years/>

**January 02, 2020**

[https://www.wkow.com/news/walworth-county-public-works-director-recounts-years-long-saga-with-serial-public-defecator/article\\_a5a6f257-4fcf-5952-bd60-9cd478df0b22.html](https://www.wkow.com/news/walworth-county-public-works-director-recounts-years-long-saga-with-serial-public-defecator/article_a5a6f257-4fcf-5952-bd60-9cd478df0b22.html)

**March 06, 2018**

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/4194037/col-richard-hough-ii-visits-caserma-ederle-vicenza-italy>

**January 04, 2018**

<https://breakingdefense.com/2018/01/armys-basic-illusions-gone-time-for-futures-command/>

**September 15, 2017**

<https://breakingdefense.com/2017/09/congress-let-defense-innovators-breathe-free/>

# Amid questions, Rock County Board approves Light as administrator

The Gazette (Janesville, Wisconsin)

February 13, 2025 Thursday

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Section: LOCAL

Length: 879 words

Byline: RYAN SPOEHR [ryan.spoehr@apgsd.com](mailto:ryan.spoehr@apgsd.com)

## Body

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JANESVILLE Despite concerns expressed over his length of tenure at prior jobs, the hiring process, and if he was the right candidate, John Light was approved Thursday as the next Rock County administrator.

The appointment was approved 19-7 by the Rock County Board, with three absences. Barb Tillman, vice chair of the staff committee, was one of the seven who voted no. The others voting no were Kim Schneider, Mike Schwarz, Christine Fugelseth, Sue Ryan, Kevin Stone and Doug Sutter.

Light has been serving as the interim township administrator in Lisle Township, Illinois since October.

Light previously served as the town of Parker, Colorado human resources director from 1996-2001. He then served as the human resources director for McHenry County, Illinois from 2001-2005. From there, he served as the Community Unit School District #300 in Illinois, which covers multiple northwest Chicago suburbs, from 2005-2012.

Light served as the human resources director for Kent County, Michigan, in 2012. He then was administrator of Stephenson County, Illinois from 2013-2016. Light then became the director of human resources in 2016, a position he held until 2020. He then became the director of human resources for Lake County, Illinois in 2020, a position he held until 2024.

Schneider said the number of jobs and Light's lengths of tenure at each position were a red flag to her fellow board members. She said the county board's staff committee "should have done their due diligence" and brought three candidates to the entire board to hire an administrator.

"I believe we have a commitment to our constituents and to ourselves to bring forth a candidate that shows a commitment to various jobs that last longer than five years. The candidate brought forth tonight has an average job tenure of four years in the last 20 years of his employment," Schneider said.

"I would think we should expect the same in Rock County if this candidate is confirmed tonight," Schneider continued, adding that she is concerned about having to look for another candidate in "4-5 years."

Schneider added that the last two Rock County administrators each spent 30 years and 10 years in the role respectively, saying that Light has "never lasted eight years anywhere."

The process itself came up as a red flag, particularly from Schwarz, who said he was "surprised" that the final three candidates didn't come before the entire board.

"I'm fine with the final three who were selected, but not how they got to one. I'm going to be voting 'no' on this, and it's not based on John as an individual or his ability to perform the job as administrator, but just because of the way the process went down at the end," Schwarz said.

When the staff committee went into closed session to discuss the candidates, other board members were invited into the meeting to give input. The staff committee ultimately voted to recommend Light.

"I was lucky enough to be able to take time to see a couple of the interviews and I understood the process. The (board) chair (Kevin Leavy) was open with the process from the beginning," board member Mark Bobzien said. "Whether you like one candidate or the other is beside the point right now. The process went as it was explained to us at the beginning. We all had the opportunity to hear every one of these people, and I'm not breaking any confidence but we were able to say what we felt in executive session, even those who were bystanders."

Board members Debi Towns and Genia Stevens said Light was not their top choice as administrator. In Towns' case, Light didn't make her top two, she said.

However, neither voted against the appointment. Towns cited the multiple public appearances by the candidates and the closed session meeting, but also the decision of the staff committee itself. Towns is a member of the staff committee.

Explaining why she would vote yes, Towns said, "he is the choice of the majority of the staff committee and that's how democracy works. During debate, you make your argument as strongly as you can and you hope it has reason enough to sway your colleagues to see your point of view but when the vote is cast, the majority rules. I made a strong argument in committee, I tHought, for my position. I left knowing I was going to support the vote of the committee."

Towns added that she wanted to see Light become the "best administrator that we have had in recent memory." She also said that whether or not he would be appointed, the vote would belong to the board and that is "how democracy works."

"One of the things that made this job very appealing was the interview process," Light said after the vote. "That made this job an easy 'yes' when it was offered, and I would like to continue the long tradition here of public service by performing at a very high level for you and earning your trust and respect."

A proposed contract on the county's website listed an annual salary of \$158,409.

Also up for the position were Andrew Baker, the county's director of planning and land conservation, and employee of the county since 2004. The other candidate was Richard Hough, the director of public works in Walworth County.

Smith resigned as administrator to become the associate vice president for finance at the Universities of Wisconsin.

Load-Date: February 14, 2025

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# 'At least 10 years.' Rock County administrator finalist says he'd stay for the long haul

The Gazette (Janesville, Wisconsin)

February 11, 2025 Tuesday

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Section: LOCAL

Length: 580 words

Byline: RYAN SPOEHR ryan.spoehr@apgsu.com

## Body

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JANESVILLE Rock County administrator candidate John Light has a long-term view of the job he's up Thursday to be confirmed for.

In an interview Tuesday, Light told The Gazette he hopes to be in the role for the next decade if the Rock County Board approves his appointment.

"I was asked that at one of the community forums," Light said. "How long would I like to stay? I would like to stay at least 10 years. Would I like to stay more than 10 years? Yes. I want to make sure I do a good job and position myself into doing a good job."

According to a proposed contract posted on the county's website, Light would be paid \$158,409 a year.

The county board's Staff Committee named Light as its top choice to replace outgoing Josh Smith, who resigned in November to become the senior associate vice president for finance at the Universities of Wisconsin.

It forwarded the recommendation to hire Light that is up for approval at Thursday's county board meeting.

The meeting is at the Rock County Courthouse, 51 S. Main St., Janesville, in Courtroom H on the fourth floor, at 6 p.m. It can be streamed on the county's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcGhCAgg7M8721fnSaYU29Q>.

Light told The Gazette he didn't "want to put the cart before the horse," in terms of the appointment process, noting the position is still pending. But he said to be up for it is "real exciting."

"To get this spot is real humbling," Light said. "It was a very thorough process, a very engaging process with community members involved, and county board members and staff members involved."

He said his goal is to "do a great job for the county and the constituents."

Light currently serves as the interim township administrator in Lisle Township, Illinois. Before that he served as the director of human resources for Lake County, Illinois; city of Des Plaines, Illinois; Kent County, Michigan, Community Unit School District #300; McHenry County, Illinois and the town of Parker, Colorado. He was also the county

administrator for Stephenson County, Illinois. Community Unit School District #300 is a district through multiple northwest Chicago suburbs.

If Light is appointed, he would become county administrator on March 3.

There were 49 applications for the positions. Six semi-finalists were invited to initial interviews with the staff committee, at which time three finalists were chosen. The other two finalists were Andrew Baker, Rock County's current director of planning and land conservation, and Richard Hough, the director of public works in Walworth County.

According to the resolution to be considered Thursday night, the county "conducted a comprehensive recruitment effort" to fill the vacancy and the candidates "were screened with the most qualified being interviewed."

The resolution was initiated by Supervisor Rich Bostwick, who is the chair of the staff committee. Bostwick declined to comment on Light and his resume, saying the matter was discussed in closed session.

The proposed administrator contract on the county website states that the county will reimburse Light for moving expenses up to \$6,000 if he moves to Rock County by Dec. 31, 2025 and up to \$3,000 if he moves to Rock County by Dec. 31, 2026. According to the contract, he would need to get two quotes for the move and accept the "most responsible cost-effective bid." If Light leaves before Dec. 31, 2026, he is required to reimburse the county for the moving expenses, according to the contract.

Load-Date: February 14, 2025

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# County administrator chosen, not yet revealed

The Gazette (Janesville, Wisconsin)

January 28, 2025 Tuesday

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Section: LOCAL

Length: 492 words

Byline: RYAN SPOEHR ryan.spoehr@apgs.com

## Body

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JANESVILLE The Rock County Board Staff Committee has made its selection on the new county administrator to send to the full board for final approval. That person's identity has not yet been shared publicly.

Three candidates have been up for the position Andrew Baker, Richard Hough and John Light.

At a special staff committee meeting Monday, held in closed session, all county board members were invited to share their opinions on each of the candidates.

"Right now, HR is conducting background and reference checks. We won't be releasing the individual's name until those processes are completed," Staff Committee Chair Richard Bostwick said Monday via text message to The Gazette.

The completion of that process is to be determined, Bostwick added.

The candidates

Baker is Rock County's director of planning and land conservation. He has worked for Rock County since April 2004. He was also a senior planner for the county.

As candidates spoke to county board members Jan. 23, Baker talked about how Rock County is his home.

"There's so many exciting things we have to offer in the county to me and why I intend to stay here," Baker said. "We have a diverse economy based on our strategic location between Madison, Chicago and Milwaukee and Minneapolis. We have excellent rail transport. I live outside Milton. On the east side, you see how much growth is in the Milton area, primarily based on the access to rail."

Hough is the Walworth County public works director. He served in the U.S. Army until retiring in February 2019 as a colonel.

Hough told board members Jan. 23 that he relishes having the opportunity to make tough decisions over potential priorities over challenges that the county faces.

"I'm a run-to-the-sound-of-the-guns type of person. I really gained a greater appreciation for this is what I do. This is what I signed up for. This is the kind of responsibility that I am ready for and would appreciate your blessing to come

in here to help guide future development toward initiatives that take us down a path that seeks win-win solutions for the community," Hough said.

Light said he would bring enthusiasm to the position if chosen.

"I've worked for cities and counties. I've been a department head for some rather large counties, head of HR. I've also been a county administrator. So, I am intimately familiar with building budget processes, working with large county boards and dealing with the issues that counties face that cities don't face, but I'm also familiar with the city side of the equation which allows me to build relationships between governmental entities," Light said.

The county has been vague on its description of Light's resume, but has described him as an interim township administrator.

"Prior to this interim position, John has held the position of director of human resources in various counties, cities, towns, and a school district. He has also been a county administrator," a county release states.

Load-Date: January 29, 2025

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# Rock County Board hears from administrator candidates

The Gazette (Janesville, Wisconsin)

January 23, 2025 Thursday

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Section: NEWS

Length: 569 words

Byline: RYAN SPOEHR ryan.spoehr@apgs.wisconsin.gov

## Body

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JANESVILLE Three candidates to replace Josh Smith as Rock County administrator made their final pitches before Rock County supervisors Thursday night.

Andrew Baker, the county's director of planning and land conservation, was invited to speak as were the other two candidates, Richard Hough and John Light. Hough is the Walworth County director of public works. He served in the U.S. Army for 30 years until retiring in February 2019 as a colonel.

Rock County has given few details about Light's background, but has said he is an interim township administrator who has been a director of human resource director in a variety of counties, cities, towns and a school district. The county said he has also been a county administrator.

Baker has lived in Rock County since 1992 and has worked for the county since April 2004.

"It's clear Rock County is home for me. There's so many exciting things we have to offer in the county to me and why I intend to stay here," Baker said. "We have a diverse economy based on our strategic location between Madison, Chicago and Milwaukee and Minneapolis. We have excellent rail transport. I live outside Milton. On the east side, you see how much growth is in the Milton area, primarily based on the access to rail."

He added he would first meet with department heads if he gets the job.

"I've heard plenty of challenges over the last two days and I can appreciate those. Many communities face those, and you have some unique ones. So, as we look at priorities and have to make tough decisions, I relish that," he said. "I'm a run-to-the-sound-of-the-guns type of person. I really gained a greater appreciation for this is what I do. This is what I signed up for. This is the kind of responsibility that I am ready for and would appreciate your blessing to come in here to help guide future development toward initiatives that take us down a path that seeks win-win solutions for the community."

"I've got ample leadership qualities," Hough added. "I've managed complex organizations as large as Rock County, including in combat zones in dynamic environments. So, it's not the environment. At the end of the day, it's applied leadership, and working with people through good coordination, clarity of message and accountability."

Light said he will always bring enthusiasm and he's "always bouncing around."

"I've worked for cities and counties. I've been a department head for some rather large counties, head of HR. I've also been a county administrator. So, I am intimately familiar with building budget processes, working with large county boards and dealing with the issues that counties face that cities don't face, but I'm also familiar with the city side of the equation which allows me to build relationships between governmental entities," Light said.

"I think Rock County has a bright future. The future is so bright here. I was flattered for you inviting me here," Light added.

#### Opioid funds

The county board also amended its budget Thursday after funds became available for treatment and recovery support services.

The funds total \$152,240 and were made available by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

The county has been receiving funds to treat people with opioid use disorders since 2017. The funds will be used to help people access medication and/or counseling for disorders and to provide recovery support services, such as peer support and sober living.

Load-Date: January 24, 2025

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# Rock County administrator candidates meet the public

The Gazette (Janesville, Wisconsin)

January 22, 2025 Wednesday

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Section: LOCAL

Length: 599 words

Byline: RYAN SPOEHR ryan.spoehr@apgs.wisconsin.gov

## Body

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JANESVILLE Three candidates vying to be the next Rock County administrator shared why they want the job, and faced questions Wednesday on topics like diversity, equity and inclusion.

Andrew Baker, Richard Hough and John Light all attended a meet and greet Wednesday at the Dr. Daniel Hale Williams Resource Center in Janesville.

Baker, Rock County's current director of planning and land conservation, has worked for Rock County since April 2004. He was a senior planner for the county, as well.

Hough is currently the director of public works in Walworth County. He served in the U.S. Army until retiring in February 2019 with the rank of colonel.

Light is an interim township administrator whom a recent release said has also been director of human resources in a variety of counties, cities, towns and a school district.

At Wednesday night's gathering, Light said he will support others. "How I work with others is lifting others, supporting them. That's how we do it as a community," Light said.

Katrina Harwood, the county's health director, asked Baker about communication, something identified as lacking in the county's strategic plan.

"I think there's a lot of good things that the county does. I think there's ways that we can better promote the good things and positively bolster county programs that we offer," Baker responded, adding that it's then "easier to sell things to the county board."

Candidates were pushed on wages and labor, and on unions.

"My perspective on unions is I don't know if I have a right or left perspective on unions," Hough responded. "You are employees of the county doing a very important mission and you need to be justly compensated for that."

Hough said after several years of not investing in diversity, equity and inclusion training, he told his superior he needed DEI courses. He attended those courses, that focused in part on civility, last week, he said. He also drew from his military experience.

"There was a slide How do you boil it down to the essentials?" Hough said. "The organization I led was one of the most diverse organizations in the United States Army."

DEI is "really about serving everybody in Rock County. You don't want to alienate everybody. It's a safe harbor. We're here to serve everybody," Light said. "When you start breaking down barriers and people start rethinking their experience and thinking they could have done that better, that's when you make inroads."

Baker said he will support the county's DEI policies.

"I'm absolutely on board with defending those programs. I think it's helpful to realize that not everyone is not going to agree with everything that you might offer in the training because they read about things in the national news or they stereotype different people, for the lack of a better term," Baker said.

Baker was asked if he would advocate for a better housing market.

"We are in a spot for commuters with both the interstate system and Highway 26 to have people to live in Rock County and work elsewhere or vice versa," Baker said. "The county has so much statutory authority. The county board might want to spend millions of dollars on housing but don't have the authority to do it."

The three finalists will give presentations of up to 15 minutes long at the county board meeting Thursday, Jan. 23, at 6 p.m. at the county courthouse, 51 S. Main St., Janesville.

Then there will be a special county board staff committee meeting at 6 p.m. in closed session for board members to give opinions on the candidates. The committee is expected to craft a resolution to recommend a candidate to the board

Load-Date: January 23, 2025

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# Rock County Administrator finalists named

The Gazette (Janesville, Wisconsin)

January 13, 2025 Monday

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Section: APGSTATE

Length: 181 words

Byline: Clint Wolf

## Body

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JANESVILLE - Three finalists for the position of Rock County Administrator have been named and residents will be able to meet them at an event set for Jan. 22.

Former County Administrator Josh Smith announced his resignation effective Nov. 15 after nearly 10 years in the position.

The finalists are:

- Andrew Baker, Director of Planning and Land Conservation at Rock County. Baker has worked for Rock County since April 2004. Prior to his promotion, he was the Senior Planner.
- Richard Hough, Director of Public Works at Walworth County. Prior to Walworth County, he served from February 1989 to February 2019 in the U.S Army. Retiring in February 2019 as a U.S. Army Colonel.
- John Light, Interim Township Administrator. Prior to this Interim position, John has held the position of Director of Human Resources in various Counties, Cities, Towns, and a School District. He has also been a County Administrator.

A Community Event when the finalists will be present will be held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 22, at the Dr. Daniel Hale Williams Resource Center, 1717 Center Ave, Janesville.

Load-Date: January 14, 2025

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# Evers, WisDOT announce two new Rustic Roads, including seventh Walworth County route

Lake Geneva Regional News (Wisconsin)

April 15, 2024

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Section: NEWS

Length: 1823 words

Byline: Eric Johnson

## Body

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Rustic Road 126 in the Town of East TroyOne of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's newest-designated Rustic Roads, Rustic Road 126 in the Town of East Troy runs a four-mile route along portions of Bell School Road and Hillburn Mill Road off State Hwy. 20. Featuring agricultural vistas, scenic Honey Creek and the Wisconsin DNR's 251-acre Honey Creek Streambank Preservation Area, newly-designated R-126 is one of seven WisDOT-sanctioned Rustic Roads in Walworth County.

Walworth County now joins neighboring Racine County in offering sightseeing motorists the most scenic Rustic Road routes in the state, at seven each, followed by Polk County with six, Door and St. Croix counties with five, and Burnett, Columbia, Dane and Green counties with four each.

Gov. Tony Evers and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), announced April 15 that there are two new additions to the Rustic Roads Program, which features lightly traveled scenic routes throughout the state.

Tony EversEvers

"Since its inception in 1973, the Rustic Roads Program has encouraged folks to get outside and enjoy scenic routes in every corner of the state," Evers said. "No matter where you go or what season you travel, Wisconsin's rustic roads underscore the rich history of our state and highlight the vast and vibrant natural resources that we are working hard to preserve for future generations to enjoy."

One new route, Rustic Road 126 in southeastern Wisconsin, crosses Honey Creek in Walworth County in the Town of East Troy and passes what was once a one-room schoolhouse.

Honey Creek along Bell School Road in the Town of East Troy, Walworth CountyScenic Honey Creek along Bell School Road in the Town of East Troy is one of the natural features to be seen along Walworth County's newest Rustic Road, R-126, which encompasses a 4-mile route along portions of Bell School Road and Hillburn Mill Road off State Hwy. 20

The other route, Rustic Road 125, is a mix of pavement and gravel for 9.4 miles near the American Birkebeiner Trail in northwestern Wisconsin's forests in Bayfield and Sawyer counties.

R-125, which is comprised of Telemark Road and Spider Lake Fire Lane, curves along hilly, glaciated country through Bayfield County and Sawyer County forests. The Namekagon River and a network of trails for mountain biking, cross-country skiing, and all-terrain vehicles cross the route.

In total, Wisconsin's 126 Rustic Road routes span approximately 760 miles in 61 counties, including 30.8 miles in Walworth County.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) Secretary Craig Thompson

"These two new additions to the Rustic Roads program are at opposite ends of the state one passes under the dense canopy of our Northwoods, the other crosses southeastern Wisconsin's rich farmland near one of the state's early schoolhouses," said WisDOT Secretary Craig Thompson. "In both cases, local communities nominated these routes to offer something special, and on behalf of all of us who enjoy a path less traveled, we thank them for their collaboration."

Rustic Road 120, Town of East Troy Newly designated as a Rustic Road by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Rustic Road 126 in the Town of East Troy is today one of seven designated Rustic Roads in Walworth County, encompassing an aggregate 30.8 miles of local roads. Seen here looking north from State Hwy. 20 along Hillburn Mill Rd., Rustic Road 120 encompasses portions of Hillburn Mill and Bell School roads along its scenic 4-mile route, which includes sweeping agricultural vistas, preserved farms, woodlots, Honey Creek, the Wisconsin DNR's 251-acre Honey Creek Streambank Preservation Area, and circa 1853 Bell School No. 5.

Discover R-126

R-126, which runs four miles along portions of Bell School Road and Hillburn Mill Road, is accessed off State Hwy. 20 in the Town of East Troy and features sweeping agricultural vistas, preserved farms, and woodlots.

Honey Creek Streambank Protection Area, W536 Bell School Rd., Town of East Troy Walworth County's newest Wisconsin Department of Transportation Rustic Road, R-126 in the Town of East Troy, offers several points of interest along its 4-mile route, including the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' Honey Creek Streambank Protection Area, W536 Bell School Road. The DNR site offers 251 public acres for hiking, hunting, fishing, canoeing, birding and cross-country skiing.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' Honey Creek Streambank Protection Area, W536 Bell School Road in the Town of East Troy, offers 251 public acres for hiking, hunting, fishing, canoeing, birding and cross-country skiing. Located in northeastern Walworth County, the DNR site encompasses marshland and lowland woodland with grassy openings, with deer and waterfowl present.

Bell School No. 7, N7945 Bell School Rd., Town of East Troy Anchoring the eastern terminus of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's newest Rustic Road, R-126, which runs a four-mile-long route along portions of Bell School Road and Hillburn Mill Road in the Town of East Troy, is circa-1853 Bell School No. 7, N7945 Bell School Rd. Originally a one-room schoolhouse and today purposed as a private residence, Bell School operated from 1853-1961.

Circa-1853 Bell School No. 7, originally a one-room schoolhouse at N7945 Bell School Rd., is on the Wisconsin Architecture and History Inventory. With additions in 1887, 1934 and 1960, Bell School operated from 1853-1961. Today repurposed as a private residence, the structure is located on the eastern terminus of R-126 at the intersection of Bell School Road and State Hwy. 20.

As part of the new Rustic Road designation, the speed limit on Bell School Road was reduced on April 11 to 35 m.p.h. between Stone School Road and Hillburn Mill Road.

Town of East Troy Chairman Joseph Klarkowski

"I think it's very nice to have one," said Town of East Troy Chairman Joseph Klarkowski of the community's first Rustic Road. "We're happy."

Klarkowski said the drive for a Rustic Road designation in the town was very much a grassroots effort.

"The people that live on the road made a request and a petition to make it a Rustic Road," he recalled. "A lot of it is farmland, including the last dairy farm in the town. We have Honey Creek along the route, in both a bridge crossing and a mill pond. There's a Wisconsin DNR wetland overlook on the route. Rural residential. A lot of mature trees. I think it (Rustic Route 126) will be a destination ... It's scenic. I think people will want to see it. It's set up pretty good to be a Rustic Road ... I think it'll be a good thing."

Looking east into nearby western Racine County along State Hwy. 20, Klarkowski said Rustic Road 126 will be a "natural extension" of 7.9-mile Rustic Road 2 in western Racine County, which runs north of Burlington through Rochester along Honey Lake Road, Maple Lane Heritage Road and Maple Drive to State Hwy. 83, northwest of Waterford.

A major feature of Rustic Road 2 is the Wehmhoff Woodland Preserve, 3099 S. Honey Lake Rd., Town of Burlington.

In addition to R-126, there are six other Rustic Road routes in Walworth County: R-11 (10.3 miles, Lyons), R-12 (5.7 miles, Lyons), R-29 (2.7 miles, Geneva and Linn), R-36 (3.6 miles, Lyons), R-85 (2.5 miles, Spring Prairie) and R-120 (two miles, Lafayette).

Walworth County Highway Commissioner **Richard Hough**

"The Rustic Road program is driven by local governments to designate a roadway that might have some outstanding beauty or particular feature that they'd like to bring people's attention to," said Walworth County Highway Commissioner **Richard Hough**. "It's good to have so many roads already designated in Walworth County. We're a little above the norm in how many Rustic Roads we already have. It might bring in additional tourists who are interested in coming to Walworth County to see scenic beauty."

Patricia Bedlow, administrative services contractor for the Delavan-based Walworth County Visitor's Bureau, marketed at goWALCO, praised the "good news" of another Rustic Road designation in the county.

"It's a beautiful area," Bedlow said. "Those unique brown-and-yellow sign markers are in a variety of places. There are so many ways to enjoy the county. You can do that (Rustic Roads) on car, bike and motorcycle. It's nice to be able to get on a lightly-traveled country road and enjoy the peaceful and serene countryside, especially in the fall. It's fun to be able to get into some unique spaces that people don't see if they always travel the highway."

Also excited at the news of the new Rustic Roads designation for Walworth County is Visit Lake Geneva President and CEO Stephanie Klett.

Stephanie Klett Photo

"With the addition of a seventh Wisconsin Rustic Road in Walworth County, no other county in the state can boast more," Klett noted. "This is a big attraction for many folks wanting to slow down and take the road less traveled. We are in such a hurry in our daily lives, that Rustic Roads require us by law to slow down and enjoy the beauty around us. Each Rustic Road offers something unique, whether it's native vegetation, wildlife, vistas or farms. In serving as Secretary of Wisconsin Tourism (2011-2018), the 'Rustic Roads Guide' was always one of our most popular publications. I think its popularity stems from each Rustic Road being so different from the next one. Depending on what county you are in, the geography differs greatly. Driving, hiking or biking a Rustic Road showcases the beauty of our state that you would miss driving highway speeds."

For more information on Rustic Roads in Walworth County and elsewhere, visit <https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/travel/road/rustic-roads/explore.aspx>.

Farm view along Bell School Road in the Town of East Troy One of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's newest Rustic Road designations is that of Rustic Road 126 in the Town of East Troy in Walworth County. Rustic Road 126, encompassing a 4-mile route along portions of Bell School Road and Hillburn Mill Road off State Hwy. 20, includes sweeping agricultural vistas, preserved farms, and woodlots among other scenic features, including Honey

Creek and circa-1953 Bell School No. 7. Pictured is the Frank and Colleen Henningfeld Farm at N8175 Bell School Rd., the last dairy farm in the Town of East Troy.

#### The Rustic Roads program

Rustic roads range from two miles to 37 miles in length and have a maximum speed limit of 45 miles per hour. Unique brown and yellow signs mark the routes of all officially designated rustic roads.

WisDOT oversees the Rustic Roads Program; however, the roads remain under local government authority.

Additional information about the Rustic Roads Program and the nomination process is available at <https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/travel/rustic-roads/create.aspx>.

Photos: The Rustic Roads of WisconsinThe program, created in 1973, highlights the state's rural character.

Load-Date: April 18, 2024

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End of Document

# Walworth County Public Works Department receives accreditation

Lake Geneva Regional News (Wisconsin)

August 1, 2023

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Section: NEWS

Length: 455 words

Byline: Staff Writer

## Body

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The Walworth County Public Works Department has recently received full accreditation from the American Public Works Association.

This accreditation verifies and recognizes that the agency is in full compliance with the recommended management practices set forth in APWA's Public Works Management Practices Manual.

Walworth County Public Works Department is only the second agency and the first county to be accredited in the State of Wisconsin. The other accredited agency in Wisconsin is the City of Janesville.

Initial accreditation from APWA is for a four-year period, during which time semi-annual updates will be required to demonstrate continuing compliance. After that time, there is a re-accreditation process that builds on the original accreditation, encouraging continuous improvement and compliance with newly identified practices.

The purpose of accreditation is to promote excellence in the operation and management of a public works agency, its programs, and its employees.

Accreditation is designed to assist the agency in the continuous improvement of operations and management, and in providing a valid and objective evaluation of agency programs as a service to the public and the profession.

"The Department of Public Works has dedicated itself to continuous improvement, excellence, fiscal and personal accountability," **Richard Hough**, director of Walworth County Public Work, said in a press release. "The credit for this accomplishment belongs to the staff whose mission is to provide services and programs that contribute to making Walworth County a great place to live and work."

APWA's accreditation process includes five major steps:

Self-assessment: Using the Public Works Management Practices Manual, an internal review of an agency's practices combined with a comparison of the recommended practices contained in the manual;Application: Once the decision has been made to commit to the Accreditation Program, the agency submits a formal application;Improvement: After the agency has completed the self-assessment and identified areas needing improvement, the agency will work to bring all practices into an acceptable level of compliance with the recommended practices;Evaluation: Following the completion of the improvement phase, the agency will request a site visit. The site visit will consist of a review and evaluation of the agency to determine the level of compliance with all applicable practices;Accreditation: The

Accreditation Council will review the site visit results and recommendations from the team, voting to award or deny accreditation.

For more information about APWA Accreditation, please contact APWA Accreditation Manager Nicole Shoemaker at [nshoemaker@apwa.net](mailto:nshoemaker@apwa.net), or (816) 595-5294.

Load-Date: August 1, 2023

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# Walworth County reminds residents of ATV/UTV ordinance (copy)

Lake Geneva Regional News (Wisconsin)

April 2, 2023

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Section: NEWS

Length: 691 words

Byline: Staff Writer

## Body

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In December 2022, the Walworth County Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance related to the use of all-terrain vehicles and utility-terrain vehicles on Walworth County roadways.

The county's ordinance specifies that if a city, town or village has adopted a local ordinance allowing the use of ATVs and/or UTVs within their jurisdiction, as allowed under Wis. Stat. s. 23.33, then ATV and/or UTV use is also permitted on county roadways within the municipality's boundaries regardless of the posted speed limit.

Under the ordinance, any municipality that permits the use of ATVs and/or UTVs is responsible for posting the proper signage.

Additionally, ATVs/UTVs are only authorized on approved county highways between 5 a.m. and 11 p.m. The ordinance goes into effect on July 1.

The additional time was requested in order to give residents and municipalities time to learn more about the new ordinance, restrictions and signage requirements.

"The county is extending its authority to local municipalities to authorize and post ATV/UTV use on county highways within their jurisdictional boundaries regardless of the posted speed limit," Walworth County Public Works Director and Highway Commissioner **Richard Hough** said in a press release. "However, with less than a dozen municipalities authorizing ATV or UTV use in Walworth County, riders need to know the local rules and follow the posted signs."

In order to understand where they can and can't ride ATVs/UTVs, riders should know the differences between the types of roads and what is allowed on each:

Interstate Highway 143, no ATV/UTV operation is allowed.

State or US Highways: Controlled by the State of Wisconsin or the federal government. All state roads are numbered. Local cities, towns, or villages may enact an ordinance authorizing the operation of ATVs/UTVs on a state highway with a posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour or less that is located within the territorial boundaries of the municipality. State highways with speed limits over 35 miles per hour remain off-limits to ATV/UTV use unless approved by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and posted as ATV/UTV routes.



County roads/highways: Controlled by Walworth County. All lettered roads are county roads. Examples are County Highways A, B, C, DD, H, etc. Authorization to drive ATV/UTVs on county roads is subject to municipal ordinances.

Municipal Roads: The municipality controls and must post the designation of ATV/UTV routes on town, village and city roads. All named roads are municipal roads.

Riders are reminded to:

Know the local ATV/UTV ordinances. As ordinances are subject to change, contact your local municipality for the most up-to-date information. Follow the ATV Route signs. Stay off the road if you don't see ATV/UTV route signs. Do not assume County roads are authorized unless the local municipality has posted signage. Know which roads are authorized and plan your route of travel ahead of time.

To assist law enforcement, government staff, residents, and riders, the county will provide public information brochures and maps outlining where ATVs/UTVs may be driven. An ATV/UTV road map is available at [bit.ly/WalcoATV-UTVRoutes](http://bit.ly/WalcoATV-UTVRoutes).

Municipalities will have the authority and fiscal responsibility to post ATV/UTV signage on roadways within their jurisdictions. Any ATV/UTV signage requests should be directed to the township, village or city.

The Walworth County Highway Department's role is to ensure that municipalities are posting the proper signage and to monitor the approved ATV/UTV road network for GIS mapping and other public education purposes.

Anyone who operates an ATV in public riding areas trails, frozen waters, routes, permitted county and/or forest lands who is at least 12 years of age and who was born on or after Jan. 1, 1988, must complete an ATV/UTV safety certification course.

These ATV operators must carry their safety certification card and they must display it to law enforcement officers when requested. Visit <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/Education/OutdoorSkills/SafetyEducation> for more information.

For more information, visit <http://www.bit.ly/WalcoATV-UTVInfo>.

Load-Date: April 3, 2023

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# Highway 67, Palmer Road intersection safety discussed

Lake Geneva Regional News (Wisconsin)

October 7, 2022

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Section: NEWS

Length: 372 words

Byline: Stephanie Jones

## Body

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Safety at the intersection of Highway 67 and Palmer Road was discussed at a recent county highway safety meeting, with mixed opinions about what should be done.

"It's a busy, busy intersection," Walworth County Sheriff's Captain Robert Hall, who is chairman of the Walworth County Traffic Safety Commission, said at the commission's Oct. 6 meeting. He and others recognized that often, depending on the time of day, there can be 8-9 cars lined up on Palmer Road trying to turn onto Highway 67 or cross the intersection.

The intersection is right on the border of the Town of Geneva and Town of Delavan and it was Town of Geneva officials who requested the commission to take a look at the area for possible action.

It's often used by people driving into Williams Bay from Interstate 43. It's also used by people entering Geneva National from its rear entrance.

According to statistics from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, there have been 27 crashes by that intersection from 2019 through present. Of those, seven involved teens and 12 involved individuals over 65.

Reducing the speed from 55 mph to 45 mph in the area was one of the ideas suggested, with the idea being that injuries would be less severe if the speed is reduced. But commission members had mixed opinions about if a reduced speed for a short stretch would make a difference.

Richard Hough, Walworth County's Department of Public Works director, said, "I have been at that intersection. It does get pretty backed up ... Maybe down the road this could be a candidate for a signal."

However, installing a traffic signal can take years. In the meantime, the commission discussed having signs installed on Highway 67 warning people about the dangerous intersection ahead, with the commission planning to discuss the intersection again at its next meeting in January.

In 27 Photos: Williams Bay High School Homecoming 2022 Williams Bay High School's 2022 homecoming, themed "Dancing Through the Decades," included a full slate of activities Sept. 19-24, culminating with a festive, well-attended 4 p.m. homecoming parade through downtown Williams Bay on Friday, Sept. 23, followed by the 7 p.m. homecoming football game against Madison's Abundant Life/St. Ambrose.

# County Highway X project to begin in August; County warns drivers to go slow after oil application

Lake Geneva Regional News (Wisconsin)

July 31, 2022

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Section: NEWS

Length: 436 words

Byline: Staff Writer

## Body

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During the first week of August, the Walworth County Public Works Department and its contractor will begin a roadway improvement project involving the application of Reclamite to the following sections of County Highway X:

Rock County line to Wise Road

East Village of Darien limits to County Highway K

Creek Road to St. Lawrence Drive

Traffic will be delayed and reduced to one lane with flaggers. The project is expected to take four to five days to complete. The project is subjected to weather conditions and other potential delays.

Reclamite is an oil-based rejuvenation application that delays the roadway aging process by sealing the asphalt against the intrusion of air and water, slowing oxidation, and increasing the durability and elasticity in the top portion of the asphalt.

"In 2021, the Walworth County Highway Division introduced the application of Reclamite to County roadways as part of our early life-cycle roadway maintenance strategy," Barry Pierce, Walworth County deputy highway commissioner, said in a press release. "Reclamite extends and improves pavement life, pushing the need for major rehabilitation out as long as possible all at a lower cost than typical wear-course maintenance strategies."

Reclamite is diluted with water and sprayed on like most other oil-based applications. The material is applied in a single pass per direction followed by a light coat of aggregate sand or screenings that reduces oil transfer to vehicles.

Approximately one or two days after application, the contractor will sweep up the aggregate. Once dry, Reclamite leaves no surface coating. Although there may be visible tire tracking beyond the limits of the application location, these tracks dry and will fade over time.

During the application process, traffic is allowed to drive on the roadway once sand or screenings are applied.

Residents traveling on these roadways should follow posted slow-down signs to keep speeds at a rate necessary to reduce the possible transfer of oil and aggregate onto vehicle undercarriages and wheel wells.

If drivers notice oil transfer or aggregate material on their vehicles, it can be removed with any citrus cleaner available at local hardware or home improvement stores.

"The benefits of Reclamite to the Walworth County roadway network are unmistakable," states Richard Hough, the director of Walworth County Public Works, said in a press release. "This lower cost, early life-cycle maintenance strategy will extend the overall life of county roadways and improve the quality of the entire network."

For more information, visit [www.co.walworth.wi.us/293/Public-Works](http://www.co.walworth.wi.us/293/Public-Works).

Load-Date: August 1, 2022

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# Beaver Dam City Council chooses its first city administrator

WiscNews

July 19, 2022 Tuesday

Copyright 2022 WiscNews

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

Section: STATE AND REGIONAL NEWS

Length: 568 words

Byline: Kelly Simon, WiscNews

## Body

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Jul. 19—The first city administrator for the city of Beaver Dam has been selected.

The City Council approved Mayor Becky Glewen's recommendation Monday night to hire Nathan Thiel, who recently served as Pleasant Prairie village administrator.

Ald. Zach Zopp gave a recap of the selection process and discussion took place before the council voted on the position:

The executive search firm GovHR, which was hired by the city at a cost of \$22,500, narrowed the candidate field down to 12. Those names were forwarded on to an administrative subcommittee made up of Aids. Kay Appenfeldt, Mike Wissell, Bobbi Marck and Zopp.

Five finalists were interviewed last week by the subcommittee, department heads and community leaders. Those finalists were Thiel, Columbus City Administrator Kyle Ellefson, former West Linn, Oregon, City Manager Jerry Gabrielatos, Walworth County Director of Public Works Richard Hough, and former New London City Administrator Lou Leone.

Zopp said the candidate pool was amazingly strong. He noted that the entire City Council received copies of the finalists' resumes and was invited to be present for the interviews. Aids. Dave Hansen, Ken Anderson and Jack Yuds did attend and provided feedback.

The subcommittee then presented its two top candidate recommendations, Thiel and Ellefson, to the mayor.

The mayor brought forward her appointment of Thiel at Monday's meeting as the projected new city administrator. The salary for the position is \$140,000.

Hansen credited the subcommittee's handling of the interview process, calling it "transparent and streamlined."

Anderson agreed with Hansen, but said since the public agenda for the meeting did not mention the appointee's name there was no time to gather feedback from constituents. He chose not to vote on the appointment.

Wissell commented that it's the council's job to provide leadership and he felt comfortable voting.

Twelve members of the council voted to approve Thiel for the position, Anderson remained silent and Ald. Frank Ferree was absent.

Last September, the council approved shifting the mayor's full-time responsibilities to part time. A city administrator position was then created to expand the duties that were being performed by the director of administration/city clerk.

The mayor and City Council were expected to appoint the new city administrator in January, but the unexpected resignation of Director of Administration/City Clerk Zak Bloom in November derailed that plan. Bloom had been in the position fewer than two years.

John Somers, who retired from the position in 2019 after 23 years, agreed to return in an interim role until a city administrator was chosen.

The job description for the city administrator states that the position is the chief administrative officer in charge of the city's day-to-day operations and manages a budget of approximately \$18 million.

Duties include personnel administration, finance and economic development efforts. The city administrator reports to the mayor and City Council and oversees a workforce of more than 125 full-time employees, plus another 109 part-time and seasonal employees.

Glewen said the next step in the process will be for her to present the job offer to Thiel and wait for his acceptance.

Follow Kelly Simon on Twitter @KSchmidSimon or contact her at 920-356-6757.

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Load-Date: July 20, 2022

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# Beaver Dam narrows search to five candidates for city administrator position

WiscNews

July 11, 2022 Monday

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Section: STATE AND REGIONAL NEWS

Length: 256 words

Byline: Tpederson, WiscNews

## Body

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Jul. 11—Five candidates are being interviewed over the next few days as the city of Beaver Dam narrows the search for its first city administrator.

Beaver Dam has traditionally had a full time mayor. However the Beaver Dam City Council decided last September to shift to a form of government with an elected part-time mayor, hired city administrator and elected council starting in 2022. The mayor's salary will be reduced from \$60,000 to \$20,000, beginning in 2023 after the spring election.

The candidates are Kyle Ellefson, Jerry Gabrielatos, Richard Hough, Lou Leone and Nathan Thiel.

— Ellefson is the city administrator in Columbus.

— Gabrielatos left his position as the West Linn City Manager in Oregon last month.

— Hough is the director of public works in Walworth County.

— Leone was the past city administrator for New London.

— Theil was recently the village administrator in Pleasant Prairie.

The search firm GovHR USA originally reviewed the candidate pool and narrowed it to these candidates who were forwarded on to an administrative sub-committee made up of Alderpersons Kay Appenfeldt, Mike Wissell, Bobbi Marck and Zach Zopp.

The five candidates were interviewed Monday with interviews continuing today.

The city administrator will be appointed by, and report to, the mayor and City Council. The starting salary range is \$128,000 — \$142,000, plus benefits.

Follow Terri Pederson on Twitter @tlp53916 or contact her at 920-356-6760.

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Load-Date: July 12, 2022

# Walworth County conducts road and bridge study

Lake Geneva Regional News (Wisconsin)

April 24, 2022

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Section: NEWS

Length: 236 words

Byline: Staff Writer

## Body

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Officials from the Walworth County Public Works Department recently completed a study of 400 miles of the County Trunk Highway system.

The study evaluated the county roads' pavement conditions, drainage and load-carrying capacities; to evaluate existing deficiencies and to present recommendations for maintenance and rehabilitation. To view the December 2021 road study, visit [www.co.walworth.wi.us/901/Plans-and-Major-Studies?preview=true](http://www.co.walworth.wi.us/901/Plans-and-Major-Studies?preview=true).

"The conclusion is simple," Walworth County Public Works Director Richard Hough said in a news release. "We need more funding to repair the county's roadway network and infrastructure."

The study provided various scenarios utilizing potential funding strategies and recommended an expenditure increase to \$4.5-million annually for road improvement projects over the next 10-plus years.

The public works department is considering various funding options to improve funding levels before updating the department's 10-Year Bridge and Road Improvement Plan, a fiscal plan that is presented annually and was last updated in February 2021.

Hough will present improvement recommendations and funding strategies to the county board during the next few months.

Livestreams and recorded videos of those meetings will be available by visiting [www.co.walworth.wi.us/agendacenter](http://www.co.walworth.wi.us/agendacenter).

Public participation is encouraged; the county board meeting schedule is available at [www.co.walworth.wi.us](http://www.co.walworth.wi.us).

Load-Date: April 25, 2022

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# Village notes: Williams Bay remembers Janette Maxwell, lighted flagpoles approved, utility setback ordinance approved and more

Lake Geneva Regional News (Wisconsin)

April 15, 2022

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Section: NEWS

Length: 749 words

Byline: ERIC A. JOHNSON [ejohnson@lakegenevanews.net](mailto:ejohnson@lakegenevanews.net)

## Body

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Taking up the needs for utility setbacks and a fund balance policy, the Williams Bay Village Board on April 4 unanimously approved adoption of two new ordinances.

Acting on the recommendation of the Williams Bay Planning Commission, village board passage of Ordinance 2022-05 creates Section 390-0504B of the village's Code of Ordinances, requiring a minimum setback of 10 feet from any public utility line by an structure permanently attached to a foundation, footing or other support structure located wholly or partially under the surface of the ground.

Acting on the recommendation of Williams Bay's Finance and Personnel Committee and Building, Zoning and Ordinance Committee, passage of Ordinance 2022-06 creates Section 46-14 of Williams Bay's Code of Ordinances, which calls for the village to maintain an unassigned fund balance of 30-50% of budgeted operating expenditures, as measured annually on Dec. 31.

The operating reserve in the general fund will help the village hold adequate working capital to meet cash flow needs during the fiscal year, reduce the need for short-term borrowing, serve as a safeguard for unanticipated village expenditures and show fiscal responsibility to maintain a high credit rating, which will aid in reducing any future borrowing costs incurred by the village.

### Clean Sweep report

The board reviewed a report from Walworth County Public Works director **Richard Hough** on the 2021 Clean Sweep hazardous waste collection program overseen by the Walworth County Public Works Department, Elkhorn. The Walworth County Clean Sweep Program was established in 1992.

A total of \$95,988 in expenses were incurred by the county in 2021 to hold three events, \$8,755 of which will be covered by grant from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). The three collection events drew 871 participants from Walworth, Jefferson and Dodge counties representing 920 households. The bulk of participants, 839, were from Walworth County.

Program collections in 2021 included 43,980 pounds of chemical waste, 44,749 pounds of electronic waste and 17,475 pounds of unwanted appliances.

In board discussions, it was noted that the town annually budgets a \$500 donation in support of the Walworth County Clean Sweep Program

Maxwell remembered

Calling her passing "a real loss" to Williams Bay, village president William Duncan paid tribute to late Williams Bay resident and business owner Janette Arden Maxwell, who passed away at age 63 on March 22.

Maxwell was the 35-year owner of Daddy Maxwell's Antarctic Circle Diner, 150 Elkhorn Rd., and also owned a full-service custom catering business, Bye the Seat of Our Pants Catering Co.

"A lot of her life she was doing things nobody knew about," Duncan said of Maxwell's selfless support of the community and its residents, often behind the scenes. "She was very generous with her time and money."

Other news

In other developments at the April 4 meeting, Duncan honored those involved in the publication of the village's Bay Quarterly print and online community newsletter, which he called "a good piece," and those involved in creation of the village's new, "easier to use" website.

The board on a 6-1 vote, with trustee Don Parker dissenting, conditionally approved a Parks and Lakefront Committee recommendation to accept the Williams Bay Lions Club's planned donation of three illuminated flagpoles for placement at Lions Field off Hwy. 67.

Conditions include Lions Club replacement of worn flags and club installation of the solar light fixtures for the flagpoles. The village board, on a 6-1 vote with Parker again dissenting, added a contingency that the flagpole lights not have any effect on the "dark skies" Kishwaukee Natural Conservancy across the highway.

Contingent on successful passage of background checks, operators licenses were approved for Megan Wydeven for Bell's Liquor and Deli, 659 E. Geneva St., and for Alexander Klotz for Pier 290, 1 Liechty Dr.

During public comment, Williams Bay resident Connie Gluth offered words of appreciation to village trustees for their public service in the run-up to the April 5 election. In the three board seats on the ballot, trustee Don Parker declined to seek re-election and incumbent trustees Robert Umans and Lowell Wright faced three challengers in a five-way race.

"I just want to thank you all for doing what you do," she said. "Some you are running, some of you aren't running. Good luck, and thanks for everything you do."

Load-Date: April 16, 2022

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# Should a traffic light be installed at Center Street? Lake Geneva, county discussing traffic study

Lake Geneva Regional News (Wisconsin)

April 8, 2022

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Section: NEWS

Length: 618 words

Byline: Dennis Hines

## Body

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A new stop light could be installed in the future at the intersection of Center Street and Interchange North which later turns into Williams Street and then Broad Street.

Lake Geneva and Walworth County officials are discussing sharing the cost of an engineering study to determine if a traffic signal is needed at the intersection.

The intersection has gotten busier as the Stone Ridge subdivision up the Center Street hill has been developed. Last year, there was a controversy over speed bumps that were installed on the Center Street hill because the Town of Geneva was concerned about speeders.

The study is expected to cost between \$6,000 and \$7,000, with the city and the county paying between \$3,000 and \$3,500 each. The intersection is owned by the county but located in Lake Geneva.

Members of the Lake Geneva City Council's Public Works Committee unanimously approved, March 22, to pay for half of the cost of the study.

Whether to pay for the study and its funding options still has to be approved by the council's finance, licensing & regulation committee and the full city council.

Lake Geneva Public Works Director Tom Earle said he has met with Walworth County Public Works Director Richard Hough, and he has indicated that the county would be willing to pay for half of the cost for the study.

"He agreed that if we agree to pay for half of a warrant, which would be somewhere between \$6,000 and \$7,000, the county would pay for the other half," Earle said. "If we're interested in doing a warrant study for that intersection, we could, right now, get it half paid for by the county."

Hough said the county's public works department has the funding available in its budget to pay for the study.

"I didn't need to go to a committee or anything to get that accomplished. I've already lined up funding to pay for the study," Hough said. "When it comes time for a final billing, what I will do is I will split the bill and give half of it to the City of Lake Geneva."

Hough said it could take between three months to six months for the study to be completed.

"These things don't happen overnight," Hough said. "It will be several months before we get the study, but it will be a pretty comprehensive study."

Hough said if the study determines that a traffic signal is warranted at that intersection, then he will propose to transfer ownership of that intersection and that area of Highway H to the City of Lake Geneva.

"That whole area of the road is really becoming an urban road that probably requires smaller equipment than what the county is using," Hough said. "So we can talk transfer later, but I think that's something I would be interesting in pursuing."

As part of the motion to pay for half of the cost of the study, the public works committee members also approved to send a letter to county officials requesting that road improvements be made to County Highway H, from George Street to the roundabouts, within the next several years.

Earle said county officials told him the earliest they can work on that section of the highway is in 11 years.

Alderwoman Cindy Flower said the pavement in that area of the highway is in poor condition and should be repaired before that time.

"The condition of the pavement is horrific, and 11 years should not be acceptable to us as a city," Flower said.

Hough said, as part of the traffic signal study, he will request that it be determined whether that area of the highway needs to be included in the country's 10-year bridge and highway improvement plan.

Think spring! A look at Lake Geneva from spring 2021  
Think spring! Soon enough Lake Geneva will again be in bloom.  
Here is a look back at 2021 until the flowers start opening again here. Enjoy.

Load-Date: April 8, 2022

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# Safety concerns over Highway B, Indian Hills Road intersection in Walworth

Lake Geneva Regional News (Wisconsin)

October 6, 2021

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Section: NEWS

Length: 299 words

Byline: Karena Tse

## Body

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Ongoing safety concerns surround the intersection of County Highway B and Indian Hills Road, located within the town of Walworth.

The four-way intersection has two stop signs, one on Indian Hills Road and one on Cobblestone Road. Traffic on Highway B does not stop at the intersection.

There are no visual obstructions that make the intersection dangerous, Fontana Police Chief Cates said. But it's a highly travelled area, increasing the likelihood of accidents.

The intersection has long raised concerns, Cates said, particularly in the last year.

"We've had some more severe accidents," he said.

Although Highway B and Indian Hills Road is not technically within Fontana's jurisdiction, the village's residents are frequent travelers of the intersection, Cates said — to the point where the Fontana Police Department brought the issue to the Walworth County Highway Division.

In response, this summer the highway division installed flashing red LED lights on top of both stop signs and painted lines indicating the intersection.

These are positive changes, Cates said, but the discussion continues. He said some residents recently suggested lowering the speed limit from 55 mph to 45 mph east of Indian Hills Road coming west into the intersection.

Community members may make public comment at the Traffic Safety Commission meeting on Thursday, Oct. 7 at 9 a.m., hosted at the Highway Operations Center at W4097 County Road NN.

"We're all ears," Public Works Director Richard Hough said.

Watch now: The Streblow wooden boat parade on Geneva Lake in photos and videos On Saturday, Sept. 25, about 35 wooden Streblow wooden boats hit Geneva Lake as a gathering for those who who love Streblow wooden boats made right here in Lake Geneva and in remembrance of Randy Streblow, who died 10 years ago.

Load-Date: October 7, 2021

# Winter weather welcomed by many in Walworth County

FOX - 6 WITI (Milwaukee, Wisconsin)

December 29, 2020 Tuesday

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Section: NEWS

Length: 317 words

Byline: Sam Kraemer

## Body

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LAKE GENEVA, Wis. - In Lake Geneva, snowflakes began falling nonstop a little before 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 29.

As the white stuff accumulated with ease, and with more on the way overnight, some shoveling on Tuesday night told FOX6 News they don't mind winter's late arrival.

The snowfall covered streets, sidewalks and parked cars within minutes. It was a surprise to the Caparos family, who is in town for the holidays.

"We were just hanging out at the house, and then we just came here to do an escape room, came out and we saw a lot of snow in a short amount of time," Connor Caparos said.

The Caparos, like many on Tuesday night, didn't seem to mind.

"I wish that this happened last Christmas or past Christmases, because we usually don't get white Christmases. But now that it's happened now, it still feels like Christmas a little bit," said Georgia Caparos.

About two hours in, Champs Sports Bar & Grill manager Francis Camacho grabbed his shovel and got to work.

"I love the snow. It's part of the reason why I live in Wisconsin. I would like to live somewhere where it does have more snow," Camacho said. "I mean, I was pretty upset when Christmas didn't have anything."

Throughout the night, city and Walworth County plows made their way through the streets -- dropping salt when the snow began falling, then dropping their blades a little later.

In all, it was the start of a long night of snow removal in Walworth County.

"It will take continuous management of the roads. We will prioritize our interstates to get 24-hour coverage. That's the state standard," said **Richard Hough**, Walworth County director of public works.

**Hough** told FOX6 News that he has 30 drivers working through the night and back in the morning to clear the snow. Those drivers are in addition to the local and private plows in other areas.

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## Two-year project on I-43 scheduled to begin this month

Real Estate Monitor Worldwide

March 16, 2020 Monday

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Length: 389 words

### Body

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If you travel I-43 through Walworth County, get ready for orange barrels and detours.

State construction crews are preparing to launch a two-year project that will affect travel along 16 miles of I-43 between U.S. 12 in Elkhorn and the Rock County line.

The state says the \$25 million project will involve pavement restoration, concrete overlays and bridge repairs.

Crews from contractor Rock Road Companies Inc. are scheduled to begin work March 16, continuing all summer and then returning next year for another season of work.

Officials say I-43 will not be closed, but motorists are likely to experience lane closures and detours on some ramps or bridge overpasses.

They can expect some disruption, Walworth County public works director **Richard Hough** said.

Some details of the project have not yet been released, including whether crews will be working east to west or vice versa.

Elkhorn City Administrator Jim Heilman said he expects more disruption in the Elkhorn area during the 2021 construction season.

For example, at the spot where I-43 passes over state Highway 67, Heilman said bridge repairs will require the closure of Highway 67, which will also impact motorists heading south toward Lake Geneva.

Heilman said he agrees that the construction work is needed.

Anytime we have closures, we don't like them, he said. But they're a necessary evil.

According to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, the two-year project is scheduled to be completed by the fall of 2021.

Rock Road Companies Inc., based in Janesville, has been awarded the job at a projected cost of \$25.5 million. Company officials declined to comment.

Motorists on I-43 will encounter single lane closures in each direction, limited to four miles in length. There will be some ramp closures and crossroad closures, although those details have not been released.

The project includes bridge deck replacements at U.S. 12, state Highway 67 and County Road X.

Delavan public works director Mark Wendorff said the ramp closures at County Road X will affect motorists in a residential area, as well as a couple of schools.

Wendorff, however, said most motorists should be able to find alternative routes fairly easily. The detours might cause heavier traffic on other routes in the city, he said.

I dont think were going to see a large impact, he said. 2020 Global Data Point.

Load-Date: March 16, 2020

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# Sheriff releases photos used as evidence against Milton teacher who defecated in park for 2 years

FOX - 6 WITI (Milwaukee, Wisconsin)

January 21, 2020 Tuesday

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Section: NEWS

Length: 281 words

Byline: Katie DeLong

## Body

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WHITEWATER — Officials with the Walworth County Sheriff's Office released trail camera photos used as evidence to track a park vandal.

Jeffrey Churchwell, 60, of Elkhorn, a former high school English teacher in the Milton School District, agreed to pay a fine for disorderly conduct on Dec. 18, with a no-contest plea. Prosecutors said he defecated at Natureland Park in Whitewater for the last two years.

The trail camera photos showed his arrival in the parking lot — and Churchwell in the act behind a park building. Investigators said he admitted to making the mess — ordered to pay more than \$6,000 in fines.

FOX6 News found Churchwell at that very park on Jan. 2. The longtime Milton School District teacher had nothing to say about the disturbing and disgusting behavior — requesting privacy before getting into his car and driving away.

The Walworth County Public Works Department had to sometimes clean up his mess five days a week — multiple times a day.

"It required us to go out there and check on things daily," said Richard Hough, Walworth County public works director. "It was taking up precious time and resources to go and clean up unnecessary human waste."

The feces was found in the open. The problem got so bad, the trail camera was installed in an effort to catch the culprit.

"That gave us enough information that we shared it with the sheriff's department," said Hough.

When confronted by authorities, Churchwell reportedly said he did it for convenience and to be disrespectful. There is a working public restroom in the parking lot.

Officials with the Milton School District said in early January Churchwell was on leave — set to retire Jan. 16.

42.743216 -88.715271

## Graphic

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Jeffrey Churchwell Jeffrey Churchwell Jeffrey Churchwell

Load-Date: January 22, 2020

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# 'I tHought it was a homeless person:' Wisconsin teacher admits to defecating in park for 2 years

FOX - 6 WITI (Milwaukee, Wisconsin)

January 2, 2020 Thursday

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Section: NEWS

Length: 296 words

Byline: Aaron Maybin

## Body

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TOWN OF WHITEWATER -- A high school English teacher admits to repeatedly defecating in a public park. FOX6 News was there -- as the same man returned to Whitewater to the same park.

FOX6 News found Jeffrey Churchwell preparing to leave Natureland Park in Whitewater, Thursday.

The longtime Milton School District teacher had nothing to say about the disturbing and disgusting behavior he's accused of -- requesting privacy before getting into his car and driving away.

Natureland Park is the same park he's accused of defecating in for more than two years. The Walworth County Public Works Department had to sometimes clean up his mess five days a week -- multiple times a day.

"It required us to go out there and check on things daily," says Richard Hough, the Walworth County public works director. "It was taking up precious time and resources to go and clean up unnecessary human waste."

The feces was found in the open. The problem got so bad, the department installed a trail camera to catch the culprit -- eventually gathering images of Churchwell and his car.

"That gave us enough information that we shared it with the Sheriff's Department," Hough says.

When confronted by authorities, Churchwell reportedly said he did it for convenience and to be disrespectful. In the same parking lot where FOX6 News ran into him, there is a working public restroom.

"When I was first told about it, I tHought it was a homeless person that didn't have anywhere to go," says park-goer Tyler Freund. "Teachers are the people that are supposed to be giving our kids an education, not using our parks as a bathroom."

Authorities say Churchwell agreed to pay a fine of over \$6,000.

The Milton School District says Churchwell is on leave and is set to retire Jan. 16.

42.743216 -88.715271

## Reservist receives leadership award

Pacific Daily News (Hagatna, Guam)

June 3, 2010 Thursday

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Section: LOCAL; Pg. A2

Length: 260 words

Byline: By, Amritha Alladi Pacific Daily News

### Body

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A Guam Army Reserve commander was one of seven officers who were recently recognized by the Army's chief of staff at the Pentagon.

Guam resident Capt. Alejandro L. Buniag was honored at the 23rd Annual General Douglas MacArthur Leadership awards ceremony in Virginia on May 6. He was nominated for the award by Lt. Col. **Richard Hough II**.

"In the aftermath of transforming his unit from a legacy line unit, in an engineer battalion, into an independent engineer company, (Capt.) Buniag and the 797 Engineer Company found themselves statistically at the lowest levels of readiness," the nomination statement from **Hough** reads. "Yet, one year later, (Capt.) Buniag's leadership and motivation has facilitated a rapid rise in the equipment, supply, training and personnel readiness. Today the unit is on the cusp of meeting all readiness requirements ..."

Buniag was lauded for his superior leadership abilities and the immense level of commitment he demonstrated, a press release from the U.S. Army stated.

The General Douglas MacArthur Award recognizes officers who demonstrate the ideals of duty, honor and country, according to the Army. The award is personally given to recipients by Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. George W. Casey Jr.

Last year, David Santos from the Guam National Guard, received the MacArthur award as well, Buniag noted.

"It's no doubt that we shine," Buniag said of the region's servicemen. "You go to any unit, if they know you're from Guam, (they know) you're up to par with things."

"They get the job done and they don't complain," Buniag said.

Load-Date: June 7, 2010

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