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Mission Statement for Wisconsin Association for Home and Community Education HCE offers opportunities for:

- *Learning in a social setting,*
- *Sharing what we learn, and*
- *Caring to make a difference in our homes, communities, and the world.*



NEW DISPATCH ASSEMBLY

Monthly dispatch assembly for the all issues will be the Cheryl at the Extension Office until further notice. I am able to fold, tape, mail, etc. for the time being.:

Please send articles to:
 Cheryl Shockley
 UW-Extension Office
 1313 Belknap Street, Room 107
 715-395-1363 or email me at:
cheryl.shockley@ces.uwex.edu

DISPATCH ARTICLES DUE DATE

Dispatch articles are **due the 15th** of the month. When emailing your articles, please send them as an attachment.

Please mail or email them to:

Cheryl Shockley,
 UW-Extension Editor
 1313 Belknap St., Room 107
 Superior, WI 54880
 715-395-1363 or
cheryl.shockley@ces.uwex.edu

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MEMO FROM THE BOARD~

I hope you are enjoying this freezing cold weather. I am not. Spring could come at any time, but Mother Nature probably has more winter weather in front of her. But I do hope you all a fine Holiday Season. Ours was great, but a little different with Sean, Jenna and Addison living with us. Next year it will be back to "normal" with them in their new home. Sean was right, the real tree did not bring in plant bugs. I guess only if your husband cuts it off your own property does it bring them in.

I hope you are all planning on attending the February Board Meeting at Guadalajara Mexican Restaurant on February 1st, at 12:30. Don't forget it was what you chose for the Food category and it is for International, too. You do not have to stay for the Board meeting unless you choose to. Everyone is welcome to attend all board meetings.

The Quilt-a-thon is March 22nd, and the Craft Day is April 28th so we have a lot of planning left to do. Please plan on attending both of these events. See you on February 1st .

Submitted by,
 Cheryl McCuskey



Think we weren't busy in 2017? Take a gander at this.....



2017: A YEAR IN REVIEW—Mary Ann Gronquist and Sue Hendrickson

JANUARY: Members viewed “Tips for Simplifying Our Lives” video and shared ideas for making life more uncomplicated. Don’t start with a room; start with a drawer or closet—less overwhelming!

FEBRUARY: Potluck with recipes using “Great Grains, Seeds and Wild Rice” and attendees shared information collected about each grain and seed used.

MARCH: Kick off “On the Move and in the Groove.” Held annual Quiltathon at local mall; many members, a few non-members completed 107 small quilts for agencies that service children in crisis in Twin Ports. Incomplete comforters were finished at Craft Day.

APRIL: Held Saturday Craft Day and Cultural Arts Contest. Many entries went to State. Good attendance of members and non-members from the district: card-making, painting with alcohol inks and water-colors, ceramics, Zentangle, and genealogy. Four members attended District Meeting in Sawyer County.

MAY: Members received program surveys in Dispatch newsletter to vote on programs for 2018. News-letter will have articles on Iceland for two years then there will be a meal/program during HCE Week.

JUNE/JULY/AUGUST: Set up membership display at community Expo for services for disabled, and sold raffle tickets for a handmade quilt to raise funds for Quiltathon supplies; same at County Fair.

SEPTEMBER: Wisconsin Bookworms™ kickoff, networking with Retired Senior Volunteer Program—includes 5 member readers and every Headstart in Douglas County. President attends state conference.

OCTOBER: Annual Craft Sale—70 crafters, food shelf collection, lunch, bake sale, raffle tickets—major fundraiser for annual scholarship alternately to Superior tech school and University.

NOVEMBER: Annual Meeting and “Coffee with a Cop” question and answer presentation by Officer Bonnie Beste (picture) and Assistant Chief Matt Markon. Officers don’t walk a beat anymore so events like these are held all over the community to help folks know and trust their law enforcement officers. Four members received 10-year certificates for being Wisconsin Bookworms™ readers.

DECEMBER: Annual Holiday Gathering at local supper club. Attendees bought tickets for prizes raising nearly \$500 for gift cards for seniors with low incomes. Food shelf donations were collected also.

Schools in Douglas County are in need of Foster Grandparents. Children benefit every day from the extra one-on-one attention that inter-generational mentoring of Foster Grandparents provide. Teachers benefit because they know that the students in their classrooms who are in the achievement gap will receive specialized and directed tutoring and mentoring from a safe, positive and nurturing individual. Volunteers are 55 or older, and are available for 15-40 hours per week for which they receive a tax-free, non-reportable stipend, travel reimbursement and paid monthly training—not to mention the joy and satisfaction of helping kids! Call Katie Mazur, Area Supervisor, at 218-481-5758 if you have questions, are ready to volunteer, or would like her to come and speak to your group.

Thanks to Pat Ettestad for donating a sewing machine for Nicaragua. Pat lives in Superior and attends Country Peace Presbyterian Church.

Are you selling those raffle tickets? If you got one of the sets in black and white, there is a color picture on the Douglas County/Extension website that you can download to keep with your raffle tickets.

GET YOUR WATER TESTED TODAY—Sue Hendrickson

The condition of groundwater in Wisconsin and the world is much in the news these days. The Douglas County Department of Health and Human Services (DCHHS) urges owners of private wells to have them tested yearly. The health department estimates that, at any given time, as many as 25% of private wells in the county may have detectable levels of coliform bacteria, an indication that surface contamination has entered the well or water system. That adds up to a lot of people: more than 1 million Wisconsinites living in more than 400,000 homes rely on private wells for their drinking water.



Tests are encouraged immediately if the well: is new or has no history of testing, is ¼ mile or less from a fertilized field or feed lot, is used by a pregnant female or newborn, or has previously had a high contamination test. Samples should also be tested for nitrates every two or three years—or more often if nitrate has been detected in the past or if an infant younger than 6 months will be consuming the water. And every well should be tested for arsenic at least once.

Cost for analysis of well water is \$20 (plus postage and handling) or kits may be picked up and dropped off at DCHHS in the Government Center directly behind the Douglas County Court House, 1313 Belknap St, Superior. Call 715-395-1304 and ask for the environmental health specialist for details. The specialist can also help you with remediation ideas if your test is positive for contaminants.

NOTE: At this time the Douglas County Land Conservation Department (DCLCD) and DCHHS have sent out letters asking 500 well owners to participate in a water well testing/county groundwater mapping grant program. For \$20, samples will be tested for 7 metals, 6 inorganics (includes nitrates), bacteria, hardness, alkalinity, conductivity, pH, and will include a comprehensive report of results, and information on how to protect your drinking supply. This is normally a \$100 test and will result in a base study of our county groundwater status, which will be important if a Concentrated (+1000 head) Animal Feeding Operation ever comes to Douglas County. Please respond if you are one of the lucky ones to receive this offer. Information and cost-sharing is also available if you have an abandoned well to be “decommissioned”; improperly closed wells can be a source of contamination to your current well or those of your neighbors! Call DCLCD/Zoning at 715-395-1380 for more information on either of these opportunities.

NATURE NOTES

Recently studies have been made revealing why birds fly into windows and ways to reduce the risk to birds.

- Window reflections show sky and trees that birds see as a clear flight path through the glass.
- Landscape seen through an opposite window appears to birds as a continuation of the outdoors.
- Artificial lights confuse and attract night-migrating songbirds, and can result in fatal collisions.
- In defense of their breeding territories, birds may attack their own reflections in the glass.

So, we can help by:

- Reducing reflections by using one-way non-reflective films on outside of windows.
- Incorporating recessed windows into building designs.
- Treating glass with non-reflective surfaces or etched designs.
- Crafting soft surfaces for birds outside of windows by using screens all year long or attaching small-mesh netting 2-3 inches from the glass.
- Creating visual barriers by putting obstacles in front of windows, like hanging old CDs or wind chimes.
- Also, “dirty windows save lives,” which might be a good way to save time and money for a cash-strapped homeowner.



The more you know ...

(This article was rewritten from information shared by Michael Grass, Executive Editor of *Government Executive's Route Fifty*)

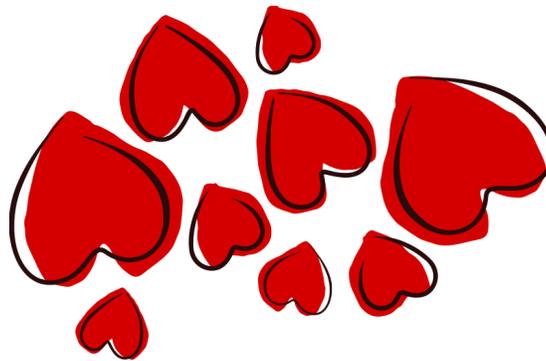
Douglas County UWEX
 1313 Belknap Street
 Courthouse Room 107
 Superior, WI 54880

TAPE

TAPE

We're on the web! Be sure to visit the Douglas County Family Living website at: <http://douglas.uwex.edu/flp/> and click on Douglas County Home and Community Education (HCE), then click on the Dispatch Newsletter link.

February 2018						
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March 2018						
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Feb. 1	12:30	International Planning- Fiesta				
Feb. 1	1:30	Board Meeting				
Feb. 19		Courthouse Closed Holiday				
March						
Mar. 1-May		On the Move and in the Grove Fitness Challenge	Linda			
Mar. 1	12:30	Craft Sale Meeting	T& C			
Mar. 1	1:30	Board Meeting	President			
Mar. 22	10:00 - 3:00	Quilt-a-thon	Hilltoppers/All Clubs			
Feb. 1	12:30	Guadalajara Mexican Restaurant	Exec. Brd.			
Mar. 1	1:30	Mariner's Restaurant	President			
Mar. 22	10:00 - 3:00	Mariner Business Center				