

# PORTAGE COUNTY EXTENSION

April 2019 Update

*A report generated for the Portage County Ag & Extension Committee, highlighting programs or initiatives engaged in or executed by Extension Colleagues*

## **AGRICULTURE EXTENSION EDUCATOR – KEN SCHROEDER**

- Organized and hosted the annual Central Wisconsin Processing Crops Meeting at Hancock reaching 30 vegetable growers, crop consultants, and processors.
- Followed up with an afternoon discussion and input gathering session on the drought and climate information needs of specialty crop growers for the National Drought Mitigation Center research project.
- Investigated and co-authored an article addressing the issue of potatoes left in the field from 2018 for the first issue of the Division of Extension Vegetable Crop Update newsletter. Can be found online at <https://wivegdis.plantpath.wisc.edu/newsletter/>

## **FOODWISE (KELLY HAMMOND - COORDINATOR; PENNY SCHMITT - EDUCATOR)**

- FoodWise representation at Hunger and Poverty Prevention Partnership, Portage County CAN and Portage County Breastfeeding Coalition.
- Teaching events include: new StrongBodies class at the YMCA with 12 participants, new StongBodies class in Amherst at the Senior Meal site with 25 participants (current waiting list of 9 people). Youth lessons include three 1st grade classes at Mckinley school and 2 Head start classes. (25 total lessons). Team presented SPASH/MATC course on eating on a budget/food security in Portage County for community health course.
- Policy, Systems and Environmental work: co-facilitating poverty workgroup for HPPP, working with Farmshed/PCCAN/Farmers Market Manager to bring EBT back to the Market for summer 2019. (Hammond)
- 2-day Health Hunger Summit Conference in the Dells. (Schmitt)

## **4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT EDUCATOR – CONNIE CREIGHTON**

- Member of Portage County Coalition for Alcohol & Drug Abuse Prevention Executive Board.
- This month I want to highlight the April AODA Coalition Newsletter as the information is pertinent to your constituents and Portage County. ([see attachment](#))
- Drug Take Back Community Events; Binge Drinking Information; Opioid Crisis; & Future Public AODA Coalition Meeting Topics.

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### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EDUCATOR – NATHAN SANDWICK**

- Resumed discussion about a community revitalization initiative in Junction City through a joint meeting along with CREATE where we did an initial scoping of potential community placemaking efforts and began next steps toward involving more community members.
- Facilitated discussion to assist a county committee in identifying purposeful activities and developing a work plan that may help to coordinate efforts of supervisors and staff involved.
- Continued support Portage County's current SolSmart certification effort by engaging appropriate county colleagues in a series of study presentations, and two webinars examining local plans, ordinances, and permitting provisions related to solar development in Wisconsin.

### **FAMILY LIVING EDUCATOR – SHERRY DANIELS**

- Facilitating the Raising a Thinking Child 7-week training, done all online, began on March 26. It is every Tuesday night from 8-9:15pm. We have 12 families with 25 children involved.
- Completed the 3- day train-the-trainer program to facilitate Real Colors. Two community trainings are already set up: Saturday, April 5 for the Stevens Point Co-op (with Connie) and June 26 for Portage County Health and Human Services (with Jason).
- Continued marketing for all four StrongBodies classes in Portage County.

### **AREA EXTENSION DIRECTOR – JASON HAUSLER**

- Participated and facilitated conversations at the Wisconsin Association of Fairs District meetings about the role of Extension in relation to County Fairs.
- Finalized plans for the May 7th Area meeting and joint Ag & Extension Committee meeting - which is being held at UWSP @ Marshfield.
- Assisted staff in their preparations for the Civil Rights Review, which is scheduled for Tuesday, April 16th.

## April 2019 AODA Coalition Newsletter

Welcome to the April newsletter for the Portage County Coalition for Alcohol & Drug Abuse Prevention. Our goal is to publish a quarterly newsletter that helps you stay connected to important information! We cannot do this work alone and we are very excited that you are invested in creating a healthier, safer community.

### **Check the Dates! Take-back Schedule:**

Twice a year the Portage County Coalition for AODA Prevention sponsors prescription drug take-back events. The overall goal of the program is to reduce access to potentially dangerous, unused, or expired medications.

Plan to bring your (and anyone else's) unwanted, unneeded, or outdated prescriptions and over-the-counter medicines! Dates and locations below.

- Tuesday, April 23, 11:30AM-12:30PM: Faith Lutheran Church in Rosholt
- Thursday, April 25, 11:00AM-12:30PM: Village Park Lodge in Junction City
- Friday, April 26, 11:30AM-1:00PM: Jensen Center in Amherst
- Saturday, April 27, 8:00AM-12:00PM: Lincoln Center in Stevens Point
- Saturday, April 27, 12:30AM-2:00PM: Community Center in Almond-Bancroft

**Items Accepted:** 1) Pills, 2) syrups, 3) salves, 4) creams, 5) capsules.

**NOT Accepted:** 1) Inhalers, 2) oxygen tanks, 3) nebulizers, 4) sharps, 5) radioactive cancer medication \*

\* Contact Portage County Solid Waste Department at 715-343-6297 or 715-345-5970 for these items.

A big thank you to the Portage County Sheriff's Office, Stevens Point Police Department, the Plover Police Department, and Jensen Center for also sponsoring these important events!!

### **Binge Drinking Dangers:**

Binge drinking for women is defined as four (4) or more standard-size drinks in a two hour period and five (5) or more standard-size drinks in that same time-frame for men. A standard drink would be 12 ounces of beer, 5 ounces of wine, or 1.5 ounces of distilled spirits/liquor.

As a concern most often associated with college students, it is important to note that drinking does not have to be part of a student's experience. In fact, 30% of UW-Stevens Point students reported not using alcohol and almost 70% reported drinking 5 or fewer drinks when they party (2017 Center for Prevention Alcohol and Other Drugs Use <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/aoda-ipv/Documents/AODA%20report.pdf> ).

This is a concern however for other college students and our communities. The University of Wisconsin System continues to research and work to prevent dangerous alcohol consumption like binge drinking. For their latest information, check out their data sheet on binge drink.

<https://uwphi.wiscweb.wisc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/316/2019/03/Binge-drinking-fact-sheet.pdf>

## **Wisconsin's Opioid Crisis A Trauma-Informed Response:**

Wisconsin Opioid Crisis: A Trauma-Informed Response, a conference organized by the DHS Division of Care and Treatment Services shared information about the opioid crisis and how we are working to address it in Wisconsin. All sessions were streamed live online and are available for free to the public.

Here are the some of sessions you can watch on-line!

- Remarks from DHS Trauma-Informed Coordinator Scott Webb
- ACEs and the war on drugs: Prevention and recovery
- Gender and the opioid crisis: Appropriate public health response

For the webcasts from this event; Visit the DHS website to watch the recordings.

<https://livestream.com/DHSWebcast/events/8618738>

For more information on this conference, visit the DHS website.

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/opioids/conferences.htm>

## **Portage County Coalition for Alcohol & Drug Abuse Prevention Meetings:**

All members of the Portage County Coalition for Alcohol & Drug Abuse Prevention and other interested community members are invited to attend quarterly meetings of the full Coalition and other public events. Join us to learn more about current issues facing our community, regional and national AODA trends, and current prevention efforts.

- May 21, 8am - Portage County Annex (Conference room 1/2) - Discuss the link between mental health concerns and addiction.
- August 20, 8am - Portage County Annex (Conference room 1/2) - Presentation on local treatment options in advance of National Recovery Month (September).
- November 19, 8am - Portage County Annex (Conference room 1/2) - Our year in review; Discuss alcohol and tobacco sale compliance checks; Learn about the work of our grant recipients; Participate in strategic planning discussion for the 2020 calendar year.

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*You are receiving this email as have indicated that you would like to receive updates and information from the Portage County Coalition for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) Prevention.*

### ***Our mailing address is:***

*Portage County AODA Prevention Coalition*

*2100 Main Street*

*Stevens Point, WI 54481*