



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
*Milwaukee County*  
CHRIS ABELE • COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Dear Employee

It looks like we will finally see Spring! After a long winter, I hope everyone is ready to get out and enjoy the warmer weather.

**Courthouse Update**

Exciting news, as of this week, 10<sup>th</sup> Street is back open to traffic and the 10<sup>th</sup> Street entrance is open to the public. Thank you for your patience during the closure.

Facilities staff is still working very hard to restore permanent power to the Courthouse Complex after last summer's fire. The final work related to assessing, testing and repairing or replacing electrical components has slowed as we work toward permanent power, but we remain optimistic we will be back on permanent power soon.

**New Electrical Guidelines**

As a reminder, the County has updated the guidelines for electrical equipment use during the workday. The goal is to make our workplaces safer and more efficient.

The new guidelines clarify what items are and are not allowed, with the goal of reducing energy costs, as well as reducing the risk of electrical shock, equipment damage, and fire. One key change will be that coffee makers and refrigerators will only be allowed in approved break areas and designated kitchenettes.

**2014 State of the County**

Last month I gave my annual State of the County address.

I focused on the many accomplishments we have achieved together in the past few years, but there is one section in particular from my speech I want to share with you. I am inspired by how much we have done and excited to keep improving.

*"We have a stack- a stack- of accomplishments in the past three years that fall in the category of 'nobody thought we could'. We have a stack of accomplishments that are best, first, fastest and we've done it very often with less staff and with a lot of challenges - and it's not an accident. It's because we have people that are committed to the government that serves you."*

So, thank you for all you do.

If you have time please watch the speech for yourself, you can check [it out here](#).

## **Lobbying**

Not only are the employees of Milwaukee County the backbone of our great county, you also have great ideas. Now you have the opportunity to share those ideas.

The Government Affairs Department has a new form on the [Intranet](#) for Milwaukee County where any employee can submit suggested state or federal changes for me to consider. You can find the online form on the Intranet on the left column. The link is titled "County Exec's Lobby Request Form".

I will consider all ideas, and will work to make those suggestions that improve our services and system a reality.

For employees with limited access to the web, your Department head will have a form you can fill out.

## **Employee Pay**

Many of you will soon see an increase in your paycheck. All non-represented employees will receive a 1% pay increase this year, that went into effect on Sunday. Employees represented by a union should refer to their collective bargaining agreement for information about pay.

Two years ago I proposed a performance pay plan for employees. The goal was to reward employees who go above and beyond with small bonus payments. Unfortunately the plan was not approved by the County Board, but I have heard from a number of you who are interested in the idea, and I am considering reintroducing a plan next year to reward employees based on overall performance, compensating exceptional performers with a higher merit increase. I'll keep you updated as we move forward on this proposal.

## **Employee Training Opportunities**

The Milwaukee County Human Resources Department provides a wide range of free training courses to employees. Classes include training for workers to better handle challenging customer service situations, harassment awareness training, and tips to be a more effective leader.

All employees are encouraged to talk with their managers about development opportunities they would like to pursue.

For a full list of classes offered [click here](#).

## **Food Trucks are Back**

Food Truck Thursdays at the Courthouse returns this week. Now that the weather is warming up, we've invited a variety of food trucks to help feed hungry Courthouse workers and visitors on Thursdays.

The trucks will be located on the frontage off of Wells Street between 9th and 10th Streets, just south of the entrance to the Courthouse.

### **Did You Know**

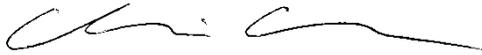
We all know this past winter was cold and snowy, but did you know the Milwaukee County Department of Transportation used **70,000 tons** of salt to clear County and State Roads? The average use in the previous ten years has been 49,000 tons.

### **Keeping in Touch**

There are plenty of ways you can keep in touch with the latest events happening around the County. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office if you want to be sure I'm aware of an issue or hear a success story.

In addition, I'll continue sending these emails regularly, and you can always find current news and information on my [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

Thank you for all your good work.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chris