

**Letters to the Editor, Burnett County Sentinel and Inter County Leader
Week of October 11, 2021**

To the Editor,

As a long time resident of Burnet county and the Danbury area (25years full time), I am pleased county government has listened to its constituents and taken up the task of effective campground regulation. I never anticipated this as being an issue until an existing campground 1/4 mile away from me expanded. We all expect weekends, and especially holidays, to be a little busy around here. However, since the local campground expansion, the peace and solitude that has attracted so many of us full time residents has been disrupted by roaring recreational vehicles, trespassing issues, increased roadside trash, and general noise. All in the name of increased profits for a select group of property owners and investment groups.

My thanks to the Campground working group, Jason Towne (Land Services Director) for tackling the thankless task of generating #TXT-21-03. My gratitude also extends to the Land Use Committee for taking the time to review and support the revisions to #TXT-21-03. Is it perfect? Perhaps no, but it is a great step towards effective regulation of the threat of ever-expanding "campgrounds" and all the challenges they present to our county. Now all that remains is for our County Bd. of Supervisors to approve #TXT-21-03 in put it in place. In voting for approval, our Board members can set a great example of responsive local government for other counties struggling with this issue.

Again, my thanks for listening to us and acting on our concerns. We want to keep Burnett County a great place to live and visit.

Kevin Whelihan
Danbury, WI

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To the editor:

I have always felt lucky to be raised on a third-generation dairy farm in beautiful Burnett County. Last winter, I was distressed when I learned of plans to create a 180-unit RV park almost directly across the road. Like many others, I wrote to county board supervisors about what I saw as a very large threat not only to agricultural land but to the natural resources and quality of life in Burnett County. I deeply appreciated the thoughtful response of the Land Use & Information Committee (LUIC) when they considered and denied that permit.

For me, it was a wake-up call. It would be too easy to lose the natural beauty and resources—especially our waterways—that we have taken for granted for so long. We definitely needed a review and update of regulations to keep developers from overwhelming longtime residents with campgrounds that potentially put resource pressure on townships. We need a balance of

activities to respect the rights of landowners, preserve agricultural land, encourage sustainable and appropriate businesses, and allow campers to enjoy a more natural, quiet and sanitary environment.

I value the hard work that the LUIC and Jason Towne, Land Services Director, have done to create and approve updated rules for campgrounds in the county. Their vision for the future seems to restore that balance between economics, the environment, land use and tax payers' rights.

This summer I spent a week in southern Ohio in a state park. The lake there was lovely—except for one end, where a riotous city of RVs sat almost end to end, by overflowing dumpsters and overworked toilet facilities. This could have been our fate. I am so grateful that our local government has more foresight than that.

I hope that the entire county board of supervisors will approve the updated rules for campgrounds!

Ruth Olson
Swiss Township

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Dear Editor,

I'm writing to you today to bring awareness to all Burnett County property owners of a key decision that will be made in October regarding campgrounds and RV Parks in Burnett County.

Last week, the Burnett County Land Use & Information Committee voted unanimously in support of updated rules for campgrounds and RV Parks. I would like to publicly thank the Campground Work Group and Jason Towne, the Land Services Director, at Burnett County, for their time and hard work writing the updated rules and to also thank the Burnett County Land Use & Information Committee for their unanimous vote.

The key decision for final approval will be made on Thursday, October 21, 2021 at the Burnett County Board of Supervisors meeting. I support these updated rules and ask the Burnett County Board of Supervisors to approve them.

The reason I'm speaking out is that I care about maintaining the lakes, nature and quietness in this beautiful and pristine area that my family has been fortunate enough to enjoy for the past 60 years (54 years as property owners).

After the expansion of a nearby campground, I've experienced increased traffic (doubled to tripled), increased speeding, increased littering, disruption of quiet times both day and night, deterioration to the boat landing due to power loading and increase in dead fish floating in the lake.

We all need to do our part to support and protect the pristine area, lakes and environment, which is the reason we all have come to this area to enjoy. Collectively, it is our responsibility to ensure that there is no lasting damage to this area that is irreversible, and we should all support improving and modifying ordinances, rules and regulations to help achieve this.

Therefore, I encourage all property owners to reach out to the Board of Supervisors and ask them to approve the updated campground rules..

Signed,
Karla Graham
Webb Lake

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To editors

Thank you to the land use committee, Jason Towne and County Board who have spent a significant amount of time to impose the moratorium on campgrounds. Also thanks for reviewing and accepting the amendments that will go back to the full board for approval Txt-21-03. I have lived in Burnett County over 30 years, most of it on Wood Lake. I have come to love the beauty of the area, the kindness of the people, and the pride we have in our community. Before retiring I have worked for the Burnett County Health Department, Webster School District and Capeside Cove.

I have concerns about adding large RV parks and campgrounds on our small infrastructure.

Our current police, fire, and health departments do excellent work for our community but we are not set up to sustain this success with massive amounts of tourists coming into our area. The additional income and tourism from opening more campgrounds would be beneficial to our local economy but I feel a slow planned movement, as proposed, is the best way forward. If we open our area up without planning I fear we will be overwhelmed and deplete the resources of Burnett County, a place I have called home for most of my life.

Thank You
Carol Huff