



Department Updates

County Clerk

DeeAnn Cook
County Clerk

Voter turnout for our September Primary was around 20% of registered voters in the county, which was actually a little less than what we expected. Municipal Clerks and their Poll Workers did a fabulous job dealing with the most complicated election of all, a partisan primary. We came up with a new sticker numbering system with hopes of eliminating poll list errors and 5 municipalities volunteered to test it out at the Primary. All of them felt that the numbering system worked out very well so we will make the numbering stickers available to all relying municipalities in the future.

We are now gearing up for a big turnout in the November General Election. The short turnaround time between our Primary and General Election is problematic with respect to compliance of the new Federal Military and Overseas Voter act (MOVE). Currently, Wisconsin is not in compliance with MOVE Act requirements and is resorting to creative measures to meet deadlines such as having clerks mail a pdf. version of the ballots for UOCAVA voters before official ballots are printed. Hopefully, legislators will move back the date of the primary which would allow for sufficient time to get those military and overseas ballots out and back.

new on line canvass reporting system that requires election results to be uniformly entered into the Statewide Voter Registration System at the county level. If the system could allow for more than one person at a time to enter into the system, we could even use it to take in results on election night. GAB liked that suggestion and is striving to achieve that ability before the November Election. Either way, we will continue to report our results as they come in on our website. We continue to get positive feedback from the media and general public who watch election night results. Once all of the bugs are worked out of GAB's new canvass reporting system, it will be very efficient.

GAB has implemented a

Treasurer

Vonnie Ritchie
Treasurer

WCTA Conference

The Wisconsin County Treasurer's Association Conference was held in Barron County last week October 6, 7 & 8, at Tag-along. Sometimes we take for granted what we have right here where we live and work and I was reminded by my counter-

parts from every corner of the state that this is truly "A Great Place to Visit and A Better Place to Live". Jeff French and Jess Miller came up to welcome everyone and Dr. Pannier's presentation on parliamentary procedure was excellent. These conferences are truly essential for the County Treasurers to keep current with the statute changes. We also had pre-

senters on Bank Credit Analysis and Internet Fraud. A special thanks to my staff, Dianne Bowen and Carol Rockow for all their help in organizing this event.



Inside this issue:

Human Resources	2
Office on Aging / Aging & Disability Resource Center	2
Sheriff's Department	3
Clerk of Court	3
Economic Development	3
Administration / Committees	4



Human Resources

Rachael Richie, HR Director

New / Replacement Positions				
<u>Position Title</u>	<u>Office / Department</u>	<u>Incumbent</u>	<u>Date Filled</u>	<u>New / Replacement</u>
Deputy Medical Examiner	Administration	Sheryl Gehrman	9/27/10	Replacement
Behavioral Health Program Manager	Health & Human Services	Dave Hensley	9/20/10	Replacement
Transport Officer	Sheriff	Shane Jilek	10/2/10	Replacement
Part-time Assistant Cook	Sheriff	Recruiting		Replacement
Disability Benefit Specialist	ADRC	Recruiting		Replacement
Clerk / Typist	Health & Human Services	Recruiting		Replacement
Part-time Civilian Correction Officer	Sheriff	Recruiting		Replacement

- Self-defense / De-escalation sessions will be held on 11/10/10.
- A 9 week Weight Watchers at Work program was recently completed at Barron County with a total loss of 156 lbs!! A 12-week program is now being offered. Participation is open to anyone and you do not need to be a County employee to attend. If you are interested or you know of someone that might be interested, please have them contact Kathy Semon at wwleaderkathy@yahoo.com or 715-859-2980.

Office on Aging / Aging & Disability Resource Center

Charlene Oftedahl, Director

Alzheimer's Disease Supportive Services Program

Barron County, in collaboration with five neighboring counties, just received word that we are part of a three-year \$1 million dollar award from the U.S. Administration on Aging to help families address the challenges of providing care for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Wisconsin was one of nine states funded to implement this evidence-based intervention. We were chosen by the State Office on Aging partly because of our successful regional experience with the Memory Care Connections grant four years ago. At that time selected staff in Barron, Eau Claire, Dunn, and Chippewa County Offices on Aging were trained to conduct memory screen-

ings to detect symptoms of early dementia and to coordinate with the Dementia Diagnostic Clinics being established by local medical providers working with the Wisconsin Alzheimers Institute at UW-Madison. As part of our multi-county ADRC, Rusk and Washburn Counties are included in this great opportunity to improve support for families caring for loved ones with dementia. You are encouraged to refer families in your area to Gloria Vaughn, our dementia specialist.

New Volunteer Program

As part of a pilot project Barron County is working with the State Office on Aging and the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources to recruit and train six volunteers who will assist older adults in Barron County with choosing a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan that suits

their individual needs. The volunteers will work under the supervision of Kim Gogan and Mary Simpson, Elderly Benefit Specialists in the ADRC. The volunteers have committed to 2 days a week for 4 hour periods during the Medicare Part D enrollment period from November 15th through December 31st, 2010. They will be available at senior centers throughout the county by appointment. There is no way that our staff can accommodate the many requests for this assistance without the help of these well trained and dedicated volunteers. We have already received so many phone calls that we have asked the Technology Center to dedicate a phone line for customers to use in accessing this help.

Sheriff's Department

Chris Fitzgerald, Sheriff

The Sheriff's Dept received the 5000.00 check from the Law Enforcement Foundation for the new K-9 Dixie. This paid for all the expenses for the K-9 and Training.

Shane Jilek was hired full time as the Transport Deputy. Shane has worked for us in the patrol division for 2 years filling in while Ron Baures works as our Drug Detective under a grant. Congrats to Shane.

Shane will continue in our patrol division under the drug grant and we have moved

Justin Rausch temporarily as the Transport Deputy until the end of the grant in Dec 2011.

The sheriff's dept was again awarded the Click it or Ticket Grant and the Alcohol Enforcement Grant which will start in Nov.

Barron County Triad was launched last month at the Chetek Senior Center. This is a program where Law Enforcement and seniors get together and talk about different topics like ID theft, scams, thefts and other local activity in the area. It also gives seniors access to law enforcement to talk about any issues they are having. It also kicks off this month in Rice

Lake with the hopes of expanding to all the senior centers in the county in the coming months.

As always remember to slow down, don't drink and drive and buckle up.



Clerk of Court

Judith Espeseth, Clerk of Court

It's that time of year again when juror questionnaires are sent to prospective jurors. There is a rather sophisticated process to ensure a random selection of the county's citizens. First, I requested 1600 names for the year 2011. The names come from the Department of Transportation's list of drivers and ID card holders in Barron County.

The first letter of the last name of all potential jurors is calculated. For instance, there are 3111 individuals (8.71 percent) whose last name starts with "B" that are 18 or over that have a driver's license or

identification card. A random selection chose 139 individuals whose last name begins with "B" (8.69 percent) for potential jury duty. Potential jurors were chosen for each letter of the alphabet in this same manner.

Demographic information was also applied. A percentage of each age group, ethnic group and whether they are male or female was chosen; all was determined by the information from the Department of Transportation.

To make the selection even more random, the selection program generates as

many random numbers as number of jurors requested by the county. For instance, there were 35,730 potential jurors for Barron County and if the random number is 950, the 950th record is added to the list of selected jurors and removed from the list of available records.

It is from this list of individuals provided to us to whom we send qualification questionnaires. When returned to us, they are reviewed, eligibility is determined, information is entered into our computer system and a new year is ready to begin.

Economic Development

David Miller, Director

As of September 30, the Department has taken on 41 start-up reviews for feasibility and planning stages (141 total with 2009 rollovers); 7 educational and demographic requests for grant submissions, 9 marketing and PR events with our economic development collaborations and 11 expansions.

The October BCEDC Newsletter is available for viewing at: www.barroncounty.com Click on "BCEDC NEWS"

This will be one of the last Newsletters for a long time to come. Check it out. INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- County & Regional Economic Development Activities
- Attention creative entrepreneurs, Rural Arts Management Institute Program Grant Funding Available for Manufacturers
- RAILROAD Available Land Brochures are ready for distribution
- The Barron County "MicroLoan" Program

- The Barron County Downtown Façade Program
- Coming Soon: Export Education Seminar, November 2, 2010
- Barron County Visitors Brochure by R. David Miller

PLEASE NOTE:

The newly revised Barron County Highway Map is available. The Highway/ Recreation map is available from the County Clerk's Office in the Government Center, Barron.

Administration

Jeff French, Administrator

Property Committee:

- Approved posting of informal bidders forum to web site.
- Recommended to Executive Committee that a \$7,500 transfer from Undesignated General Fund be approved for the purpose of undertaking an engineering study for an ATV and snowmobile bridge across the Red Cedar River north of County trunk Highway W.
- Approved ordinance amendment allowing boat launch fee at Waldo Carlson Park, resolution will be forthcoming to full Board.
- Reviewed 2010 Capital Improvement Capital Outlay Plan
- Discussed Rice Lake School District's use of Anne Street School, with staff to provide more information at a later meeting.
- Heard various staff updates with no formal action taken.
- Lease/Sale of Office Complex Update: Staff continuing to work on.
- Mowing at Museum: Can't be done due to stumps and other debris.
- Grant Park Closing: Suggested changes are to open after Memorial Day and close week after Labor Day.
- Energy Policy Work Group Recap: Information presented with suggestion that Administrator present work to County Board at a future time.
- Waldo Carlson Park Upgrade Update:

Upgrades are nearly complete with sidewalks to be installed next year.

- Held a closed session pertaining to a potential land acquisition within City of Barron but took no action.

Executive:

October 6th, Regular Meeting:

- Reviewed 2009 Audit Report with presentation by Dan Thole
- Reviewed the 2011 Budget with discussion centering on information gathered at Wisconsin Counties Association Conference and Dam Assessments, Budget Timeline, Budget Options
- Approved resolution supporting creation of Lead Fiscal Coordinator.
- Approved allowing Corporation Counsel, Treasurer and Administrator to facilitate the sale of small parcels of property to adjoining land owners.
- Allowed Treasurer the opportunity to work with Habitat for Humanity so that salvageable doors and windows can be removed from tax deed properties scheduled for demolition.
- Approved recommendation from Property Committee to sell tax deed property on Upper Turtle Lake instead for retaining for County purposes or selling to DNR.
- Recommended drafting of resolution allowing transfer of \$11,000 from Undesignated Fund Balance to Designated Funds for Lake Study at Silver Lake; resolution to be brought forward and approved by full County Board.

Heard report from staff on following:

- **Phased Retirements:** Shirley Frovold, Organizational Services Supervisors, in Department of Health and Human Services is requesting phased retirement. She qualifies, as we would not be replacing this position but rather dispersing her duties to other individuals in DHHS and Finance.
- **Records Retention New Model Ordinance:** Staff is aware of this new model ordinance and received training on its' various attributes at the WCA Convention. Mr. Muench and I will be working on this as time allows in the future.
- **NACO Drug Card Update:** According to the National Association of Counties, Barron County residents have saved \$ 21,462 on their prescription drugs by using the Caremark discount drug card.
- **Livestock Mapping Fee - \$100:** The LCC/Extension Committee has approved a \$100 fee when County Employees develop a Livestock Map for individual who modify their livestock operations. *Note* this is a voluntary fee for service the County is offering some farmers will choose to use an engineering firm to produce the map.
- **County Wide Assessment:** The most recent information I have received would indicate that County-wide assessing is on hold for the time being. More to come I'm sure.
- Held a closed session regarding Economic Development Director with no action taken.

Health & Human Services

Judy Demers, Director

To date, 703 households have applied for the Energy Assistance program. Of this 703, 128 applications were taken on the first Wednesday of the season, 10-6-10. The remaining applications were submitted as early applications in September.

Our agency has been notified by the State, that we are eligible for \$50,000 per year for

the next 5 years for expansion of the Coordinated Services Team(CST) process in working with families. We began implementation of CST in 2008, with a grant which was awarded regionally for a period of 5 years. To date, 9 families are participating in CST. The CST is an approach in working with families which brings together a team of formal and informal supports. The team addresses a full range of needs that could impact the child and/or family. The team provides the ongoing

support and monitoring. Upon transition, the family has in place a support network they can access to meet their needs without the support of a formal team.

A merger of Behavioral Health Services and Adult Protection Services is being planned. Planning with timelines is underway. The merger is anticipated to be complete by January 1, 2011.