



Department Updates

Highway Department

Mark Servi Highway Commissioner

We have had a very productive summer. Our crews have performed many projects on State, County, Town and Municipal roads, as well as several projects for area School Districts. We continue to enjoy a strong partnership with the other Units of Government. Intergovernmental Cooperation provides an alternative for our partners, allowing them to get the results that they need and want on their projects while providing opportunities for work to the county to provide efficient and cost effective project delivery. It is a win for everyone involved. It keeps the County's crew, the same one that is needed to plow snow in the winter, efficiently employed in the summer months.

The recently passed Wisconsin State Budget places some restrictions on the work that County Highway Departments can do. Most notably, we may not work for Cities with a population greater than 5,000. In Barron County, that means the City of Rice Lake. We have worked with the City of Rice Lake on several projects this past year with cost effective results. We were able to work in conjunction with their crews, enabling the City to do the work its crews were trained for on the projects and the County to do the

other project tasks. An example of this was Coleman Street. The County provided the pulverizer, and the City shaped the pulverized material for paving. The County then performed the paving. One of the great advantages to this method was the City was able to have the project performed when they had their crew available to assist (because the County has flexibility in scheduling our resources), therefore adding to everyone's efficiency. Another example of this was the CTH O Trail. The County performed the grading, gravel and paving of this project. The City used its crews on the culvert extensions and final shaping of the gravel for paving. Working cooperatively was providing a good outcome for both the City and the County. We will no longer be able to perform projects for the City of Rice Lake.

The last remaining major project on the County Highway system, CTH K from CTH D south to the Dunn County Line, is currently under construction. With an anticipated completion in early November, the project will result in a 28-foot wide paved surface and 3-foot shoulders. Earlier this summer, we completed two other paving projects on the County System. CTH D from the Polk County Line to CTH K features a new 28-foot wide driving surface and 3-

foot shoulders. CTH SS was repaved within the City of Chetek. This project was partially funded by the City of Chetek.

We continue to have work effort resulting from the sand mine industry. We have hired a consultant engineer to assist us with the evaluation of the County Highways that will be used as truck routes. The industry has been very forthcoming with the required information needed to make the assessments needed to determine the impacts and the upgrades that will be required to enable the Highway System to carry the anticipated loadings.

It has been a very active and productive construction season. The crew has worked hard to complete the many projects timely and cost effective. The quality of the work has been outstanding. We receive many complements on our completed projects. That is directly resultant of the skill level of the employees we have working at the Highway Department. They must live here and drive the roads that they work on, and they take great pride and ownership in the work that they perform.

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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>
PT Civilian Correction Officer	Sheriff		Recruiting	Replacement
Behavioral Health / Adult Protection Services Case Manager	Health & Human Services		Recruiting	Replacement

- Health Insurance premiums are estimated to decrease 7% from 2011 as a result of 3.5% savings through the RFP process along with 3.5% decrease as a result of changing the office visit co-pay from \$20 to \$25 and eliminating the out-of-pocket prescription drug maximum.
- 2012 Benefit Enrollment information will be sent out to employees the week of 10/17/11.
- The Transition Team has been meeting to review the personnel policies. The goal is that Executive Committee will review the policies on 10/20/11 with County Board review on 11/7/11.
- Flu Shots will be available on-site on October 19th.



Health & Human Services

Judy Demers, Director

To date, nearly 1000 applications have been taken for this season's fuel assistance program. The program runs until May, 2012, with the majority of applications being taken during the first 3 months of the season. Later in the season, the demand for crisis services escalates and the applications then focus on requests for crisis assistance.

A Community Forum was held on October 13, to orient our staff and community stakeholders on the concept of Alternative Response to Child Protective Services. Barron County was selected to participate in this project, and it is set for implementation on January 1, 2012. Alternative Response incorporates a non-adversarial, non-threatening family assessment approach for lower to moderate risk cases thereby enhancing parental engagement and increasing the likeli-

hood of voluntary participation in services. Community partners involved in the collaboration include local schools, law enforcement, restorative justice, domestic abuse victim advocates and public health.

The Income Maintenance (IM) consortium continues its work toward implementation on January 1, 2012. Eau Claire County was selected to be the lead fiscal agent for the consortium, thereby being the entity with whom the State holds the contract for IM services and through whom all state dollars are channeled for the ten counties in the consortium. The call / change center service to be provided by the consortium will be provided by several counties creating a virtual call center whereby calls will roll from one site to another until the call is picked up. Barron County plans to dedicate three FTE's to the call / change center function.



UW Extension

Michelle Jensen Nutrition Education Coordinator

The Barron County Nutrition Education Program ended the 2011 fiscal grant year in September having reached 1,316 learners for a total of 2,836 educational contacts. The majority of these learners (72%) were youth, ages 6-17, in which education took place during in-school, afterschool, and summer programming through partnerships with the school districts of Chetek, Cumberland, Rice Lake, and Turtle Lake and Barron County Boys & Girls Club. Youth, ages 6-11, learned about healthy food choices, the importance of regular physical activity, and had the opportunity to sample

healthy snacks. Older youth learned how to read food labels, how to choose proper portion sizes, how to make healthy choices when eating out, and how to prepare healthy snacks.

Education with families, adults, and seniors made up the remaining 28% of learners. These education sessions took place at food pantries/distributions, WIC clinics, senior meal sites, and Barron Day Service Center. These audiences learned a variety of messages including; making healthy food choices for self/family, food safety, and food resource management.

The start of fiscal year 2012 is off to another busy start, as some additional part-

ners have been added to the program plan. I look forward to continuing these educational efforts to reach Barron County youth and adults in hopes of improving eating and physical activity habits for an overall healthier county.

The Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program in a federally funded program that helps limited resource families and individuals choose healthful diets, purchase and prepare healthful food and handle it safely, and become more food secure by spending their food dollars wisely.

Treasurer's Office

Yvonne Ritchie, Treasurer

We changed our credit card payment vendor to Point and Pay. It is a very user friendly system for people to pay taxes via telephone, online, or in person. The Extension, Zoning, Aging, Health and Human Service, and County Parks departments are also using this system as a payment option for their services.

Unpaid Taxes

On September 1st of each year, the current year unpaid taxes are transferred to certificates. This is the first step in the tax foreclosure process. The unpaid tax for the 2010 tax year is slightly higher this year although the percentage of the total tax roll is less. Listed below is a spreadsheet showing the tax roll and certificate totals for the past 11 years.

September Sale Book

Tx Year/Yr Due	Total Tax Roll	Delq Tax Total 9-1	% Unpaid	Balance Sept 1, 2010
2000/2001	45,391,631.68	992,784.06	2.19%	32.90
2001/2002	49,572,130.81	1,057,898.01	2.13%	36.28
2002/2003	51,880,053.45	1,144,145.38	2.21%	255.59
2003/2004	56,516,231.63	1,076,048.09	1.90%	298.07
2004/2005	60,131,880.83	1,235,374.57	2.05%	322.59
2005/2006	61,924,118.88	1,671,870.18	2.70%	326.90
2006/2007	64,981,123.96	1,298,997.84	2.00%	1,704.32
2007/2008	69,598,313.20	1,492,011.09	2.14%	7,828.55
2008/2009	71,258,276.57	2,133,601.83	2.99%	416,517.37
2009/2010	74,900,729.82	1,732,165.61	2.31%	696,168.80
2010/2011	77,395,966.67	1,737,114.51	2.24%	1,737,114.51

The In-Rem Tax Deed process starts two years from the September 1st certificate date.

Tax Foreclosure Property

Through the tax foreclosure process we took title to 10 parcels. For details please contact my office. We hope to sell these properties at public auction in October. Sale information will be available on the county website and in all county newspapers three weeks prior to the sale.

Jail Programs

Following is a listing of programs available in the jail. List provided by **Sheree Carr, Jail Programs Director / D.A.R.E.**

A.A. – Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. Inmates can request 1 on 1 meetings with a sponsor to help go through the steps. Meetings held Mondays for Secure Blocks and Thursdays for Dorms at 7:00pm.

We have 16 active AA volunteers who come to the jail for 2 weekly meetings. They conduct separate meetings each night for the males and females. We currently have 6 inmates doing one on ones and 2 inmates waiting for a volunteer to start their one on one class.

Gideon's Auxiliary Women – Females Only Volunteer Dorothy wants to get to know you and hopefully meet spiritual needs. Jesus saves now and for eternity and pours out mercy and forgiveness to those who ask. Gideon's come to share with you the scriptures that tell us that.. Meetings held Thursdays at 10:00am. Dorothy Groshong is our volunteer.

Tuesday Night Bible Study – Learn about the love, forgiveness, and comfort that comes from knowing Christ. Join our Bible Study. Meetings Tuesdays at 6:30pm Ruth Anderson, Linda Hackett, Beatrice and Ramon Hunt, Barbara Kirk, Alfreda Knutson, Mari Koser and Harold Thoreson are our volunteers. They usually have 3 separate classes each Tuesday night, one for secure, one for the dorms and one for females.

Career Exploration – Jim Dzemeila of UW Barron County will meet with you to explore career options and school funding. He comes to the jail 1x each week. Jim also holds a group Career Exploration class 2 times per year that starts with a mini Meyers Briggs test and giving them information on colleges, tech schools and financial aid. Jim Dzimiela is the counselor for this program.

Sunday Church Service – Join us each week as local churches conduct a church service to sing, praise, and share the Word of God. Services held Sundays at 2pm and 3pm. Volunteers are: Faith Baptist Church Pastor Tom Bunton, Robert Englund and Brian Chuchwar. Calvary Baptist Church Pastor John Terpstra, Charles Kruppenbacher, Nora Rogers, Greg Rogers and Brad Novak. Good Samaritan Church Pastor Gene Stodola, Patricia Stodola, Richard Peterson, Carolyn

Rodewald and Stanford Smith. Abundant Life Church Pastor Wayne Hall, Karen Hall, and Linda Rugg. Northern Lakes Community Church Pastor Dennis Wright, Kirk and Brenda Hyatt, James Coil and Corey Graf. The Refuge Church Pastor Jeff Martin.

Firm Foundation "Creation to Christ" – Men Only. If you have questions about the Bible and want answers this is the class for you. There will be time for questions and answers. Pastor Tom Bunton. Class will be held on Wednesdays from 9am-10am. Pastor Tom Bundon

Freedom in Christ – Females Only. Goes through the Freedom in Christ book that is used at Teen Challenge. Fridays from 3-4pm. No classes 2/11/11 – 3/4/11. Connie Ripplinger

Catholic Prayer – Catholic prayer and communion for Catholic inmates in a one-on-one setting. Tuesdays 9:00am. George Blenker and Betty Shaide

Jehovah's Witnesses – Jehovah's Witnesses have set up a Bible Study designed to help individuals use the Bible, conquer bad habits, change their personality, restore their relationship with their spouse, children, family and above all our creator, God. Meetings held Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm. Corey Casey, Stephen McHenry, Kerry Moltzan and Brian Steinblock

Pastoral Counseling – If you need individual counseling from a pastor of your choice to work through some of the issues in your life. Pastoral Counseling can help put a new perspective on how to handle situations in your life. We have several Pastors who come in from all over the county and sometimes outside the county to counsel inmates.

Woman's Way – Woman's Way counseling is for women with drug and alcohol issues. Their main focus is to help woman with children get back on their feet. They assist with shelter, transportation to appointments, etc. They work with women who reside in Barron, Chippewa and Rusk County. Contact the Program Director if you need to meet with them.

Veteran's Assistance - Greg Parr from the Veterans Office in Eau Claire will come to interview veterans who are close to their release date so he can give them information on resumes and job search information. He can also steer veterans to other agencies that provide benefits to veterans such as education benefits and health care. He will be here on Fridays.

Healthy Lifestyles – Female exercise program using low impact exercises followed by a lesson on the importance of eating well and taking good care of your mind and body. Mondays at 9:00am Nancy Keeler is the volunteer instructor.

Reformers Unanimous – A faith based addiction program designed to direct the addicted back to God's support group – the local church. Facilitated by the First Baptist Church. 9am Fridays for MEN and 2pm Mondays for WOMEN. New inmates are welcome each week.

Volunteers are Pastor Darryl Robinson, Richard Robinson, Rodney Homer, Betty Robinson and Rebecca Downing.

Children's Reading Program – Easing the separation felt by children when a parent is incarcerated, inmates are taught techniques to make them more animated readers. Children's books are selected and eventually read by the inmate while being video recorded. The book and tape is then sent to the child who can then watch their parent read to them. If interested, contact the Program Director for info. regarding the next class. Facilitated by Program Director Sheree Carr

Positive Parenting – Raise children who are self-confident, motivated and ready for the real world with this win-win approach to parenting. Your children win because they learn to solve their own problems while gaining the confidence they need to meet life's challenges. You'll win because you'll establish healthy control without resorting to anger, threats and power struggles. This is a 5 lesson class taught by the County Extension Office. If interested, contact the Program Director regarding the next class. Taught by Missy Bablick of the County Extension Office.

B.B. – Breaking Barriers – This class will focus on the awareness that change is possible. It will help participants recognize that controlling how we think is a learnable process. Notices are sent to each cell section advising of when a new session will start. 2 ½ hours/day for 8-9 sessions. This class usually takes 2-3 weeks to complete. Facilitated by Program Director Sheree Carr

G.E.D. – If you never graduated high school we will work with you to achieve your GED or HSED. You need to know that you will be here for at least 1 month. You will be required to sign a contract stating you will attend each class and complete necessary homework. The instructor will be here every Tuesday and Wednesday during the school year. Taught by Bill Hrudka of WITC.