

# DEPARTMENT UPDATES

## BARRON COUNTY

### CLERK OF COURT

Judy Espeseth, Clerk of Court

Passport fees have increased effective July 13, 2010.

U.S. Passport Book for First Time Applicants and Minors			
	Passport Fee Payable to Department of State	Acceptance Fee Payable to Acceptance Facility	Total First-Time Applicant Fee
<b>Adults</b> (age 16 and over)	\$110	\$25	\$135
<b>Minors</b> (under age 16)	\$80	\$25	\$105
U.S. Passport Card for First Time Applicants and Minors			
	Passport Fee Payable to Department of State	Acceptance Fee Payable to Acceptance Facility	Total First-Time Applicant Fee
<b>Adults</b> (age 16 and over)	\$30	\$25	\$55
<b>Minors</b> (under age 16)	\$15	\$25	\$40
Other Service Fees			
<b>Additional Visa Pages</b>		\$82	
<b>File Search Fee</b>		\$150	
<b>Expedite Processing</b>		\$60	

The charge for passport pictures is \$10.55.

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AUGUST 2010



### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

#### Judy Demers, Director

Behavioral Health Services Program Manager, Brad Jahr, has submitted his resignation. Recruitment has begun for a replacement.

A meeting was held on July 30, with a representative from Stark Agency, a collection agency. The plan is to proceed with development of a contract with them to assist in the col-

lection of outstanding debt, which totals over \$600,000 for DHHS, much of which is attributed to provision of behavioral health services. Stark Agency is a preferred provider with the State and has a contract with a number of counties. Of the debt that is collected, Stark Agency will claim 21%, and the remainder comes to the county. Counties report high satisfaction with their service.

Efforts continue in collaboration with other counties in this region to develop crisis diversion options that will assist in reducing the number of hospitalizations due to mental health and/or AODA-related issues. The goal is to have services developed and deliverable by mid-2011. Both adult and children's services are being considered.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

**Rachael Richie, HR Director**

<u>New/Replacement Positions</u>				
<u>Position Title</u>	<u>Office/Department</u>	<u>Incumbent</u>	<u>Date Filled</u>	<u>New/Replacement</u>
Medical Examiner	Administration	Mary Ricci	8/2/10	Replacement
Finance Director	Administration	Recruiting		Replacement
Behavioral Health Program Manager	Health & Human Services	Recruiting		Replacement

The Employee Recognition Picnic was a success with over 80 individuals attending! Those reaching an employment milestone are listed below:

**5 years:** Trisha Bailkey, Barb Hauck, Joyce Haugestuen, Robert Mancl, Anna Romportl, Bryan Koenig, Jeanne Johnson, Tony Hargreaves, Jason Olson, Candace Rand, James Anderson, Justin Everson and James Sirek.

**10 years:** Jeff French, Mark Vruwink, Floyd Bergman, Laverne Fossum, Norma Moon, Rodney Shipley, Debbie Nichols, Candi Gillett, Darlene Iverson, Bev Tempel, Heather Boos, Karla Broten, Joyce Pond, Dorothy Richter, Todd Huset, Brad Thompson, Gary Trott and Aaron LaLiberty.

**15 years:** Lana Froemming, Deanne Klang, Curt Arnold, Ryan DeNucci, Danette Hellmann, Penny Pierce, Tim Prytz and Rick Rieper.

**20 years:** Jodi Busch, Jodene Fenske, Bernie Sirek, Jean Turner, John Dietrich, Larry Mazel, Lamont Miller, Mark Whitman, Steve Olson, Kurt Beranek, Dale Hrdlicka, Hilda Just, Dave Gifford and Pat Sirovatka.

**25 years:** Shirley Frovold, Roger Kaiser and Carol Rockow.

- An RFP for Health Insurance has been sent out by the consultant with results to be available in September. WPS has indicated that the average trend increase is 12%; however based on utilization/claims, the county should **expect an increase beyond 12%**.

## COUNTY CLERK

**DeeAnn Cook, County Clerk**

During busy times, couples can end up waiting to apply for their marriage license so we asked our Technology Department to install another thin client work station so two applications can be taken simultaneously. It is a very inexpensive way to better serve our public.

Deputy Jen Horstman attended

Statewide Voter Registration System training offered by the Government Accountability Board in Chippewa Falls where she had hands on training to learn the specifics of how to use the SVRS to create or inherit elections, enter contests and candidates, maintain voter records, enter voter applications, etc. GAB requires the training in order to be able to perform those functions.

We coordinated a group absentee envelope order for all of the municipalities in the county who needed them. I emailed quote requests to local and large printers. We were able to purchase the envelopes from a local printer for significantly less cost than they would have been from the larger distributors.

The candidates are now set for the September 14<sup>th</sup> Election.

Partisan Primaries tend to be the most confusing election for voters since they must choose a party then vote only within that party. I am scheduled to be the guest on the radio program the day before the election to try to clearly explain how the partisan primary works with hopes of eliminating some issues and confusion on Election Day.

## VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

### Scott Bachowski, VSO

Hundreds of military veterans and their families from northwestern Wisconsin received information about and assistance in applying for veterans' benefits and services, during our two-day *Supermarket of Veterans Benefits* at the National Guard Armory in Rice Lake on July 29 and 30.

Over 600 participants attended a "one-stop shop" event with over 30 providers on hand, presented by the Barron County Veterans Service Office and Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA). The

*Supermarket* was also held in conjunction with a Women Veterans Wellness Fair sponsored by the federal VA, and a Veterans Job Fair coordinated by the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development. Booths on site included employers, VA health care providers, County Veterans Service Officers and representatives from education centers and veterans organizations. Information tables were also available for veterans to talk with WDVA staff about topics such as compensation and pension, military funeral honors, the Wisconsin GI Bill, transition assistance, the Veterans Assis-

tance Program for homeless veterans, veterans' homes, loans, and the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

Veterans of all age groups and service periods attended the *Supermarket*, including Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, and women veterans.

It was amazing how many veterans we saw, who had never talked with us before, not only the new veterans but others who never came in to talk to us about their benefits before. We reached out to 50 plus new veterans in Barron County as

well as many new veterans in surrounding counties.

We would like to offer much appreciation to **Mosaic Telecom** and Ed Quinn (Barron County veteran) for providing us with wifi for the event. Ed worked hard installing the modems and getting everyone hooked up that needed internet access. Additionally, we would like to send out a huge "thank you" to the Lac Courte Oreilles Elders, the Springbrook / Trego / Earl VFW Post and the Rice Lake Ladies Auxiliary for providing delicious food throughout the event.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### David Miller, Director

**Our nine county ITBEC Tourism Committee just finished the latest addition to the NW Regional Video Clip Player**, sponsored by Discover Media works. For view of all the videos produced by our Committee for the Region take a look and a leisurely tour at the following: <http://video.discovermediaworks.com/nwitbec/player.htm>

**Another successful video shoot plays tribute to our ITBEC Northwest Region** and can be viewed on the new Discover Wisconsin "Online Travel Guide" at: <http://travel.discoverwisconsin.com> where you will find short, three minute samples of the many videos that showcase our county and our region.

**The Aerial Shoot:** The BCEDC

is sponsoring an aerial photo shoot for the near future. Overall, the photos will be shot from a perspective to use in business and tourism promotion for Barron County. However, there are specific shots that will be taken to benefit Administration activities and the Highway Department.

**Our ITBEC Regional Economic Development Committee has agreed to the development of a subcommittee that will become the "Northwest Regional Economic Development Coalition"**. The group of county economic development corporations and departments are working on a name, Mission and goals and will make the entity public later this fall. There will more on this at a later time.

**Coming in September:**

The BCEDC is again sponsoring an important educational workshop for our area businesses. You have all heard of LEAN in the Manufacturing setting and now it is viable in the Administrative environment as well.

The folks from University of Wisconsin-Stout have made available Barb Nicol, a LEAN expert from the Northwest Wisconsin Manufacturing Outreach Center (NWMOC). The cost to you is \$45.00 and it will include the Workshop and lunch. The actual fee is \$75.00 per person, however the BCEDC and Momentum West are providing a \$30.00 payment, per-person, towards the fee and has reduced it to \$45.00 for you. Please contact me if you are interested in attending the Workshop.

**Here is the current major project(s) update:**

As of July 31, the Department has taken on 35 start-up reviews for feasibility and planning stages (135 total with 2009 rollovers); 5 educational and demographic requests for grant submissions, 7 marketing and PR events with our economic development collaborations and 11 expansions. This has become a season of "trains, planes, automobiles, food, and trash" as major project categories.

Inside the Economic Development Newsletter for august ([www.barroncounty.com](http://www.barroncounty.com) -- click on BCEDC NEWS

## AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER (ADRC)

### Charlene Oftedahl, Director

Since you will be hearing a report at County Board on Northern Bridges, the eleven county managed care organization providing Family Care for Barron County, I will give you an update on the related role of statewide ADRCs. Among the ADRC's responsibilities is enrollment of elderly and disabled adults into publicly funded long term care programs. Currently the enrollment choice for Barron County

residents is Family Care provided by Northern Bridges or IRIS which is a statewide self-directed supports program. The enrollment process starts at the ADRC and involves many complex steps. The ADRC also provides disenrollment counseling to assist people in the process of voluntary or involuntary disenrollment from managed care.

The ADRC is responsible for management of the waiting lists for enrollment into North-

ern Bridges and IRIS. This includes adding eligible people to the waiting list and selecting people from the waiting list to offer the opportunity to enroll. As of August 1<sup>st</sup> Barron County's ADRC has 166 eligible individuals on the waiting list: 67 frail elders, 26 adults with developmental disabilities, and 73 adults with physical disabilities. If things proceed according to the state plan, the waiting list will disappear in the spring of 2012 when these

programs are scheduled to become an entitlement for Barron County residents who qualify. The goal of entitlement is to improve people's access to services when they need them, and to improve the cost effectiveness of care. Currently care provided in a nursing home is an MA entitlement, but not care provided in the individual's home or in a group home or assisted living facility.

## ADMINISTRATION / COMMITTEES

### Jeff French, Administrator

#### LCC/Extension:

- Received information from Tim Jergenson on the 2010 Pierce County Farm Technology days and how to strategize for the Barron County 2013 show.
- Held preliminary discussions regarding the State's budget and how this may affect Barron County.

#### Property Committee:

- Recommended to Executive that tax deed parcel in Town of Almena is retained as County property.
- Discussed potential improvements to security cameras at Government Center
- Cumberland Dam Analysis: This study is to be budgeted in the 2011 budget.
- Repairs to Rice Lake Dam: Recommended to Executive that \$15,000 be taken from Contingency fund so that repairs to dam can be completed by Hwy Department yet this year.
- Funding of Dam Repairs: Discussed funding mechanism for repairs and maintenance of dams owned by the County. Staff is researching what opportunities exist to have a per parcel assessment to lake shore owners when no lake district exists.

- Moved to a future meeting the possibility of expanding the County Forest block in the Township of Doyle to accommodate the purchase of an additional 80 acres.
- Allowed Officer Moin to proceed with the development of a Rustic Campground at the ATV Intensive use park with a formal plan to be brought back to the Committee after review by Corporation Counsel.

#### Executive:

##### July 27<sup>th</sup>, Budget Meeting:

- Reviewed benchmarking data for the following programs, Adult Protective Services and Finance Division.
- Reviewed comparables for across the board pay raises and health insurance.
- Approved appointment of Jodi Busch as Interim Finance Director until 12-31-2010.

##### August 4<sup>th</sup>, Regular Meeting:

- Approved \$5,600 transfer from Contingency Fund for Emerald Ash Borer Signage
- Approved Resolution to establish Land Information Council, (Resolution to come before County Board for approval)
- Concurred with Property Committee in -that Cumberland/Beaver Dam Lake

Analysis will be a part of the 2011 budget

- Approved resolution to come before County Board for repairs to Rice Lake Dam, \$15,000 with repair work to be completed by Highway Department
- Approved resolution to increase fees for Cremation, Disinterment Permits and Death Certificate Processing (Resolution to come before County Board for approval)
- Postponed refinancing of 2002 Justice Center Bonds. Why? Because if interest rates were to rise .65% it would be more advantageous to wait one year and do a Current Refunding instead of an Advanced Refunding