

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

BARRON COUNTY

OFFICE ON AGING / ADRC

Charlene Oftedahl, Director

Leslie Fijalkiewicz, dietitian and Elderly Nutrition Program manager in the Office on Aging, is collaborating with WestCAP to make the Commodity Supplemental Food Program available to persons age 60 and older in Barron County for the first time. A qualifying household can receive a box of food each month donated by the US Dept. of Agriculture (USDA). Gross income for a 1 person household must be under \$1175 per month, \$1580 for a couple. The box of food typically contains canned fruits, vegetables, juice, meat, cereal, pasta, cheese and other dairy products.

50 senior households are currently participating and the number is certain to grow. In another collaboration with WestCAP, for the past six years Mary Simpson, Elderly Benefit Specialist, and Leslie have coordinated the distribution of Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program vouchers to seniors throughout Barron County. An eligible recipient receives \$25 in vouchers to purchase Wisconsin grown produce from participating growers. 240 persons receive vouchers, with a comparatively high redemption rate of eighty-eight percent last year.

A garden tour fundraiser for Volunteer Services of Barron County, Inc., is being held on Saturday, July 31, from 9 am to 2 pm. \$10 tickets are available at Bethany Lutheran Church in Rice Lake on the morning of the tour. The Office on Aging collaborates with this non-profit organization to provide transportation and other volunteer services throughout Barron County.

Want to know the secrets of living to age 100 and older....and be healthy enough to attend the Barron County Fair? Join us on Friday, July 16, 11:00 a.m., at the Fair Time Chapel, when we honor Barron County's centenarians. Last year eight individuals, ages 100 to 104, attended the event. An eight passenger tandem trolley and three passenger golf cart, courtesy of Jeremy and Sara Jerome, will help make the fairgrounds more accessible to persons with limited mobility. Severt Olson has recruited veterans as drivers and is coordinating the service which is available from 10 am to 9 pm for the duration of the fair.



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UW EXTENSION

Michelle Jensen joined the staff of Barron County UW-Extension office as the Wisconsin Nutrition Education Coordinator in late April. The Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program (WNEP) aims to help 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. Michelle's position, along with the program, is federally funded operat-

ing in association with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly known as the food stamp program).

Michelle received her bachelor's degree in Nutrition from the University of Minnesota and her master's degree in Food and Nutritional Sciences from UW-Stout. Additionally, Michelle is a registered dietitian and has experience working with a variety of populations providing nutrition education and counsel-

ing in clinical and community-based settings.

For the upcoming program year, WNEP will partner with numerous Barron County organizations to provide nutrition education and promote healthy living. Michelle will reach the adult population through programming at senior meal sites, WIC clinics, and the Barron Day Development Center. In addition, Michelle will be providing education at food pantries and food

distribution sites. Michelle will be working with children in four Barron County school districts, providing in school and after-school programs, to help students improve their eating and physical fitness habits.

Contact Michelle at michelle.jensen@co.barron.wi.us or 537-6250 for any question regarding the Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program.

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

Scott Bachowski Veterans Service Officer

We have continued our work in cooperation with the Washburn Veterans Service Office and the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs to organize the Supermarket of Veterans Benefits to be held on July 29th and 30th, 2010. I recently met with Andrew Schuster of WDVA at the Armory to tour the facility and ensure all components are in place for the event. I would especially like to thank **Mosaic Telecom** for their generosity in supplying Wi-Fi equipment for us...Thanks so much! The event will be held in conjunction with a Women Veteran Wellness Fair at the Rice Lake Armory. This event will be a "one-stop-shop" for veterans to learn about eligibility criteria for state veteran's benefits, programs, and services; apply for state and federal benefits, receive information about

loans, education benefits, and employment opportunities, get assistance in obtaining military medals and records, obtain information about assisted living and nursing home care, pre-register for burial in state veterans' cemeteries and learn about the wide range of benefits and services available including health care, loans, compensation and pension, education, job training, aging services, funeral honors, and more! We are also including any local businesses that are interested in hiring Veterans to come out and find their new hires. We are encouraging family members of veterans and deployed service members to attend. This event will be a first for Barron County; we are very excited about bringing the event to our county and encourage everyone to stop by to see us!

Our Outreach efforts continue to be very successful; since June

2009 we served 229 new Veterans! This is an amazing number considering previous years we only averaged about 45 new veterans. Thank you to every employee in the county and the county board for helping us find these veterans that deserve their benefits!

With the arrival of the new fiscal year on July 1, 2010; funding will resume for the Aid to Needy Veterans Grant (ANVG) Program through the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA). The emergency rules that previously established component spending limits have expired and therefore expenditures for the program will be subject to the \$7,500 lifetime limit and any pre-existing program rules. The ANVG Application and Description of Benefits (DOB) forms have been updated to reflect the impact of that change. This benefit is designed to help needy veterans obtain

dental care, eye glasses and hearing aids.

Dawn and I recently completed our accreditation training through the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers while in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The week of training comprised of Compensation, Pension, Widow Pension and Dependency Indemnity Compensation claims. As well as many other topics, we both learned many new tricks of the trade and are eager to help our veterans obtain every benefit they deserve. We appreciated everyone's patients' in our absence while we attended the training. We now have national accreditation with the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, Disabled American Veterans and Military Order of the Purple Heart.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Aerial Shoot: Planning: August

I am planning an aerial photo shoot for August. The overall pics 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.

Veterans Supermarket of Benefits" July 29-30, Rice Lake

This event is being directed by the County's Veterans Office and there could be as many as 5,000 Veterans moving through the two day event. I will be working the event both days, providing the "How to Start a Business" program information and related resources. I'll be combining our resource information with the folks from Workforce Resources and the DVR offices in Rice Lake.

Set-up is on Thursday, July 29, before Noon. The event starts at Noon and runs 6PM. Friday's hours are from 8AM until Noon.

City of Barron's Sesquicentennial Business & Appreciation Events

Judith Espeseth Clerk of Court

The Clerk of Circuit Court's office is pleased to welcome Kim Bates to our office. She is replacing Lisa Hiber, who transferred to the Child Sup-

Friday, July 30, Saturday, July 31 and Sunday August 1st

DeeAnn, Jeff, Vonnie, Joyce and I have prepared a visual display for the Barron 150 Sesquicentennial Celebration the weekend of July 29-31. We have gathered together historical photos and artifacts to be displayed in the former location of BeckusAns on E. LaSalle Ave. Set-up is planned for Thursday July 29 at 8:30AM. Tear down on Monday, August 1st. Items from the original Courthouse, photos and artifacts will be on display.

Our 10 county Momentum West Board of Directors will hold its August Board Meeting on the WITC campus in Rice Lake. The meeting will begin at 11:00AM with a tour of the Marshfield Clinic-Rice Lake Center and the Lakeview Medical Center construction project. The Marshfield Rice Lake Center staff will explain the Center to the grip, but because of HIPPA and Confidentiality regulations a complete tour will not be possible.

"SALUTE TO INDUSTRY"

Set-up, August 18th. Event will be held on Thursday, August the 19th. The BCEDC and BCEDO will have an exhibit

during the show, from 9:00AM through 6PM on the 19th. I am working on a static Power-Point for the booth. Cooper Engineering and Bruce will maintain the booth for the day.

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.

There are four tourism centered events coming in August:

The Greater Turtle Lake Association Car & Craft Show, August 8, 2010

Chetek Fly-In Lunch and Boat Co. Rally...August 12th...

Rice Lake Regional Airport Fly-In...August 14th..

Cumberland Baga-Fest event and Fly-in the last weekend of August.

(See more in the Economic Development Newsletter-link below

Here is the current major project(s) update:

As of June 30, the Department has taken on 33 start-up reviews for feasibility and planning stages (133 total with 2009 rollovers); 3 educational and demographic requests for grant submissions, 5 marketing and PR events with our economic development collaborations and 10 expansions. This has become a season of "trains, planes, automobiles, food, and trash" as major project categories. I can't more specific right now, but it's become a welcomed diversion from the current economic situation.

Don't forget to take a look at the July-August Economic Development Newsletter. www.barroncounty.com click on BCEDC NEWS..there are many activities coming in July and August.

Have a great month.

CLERK OF COURT

port Agency in March. Kim worked very briefly in the office a couple of years ago filling in for an employee on medical leave. Her primary responsibilities will be in the criminal misdemeanor and family/paternity area, but will also be

taking her turn at clerking in court as well as manning the counter and phones. She and her husband, Jeff, have three sons ages sixteen, thirteen and eleven. Although she was born and raised in Minnesota, Kim has lived in Barron for the

last eighteen years. When asked if she was a Packer or Viking fan her answer was very **diplomatic**-a great quality which will be frequently used in this office. Welcome, Kim.

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>
Assistant Clerk of Court - LTE	Clerk of Court	Kim Bates	6/28/10	Replacement
Finance Director	Administration	TBD		Replacement
Medical Examiner	Administration	Recruiting		Replacement

- Reminder that the Annual Employee Recognition Picnic will be held August 5, 2010 at the Kiwanis Shelter / Kittelson Field (on the corner of Mill Street and East Birch Street). The picnic begins at 4:30 p.m. and includes a short program recognizing those employees reaching an employment milestone (5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30+ years of employment). Please RSVP by 7/27/10 to Wendy Coleman. Hope to see you there!

COUNTY CLERK

DeeAnn Cook, County Clerk

Our annual equipment maintenance will be performed this week. In order to better accommodate everyone, we have designated two sites for maintenance. Clerks have the option of bringing their equipment to City Hall in Rice Lake or here at the Government Center. Every-

one appreciates having that option.

The deadline for filing of papers for the fall election is just around the corner. Even though a fairly large voter turnout is expected, several municipalities have opted to use only their Edge touch screen machine along with some hand count

paper ballots. Due to the number of contests and contested races the testing of the optical scan machine is very lengthy and smaller municipalities prefer not to have to go through the testing process then have almost all votes cast on the Edge anyway.

Issuing of DMV plates and tabs

has been going fairly well but it is more challenging than we expected. Seems like each situation is unique and requires learning something new.

Marriage Licenses have picked up tremendously. Tis the season!

TREASURER

Vonnie Ritchie, Treasurer

Real Estate Taxes

July 31st is the due date for the postponed 2009 taxes. Payment options are listed on the Barron County website. On July 1st we mailed 9,370 reminder notices. The unpaid 2009 taxes for all municipalities except the City of Rice Lake totaled

\$15,058,366.25 as of June 30, 2010. Last year the unpaid tax on June 30th was \$15,426,277.41 so we are ahead of last year's collection. The City of Rice Lake collects all three of their installment payments and we will do our final settlement with them by August 15, 2010.

Tax Deed

June 30th was the last day for the owners of tax deed property to repurchase their property. The next step is to set the minimum bid price and the sale date for these properties.

A complete listing of these parcels is available from the Treasurer's Office.

ADMINISTRATION / COMMITTEES

Jeff French, Administrator

Because of the way in-which the calendar fell for this month my update will be very similar to the agenda update given to the Executive Committee.

Property Committee:

Meeting was held after updates were due to be distributed.

LCC/Extension:

Committee did not have a meeting this month.

Executive Committee:

Resolution Budget Preparation and

Timeline: This resolution establishes the 2011 Budget Preparation Guideline and Timeline for completing the budget process are annual resolution. This is consistent with years past.

Transfer from Contingency Fund \$ 29,900 for study of Beaver Lake Dam – City of

Cumberland: The above transfer is necessary to complete a study of the Beaver Dam Lake Dam watershed which includes the following, (summarized project descriptions):

- Watershed survey including measuring bridge/culver opening dimensions and slopes.
- Hydraulically significant dimensions on the dam and downstream water control structures.
- Evaluate diversion channel between Duck Lake and Beaver Dam Lake.
- Estimate 100 year flood analysis
- Develop model of the impoundment
- Calculate downstream flood profiles with dam in-place and nonexistent
- Determine hazard classification as defined in NR333.
- Lastly, complete regulatory compliance

Ayers Associates would be the firm contracted to complete this work.

Due to the condition and age of the dam in question and the size of the water shed I would recommend we proceed with this study. At this time we have no adequate, relevant or timely information to make informed decisions on how to proceed with this structure.

Alternates to Executive: The Executive Committee has requested that Corporation Counsel develop language that would develop a call list when it is determined that a quorum will not be present. This will require changes to the County Board Rules & Procedures.

County Board Size – Downsizing Work

Group: The make-up of this Work Group has been established. The next step will be for this Committee to establish criteria and meeting schedule.

Ordinance – Medical Examiner: Tom Aydt has resigned as Medical Examiner effective August 1st. Due to the structural change to an administrative form of County Government this will necessitate changes to the Medical

Examiner's office and appointment to that position.

Sale of Tax Deed Properties: Treasurer Richie will be on-hand to present information on this subject with suggested sale prices for the properties. The Executive Committee is requesting the Property Committee review the properties to determine if there are any parcels that would be advantageous for the County to retain.

Furlough Days: I have done research on this issue and discussed with Dr. Pannier. Yes we do have the option to impose furlough days but, this would be mandatory subject to bargaining, in my opinion.

Before imposing this as an option to reduce costs please consider some of the following:

- Exempt employees work on a salary basis so for the week in-which furlough days are imposed they would technically become hourly employees. This is not an insurmountable situation but is something that needs to be considered.
- We already have a voluntary leave program so if furlough days were imposed those individuals who have taken voluntary leaves would effectively be penalized twice.
- Consider the efficiencies of the County Offices especially the smaller ones.
- Recent arbitration decisions have determined that a maximum 2 year time-frame for imposing furloughs is all that will be allowed.
- Furloughs punish those departments that have already reduced staff size.
- Potentially those employees earning less than \$17.60 per hour could claim unemployment for the days they are furloughed which would be about 35 employees.
- Furloughs would have no effect on elected official's salaries as these are set by term.
- The Courts are a State-run system so potentially there could be scheduling conflicts.

I would like to use this as a mechanism of last resort.

Resolution to Increase Service Fee to Clerk of Court Acceptance of Credit or Debit

Cards: The Executive Committee is recommending an increase in this fee from the current \$3.00 to \$4.50.

Staff Reports/Updates:

- Refinancing of the 2002 I/C GO Bonds. An analysis of refinancing the aforementioned GO debts indicated we could save \$ 171,743 or 2.142%. Compared to the savings of \$757,000 when we refinanced the 2001 bonds it doesn't seem prudent to consider refinancing at this time.
- Parliamentary Procedure: This is simply a heads-up in-that when this Committee is advocating action to the County Board the

wording of the motion should be; "We recommend to the County Board this action" or "It is our recommendation to the County Board that this action occur" or "We recommend this resolution to the County Board for their approval".

- Comparable Worth/Salary Range Analysis: We have not used Comparable Worth as a mechanism for setting non-union salaries in several years. However, we continue to use a salary range analysis with minimums and maximums as an instrument for recruitment and retention. I believe it is prudent to continue the use of a Range Analysis and consider an overall non-union wage study at sometime in the future.
- Fines & Forfeitures Amnesty: I was asked to review the possibility of offering an amnesty program to individuals who owe for various fines and forfeitures a brief research of this indicates several things:
 - The County probably does not have statutory authority to offer a reduced penalty.
 - Any reduction in the amount owed comes directly from the County's portion to be collected we have no standing to reduce the State's portion of a forfeiture.
- New Unfunded State Mandates: Following is a list of new unfunded State costs or mandates:
 - Increase in average retirement contribution .6% or \$ 73,000 approx.
 - Land Information Council
 - Inspection of Dams, now a County responsibility with no direct DNR involvement – cost estimate depends on type of dam but outside engineering costs should be anticipated.
 - Dam failure analysis – same as above.
 - Floodplain analysis – costs to be assumed by taxpayer

Closed Session: Leave of Absence Request – Sheriff's Department:

The Law Enforcement Committee and Executive Committee have approved this leave of absence request until January 1st 2011. It has been past practice that the direct oversight Committee would recommend approval for this type of request and then Executive would review and approve also.

Closed Session for Zoning Administrator and Veterans Service Officer:

The purpose of this closed session is to consider compensation based on additional duties.

Information Only: Congratulation to Vonnie Richie and all Wisconsin Treasurer's because taxpayers can now pay their real estate taxes electronically at any County Treasurer's office.

Barron County and Rice Lake PD are working cooperatively so that RL PD squads can be tracked using the County's GPS system.

REGISTER OF DEEDS

Joyce Kaseno, Register of Deeds

June 25, 2010, was the first day we started collecting the new fees for recording documents. We now collect a flat fee of \$25.00 for recording a document plus \$5.00 per document for a social security number redaction fee. A comparison of the old fees and the new fees shows an increase in County revenue. None of the new fees are being sent to the state. Their fee of \$2.00 per document remained the same. The comparison breakdown is:

Old Charge:	\$ 4.00 – County General Fund 4.00 – County Land Records Fund 1.00 – County Public Access Revenue <u>2.00</u> – State Land Records Fund \$11.00 – Fee to record first page 2.00 – County Fee per page for each additional page
New Charge:	\$15.00 – County General Fund 6.00 – County Land Records Fund 2.00 – County Public Access Revenue <u>2.00</u> – State Land Records Fund \$25.00 – Flat Fee Charge <u>5.00</u> – Redaction Fee \$30.00

Comparing the new fee we collected and what would have been collected with the old fee shows a better comparison in what was actually collected and the increase in amounts:

	<u>\$30</u>	<u>\$11+\$2</u>		<u>Increase</u>
June 25	\$255.00	\$122.00	- General Fund	\$133.00
	102.00	68.00	- Land Records Fund	34.00
	34.00	17.00	- Public Access Revenue	17.00
	<u>85.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	- Redaction Fee	<u>85.00</u>
	\$476.00	\$207.00		\$269.00
June 28	\$675.00	\$484.00	- General Fund	\$191.00
	270.00	180.00	- Land Records Fund	90.00
	90.00	45.00	- Public Access Revenue	45.00
	<u>225.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	- Redaction Fee	<u>225.00</u>
	\$1,260.00	\$709.00		\$551.00
June 29	\$460.00	\$337.00	- General Fund	\$123.00
	174.00	116.00	- Land Records Fund	58.00
	58.00	29.00	- Public Access Revenue	29.00
	<u>150.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	- Redaction Fee	<u>150.00</u>
	\$842.00	\$482.00		\$360.00
June 30	\$830.00	\$574.00	- General Fund	\$256.00
	312.00	208.00	- Land Records Fund	104.00
	104.00	52.00	- Public Access Revenue	52.00
	<u>270.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	- Redaction Fee	<u>270.00</u>
	\$1,516.00	\$834.00		\$682.00

In summary:

\$1,862.00 – the increase in the amount collected for the last 4 days in June
<u>2,232.00</u> – the amount we would have collected before the increase
\$4,094.00 – total collected because of new fee

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Judy Demers, Director

- Volunteer drivers for the Medicaid program have been informed that effective January 1, 2011, the mileage rate will be reduced to the rate that is reimbursed to the County by Medicaid. Very little feedback has been received thus far. This action is being taken to reduce the amount of tax levy being allocated to support the higher reimbursement rate. The savings is projected to be over \$38,000.
- The State has advised counties that individuals diagnosed with cancer can bypass the waiting list for the BadgerCare Core plan. A waiting list for BadgerCare Core was imposed late in 2009, due to high demand. The intent is that individuals with catastrophic illnesses be protected from financial disaster.
- With the beginning of summer comes the increase in the incidence of dog bites. In June, there were 17 incidents of human exposure. Five animals were quarantined at home, and six were quarantined by a veterinarian. If a dog owner is unable to pay up front, or if the dog is a stray, veterinarians require a guarantee of payment, thus creating a potential budget impact for our department. Quarantines can cost in a range of \$300 to \$700 per incident.
- To date, in 2010, there have been 30 Chips(Children in Need of Protective Services) orders completed. In 2009, we had completed this many in the first two months of the year. The reduction is due to a number of measures we have implemented to provide in-home supports to families to keep them intact.