



Department Updates

January / February / March 2017

Inside this issue:

Circuit Court 1

Forestry 1

Medical Examiner 2

Finance 2

Health & Human Services 3

Aging / ADRC 4

Treasurer 5
6

Human Resources 7

Circuit Court

Judge James Babler

Courts Begin Text Message Reminders for Hearings

In our ongoing effort to provide better customer service and increase attendance at court hearings, the Circuit Judges are now offering the option to parties to have text message reminders for all juvenile court hearings. The Court's case management software (CCAP) allows the Court to send a reminder to parties 48 hours prior to a court hearing - much like the dentist office sends a reminder for your dental ap-

pointment.

This is a relatively new feature of the CCAP software and it requires court staff to: 1) make sure that the party has a cell phone which receives text messages; 2) enter that cell phone number in a special section of the case management software; then 3) turn on the notification by clicking a box. Once the notification is turned on, it provides the text message reminders for all subsequent hearings.

The Circuit Judges decided to begin with a small portion

of court cases to see how it impacts the work flow in court and how it is received by participants. So far, most parties have opted to receive text message notifications and have indicated to the judges that they appreciate the reminders. The judges have also noted that while this takes a little extra time in court, court staff is able to capture and enter the information in a timely fashion.

Our long-term plan is to offer the text message notification in more types of cases in 2017.

Forestry

John Cisek, Forester

Timber Sale Activity
The recent cold weather has provided the opportunity to open harvesting operations on two sales.

- Turtle Cr. II (Tract 3-2013 / #350) located in the Township of Turtle Lake, covers 243 acres and contains 441 MBF (thousand board feet) of hardwood and pine sawtimber and 1020 cords of oak, hardwood and aspen cordwood. Tri-State Lumber and Land is the contract holder. Approximately 95% of the

sale was completed before spring break-up. The sale has re-started and anticipate completion in the next three weeks.

- Rajek Sale (Tract 2-2013 / #349) located in the Town of Doyle, covers 238 acres situated in the Pipestone Quarry. The sale contains 387 MBF (thousand board feet) of hardwood sawtimber and 1870 cds. (cords) of hardwood, oak and aspen cordwood. Estimated value of the sale is \$205,321.08. This

sale contains 80 acres that purchased with a Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant and a 0% Project Loan from the DNR in 2011.

- DNR Liason Forester Janette Cain along with the foresters from Spooner have completed Timber marking on 4 tracts scheduled to be let on bids this spring. As of the end of January the DNR has provided 472 hours of service representing 84% of the allotted hours for Fiscal year 2017.

Medical Examiner

Mary Ricci, Medical Examiner

Barron County Medical Examiner's Office Death Investigations - 2016 Totals

Year	TOTAL CASES	M	F	NATURAL	Suicide Homicide	ACCIDENT	Autopsy	CRM Permits	DEATH CERTI- FICATES	On Scene Investigator
2016					5 = GSW 2 = OD Suicide = 7	OD = 3 MVA = 4 GSW = 1 Wrk = 1 Falls = 16	C = 11 F = 6			Mary Ricci = 62 Allen Photopolous = 7 Pam Ambrozaitis = 15 Karen Diedrich = 5 Brenda Jensen 13
TOTALS	432	217	215	376	Homicide = 2	Accident = 25	Autopsy = 17	312	112	
Legend: Autopsy = C-Clinical, F-Forensic; CRM = Cremation DC = Death Certificate MVA = Motor Vehicle Accident OD = Overdose Wrk = Work Accident GSW = Gunshot wound										

Suicidal, Accidental, and Homicidal Deaths by Cause, Gender, and Average Age														
Suicidal Deaths:			GSW	OD	Accidental Deaths:					GSW	Homicidal Deaths:		GSW	Assault
Male	6	5	1	Male	12	3	6	1	1	1	Male	0	0	0
Female	1	0	1	Female	13	0	10	3	0	0	Female	2	1	1
Avg Age	38	39	35	Avg Age	56	57	81	53	65	25	Avg Age	40	37	43

Finance

Jodi Busch, Finance Director

Spring time is audit time in the Finance Department. In addition to daily duties, staff has been very busy reconciling accounts and closing out 2016. The Highway audit fieldwork by our external auditors, CliftonLarsonAllen, will be conducted the week of March 27th. The county-wide audit will commence the last week of April.

The county-wide audit consists of CLA being onsite for approximately 4 weeks conducting fieldwork, which includes reviewing audit workpapers and reconciliations, testing internal controls, and reviewing grant activity. Based on this information, Financial Statements will be developed, compiled and submitted to various agencies with a deadline of July 31st. We strive to continually receive an unmodified audit opinion which is the highest rating that can be

received by Generally Accepted Accounting Principle (GAAP) standards. This rating helps our bond rating as well as grant eligibility.

Health & Human Services

Stacey Frolik, Director

DHHS continues to handle a large number of Methamphetamine “Meth” cases as has been the trend for the last 2-3 years. Although, a portion of the State is facing an “opioid epidemic”, we here are having similar struggles with Meth. There has been a large effort at the State level to battle opioids and locally we have been participating in and hosting legislative events to educate local policy/decision makers as well as senate and assembly members of our “Meth” issues. Through Town Hall meetings we have reached a large number of our Barron County community as an educational forum and now we are shifting our work to determine courses of action for prevention, intervention and treatment. This has been a cooperative effort between the Barron County Sheriff’s Department, Barron County Community Coalition and Barron County Department of Health and Human Services.

The next local event regarding Meth is the **Northwoods Coalition Methamphetamine Summit**. The event will be held on **Monday, April 3, 2017 at Heartwood Conference Center and Retreat, N10884 Hoinville Road, Trego, WI 54888**. The following link may be used to register:

<https://www.ntc.edu/forms/output/forms/meth-summit-marshfield-clinic/page0.php>

The upcoming round of Trauma Informed Parenting training (TIP) is scheduled to start March 8th. This class is full and the next offering of the training will begin June 1st and will be on Thursday evenings from 5-7:30 pm concluding on July 20th. If you or someone you know is interested in registering for the next round of training please contact Ashley Weinert, Brighter Futures Coordinator, ashley.weinert@co.barron.wi.us or 715-537-6166.

Our Community Support Program has been certified by the State of Wisconsin to utilize telehealth psychiatry services. Telehealth will not replace face to face psychiatry but will supplement the face to face contacts. This is a benefit that will allow us to keep a robust program despite the local shortage of psychiatry services.

State Budget Proposals for the next biennium which have a direct impact on DHHS are outlined below. It is early in the budget process so these allocations may change.

- Child and Family Allocation

will see an increase of \$1.25 million in year 1 of the budget, \$5 million in year 2

- \$14 million increase in year 1 and \$25 million in year 2 of the budget to eliminate the waiting list for children’s long term care services
- Additional funding in excess of \$150,000 in each year of the budget for drug courts
- +\$2M in each year of the budget for TAD grants
- 2.5% increase in foster care and kinship care rates
- Ability for counties to move to joint agencies/ shared services

The last day to apply for Energy Assistance for this heating season is May 15, 2017.

Aging / Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC)

Leslie Fijalkiewicz, Director

As I ponder a department update for the ADRC I'm reminded of a Calvin & Hobbes version of a C.S. Lewis quote... "*Day by day nothing seems to change, but pretty soon everything's different.*" Our ADRC staff are being bombarded with questions from concerned citizens about the state budget and state & federal legislation. **Rightly so!!** These questions are primarily but not entirely focused on their health-care and what is going to happen. This has prompted us to do an ADRC advocacy "roadshow" of sorts that will address:

1. Governor Walker's proposed budget for 2017-2019. What's in it? What's not?
2. Transportation funding for seniors and persons with disabilities
3. Community services for people with dementia.
4. How people of all income levels will be affected by:
 - Repeal and replacement of the Affordable Care Act
 - Proposed changes to Medicare
 - Proposed changes to Medicaid
5. Funding for Older Americans Act programs (Meals on Wheels, caregiver services, and other programs to

keep people independent)

Just to be clear...these will not be debates. Our goal is to empower people with knowledge so they can determine for themselves whether an issue is important enough to take action. In addition to the Calvin & Hobbes' quote, I also like these: "Knowledge is Power" and "Act or Accept". I don't know who to attribute those words to, but they speak volumes to those of us who work to empower people to advocate for themselves!

In addition to a great deal of advocacy, our ADRC is working on several other projects. Our Music & Memory program is expanding to our other two ADRC counties. This intergenerational program connects persons with dementia to music that can tap deep emotional recall. Beloved music often calms chaotic brain activity and enables the listener to focus on the present moment and connect with others. Here is a great video that demonstrates what we are doing: <https://vimeo.com/169131205>. It's a struggle to make this happen without additional grant funds so we are actively seeking funding sources.

We were recently awarded a grant to expand a project called Sip & Swipe, which introduces older persons to the Internet,

email, searching and more. The project doesn't have administration dollars but it did provide us with 24 tablets that folks can "practice on". Since there is no actual "funding" we are looking for volunteers to be peer coaches in the community. The best way to explain this program is for you to watch a video...so please check it out! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EhbLoGDsMr4&feature=player_embedded

We have several workshops starting in the coming months. You can find descriptions and dates for these on our website www.adrconnections.org or just give us a call. These workshops include: Powerful Tools for Caregivers, Healthy Living With Diabetes, Stepping On, Living Well with Chronic Conditions and Aging Mastery. Most of these are appropriate for all adults, but certainly are most beneficial for persons or their care providers, who are worried about losing some aspect of their independence.

As always, anytime you have questions or concerns about an aging or disability related issue give us a call or stop in.

Treasurer

Yvonne Ritchie, Treasurer

The spreadsheet below shows a comparison of taxes for the past four years. The unpaid taxes as of February are collected by our office for all municipalities except for the City of Rice Lake. This year we collected the 1st installment taxes for the Town of Almena. On September 1st the current year unpaid taxes (County Tax) are combined with old the year tax file (Redemptions). All taxing districts are paid the balance of their levies for the current year's taxes on August 20th and unpaid taxes are retained by the county.

Four Year Tax Roll Comparison

Tax Year/Year Due	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017
State Tax	607,502.75	633,245.94	653,570.47	673,355.02
County Tax	18,152,504.27	19,174,143.00	19,569,260.00	20,210,095.00
Muni Tax	17,627,963.44	18,035,528.55	19,177,352.29	19,354,677.31
Special Dist	371,292.89	378,304.47	372,523.03	376,312.04
Schools	36,266,548.10	39,799,787.19	39,673,623.86	40,570,908.19
WITC	4,404,464.47	1,325,538.13	1,411,339.24	1,473,719.75
Total Levied Taxes	77,430,275.92	79,346,547.28	80,857,668.89	82,659,067.31
Omitted/70.43 Corr	7,831.19	6,418.16	-55,657.07	19,257.30
Sp Ass/Charges/DU	694,543.78	895,424.18	652,154.78	663,757.44
MFL	143,316.19	153,203.25	160,684.03	172,902.00
Total Tax Roll	78,275,967.08	80,401,592.87	81,614,850.63	83,514,984.05
Lottery Credits	1,507,263.87	1,611,262.64	1,496,068.39	1,777,606.00
First Dollar Credits	1,508,174.77	1,622,794.52	1,568,524.05	1,602,265.22
State Credits	5,769,020.38	5,725,788.99	6,735,285.80	6,887,837.29
Taxes paid to Muni's	48,409,950.80	50,192,565.50	49,274,098.72	52,689,845.81
Balance Due Feb	21,081,557.26	21,249,181.22	22,540,873.67	20,557,429.73

Listed below is interest and penalty collected on delinquent taxes.

Interest and Penalty Collected on Delinquent Taxes

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016
County Tax	53,094.70	68,146.92	61,603.94	65,585.24
Redemptions	433,644.72	328,184.32	303,600.44	279,476.22
Total	486,739.42	396,331.24	365,204.38	347,077.46

Continued on Page 6

Treasurer (Continued)

Below is the list of delinquent tax balances on December 31st for the past four years, the delinquent tax total is up from last year although is lower than 2013 and 2014.

Year End Balances

TAX YEARS:	DEC 31, 2013	DEC 31, 2014	DEC 31, 2015	DEC 31, 2015
2001	36.28			
2002	255.59	255.59		
2003	298.07	298.07	298.07	
2004	322.59	322.59	322.59	322.59
2005	326.90	326.90	326.90	326.90
2006	304.20	304.20	304.20	304.20
2007	5,543.69	5,543.69	338.76	338.76
2008	9,525.98	9,212.32	4,166.14	346.87
2009	10,215.19	8,330.78	3,382.36	226.49
2010	132,560.41	13,403.88	5,439.40	654.88
2011	401,324.99	142,597.84	5,726.13	1,085.68
2012	765,121.02	355,910.04	132,409.13	3,254.49
2013		745,317.96	356,169.72	129,468.92
2014			645,349.66	324,029.02
2015				812,381.90
YR END BALANCE	1,325,834.91	1,281,823.86	1,154,233.06	1,272,740.70

Our office sends out notices to delinquent property owners four times a year. We collect taxes every work day during the year. There are several payment options and we will set-up partial payment plans if taxpayers want to do so. Please feel free to contact my office you have questions.

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 Correction Officer	Sheriff	Amber Drost	12/8/16	Replacement
Civilian Correction Officer	Sheriff	Keatin LeBroq	1/1/17	Replacement
Economic Support Specialist	Health/Human Services	Rachael Schuman	1/3/17	Replacement
PT Correction Officer	Sheriff	Raul Castillo	1/4/17	Replacement
Drug & Alcohol Court Case Manager	Health/Human Services	Dan McNamara	1/23/17	New
Civilian Correction Officer	Sheriff	Meghan Hazelwood	1/28/17	Replacement
Economic Support Specialist	Health/Human Services	Kayla Gander	2/6/17	Replacement
Information & Assistance Specialist	ADRC	Sarah Miller	2/8/17	Replacement
Assistant Veteran's Service Officer	Veteran's	Tami Saleska	3/1/17	Replacement
Patrol Deputy	Sheriff	Jonathon Fick	3/27/17	Replacement
Patrol Deputy	Sheriff	Donald Wiese	4/3/17	Replacement