



Department Updates

February 2020

Circuit Court

Judge James Babler

We don't always have the opportunity to share good news. As many already know, Barron County has had some of the highest numbers of CHIPS (Child in Need of Protection or Services) cases in the State. We are very pleased to report that our CHIPS cases were down substantially in 2019.

Year	Number of Cases
2019	89
2018	131
2017	107
2016	120

What is particularly noteworthy about the 2019 total is that 86 of the cases were filed by September 24, 2019. Only **three** new CHIPS cases were filed for the last three months of 2019! As you will see from the chart above, we were averaging around ten cases per month for the last three years and 2019 was no different through the month of September.

We are also pleased to report that no new CHIPS cases were filed in January of 2020. That makes four consecutive months with a total of three cases filed. The Court system hasn't seen numbers like this for many years.

In discussing this information with Director of Health and Human Services, Stacey Frolik, we believe we can attribute the reduction numbers to the many programs and initiatives that have been put in place over the last several years. Both the Court and the Department of Health and Human Services have made CHIPS cases a priority and we believe we are now reaping some of the benefits.

The last four months have allowed both the Court and the Department some "breathing room" to spend additional time on cases where necessary. It has been challenging to maintain the large numbers of CHIPS cases long term and the last four months have been a welcome respite.

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County Clerk

DeeAnn Cook, County Clerk

UPCOMING ELECTION SCHEDULE FOR 2020:

- Spring Primary Election - Tuesday, February 18
- Spring Election - Tuesday, April 7
- Special Congressional District #7 – Tuesday, May 12
- Fall Partisan Primary – Tuesday, August 11
- Fall General Election – Tuesday, November 3

The 2020 Election season is in full swing. Our first election is on February 18, a primary for the Justice of the Supreme Court where the field of three candidates will be narrowed to two. The top two vote getters will move on to the April 7 Spring Election where the winner will be elected to a ten year term. In addition, a partisan primary for the 7th Congressional District seat that was vacated by Congressman Sean Duffy will be on the February ballot. There are two Democratic and two Republican candidates on the ballot. Voters will need to choose a party and cast their vote only within that party. The top candidate from each party will move on to a special election being held on May 12, 2020. The winner of that election will complete the term that ends this year so that office will be up for election right away again this fall. Typically, a February Primary would have a fairly low voter turnout but due to the partisan primary for the Congressional District #7 race, a higher turnout is expected.

The April 7, 2020 Spring Election is expected to have a very high voter turnout due to the Presidential Preference race. It comes around every four years and always generates a lot of voter interest. Voters must first choose a party, then cast their vote for the candidate they would like to see be the eventual nominee for President within that party. The rest of the April ballot will be the typical nonpartisan spring races including Justice of the Supreme Court, Circuit Court Branch II & III, where incumbents J. Michael Bitney and Maureen Boyle are both uncontested and seeking reelection to a six year term. All County Board seats are up for election. Two incumbents, Jess Miller and Andrew Mommsen, filed Notification of Non Candidacy and two new candidates, Stacey Wenzel and Tod Gerland, filed candidacy in those districts. There are two contested races. In District 4, incumbent Terry Lee is challenged by Randal Braun and in District 27, incumbent Bill Effertz is challenged by Dan Hopkins. There will also be school board and some municipal races. The Multijurisdictional Municipal Judge for Town of Almena and Villages of Almena and Turtle Lake, which is considered a county level race because it encompasses multiple municipalities, is also on the April ballot. Incumbent Dennis Zemke is uncontested.

In an effort to help the public better understand the upcoming elections, I accepted invitations to appear as a guest on the morning radio program with Amber Gonske and spoke to a fine Golden Kiwanis group on a cold February morning in Rice Lake.

Register of Deeds

Margo Katterhagen, Register of Deeds

Got your REAL ID?? If you plan on flying within the US, visit a military base or other federal buildings.....you will need to upgrade to the REAL ID by October 1, 2020!

You might be wondering why the ROD is giving an update on the REAL ID? Please let me explain.....

To obtain your REAL ID – you will need to provide the DMV a certified copy of your birth certificate and if you changed your name (when you got married) you will need to provide a certified copy of your marriage certificate – and that’s where the Register of Deeds office comes into play.

In the first 27 business days of 2020, we have had 96 people come to our counter to get a certified copy of their marriage certificate. We’ve also had 207 certified birth certificate applications during that same time.

To make matters even more interesting, we are currently down 1/3 of our staff due to another maternity leave (yes, that’s six babies in six years for the ROD office). As of January 2, 2020 – marriages also became Statewide Issuance along with births, allowing the consumer to purchase their certified copies of their birth and marriage certificates at any county within Wisconsin. So it really has changed Vital Records revenue into a “service” that any county can provide, allowing a consumer the ability to shop for a county that is a fully staffed, who has the ability to process vital records in a timely manner.

Because we hate to lose any revenue and we both strive to provide excellent customer service, Staffanie and myself have been running full steam trying to keep up with these applications in addition to the 80 death certificates requests and our daily real estate recordings.

So, if you walk by our office and see people sitting in the waiting area.....we have their application processing!!

Aging & Disability Resource Center

Jennifer Jako, Director

The ADRC continues to serve more and more people; this doesn't surprise anyone as our aging and disability populations continue to expand. It is projected that nearly 40% of Barron County residents will be 60 years old and older by year 2040. With this projection, we think about how we can help meet the top needs including: dementia, affordable housing, affordable transportation, and social isolation. We advocate for and link customers with resources and services to achieve their maximum independence and quality of life.

Dementia Opportunities: The number one risk factor for dementia is age. Per the Alzheimer's Association, 5.8 million Americans are currently living with Alzheimer's disease (most common type of dementia), and this number is projected to rise to nearly 14 million over the next 30 years. The work our office does with customers and the community overall is extremely important in creating dementia friendly communities. We have many upcoming events or learning opportunities approaching:

- **Caregiver Boot Camp** – this one day boot camp will help you understand what memory loss, dementia and Alzheimer's disease is and what it means and how to support someone with dementia and to help plan for the future. This is a free event, includes lunch. It will be held Saturday, April 18, 9:00am-3:30pm at the Barron County Government Center. Limited to 20 people, call Trisha at 715-537-6225 to reserve a spot.
- **Boost Your Brain & Memory Classes** – this is a unique program that takes a holistic approach to improving brain health in older adults. Participants will learn new habits to maintain brain health while practicing new skills for better memory performance. The eight-session class is free but space is limited. Lunch is available after the class - a suggested donation of \$4 for those age 60 and older or a \$9 charge for those under 60. Classes will be held at the Rice Lake Senior Center from March 2 through April 20 and at the Cumberland Senior Center from March 20 through May 15. Register online at adrcconnections.org or call Trisha at 715-537-6225.
- **Memory Screens** – you can get a memory screen at any time. A memory screen provides useful health information about your brain, just like a blood pressure test, provides information about your heart. Anyone can get a free, confidential 10-15 minute memory screen, provided by trained and certified ADRC staff. Call 715-537-6225 to schedule a screen.
- **Adult Day Respite Program** – our adult day respite service Daybreak is available for people with early to moderate memory loss. Daybreak is a safe and supportive environment for those with memory change, giving caregivers a much needed break. The program is person-centered and designed to help and encourage participants to maintain purpose and dignity. Daybreak maintains certification by the Wisconsin Bureau of Quality Assurance. Anyone interested in learning more about the program can contact Peg Schmidt at 715-537-6225.

Healthy Aging Workshop Opportunities: The ADRC continues to coordinate evidenced-based Healthy Aging workshops in our three county region. The workshops we offer align with our top community health needs and aim at decreasing risks of falling, improving diabetes or other chronic condition self-management, and taking care of yourself as a caregiver. Prevention is vital for our aging population. In 2019, we successfully ran 18 workshops. We have 20 workshops planned for 2020, including these upcoming learning opportunities:

- **Stepping On Workshop** – for adults to help recognize the risk of falling, build physical strength, and develop the practical skills to avoid falling. Tuesday, March 3 through April 14 from 3-5pm at the Rice Lake Senior Center.
- **Healthy Living with Diabetes Workshop** – for adults of all ages who have type 2 diabetes or pre-diabetes and/or their caregivers. Wednesday, March 11 through April 15 from 1-3:30pm at the Barron County Government Center.
- **Powerful Tools for Caregivers Workshop** – for caregivers, teaches how to care for yourself while caring for others – making you a better caregiver! Friday, April 17 through May 22 from 1-2:30pm at the Northern Lakes Church in Cumberland.
- **Right Sizing Your Life Workshop** - developed by the National Council on Aging to help older adults as they consider moving to a different living situation. This 90-minute educational event is a reunion for Aging Mastery Program® alumni, and we also welcome all those age 55+ considering a move. The goals of this program include: empowering older adults, looking at the pros and cons of a move, considering different housing options, developing a process for choosing what to keep and what to let go of. Pre-registration is requested to ensure enough course materials and light snacks.

Contact Peg Schmidt to register for any of these events at 715-537-6225.

Aging Advocacy Day will be held in Madison at the State Capital on Tuesday May 12. Our networks will be focused on advocating for the areas of: housing, caregiving, health care costs, and transportation. There is strength in numbers! If you have an interest in joining our advocacy efforts, please let me know at 715-537-6209.

"50+ Challenge to Live Well" Community Event: Each year, the ADRC partners with Marshfield Medical Center – Rice Lake to host this event. The event will be held on Sunday, April 26 from noon to 3:00pm at the Cedar Mall in Rice Lake. Our goal is to challenge people, age 50 and older, to live well through an active life style, life-long learning, and awareness of our community resources. The event will offer health screenings, informational booths, speakers, prizes, and entertainment. Sharlene Bellefeuille from the Alzheimer's Association will be our guest speaker and will be talking about Brain Health.

Looking into 2020, the ADRC will continue our work and mission to help older adults, persons with disabilities, and their families to meet their goals. We will also assist the public in learning about and completing the 2020 Census, encourage those we assist to advocate and engage in elections, and assist with Barron County's strategic planning. We continue to collaborate with pretty much all other county departments as well as other community partners about how we meet the needs of those we serve. If you or anyone you know needs any information about our services or events, please call at 715-537-6225, email staff, walk into our office anytime, check out our website at www.adrcconnections.org, or like us on Facebook @ADRCBarron.