



# Department Updates

Barron County

August 2015

## UW Extension

**Joel McReynolds**  
**Community Outreach Coordinator**

UW-Extension recently finished gathering important data with our Community Garden Survey. The survey was conducted by Joel McReynolds, Community Outreach Coordinator/AmeriCorps VISTA, to assess whether a community garden would be well-received and sustained in the City of Barron. The survey was possible due to a mini-grant awarded by UW-Extension's Community Food Systems Community of Practice.

Here are a few findings:

- We collected a total of 220 responses.
- The top reasons for people not wanting to participate in a community garden were not having enough time, already having a garden, and not having childcare.
- 81 people said they were interested in participating in a community garden in Barron.
- The number one reason for wanting to participate in a community garden was access to fresh vegetables.
- 92% of respondents interested in participating in a community garden said they are willing to pay an annual fee under \$25 for a garden plot
- 96% of respondents interested in participating in a community garden said they would like to receive help from

experienced gardeners

- 53% of survey respondents identified as White (non-Hispanic), 43% identified as African, Black, or African-American.

The community garden survey was an excellent tool for building existing relationships and creating new partnerships. Many county organizations aided in distributing the surveys, including the Barron County Safe & Stable Families Coalition, the Barron County Boys & Girls Club, and the Barron County Government. Without these key partnerships UW-Extension Barron County would not have achieved the success we did.

With the survey data now collected, UW-Extension is moving forward with creating a community garden. Our goal is to have a community garden ready for the 2016 growing season. Stay up-to-date on community garden news by visiting [barron.uwex.edu](http://barron.uwex.edu) or following us on Facebook.



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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>
Civilian Corrections Officer (PT)	Sheriff	Marco Valadez	7/8/15	Replacement
Civilian Corrections Officer (PT)	Sheriff	Lindsey Smith	7/24/15	Replacement
Office Specialist	Register of Deeds	Samantha Sommerfeld	7/31/15	Replacement
Patrol Deputy	Sheriff	Michael Carroll	8/1/15	Replacement
Economic Support Specialist	Health & Human Services	Katie Glaser	8/3/15	Replacement
Heavy Equipment Operator	Highway	Mark Thompson	8/10/15	Replacement
Civilian Corrections Officer (PT)	Sheriff	Kevin Swenson	8/19/15	Replacement
Nurse	Health & Human Services	Teresa Brekke	8/24/15	Replacement

## Sheriff's Department

### Chris Fitzgerald, Sheriff

K-9 Patrol Sergeant Tim Prytz retired after 28 years of law enforcement. Tim's canine partner Shiloh will retire with him after 8 years of service to the residents of Barron County. We wish them well in retirement.

With Tim's retirement, Ryan Hulback was promoted to Patrol Sergeant. Ryan is also a K-9 deputy with the department. With Ryan's promotion, Mike Carroll, joins the sheriff's department coming from the Rice Lake Police Department. Mike's K-9 partner, Robbie, is also coming with him so we will be continuing with a second K-9 unit, since we had all the equipment from Sgt Prytz. We hope to utilize Robbie for the next 3-4 years or longer.

Holly Hulback was promoted to Lead Dispatcher creating a quality control position in our dispatch center to assist Emergency Ser-

vices Coordinator Todd Volk with dispatch.

In the jail, Melissa Damrell was hired full time to replace Linda Olson who retired in July. We hired several part time jailers to help out - Jeff White, Lindsey Smith, Marco Valadez and Kevin Swenson. We had depleted our part time list and finally have that back to where we like it.

The first annual Cops and Robbers Donut Dash 5K was held during the Barron County Fair with 196 runners taking part. All the profits from the race will go towards our "Shop with a Cop" event in December where we take 50 plus kids in need from around the county shopping to get presents for their family and something for themselves. This is probably one of the greatest nights we take part in all year and I don't know who has the bigger smiles the cops or the kids. Special thanks to Gordy's for the donuts, Be Well

Barron County, Cooking up a Storm and the Law Enforcement Foundation of Barron County for the help.

Finally our drone is airborne and able to be put to use. The first scheduled training was interrupted when we had a SWAT call in Chetek. We took the drone and the trainer on the call out and used it exactly as it is intended for. The trainer returned the next week and finished the training and we have several deputies trained.

OWI's are up across the county and meth cases still take up most of our time. These along with the drowning in Chetek last week has given us a pretty busy summer so far but the main goal has been met and that is each of our deputies go home to their families every night. Thank you all for your support.

Sgt. Hulback and his K-9 Partner Chase getting read to run the race.



Sheriff Fitzgerald and Ella Weber our female 1st Place Donut.



Large group picture of all our runners.

