



Department Updates

County Clerk

DeeAnn Cook
County Clerk

There was an unusually high turnout for the April Spring Election in Barron County and across the state of Wisconsin. In Barron County, 59% of registered voters and 42% of eligible voters cast their vote in the election. There were 14,842 votes cast which was 6,442 more than in the similar Presidential Preference Election 4 years ago. Contests decided at election included Presidential Preference where Ted Cruz won the Republican Presidential Preference Primary (although Donald Trump had the most vote in Barron County) and Bernie Sanders won the Democratic Presidential Preference Primary ahead of Hillary Clinton; Justice of the Supreme Court where Rebecca Bradley defeated JoAnne Kloppenburg; Court of

Appeals District 3 where Thomas Hruz won an uncontested race; Circuit Court Branch 1 where James Babler won an uncontested race; Multi-jurisdictional Municipal Judge where Dennis Zemke won an uncontested race in addition to County Board and several municipal and school board races. There were referenda questions for the Town of Cedar Lake, Barron Schools and Cumberland Schools, all of which passed. Huge thanks go out to volunteers Vonnie Ritchie, Jeff & Pam French, Julie Henningsen and Linda Barta who helped take in results on Election night. Special thanks to my deputy, Jessica Hodek for her tireless efforts before, during and after the election. We now have hundreds of voter registration applications to process and thousands of votes to record in WisVote. Also thanks to

Jeff Sirek in our IT department for all his work in developing the system for displaying results on our website in a very user friendly format so everyone could watch as our results came in.

Six new County Board members were elected. They are Bob Rogers in District 1, Oscar Skoug in District 2, Craig Mohn in District 6, Gary Taxdahl in District 8, Steve Johnson in District 13 and Eric Pannier in District 15. All of them attended orientation on Friday, April 8. Outgoing board members are Larry Leff, John Hardin, Kay Curtin, Donna Cordes, Jim Reul and Travis Turner. We wholeheartedly thank them for their dedication and service to the citizens of Barron County.

Clerk of Courts

Sharon Millermon
Clerk of Courts

The Clerk of Court Office update in January, 2016 informed you that paper files would not exist for any case types filed in 2016. Cases filed on or after January 1, 2016 are scanned and viewed electronically.

I am excited to inform you at this time that on March 17, 2016, the Wisconsin Supreme Court approved a rule that will result in the implementation of **mandatory** electronic filing (eFiling) statewide for all case types during the next several years. The rule takes effect July 1 2016 and will require attorneys and users who file more than 10 cases per year to electronically file. Infrequent filers will still be able to file paper documents and court staff will scan those documents into an electronic file.

In 2009, Barron County began offering users the capability to voluntarily eFile. We have recently experienced an increase in cases being filed electronically and cases that were not initiated by eFiling are being requested to be converted to an eFiled case. Converting a case is a lot of work for court staff as the entire file must be scanned and documents linked to court record events. Barron County is extremely fortunate to have great forward thinking court employees that are embracing this procedural change with a positive attitude.

Beginning July 1, 2016, mandatory eFiling of small claims, civil, family and paternity cases will be phased in over the next 18 months according to a schedule to be set by the director of state courts on a county-by-county or case-type basis. Other case types will be added with a targeted com-

pletion date for mandatory eFiling in all case types statewide by December 31, 2019.

I am really hopeful Barron County will be near the top of the implementation list as we are not new to eFiling, have been moving to a paperless era for years by scanning and have budgeted and obtained the necessary equipment to be efficient. I am so fortunate to be a part of these exciting court procedural changes. I compare it to being similar to 1993 when the Barron County court system started using computers. Wow!

County Board

Meetings

- **May 16th - 7:00 p.m.**
 - **June 20th - 7:00 p.m.**
 - **July 18th - 7:00 p.m.**
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Aging / Aging & Disability Resource Center

Leslie Fijalkewicz, Director

As I drove into work today, I heard a great conversation on WPR about ageism. This is one of those subjects that is near and dear to us here at the ADRC because we spend a lot of time trying to counter what society tells people they should or shouldn't do, can or can't do or will or won't do just because of their age.

Ageism is so profoundly ingrained in our society that we don't even realize we are perpetuating it. We buy a greeting card...you know, those "funny" cards that poke fun of aging...and decorate with black balloons on someone's birthday. We are drawn to health and beauty products that claim to remove any signs that you are aging...get rid of wrinkles, lines, gray hair, dark spots, etc. And it gets worse...words like "that smells like old people" or referring to Alzheimer's disease as "old timers" are very offensive and paint a dismal picture of what it means to age.

The ADRC is all about trying to help people remain as independent as possible, because at any given time, we all need to help to do so. If you've ever hurt your back, had surgery, or been through some tough times emotionally or financially, you've needed to lean on others. We think of it differently because we expect it to be temporary and somehow that makes accepting the help easier to choke down. When we work with folks at the ADRC, we fight ageism by focusing on strengths...we help people identify what they CAN do instead of pointing out where they fall short.

A fairly common phone call we get, especially after a fall, comes from a concerned son or daughter saying "mom can't take care of herself anymore and needs to go to a nursing home." After a conversation with an ADRC staff person and mom, most of the time they figure out that a nursing home is not needed. You might wonder how this is "ageism". Ask yourself if you would think a single woman in her 50's would need

to move into a nursing home just because she falls in the house. As a 50 year old, if I back into a car at the grocery store, people don't automatically think I am too old to drive.

Certainly, the longer we live, the more likely we are to face some challenges in life. But equally important to remember is the fact that the longer we live, the more likely we are to have developed some incredible coping and adaptation skills. We don't become inflexible or stubborn when we reach a certain age...we become stubborn when people assume we are physically, mentally, emotionally or financially incapable.

I challenge each of you to look around and notice ageism. Notice what you say. Notice what other people say. And do something to stop perpetuating it. Let's face it...if we are all lucky, we will get old...and wouldn't it be great if being old didn't come with all of the baggage that society attaches to it now?

Medical Examiner

Mary Ricci, Medical Examiner

	1st Quarter Cases	M	Fe	Natural	Suicide	Homicide	Accident	Pending	Autopsy	Cremation Permits	Death Certificates
	2016	112	59	53	103	3	1	4	1	7	87
2015	92	42	50	87	1	0	4	0	4	63	22
2014	94	49	49	90	0	1	3	0	3	59	21