



Department Updates

August 2016

County Clerk

DeeAnn Cook County Clerk

6,071 voters cast their ballot in Barron County for the August Partisan Primary which was significantly more than the past two Partisan Primary Elections. In Barron County, 23% of registered voters and 17% of eligible voters cast a ballot. All results were in and posted to our website by 10:15 pm. The race garnering the most local interest was the District Attorney race on the Democratic ballot where incumbent Angela Beranek defeated challenger Aaron Marcoux 2,059 to 2,014. Barron County results for other contested races were: Russ Feingold defeated Scott Harbaugh 2,985 to 715 for the Democ-

atic US Senator seat; incumbent Sean Duffy defeated challenger Donald Raihala 1,612 to 131 for the 7th Congressional Republican seat and Mary Hoeft defeated Joel Lewis 3,030 to 609 for the 7th Congressional Democratic seat. All winners move on to the General Election on November 8, 2016. Other races in November include Assembly District 75 where Republican incumbent Romaine Quinn is challenged by Democrat Joe Huftel; County Clerk, County Treasurer and Register of Deeds where Republican incumbents DeeAnn Cook, Yvonne Ritchie and Margo Katterhagen are unopposed.

Municipal Clerks and their poll workers did an excellent

job. Special thanks go out to volunteers Vonnie Ritchie, Jeff & Pam French, Julie Henningsen and Margo Katterhagen who helped take in results on Election night. Special thanks to my deputy, Jessica Hodek for her dedication before, during and after the election. We now have many new voter registration applications to process and thousands of votes to record in WisVote all within 30 days in order to be ready for the BIG election on November 8, 2016. 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.

Inside this issue:

County Clerk	1
Sheriff	1
Forestry	2
Highway	2
Veterans	3

Sheriff

Chris Fitzgerald Sheriff

2016 has been a great year so far. We have had some very successful events already - the Meth Town Hall Meetings, use of the "Code Red" system assisting in apprehending a suspect from a chase and K-9 Chase apprehending a suspect we were looking for in a house. We had a large recovery of stolen merchandise tied to our meth issues in the area. We also had a safe prom and graduation season to start the summer so far. We hired Mike

Judy as our Emergency Services Director and he has hit the ground running meeting with all EMS and Fire along with assisting with the "Active Shooter" training at Mayo Hospital. Our distracted driving simulator has also been very busy this year with all the area school driver's education classes along with all the PUSH, Monarch Paving and Mosaic employees. Our jail population remains down which gives us the option to house inmates from other counties.

2016 goals

- Implement the new squad and body camera program - **Completed**
- Continuation of efforts to reduce drugs and alcohol crimes in the county - **Continues**
- Expand our community involvement in different communities through participating in community events - **Continues**
- Expand our efforts in looking for and applying for additional grants - **Continues**
- Implement the new camera system in the Justice Center - **In Process**

Forestry

John Cisek, Forester

Timber Sale Activity

Precipitation combined with Oak-Wilt Restrictions has prohibited the start of logging operations.

- 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 saw timber 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 will be re-started as conditions permit.

- Shiner Lake (Tract # 5-2014 / # 355) located in the Township of Cedar Lake, covers 92 acres and contains 144.51 MBF of hardwood and pine sawtimber and 1090 cords of hardwood and softwood cordwood. Approximately 20 % of this sale was completed. The wood products piled last winter have been hauled.
- The date for County Forest Timber Sale advertisements has been postponed until

spring of 2017.

Lumbering Hall of Fame

- The second pier will be installed as soon as the “re-scoped” Federal Grant is approved, expected sometime in late August. Leftover monies from the initial grant will be used along with a donation from the local lake association.

Chetek Fire Tower Sale

- Observations in early August showed a generally inadequate acorn crop at the site. Site prep most likely will be postponed until next fall.

Highway Department

Mark Servi Highway Commissioner

Barron County is fortunate to have many skilled and dedicated employees that work at the Highway Department. Our crew has extensive knowledge and experience in the varying types of work that we do, from maintenance to construction and everything in between.

This is being demonstrated again this year as we work on the highway systems of the county, state, towns, cities and villages within Barron County. Work on our system has progressed well this season. The major projects that we are self-performing have gone well. These projects have included paving, chip sealing, crack filling and mowing. We have a large amount of work for the local units this year. Many of these are repeat customers and are a true measure of the ability of our crew to provide a quality project

outcome in a cost effective manner. On the state system we continue to provide the maintenance activities through our Routine Maintenance Agreement (RMA). We also have had several smaller projects in the Local Force Account (LFA) program and a project through the Performance Based Maintenance (PBM) program too. Our PBM project was the chip seal on STH 25 from Barron south to 6th Avenue. In four days, this seven mile section of road was chip sealed, swept, had a fog seal applied over the top of the chip seal and pavement marking applied. All while remaining open to through traffic by utilizing single lane closures and flaggers. This project was completed in a compressed time frame while open to traffic, without any incidents or accidents. Great work by the crew!

In order to be efficient, we must have our equipment available when we need it. Our shop staff strives to

have the equipment ready, making needed repairs in as short a time-frame as possible to keep the operations moving. They minimize the impact of downtime to keep the outside crew productive.

Of course having the necessary equipment to perform our work is the result of the budgeting done by the County Board. Barron County is fortunate to be able to keep our equipment current, which directly results in less downtime and increased productivity.

Barron County is fortunate to have a group of employees at the Highway Department that rise to meet every challenge. Thanks to them, our work is done in a manner which helps to ensure the greatest possible outcome for the investment the County Board puts into our department.

Veterans Service Office

Scott Bachowski Veterans Service Officer

This is a synopsis of our activity report for July 2015 through June 2016. Our Outreach efforts continue to be very successful; since July 2015 we served 153 new Veterans! Within this 12 month period, we initiated 148 service connected disability claims and 17 non-service connected pension claims. These were record number of claims in both categories since 2007 tracking began! We would like to thank our veterans for helping us connect with new veterans every day!

Did you know? Operation Desert Storm/Desert Shield is the largest American war of the 20th Century without a memorial. More than a half million American servicemen

and women took part. Their stunning triumph is an example of America doing it right. We should honor those Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines who fought to liberate a nation from tyranny and stop aggression. Their skill, professionalism and courage inspired America and brought back a sense of honor and prestige to our military that continues to this day. The National Desert Storm War Memorial will be a tribute to those who served, those who stood behind them and – most importantly – the 292 U.S. servicemen who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

The Moving Wall is coming to Barron; September 8th through the 12th. Opening ceremony will be September 8th at 7:00 p.m. at Anderson Park. The Wall is available for viewing 24 hours a day

and escorts can assist those that need help. "The Moving Wall" is the half-size replica of the Washington, DC Vietnam Veterans Memorial and has been touring the country for thirty plus years. When John Devitt attended the 1982 dedication in Washington, he felt the positive power of "The Wall." He vowed to share that experience with those who did not have the opportunity to go to Washington. John, Norris Shears, Gerry Haver, and other Vietnam veteran volunteers built The Moving Wall. It went on display for the first time in Tyler, Texas in October of 1984. Two structures of The Moving Wall now travel the USA from April through November, spending about a week at each site.