



Department Updates

Barron County

July 2015

Aging / ADRC

Leslie Fijalkiewicz, Director

You're in the grocery store and you notice the older gentleman in front of you is having difficulty counting his money. Do you...

1. Get impatient and start looking for another check-out line?
2. Wonder why he is alone and hope he can find his way home?
3. Smile at him and say, "I have trouble sometimes too. Maybe we can figure it out together!"

We would all like to answer with "3" but the truth is, when we're in a hurry or having a bad day, we may start sighing, mumbling or even worse.

One in 9 people over the age of 65 have some type of dementia, and 1 in 2 over the age of 85 do. If you like statistics, here are a few more:

- Approximately 1017 people in Barron County have dementia...only half have received a diagnosis.
- An estimated 224 people with dementia live alone in Barron County!
- More than 1 out of every 6 in the workforce is helping with the care of a loved one with dementia.

With the oldest of the baby boomers approaching 70, we can expect the numbers to grow by 68% in the next 20 years.

Last year the ADRC received a grant to work on dementia-related issues in our three county (Barron, Rusk & Washburn) region. A major goal of the grant is to work on creating "dementia-friendly communities". What is a dementia-friendly community?

It's a community that shows a high level of public awareness and understanding of dementia. It is a community in which EVERYONE would respond to the gentleman in the grocery store (or bank, restaurant, gas station, etc.) with kindness, understanding and patience.

In August, the ADRC will be holding informational and listening sessions around Barron County. Share your concerns and opinions. Find out how you can get involved in your community. The dates and locations are as follows:

Barron: Wednesday, August 5th @ Government Center, Room 110

Prairie Farm: Monday, August 10th @ United Lutheran Church

Cameron: Tuesday, August 11th @ Mosiac Telecom Training Center

Turtle Lake: Wednesday, August 12th @ Parkview United Methodist Church

Cumberland: Thursday, August 13th @ Cumberland Library

Chetek: Friday, August 14th @ American Legion

Rice Lake: Tuesday, August 18th @ Rice Lake City Hall

All meetings are 11 a.m. – 12:30 pm with meal provided. Must RSVP to the ADRC 715-537-6225 or to trisha.bailkey@co.barron.wi.us.

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Department of Land Services

Land Information Division

County Surveyor

- Surveyed property boundary lines in the following County Forest Compartments this year Bear Lake, Cedar Lake, Doyle and Sumner. Lines are marked by blue paint on trees or signs placed by the maintenance department or state forester, providing accurate tree harvest for county timber sales and clear understanding of county forest property lines to the County, adjoining land owners and the public.
- Surveyed control points for new orthophotography flown this spring for Barron County, which should be available in July to county staff and the general public on the county GIS website.

Real Property Lister and GIS Specialist

- Processed 78 land divisions so far in 2015, involving updates to 126 tax parcels in the assessment database as well as in the parcel mapping system.
- Reviewed 54 land divisions for compliance with the Land Use Ordinance.
- Zoning documents for 12 towns have been scanned and indexed. These 10,680 documents are available via the county's GIS website.
- An additional 86 survey documents have been incorporated into the county's GIS website.
- Digital parcel mapping for the county's 41,844 tax parcels has been complete for many years; however, the accuracy of the data used to map these parcels is constantly being improved. Amendments to 22,147 parcels in 20 municipalities have been completed to reflect this updated information.
- 63% of the municipalities in Barron County have reported their 2015 assessment values. Comparing the 2015 values of those 23 municipalities to the 2014 values finds an increased assessed valuation of over \$23,000,000. One might jump to the conclusion that this is really good news for the tax payer, when in reality there are MANY more factors brought into the equation that eventually results in the amount of property tax dollars paid by the citizens of Barron County.

Soil & Water Conservation Division

CCA Conservation Planner

- Farmland Preservation Program (FPP) - Barron Co. recently received its 4 year FPP compliance review from the WI Dept. of Ag Trade and Consumer Protection and is meeting all tracking requirements set forth by the state of WI in monitoring FPP participants. All participants must be issued a certificate of compliance no later than Dec. 31, 2015 in order to continue to claim the tax credit. To date, our dept. has issued 51 certificates of compliance totaling 10,637 acres. With a tax credit of \$7.50/acre, this brings in nearly \$80,000 dollars of state money annually to Barron Co. participants.
- Nutrient Management Farmer Education Grant - Our latest round of classes saw 34 participants, a record high! As these nutrient management plans are completed more FPP certificates of compliance will be issued. Next classes scheduled for the first week in September.
- Conservation Plans - Conservation plans have been updated as producers call in with changes in crop rotations/tillage practices. Most Barron Co. producers are following up-to-date conservation plans, which is a requirement of both state and federal farm programs.
- Invasive Species Control - Our purple loosestrife biological control project is in full swing. Each year we raise beetles in a rearing pen, which multiply and are released at various sites throughout the county where purple loosestrife is a problem. Chemical control of another prolific invasive, Japanese knotweed will begin soon.

Non-Metallic Mining Program

- Site Visits to industrial sand mines. Took tours of wet and dry plant process facilities. Discussed current permits on file and unreclaimed acres to date.
- Reviewing and processing amendments to original permits for industrial sand operations. All amendments have been based on acreage expansion thus far.
- GPS surveys of all sand and gravel pits permitted in Barron County. 36 site visits have been made with concurrent acreage maps of each site put on file for establishing financial assurance requirements and annual fee assessment. Making contacts with all operators by phone and letter with a shortage of financial assurance and/or annual fees on file with Barron County.

Current Sand / Gravel and Industrial Sand Data:

Mining Operation	Total Acres Permitted	Total Acres Open/Unreclaimed	Total Financial Assurance on File
Sand & Gravel	1,962 acres	799 acres	\$ 1,833,440.02
Industrial Sand	4,648 acres	1182 acres	\$ 3,272,200.00

Department of Land Services (Continued)

Dam Coordinator

Upcoming projects

- 2015 Mikana/Red Cedar - Relining of auxiliary flow penstock (pipe) and installation of permanent motorized lift for the split leaf gate; project costs are \$110,000.
- 2016 or 2017 Cumberland - The existing electric slide gate, installed in 1976, no longer operates automatically. We will replace it with an extended concrete weir requiring little operation/maintenance. Waiting on preliminary design to allow budgeting for the next cycle.

County Conservationist

- Several BY runoff projects are planned for this year to further lessen impacts on surface waters.
- No-till checks for the City of Cumberland Phosphorus Trading Program are completed.
- Cooperated with Dunn County and UW-Extension on the implementation Plan of the Red Cedar Basin Total Maximum Daily Load.
- Coordinated with Sand Lake Lake District to correct a large runoff site.

Zoning Division

Sanitary Program

- 82 sanitary permits reviewed and issued
- 46 septic systems installed and inspected
- 4 emergency installations
- 2 failing systems that have been condemned.
- 1 illegal installation that was brought into compliance and permitted.
- 67 soil tests reviewed

Address/fire #'s

- 50 new addresses/fire #'s issued
- 3 replacement addresses/fire #'s issued

Rezoning Petitions and Board of Adjustment Hearings

- 29 Rezoning Petitions processed
- 7 Special Exception hearings heard
- 4 Variance hearings heard
- 2 Variance/Special Exception hearings heard

Land Use Permits

- Permits issued Jan-June 15th: 133, up 29% from 2014
- New dwelling permits issued Jan-June 15th: 30, up 100% from 2014

Human Resources

Rachael Richie, HR Director

New/Replacement Positions				
Position Title	Office/Department	Incumbent	Date Filled	New/Replacement
Heavy Equipment Operator	Highway	Recruiting		Replacement
Office Specialist	Register of Deeds	Recruiting		Replacement
Patrol Deputy	Sheriff	Recruiting		Replacement

Wellness Team Update:

Fruit / Vegetable Challenge taking place in June

Physical Activity Challenge taking place in July / August