



Department Updates

Barron County

July / August 2013

Office on Aging / Aging & Disability Resource Center

Charlene Oftedahl
Director

Collaboration between county departments makes a difference. Thank you to the Highway Department, especially Jerry Pich, who included two of our older vehicles in their recent sale.

Transportation Coordination. We organized a meeting of local transportation providers and key stake holders on August 1 to update the Barron County Transportation Coordination Plan required by WisDOT in order to receive state and federal funding. It will become part of a regional plan which includes surrounding counties. The meeting was facilitated by Ann Schell of West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

After 36+ years and over 1.3 million meals, Judy Brunette will be retiring as Culinary Wizard for the Barron County Nutrition Program. She has shared her love of the program and passion for nutrition and healthy eating with thousands of Rice Lake, Cumberland and Haugen residents.

The Rice Lake Senior Center and Barron County Nutrition Program will be hosting an Open House to honor Judy Brunette on Wednesday, August 21st from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. There will be a short program at 1:30. Join us in expressing appreciation and well wishes for a long and happy retirement.

Centenarian Celebration. Elsie Bents and Doraine Krug, age 100, were honored at the

Centenarian Celebration sponsored by the Office on Aging and the Fair Time Chapel during the Barron County Fair. Senator Jauch and Representative Smith attended the event. Janice Peterson, who is retiring after 15 years of coordinating activities in the Hospitality/Senior Center, and myself were presented with “Friends of the Fair” awards from Tim Heffernan, Fair Manager.

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County Clerk

DeeAnn Cook, County Clerk

Having fewer elections this year has allowed us time to catch up on some maintenance that otherwise gets set aside. We have heard rumors that there will be at least one special election for a school district this fall but nothing has been certified yet. Marriage licenses have really picked up so we are on track to be about our normal amount for the year. We have seen more requests to waive the five day waiting period due to so many couples being from out of state getting married at one of the popular wedding venues in Barron County.

Register of Deeds

Margo Katterhagen, Register of Deeds

The Register of Deeds office is moving forward with the long awaited back scanning project!! Our microfilm cards are currently in the State of Illinois being scanned and we will have an on-site scanning company here on August 14th and 15th scanning our books from 1981 to 1964!

After everything is scanned in, we will then move onto the back-indexing phase . . . Making these records searchable on the internet.

Another major step in technology for this department is with the death records going online. We will no longer receive death certificates in paper form. They will be submitted to us online, we'll have the ability to accept or return them for correction and then we'll submit to the State Vital Records Office. Our staff is currently receiving training on this procedure.

We are also in the first steps of getting the software to accept credit & debit cards—allowing for more user friendly transactions.

Finance

Jodi Busch, Lead Fiscal Coordinator

July was a busy month in the Finance Department. We worked with Cliftonlarsen-Allen to finalize the 2012 audit, which was submitted to the State of WI – Dept of Administration on July 31st. We also worked with Sequoia Consulting Group, who was onsite for two days conducting the Indirect Cost Allocation Study, which we are finalizing this week. With audit time now completed, we move on to the 2014 Budget.

Budget Worksheets were distributed to departments the week of July 8th and are due back to Finance by August 9th. Once received, compilation of the 2014 County Budget will begin. By mid August, the Net New Construction and Equalized Values

will be available by the Department of Revenue. On July 29th, I attended a WCA Training Seminar “County Budgeting in Challenging Times” in Stevens Point where we discussed county levy limits, along with budget prioritizing. Because we are well below our levy limit ceiling due to past refinancing, we don’t face the challenges of many other counties to stay within our levy limit.

The first view of the budget as a whole will be in September at the Executive and County Board meetings. Committee meetings will also be discussing budget to give their stamp of approval to the various departmental requests. This whole process will guarantee us a very busy fall season in the Finance Department.

Health & Human Services

Judy Demers, Director

- To date, 13 health insurers have applied to be certified to be part of Wisconsin’s health insurance marketplace which will begin enrollment October 1. The list of insurers should be final after Labor Day when contracts begin to be executed. Some changes could take place with the current list.
- Barron County is participating with six other counties (Eau Claire, Chippewa,, Dunn, Pierce, Pepin, Buffalo) in coordinating an application to be certified to provide Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) for individuals with mental illness and/or AODA issues. Under Governor Walker’s budget, additional funding was allocated to expand this service. In order to qualify for the funding, counties must apply as part of a consortium, not as an individual county. The plan is to submit the application early in 2014. Chippewa County is the lead agency. There are currently 29 counties certified to provide CCS services; these counties will also need to join a consortium in order to continue receiving funding.
- In 2012 Barron County DHHS, Youth and Families unit began implementation of the Wisconsin Trauma Project, which included a three tier implementation trauma informed approach. The first tier included a 12 month learning

collaborative to train our local clinicians and therapist in Trauma Focused -Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT). It is estimated that 26% of children will experience a trauma before the age of 4 years. We also know that childhood trauma can have a serious impact on a child’s functioning.

Since the beginning of the Wisconsin Trauma Project we have been collecting data to support the success of the program as well as the positive outcomes for the children we serve. 100% of the children who have received TF-CBT in Barron County have had a substantial reduction in their trauma symptoms from the start of their treatment to the completion of their treatment. Some of these reduced trauma symptoms include; less arguing, less physical fights, improved concentration, improved sleep and decreased physical symptoms associated with trauma such as rapid heart rate, headaches, and stomach aches.

Of the 19 children who have received TF-CBT therapy in 2013, 42% of these children have been placed in out of home care. This is much lower than the 19 children, with an identified trauma, who have not received TF-CBT, of these children 63% have been placed in out of home care. Of these same children, the ones receiving TF-CBT experienced no placement

The Barron County Veterans Service Office has a Facebook Page!

Unfortunately many Veterans, especially younger Veterans, are hard to contact and one of the avenues we are trying to reach them through is social media. We are attempting to reach as many Veterans as we can and would appreciate your assistance in helping get the word out.

**Like us on Facebook by searching
Barron County Veterans
Service Office**

changes where as the children in care, not receiving TF-CBT, 50% of these children experienced a placement change. Children who received TF-CBT also averaged a shorter time in care.

We look forward to tracking the continued success of this project.

- Our Public Health Unit continues to partner with Lakeview Medical Center, Marshfield Clinic, Mayo Clinic Health system; Northland, and Cumberland Healthcare in Thrive Barron County to address needs regarding Chronic Disease, specifically pre-diabetes, Mental Health- access to care issues and normalizing mental health, and Alcohol Tobacco and other drugs-specially pregnant women who smoke. During a four- year period 2007-2010 Barron County smoking rates in pregnant women was on average 21.5% compared to the state at 14% and Western Region at 13%. Area hospital and clinic administration have met with our health officer to identify activities that can be done collaboratively to address these health priorities in our county. A one year check-in is being planned for November 13, for the community members who are doing this work. Please come and find out more.

Human Resources

Rachael Richie, HR Director

<u>New/Replacement Positions</u>				
<u>Position Title</u>	<u>Office/Department</u>	<u>Incumbent</u>	<u>Date Filled</u>	<u>New/Replacement</u>
Mechanic	Highway	Jason Kirby	7/8/13	Replacement
Conservation/Environmental Technician	Land Services	Brad Robole	8/26/13	Replacement
Network Technician	Technology	Lance Peterson	9/1/13	Replacement
Mechanic/Welder	Highway	Recruiting		Replacement

- The highway department's health challenge resulted in a total of 216.6 pounds lost by participants!
- 32 employees are participating in the current Summer-Slim down weight loss challenge!

Administration

Jeff French, Administrator

LCC/Extension:

May Meeting:

- Approved a Targeted Runoff Management Grant to fund barnyard runoff projects and approved a Farmland Preservation Plan for James Salisbury.

June Meeting:

- Approved a Farmland Preservation Plan for Loretta Roff.

No July meeting.

August Meeting:

- Approved a Farmland Preservation Plan for Robert Nightingale.

Property Committee:

May Meeting:

- Approved a modification to ATV Grant 1971 thereby allowing for the purchase of 17.44 acres in the Town of Stanley, Thomas and Wendy Crotteau.

June Meeting:

- Approved contract for \$19,900 at the Mikana Dam for penstock and safety improvements. Allowed employees to use 1st floor break

room for organic vegetable pickup location, working with the local organic food coop. Discussed the possibility of selling a portion of County owned land Town of Lakeland which is currently tax deed property but, took no action taken pending determination if a conflict exists with the ATV trail system.

July Meeting:

- Based on recommendation from Maintenance Director Steve Olson, allowed sites 31, 34 and 35 at Waldo Carlson Park to be used as monthly sites.

August Meeting:

- Approved policy to charge \$5 to use fish cleaning houses at County parks if person is not a registered guest of the park. Changed Capital Improvement Capital Outlay designation from Government Center Roofs to General Construction at Government Center.
- Other actions taken by this Committee have either been forwarded to the County Board or Executive Committee as necessary, i.e. Honeywell HVAC Project, etc.

Executive:

- Actions by this Committee have been included with monthly updates as part of the County Board Agenda or direct actions have been taken by the County Board as a whole.

Solid Waste Board:

- Committee continues to work with the Dept of Natural Resources on an updated air permit.

June Meeting:

- Approved an increase in the tipping fees by \$6 beginning 8/1, plus and increase of \$58 to \$117 for small car/truck/trailer and car/truck/trailer loads, \$58 to \$117.
- This Committee is exploring the possibility of allowing, change in County ordinance needed, for curbside recycling within the City of Barron. Staff is working with Republic Waste to determine potential change in waste stream to the incinerator.
- Approved continuing the current management contract with ZAC Inc., pending the approval of a successor contract.