



# Department Updates

Barron County

May / June 2014

## UW Extension

**Kathy Splett**  
**Barron & Polk County WNEP**  
**Coordinator / Educator**

The Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program (WNEP) is a federally funded program that teaches income eligible individuals about good nutrition. WNEP works within the University of Wisconsin Extension Office, under the Family Living segment of the department. The WNEP employees are hired by the state but work within the County offices.

includes scheduling and teaching within 5 Barron County Severe Need Schools for 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades for class series that run 3 to 5 weeks for each grade. Nutrition classes are also taught for WIC, Head Start parents, the Developmental Disabled Center, and County Senior Centers. WNEP also collaborates and partners with other county agencies to meet the nutrition education needs of all of our county residents.

The nutrition education covers information that deal with topics such as: what is a healthy

plate, the importance of eating healthy, how to spend money more wisely when shopping for healthy foods, learning how to increase our intake of more fruits and vegetables and childhood obesity. Besides coordinating the Barron County program, coordination is also supplied for the Polk Co. WNEP program. This fall, Barron County will be able to hire another WNEP educator which will be a big asset to our WNEP program.

The busiest part of the year

## Register of Deeds

**Margo Katterhagen**  
**Register of Deeds**

Recordings are on the rise!! This is very good news for the residents of Barron County as it indicates that properties are selling once again!! Due to the increase in transferring proper-

ties, we are going to be adding another "public" work station as we are seeing more and more searchers in the ROD office from the surrounding Title Companies.

Because the ROD office is in charge of preserving the history

of Barron County's public documents, we are investing funds in having a few of our land and vital books rebound and laminated. Excel Binding Inc., from St. Paul MN, is spending a week with us completing this record preservation task.

## County Clerk

**DeeAnn Cook, County Clerk**

The filing deadline for fall partisan elections was June 2, 2014. For county level contests, incumbent Sharon Millermon filed for Clerk of Circuit Court and Chris Fitzgerald filed for Sheriff. Federal and State offices up for election this fall for our county include Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Representative in Congress, State Senate and Representative to

the Assembly. The Partisan Primary is set for August 12, 2014. At the Partisan Primary, voters must choose one party then vote for candidates within that party only. At the General Election, which will be on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014, voters can cast their vote for one candidate of their choice, regardless of party, in each of the contests.

Rice Lake Printery will be printing the Barron County Directory. Due to the meeting

dates for several committee meetings, the directory will not be distributed until the July County Board meeting. Too much information would have been incomplete in the printed directory if we had sent it to print in time for June distribution. Please keep in mind that most of the information found in the directory is available under contacts on the Barron County website at [www.barroncountymi.gov](http://www.barroncountymi.gov)



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# Health & Human Services

## Stacey Frolik, Interim Director

Amanda DeLawyer, a Social Worker in the Youth and Families Unit nominated Christy and Nathan Hough for the Governor's Foster Care Award, which they were chosen for. Amanda and the Houghs traveled to Madison on 5/29/14 to the Capital where Eloise Anderson, Secretary of the Department of Children and Families and First Lady, Tonnette Walker, gave speeches and presented the Hough's with their reward. Also present were several senate representatives, including the Hough's, Mrs. Sheila Harsdorf. Following the award ceremony the Hough's talked with Mrs. Harsdorf and the First Lady for some time about how amazing Trauma Focused-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy has been for their family and what an impact it has made in the lives of the children. Mrs. Walker recognized Amanda as being from Barron County and she stated we are doing great things with the Trauma Initiative. She was glad to report that other counties are now following suit! Follow this link to read the entire story. <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/pdf/foster-care-award.pdf>

## Treasurer

### Vonnie Ritchie, Treasurer

#### Taxes

July tax collection is right around the corner so we are updating mailing addresses and owner changes. We will be sending out reminder postcards and delinquent letters on July 1, 2014, for all unpaid taxes. By sending these notices, taxpayers are reminded of the July 31<sup>st</sup> due date, amounts due, our office hours, and their payment options. This notice allows us to process payments more efficiently because the parcel information is included with the payments.

The unpaid 2013 postponed taxes totaled \$13,771,310 and delinquent 2013 taxes totaled \$1,180,944 as of May 31, 2014. These amounts do not include the City of Rice Lake taxes as they have a three payment plan and they collect all three installments.

Barron County DHHS hosted a two day training the State put on regarding the Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) Program. Barron County is one of eight counties including; Chippewa, Dunn, Pierce, Pepin, Buffalo, Rusk, and Polk to form a regionalized consortium to focus on mental health and AODA services and programming to persons across their lifespan. The CCS program is recovery based and person centered.

It is currently anticipated that this programming will be ready to begin the enrollment process for consumers early in 2015. Planning and implementation has been ongoing over the past year. <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/aboutdhs/initiatives/budget/initiatives/mh/ccs.htm>

The Department will have two upcoming trainings for all staff in the month of June. The first will be on healthy work environment based on the established guiding principles of the department.

Mike McGowan will be our guest speaker. The second training will feature Gail Tremberg and she will speak to staff on the topic of Ethics and Bounda-

ries.

Barron County DHHS will be sponsoring a county-wide training on August 8th on the topic of Adverse Childhood Events (ACES). The training will focus on the aspect of these events as they relate to health outcomes. The training will promote an understanding and assessment of and response to ACE's in your work setting.

The Economic Support Unit recently participated in a state review of the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) that we administer. The preliminary results were very favorable. We will receive a comprehensive report from the State with a summary of results from the review and recommendations for continued program quality improvement. That unit will also undergo a Management Evaluation Review (MER) by the state for the FoodShare Program. This review will determine the effectiveness of the administration of the FoodShare (FS) Program, also known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Prior years (2002-2012) delinquent taxes total \$988,309 for all municipalities as of May 31, 2014. These delinquent tax totals do not include interest, penalty, and tax deed fees.

#### Tax Deed

The In-Rem tax foreclosure process began in November, 2013, on the delinquent 2010 taxes that were due in 2011. The list and notices are posted on the Barron County website and were published in all Barron County newspapers on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, April 30<sup>th</sup>, and May 7<sup>th</sup>. The last day to pay the delinquent 2010 taxes is June 30, 2014. Any parcels with delinquent 2010 and prior year taxes that are not paid by June 30, 2014, will be transferred to the County and possibly sold at public auction.

#### Sale of Tax Deed Property

Tax parcel number 116-8023-38-002 in the Village of Dallas was sold on April 7, 2014. The property at 934 N Wilson Ave., Rice Lake, parcel number 276-1487-20-000 was sold on June 6, 2014.

#### Current Sealed Bid Property Sale

There are several parcels that have been advertised for sale by a sealed bid process. The details are listed on the Barron County website and the bid due date is June 19, 2014, by 4:30 pm. These are properties that were not sold at prior year sales. The sale of property from this year's foreclosure will be offered for sale at a later date. Please contact my office if you have questions about any of these properties or questions about the process.

# Human Resources

Rachael Richie, HR Director

<b><u>New/Replacement Positions</u></b>				
<b><u>Position Title</u></b>	<b><u>Office/Department</u></b>	<b><u>Incumbent</u></b>	<b><u>Date Filled</u></b>	<b><u>New/Replacement</u></b>
PT Dementia Specialist	ADRC	Margaret Schmidt	4/28/14	Replacement
Patrol Deputy	Sheriff	Jacob Winkler	5/5/14	Replacement
Civilian Correction Officer (PT)	Sheriff	Terri Heffner	6/2/14	Replacement
Civilian Correction Officer	Sheriff	Kristen Glaser	6/2/14	Replacement
Civilian Correction Officer (PT)	Sheriff	Ashley Lande	TBD	Replacement
Zoning Technician	Land Services	Recruiting		Replacement
Sanitarian	Health & Human Services	Recruiting		Replacement
<b><u>Internal Changes</u></b>				
Jail Program Coordinator	Sheriff	Sandy Kodesh	5/28/14	
Jail Sergeant	Sheriff	Mark Hoff	6/2/14	
Dementia Care Specialist	Aging / ADRC	Trisha Bailkey	6/16/14	

- A new Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is being offered to employees. The program provides 24/7 call center support, website access, many brochures / newsletters / handouts, legal and financial consultation, coaching / counseling sessions, etc. The EAP provider also provides crisis support services which were utilized following a recent incident Sheriff's department staff were involved in.

## Office on Aging / Aging & Disability Resource Center

### Leslie Fijalkiewicz, Director

In February of this year, Wisconsin Department of Health Services released a 57 page document "Wisconsin Dementia Care System Redesign: *A plan for a Dementia-Capable Wisconsin*" which outlines the states commitment to better serving persons with dementia and their caregivers.

The ADRC received a grant from the state that will work toward the creation of dementia-friendly communities. In 2013, an estimated 120,000 people in Wisconsin had Alzheimer's disease or some other dementia. Of these, about 90,000 were living in their own homes in the community, and 22% of these were

living alone!

A dementia-friendly community is one that promotes patience, kindness and support to people with dementia and their caregivers. Basically, it's the sort of environment we all want to live in. It's a place that seeks to help people with dementia stay engaged in their community rather than becoming socially isolated. Educating the public, getting rid of the stereotypes and eliminating the stigma surrounding dementia is a major part of the grant.

Our Elderly Nutrition Program was also awarded a grant, and the Rice Lake Senior Center will be piloting the activities featured in the grant. Beginning mid-

June, the Rice Lake Senior Center will offer a breakfast bar Monday through Friday. The suggested donation for the meal will be \$2.50 and anyone over 60 is welcome to participate! Later in the summer, they will also have a salad bar once a week with locally grown produce!

We will also be getting a few new vehicles in our AddLIFE Transit fleet. With the demand increasing and some of our older models getting up there in miles, these vans will be welcomed by our drivers!

All in all, it looks to be a busy summer for our department, but the way I see it, every department can say that!

# Veterans Service Office

**Scott Bachowski,  
Veterans Service Officer**

## **2013 Stats**

The 2013 Geographic Distribution of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Expenditures (GDX) has been recently released. In the past year, our office has increased our Barron County Veteran's disability compensation and pension payments by \$800,000! This has been our best increase since 2007! Phil and I would like to thank all our veterans, families and veteran advocates for helping us with this accomplishment. Our current amount of disability compensation and pension being paid out to our Barron County veterans currently stands at \$10,041,000; this money is directly spent back into our communities.

## **Genealogy Event for Veterans & Family Members – July 14, 2014**

The Barron County Veterans Service Office is teaming up with the Blue Hills Ge-

nealogical Society to present a program on researching genealogical information on veterans. The program will be held on Monday July 14, in the Barron County Government Center's Auditorium beginning at 7:00 pm. We have invited a special guest speaker from the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs Museum. Mr. Russell Horton, Reference and Outreach Archivist, will be presenting information on how to research genealogical records and much more. Mr. Horton will speak about the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Research Center which holds a wealth of genealogical material relating to hundreds of thousands of Wisconsin men and women who have served in the military. Handwritten muster rolls, published rosters, military service records, individual memoirs and reminiscences, and more can be found in their collections.

## **Honor Flights**

The Honor Flight Network, [http://](http://www.honorflight.org)

[www.honorflight.org](http://www.honorflight.org), began in 2005 in Dayton, Ohio with the purpose of flying veterans free of charge to see the memorials created for them in Washington D.C. A retired Air Force Captain working for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Earl Morse, initiated the network to allow World War II veterans to visit the then recently completed National WWII monument in Washington D.C. free of charge. Volunteers accompanied the WWII veterans who were now in their 80s to assist them as many were unable to make such a trip with family or by themselves. The WWII veterans are being given preference due to their age, along with the fact that the memorial was not completed until almost 60 years after that war. Terminally ill veterans from all other wars will also be considered and given priority.