

Barron County Strategic Planning Work Group

Friday, February 16, 2024 – 1:00 p.m.

Government Center – Room 2151

335 East Monroe Avenue - Barron, Wisconsin

AGENDA

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Public Meeting Notification
3. Public Comment
4. Approve Minutes of 4-5-23 Meeting
5. Review Strategic Plan Update
6. Review Goals Accomplished
7. Review What Needs to Be Accomplished
8. Staff Updates
9. Future Agenda Items
10. Set Next Meeting Date
11. Adjourn

PLEASE CALL 537-6841 IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND

cc: Patti Anderson, Randy Cook, Louie Okey, Karolyn Bartlett, John Banks, Pete Olson, Chris Fitzgerald, Stacey Frolik, John Muench, Rachael Richie, Jeff French, Administrator, Corp. Counsel, Co. Clerk, Webmaster & 3 Public Postings

Any person who has a qualifying disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act and requires the meeting or materials at the meeting to be in an accessible format must contact the County Clerk's office at 715/537-6200 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting so that arrangements may be made to accommodate your request.

Minutes
Barron County Strategic Planning Work Group
Wednesday April 5th, 10am,
Barron County Government Center, Room 2151
335 East Monroe Avenue, Barron, WI 54812

Committee Members Present:

Supervisor Okey, Supervisor Banks, Supervisor P. Anderson, Supervisor Randall Cook Sr.
Supervisor Turcott, Supervisor Bartlett

Committee Members Appearing Virtually:

None

Staff Members Present:

Fitzgerald, French, Ritchie,

Staff Members Appearing Virtually:

None

#1. Call to Order:

10.02 Chair Okey

#2. Public Meeting Notification

Read by CA French

#3. Public Comment:

None

#4. Approve minutes of 2-16-2022 Meeting:

Motion to approve, Anderson/Banks, Carried

#5. Old Business:

5a. Digital Signage: CA French provided information stating that a quality digital sign begins at a minimum cost of \$40K, plus \$10K for software and annual maintenance costs of \$2500. Discussion. Consensus of the Committee was to not proceed with this idea.

5b. Supermarket Receipt Advertising: Information presented by HR Director Richie, \$350/quarter, for Market Place Food Rice Lake, \$300/quarter Nilssen's Market, Cumberland. Discussion by Committee on costs, advertising in Barron County Today Magazine and on Dryden Wire.

Motion Bartlett/Turcott to recommend to the Executive Committee, May meeting that \$2,500 be used from the 2023 Contingency Fund for these purposes. Carried

5c. Lead Times - Highway Fixed Asset Purchases: CA French provided information regarding proposed Resolution going to County Board in April for advance quoting and ordering of fixed assets for Hwy department, now, for delivery in 2024. Committee also discussed this same approach for squad car purchases for the Sheriff's Department. No formal action or motion made.

5d. Libraries - Tax Levy, present and future: CA French discussed spreadsheet as contained in packet regarding the addition of County Board members to municipal library boards as a

result of the County increasing the ACT 150 contribution percentages. The Consensus of the Committee was to have this information presented, discussed and approved at the May County Board.

5e. Update USI - personnel Trends: CA French discussed information from a recent USI webinar he attended, i.e., per person capitation payment for health care, inflation in health care, average US wage rate increase, hourly work compression wage, remote work, medical immigration. Committee discussed wage study, comparables to private industry and reached consensus that the Executive Committee, in May, should discuss as part of the 2024 Budget process putting dollars away for Wage Study.

5g. UW Extension - Financial Coaching: CA French discussed this information with the work group as an example of the cooperation between County departments. No formal action or motion made.

5h. You've come a long way baby- Barron County: Work group discussed hiring trends, employee relations, morale etc. No formal action or motion made.

#6. Review Recommended Updates to SWOT Analysis

Threats: Cyber security

#7. Review Strategic Plan Update:

Work group consensus was to leave the document as presented, in the packet

#8. Review Goals Accomplished:

See Agenda Item #5.

#9. Review What Needs to be Accomplished:

See Agenda item #5 and recommendations to Executive Committee and County Board.

#10. Staff Updates:

See Agenda Item #5.

#9. Future Agenda Items:

None

#10. Set Next Meeting Date:

Schedule for 2024

#11. Adjournment:

Adjourned by unanimous consent at 11.32am

Minutes taken by CA French

[U:\google\googledocs\2023-4-5 SPWG Minutes.docx](#)

SWOT Analysis Barron County

Strategic Planning

2020 - 2025

Ariga Grigoryan

UW Madison Division of Extension Sawyer County and Lac Courte Oreilles tribe

The Mission of Barron County is: To enhance life by providing services in a fiscally progressive manner through leadership, collaboration and innovation, that is responsive to all Barron County citizens

Vision: A sustainable, vibrant community

Motto: A great place to visit, a better place to live

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Fiscally responsible ❖ Recreational opportunities including our parks, natural resources and agricultural land ❖ Coordination and collaboration of our government employees, departments and Board of Directions leading to fiscal efficiencies ❖ Skills, knowledge and experience of our staff ❖ Strong partnerships with municipalities ❖ Creating innovative programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Affordable housing and transportation ❖ Underutilized technology available in the county ❖ Outreach of Barron County's achievements, successes and tell "our" story ❖ Broadband coverage ❖ Opioids: meth and heroin ❖ Mental health resources and available bed space ❖ Attracting skilled workforce ❖ Managing a growing workload with current resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Implement technological efficiencies ❖ External and internal cross training ❖ Cooperation with other entities ❖ Technological advancement ❖ Create controlled recycling manned program ❖ Willingness to change and improve ❖ Embrace diversity and reach out to diverse populations as a potential workforce 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Aging population ❖ Lack of housing ❖ Levy limit ❖ Federal/ State mandates without funding ❖ Lack of mental health resources ❖ Rising costs ❖ Unfunded mandates

2020 – Updated – Responses:

Weakness to Strength: 2020 increased usage of technology for meetings, and daily use

Opportunity to Strength: Continues work on manned recycling sites

2021/2022 – Updated Responses:

Opportunities: ARPA/Neighborhood Block Grant/CDBG Grant/Infrastructure Grants/Broadband

Opportunities: Solar webinar training ICMA

Weakness: Housing shortage, workforce shortage, community development, relocation/recruitment of families

2023 - Updated Responses:

Threats: Supply Chain, Inflation, Lack of skilled/qualified work force, Cyber-security

Opportunities: GPS broadband infrastructure mapping, Higher education assistance program for employees, Being cognizant of how work is completed today and how work will be completed differently in the future.

Strengths: Aging/ADRC breakfasts, Living and working in Barron County

U:\word\strategic planning\SWOT Update.docx

Updated: 2023-3-4, 2023-4-8,

**2024 Barron County
Strategic Plan Update(s)
From Department Heads**

Department and Comments:

Human Resources:

Barron Best Program, recognizing employees who go above and beyond
Electronic open enrollment forms processing
Allow employees to sell SL/Vac to HSA
Laserfiche for personnel files, onboarding, offboarding, etc
Flexible schedule options/telework opportunities
Recruitment efforts for Law Enforcement - allow squad out of County up to 15 miles
Flexibility/telework opportunities for recruitment and retention
Employee Birthday card
Employee Anniversary card
Employee Recognition events
Brent Bohn and Lance Peterson to NACO Leadership Academy!!

Register of Deeds:

We have learned how to work from home in the last 4 years!
We have completed indexing on tens of thousands of documents since 2020, which increases searchable documents with more revenue gained on Tapestry searches and Laredo Contracts.
We started a PINtegrity project with Fidlar to tie the PIN, Legal and Address together in our recording program.
We utilized Laserfiche for our vital record applications, going paperless in 2020.
We utilized Laserfiche for our daily, monthly and annual reports - reducing paper and printing.
We implemented the Fidlar program "Laredo Connect" to streamline billing to contracted customers.

County Clerk:

I would like you to highlight the Open Meetings software we implemented this year at County Board meetings. It helped fast track our County Board meetings with shortening the time needed for voting, ensured everyone votes how they wish (rather than vote based on the group consensus) and all votes are verified so every vote is recorded accurately (instead of depending on myself, or someone else, catching someone's hand's up.) This was a **HUGE** asset to our County this year!

Technology Department:

Key Projects

- Open Meetings implementation at County Board
- Network Switch Replacements
 - 10 new switches at Hwy
 - New Core switches at GC and JC
- New Data Center
- Jail System Upgrade
- Sheriff Radio Tower Fiber Connectivity (Started but not fully complete yet)
-
- Hwy System IT Expansion
 - Door Access
 - Cameras
 - Fuel System
 - System Integration
 - Automatic Washbay
 - HVAC

Annual Report

Highway:

Possibly, having Hwy complete service work on Sheriff's Department vehicles, (in-process)
 Steel Press-Brake Formed Tub Girder Bridge - recognition - Short Span Steel Bridge Alliance, January Newsletter

Aging/ADRC:

Allowing employees ½ hour paid time and mileage to deliver MOW, (a big plus) (and FYI tax savings of our meals program, reference Barron Kiwanis)

Sheriff's Department:

Jail volunteer appreciation banquet
 Law Enforcement, grant application working with WCA
 Monthly newsletter
 August 2023 Hungry Hollow - Dynamite, Department interceding.....
 (FYI concerns expressed from taxpayers!!)
 Donating rides to schools

Property Committee:

Closing of rifle ranges - on specific days
 Closing Arland Rifle Range allowing Hunters Safety Class use

Administration:

Rice Lake Cable Commission - Special Administrator reports - continued
I.e. Mosaic Technologies
Community Connections grant Mosaic

County Board:

Lona's Cafe, Thursdays Aging Program, very good for everyone!

Courts:

Treatment Courts, success, and Newsshield article 2024-1-3

OPD: 2023-12-28

Updated: 2023-12-29
2024-1-12

G:\google\googledocs\2024 Strategic Plan Update(s) from Departments.docx

**2023 Strategic Planning Work Group
Barron County Strategic Plan Update
For Years 2021 – 2025
Adopted January 11, 2021**

Accomplishments or in-process projects corresponding to the current Strategic Plan

Directional Statement #1: Expand affordable housing programs for aging population, rental and entry level buyers

Actions:

- 2021 CDBG-Covid 19 grant application for transitional housing (CTH TT)
- Veterans housing in Rice Lake
- [ARPA Funds for Barron County Housing Authority](#)

Directional Statement #2: Expand broadband coverage and enhance technology advancement in Barron County

Actions:

- EDC and County Board action to support \$7M grant application by Mosaic Technologies for fiber expansion in Barron and Washburn Counties
- December 2021 – County support for Mosaic USDA Reconnect Grant
- [Continued use of Zoom for Court hearings](#)
- [2023 Roll Call Voting system for County Board meetings](#)

Directional Statement #3: Maintain and improve all County owned facilities

Actions:

- New Highway Facility
- Auditorium upgrades
- Waste to Energy Z-wall, acid gas removal system, duct sizing, substantial repairs to boilers, air pollution control construct & operation permit renewal
- 2021-2022 acid gas removal system (in-process)
- 2022 budget for Sheriff radio system
- [Ann Street School](#)
- [Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill and Reservation of Fund Balance for these projects](#)
- [Improvements to Chetek Dam](#)
- [New Aging Kitchen](#)
- [***Improvements to Arland Rifle Range, \(in process\), possible improvements to Maple Plain Rifle Range***](#)

Directional Statement #4: Improve mental health and decrease substance abuse

Actions:

- NW Hope Consortium – addressing opioid and alcohol abuse in Barron, Chippewa, Rusk and Washburn Counties (Public Health / Sheriff / ADRC)
- Recovery Corps Grant
- Ann Street School for Community Support Program
- Transitional Housing (CTH TT)
- October 2021 - Family Drug Treatment Court testimonials from graduates
- **Co-Responder pilot program (HHS / Sheriff)**
- **Investment of opioid settlement funds – Community Health Workers (continuation)**
- Decrease drug abuse – 2023/2022 \$150K TAD Grant from WI Dept. of Justice

Directional Statement #5: Remain fiscally responsible

Actions:

- 2021 group purchase of new voting equipment
- Continued strong bond rating – Highway Facilities
- WCA article on unfunded mandates by French, Frolik and Syvinski
- 2021 approved budget – reduced mill rate, used 1/3 of sales tax collections
- **TID meetings with cities and oversight of distressed TIDS**

Directional Statement #6: Attract and retain new skilled workforce

Actions:

- Proposed change to how sick and vacation are paid out to employees
- Allow employees up to 3 hours paid time for blood donation
- Allow remote work / telework for employees
- 2021 Pay plan step movement for employees with more than ten (10) years of service
- **Work from home – 2 days per week**
- 2023 Brent & Lance recommendation, attend NACo Leadership Academy
- Increased paid leaves, life insurance contribution, allow sale of vacation and sick leave to deferred comp plan, matching of deferred comp for management/confidential staff
- Telework and flexible schedule options available
- Implemented Laserfiche on-boarding process for new hires
- County Administrator meets, calls or emails new hires

Other Actions:

Barron County as a great place to live and work

- Administrator interviews of CASTA and BANTA supporting Barron County as a great place to live, work and play
- County support of Discover Wisconsin winter segment
- 2021-2022 working with Gary Peterson, Red Cedar River canoe paddling and possible canoe/kayak docks – City of Rice Lake
- 2021 Special Administrator reports – Judge Babler & Bell Press Pod Cast
- **Continued improvements to Cedar Side Trail - Buckthorn**
- 2022-2023 More special Administrator reports & BANTA special program
- February 2023 – special program at Waste to Energy plant
- Demonstration Plan – Cameron, cooperation with local farmer
- 2022 special TV interview of Mark O’Connell, WCA

Safety

- HISP and ICE study and improvements to Decker Drive – Rice Lake
- 2022 Sheriff’s radio system – upgrade
- ARPA dollars for high-speed fiber lines to towers
- **Signage on Red Cedar River bridge crossings, etc**

Protect Environment

- Successful reclamation of NIS site
- Ten (10) Year Land and Water Plan
- Air Pollution Control Construction and Operation Permit renewal – Waste to Energy
- Fifteen (15) Year Forestry Plan
- New air emissions analytical equipment
- Recycling site and infrastructure improvements (new boxes and recycling truck)
- ***** (In Process), WTE Plant more and diverse specialty waste loads from out of state*****

Cooperation

- Manned recycling sites – cooperation with local municipalities
- Red Cross Blood Drives – 90% of appointments filled
- Highway Commissioner – NACo trip to Washington, DC
- 2021 purchase of new election equipment with municipal clerks
- **Barron County Housing Authority – Apartment complex rebuild**
- Sterling Bank help with opioid settlement dollars incorrectly remitted
- *****Special TV Show Rice Lake Cable Commission – WTE Plant*****

Use of Technology – Response to Citizens

- Online applications for zoning permits
- **New website design and layout**
- **Availability of information on new website**

Delivery of Services to Citizens

- Meals on Wheels adapting to Covid and offering drive-by / drive-up delivery system
- Virtual attendance and expanding virtual assistance
- 2020 & 2021 Court System Full Operational during Covid
- September 2020 UW Lecture Series – “What is a County?”
- Snowbound Bison – Tyler’s work / report to LCC Extension working cooperatively to help local citizen

Forward thinking changing demographics

- Number of and conversion of lake homes to permanent residences
- Tourist rooming houses
- **Tourist rooming houses & work with DOR – sales tax**
- **Farmland Preservation and balance with the small rural business**
- **Seasonal park-model mobile homes at farmsteads**
- Future Department Head retirements
- Agreement with WI DOR – sales tax & reporting to DOR short term rentals

Tourism

- Ice Age Trail & working on Memorandum of Agreement between IAT and County – Completed 2021
- ATV/UTV Trail System expansion
- **ATV/UTV & Snowmobile Trail System – bridge rebuild**
- 2024 Approval Property Committee IAT Improvements in Barron C
-

Other in-process considerations

- Monitor opportunities to identify vacated space in Government Center due to increased telework, cost savings due to vacated spaces (City of Barron)
- Discuss long-term plan for Government Center due to age of building, increased telework, etc
- Consider pursuing outdoor wellness grant
- 2021 WCA Magazine article on County Finances – Frolik, Syvinsk, French
- 2021-2022 Continued work on Highway Facility (lots of staff time)
- **ARPA expenditures**
- **Automated payroll system**

- Consider County-wide snowmobile & ATV/UTV alliance
- Implement an international trade symposium or etc
- Continued annual Centenarian celebration
- Working cooperatively – coat giveaway drop location
- Concern express moving Aquafest to Lumbering Hall of Fame
- Snowbound Bison – Tyler’s work & report to LCC/Extension Committee
- ***Seasonal – Permanent Park model Rv’s @ Farm Locations (Bayfield Cnty)***

Color Scheme

2022 Updates

2023 Updates

2024 Updates

2025 Updates

Updated: 2021-2-1
 2021-2-5
 2021-3-25
 2021-12-27
 2022-1-26
 2022-2-14
 2023-2-6
 2023-3-6 *** - information added 2023-2-6 to 2023-3-6 ***
 2024-1-12

Good evening,

Thank you everyone for joining us at this volunteer recognition banquet. Sheriff Chris Fitzgerald, Captain Tim Evenson, myself, and the entire Sheriff's Department are excited to hold this night in your honor to thank you for all the dedication, time, materials, and heart you place into the Barron County Jail programs. We are incredibly fortunate to have the support of the County Board and Sheriff's department to have such active and successful programming, however, we could not do this without you!

In 2004 the new Barron County Jail was opened and designed with three classrooms, two main rooms fully equipped with technology, whiteboards, cabinets, tables, and seating space to accommodate a wide variety of program opportunities. This came especially useful during the Covid19 pandemic when programs went virtual. That was a change for everyone and we all worked together to continue programs through this - that is incredible.

Currently offer 35 jail programs. Types of Programs: Education, Religion, Rehabilitation, Parenting & Relationships, Coping, Cognitive Behaviors, and Post Release Support

13-15 ongoing programs at one time

51 active jail volunteers: Professionals, religious, and educational all ranging from 1 year to 19 years of volunteer service.

Each program runs its own course where it may be continuous through the year, seasonal or calendar rotation, and implement new programs to meet the inmate or societal needs with any current economic state. For example, during this time when mental health has become prevalent we incorporated Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy, Cognitive Behavior Intervention, We Cope, and Extreme Ownership. With drugs as a struggle we have included Bondage Breaker, Crossroads Addiction, Mountain Men, NA, and AA along with resources to obtain a sponsor upon release.

October of 2021 the Barron County jail has been able to reach a long-time goal of helping individuals here obtain their high school education. At a Northwood Technical College Advisory Committee Meeting we discussed direction of the jail's GED program and collaborated ideas to meet this goal. Northwood Tech developed a grant-funded 5.09 HSED program.

Students complete coursework and GED exams to successfully pass 7 competencies: Health, Reading, Civics, Science, Math, Writing, and Employability Skills to meet the requirements to apply for their diploma. Any GED exams taken at another facility, college, or courses completed in a high school will transfer into this program thereby potentially reducing the requirements needed.

In two years we have had 30 individuals complete their HSED requirements and have applied to WI DPI for their high school diploma. We have had 19 partially complete their HSED (often due to limited time they are here).

Looking at statistics of HSED completions we have seen 40% not receive any new charges, 43.3% also not receive new charges although not counted due to their current incarceration status, 13.3% have decreased their recidivism rate ranging from 50%-80%, and 0.04% did not change their recidivism rate. Of all of these we have observed zero% increase their recidivism which is outstanding. A sincere thank you goes to Northwood Technical College, Instructor Mike Larson, the Barron County Board, Sheriff Chris Fitzgerald, and Captain Tim Evenson for allowing all of this to flourish into incredible success and make strides in positive social change in our communities.

The Monthly Transmission

FEATURED

Dispatcher Amy Thompson #109

Amy has been working for BNSO as a dispatcher for the past 5 years. Prior to dispatching at BNSO, Amy was dispatching in Albuquerque, NM. Amy is married with 4 children and in her spare time likes to attend concerts and play drums.



FIVE QUESTIONS WITH

What is the first thing you buy after winning the lottery?
A cabin on water.

Morning person or night owl?
Night owl.

Do you believe aliens have visited Earth?
Oh yeah.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?
Ireland.

How would you describe yourself in three words?
Happy, rebellious, protective.

Jailer Steve Hostettler #817

Steve has been working for BNSJ as a jailer for 17 years. Prior to jailing at BNSJ, Steve was a salesman. Steve is a lifelong Barron County resident.



FIVE QUESTIONS WITH

What is the first thing you buy after winning the lottery?
Land to build a nice house.

Morning person or night owl?
Totally morning person.

Do you believe aliens have visited Earth?
Oh hell no.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?
Switzerland.

How would you describe yourself in three words?
Sarcastic, funny-looking and an awesome cook.

RADIO TIPS/INFO

DISPATCH LISTENS TO MULTIPLE RADIO CHANNELS. IF A DISPATCHER IS SELECTED TO LISTEN ON A SPECIFIC CHANNEL AND SOMEONE IS TALKING, IF SOMEONE TALKS ON ANOTHER CHANNEL AND THAT DISPATCHER SWITCHES TO IT, THEY CANNOT "STOP HEARING" THE ORIGINAL TRANSMISSION IN THEIR EAR.

**Reminder from a municipal officer:
Zeros are not Os.
There are no "Os" in license plates or dates of birth.**

BARRON COUNTY DISPATCHER, DALE HRDLICKA, RETIRING AFTER 33 YEARS!

Long before some of you were even born, Dale began his career as a dispatch/jailer at the Barron County Sheriff's Office. Now, 33+ years later, he is DONE! Well he will be December 22nd. Ever the funny guy, Dale presented his resignation in a legendary way – see below.

Back in 1990, when Dale started, dispatch and jail were one entity. Back then, inmates could smoke and there would only be one male and one female working as dispatchers/jailers. A lot of times, the dispatcher was working alone while the other was doing jail duties. Dale has worked under 4 different Sheriffs.

Dale plans to continue his part time driving gig while retired and he also plans on doing a lot of traveling. If you see him prior to December 22 be sure to wish him a....

HAPPY RETIREMENT!



DID YOU KNOW?

WHY WE HOLD LAW 1 FOR EMERGENCY TRAFFIC?

When you hear “Barron County Units Law One Is Being Held For Emergency Traffic Only” this is done so that whomever is on a serious call has an open line of communication to dispatch and the other units on the scene.

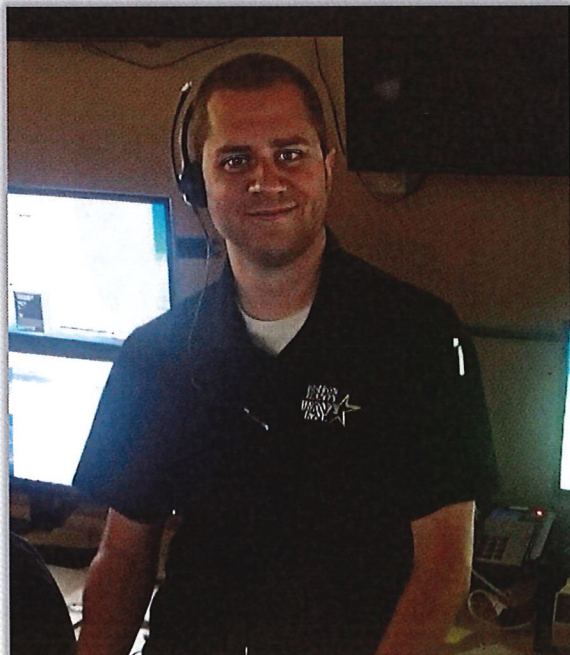
Please use your discretion for any additional traffic on Law2 keeping in mind the seriousness of what is happening on the held Law1 channel.

Also, please remember that there may be a lot going on in dispatch with phone calls, walk ins, other radio traffic as well as the incident that Law 1 is being held for.

One of our own has passed.

Tucker McCumber has passed away after a multi-year battle with cancer. Tucker worked as a dispatcher for Barron County from mid-2018 to mid-2021. He then went to work for Washburn County Sheriff with a dual role of their radio communications expert and dispatcher. Prior to BNSO, Tucker was a dispatcher for St. Croix Tribal Police. Tucker also served as a Captain with the Shell Lake Fire Department until his death. Tucker spent his life serving his communities. He thrived in helping others. Please keep his family and friends in your thoughts during this time.

RIP Tucker 1991-2023.



Comings & Goings...

Kenzie Curtis #631 was hired for a Barron County deputy position, she is coming from Turtle Lake Pd.

Detective Jacob Winkler #314 - resigned

Communications Officer Maria Herdahl #118 – resigned

Deputy James Pressley #317 – resigned

Officer Justin Lamm #607- resigned



Fun Facts....

Barron County was created in 1859 and was originally called "Dallas County". Named after Vice President Dallas. It was renamed to Barron County in 1869 and named after lawyer, judge and politician Henry D Barron.

According to school officer, Abby Byrd, Prairie Farm School is the oldest school in the county. The school was established in the mid-1850s.

Barron County is 890 square miles and 27 square miles of that is water.

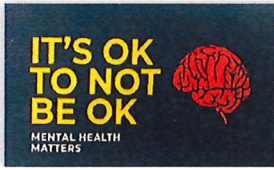
**WHEN A PERSON IS
RUN OUT OF STATE,
ANY WISCONSIN DL
RECORD THEY MIGHT
HAVE WILL ALSO
COME BACK ON THE
RETURN.**

REMINDER

Spillman does not allow dispatch to skip around in the traffic stop form. We **have** to enter, in order, the unit, then the plate, then the location. If officers/deputies want to give locations first, please repeat the location after giving the plate. Otherwise, dispatchers have to listen back to the recording to get the location. So...traffic stop: location, plate, location. THANK YOU!

The screenshot shows a software window titled "cdts Traffic stop". The window has a menu bar with "File", "Edit", "Search", "Tools", and "Help". Below the menu bar is a toolbar with a "Traffic stop" icon and three buttons: "Accept" (with a checkmark), "Cancel" (with a red X), and "Previous" (with a circular arrow). The main area of the window contains several input fields: "Units" (a dropdown menu), "Lic Plate" (a text box), "State" (a small text box), "Lic Year" (a small text box), "Lic Type" (a small text box), "Address" (a long text box), "City" (a small text box), and "Comments" (a long text box). At the bottom left of the window, it says "User: jtavoiacci" and at the bottom right, it says "INS".





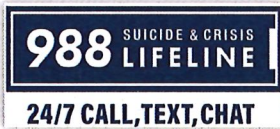
Your job is stressful, don't let it get the best of you. There are confidential resources available.

COPLINE 800-267-5463 www.copline.org
Suicide and Crisis Hotline 988



County employees contact Rick or Amanda on the **Peer Support Team**

Rick Schill #313
715-645-2133



Amanda Poppe #808
715-642-1142

Peer
Support
Team

We are here for you.
Anytime.
No matter what.



Upcoming events & info:

Halloween is October 31st, the following is the area information

Barron: Trick or Treating October 31st, 4pm-7:30pm
Trunk or Treat at Salem Lutheran Church October 28th, 10am-Noon. Woodland Elementary October 30th, 5-6:30pm, BACC Halloween Carnival, October 30th, 3:45pm-5pm, grades K-4th.

Cameron: Trick or Treating October 31st, 4pm-7pm.

Chetek: Trick or Treating October 31st, 4pm-7pm.
Chetek-Weyerhaeuser HS Halloween Party October 31st, 6-7pm.

Cumberland: Trick or Treating October 31st, no set hours.
Safe Trick or Treating October 28th, 12-2pm.

Rice Lake: Trick or Treating October 31st, 5pm-8pm.
Downtown Trick or Treating October 28th, 11am-1pm.

Turtle Lake: Trick or Treating October 31st, 5pm-8pm.



Shop With a Cop
Monday, December 4, 2023

Barron County Dispatch
1420 State Hwy 25 North
Barron, WI 54812
715-537-3106
bcdispach@co.barron.wi.us

Have something to share?
Send your questions, topics, stories &
tips to:

Jennifer.tavolacci@co.barron.wi.us

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https://www.apg-wi.com/rice_lake_chronotype/news/restaurant-style-senior-dining-breakfast-at-haugen-getting-rave-reviews/article_g eb8e28e-a58d-11ee-9237-cf8f55961c66.html

FEATURED

Restaurant-style senior dining breakfast at Haugen getting rave reviews

Ruth Erickson rerickson@chronotype.com

Jan 3, 2024



1 of 5



At the conclusion of Thursday's Senior Dining breakfast at Lona's, prize winners were drawn in its monthlong Oh, So Lovely Christmas Sweater Fun contest. From left are county nutrition manager Darby Smith, volunteer site manager Patti Anderson and diner/volunteer Cheryl Baxley.

Photo by Ruth Erickson

Haugenites look for any reason to celebrate, and they ended the year with an Oh, So Lovely Christmas Sweater contest Thursday morning at its Senior Dining site, the newest in Barron County. The contest included prizes from 14 businesses.

Lona's Cafe hosts a Senior Dining breakfast each Thursday from 8-11 a.m. Still in its first year, the program is fulfilling social and nutritional goals.

According to ADRC Nutrition Manager Darby Smith, "We started Senior Dining at Lona's in Haugen in March 2023 as a pilot program. Opening a restaurant dining site has been a longtime goal in Barron County. This style of senior dining for older adults has shown great popularity in other areas of the state over the last decade due to being able to offer menu choices, not having to make a reservation, and providing the restaurant-style atmosphere. Right now, due to funding capacity, Lona's will continue as the only restaurant-style dining site. However, we may look at other locations in the county that have a need in the future."

Menu choices follow Federal Dietary Guidelines for older adults. The full cost of the meal is \$15, including gratuity, and is funded by the Barron County Senior Nutrition program. The suggested contribution per diner is \$8, and all contributions are confidential. Those who order something other than the Senior Dining meal are responsible for the full cost of their meal.

Asked about the number of older adults participating, Smith said, "It has been a success since it opened and has attracted more than we expected, reaching over 400 older adults in the last nine months. We average around 80 diners each Thursday in those three hours of service."

Remarking on what the key to its success has been, the nutrition manager said, "I think there are a variety of reasons why this site has been popular. When I've spoken to diners, they have told me they attend because they are familiar with Lona's, they don't have to make a reservation, they love her food, it's affordable, and the atmosphere is friendly and welcoming."

She added, "Our volunteer site manager Patti Anderson is another big reason why this site has been so successful. She has been a big supporter since the beginning and because she is involved in so much in the Haugen community, she knows a lot of people and has a lot of local connections where she has spread the word about the program."

Anderson is the one who decided a sweater contest would be fun and festive way to end the year.

"Patti took the lead on this creative event and ran with it," Smith said. "She volunteered her own time to hang flyers and reach out to local businesses that donated more than \$700 in prizes to give out to senior dining participants."

Cafe owner Lona Haughian, who said the largest turnout so far this year has been 106 diners, remarked, "I never dreamed it would be this good. You meet new people, not just from Haugen but from all around the area."

Mentioning Yvonne Hill of Village Grocery, who donates bananas to the weekly breakfast event, Haughian said, "The whole village, all the businesses, have supported this."

She also gives credit to its success to her four cooks, volunteer site manager Patti Anderson and volunteers Vonnie Ritchie and Sandy Ekstrom-Schultz, who alternate every other week.

"Patti is such a promoter of the senior breakfast and the whole village," Haughian said.

"ADRC and the Council on Aging is one of the committees I serve on as County Board Supervisor District 17," Anderson said. "It has become a passion to help with the nutrition program and working with Darby is a delight. The ADRC does so much for so many."

"We just think it's a good way to reach out," commented Sheriff Chris Fitzgerald, who was filling the coffee cups of diners Thursday. "We think this is a good thing, and we like to support the ADRC."

Doing it for the second time since it started, the sheriff said either he or his deputies are happy to volunteer their services if their schedules allow.

Diners share reviews

Rocky and Pat Semm of Sarona were happy to share why they attend each week.

"I like everything about it — the waitresses, the cooks and the people that come here," said Rocky.

"Since they have had this we have met so many new people, and once you get talking to them you find out you're even related or you're a classmate," shared Pat. "It brings people together."

"We've been meeting so many from different areas," said diner Ruth Timm of rural Rice Lake, who attends for the socializing as much as for the food.

Everybody's so nice here," remarked her neighbor Dorothy Anderson.

"It's a lively place," said Lon Hill of Rice Lake, who wouldn't miss it. "It brings people together from all over. The food's excellent too. It's fellowship, and it's worth spending the gas."

Other senior dining sites

The nutrition manager also shared an update on the county's other senior dining sites, all of which serve lunches.

"Our other senior dining sites are located at local senior and community centers in Rice Lake, Barron, Cameron, Chetek and Cumberland, where a lunch meal is served Monday-Friday, provided by our central kitchen. We even have a dining site in Dallas once a week (Thursdays) at a local church."

Smith added, "Each of our sites is unique in its own way, provides a hot, nutritious meal, and offers a location where older adults can gather, socialize and participate in activities. We also offer a monthly Soup and Salad Bar option in Barron, Chetek, Cumberland and Rice Lake, where no reservation is needed, as well as a monthly evening meal called Dining at 5 in Cameron, Chetek and Rice Lake."

She welcomes all older adults — ages 60 and up — to try a meal at any of the senior dining senior sites and thinks those who do will be pleasantly surprised.

"The goal of the Senior Nutrition Program is to reach as many Barron County older adults as we can to offer them an affordable, nutritious meal, social connection and access to resources as needed," Smith said. "Anyone 60 or older can participate in the program for a suggested contribution of \$8 per meal. We ask the diners to give what they can afford, and no older adult will be turned away if they are unable to contribute. Participant contributions and community support make up about 38% of the program revenue while federal, state and local funding make up the remaining."

Ruth Erickson

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Treatment Court: A working program for beating addictions

By Bob Zientara

Jan 3, 2024



Facing posters urging positive behaviors like “honesty, humility (and) responsibility,” a defendant in Barron County Treatment Court (right) gives Circuit Court Judge Maureen Boyle an update on what’s going on in his life during one of the court’s weekly meetings at the county Justice Center. To his left is Dan McNamara, drug and alcohol court coordinator for Barron County. Photo by Bob Zientara

The weather on Halloween morning in Barron County was more like January than October.

The roads were slippery after an all-night snowfall. High winds blew snow across the highways. But at the Barron County Justice Center, the atmosphere was upbeat as Circuit Court Judge Maureen Boyle greeted about a dozen individuals who were on hand for their weekly Treatment Court hearing.

“Oh, my goodness, can you believe this weather?” she said, congratulating the participants for showing up despite the snow.

Boyle mentioned how Halloween used to have more of a reputation of hope compared to the spookier traditions of modern times.

It's because Christianity recognized Oct. 31 as the first of a three-day celebration that was followed by All Saints Day, Nov. 1, and All Souls Day, Nov. 2, she added.

Hope was definitely a theme for Treatment Court, Boyle told the group. So was personal interaction. The judge delayed the start of the hearing until a young mother returned to the courtroom carrying a toddler dressed as a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle – a moment that drew a lot of attention and positive reaction.

It was obvious the participants scheduled to appear that day had shared this courtroom in the past. They fussed over the toddler, greeted and shook hands with one another, and applauded after Boyle praised them for the time they'd been sober (from seven days to 134).

They accepted incentives presented in exchange for filing paperwork on time, taking required preliminary breath tests, holding down a job or doing community service work.

They listened to her admonishments as well.

"You've had a step backward," Boyle told one participant. "But you don't have to stay there. This court is a support community for you. This is a really great group."

Another participant reinforced that message. He said that Treatment Court put "boundaries and structure" back into his life. And he warned about the temptations that can derail recovery -- especially when participants associate with users who could lead them astray.

“Your friends can get you to relapse before you can get them into recovery,” he warned.

There are other stressors in the lives of participants that can challenge their resolve to stay sober.

Two participants mentioned having issues that required some expensive dental work. One man was pondering whether to live on his own or in a group home.

Fighting the good fight

Each Treatment Court case is as different and unique as is each participant in the program. Some information can be learned from the state’s court records, many of which are open to public scrutiny.

But the websites disclose only hard facts. To succeed, the participant has to confront past failings, deepen their resolve to change, marshal their courage and, most importantly, face and overcome their addictions. Those nuances rarely show up in public records.

Dan McNamara, the county’s drug and alcohol court coordinator, said that sticking with the program involves a huge commitment of time and effort – all of which is documented in a “planner folder.” It requires each participant to keep track of all their appointments during the week – therapy, treatment, community service work, etc.

“This is nothing other than a calendar,” McNamara said. But it is a thorough and detailed calendar, he added. Each defendant has a demanding schedule and must use the planner to demonstrate that they’re fulfilling their commitment.

The planner is an accountability tool for a team of officials and professionals who work with the participants, as well. Team members will often ask participants about what’s in their planner folder, to make sure they’re using it to list and document all of their daily activities.

“This is a basic skill that strengthens an individual’s success for long-term recovery,” McNamara added.

When they get started in Treatment Court, participants are required to take daily breathalyzer tests.

“The foundation of our program is structure, support and accountability,” McNamara said. Those accumulated days of sobriety become milestones that draw attention and praise from both the court and the rest of the participants.

From 2018 through 2022, the Treatment Court team accepted 49 participants, 42 of whom completed the 13-month program successfully and graduated, McNamara said.

The program then tracks each graduate for three years to determine a success rate. If a graduate makes it through three years without picking up a new criminal conviction, it's determined to be a success.

"Eighty-one percent of those who graduate our program have met this criteria," McNamara added.

Neither McNamara nor Boyle was able to comment on individual cases due to professional and privacy concerns.

But Boyle did say she believes in Treatment Court because she feels it works.

"Maybe success doesn't always look that way to those who are not engaged," she said.

"I think that is more the result of our society's focus on short term results or instantaneous outcomes than just a lack of understanding of the principles and research which support and define treatment courts."

As each day is accompanied by success and failure in anyone's personal life, the same holds true for a Treatment Court participant – but in a wholly different context. Mistakes aren't private. They become part of the permanent record. That was the case for one of the participants on Halloween, for example.

"The change we see in this program is truly transformational," Boyle said.

A participant “will not be successful by just tweaking one or two bad habits,” she added. “Those who commit to creating that type of change certainly may stumble, but are actually in the arena fighting the good fight each day.”

While the work may be difficult for both participants and team members, “I can think of no better vocation than supporting others in finding their passion and purpose and becoming the best versions of themselves,” Boyle said.

Working day by day

“Goody bags” decorated for the holidays were stacked on a mobile cart in Judge Boyle’s courtroom as the last Treatment Court of the year began at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2023.

Posters were mounted on chairs in front of the judge’s desk, each with an encouraging or uplifting saying.

A whiteboard in front of the courtroom bore this message, printed in letters large enough to read from the back row:

“Hope would have us recognize that there is always a way out ... that we can always redirect our steps ... that we can always do something to respect ourselves.”

As was the case at the Halloween session, there were personal appearances, positive messages, and stars awarded for continuing sobriety, submitting paperwork to the court in advance of the session, sticking with the program.

Audience participation remained at a high level. The defendants and family members applauded as Boyle announced each person’s newly-set record of sobriety. There were words of encouragement as each defendant went forward to update the judge. And laughter broke out when jokes were told.

The discussions were about life, in general ... how the good days were valued, and how the challenges were faced:

- Dealing with car trouble or showing off photos of step grandchildren.
- Planning to go ice fishing (but only in the company of others who were either sober or in recovery) or benefiting from recent job changes.

- Balancing hours at work with time required for community service, or promising to stay positive despite negative issues with a new apartment.
- Finding teenaged tech-savvy advisers to solve email snafus or preparing to graduate from the program next year.
- Resisting the urge to take off work (even with the employer's permission) so as to avoid isolation and the temptations that might come with it.
- Surrendering to the reality that seeking help and advice from others was preferable to trying to escape addiction on their own.
- Finding balance with and support from family members, and relishing the chance to visit out-of-state loved ones for the holidays (in one case for the first time in over a decade).

McNamara summed up the testimony that morning: "Without fighting the addictions, (the defendants) could not be there for their families."

Editor's note: As is true with most criminal justice proceedings, Treatment Court is open to the public. Citizens may watch the weekly sessions in person and/or follow individual cases on the "consolidated court automated programs" (CCAP) website: <https://www.wicourts.gov/>

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BARRON COUNTY

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IT DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR IN REVIEW

Welcome to our 1st IT Department Annual Review. This year has been a year of change in the IT department. 3 of our 5 people are in new positions in 2023. We've added a staff member that had been planned for a few years. This means training has been an essential part of our year. Everyone in the department has spent time learning about new systems. Some of the training has come in the form of in-person conferences and others have been virtual web training. Over the past 10 years, we have been lucky to have had no staff changes in our department. Now with 60% of the department in new positions, some tasks have taken a little more time to complete as everyone works to understand how each other's roles and responsibilities fit within our department.

MAJOR PROJECTS

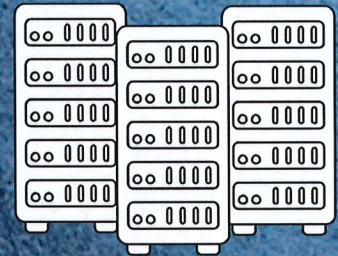


COUNTY BOARD VOTING SYSTEM

Working with the County Clerk's office we implemented an online voting system. This has saved time during county board meetings and ensured accurate voting records.

NEW DATA CENTER

As apart of the new Highway Facility, a new Data Center was completed. The process of putting equipment in there has begun.



HIGHWAY FACILITY UPGRADES



With the new Highway Facility, there has been a tremendous amount of Technology added. Cameras, Door Access, System Integration of Washbay, and HVAC to name a few.

MAJOR PROJECTS



NETWORK SWITCH UPGRADES

New network switches were installed at our core network locations, these were more important after a water leak in one of those locations. Additionally, 10 new switches were installed at the new Highway Facility.

IT SECURITY

Always evolving IT Security projects were completed. Including continued phishing training for all staff.



RADIO TOWER CONNECTIVITY

We worked with local telecom Mosaic to get fiber connectivity to all of our Sheriff's Radio Towers in the County. This allows us to move away from old Microwave wireless technology which had become unreliable as it aged.

SYSTEM INTEGRATIONS

Completed new integrations with DocuSign and Laserfiche, one notable project was using DocuSign for OWI Search Warrants. This process sped up and made it simpler for officers and Judges.



STATISTICS

25

LOCATIONS WITH
TECHNOLOGY

360 

IP PHONES
MANAGED

260+

IP CAMERAS
MANAGED



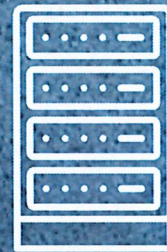
410+

DESKTOP AND
LAPTOPS
MANAGED



63+

SERVERS
MANAGED



135

DOOR/CARD
ACCESS
LOCATIONS



1709

HELPDESK
REQUESTS



200

MOBILE PHONES
MANAGED



136

TB OF SERVER
SPACE MANAGED



LOOKING FORWARD

Looking forward to 2024, some of the most critical projects will be: Moving critical hardware into our new data center. Our virtual server system that hosts most of our county servers will be replaced, as well as many other systems. We will also be exploring options to replace eInfosys in the DHHS department. We have many Laserfiche projects to complete to help make county operations run more efficiently. Also, we look forward to having another year of experience in our new roles allowing us to better assist staff.

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FROM: Jeffrey S. French *J.S.F.*
Barron County Administrator

DATE: February 1st, 2024

SUBJECT: 2024-2025 Congressionally Directed Spending Proposal - Barron County Waste to Energy Plant and Recycling Center

Mr. Bahr please accept this letter as Barron County's request for the 2024-2025 Congressionally Directed Spending Proposal. Specifically Barron County is requesting:

A. \$1.5M for the purchase of a portable industrial shredder:

This request, if funded, would provide both the Waste to Energy Plant, WTE, and the Recycling Facility the opportunity to shred material such as mattresses, wood, cardboard and hard-paper waste products, metals, and other organic materials thereby reducing the impacts to the landfill along with providing the WTE plant additional burn materials. Second, the Recycling Center could use this machine to shred, if necessary, hard plastics which would increase recyclable materials and corresponding revenue to the facility.

B. \$100,000.00 Site Planning and Schematic Design New Recycling Center:

This request, if funded, would allow Barron County the opportunity to hire an Architectural and Engineering firm to provide Barron County with a site plan and schematic design for a new Recycling Center. The current center was built in 1992 and has met its' useful life along with being too small for the volume of recyclable materials received. Furthermore, a new Recycling Center could allow for more materials recovery by use of an advanced sorting machine. Finally, a new Recycling Center could allow for curbside recycling throughout Barron County.

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