

The Barron Chamber Connection



A Publication of the Barron Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 156, Barron, WI 54812 www.barronchamber.com

January 2012



econofoods
Shop Fresh, Shop Smart!

Econofoods in Barron continues to be your "hometown" grocery store. They have proudly served the Barron area community, with roots going back to the first quarter of the twentieth century.

They pride themselves in offering a great selection of foods and are proud to feature *Our Family* and *Value Choice* products. Each brand offers high quality products for today's cost conscious consumer. They have a large grocery selection including expanded natural and organic products. Econofoods proudly offers Kemps products in their dairy & frozen departments along with many customers favorite-- Gustafson's ice cream. They also have a great produce and meat section, an in-store bakery and deli, a video rental store and health & beauty needs. For your prescription needs, visit the in-store pharmacy with hours of operation of 8:30 am-6:00 pm, Mondays through Fridays. Other amenities include Econofoods' Flowers Too, Western Union, a photo kiosk, Rug Doctor rental, Wisconsin license plate renewal kiosk and an ATM.

They strive to provide great products and offer exceptional customer service and offer the convenient hours of 7:00 am -10:00 pm, 7 days a week.

Econofoods looks forward to continuing to serve the Barron area community and appreciates your patronage!

Econofoods will host the next Barron Chamber Connect After 5 on Wednesday, February 15, 2012 at Rolling Oaks Restaurant at 5:00 pm. Please join in on the fun!

Quarterly Newsletter

- *Econofoods Hosting Next Barron Chamber Connect*
- *Fall and Winter Promotions*
- *Santa's Workshop Highlights*
- *Welcome to Barron Family Restaurant*
- *Barron Chamber Online Survey Results*
- *Save the Date – Spring Fling!*
- *Annual Meeting Highlights*

Interested in hosting a
Barron Chamber Connect
After Five?

Contact Peggy at
715-537-5631



Fall & Winter Retail Promotions

The Retail Committee coordinated retail promotions during the fall and holiday season in an effort to bring more people to Barron and to encourage folks to shop local.

During the month of October, all Chamber members were given the opportunity to participate in the **Halloween Spooktacular**. Each business that participates agrees to hand out treats to children who visit their business place. This provides a very safe environment for trick-or-treaters as it was held on the Saturday before Halloween—plus it is great fun for everyone involved! More than 28 Chamber businesses participated in this event and lots of children dressed up in their favorite costume.

The **Thanksgiving Promotion** was the annual tradition of giving away turkeys. Barron area residents had the opportunity to register at participating Chamber businesses to win a turkey. Twenty-eight Chamber businesses participated in this promotion, some sponsoring one turkey and others sponsoring two. In all, 46 lucky winners took home a turkey for their entrée' item for their holiday dinner feast.

New for 2011 was the **Christmas Holiday Promotion** that was a drawing for Barron Chamber Dollars. Each participating Chamber business (26 in all) had a registration form which holiday shoppers completed and returned to their business place between Nov. 28 and Dec 2. The grand prize winner was Sally Reid of Cameron who won \$200 in Barron Chamber Dollars. Other lucky winners included Bonnie MacMillan of Prairie Farm who won \$100 in Chamber Dollars and Carol Servaty and Jeanette Garret of Barron, Robyn Grover of Dallas, and Jeff Lindstedt of Barron who all won \$25 in Chamber Dollars.

If you have an idea for a promotion that you would like to see implemented, please contact Dave Wiehe of the Retail Promotion Committee. One of our Chamber goals for 2012 is to implement new retail activities in an effort to promote our community.



Halloween Trick-or-Treaters



Santa's Workshop - Highlights

The Barron Chamber of Commerce and the Barron Area Community Center partnered for the second year to sponsor Santa's Workshop. The event was held at the BACC on Monday, December 12. Over 100 children participated in the event. The children were able to shop for gifts for family members. Chamber volunteers were on hand to wrap the gifts while the children enjoyed pizza, pictures with Santa and a holiday movie. Area businesses had the opportunity to staff a booth and make gift items ranging in value from \$1 to \$10 which the children could make their selection from.

Thanks to everyone who was involved to make this event a success—from the business retailers that brought in merchandise...to the volunteers who assisted the children with their holiday shopping. It was a fun time for everyone who participated!



The Barron Inn Family Restaurant Under New Management



We recently welcomed Chef Taip Ahmedoski of the Barron Inn Family Restaurant to the Barron Chamber. Chef Ahmedoski is originally from the country formerly known as Yugoslavia, and most recently worked as a cook at the reopened Family Restaurant in Rice Lake. The Barron Family Restaurant is open from 5 am to 8 pm daily, and will be striving to prepare 4-5 specials daily, all featuring homemade food. In time, they hope to expand their hours to serve food on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings.

We encourage you to stop by for breakfast or lunch and welcome Chef Taip and staff to our community! Pictured with Chef Ahmedoski are Kaitlin Hanson, Young Ambassador, and Leondra Severson, WESTconsin Credit Union.



Barron Chamber Online Survey Results

Recently, Chamber businesses were asked to participate in an on-line survey. The survey was composed of ten questions, all designed to gain input on how well the Barron Chamber meets your business needs.

Eighteen Chamber businesses participated in the survey. Of those businesses, over 65% have been Chamber members for more than ten years and 94% responded that the Chamber is fulfilling its business needs. Almost 80% of the respondents belong to the Chamber because of community involvement and support. Over 45% responded that they would like to see more information regarding networking seminars. When asked what the Chamber can do to increase the value of their membership, the majority responded that they would like to see the promotion of more retail programs year-round.

Based on the results of the survey, one of our goals for the upcoming year will be to offer a couple of "Lunch & Learn" Programs which would be an hour-and-a-half session where a topic of interest would be partnered with lunch. The first "Lunch & Learn" workshop is planned for Thursday, May 3 and will feature the topic "How to Manage Income, Payroll and Sales Tax for Today's Small Businesses." Presenting this information will be Sue Reynolds and Brenda Kupferschmidt from Johnson, Agen and Kupferschmidt. The workshop will be held in the large meeting room at Barron Electric from noon to 1:30 p.m. Lunch will be catered in. More information will be forthcoming.

Another goal for 2012 will be to develop more retail promotions, encouraging year-round participation. The Retail Promotion Committee will be charged with this opportunity to encourage both locals and out-of-towners to **Stop & Shop in Barron.**

SAVE THE DATE.... 

**All-City Garage Sales & Barron Spring Fling
Saturday, May 12**

The Barron Chamber of Commerce Board

Officers:

President - Dave Wiehe,
Wiehe's Hardware Hank

Vice President – Vacant

Board of Directors:

Val Gieseke
Barron News-Shield

Jan Jorgenson
Sterling Bank

Larry Nevin
Barron Supply

Joann Olson
WESTconsin Credit Union

Maria Seibel
Mayo Clinic Health System

Duane Talbert
Econofoods

Laurie Wooldridge
Jennie-O-Turkey Store

Secretary/Treasurer
Peggy Rogers

Young Ambassadors:

Ryley Glasglow

Kaitlin Hanson

Annual Chamber Business Meeting

The Annual Meeting was held on Wednesday, January 25 at Rolling Oaks Restaurant. The evening began with a 5 pm social, followed by a buffet-style meal at 6 pm, and then a business meeting at 7 pm.

Over 55 Chamber members, representing a good number of Barron area businesses were in attendance. During the social and dinner hour, entertainment was provided by Nikki Peper, who sang folk songs and played her guitar. Pat Olson and her staff at Rolling Oaks prepared a great meal, featuring chicken and ham. Everyone enjoyed the great food and entertainment.

The business meeting was presented by the Annual Meeting Committee Members, Laurie Wooldridge and Dave Wiehe. Their presentation included a review of 2011, financials and board approval, and goals and events scheduled for 2012.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Distinguished Service Award. **Rick Rassbach, WESTconsin Credit Union**, was the recipient of this year's award. Rick is a very dedicated individual to the Barron community, supporting a wide variety of causes. He is actively involved with several organizations--Kiwanis, BACC Board, Boys and Girls Club, just to name a few.



Rick Rassbach receiving the Distinguished Service Award from Dave Wiehe, Chamber President.

Rick also serves as a mentor for the Junior Achievement team, active with Relay for Life, helps with the Barron Co. Dairy Breakfast, among many others, as well as being very active in Chamber-sponsored events. He is very worthy of receiving this Distinguished Service Award and we are lucky to have Rick as a part of our community. On behalf of the entire Chamber of Commerce, we want to thank Rick for his ongoing dedication and years of service to our community!

The evening concluded with door prize drawings made possible by the following Chamber businesses:

- Barron News Shield
- Barron Plumbing & Heating
- Barron Supply
- Donan Amish Furniture Gallery
- Jennie-O Turkey Store
- Mayo Clinic Health System
- Mosaic Telecom
- Sterling Bank
- Wiehe's Hardware Hank

Thanks to everyone who participated!

Chamber Members

Ag Risk Managers
Allied Waste Systems
Anderson Dairy Systems
Barron Area Community Center
Bank Mutual
Barron Chiropractic Health Center
Barron Co. Safe & Stable Families Coalition
Barron Electric Cooperative
Barron Inn Family Restaurant
Barron Farmers Union
Barron Motel & RV Campground
Barron Mutual Insurance Co.
Barron News-Shield
Barron Plumbing & Heating
Barron Quik Wash
Barron Supply
Barron Veterinary Clinic
CARQUEST Auto Parts
Chronotype Publishing Co, Inc.
Country Lane Market & Pantry
Creative Kids Discovery Center
Cupboard & Closet
Dirk's Heating & Cooling
Duane's Custom Body Repair

DONAN Amish Furniture Gallery
Duane's Custom Body Repair
Econofoods
Electrolysis Center
Erickson Insurance Agency
First National Bank
General Beer Northwest
Greener's Budget Lumber
Hand & Heart Creations
Holiday
James Pharmacy
Jennie-O-Turkey Store
Johnson, Agen, Kupferschmidt & Assoc.
Kate's Bar
Korner Stop
Kwik Trip
Lawrence Leasing
Liden, Dobberfuhl & Harrington S.C.
Mayo Clinic Health System
Monroe Manor
Mosaic Telecom
Noesen's Photography
Nordby Construction
Rausch-Steel Funeral Home
Rehab
Rolling Oaks Restaurant & Lounge

Skippy's Bar
Spangler, Nudolf, Bruder & Klinkhammer, LLC
Sparky's Hot Spot Fab & Weld
Springer Eye care
Sterling Bank
Subway
Susie's Café
Swant Graber Ford
Swant Graber Motors
T.M. Title Services, Inc.
Team Amos Boxing
Terry Miller Photography
Thompson Nelson Agency
Uptown Pizza
Vanguard Agency
Warren G's Liquor Store
Wiehe's Hardware Hank
WESTconsin Credit Union
WESTconsin Realty
Zimmerman Auto Service

Thank you for remembering our members when making purchases or receiving business services.

Other Upcoming Events...

Barron Chamber Connect After 5 – hosted by Econofoods Weds, Feb 15 5 pm at Rolling Oaks

Lunch & Learn Workshop May 3 12:00 – 1:30 pm More Info Later...