

## BARRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

### CONTACT

Commissioner Ben Geiger

(269) 838-8679 | [bgeiger@barrycounty.org](mailto:bgeiger@barrycounty.org)

# County looks to Facebook for fresh ideas

*facebook.com/smartcounty launched*

County officials are embracing the power of social media in overhauling their current website [barrycounty.org](http://barrycounty.org). Today [facebook.com/smartcounty](https://facebook.com/smartcounty) was launched as a new marketplace of ideas between county officials and residents and businesses looking to share their past experiences and ideas for the future. “Expanding online service is essential to the future” said County Commissioner Ben Geiger, who is leading efforts to revamp the county’s online presence. “Barry County taxpayers deserve a first class website, built specifically for their needs and with their own ideas.”

Barry County has launched a year long project called the “Smart County Initiative” that seeks to enhance customer service through simplified instructions and new technology. “The county’s presence on Facebook offers a new mechanism to interact with your local government, one that is fast becoming the preferred method of communication,” said County IT Coordinator David Shinavier.

Expanded online payment systems, “how to” guides, faster downloads and simplified navigation were labeled as priorities when the Board of Commissioners green lighted the website overhaul in December. County leaders will research the Facebook comments in planning the new website, tentatively scheduled for launch this summer.

###