

**Carlton County
Coordinator/HR Office**

301 Walnut Avenue, Rm. 214
PO Box 510
Carlton, MN 55718
Phone: (218) 384-9141
Fax: (218) 384-9196
www.co.carlton.mn.us

Carlton County

County-wide newsletter brought to you by the County Coordinator's Office

Issue 03 May/June 2015

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Pg. 2 . . . 911 Education
- Pg. 2 . . . Fair Booth
- Pg. 2 . . . Tech Tips
- Pg. 3 . . . Fraud Prevention
- Pg. 4 . . . Governor Appointments
- Pg. 4 . . . Chaplain Ernie
- Pg. 4 . . . SARE Ag Fellow
- Pg. 5 . . . Safety
- Pg. 6 . . . McCuskey Era

Employee Service Awards



**Janessa Novak
(PH&HS)
10 Years**

**Rebekah Rud
(PH&HS)
10 Years**

**Jason Warnygora
(Sheriff's Office)
10 Years**

**Roni Dinwiddie
(PH&HS)
10 Years**

Congratulations to New Public Health Supervisor Joanne Erspamer



Joanne Erspamer is the incoming Public Health Supervisor replacing Terri Allen after her retirement.

Joanne graduated from the University of Minnesota, Duluth with a BAS in Health Education, Community Focus, and a BAS in Psychology in 2002. She has been working as a Public Health Educator for Carlton County Public Health and Human Services for over 10 years. In that time, she has built and maintained robust local, regional, and statewide networks of partnerships; and has had an extensive breadth of experience in health education and promotion, public health preparedness, environmental health, disease prevention and control, health care access, public health infrastructure, and community health services. Joanne is excited about innovation and in finding ways to integrate with primary care, behavioral health care, and community partners to focus on population-centered and person-centered approaches to improve community health and ultimately empower resilient communities.

Joanne enjoys time with her husband and two children outside of work. She also enjoys maintaining an active lifestyle, connecting with family and friends, and being in nature. Congratulations Joanne!

The National Institute of Corrections Conducts Jail and Justice System Analysis

Sheriff Kelly Lake requested the National Institute of Corrections conduct a Jail and Justice System Analysis. On June 2, 2015, two consultants, (Karen Albert and April Pottorff), met with stakeholders from the Criminal Justice System. They also toured the Carlton County Jail, and examined our operations and the physical condition of the Jail.

Much of the review was data driven, and will provide the County with information on current trends and issues that we face. The Jail was designed and built as a 24-bed facility, and opened in 1979. In 1982, an additional 24 beds were added, but no core structure (kitchen, booking, control, staff areas) were upgraded to accommodate the additional needs.

While Carlton County's overall population has leveled and stayed steady since 2012, the Jail use (bookings) have continued to increase. In 2012, the Jail was operating at 113% of its capacity. In 2014, we were at 81% capacity, which is above

the 80% recognized authority from the Minnesota Department of Corrections. While the length of inmate stay and overall population of the Carlton County Jail has decreased, the actual bookings have continued to climb. The total bookings into the Carlton County Jail have been as follows: 2009-1,365; 2010-1,426; 2011-1,479; 2012-1,542; 2013-1,537 and 2014 were 1,495. These issues potentially place us back on the edge of crisis, if we were to return to the 113% operation capacity of 2012, when we were boarding out as many as up to 30 inmates per day in other County jails.

The final National Institute of Corrections (NIC) official report will be delivered to the Sheriff later this year. In the meantime, several action plan items were identified and will be sent to the Carlton County Justice Partners Committee to be reviewed. Further study needs were identified, and a plan to address these issues will be addressed through the Carlton County Justice Partners.

County Calendar

July 4 -
4th of July Parade at 10 a.m.
Moose Lake

July 4 -
4th of July Activities and
Fireworks at Dusk
Moose Lake City Park

July 18 -
Art in the Park 9 - 5
Moose Lake City Park

July 18 -
Clark - Olsen Agate Stampede
Moose Lake
Elm Avenue at 2 p.m.

July 19 -
Collector Car Show 11 - 2
Moose Lake

July 24 - 26 -
Willow River Days
Willow River

July 25 -
Moose Triathlon
Moose Lake City Park

August 1 -
Crazy Corn Days
Market Place Foods

August 7 - 8 -
Ma & Pa Kettle Days
Kettle River
(Fri. - Steakfry, Sat. - parade)

August 13 - 16 -
Carlton County Fair
Barnum Fairgrounds

*Meeting dates are subject to
change.

Visit the **2014 Official
Visitor's Guide & Chamber
Membership for the AREA of
Carlton, MN**

Carlton County Sheriff's Office Offers 911 Education in Schools



For many years the Carlton County Sheriff's Office has encouraged schools, as well as other organizations, to bring their kids in for a tour of the Sheriff's Office. During the tour, kids are able to

talk with Deputies, Jail staff, Office personnel as well as 911 Dispatchers. The Sheriff's Office has also offered Carlton County schools the opportunity to have a 911 Public Safety Dispatcher come into their school and talk with the 1st graders. By eliminating the cost of field trips for schools, the Sheriff's Office believes they may reach more kids by coming into the schools themselves. So far there has been a positive response to this program and the Sheriff's Office has been able to visit most of the schools in Carlton County.



During a school visit, the Dispatcher shows up in the 1st grade classroom and speaks to the children about the ins and outs of 911. When available, a Sheriff's Deputy or local Police Officer and K-9, as well as Fire and Ambulance staff accompany these presentations in order to attempt to bridge the gap between the kids and 911 as well as the emergency vehicles that may

potentially end up coming to their homes. The 1st graders see a power point presentation, watch a video, tour emergency vehicles, and are given the opportunity to ask questions. The kids are left with a bag full of 911 reminders as well as a pledge card with their name on it. The card acts as a reminder of what they learned.

The goal is that the 1st graders retain some or most of the information from the day and be more prepared in case they ever encounter an emergency and have to call 911.

Carlton County to have Fair Booth at 2015 Carlton County Fair

The Carlton County Fair is a long-standing tradition in Carlton County. It is almost always held mid to late August at the fairgrounds in Barnum, and will take place this year from August 13th - 16th.

The fair provides an opportunity for local residents, their family and friends, and visitors from outside the county to get together and enjoy four days of great food, fun, and exhibits. Among the many exhibitors each year is Carlton County's Sheriff, Kelly Lake, and her staff. The Sheriff's booth provides information regarding public safety initiatives and services provided through or in conjunction with the Sheriff's Office.

Beginning this year, Carlton County will

also be staffing a booth through the County Coordinator's Office. The intended purpose is to provide fairgoers with an option to learn more about the services that Carlton County provides its residents and visitors, to ask questions about the work county government does for them, as well as affording the opportunity to meet some local county government representatives and staff. We encourage all fairgoers, young and old, to come and see us at this year's Carlton County Fair, and to share with us your thoughts and ideas.

For more information on the Carlton County Fair contact Fair Manager, Allysha Sample, at 218-389-6737.

On the Download . . . Tech Tips



Everyone loves new technology tips so here are a couple to try out if you haven't already:

Tip #1. In Windows, to capture an image of the screen or an error message on the screen press the PrtScn button. This copies the entire screen as a graphic onto your invisible Clipboard. You can then paste it into an e-mail message or any other program.

If you add the Alt key, you copy only the front window. This is very helpful when using dual monitors.

Tip #2. In Microsoft Word, when you paste text from another document, you may not want all the original formatting from the source. Open the Edit menu and click 'Paste Special.' Click 'Unformatted Text.' Only the text will paste without the fanciness.

Carlton County Saves Money with the Pine Region Fraud Prevention Program

In Carlton County, there are almost 1800 cases where assistance is provided to thousands that need help with food and cash programs to make their lives better than they would be without it. There is a process that they must complete in order to qualify for each program. The number of people who receive benefits through fraudulent means is very small in comparison with those numbers.

For years, a fraud investigator position was funded by the County. In January of 2010, Carlton County accepted an invitation to join the Pine Region Fraud Prevention Program, (FPI), under a grant that Pine County received. This grant also included Kanabec and Aitkin Counties and covers about 5,000 square miles. Through this grant, all the counties receive the services of the investigator at no cost. The Federal and State Grant funds the program. Osten Berg, a retired Moose Lake Police Officer, currently serves as the Pine Region Fraud Investigator.

The purpose of this program is not only to take people off assistance, but to bring integrity into the process of obtaining assistance and taking appropriate action when necessary to those who submit fraudulent applications. The prevention component of the program allows the investigator to educate those who make minor mistakes and see that they file corrected applications. Another part of that is to speak to various community groups and government officials about public assistance fraud.

Carlton County is typical of others in the State in that it has a small percentage of people who apply for benefits and provide false information to receive or to continue to receive benefits that they are not entitled to. We have our share of people who work for cash and don't report it. We have unreported people living in homes, a second working adult in a home, or children who are not in the home. One of the biggest eye openers is the number of children being cared for by grandparents and great grandparents. Either the mother or father of these children collect complete benefits for the children and very little if any is provided for the child. Some of the SNAP (food benefits) and cash program funds are used to barter for or purchase drugs.

This past year while working a reported EBT Trafficking case, a large number of potential fraud issues were noted. EBT is the process that uses an electronic credit card to purchase food, and in some cases has cash included. The investigation found that the food benefits apparently were being sold for drugs. One of the persons viewed on surveillance video had a number of cards in possession, and had been arrested for drug sales. Working with local law enforcement, we identified a number of suspected persons who were selling their benefits. We were not able to prove the illegal use of an EBT card for all those identified, but those that we could prove were written up and lost their food and cash benefits for one to two years.

This is but one example of the many cases that the Fraud Investigator handles. Currently we are working with Homeland Security and the Social Security Investigative unit on a case. We also work with other states to identify fraudulent activities. In one county we tracked a new client back through two other states where they were also receiving benefits. They were charged with fraud and lost food and cash benefits for 10 years.

Not every investigation leads to the action of taking benefits away. In some cases the amount they receive is adjusted, or as in most cases we do not find fraud. If we need to take action, it is either through the Court System or an Administrative Disqualification Hearing with the State Department of Human

Services. Before it gets to that point the violator is offered a "Notice of Program Violation, Waiver of Administrative Hearing" through which they can either waive a hearing or request one and admit or deny the violation. Almost everyone waives a hearing and admits to the allegations of fraud. Overwhelming evidence is presented to them at an interview with the investigator.

The first violation the person loses food and cash benefits for a year, the second violation the person loses food and cash benefits for two years and the third violation the person loses food and cash benefits for life. People who are receiving benefits in two states lose their benefits for 10 years. Healthcare programs and SNAP benefits for children or other household members not involved in the fraud are not taken away.

There have been over 400 cases investigated in Carlton County and almost 1200 in all four counties since 2010. In Carlton County we have saved over \$102,000. This figure appears low as it is calculated by the State for savings for one month, not the total time that the benefits were lost by the client. In the Region, over a quarter million dollars has been saved. Carlton County cases identified almost \$140,000 in overpayments to clients that the Collections Unit is recouping. Currently, Carlton County is providing more cases to investigate than previous years. There is a better detection process in place that helps generate referrals to investigate.

There are many agencies that work together that assist the fraud investigator. Local Law Enforcement Agencies provide valuable information. The County Attorney provides necessary documents to obtain evidence and information on an investigation. The various departments of the Human Services Office provide copies of applications and other information needed to investigate a case. Many of our retailers provide assistance as needed in detecting fraudulent activities.

You have to realize that public assistance fraud is your business. It is not just federal or state money, but it is also money that you pay through your taxes. If you look the other way and don't report it, you are enabling people to continue. Admittedly, not all you may see or perceive is fraud, but unless we investigate your suspicions we may not know. I can't tell you the outcome of an investigation, or even if the person is on public assistance, but you can be assured that if they are committing a fraud, they will be dealt with appropriately.

I rely on good fraud reports from the public. If you know or suspect someone is receiving benefits fraudulently, please notify me. I receive monthly calls or State Hotline reports that go like this: "SuzieQ is selling her food card for drugs." So, I ask, who is reporting this? With no one to contact to find out more specific information, it becomes a waste of time and nothing can be done. If I have some basic information, I can see if there was a pattern of use on that day and time and I can use my resources to obtain necessary information and evidence to prove that this is happening and charge the party. One dollar of public assistance received by fraudulent means is a felony. Selling their benefits can also reach that level if done over a period of time. NO ONE who reports suspected public assistance fraud is ever identified. Under federal law, you are protected. The integrity of the investigator also assures those who share information on suspected fraud are not identified.

(Osten Berg is the Pine Region Fraud Investigator and is officed out of Sandstone. If you want to ask questions or report suspected fraud email him at osten.berg@co.pine.mn.us or leave a message at 320-216-4161.)

2015 Carlton County Board of Commissioners



Dick Brenner
Member
218.879.5572

District 1
Dick.Brenner@co.carlton.mn.us



Marv Bodie
Chairman
218.879.2085

District 2
Marv.Bodie@co.carlton.mn.us



Thomas Proulx
Vice Chairman
218.348.4288

District 3
Thomas.Proulx@co.carlton.mn.us



Susan Zmyslony
Member
218.380.2170

District 4
Susan.Zmyslony@co.carlton.mn.us



Gary Peterson
Member
218.380.4949

District 5
Gary.Peterson@co.carlton.mn.us

*Board meetings are held at the Transportation Building on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 8:30 a.m. and the 4th Monday of every month at 4:00 p.m.

Governor Appoints Dave Lee to Serve on Minnesota State Advisory Council



On June 12, 2015, Governor Mark Dayton announced his appointments to the Board of Animal Health, Board of the Minnesota State Academies, Explore Minnesota Tourism Council and the State Advisory Council on Mental Health.

The Governor appointed Carlton County Public Health and Human Services Director Dave Lee to serve on the Minnesota State Advisory Council on Mental

Health. The Council represents Minnesota Human Services Directors and has a term of four years.

The Council represents consumers, family members, advocates, providers, elected officials, state department representatives and others from around the state and makes recommendations to the Governor and legislature on mental health policies, programs, and services.

The Council and Subcommittee meet at the Department of Human Services Elmer L. Andersen Building in St. Paul on the first Thursday of each month, excluding July and December. Congratulations Dave!

Chaplain Ernie Strandberg Earns Honorary Doctorate Degree



At the May 2015 Commencement ceremonies at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College in Cloquet, Ernie Strandberg was presented with an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters Degree from Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College.

Ernie is a well known face around the Carlton County Sheriff's Office and law enforcement community in

Carlton County. He has served as a volunteer Carlton County Sheriff's Law Enforcement Chaplain since November of 1996. The purpose of the Law Enforcement Chaplains in part is to support the

efforts of the law enforcement agencies by offering spiritual guidance and assistance to persons confronted with crisis experiences such as death notifications, domestic disturbances, or other spiritual counseling requests and to serve as a communication link between persons in crisis and their own spiritual advisors. Chaplains also make themselves available as a resource for our deputies and officers.

The Law Enforcement Chaplains are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In addition to assisting the Law Enforcement agencies responding to calls for service in the community, the Chaplains also respond to the Carlton County Jail as volunteers to offer counseling to those incarcerated.

While the Carlton County Sheriff's Volunteer Chaplaincy program now has 4 Chaplains, for many years, Ernie was the only Chaplain, responding 24/7. The Chaplaincy program provides a vital service to area Law Enforcement and those that we serve.

Ernie has always gone above and beyond to show that he truly cares about everyone. Congratulations to Ernie on earning his Honorary Doctorate Degree!

Salzer selected for SARE Ag Fellow

Troy Salzer, University of Minnesota Extension Educator, Carlton County, was one of four Extension Educators chosen from across the nation to participate in the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program as an Ag Fellow. This experience, sponsored by USDA, will allow Troy to study the current trends, practices, and underlying strategies within the sustainable agriculture movement. He will work with other Extension Educators, farm advisors, and agricultural professionals from across the country on the design and delivery of effective outreach programs.

Specific sustainable farming systems will be studied

as Troy and other Ag Fellows visit two USDA regions each year as part of the two year program. The Fellows will hear discussions on sustainable agriculture as pertaining to each of the four regions of the US Dept. of Agriculture and visit selected farms and ranches to view firsthand the application of sustainable agriculture principles studied.

Troy is excited about this opportunity and feels our local community will benefit from what he learns, from field days and an advanced grazing workshop to be held in our area.



Windstorm and Tornado Safety

Windstorms can and do occur in all months of the year; however, the most severe windstorms usually occur during severe thunderstorms in the warm months. Carlton County frequently experiences winds blowing at over 58 miles per hour. According to National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) records, in Carlton County there have been 56 thunderstorm wind events reported between 1970 and 2012, with wind speeds of up to 81 miles per hour. These winds can inflict damage to buildings and in some cases overturn high profile vehicles.

Associated with strong thunderstorms, downbursts are severe localized downdrafts from a thunderstorm or rain shower. This outflow of cool or colder air can create damaging winds at or near the surface. Winds up to 130 miles per hour have been reported in the strongest thunderstorms. Downburst winds can cause as much damage as a small tornado and are frequently confused with tornadoes because of the extensive damage they cause. As these downburst winds spread out they are often referred to as straight-line winds. They

can cause major structural and tree damage over a relatively large area.

In Minnesota, the peak months of tornado occurrence are June and July. The typical time of day for tornadoes in Minnesota ranges between 4:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M. Most of these are minor tornadoes, with wind speeds under 125 miles per hour. A typical Minnesota tornado lasts approximately 10 minutes, has a path length of five to six miles, is nearly as wide as a football field, and has a forward speed of about 35 miles an hour and affects less than one-tenth of one-percent of the county warned.

According to the NCDC, five tornadoes were reported in Carlton County between 1967 and 2012, causing no deaths or injuries, and \$80,000 dollars in property damage. Tornado classification ranged from F0 to F2 on the Fujita Scale. Carlton County has experienced tornadoes in five of the 45 years on record. According to these statistics, there is an 11% chance of a tornado affecting Carlton County each year.

During a Tornado

If you are under a tornado warning, seek shelter immediately! Most injuries associated with high winds are from flying debris, so remember to protect your head.

IF YOU ARE IN:	THEN:
A structure (e.g. residence, small building, school, nursing home, hospital, factory, shopping center, high-rise building)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Go to a pre-designated area such as a safe room, basement, storm cellar, or the lowest building level. If there is no basement, go to the center of a small interior room on the lowest level (closet, interior hallway) away from corners, windows, doors, and outside walls. Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside. Get under a sturdy table and use your arms to protect your head and neck. In a high-rise building, go to a small interior room or hallway on the lowest floor possible. Put on sturdy shoes. Do not open windows.
A manufactured home or office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get out immediately and go to a pre-identified location such as the lowest floor of a sturdy, nearby building or a storm shelter. Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes.
The outside with no shelter	<p>If you are not in a sturdy building, there is no single research-based recommendation for what last-resort action to take because many factors can affect your decision. Possible actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immediately get into a vehicle, buckle your seat belt and try to drive to the closest sturdy shelter. If your vehicle is hit by flying debris while you are driving, pull over and park. Take cover in a stationary vehicle. Put the seat belt on and cover your head with your arms and a blanket, coat or other cushion if possible. Lie in an area noticeably lower than the level of the roadway and cover your head with your arms and a blanket, coat or other cushion if possible. In all situations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not get under an overpass or bridge. You are safer in a low, flat location. Never try to outrun a tornado in urban or congested areas in a car or truck. Instead, leave the vehicle immediately for safe shelter. Watch out for flying debris. Flying debris from tornadoes causes most fatalities and injuries.



Carlton County Committee's

Building Committee -
2nd Tuesday of the month Immediately
following the County Board meeting
(Transportation Building -TB)

Committee of the Whole -
1st Tuesday of the month at 4:00 p.m. (TB)

Diversity Committee -
4th Thursday of the month at 8:30 a.m.

Finance Committee -
1st Tuesday of the month at 2:30 p.m. (TB)

HR Advisory Team -
3rd Tuesday of the month at 8:00 a.m.
(PH&HS)

Policy Committee -
3rd Monday of the month at 2:00 p.m. (LEC)

Management Team -
1st Tuesday of the month at 8:30 a.m. (TB)

Supervisors Committee -
3rd Thursday of the month at 2:00 p.m.

Wellness Committee -
1st Wednesday of the month at 8:30 a.m.
(PH&HS)

**For a more detailed Carlton County
Committee listing with members
[click here.](#)**



Are you interested in submitting an article in the next Carlton County Newsletter? Email, mail or fax your articles and pictures by the August 24, 2015 deadline to:

Shanny Hurst
Carlton County Coordinator's Office
301 Walnut Avenue, PO Box 510
Carlton, MN 55718
Fax: (218) 384-9196
shanelle.hurst@co.carlton.mn.us

*Please note that all submissions are subject to editing, as needed.

End of the McCuskey Era



On July 30th, after 33 years with the Carlton County Transportation Department, Randy McCuskey will be retiring. Randy's retirement ends more than 100 years of McCuskeys maintaining our county roads. Before Randy, it was his Uncle Edward McCuskey with more than 36 years of service, and before Edward it was Grandfather Frank with 33 years of service dating back to the 1920s. All three dedicated their working careers to providing excellent service for the citizens of Carlton County.

Randy grew up in Holyoke learning to operate equipment by working on the family farm and his Grandfather's sod business. After graduating from Wrenshall High School in 1975, he joined the Air National Guard as part of the civil engineering squadron. As he honed his operating skills, he quickly advanced to the position of Chief Master Sergeant. As a Chief Master Sergeant, Randy demonstrated special leadership qualities. For example, a flight mishap in Ireland delayed the groups' mission for three days. With high level military personnel present, Randy took the initiative to organize all the Chief Sergeants to strategize a plan to provide support for all stranded personnel during the three day ordeal. To honor Randy for his efforts and leadership, he was provided the opportunity to ride along on an F-16 fighter jet, which turned out to be an experience of a lifetime. He retired from the Air National Guard after 28 years of service.

Randy began his career with the Transportation Department in 1983 as a truck driver. In '85 he was promoted to equipment operator, and became the Maintenance Superintendent in 2001. Along with providing safe roads for the public, leading a project from start to finish is the most satisfying part of his job. "I learn something every day", he has often said. He has enjoyed working with all the many groups – county departments, townships, cities, Fond du Lac, and contractors. "Serving the public is what I do and I enjoy it. Also, I have the good fortune of working with so many dedicated, skilled and knowledgeable people within the department. I'll miss that."

Some of the accomplishments that he is most proud of are: the 2012 flood response, all the recycled tire projects, adding recycled bituminous materials to gravel for road surfacing (which is now part of a research project by Iowa State University), and the recycling of all the steel, concrete and wiring from the demolition of the old county garage. For that recycling effort, the Transportation Department was presented with the Governor's Minnesota GREAT Award, an award that honors excellence in environmental achievement. It's evident that recycling materials is a top priority for Randy. He has often stated, "Recycling materials benefits the environment, and keeps cost down."

A typical day for Randy is that there is no typical day. "Things continually change, and I have to adapt. It can be the weather, emergencies, changes in priorities, fluctuation in staffing, equipment problems, and whatever else may happen unexpectedly. That makes the job challenging and interesting. It's what I like."

When asked the question – is there a teacher that has been particularly influential for you? Without hesitation his response is, "Angie." Angie, Randy's wife of 32 years, is an elementary school teacher in Sandstone. Daisha, their daughter, is a Registered Nurse at St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth. Jason, their son, is a Fire Fighter for the Air National Guard in Duluth. Jason and his wife, Kim, are expecting their first child (Angie and Randy's first grandchild) later this year. So what is Randy planning to do in retirement? "Number one, spend time with my grandchild. Also, I'd like for Angie and I to visit all the places that I had been assigned to during my 28 year career with the guards. It would be interesting to see how things have changed and also experiencing all these places from a different perspective in retirement."

Thank you Randy, for all the years of outstanding service to the people of Carlton County, and best wishes for a long and happy retirement!

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."