

**Carlton County
Coordinator/HR Office**

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Carlton County

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

Issue 04 July/August 2015

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Employee Service Awards



**Kim Hedquist
(PH&HS)
20 Years**

**Todd Milosevich
(Attorney's Office)
20 Years**

**Scott Thorsvik
(Building Maintenance)
20 Years**

**Thom Pertler
(Attorney's Office)
20 Years**

**Deb Bahen
(PH&HS)
25 Years**

**Carol Tribby
(Assessor's Office)
25 Years**

Carlton County Seeks Applicants for Free Computers



As a member of the Blandin Broadband Community Program, Carlton County is partnering with the nonprofit organization PCs for People to encourage the use of technology by Carlton County residents. PCs for People refurbishes computers for eligible low-income recipients so they can enjoy the

personal, economic, and educational benefits of personal computer ownership. Carlton County's BBCP Leadership Team is looking to place 50 refurbished computers with eligible families. Selected recipients will receive a refurbished computer, monitor, keyboard, mouse, and several software applications at no cost thanks to the Blandin Foundation's grant and PCs for People.

Computers are refurbished from donations made by statewide businesses. All data is erased and a new copy of Windows 7 is installed. The computers are then loaded with free software including word processing, anti-virus/security software. Expected age of a computer is 3-8 years old.

The roll out of this program at the County Fair was very successful and 30 computers have been identified for eligible families. We have 20 more computers to be awarded.

How to apply: To be eligible for the computer, a potential recipient must be a Carlton County resident and fall below the 200% of poverty level or are currently enrolled in a government assistance program. Examples of eligibility programs are free lunch at school, Section 8 housing certificates, SSI, food assistance, etc. Income documentation is required to verify eligibility. If you are deemed eligible, a 15 minute training session is required prior to receiving a PC from the distribution center located at the Carlton County Courthouse.

If you are interested in possibly receiving a computer, you can pick up an application from the Economic Development Office on the first floor of the Carlton County Courthouse. You may also request one be sent to you by contacting Brenda Nyberg at 218-384-9564 or brenda.nyberg@co.carlton.mn.us. Applications and income information (2014 federal tax return or proof of enrollment in a government assistance program) must be returned to the Economic Development Office by Friday, September 18th, 2015.

Transportation Staff Present Memorial Bench

The Carlton County Transportation staff are proud to display this gorgeous memorial bench located in the Transportation Building lobby. The bench was hand crafted by Rich Bryant. Buskala Jewelry & Gifts Too, located in Cloquet, donated the plaque as well.

The bench was built in memory of Mitch Lingren and Zak Gamache, two young Survey Crew staff members, who were taken too soon on October 1, 2012. The staff encourage everyone to take a minute to stop by and admire the bench.



County Calendar

October 4th & 5th -
 Craft, Art & Vendor Fair
 Friday 10 - 6

Saturday 10 - 5
 Otter Creek Convention Center,
 Black Bear Casino Resort
FREE ADMISSION

October 10 -
 97th Anniversary of the Fires
 of 1918 Museum & Depot,
 1:00 p.m.
 Moose Lake

October 31-
 Trunk-or-Treat & Spook
 House
 Moose Lake City Park

December 5 -
 Santa visits Moose Lake &
 Tree Lighting Ceremony

*Meeting dates are subject to
 change.

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

Carlton County Combats Aquatic Invaders With New State Funds

Carlton County Zoning and Environmental Services has received state funds in order to limit the spread of aquatic invaders within the county. In 2014, the state legislature established a \$10 million dollar annual Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Aid Program to provide opportunities for counties to better manage aquatic invaders. From this fund the county received \$33,426 in 2014 and \$74,279 in 2015 to develop a program focusing on four initiatives: boat inspections, education and outreach, enforcement, and treatment. It is anticipated that funding will be received for implementation of the program in 2016 and 2017.

Aquatic invaders are not native to Minnesota and cause economic and environmental harm. Some of the invaders threatening our county include Eurasian watermilfoil, zebra mussels, and spiny water fleas. Eurasian watermilfoil in particular impairs recreational use (including fishing, boating and swimming), decreases property values, and harms lake ecosystems by creating dense mats of vegetation. Eurasian watermilfoil is the only documented invader in Carlton County and is found in Chub Lake and Bear Lake. Because of this, the county is in an excellent position to prevent the further spread of aquatic invaders to our lakes.



Carlton County has hired six Level 1 Watercraft Inspectors trained by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Their purpose is to educate the



public about the impacts of aquatic invaders and ensure boaters are in compliance with DNR regulations. To do this they make sure all water is drained and all plants are removed from boats and trailers before entering or exiting a lake. Inspections are one of the most cost-effective methods of controlling aquatic invaders through prevention. Inspectors are located at the county's busiest boat landings this summer at the following lakes: Chub Lake, Island Lake, Tamarack Lake, Eagle Lake, Cole Lake, Hanging Horn Lake, Bear Lake, Hay Lake, Park Lake, Sand Lake, Moose Lake, and Big Lake.

Additionally, local law enforcement has received training on AIS laws and will increase patrols at boat landings. To promote education beyond boat landings, the county is working with CLIMB Theater, an educational theater company, to develop and present AIS curriculum to local schools. CLIMB will deliver in-classroom presentations to Carlton County students in kindergarten through sixth grade. Students learn what AIS is, its impacts on people and the environment, and how to prevent the spread of AIS. With these combined efforts, the county hopes to halt the spread of AIS and preserve the integrity of MN water for years to come.

On the Download . . . Tech Tip



Do you get frustrated with the Reply to All emails that you receive? If so, you are in luck!

If you use Outlook 2010 or 2013, there's a feature called Ignore on the Home tab in the Delete group. With any email message in the conversation selected, click the Ignore button. You can also right-click and choose Ignore.

When you select Ignore Conversation, the message, it's replies and future replies will go straight to the Deleted Items folder. If you want to "un-ignore" a message, just right-click on it in the Deleted Items folder, and click the Ignore button again. It will bring back anything you still have in Deleted items and stop ignoring the thread.

Governor Mark Dayton Proclaims August As Child Support Awareness Month

Governor Mark Dayton has proclaimed August as Child Support Awareness Month. Governor Dayton's proclamation reminds us that children are Minnesota's most valuable resource and need the emotional and financial support of both parents to reach their full potential. Through the combined efforts of state and county staff, the Minnesota child support program strives to help families achieve financial stability, self-sufficiency, and ultimately ensure a brighter future for children. This is a time to recognize the parents who work hard to provide for their family's needs and happiness. Only with their partnership can our program achieve success and improve children's opportunities. To speak to someone in the Carlton County Child Support Unit, please call 218-879-4511.



Carlton County Attorney's Office Receives Additional 2016 Funding for Victim/Witness Program

The mission of the Carlton County Attorney's Office Victim/Witness Program is to help ease the physical, emotional, and financial hardships caused by criminal victimization. The program provides comprehensive direct services to victims and witnesses with the goal of reducing the confusion and inconvenience caused by the victim's involvement in the criminal justice system.

The Victim/Witness program has operated since July of 1995. Prior to that time, Carlton County was served part-time by Arrowhead Victim Services which operated out of the St. Louis County Attorney's Office, and provided services across a five-county region. From 1995 through 2015, the Carlton County Attorney's Office Victim/ Witness Program has provided services to over 25% of the Carlton County population. As required by State statute, the County Attorney's Office must provide services to all victims of criminal acts prosecuted by the office. While the program has been funded to provide services for general crime victims, i.e. homicide, burglary, robbery, assault, etc., 16% of the services have also reached victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The program has been recognized by the Office of Justice Programs for the services it provides to crime victims. In 2002, the Victim/Witness Coordinator received the Distinguished Service Award at the annual conference on Crime and Victimization and in 2014 received the Statewide Victim Services

Award from Mothers Against Drunk Driving. The program was also the first Minnesota crime victim service program to receive National Advocate Credential Program certification from the National Organization of Victim Assistance (NOVA).

The Victim/Witness program has been sustained in large part by the State of Minnesota, Department of Public Safety, and the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) funding since 1995. Since that time the Carlton program has received over a million dollars in funding to provide crime victim services in Carlton County.

Due to a shortage of State and Federal funds, a competitive bidding process was put into place in 2011 by OJP. While other victim services programs lost funding or had their funding cut, the Carlton County program not only received continued funding, but received an additional \$11,000.00 above the average statewide crime victim funded program. In the next funding year, 2016, the Victim/Witness program will receive an additional increase in funding of \$31,000.00. This is due in part to an increase in State and Federal funding, along with OJP wanting to reward high quality programs for their work.

The Carlton County Attorney's Office Victim/Witness program looks forward to providing high quality services to the citizens of Carlton County into the future. For questions, please contact Todd Milosevich at 218-384-9170.

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
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Gary Peterson
Member
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*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.

New Leadership for Highway Maintenance



Rick Norrgard, a 15 year veteran of the county, has been appointed to lead the Transportation Department's maintenance operation. Since Rick began his career with Carlton County in 2000, he has had a wide variety of experiences and responsibilities

including, survey crew chief, highway design and construction, certified bridge inspector team leader, and safety administrator. In addition, Rick had nine years of previous experience in the highway consultant and construction industry. His formal education includes a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from UMD, and a Civil Technology Degree from Lake Superior College.

"The day flies by" and "I am continually learning new things", are some of Rick's comments during his first few weeks as Maintenance Superintendent. "Fortunately I work with very

knowledgeable and skilled people, who have been a big help with my transition as their Maintenance Superintendent. Our ability to construct and maintain roads is top notch – second to none. County citizens are fortunate to have such a dedicated and capable maintenance crew to serve their transportation needs."

When Rick is away from work, he is enjoying time with his family – Becky his wife, works as a Registered Nurse at the Cloquet Community Memorial Hospital, son Alec is a high school junior and daughter Alexis an 8th grader. When not attending Alec and Alexis' sporting activities, Rick tries to squeeze in a round of golf and spend time at the family cabin near McGregor.

One more thing that Rick is involved with – baseball. He has been the head coach for the Cloquet High School varsity baseball team during the last four years. This past spring, his team won the state high school tournament consolation title. "An outstanding achievement for the team. Our only loss in the tournament was to the state champions. I'm very proud of the boys."

Please help the Transportation Department welcome Rick as the new Maintenance Superintendent.

Carlton County Sherrif's Office K9, Roman, Has Been Awarded a Bullet and Stab Protective Vest

Carlton County Sheriff's Office K9 Roman has been awarded a ballistic vest thanks to non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc., the vest was sponsored by The Shop on 61 in Carlton, MN. The vest will be embroidered with "This gift of protection provided by The Shop on 61".

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. is a 501c (3) charity located in East Taunton, MA whose mission is to provide bullet and stab protective vests and other assistance to dogs of law enforcement and related agencies throughout the United States. The non-profit was established in 2009 to assist law enforcement agencies with this potentially lifesaving body armor for their four-legged K9 officers. Since its inception, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provided over 1,530 protective vests, in 49 states, through private and corporate donations, at a cost of over 1.4 million dollars. All vests are custom made in the USA by Armor Express in Central Lake, MI.



The program is open to dogs actively employed in the U.S. with law enforcement or related agencies who are certified and at least 19 months of age. New K9 graduates, as well as K9s with expired vests, are eligible to participate.

The suggested donation to provide one protective vest for law enforcement K9 is \$1,050.00. Each

vest has a value between \$1,795 – \$2,234 and a five-year warranty. There is an estimated 30,000 law enforcement K9s throughout the United States. For more information or to learn about volunteer opportunities, please call 508-824-6978. Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provides information, lists events, and accepts tax-

deductible donations of any denomination at www.vik9s.org or mailed to P.O. Box 9, East Taunton, MA 02718.

The Carlton County Sheriff's Office would like to thank The Shop on 61 for their generous donation to this valuable program.

Security and Personal Safety Tips with Joe

Volume 3 - Dangerous Situations

In the last two articles we have talked about situational awareness, knowing how to contact emergency services and trusting your instincts.

Even if you believe you have taken the steps to keep yourself safe by avoiding pitfalls, you may find yourself in a precarious or dangerous situation. What should you do? Well, it depends. Unfortunately, action is faster than reaction and if you are the would-be target of a predator the speed of your reaction is critical. We should trust our instincts and do something to disrupt the “plan” of a predator. How do we disrupt the “plan?” A disruption can be anything that forces the bad guy to change their original plan or idea.

Making small changes in what we do not only forces them to change their plan, but buys us time and puts us in the position to dictate what happens next which begs us to ask the question...what should we do next? It depends on the situation, obviously. First and foremost if you feel your life is in peril or feel that you are in danger call 911 noting your location and situation. This alone may be enough to thwart the situation. Simultaneously, while talking

and giving information CALMLY to the 911 dispatcher you should be thinking ahead to the next “what ifs.”

It may be time to change modes from passive avoidance to active avoidance. Chemical irritants, for example “mace”, is an excellent option if it is legal to possess in your current location. Obviously you need to educate yourself as to the legality of possession of chemical irritants. If you decide to employ chemical irritants, you must do a little pre-planning such as training with the irritant, commitment to using the chemical, and the balancing act of determining weather it is necessary or overreaction.

So what other options should we consider . . . stay tuned!

(Joe Mattinen serves as Carlton County Deputy Sheriff/Court Security and is officed in the Carlton County Courthouse.)



Sheriff's Office Looks Into the Release Advanced Planning (RAP) Program

Release Advanced Planning (RAP) is a program gaining momentum across the state of Minnesota. It is a program that brings all the players to the table when it comes to helping an inmate reduce their chances of reoffending. Many of our inmates have a plethora of issues that present road blocks when they are in the community, this program is a way to help reduce those issues and allow for them to be more successful. Those issues may include accessing mental health services, finding housing, securing food, finding a job, and getting to appointments, for example with their probation agent. RAP looks holistically at the person and helps them accomplish these tasks, therefore reducing the chance of committing more crimes.

We are in the beginning phases of determining feasibility of this program through work that the St. Scholastica Capstone Nursing student, Annika Zimmer, has started. She has been researching the

program and looking at possible next steps. Before she was done with her hours, she wrote a proposal to bring in a Master's in Public Health student from the U of M - Main Campus to continue where she has left off. One benefit to the County in utilizing College interns to prepare the initial work, is that it is at no cost to the County. Ideally, the next phase of this planning will include starting to figure out who should be asked to the table to help meet an inmate's needs and then look at cost-benefit ratio for this program so the appropriate funds can be secured.

RAP programs in other counties have shown amazing statistics with decreases in number of incarcerations, days of jail stay, and huge financial benefits. Take, for example, these statistics from Stearns County as shown in the chart below. For more information, please consider watching this [video](#).

		Recidivism In Months						
		Prior	3	6	9	12	18	24
1341 Bookings before / 396 Bookings after / 206 total Inmates Rap'd up to 2/23/13 for a 71.04% drop in recidivism		1341						
Avg number of incarcerations per inmate before RAP	6.51	Incarcerations 2 Years Prior to RAP						
			68					
Avg number of incarcerations per inmate after RAP	1.92	3 Months After RAP						
				66				
		6 Months After RAP						
					58			
		9 Months After RAP						
						71		
		1 Year After RAP						
							67	
		18 Months After RAP						
							66	
		2 Years After RAP						
Cost per day - Stearns County Jail	\$192	Total incarcerations after RAP thru 2/23/13						
							396	
Total possible savings through 2/23/13	\$1,905,120.00	Total number of inmates RAP'd thru 2/23/13						
							206	
Possible Jail - bed days saved through 2/23/13	9922							

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 list [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 October 26, 2015 deadline to:

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shanelle.hurst@co.carlton.mn.us

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

Safety Awareness: Wildfires



A wildfire is an unplanned, unwanted fire burning in a natural area, such as a forest, grassland, or prairie. As building development expands into these areas, homes and business may be situated in or near areas susceptible to wildfires. This is called the wildland urban interface. Wildfires can damage natural resources, destroy homes, and threaten the safety of the public and the firefighters who protect forests and communities.

According to the Minnesota DNR, approximately 1,600 wildfires occurred in the state each year on average from 1976-2011. Wildfires occur throughout the spring, summer and fall, however, most wildfires in Minnesota take place in March, April, and May. During this period, much of the existing vegetation has been killed due to winter temperatures and is dead, brown and combustible. Also, there is little green vegetation to serve as a barrier for a moving wildfire.

The Minnesota DNR responded to 1,655 wildfires in Carlton County between 1985 and 2013, burning a total of 4,898 acres and resulting in a total suppression cost of \$12,694. These include fires not only on state lands, but also rural private lands for which there is not another agency with primary responsibility. Wildfires that are not included in this data are those that occur on federal and Native American lands, and those that are responded to by local fire departments.

Federal suppression costs typically range from \$1 billion to nearly \$2 billion each year. The destruction caused by wildfires depends on the size of the fire, the landscape—such as trees and structures—in the path of the fire, the amount of fuel, and the direction and intensity of the wind.

- Wildfires can cause death or injury to people and animals.
- Structures may be damaged or destroyed.
- Transportation, gas, power, communications, and other services may be disrupted.
- Flying embers can set fire to buildings more than a mile away from the wildfire itself.
- Smoke can cause health issues for people, even for those far away from the fire.
- Extensive acreage can be burned, damaging watersheds and critical natural areas.
- Flash flooding and mudslides can result from fire damage to the surrounding landscape.
- Wildfires can affect the land for many years, including causing changes to the soil that increase the risk of future floods.

EVACUATE: When a wildfire threatens your area, the best action to protect yourself and your family is to evacuate early to avoid being trapped. If there is smoke, drive carefully because visibility may be reduced. Keep your headlights on and watch for other vehicles and fleeing wildlife or livestock.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE AND FIRE-RESISTANT MATERIALS: Your goal now, before a fire happens, is to make your home or business and the surrounding area more resistant to catching fire and burning. This means reducing the amount of material that can burn easily in and around your home or business by clearing away debris and other flammable materials, and using fire-resistant materials for landscaping and construction.

INSURANCE: Review your homeowners or renters insurance policy to ensure that you have adequate coverage for your property and personal belongings. Watches, warnings, and evacuation notices are science-based predictions that are intended to provide adequate time for evacuation. Individuals who delay leaving may find themselves trapped. Download the Be Smart. Know Your Alerts and Warnings document at <http://www.community.fema.gov/take-action/hazards> for a summary of available notifications. (Article submitted by Carlton County Emergency Management Coordinator Peter Neumann.)

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