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# Carlton County

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

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## **Holly Compo Recognized as Minnesota Sheriff's Associations "Correctional Nurse of the Year"**



*L-R: Sheriff Kelly Lake, Correctional Health Nurse Holly Compo, Jail Administrator Paul Coughlin*

Holly Compo was recognized as the Minnesota Sheriff's Association's "Correctional Nurse of the Year" on Thursday, September 12th, 2019. She was chosen from candidates that were recommended by Jail Administrators and Sheriffs across the 84 jails located in Minnesota. Holly was presented her award by Sheriff Kelly Lake at the annual Jail Administrators Conference held in Baxter, MN.

Holly is a lifelong Carlton County resident, and has been employed as a Public Health Nurse since graduation from the College of St. Scholastica Nursing Program in May of 2007. She started her nursing career doing home visiting for prenatal and postpartum moms in the county, then started doing PCA assessments and some part time work in the jail. Holly has now been a full time correctional health nurse at the Carlton County Jail since January of 2015. Besides providing nursing services to the Carlton County Jail inmates, she has also been involved with the District 2 Correctional Health nurse group since 2007 and the MN Sheriff's Association Correctional Health Division since 2010. For the past 7 years, Holly has also been very involved in helping to plan the annual conference put on by the Correctional Health Division. She is currently a Public Health Specialist for the jail.

As a community, Carlton County is lucky to have dedicated staff such as Holly. This is exhibited with her participating in several statewide legislative committees working on broad issues affecting jail management of medical issues as well as standards of care for incarcerated inmates. In a June 2019 published report titled "CLINICAL CARE AVAILABLE TO PREGNANT WOMEN WITH OPIOID USE DISORDERS IN MINNESOTA JAILS," Holly was acknowledged for her input and review of the report and work in managing the survey distribution to jail facilities in Minnesota. Holly has also presented her work at several seminars and provides information to many agencies. This provides quality care not only for Carlton County, but also the whole state through her work with the MSA.

Holly is always willing to go above and beyond during her work. This is shown as she stays rooted to her public health schooling. She currently manages our RAP (Reducing Admissions by Prevention) program. Holly oversees the work of helping inmates secure services to turn their lives around and not return to jail. Data from this work shows the Carlton County Jail has saved almost 1,500 jail bed days use resulting in a 74.67% reduction in recidivism from the group that have secured RAP services. Holly does this work because she knows how important inmates' successful return to the community means for overall public health conditions. Her positive and proactive approach makes Carlton County a better place to live.

## Employee Service Awards



Julie Graham  
PHHS  
20 Years

Carrie Umpierre  
PHHS  
20 Years

## Scholarship Opportunity for Law Enforcement Students

On August 30th, Sheriff Kelly Lake of the Carlton County Sheriff's Office announced the commencement of the Law Enforcement Scholarship Program for 2019. Sheriff Kelly Lake proudly announced that the Minnesota Sheriff's Association (MSA) Board of Directors has established a scholarship fund for the awarding of up to 15 \$600 scholarships for this year. These scholarships are due to the coordinated efforts of the 87 Sheriffs of the State of Minnesota.

The members of MSA give special recognition to the financial needs of students attending the peace officer skills course, or one of the two or four year law enforcement degree colleges. "The Board of Directors recognize that peace officers in our democratic society have complex duties to perform," said Sheriff Lake. MSA emphasizes the importance of pre-entry training for people considering law enforcement as their career choice. MSA also recognizes many students need outside help in meeting the costs of such training, even though they excel academically.

The Scholarship Committee, in making its selection of awards, intends on achieving representation from all geographical areas of the state. Scholarship awards will be announced by December 28th of the same year. Application forms and a statement of procedures are available at the Carlton County Sheriff's Office. Scholarships are only available to students currently enrolled in one of the following three categories:

1. Mandated POST Skills Program
2. In their second year of a two year law enforcement program.
3. In their third or fourth year of a four year college criminal justice program.

In order to qualify, students must have completed at least one year of the two year program or two years of a four year program. Students meeting these criteria are invited to obtain a scholarship application form from their local Sheriff's Office, or online at [www.mnsheriffs.org](http://www.mnsheriffs.org).

## Minnesota State Horticulture Society Scholarships Available



A minimum of four 8th district scholarships ranging from \$250 to \$600 will be awarded to students residing in or attending school in the MSHS 8th District. This includes the counties of: Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, and St. Louis. In addition, the Sharon Wildung Memorial Scholarship for \$600 and the Dale Hurst Memorial Scholarship will also be awarded.

To be eligible the applicant must be a graduating senior or nontraditional student from the 8th district who will be attending a college or technical school within one calendar year (August 15, 2020 to August 15, 2021) No restriction as to course or school. The scholarship will be presented to the student upon proof of course registration.

The applicant must provide evidence of an interest and participation in horticultural/gardening activities. (Ex: home garden, 4H, Scouts, or community gardens) For more information and an application please call Ann at the Carlton County Extension Office at 218-384-3511.

## 4-H - All Youth Welcome

**In 4-H, all youth are welcome.** 4-H is an out-of-school, hands-on learning program for people age 5-19. Youth choose a project that's interesting to them and explore it with peers and caring adults. 4-H clubs are groups of youth who want to learn together and meet in every part of Minnesota.

**What can I do in 4-H?** The sky's the limit! 4-H offers learning experiences in science, photography, agriculture, healthy living, civic engagement and much more. We have one-day events, year-long projects and everything in between. There are many ways to try 4-H.

**How do I join?** It's easy! Start by giving Carlton County's 4-H Youth Development Extension Educator Dylan Kelly a call at (218)384-3511 or email him at [dkelly@umn.edu](mailto:dkelly@umn.edu). Also, visit the [Minnesota 4-H Youth Development website](#) to complete the online application. Let's get started!



**2019 Carlton County Board of Commissioners**



Dick Brenner  
Chairperson  
218.879.5572

District 1  
[Dick.Brenner@co.carlton.mn.us](mailto:Dick.Brenner@co.carlton.mn.us)



Marv Bodie  
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Mark Thell  
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Gary Peterson  
Member  
218.380.4949

District 5  
[Gary.Peterson@co.carlton.mn.us](mailto: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.

# Tax and Budget Matters: Carlton County Sets Preliminary Levy

## County Board Sets Preliminary Levy

The Carlton County Board received a recommendation at its Tuesday, September 23rd regular meeting from the Carlton County Finance Committee to set the preliminary 2020 tax levy at 3.9% over the 2019 levy. Auditor/Treasurer Kathy Kortuem and County Coordinator Dennis Genereau, Jr., made the recommendation on behalf of the Finance Committee. The Board discussed the recommendation and had some questions for Kortuem and Genereau before calling for a vote, which was unanimous with all commissioners voting to set the preliminary levy at the recommended 3.9%.

The final levy will not be set until after the Truth in Taxation (TnT) meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday, December 3rd at 6:00 p.m. at the Carlton County Transportation Building. Between the settings of the preliminary levy and the final levy the Board and the Finance Committee can and will continue to work to reduce the levy below where it was preliminarily set. This can include continued efforts to lower fixed costs, reviewing late year financial returns and revenue earnings, additional meetings with department heads to review specific budget line items, and final review of all budget requests that survived the preliminary levy.

## Truth in Taxation Process

The Minnesota Legislature enacted the Truth in Taxation (TnT) process in 1988 to encourage and enhance the public's participation in the State's property tax system at the local county level. Per the Minnesota House Research Department site, there are three components to the TnT process:

- Each local government is required to formally adopt a proposed levy in September for the upcoming year; the final levy, when ultimately adopted, cannot exceed the preliminary levy.
- County auditors generate parcel-specific notices of proposed taxes for all parcels of property based on the proposed levies.
- Each local government is required to hold a public meeting after the notices come out where budget and tax issues are discussed, and where public testimony must be allowed, prior to adopting its final levy.

The primary goal with this process is to improve accountability by generating a conversation focused on the relationship between the proposed budget and property taxes, and generally providing taxpayers with a more clear and specific time and location to discuss these matters. The purpose of the meeting is not to discuss specific taxpayer property valuations or objections to them. Valuation questions can be directed to the Office of the County Assessor and County Assessor Kyle Holmes at 218-384-9142. Taxpayers are advised that generally speaking, the time for discussion of adjustment 2019 valuations payable in 2020 has passed. However, 2020 valuations payable in 2021 can be addressed.

## Minnesota Homestead Credit Refund (for Homeowners) and Renter's Property Tax Refund

Both the County Board and County Assessor Holmes want to remind taxpayers to be aware that the State of Minnesota, through the Minnesota Department of Revenue (DOR), does have a program that affords qualifying individuals with the opportunity to claim either a homestead credit refund or a renter's property tax refund. The refund is based on total household income, and Assessor Holmes noted that all property owners and renters are encouraged to visit the DOR website to determine whether they qualify this year, even if they have not qualified in the past, as the DOR did increase the income amounts in both categories.

The program was created in part as a way of creating property tax relief for homeowners paying local property taxes. Rather than providing dollars to local governments who may or may not choose to use those dollars to provide tax relief, this program ensures that the tax relief accrues as a direct benefit to the taxpayer. Interested taxpayers can get more information by visiting the DOR website at [revenue.state.mn.us](http://revenue.state.mn.us), then hover over the "Individuals" tab and click on either "Homeowners and Renters" in the Audience column or "Property Tax Refund" in the Resources column. DOR fact sheets can be found [here](#).

## Carlton County Committee's

**Building Committee -**  
2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 a.m.  
(Transportation Building -TB)

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

**Diversity Committee -**  
3rd Thursday of the month at 9:00 a.m.  
(PH&HS)

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

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

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

**Supervisors Committee -**  
3rd Thursday quarterly at 2:00 p.m.  
(Varies)

**Wellness Committee -**  
2nd 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 or mail your articles and pictures by the December 20, 2019 deadline to:

Shanny Hurst  
Carlton County Coordinator's Office  
P.O. Box 510  
Carlton, MN 55718  
[shanny.hurst@co.carlton.mn.us](mailto:shanny.hurst@co.carlton.mn.us)

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

## Let's Get Acquainted with the Carlton County Economic Development Director



Mary Finnegan

Mary Finnegan came on board with Carlton County this past summer as the new Economic Development Director.

**Tell us about yourself and your family:** I grew up on the Iron Range, the only girl in a family with three brothers. Sadly, my father died 30 years ago from ALS and my older brother died two years ago from MS. My mother, who is almost 89 years old, cared for both and is still strong despite smoking! From these experiences, I have learned to value every day and be grateful for any blessing.

I have lived in the Duluth area for the past 32 years and have been married almost 34 years. I have one son who is married and is currently in the process of relocating from Washington D.C. to Minneapolis after graduating from law school this past spring. I am also a mother of a dog, a Westie named Lucy. In the past, I volunteered at the animal shelter and have had up to three dogs at one time.

**What role do you play at Carlton County?** As Economic Development Director, I believe that I will play many roles, but all of them lead to advocating and promoting Carlton County's benefits and strengths to the established and recruited businesses and industry. Along with the County Board of Commissioners, I work closely with county departments, agencies and staff, serve on various committees and gather information in order to best promote and preserve the County's assets while preserving the quality of life. In addition, I work closely with Carlton County communities and citizens to provide guidance to individuals and companies to establish, relocate, or expand their business within the County, creating good jobs while expanding the tax base.

I also act as a liaison with various local, state and federal agencies and elected officials advocating, educating and identifying opportunities such as grants, loans and other services.

### **What work experiences and education led you to a career at Carlton County?**

I most recently served as Deputy Commissioner at the Minnesota Department of Iron Range Resources and assisted with a program audit conducted by the Office of Legislature Auditor (OLA) and led the Recharge the Range Initiative. Several deficiencies were identified by the OLA. My role was to implement the mandated changes in a challenging environment! Prior to my time at the agency, I worked at the University of Minnesota, Duluth as a Grant and Contract Administrator, APEX (Area Partnership for Economic Expansion) as a Business Developer and in various financial management, grant writing and consulting roles.

A graduate of the University of Minnesota in Communication and Journalism, I also have my Paralegal Certification and Economic Development Certification. I graduated from the U of MN Carlson School of Management with an MBA Essentials Certification along with extensive training in Dale Carnegie coursework.

Welcome aboard Mary!

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