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# Carlton County

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

Issue 03 July / August / September 2020

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## Carlton County Awarded \$1.2 Million Federal Grant

On Friday, September 18, 2020 Dana Gartzke, performing the delegated duties of the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, travelled from Washington D.C. to the Cloquet Carlton County Airport to announce a \$1.2 million grant award from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to Carlton County. The well-attended press conference was an exciting event for federal, state, and local officials as well as the Carlton County employees that worked on the federal grant application over the last three years.

The EDA grant, in support of a project in a Tax Cuts and Jobs Act Opportunity Zone, will be matched with \$291,718 in state funds and \$14,464 in local funds and is expected to create or retain nearly 40 jobs and spur \$3.5 million in private investment at the airport. This EDA investment funds construction of a

commercial-sized airplane hangar to accommodate the expansion of a private aviation business at the Carlton County Airport in Cloquet, Minnesota, a designated Opportunity Zone.

The proposed hangar will have capacity for one twin-engine turbine plane and three single-engine planes. The project will also include construction of six offices, six training rooms, and a conference space in a two-level facility. The facility will not only house aircraft but will also be the base location for aeronautics workforce training conducted by Venture North Aviation who also serves as the airport's Fixed Base Operator. The project will also help to aid Carlton County's recovery and build resiliency after a 2018 flooding and will boost an emerging aeronautics cluster in Northeast Minnesota, which will strengthen the regional economy.

EDA grants are awarded through a competitive process based upon the application's merit, the applicant's eligibility, and the availability of funds. The application process was very technical and time intensive but the press conference provided a great opportunity to celebrate the dedication, time and diligence that led to a successful application.

"Carlton County was impacted by severe storms and flooding in the summer 2018," said Dana Gartzke, performing the delegated duties of the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development. "This project will help Carlton become more resilient in the face of future natural disasters and strengthen the region's aviation industry and workforce. Its location in an Opportunity Zone provides additional incentives for business development."

"The Cloquet Carlton County Airport is already a tremendous

*Continued on page 6*



*Pictured (L-R): Darren Christopher, JinYeene Neumann, Justin Schultz, Bill Stone, Marv Bodie, Dana Gartzke, Roger Maki, Dick Brenner, Andy Hubley, Brenda Nyberg, Mike Sundin, Gary Peterson, Jason Rarick.*



**2020 Carlton County Board of Commissioners**



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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.

## Public Input Wanted as County Updates Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan

Tornadoes, straight-line winds, ice storms, blizzards, flooding, wildland fires and droughts are the kinds of natural disasters most likely to cause widespread economic loss and personal hardship in Carlton County. Taking steps to minimize the damage from a natural disaster is key to the County's multi-hazard mitigation plan (MHMP); and as the County works to update the plan, it wants to hear from the public.

The Carlton County Office of Emergency Management is currently working with U-Spatial at the University of Minnesota Duluth to update the County's plan. Also working on the update is a planning team of representatives from County departments, local municipalities, school districts and other key stakeholders such as utility providers.

The Carlton County MHMP is a multi-jurisdictional plan that covers Carlton County, including the cities of Barnum, Carlton, Cloquet, Cromwell, Kettle River, Moose Lake, Scanlon, Wrenshall, and Wright. The Carlton County MHMP also incorporates the concerns and needs of townships, school districts, and other stakeholders participating in the plan.

"Hazard mitigation planning is a central part of our emergency management program," said Marlyn Halvorson, Carlton County Emergency Management Director. "Understanding the natural hazards that can cause serious impact to our communities and taking action to reduce or eliminate the impact of future disasters makes us more resilient. Hazard mitigation helps us to break the cycle of damage and repair caused by things like flooding, ice storms, and severe wind events that can damage property, stress economies, and threaten life safety in our county."

Examples of hazard mitigation include actions such as improvement of roads and culverts that experience repetitive flooding; construction of safe rooms at campgrounds, public parks, mobile home parks or schools to protect lives in the event of tornados or severe wind events; burying powerlines that may fail due to heavy snow, ice or wind storms; ensuring timely emergency communication to the public through warning sirens and mass notification systems; and conducting public awareness and education campaigns to help people to be prepared to take safe action before, during, or following a hazard event. Some mitigation activities may be eligible for future FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant funding.

As part of the planning process, Carlton County is seeking feedback from residents and businesses from across the County to incorporate into the plan:

- What are the natural hazards you feel pose the greatest risk to your community?
- Have you experienced a previous disaster event?
- What concerns do you have, and what sorts of mitigation actions or projects do you feel would help to reduce the damages of potential future events for your personal property, your community, or the County as a whole?

Comments, concerns, or questions regarding natural disasters and potential mitigation actions to be included into the plan update process should be submitted to Carlton County Emergency Management.

There will be additional opportunities for public feedback throughout the planning process. A draft of the plan will be posted on the County website for public review prior to submission of the plan to the State of Minnesota. Future news releases will be shared with the media to notify the public of these opportunities.

The Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) requires counties to update their plan every 5 years to maintain eligibility for FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant programs.

For more information please contact Marlyn Halvorson  
Carlton County Emergency Management Director  
Phone: 218-451-6827  
Email: [marlyn.halvorson@co.carlton.mn.us](mailto:marlyn.halvorson@co.carlton.mn.us)

## ***Carlton County Public Health Drive-Through Flu Vaccine Clinic***

Carlton County held its first ever drive-through flu vaccine clinic for the public at the Transportation Department on September 25th and 26th. The clinic was open to all Minnesota residents. Flu vaccines were available for anyone age 6 months and older. A total of 711 vaccines were administered.

During COVID-19, individuals have utilized source control measures in order to help slow down the spread before a vaccine is widely available. These source control measures include physical distancing, consistently wearing face masks, frequent hand washing/sanitizing and staying home when feeling sick. These measures can also help slow down the spread of influenza. Hosting a drive-through flu vaccine clinic allowed for all of these source control measures to be utilized, while allowing for larger numbers of people to be vaccinated safely. It is anticipated that a COVID-19 vaccine will be available soon, so this gives Carlton County the ability to develop and implement (run through) a plan to administer COVID-19 vaccine safely to the public.

As the weather changes and people spend more time closer together indoors, the chances of spreading respiratory diseases like influenza and COVID-19 increases. It's vital that individuals take every measure possible to help prevent the spread of these diseases. Influenza and COVID-19 have similar symptoms, such as fever, cough, muscle aches and fatigue, so it could be difficult to differentiate between the two without testing. By getting a flu vaccine, it helps to prevent infection or complications from one of these circulating viruses. Those who are at high-risk for COVID-19, are also high-risk for complications from flu. A flu vaccination helps decrease the chance of catching and spreading influenza to others who are more vulnerable to complications. Public Health is everyone's responsibility. Together we can slow down the spread of COVID-19 and seasonal influenza!

Stay safe, stay healthy and thank you to all who volunteered and attended the Carlton County drive-through flu vaccine clinic and for making it a huge success!!



## Fall Holiday Celebrations



Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Halloween, Día de Los Muertos, Navratri, Diwali, and Thanksgiving will likely need to be different this fall to prevent the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. Avoid activities that are higher risk for spread. Consider fun alternatives that pose lower risk of spreading the virus that causes COVID-19.

Many traditional Halloween activities can be high-risk for spreading viruses. There are several safer, alternative ways to participate in Halloween. If you may have COVID-19 or you may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should not participate in in-person Halloween festivities and should not give out candy to trick-or-treaters.

### Lower risk activities

These lower risk activities can be safe alternatives:

- Carving or decorating pumpkins with members of your household and displaying them
- Carving or decorating pumpkins outside, at a safe distance, with neighbors or friends
- Decorating your house, apartment, or living space
- Doing a Halloween scavenger hunt where children are given lists of Halloween-themed things to look for while they walk outdoors from house to house admiring Halloween decorations at a distance
- Having a virtual Halloween costume contest
- Having a Halloween movie night with people you live with
- Having a scavenger hunt-style trick-or-treat search with your household members in or around your home rather than going house to house

### Moderate risk activities

- Participating in one-way trick-or-treating where individually wrapped goodie bags are lined up for families to grab and go while continuing to social distance (such as at the end of a driveway or at the edge of a yard)
- If you are preparing goodie bags, wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 second before and after preparing the bags.
- Having a small group, outdoor, open-air costume parade where people are distanced more than 6 feet apart
- Attending a costume party held outdoors where protective masks are used and people can remain more than 6 feet apart
- A costume mask (such as for Halloween) is not a substitute for a cloth mask. A costume mask should not be used unless it is made of two or more layers of breathable fabric that covers the mouth and nose and doesn't leave gaps around the face.
- Do not wear a costume mask over a protective cloth mask because it can be dangerous if the costume mask makes it hard to breathe. Instead, consider using a Halloween-themed cloth mask.
- Going to an open-air, one-way, walk-through haunted forest where appropriate mask use is enforced, and people can remain more than 6 feet apart
- If screaming will likely occur, greater distancing is advised. The greater the distance, the lower the risk of spreading a respiratory virus.
- Visiting pumpkin patches or orchards where people use hand sanitizer before touching pumpkins or picking apples, wearing masks is encouraged or enforced, and people are able to maintain social distancing
- Having an outdoor Halloween movie night with local family friends with people spaced at least 6 feet apart
- If screaming will likely occur, greater distancing is advised. The greater the distance, the lower the risk of spreading a respiratory virus.
- Lower your risk by following CDC's recommendations on hosting gatherings or cook-outs.

### Higher risk activities

Avoid these higher risk activities to help prevent the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19:

- Participating in traditional trick-or-treating where treats are handed to children who go door to door
- Having trunk-or-treat where treats are handed out from trunks of cars lined up in large parking lots
- Attending crowded costume parties held indoors
- Going to an indoor haunted house where people may be crowded together and screaming
- Going on hayrides or tractor rides with people who are not in your household
- Using alcohol or drugs, which can cloud judgement and increase risky behaviors
- Traveling to a rural fall festival that is not in your community if you live in an area with community spread of COVID-19

Content source: National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD), Division of Viral Diseases

## **Minnesota Property Tax Refund (PTR) for Homesteaded Property Taxpayers**

Carlton County would like to remind all homesteaded property taxpayers to research and apply for the Minnesota Property Tax Refund (PTR) from the State of Minnesota's Department of Revenue.

For those who are unaware, The State of Minnesota Department of Revenue has two types of Homestead Credit Refund and you may qualify for both. They are:

- Regular – this is based on your income and the amount of property taxes paid. You must have lived in your home on January 2, 2020 and your total household income must be less than \$115,020. The maximum refund is \$2,820.
- Special – this is based ONLY on how much your property tax increased. You must have lived in your home January 2, 2019 and January 2, 2020 and your property tax increased at least 12% and a minimum of \$100. This increase cannot be due to improvements done to your property (i.e.: new construction, remodel, etc.)

You may claim your refund online, through a software provider or through the mail (there are printed out applications in both the County Assessor's and County Auditor's offices available, but the program itself is administered entirely by the Department of Revenue). For more information please go to: <https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/homeowners-homestead-credit-refund>.

Make sure you use your property tax statement that is mailed out in March or April (mid-July for manufactured homes in a park). DO NOT USE the Notice of Proposed Taxes.

Historically, Carlton County residents have qualified for an average refund of approximately \$850. According to the MN Department of Revenue only 1/3 of eligible residents apply for the PTR. This means many Carlton County residents are forfeiting this money, YOUR MONEY simply because they do not apply! All residents are strongly encouraged to apply for this refund. This program is intended to help offset property taxes for residents who experience financial hardships, or live in an area with unusually higher needs of services which can drive up local costs, there causing higher property tax levies upon its residents. Many of our residents who apply and are awarded a refund use that refund to make the 2nd half property tax payments in the fall.

Please share this newsletter and word of the Property Tax Refund with all homeowners you know. There are millions of dollars of refund monies that go unclaimed annually!

## **Minnesota Sheriff's Association Scholarship**

Sheriff Lake of Carlton County announced today the commencement of the Minnesota Sheriff's Association (MSA) Law Enforcement Scholarship Program for 2020. Sheriff Lake proudly announced that the 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 feel peace officers in our democratic society have complex duties to perform", said Sheriff Lake. MSA recognizes the importance of pre-entry training for people considering law enforcement as their career choice. MSA recognizes some 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. Applications need to be returned to the Carlton County Sheriff's Office by October 16, 2020. 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).

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*Carlton County Commissioner Gary Peterson*

"It's great to see local, state and federal government working together to help our rural community. Hopefully we can continue to build on this success," noted Minnesota State Senator for District 11, Jason Rarick.

"This project is about being prepared. We're preparing to push back on some of the vulnerabilities we've experienced. We know that Carlton County experienced flooding in 2012, 2016, and 2018 and now we're facing a global pandemic. Facilities that enhance our communications or transportation needs are so vital. This project can be used to open up other economic opportunities at the airport and will help diversify our economy so we are more resilient to the next catastrophe or adverse situation," said Minnesota State Representative for District 11A, Mike Sundin.

"This project will provide an economic shot in the arm by creating both direct and indirect jobs in our community," said County Commissioner Gary Peterson. He went on to thank the individuals who contributed to the successful grant application and gave a special thank you to the Commerce Department and EDA for providing the crucial funding for the project.

"This project will bring some great exposure to the Cloquet Carlton County Airport since many people aren't even aware that this great asset exists," said City of Cloquet Mayor Roger Maki.

"This project will allow Venture North Aviation to expand its business presence in six key areas of operation: flight training and FAA pilot examining; aircraft maintenance; hangar services; DNR fire detection services; aircraft rental and charter operation; corporate aircraft management services," said Bill Stone, President and General Manager of Venture North Aviation. "VNA has been successfully operating out of the KCOQ airport main terminal building for the past 11 years and has shown its continued growth each year since its inception in 2009. With the addition of a dedicated VNA-leased facility with additional office and hangar space, VNA will invest an additional \$600,000.00 into aircraft and maintenance equipment and add many new employees to its staff to support its growth at the Cloquet/Carlton County airport."

Airport Manager Quinten Anderson states that "currently, the Cloquet Carlton County Airport is close to being self-sufficient. This project will bring more revenue streams to the Airport. The addition of this hangar may help to lessen the 30 individuals on the Airport's hangar waiting list. I would like to express my appreciation for the hard work that Brenda Nyberg, Carlton County EDA Grants and Loan Administrator, and JinYeene Neumann, Carlton County Engineer, invested in procuring this grant. Lastly, I would like to thank the Carlton County Board of Commissioners for their support of the Airports. Even with the challenges the current COVID-19 pandemic has generated, general aviation is still flourishing. This facility will allow Venture North Aviation to expand its business operations as they are currently working out of the Airport's Arrivals/Departure building which has limited space. Upon completion of this facility, three office spaces in the Arrivals/Departure Building will be freed up to be leased out to the State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources."

"Carlton County also received a Federal Aviation Administration CARES ACT grant to fund snow removal equipment to replace an old Oshkosh snow blower that frequently required maintenance, and due to its age, rendered parts for the blower were difficult to locate. The \$500,000 grant was funded 100%. The equipment has been ordered with a portion of it already delivered. This equipment will allow for faster snow removal operations with less down time for repairs," stated Quinten Anderson.

asset for the region, as local businesses frequently rely on it to engage in commerce," said Congressman Pete Stauber (MN-08). "Given the popularity of this key transportation hub, increased hangar space has become necessary, and these funds will help address this growing need while creating valuable opportunities for the local workforce. I am grateful to the Administration for prioritizing this rural community through its designation as an Opportunity Zone and the allocation of these funds, and I look forward to seeing this project help empower Minnesota's workers and strengthen the region's aviation sector for years to come."



*Dana Gartzke, performing the delegated duties of the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development*

## 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 18, 2020 deadline to:

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Carlton County Coordinator's Office  
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[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 Carlton County Emergency Management Director



Let's get acquainted with Carlton County Emergency Management Director Marlyn Halvorson. Marlyn is an experienced Emergency Manager with over 33 years of experience in Public Safety with an excellent reputation for resolving problems, improving customer satisfaction and driving overall operational improvements.

**Tell us a little about your career prior to Carlton County.** I have been a Deputy with the Itasca County Sheriff's Office for the past 22 years. I was Itasca County's Emergency Manager for the past 10 years and have 33 years of experience in the public safety sector. I have 10 years' experience as a Paramedic and 20 years as a Firefighter. As the County Emergency Manager, I was responsible for coordinating county-wide efforts to

prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters, both natural and man-made, affecting Itasca County and its communities.

I was the central point of intra and inter-governmental coordination, working with all law enforcement, fire, EMS, public health, public works, communications, administration and the elected officials involved in planning, training, exercising, responding to and recovering from disasters and major emergencies affecting Itasca County and its regional, state, and federal partners.

**What are the things you like most about your work?** I really enjoy helping others.

**Tell us a little something about your family.** I have been married for 31 years. I have a 22 year old son and a 19 year old son.

**What are your hobbies?** I enjoy hunting, camping, farming and martial arts.

**What is one experience you will never forget?** Becoming a father for the first time.

**Who is the most influential person to you?** My parents.

**What was your first job?** A store clerk at a local grocery store.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?** I like to work on our hobby farm.

**If you could possess one super-human power, what would it be?** The ability to turn back time.

**In addition to being compensated, how else has your career created value in your life?** This career allows me to use all my training and education to help others in need.

**Do you have any regrets regarding your career path?** I regret not getting my BA in Public Safety Administration.

**What are the main lessons you have learned in life?** Enjoy life because life has no guarantees.

**What awards have you received?** I received the Firefighter of the Year award in 1992 and 2002. I was nominated for the Minnesota Fire Officer of the Year in 2006. I received the HSEM Directors award in 2020.

Welcome to Carlton County, Marlyn Halvorson!

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