

INTRODUCING **SHERIFF** JASON JACOBSON

The name Jason Jacobson is likely a familiar one, as he has worked in the Redwood County Sheriff's Office for over 20 years and now we proudly introduce him as your newly elected Sheriff!

Growing up in Morton and graduating from Redwood Valley High school Sheriff 1997, Jacobson

knew early on, his career would be in law enforcement. To prepare him in the field, he attended Minnesota State University, Mankato, graduating in 2001 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Law Enforcement and a minor in Corrections. Jason furthered his education by attaining a law enforcement skills certificate through Hibbing Community College in 2002.

Sheriff Jacobson has served in numerous roles within the Sheriff's Office, beginning in 2002 as a full-time Custody Officer in the Redwood County Jail. After becoming a licensed Peace Officer, he

don't forget your



wonderful children. He volunteers for various organizations to include serving on the Redwood Falls Fire Department for over 10 years. Sheriff Jacobson enjoys coaching and serves on the oversight boards of the local youth basketball, baseball, and softball organizations. His family attends Gloria Dei Lutheran Church where he volunteers and helps coach the church softball team. When time allows, Jason enjoys camping, fishing,

hunting, and visiting National Parks.

"As your Sheriff, I look forward to building strong relationships and maintaining the safe environment Redwood County residents currently enjoy. We have great communities within the county and we appreciate the support law enforcement has received over the years. We have an awesome staff at the Sheriff's Office and I want people to feel comfortable contacting us with questions or concerns."

Anyone interested in contacting Sheriff Jason Jacobson are encouraged to call (507) 637-4036.







COUNTY ATTORNEY 2022 CASELOAD SUMMARY

by Jenna Peterson, County Attorney

When I tell people I am the Redwood County Attorney, it is usually followed by a puzzled look and, "So, what do you do?" The simple answer is if Redwood County is involved likely so are we. The Redwood County Attorney's Office is tasked, through many Minnesota statutes, to represent Redwood County on all legal matters. We receive many requests for assistance and/or representation on private legal matters, but because we are only able to represent Redwood County, our response to those inquiries is always to contact a private attorney.

The bulk of the work the Attorney's Office manages is criminal prosecution. In 2022, a total of 648 adult criminal cases and 143 juvenile criminal cases were processed. We tried 13 cases to a jury and 13 court trials – meaning the fact finder was the Judge presiding over the case and not a jury.

The Redwood County Attorney's Office has three juvenile diversion programs: Juvenile Diversion, Circle Sentencing, and Truancy Diversion. Juvenile Diversion is for first-time petty offenders who are given the opportunity to address their offenses prior to a formal court filing. We had 27 referrals to Juvenile Diversion in 2022. Of those 27, 16 were successfully completed, six were unsuccessful, and five are still in progress. Circle Sentencing is for first-time non-sex crime delinquency offenders. In 2022, six juveniles were referred to this program. Truancy Diversion is for students who have accumulated at least three unexcused absences. In 2022, we referred 24 students to Truancy Diversion and 14 successfully completed the program. The Attorney's Office manages various civil matters as well. Civil case examples include child support, forfeitures, and expungements. In 2022, our civil caseload consisted of 89 different cases.

Child and adult protection cases are also handled by the Office. In 2022, 9 new adult protection cases were opened and 22 child protection cases.

In addition, we serve as Legal Counsel to the Redwood County Board of Commissioners and all departments located within the County. In 2022, we reviewed 311 requests for legal assistance from the different county departments. In this role, we primarily provide advice, draft, review, and negotiate contracts and policies. In total, the Attorney's office worked on 1,365 different matters in 2022.

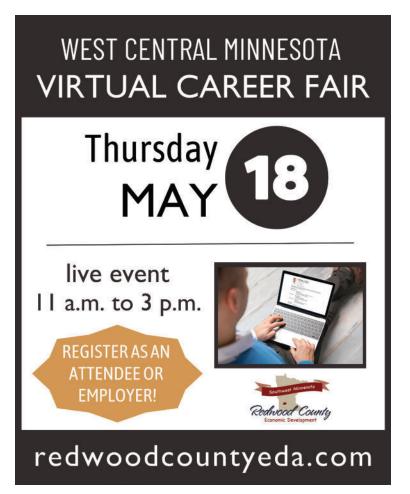
For the full report on our 2022 caseload, please visit our website redwoodcounty-mn.us/departments/attorney and click on the Annual Reports tab. While there, be sure to also check out our Crime Victim Services Reports which detail the number and

types of Victims we serve each year.

We do all this with a team of four attorneys including myself, three support staff, and one Victim Services Coordinator. We do a lot with a little, but never compromise doing what is easy vs. what is right. It's a daily grind, but with an incredible staff dedicated to keeping our community safe, we continue to meet that standard day in and day out.



redwoodcounty-mn.us





BUILDING PERMIT REMINDER

by Nick Brozek, Environmental Director

Construction season is almost upon us and the Redwood County Environmental Office would like to remind you, before you begin

a building project, to obtain the proper permit.

Permits for construction are typically required by the city where the property is located, or by the County if outside of city limits.

For projects outside of city limits, there are a few things to keep in mind:

- Typically, County permits are applied for and obtained by the landowner, rather than the Contractor, as the County permit requires the landowner's signature. This is true even when the Contractor submits the application.
- All buildings and structures larger than 100 square feet in footprint area require a permit.
- Fences, signs, decks, and concrete slabs require a permit.
- Particular activities may require a special permit. This includes, but is not limited to, feedlots, commercial uses, and industrial uses.
- Permits are required to construct a new structure, add onto an existing structure, move a structure, or rebuild a structure in the same location. Permits are not required for internal remodeling, replacement of windows and doors, roofing and siding, or refacing an existing advertising or business sign.
- Permit fees are based on project cost, with a base fee of \$40. There are no fees for deck and slab permits.
- County permits are valid for one year after being issued.
- Property owners within two miles of Redwood Falls, or in Paxton Township, may also need to obtain a building permit from the City or Township.

Construction permits are necessary to verify the proposed structure will meet required building setbacks (from roads, water bodies, County ditches, and tile, property lines, septic systems, wells, etc.) and ensure the proposed use is permitted in the zoning district of the construction project.

If your property is located inside any of the 15 incorporated municipalities in the County, Lower Sioux Community, Paxton Township, or within 2 miles of the city of Redwood Falls, you will want to reach your respective jurisdiction to identify what permit is required.

To access the County zoning permit applications visit the Redwood County website at redwoodcounty-mn.us/departments/environmental-office.

We are happy to assist you with any questions! Give us a call at (507) 637-4023, email at environmental@co.redwood.mn.us, or in person at the Redwood County Government Center.

Just a reminder per MN Statutes, property owners are required to control or eradicate noxious weeds



QUESTIONS?

Contact Redwood County Ag Inspectors, Brent or Matt at (507) 637-4023



Redwood County Environmental Office

SEPTIC LOAN & GRANT PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

Do you have a failing septic system?

LOW-INTEREST SEPTIC LOAN PROGRAM

Redwood County landowners who need to replace a failing septic system or system that does not meet the current septic code are eligible to apply. Submit an application for a low interest loan of 3.5% at 5 or 10 year term.

SEPTIC GRANT PROGRAM

Redwood County residents with a household income of less than 190% of the Federal Poverty guidelines are eligible to apply. Grant pays 75% of cost to replace a failing or non-compliant septic system. You can also apply for a loan to to cover the remaining 25%.

\((507) 637-4023

menvironmental@co.redwood.mn.us redwoodcounty-mn.us

• 403 S. Mill St, Redwood Falls



UPDATE FROM PLUM CREEK

by Park Ranger Adam Kletscher

With the changing of the seasons, comes the excitement of enjoying the outdoors at Plum Creek Park in Walnut Grove!

For those who enjoy camping, the season is anticipated to open this May and run through September. Not only are there electric RV sites and non-electric tent sites in the campground, but there are also 8 new primitive sites available. Take in the beautiful scenery at one of these sites nestled along Lake Laura or Plum Creek. In addition to the 6 beautiful camper cabins, you are sure to find something that will be the right fit!

If camping isn't your thing, don't worry – there are several ways to enjoy the park! Take a walk around beautiful Lake Laura. or explore Plum Creek. Relish the fresh scents of spring, see beautiful wildflowers, or check out a variety of trees and wildlife. Play a round of disc golf, rent a kayak, or wet your line looking for some fish. Plum Creek Park is an excellent place to get away from the hustle and bustle of life and just enjoy the outdoors.

It is also with enthusiasm to share that the grant application to the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission has been awarded to Redwood County! The application included phase one of the plan is to redesign and reconstruct the Lake Laura beach area, install sidewalks, showers, changing rooms, restrooms, a natural playground, a new parking lot, and vegetation. These enhancements will provide ADA accessibility to the waterfront, reduce long-term maintenance costs, connect the beach waterfront with the boat launch via a trail, and integrate child play spaces near the beach. Construction of phase one is anticipated to begin in early Fall 2023, with the goal of completing it in the spring of 2024. In the future, we hope to secure funds for additional enhancements to include the addition of 30-35 RV sites, shelters, recreational activities, and restroom facilities.

There is much work to be done, but we are excited about the improvements coming that will benefit the visitors of Plum Creek Park. Learn more about Plum Creek Park, make a reservation, or view the park expansion plans by visiting https:// plumcreekpark.com.



plumcreekpark.com

STAY UP TO DATE WITH REDWOOD COUNTY NEWS!

Follow us on social media!









License Center REMINDERS

TABS & TRANSFERS



Current proof of insurance

must be provided at the time of registration renewals for all vehicles, including title transfers for vehicles. Cash and check transactions can be completed using the drive-thru

REAL ID & ADDRESS CHANGE

If you have a REAL ID & have moved to another MN address, you will need to reapply for a duplicate REAL ID. Remember to bring two proofs of residency.

REAL ID, STANDARD DRIVER'S LICENSE & ENHANCED LICENSE

- · Standard License: driver's license
- REAL ID: driver's license + Federally compliant to fly within the U.S.
- · Enhanced License: driver's license + Federally compliant to fly within the U.S. + crossing the border of Mexico & Canada
- · For a complete list of required documents for each ID visit dvs.dps.mn.gov or contact us!

DATE CHANGE TO FLY IN THE U.S.

a REAL ID, enhanced driver's license, or passport to fly within the U.S.

DNR COMBO FISHING LICENSE

Married couples interested in purchasing a combination angling or hunting license, both must present in person at the time of purchase.

LICENSE CENTER HOURS

Office: Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Drive-Thru: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

LEARN MORE



redwoodcounty mn.us/departments/license-center





ROAD & BRIDGE UPDATES

by Anthony Sellner, PE, County Engineer

Road and Bridge Five Year Plan: Many roadways are showing advanced deterioration this spring and the Five

Year Road and Bridge Plan needs to be updated to address these conditions. The update will occur at a public workshop at 11:00am on May 2 and a public hearing at 11:00am on June 6. Both meetings will be at the Redwood County Highway

Department, 1820 East Bridge Street in Redwood Falls. Members of the public are welcome to attend and provide feedback. The plan is intended to be flexible, recognizing road and bridge priorities shift due to rapid changes in highway and bridge conditions, public input, goals, priorities, funding and budget constraints.

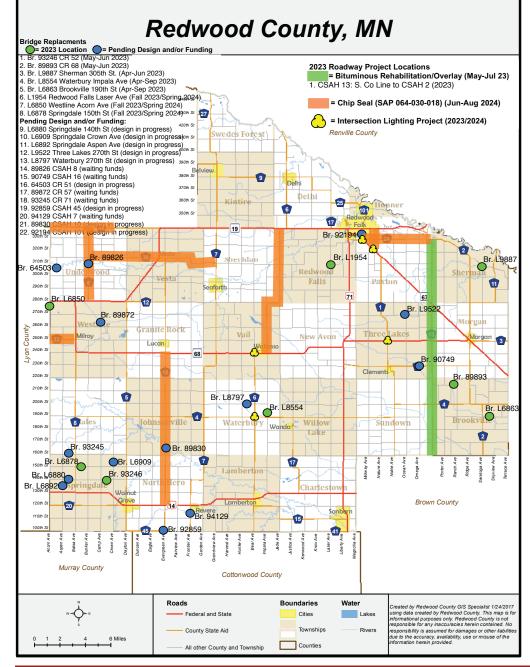
At this time the County Highway Department is projecting a \$24M deficit in road funding and \$47M deficit in bridge funding over the next five years. Redwood County has the highest number of structurally deficient County and Township bridges of any county in the State of Minnesota. Redwood County also has over 60 miles of pavement needing rehabilitation. These 60 miles will not receive any major work in the next five years with current funding levels.

2023 County Road & Bridge Projects:

The Highway Department's 2023 road and bridge projects and timelines are shown in the map inset. The 2023 construction work will include the following:

- (1) County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 13 will receive a mill and overlay from the South County line to CSAH 2. This project is funded through a combination of the County's ½ percent sales tax, the remaining part of the \$7M (million) 2021 County Highway Bond and through the State Gas Tax.
- (2) CSAH 1 within Clements City limits will receive its' final asphalt lift this summer. This project is funded through a combination of the MnDOT Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) and the State Gas Tax.
- (3) Fifty six miles of chip sealing will be completed on various routes as shown. The seal coat helps to protect our paved road surfaces from the oxidizing effects of sunlight and prevents the asphalt binder and pavement from becoming brittle. This treatment is known to increase the useful life of the road surface. This project is funded through the State Gas Tax.
- (4) There are 8 bridges under contract for completion over the next two years (see map) and an additional 14 bridges under design or awaiting State bridge funding. Bridge projects are funded through Township Bridge Bonds (MnDOT), State Bridge Bonds and Gas Tax. Townships also pay \$20,000 for each township bridge that is reconstructed.
- (5) Five intersections will have light poles installed to improve night-time visibility. This project is federally funded through the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP).

Detours will be setup for projects on all paved roadways and projects on gravel roads will be posted closed. Local access to businesses, schools and hospitals will be maintained throughout the projects. We try to avoid closing bridges during planting and harvest continued on page 6



Road & Bridge Updates continued from page 5

season to the maximum extent possible, however exact construction timelines are dictated by contractor schedules, concrete bridge beam and concrete box culvert availability and timing of when bridge bonds become available.

Additional Funding Sources & Grant Applications: The Highway Department has aggressively pursued external funding sources, and will continue to do so.

1. The Highway Department applied for and received \$3.6M in federal funds to mill and overlay CSAH 4, from TH 71 to the west County line. The federal funding is not available until 2027, which will be the year of the construction project. The pavement on this road will be 27 years old by this time. The Highway Department also applied for and received \$2.8M in federal funds to rehabilitate or reconstruct the CSAH 17 Goldmine Bridge over the Minnesota River. Federal funding will first be available in 2026, which is the year construction is scheduled for pending environmental and historic coordination. The bridge was constructed in 1903 and will be 123 years old by 2026.

3. The Highway Department secured \$150,000 in federal funding through the Highway Safety Improvement Program for the lighted intersections that will be installed this year.

4. The state legislature may soon approve the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) Grant, and the County will again apply for projects through this discretionary grant program.

5. In 2022 the Highway Department applied for \$80M in Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Discretionary Grants. This included a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant for reconstruction of CSAH 2, a Rural Surface Transportation (RURAL) Grant for reconstruction of all 36.5 miles of CSAH 7 and a Bridge Investment Program (BIP) Planning grant for replacement of 12 County bridges. The RAISE grant was highly rated and made it to the final selection round on the Secretary of Transportation's desk in Washington DC. The RURAL and BIP Grants fared well. Unfortunately, none of these nationally competitive grants were awarded to Redwood

County. The Highway Department will revamp the applications and re-apply based on feedback received during the application debriefings.

State and National Paving Awards: In 2022, the CSAH 6 cold in place recycling and overlay project, from Wabasso to TH 14, received the Minnesota and National Asphalt Paving Association's best in class, rural paving and quality construction project award. County residents can be proud to know that they are receiving the highest quality paving projects at the same or better price of other paving projects that occur throughout the state. This award is a testament to the experienced and mindful engineering technicians at Redwood County and to Duininck's the third generation paving crews that were on the job. The County staff and Duininck demonstrated their commitment quality construction for the residents of Redwood County.

2023 Maintenance Projects: The maintenance crews are very busy patching our bituminous roads and maintaining our gravel roadways. The amount of patching that must be done this year will undoubtedly take time away from other important maintenance activities and will very likely last into the mid-summer months. All roadways planned for chip sealing must be crack filled prior to June 20th, which is the start date of the chip sealing contract. All chip aggregate must be hauled and stockpiled by this date as well.

All concrete bridge decks must be



cleaned and washed to remove remaining road salt. This is done to prevent the chlorides from corroding the rebar and delaminating or spalling the concrete. We are in the third year of the Maintenance Department's five year initiative to regravel all of our county roads and reshoulder our paved roads. We source the gravel locally to the maximum extent possible, helping minimize our haul cost, haul times and improve efficiency. This year our gravel and shouldering project will focus on the areas not re-graveled over the last two years and on areas that became impassable at times this spring. This fall we will continue spraying our county road ditches for noxious weeds, stockpiling salt and sand for winter, stockpiling chip, mowing any road ditches that are not made into hay and finish any late season pavement patching.

County Equipment Updates: There have been significant delays in the manufacturing of equipment, especially equipment that is on government pricing schedules. We are seeing 24-48 month lead times for pickup trucks, 24 month lead times for trailers and 18 month lead times for graders and snowplow trucks. To mitigate this issue, the Highway Department needs to order equipment well in advance of needed equipment rotations. Once we receive new equipment in, we either sell the excess equipment at a local auction or through MnBID, the State of Minnesota's online auction program: https://minnbid.org/Mobile/Auction.

Seasonal Help Wanted: All of the above work is possible due to the diligent and dedicated work of our 27 person Highway Department team and seasonal help. We are always looking for seasonal help. If you are interested in working part time for the highway department please do not hesitate to reach out. We can always use a hand, whether that be blowing snow, mowing, patching, crack filling, flagging traffic, operating our equipment on various projects or assisting the engineering technicians with construction and surveying.

If you ever have any questions regarding our work at the Highway Department, please do not hesitate to call our office at (507) 637-4056.

Big Changes to Occur for the 2023 **Redwood County & Renville County Electronics & Appliance Collections**

NEW: Rotating locations between the Redwood County Museum and the Renville County Fairgrounds

With inflation, fuel, and transportation costs all on the rise, coupled with a shortage in labor, it was necessary to make some adjustments to the 2023 Electronics and Appliance Collection schedules.

In 2022, both Redwood and Renville County began to see a reduction in the number of participants in the summer Electronics/ Appliance Collections. This reduction in participation numbers and tonnages all but signaled a downturn in consumer spending. With fewer consumer goods being purchased, fewer are being disposed of.

To adjust to the decline, increasing costs, and shortages in labor, the counties faced industry-driven adjustments and needed to change as well. The option of hosting collections at a single location site OR hosting a ONCE PER YEAR collection was considered unfavorable. Surplus Warehouse (SW Inc.), the company that provides the unloading and recycling for these collections, suggested reducing the number of collections by alternating the collection events to every other county, every other month, thus continuing to keep them local and convenient.

What will remain unchanged in 2023 is the same great service you are accustomed to receiving, as well as unchanged disposal costs from 2022. Upon arrival, an S.W. Inc. team member will unload your item(s) (in record time) while you can wait in the comfort of your vehicle, preparing for your payment. No debit or credit cards are accepted.

MANY items will continue to remain free of charge! (Prices MAY be subject to change)

Items that do have a minimal fee:

- \$25 -Televisions & Computer Monitors.
- \$10 Printers, Scanners, Copiers, VCR/ DVD Players, and Stereos (not an exhaustive

Items that are often inquired about, but don't fit into "appliances or electronics" categories, and can be disposed of at no

- Gas, pellet, and charcoal grills, Smokers (standard or electric)
- Metal Hot Water Heaters (no highefficiency plastic ones please) Furnaces (heating/cooling units)
- Treadmills, exercise bikes, fans, and small household appliances

- Lawnmowers/Bicycles
- Satellite Dishes
- Trampoline Legs, Scrap Metal

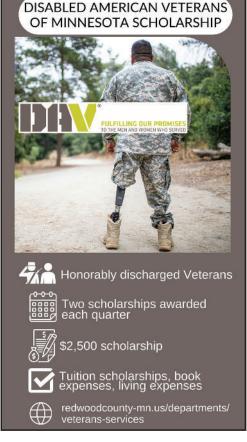
Please remember that anything with a cord should be disposed of at one of these collections. Keeping these items out of the landfill to be recycled leaves room for waste that cannot be recycled.

REMEMBER... A GREENER EARTH... IS A CLEANER EARTH.

For more information:

- 1. Visit: www.renvillecountymn.com and click on the RRRSWA-solid waste link to view the 2023 Electronics and Appliance Collection Schedule.
- 2. Call 320-523-8002 or 507-637-1800.
- 3. Visit our Facebook page, "Redwood/ Renville Regional Solid Waste Authority" to view the 2023 Electronics and Appliance Collection Schedule.
- 4. Call Surplus Warehouse, Inc. at 1-800-366-8665.





Redwood County Connection

Redwood County Government Center 403 S Mill St PO Box 130

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Contacts

637-4016 Administration 637-4008 Assessor **Attorney Office** 637-4010 Auditor/Treasurer 637-4013 Court Administration 616-4018 Economic Dev. 637-1122 637-4035 Emergency Mgmt. **Environmental** 637-4023 637-4025 Extension 637-4056 Highway Dept. **Human Services** 637-4050 License Center 637-4029 Public Health 637-4041 **Probation Office** 637-4047 **RRRSWA** 637-1800 637-4032 Recorder Restorative Justice 637-1139 Sheriff's Office 637-4036 637-4016 Technology/IT Veteran's Office 637-4034

Commissioners

~

Rick Wakefield 859-2369 Jim Salfer 342-2431 Dennis Groebner 692-2235 Bob VanHee 616-1000 Dave Forkrud 938-4269





without the help of our AMAZING volunteers!





2022 MINNESOTA OUTSTANDING

Fultz Farms



accomplished should not go unnoticed.

REDWOOD - Jeff Potter, Redwood Soil & Water

Redwood County Economic Development Authority

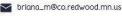
REVOLVING LOAN FUND



The fund is available to new emerging and existing businesses in Redwood County, to serve as a gap financing tool for eligible projects!

redwoodcountyeda.com

Contact Briana to learn more or to schedule an appointment!





(507) 637 - 1122