



Redwood County Connection



The Official Newsletter of Redwood County

Fall Edition 2025

NEW COMMUNICATION BUS FOR THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Sheriff Jason Jacobson is proud to announce the addition of a communications bus to the Redwood County Sheriff's Office. This bus will help the Sheriff's Office serve the residents of Redwood County in a variety of ways. The bus will be used to dispatch during critical incidents, serve as a mobile command post, and help with crime scene processing. In addition, the department's unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) is housed inside the bus.

The funding for the bus was provided by the State of Minnesota when the legislature announced a one-time appropriation of Public Safety Aid. The county board allocated \$30,000 dollars for the bus, and the project came in under budget. "This bus provides us the ability to effectively manage critical incidents while present on the scene", said Sheriff Jacobson. "We're constantly trying to stay up to date on technology, and this allows us to bring the newest technology into the community."

Emergency Manager Jim Sandgren and Sheriff Jacobson have also communicated with the Redwood County Fire Chiefs and made them aware the bus is available. Whether utilized as a command post at a natural disaster, or simply to provide shelter from the harsh Minnesota winter at a large-scale fire, the Sheriff's Office looks forward to providing assistance when needed.



PLUM CREEK PARK BEACHFRONT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

It's hard to believe that summer has come to an end and Fall is upon us. Although, you wouldn't know the way the weather has been. The campground had another great year! We had over 750 reservations with visitors from 37 states, 3 Canadian Provinces, the Philippines, Great Britain, and the Netherlands. It is great to see how many people visit our park from all over the country and world.

Camping wasn't the only thing keeping the park busy. We had weekly softball games in the spring and weekly baseball games in the lower park all summer. A weekly volleyball league kept the courts in use. Along with all those activities, many enjoyed frisbee golf, hiking, and kayaking on Lake Laura.

We are excited that construction of the new beachfront improvement project started in early August! Things were moving right along until 8 inches of rain brought work to a halt, as the lake rose 15 feet overnight. After 2 weeks the water receded enough to get back to work. Construction is scheduled to be completed by late October. This will be **continued on page 2**



a great improvement and allow everyone access to the beach. This project was awarded by the Greater Minnesota Regional Park and Trails Commission, with funding from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment.

The wet summer made it a challenge to keep up with the mowing and numerous daily chores, but our summer crew, along with the STS program, helped keep everything looking good throughout the season. I am fortunate to have such a great team to work with.

Beach side view



Looking ahead, reservations for the 2026 camping season will open on Tues, Jan 13 at 10AM. Check out our website, plumcreekpark.com, to make your reservations. I hope you all have a great fall & take a little time to explore Plum Creek County Park.

Beach front view



What if I have ER/Hospital visit?

Veterans must be actively enrolled in the VA Health Care system and have completed their yearly physical with the VA. Please note the following requirements:

- 1) VA needs to be notified within 72 hours of being admitted into the Hospital or ER. Request the ER nurse to contact the VA at (844) 724-7842 or you can go online to provide notice at VHAEmergencyNotification@va.gov
- 2) VA needs to be contacted every 24 hours after the initial contact for availability in a VA facility. If this is not done the Veteran may be billed. This is not commonly known, and would not assume medical staff are completing this.

VA HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW

by Redwood County Veterans Service Office

Basic Eligibility for VA Health Care

If you served in the active military, naval or air service and are separated under any condition other than dishonorable, you may qualify for VA health care benefits. Current and former members of the Reserves or National Guard who were called to active duty (other than for training only) by a federal order and completed the full period for which they were called or ordered to active duty also may be eligible for VA health care.

Minimum Duty Requirements

Most Veterans who enlisted after September 7, 1980, or entered active duty after October 16, 1981, must have served 24 continuous months or the full period for which they were called to active duty to be eligible. This minimum duty requirement may not apply to Veterans who were discharged for a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, were discharged for a hardship or received an “early out.” Since there are a number of other exceptions to the minimum duty requirements, VA encourages all Veterans to apply to determine their enrollment eligibility.

Getting Enrolled

Once the Veteran has met the minimum duty requirements (as outlined above), the VA Health Care system determines if you are service connected and if not, your household income eligibility.

How do I enroll?

- 1) Contact the Veterans Service Office for completion of the VA application VA 10-10EZ or
- 2) Call VA Health Benefits toll-free help line at 1-877-222-VETS (8387) and visit www.va.gov/healthbenefits

How do I get medical help at home?

To receive VA Healthcare System assistance, a Veteran must work with their VA Health Care System Primary Care Doctor. The following are the are the most common items:

- In home nursing care
- Medical equipment: wheelchairs, walkers, shower or bathroom equipment
- Community Care: being able to get medical procedures done closer to the Veterans home instead of at the VA due to availability and distance.

If a Veteran is enrolled in the VA Health Care, can he/she drop their private supplemental insurance plan to cover their medical expenses?

Absolutely not! The VA is a health care system, not a health insurance company. This also means Veterans who are 100% service connected, are not always covered 100% by the VA Health Care System for emergency care received outside of the VA.

If you are a Veteran or you are a family member, with any questions please contact the Redwood County Veterans Service Office Monday - Friday, 8 am to 12 pm, and 1 pm to 4:30 pm. Check out our recent video on our website!

Redwood County Veterans Service Office

Redwood County Government Center
403 South Mill Street, Redwood Falls, MN 56283
Email: veterans@redwoodcounty-mn.gov
Phone: (507) 637-4034
Website: redwoodcounty-mn.us/departments/veterans-services

REDWOOD COUNTY TO PARTICIPATE IN OPERATION GREEN LIGHT

In advance of the upcoming Veterans Day holiday, Redwood County plans to illuminate county buildings green from November 4-11 as part of Operation Green Light for Veterans, a nationwide effort uniting counties to support military veterans. The initiative, led by the National Association of Counties (NACo), raises awareness around the unique challenges faced by many veterans and the resources available at the county, state, and federal levels to assist veterans and their families.

Now in its 5th year, Operation Green Light is spearheaded by NACo and the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers. In 2023 & 2024, over 450 counties participated in Operation Green Light.

“Our American freedoms have been protected for the past 250 years by both

men and women servicing in and out of uniform sacrificing for our country. Our veterans here in Redwood County have answered the call continuing the tradition of protecting the freedom we all benefit from here at home. As a community, we want to ensure our veterans know that we support them and appreciate their service and sacrifices” said Roger Zollner, Redwood County Veterans Service Officer.

Redwood County residents, businesses and community organizations are encouraged to participate in Operation Green Light by changing one light to a green bulb. By shining a green light, we let our veterans know that they are seen, appreciated, and supported.

“Operation Green Light is an opportunity to thank veterans for both their service to our nation and their contributions to our communities,” said NACo Executive Director Matthew Chase. “With hundreds of counties coming together to light up everything from courthouses to bridges, we know veterans will see and feel our gratitude for their selflessness and courage.”

Counties and residents across the



country are sharing their participation on social media using the hashtag #OperationGreenLight.

Redwood County Veterans Service Office offers free rides to medical appointments at Minneapolis & St. Cloud VA Medical Centers. Other services include help with health care, compensation, death, pension, disability, burial and education benefits. For more information and resources available to veterans, contact the Redwood County Veteran Service Office at 507-637-4034 or visit redwoodcounty-mn.us

REDWOOD COUNTY 4-H

Youth-led programs for lifelong learning

It is an honor and a privilege to work with the youth and families in Redwood County through the Redwood County 4-H program! We're excited to share what 4-H is all about and how you can get involved.

What is 4-H?

4-H is a youth-led, adult-guided experiential education program. We welcome youth from Kindergarten through one year past high school. Our mission is to empower young people to reach their full potential, working and learning in partnership with caring adults.

Why join 4-H?

4-H offers a wide range of opportunities for youth to:

- Explore their interests
- Gain hands-on experience
- Develop valuable leadership, life skills
- Build lasting hobbies and a passion for lifelong learning
- Communicate & network with peers, mentors, & adult volunteers
- Experience service, citizenship, and leadership



We encourage youth to take the lead in their projects and activities, supported by a network of dedicated adult volunteers who provide guidance and mentorship. Through 4-H, young people develop critical thinking, problem-

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solving, and decision-making skills that will serve them well throughout their lives.

Get Involved!

Interested in learning more about Redwood County 4-H? Contact 4-H staff at 507-637-4025 or email mnext-redwood@umn.edu. Or check out our website: <https://z.umn.edu/RedwoodCounty4H>. Join us and our 4-H youth and experience what 4-H has to offer you. Come and experience working with our network of more than 100 amazing 4-H screened adult volunteers in Redwood County. 4-H has something for everyone! We look forward to welcoming you to the Redwood County 4-H family!



**Find us on
Facebook**

**Facebook/
Redwood County**



TRAVELING SOON?



REDWOOD COUNTY IS YOUR LOCAL PASSPORT AGENCY!

Redwood County Government Center - Administration Office
403 South Mill Street, Redwood Falls

MONDAY - FRIDAY 8 AM TO 4:30 PM (507) 637 - 4016 REDWOODCOUNTY-MN.US

passport pictures can be taken too!

mark your
CALENDAR



ONLINE CAMPING RESERVATIONS OPEN
January 13, 2026 at 10 am




Walnut Grove, Minnesota

WHY EMAIL SECURITY MATTERS MORE THAN EVER

By: Redwood County IT Department


In today's digital landscape, email remains the most common entry point for cyberattacks, and the consequences are real. Over 94% of reported cybersecurity incidents start from a single email, which in 2024 alone cost organizations over \$16 billion to recover. Whether you're a county employee, local business owner, or resident, staying alert to email threats is no longer optional; it's essential. You don't need to be tech-savvy to protect yourself, just informed and cautious.

 One careless click can unleash a cascade of damage, including:

- Identity theft
- Financial loss
- Data breaches
- Encrypted or stolen files

 Common Email Threats to Watch For:

- Phishing: Fake emails that mimic trusted sources (e.g., "Your bank account is locked").
- Malware: Harmful software hidden in attachments ("Invoice Attached—Open Now").
- Spoofing: Emails that appear to come from someone you know but are really from scammers.
- Scams & AI Voice Manipulation: Emotional ploys amplified by AI-generated voices pulled from social media.

 How to Spot a Suspicious Email

- Odd sender addresses (e.g., support@amaz0n.com).
- Urgent or threatening language ("Open invoice to avoid late charges").
- Unexpected attachments or links.
- Poor grammar or overuse of words like "kindly or urgently."
- Requests for personal info - especially those disguised as social media quizzes.

 How to Protect Yourself

- Think before you click: Hover over links to preview the destination.
- Verify the sender: Use known contact info - not what's in the email.
- Use strong, complex passwords containing upper and lower-case letters, numbers, and characters
- Never reuse passwords or test them on random websites.
- Enable Two-Factor Authentication (2FA) wherever possible.
- Keep software updated: This includes your PC, phone, router, and apps.

 Tools That Help

- Built-in spam filters (Gmail, Outlook)
- Antivirus software
- Password managers
- Email encryption for sensitive communications
- Training programs offered by your workplace or local government

Email security isn't just an IT issue - it's a community responsibility. By staying vigilant and informed, we can protect ourselves and each other from digital threats. Let's keep Redwood County safe, online and off.

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Redwood County

LinkedIn/
Redwood County-MN

GET TO KNOW YOUR LOCAL SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT!

Soil Conservation Districts were born in the United States out of the Dust Bowl of the 1930's. In 1937, the Minnesota Legislature passed an act giving citizens the power to form Soil Conservation Districts. Redwood Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) was started in 1953 to address citizen concerns about soil erosion from wind and water and its effect on water quality.

How is Redwood SWCD governed and operated?

The SWCD is a local unit of government, with a board of supervisors elected in county-wide elections to serve four-year terms of office. The current supervisors are Jeff Potter, Edward Carter, Joseph Plaetz, Brian Timm, and Rick Maurer. There is one supervisor from each of five nomination districts in the county.

Redwood SWCD has five staff members, including an administrator, administrative assistant, and three technical staff. SWCD Staff are available to assist with whole farm planning, specific erosion issues, project planning and implementation, technical questions, easement management, and general conservation questions and needs.

How is Redwood SWCD funded?

The Redwood SWCD manages 22 different grants through the Federal Government and the State of Minnesota amounting to over \$2,000,000 of grant funds. This amount is often supplemented by partnering with other agencies and groups, such as the Redwood Cottonwood Rivers Control Area, who have other sources of funding. The Redwood SWCD also works closely with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to plan and fund environmental projects.

What type of projects can Redwood SWCD fund?

Grant funds are used to provide cost-share and incentives to Redwood County farmers and landowners to engage in conservation practices. These projects include, but are not limited to, planting cover crops, no-till/strip tillage, and the construction of structures such as water and sediment control basins.

Over the years, Redwood SWCD has provided funds for over 600 water and sediment control basins and over 250 waterways. Annually, SWCD provides cost-sharing for over 12,000 acres of cover crops and over 8,000 acres of no-till/strip till in Redwood County.

Specific examples of recent grant programs include the Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture through the USDA and Virginia Tech, which paid \$100 per acre for conservation best management practices and is expected to bring around \$5 million to Redwood County farmers. Another is the Redwood Water and Sediment Control Basins Grant from the State of Minnesota which will provide \$335,279 for interested landowners to construct permanent erosion and sediment control structures along the Redwood River, preventing and controlling erosion in the fields and keeping sediment out of the river and lake.

How can Redwood SWCD assist me with a project?

For additional information, please call the Redwood SWCD Office at 507-637-2427, ext. 3 or check out the Redwood SWCD website at www.redwoodswcd.org.



Redwood County Recorder's Office
Government Center
403 South Mill Street, Redwood Falls



redwoodcounty-mn.us

INTERESTED IN STAYING UP
TO DATE WITH REDWOOD
COUNTY NEWS?

**SIGN UP FOR
EMAIL NOTICES**

redwoodcounty-mn.us



Redwood County Environmental Office Staff: Front row from left to right – Susie Terhaar, SWCD Administrative Assistant; Miranda Trebesch, SWCD Conservation Specialist; Grayson DeLay, NRCS Soil Conservationist; Shannon Gegner, NRCS Area Program Specialist; and Michaela Nelson, NRCS District Conservationist. Back row from left to right – Jeff Kjørness, NRCS Team Lead/District Conservationist; Brian Pfarr, SWCD Resource Specialist; Nick Brozek, SWCD District Administrator; and Kurt Mathiozewtz, SWCD Water Quality Technician

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT



Introduction: Hello, my name is Nick Klisch and I'm happy to be the new County Engineer in Redwood County. It has been quite busy at the Highway Department since my start here on July 28th, but the staff and county residents have been great! I live in Springfield with my wife, Raina and three children: Hewitt (4), Gannon (2), and Rooney (5 months). I was the Cottonwood

County Engineer/Public Works Director in Windom for the past 8 years. Prior to Cottonwood County, I worked for MnDOT in Marshall for almost 6 years as a Project Engineer.

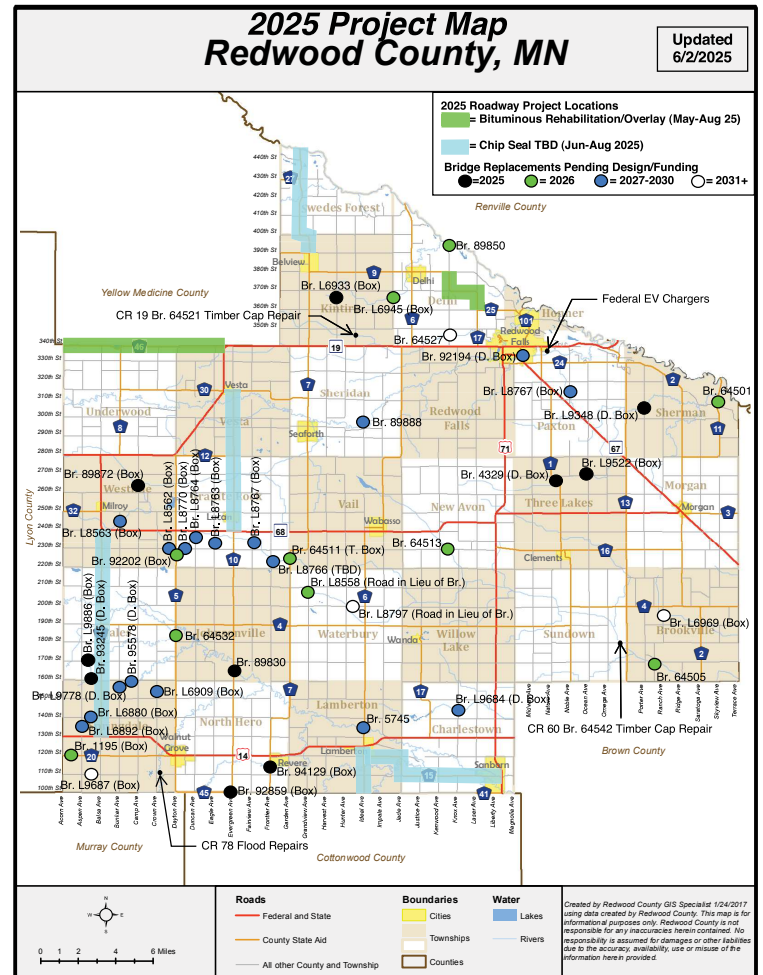
2025 Construction: 2025 Construction is wrapping up. The 3.4-mile mill and overlay on CSAH 17 from CSAH 25 to CSAH 9 is nearly complete. Only final cleanup and striping remain. Bridge 64602 on CSAH 10 about 4.5 miles north of Trunk Highway 14 is still under construction. Crews will be setting the beams soon with the project scheduled to be complete in late October. Projects completed in 2025 include a 4.5-mile mill and overlay on CSAH 45 on the Yellow Medicine County Line, the resurfacing of 6 bridge decks, and replacement of 9 bridges. Later this month crews will lift approach panels on a CSAH 17 Bridge about 1 mile north of Trunk Highway 19. The bridge is scheduled to be closed September 29-October 3rd. The work will provide a smoother ride on and off the bridge. Bridge 64521 on CSAH 19 about a half mile north of Trunk Highway 19 and Bridge 64542 on County Road 60 just west of CSAH 13 were both closed earlier this year when inspections found critical deficiencies. Due to material delays, these bridge repairs won't take place until late fall/early winter. Once the repairs are completed, the bridges will reopen to traffic.

2026 Construction: Highway staff are already gearing up for 2026 construction. A bank stabilization flood repair contract on County Road 78 near Plum Creek Park has already been awarded for 2026 construction. The Highway Department is also advertising a box culvert replacement/water retention project on CSAH 20 near the Lyon County line for bids to be constructed in 2026. In addition to the CSAH 20 structure, design plans and funding for eight additional bridges are being prepared (6 box culverts, and 2 span bridges). The Gold Mine Bridge on CSAH 17 over the Minnesota River is also scheduled to be advertised for bids in 2026, with construction beginning in 2027. Redwood County is working to partner with the City of Belview on a large project to begin in 2026 and be completed in 2027. The project will reconstruct CSAH 7 through Belview with all new storm sewer, sidewalk, curb and gutter, pavement, utilities, etc. The County Engineer is currently analyzing pavement conditions and needs throughout the county to determine if there will be any pavement resurfacing projects in 2026.

Maintenance Update: Another mild winter in 2024-2025 was appreciated. Pavement conditions in the County continue to improve from where they were several years ago, but crews still

patched about 50 miles of roadway to help extend the pavement life until resurfacing projects can be funded. Crews also crack filled about 50 miles of roadway this year, which occurred mostly in April & May. A more typical year would be around 40 miles of pavement crack filling. Crews seal coated 35 miles of roadway saving the County around \$100,000 vs. contracting this work out. The highway maintenance team has put a substantial effort into re-graveling roadways over the last four years averaging about 45,000 ton per year the last 4 years and about 27,000 ton this year. Currently, the team is gearing up for winter by blending and stockpiling salt/sand and mowing ditches to help prevent snow drifting.

Seasonal Help Wanted: All of the above work occurs due to the diligent and dedicated work of our 27-person Highway Department team and seasonal help. As of today, we are fully staffed, but we are always looking for seasonal help as well. If you are interested in working 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 team with construction inspection and surveying. Additional information like our five year construction plan can be found on our website: <https://redwoodcounty-mn.us/departments/highway-department/>, otherwise, do not hesitate to call our office at 507-637-4056.



COUNTY ASSESSOR NOTES

by Jesse Jacobson (SAMA)

Every November the Truth-In-Taxation (proposed taxes for the following year) notices are sent out to all taxable property owners. The estimated market value that is listed on these notices will match the estimated market value that you received last March on your valuation notice. Even though the value won't change it is best to also look at your homestead status. If a parcel is labeled as non-homestead on your TNT notice, but you feel or think that it should qualify for homestead status then feel free to contact the Assessor's office. Properties labeled non-homestead can be changed to homestead if they qualify and if an application is submitted to the Assessor's office by December 31st of 2025.

Residential Homestead:

Residential parcels can receive homestead if occupied by the owners or qualifying relatives of the owners. Qualifying relatives would include parents, stepparents, children, stepchildren, grandparents, grandchildren, siblings, aunts/uncles and nieces/nephews. To qualify for a residential relative homestead, the owner does not need to be a Minnesota resident, but the qualifying relative must be a Minnesota resident.

Special Agricultural Homestead:

The special agricultural homestead provision can be used to grant homestead status to the owners of ag land whose primary residence is not classified agricultural. To qualify, a yearly application is due by December 31st of each year (apply by December 31st, 2025, to homestead 2026 taxes).

Qualifications:

- Property must be classified as agricultural
- At least 40 acres in size
- Actively farmed by owner or the owner's child, grandchild, sibling, or parent.
- Owner and farmer need to live within four townships or cities of the agricultural property.
- Need to provide an application along with the FSA156 EZ forms pertaining to the property(s).

I also would like to note that homestead applications provided to our office after September will most likely not reflect on their November Truth-In-Taxation notice. Ultimately December 31st of 2025 is the deadline for applying for homestead for 2026 property taxes.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: How often does my property get viewed?

A: Properties in Minnesota are required to be viewed by an assessor on maximum intervals of 5 years (reference: MN Statute 273.08). Many jurisdictions in Redwood County however have a 4-year rotation. For instance, a standard township has a square 36 section boundary in which it works best to break it up into

quarters or 9 sections a year.

Q: What happens to someone's homestead if the owner is absent due to residence in a nursing home, boarding care facility, or elderly assisted living facility?

A: A residence will continue to receive homestead status as long as the residence is not occupied by anyone else other than the owners.

Note: The homestead should remain on the property if the owner of the property is required by the Department of Human Services to rent out the property to pay for the cost of care received in a nursing home.

Q: When do tax-exempt parcels go taxable once sold?

A: When a tax-exempt parcel is conveyed to a non-exempt individual or entity after July 1st, it will then stay tax-exempt for the following payable year. If the parcel gets conveyed prior to July 1st it, then becomes taxable for the following payable year.

Q: Am I paying taxes on the road and road ditch that are on my property?

A: No, there are many rural parcels in the townships that lie adjacent to the middle of the road. No value is tied to any acres of land that is within the easement of the road which may vary in size depending on whether it's a township, county or state road.

just a reminder
PROPERTY TAXES

**SECOND HALF AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY TAXES
DUE: NOVEMBER 17, 2025**

Redwood County allows property tax payments by ACH. Currently Redwood County is accepting ACH forms for the 2026 tax payment year. Property tax payments will be automatically deducted on the tax due date from your checking or savings account according to the property tax statement's due date. Please call or visit the A/T webpage below and look for [Property Tax ACH Information](#) link to obtain the form.

In the Spring of each year, you will receive a property tax statement which will show "TAXES PAID BY ACH" on the payment stub. This will be your only reminder. If your bank account does not have the proper funds to make payment on the due date, a penalty will be charged.

Questions? Contact Redwood County
Auditor/Treasurer Office at (507) 637-4013
Monday - Friday 8 am - 4:30 pm



LOCAL HOUSING TRUST FUND ESTABLISHED

The Redwood County Economic Development Authority (EDA) is proud to announce the creation of a new Housing Trust Fund to support housing development and rehabilitation across our communities. Funded through the Statewide Affordable Housing Aid program, this initiative will offer low-interest loans for:

- New construction and redevelopment
- Rental property rehabilitation
- Owner-occupied home improvements

This new program is made possible by the Statewide Affordable Housing Aid program, a funding allocation to all counties in the state, to address local

housing needs. Due to the funding requirements, the first allocation of funds must be spent before December 31, 2025, or transferred to a local Housing Trust Fund. By establishing this Housing Trust Fund, Redwood County can retain these funds to invest in local housing projects for years to come. This effort aligns with recommendations from the 2024 Redwood County Housing Study, which identified the trust fund as a key strategy for expanding and improving housing options. For more information on this funding program, or to start the application process, please reach out to Grady Holtberg, Redwood County Economic Development Coordinator, at 507-637-1122 or grady_h@redwoodcounty-mn.gov

RURAL ADDRESS SIGNS

If your blue address sign is lost or damaged, please contact Chris Burchfield at 507-637-4023 or the Redwood County Highway Department at 507-637-4056 for a replacement. Visible and easily readable address signs help emergency responders locate building sites.



For more information on this funding program, or to start the application process, please reach out to Grady Holtberg, Redwood County Economic Development Coordinator, at 507-637-1122 or grady_h@redwoodcounty-mn.gov

REDWOOD COUNTY RURAL CHILD CARE INNOVATION PROGRAM (RCCIP)

The RCCIP, funded and organized by First Children's Finance of Minnesota, supports rural communities in addressing childcare shortages through tailored, sustainable solutions that expand access to high-quality, affordable care while strengthening existing businesses. In February 2025, First Children's Finance conducted a detailed analysis estimating a need for approximately 201 additional childcare slots for children under the age of five in Redwood County. Within six months of this analysis being completed, four childcare providers in the county have left the field, raising the estimated need to over 240 spots, which only continues to grow. Since April of this year, a local core team of community members with diverse backgrounds from all areas of the county has worked diligently alongside First Children's Finance to gather further insights into the childcare environment of Redwood County. This core team has been collecting in-depth information through surveys, interviews, provider events, and other community engagement efforts to gain a better understanding of the specific challenges and opportunities surrounding childcare in Redwood County.

The findings of the surveys and these efforts will be shared at a Town Hall meeting on October 28, 2025, at the Redwood Area Community Center at 5:30 pm. We invite all community members to attend the presentation on the survey findings and collaborate

on innovative strategies to support childcare providers and address the shortage. There is no cost to attend the Town Hall, and the event includes a free meal! For more information about or to inquire about joining the Redwood County RCCIP core team, please reach out to Grady Holtberg, Economic Development Coordinator at 507-637-1122 or by email: grady_h@co.redwood.mn.us.



Rural Child Care Innovation Program

REDWOOD COUNTY CHILD CARE TOWN HALL

presented by:



First Children's Finance

Join us for a Community Child Care Town Hall to learn about the current state of child care in Redwood County. First Children's Finance, in partnership with local community members, has gathered data and community input to better understand the local child care landscape and its challenges. Be part of the conversation to explore innovative solutions that support the local child care workforce and address the community's child care shortage.

This event is free & dinner is included!

Register with the QR Code:



or with the link: [Redwood County Town Hall](#)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2025

Redwood Area Community Center

901 E Cook St

Redwood Falls, MN 56283

5:30pm - Dinner

6:00pm - Presentation

Registration deadline is *October 14th!*

Funding provided by:  DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES  SOUTHWEST INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

REAL ID IN FULL EFFECT

REAL ID/DL'S ARE TAKING 3-4 WEEKS & ENHANCED ID/DL'S ARE TAKING 2 MONTHS TO COME BACK TO YOU IN THE MAIL

Only certain documents are accepted for the license. Check out our website or stop in for a list of acceptable documents



If you already have the REAL ID and need to change address, you will need 2 NEW proofs of address listing your new address. The new proof can ONLY be certain documents.

Small list of documents would include these below and no older than 90 days:

- Utility bill
- Bank statement
- Minnesota Property Tax statement
- Filed property deed
- Residential lease agreement
- Mortgage documents
- Employee pay stub with your name and current address, employer name, address, & phone number

License Center is open for Driver's License from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 pm. Enhanced ends at 3:45 pm



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

“We are all longing to go home; to a place we have never been, a place half remembered and half envisioned that we can catch glimpses of from time to time. Community. Somewhere, there are people to whom we can speak with passion without having the words catch in our throats. Somewhere a circle of hands will open to receive us, eyes will light up as we enter the room, and voices will celebrate with us whenever we come into our own power. Community means strength that joins our strength, to do the work that needs to be done. Arms to hold us when we falter. A circle of healing, a circle of friends. Somewhere where we can be free.”

Redwood County Restorative Justice is a response to wrongdoing within our community that prioritizes repairing the harm caused and recognizes that maintaining positive relationships with others is a core human need. It seeks to address the root causes of harmful actions taken on another person, community and oneself. Restorative justice is a process to involve, to the extent possible, those who have a stake in a specific offense and to collectively identify and address harms, needs, and obligations, in order to heal and put things as right as possible (Howard Zehr).

In facilitating these conversations to address the harms caused, issues, and support needed in our community we use the Circle Process; an indigenous way to communicate our concerns, goals, and solutions in a respectful and holistic way with all involved. The Circle Process is a storytelling process. Everyone has a story and every story has a lesson. In this process we connect with one another in a good way to work on the solutions we need to repair the harms and unite together to do better.

This is an invitation for you to join the number of Circles that we currently have; The Family & Community Circle and Circle Sentencing. We welcome anyone that would like to support change, to repair the harm caused, and to celebrate the good achieved within our community.

If you would like more information on the days and times of the Community Circles, what the intentions of the different Circles are, or if you need a space for support you can reach Eric Johnson (Restorative Justice Coordinator) at 507-637-1139 or Eric_J@RedwoodCounty-MN.gov and I will discuss more about the Circle Process and answer any questions.

“A healthy social life is found only, when in the mirror of each soul the whole community finds its reflection, and when in the whole community the virtue of each one is living.” Rudolf Steiner



NEW FEDERAL REGULATIONS FOR CDL HOLDERS:

EVERY TIME you come in and are renewing your license or you lost it and we are applying for a duplicate; you will need to bring in (1) Proof of Domicile Presence and (2) Proof of residence.

Proof of Domicile Presence

- U.S. Birth Certificate/U.S. Territory Birth Certificate
- U.S. Passport Book/Card
- Form I-551, MRIV for Permanent Resident only
- Certificate of Naturalization (N-550, N-570, or N-578)
- Temporary I-551 Stamp (on passport or I-94)
- Certificate of Citizenship (N-560, N-561, or N-645)
- Report or certificate of birth abroad (FS-545, DS-1350, FS-240)
- I-551 Permanent Resident Card



Proof of Residency

- Employment Pay Stub
- Home Utility Service Bill: Gas, Electric, Garbage, Water
- Current Military Orders
- MN Property Tax Statement (current year)
- MN Vehicle Certificate of Title (within past year)
- Mortgage Document/Purchase Agreement
- Residential Lease Agreement (current)
- W-2 Form (for prior tax year)



REDWOOD COUNTY RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

CIRCLE SCHEDULE



interested in volunteering?

GIVE US A CALL!
(507) 637-1139



redwoodcounty-mn.us/
departments/restorative-justice



RURAL RECYCLING SITES SEE UPGRADES

Wind! It's often said that "the best time to plant a tree was five years ago," reminding us of the importance of starting sooner rather than later. Living in Southwest Minnesota, there are very few days when we have any reprieve from the wind.

Overseeing the county recycling program, the Redwood/Renville Regional Solid Waste Authority (RRRSWA) understands what a nuisance the wind can be. Often times our largest number of trash related complaints come on windy days. Unfortunately, it seems like the windiest days are the days when West Central Sanitation Inc., is collecting and dumping recyclables into their trucks, recycling from either Redwood County's in-town or rural township recycling sites.

To help reduce the amount of "trash blowing" related complaints at the rural recycling sites, the RRRSWA partnered with the Chippewa County Soil & Water Conservation District to assist in establishing tree plantings or a "living windbreak" schedule. With their help, our hope is to reduce the wind related issue coming from the southwest and northwest sides of the rural township recycling site locations.

Underwood Township, located in western Redwood County, is the first site to receive

such an upgrade. It was chosen for its lack of wind protection and the number of hours spent by its township officials picking up flying recyclables, as well as the number of trash complaints received from its wind-related days throughout the year. The RRRSWA intends to annually review and evaluate each of the rural township recycling sites, including sites located in urban and rural settings. Our goal is to eventually upgrade each site with a living windbreak, thus reducing complaints and keeping the recycling where it belongs...in the collection truck and not on surrounding properties! If you are interested in additional information on re-establishing your grove or simply establishing a living windbreak in 2026, we encourage you to contact Zach Bothun, District Manager or Tom Sletta, District Technician at the Chippewa County Soil & Water Conservation District at 320-269-2693 to help set up your individual plan. The best time to do this is between December and February and to finalize your tree ordering by March 15th.



Photo (L to R): Chippewa County Soil & Water Conservation District staff Tom Sletta, District Technician, and Zach Bothun, District Manager, pose by a newly planted "living windbreak."



Photo: A newly planted "living windbreak" at the Underwood Township Rural Recycling Site.

Need to dispose of old Holiday* Lights? Drop off sites located :

The Market - Redwood Falls	Wabasso City Office Building
Wanda State Bank	Morgan City Office Building
Runnings Store	Belview City Office Building
Redwood Falls City Office Building	Walnut Grove City Office Building
Recycling Facility in Redwood Falls**	
**Please do NOT put them in your recycling cart or rural recycling collection box	

- *Holiday lights can include decorative string lights from the following holidays (and more!):**
- ♦ Valentines Day
 - ♦ Easter
 - ♦ Halloween
 - ♦ Christmas
 - ♦ St. Patrick's Day
 - ♦ Independence Day
 - ♦ Thanksgiving

- The following holiday items are NOT recyclable through our program:**
- ♦ Wreaths
 - ♦ Wire lawn decorations (deer, snowmen, etc.)
 - ♦ Christmas trees
 - ♦ Jack-o-lanterns (real OR artificial)

Redwood/Renville Regional Solid Waste Authority:

507-637-1800

OR

320-523-8002



Redwood County Feedlot Owners

Feedlots in Minnesota are required by rule to register with the State once during a four-year period. The current registration cycle ends on December 31, 2025.

Required actions:

- By January 1, 2026, update your facility's registration through the MPCA Online Services portal using one of the following methods:
 - Go to <https://webapp.pca.state.mn.us/services/login>; or
 - Scan the QR code with your smartphone below and follow the link.



Additional information regarding feedlot registration can be found at: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/business-with-us/feedlot-registration>.

- For questions/assistance related to setting up an account/password reset, please contact **e-Services** at 1-844-828-0942.
- For questions/assistance related to filling out the online registration from, information that is prepopulated, or other registration related items, please contact **Jason Kaare** at 1-507-735-8584.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR REPLACING SEPTIC SYSTEMS

County Loan Program

Redwood County offers a loan to replace prohibited or failing septic systems. Payments on this loan are assessed on your property taxes.

You must have enough equity in your house to cover the cost of the loan and have no outstanding taxes due.

Interest Rate: 4%
Term: 5 or 10 years

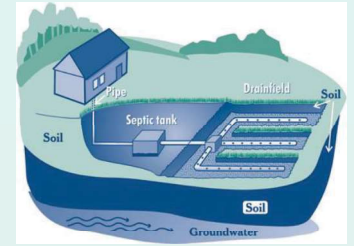
Other Loan Fees
\$115 septic permit
\$110 administration fee
\$46 recording fee

Low Income Grant Program

The Redwood County Environmental Office has a Low-Income Grant program which will cover up to 75% of the cost to replace a prohibited or failing septic system.

Limited funds are available and will be awarded on a first come, first served basis.

To Qualify:
Taxable household income must not exceed 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.



Indicators your septic system is failing:

- Backup of sewage in the home
- Decreased drain flow
- Unpleasant odors in the home
- High solids accumulation in tank
- Water accumulating in drain field
- Extremely vibrant patches of green vegetation on your drain field
- Sewage smell outside the house

IF YOU HAVE NOT PUMPED YOUR SEPTIC TANK IN THE LAST 10 YEARS, CHANCES ARE HIGH THAT YOUR SYSTEM IS FAILING.



Now Available from Redwood County Environmental Office:
Rain Barrels and Compost Bins

\$90*
* plus sales tax = \$96.64



45-gallon capacity

\$76*
* plus sales tax = \$81.61



125-gallon capacity

Made from 100% recycled plastic!



Coming Soon to a Smart Phone Near You – RRRSWA Text Alert Notifications!

Do you love it when your doctor, dentist, hairdresser, or massage therapist sends you a text reminder for your upcoming appointment? Well, we have great news! Soon, residents of Redwood and Renville Counties will have the ability to receive text notifications about matters related to garbage, recycling, landfill, household hazardous waste, and other solid waste topics.

Starting January 2026, The Redwood/Renville Regional Solid Waste Authority (RRRSWA) will begin utilizing TextMyGov to remind residents to put their carts out for their scheduled curbside collection. We will also use it to notify you of any delays or schedule changes for curbside recycling pickup such as weather delays, truck breakdowns, or changes to the collection schedule due to holidays or other events.

The RRRSWA will have the ability to notify residents of special events like the appliance/electronics collections, tire collections and even chemical jug collection events, so you never miss another opportunity! Even if you are not a curbside recycler, we will use this same platform to alert residents who use the rural drop sites of any changes that may take place.

Residents who need assistance signing up for this program can call the RRRSWA office at 507-637-1800 or 320-523-8002, and we will help you set it up on your phone.



Please keep an eye on the website - www.renvillecountymn.gov/rrrswwa - for more information. We look forward to improving our ability to immediately communicate with you or alert you when unforeseen changes occur.

TextMyGov

Text us to find information or report issues!

Get answers to questions or sign up for alerts.

[Learn more](#)



Redwood County Connection
 Redwood County Government Center
 403 S Mill St
 PO Box 130
 Redwood Falls, MN 56283

PRST STD
 ECRWSS
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 PERMIT #20

Local Postal Customer

Contacts

Administration	637-4016
Assessor	637-4008
Attorney Office	637-4010
Auditor/Treasurer	637-4013
Court Administration	616-4800
Economic Dev.	637-1122
Emergency Mgmt.	637-4035
Environmental	637-4023
Extension	637-4025
Highway Dept.	637-4056
Human Services	637-4050
License Center	637-4029
Public Health	637-4041
Probation Office	637-4047
RRRSWA	637-1800
Recorder	637-4032
Restorative Justice	637-1139
Sheriff's Office	637-4036
Technology/IT	637-4016
Veteran's Office	637-4034
~ ~ ~	
Commissioners	
Rick Wakefield	859-2369
Jim Salfer	342-2431
Dennis Groebner	692-2235
Bob VanHee	616-1000
Corey Theis	430-4150

1. Open Camera on your smartphone
2. Scan Code (no need to take a picture)
3. Click on yellow bar/box



Curbside Schedule - Redwood County January - December 2026

Jan 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Feb 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Mar 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Apr 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Jun 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Morgan-Clements-Sanborn-Wanda
RF Zone 1 - Morton - Franklin
Milroy-Walnut Grove-Revere-Lamberton-Lucan-Seaforth-Wabasso
RF Zone 2 - Vesta - Belview - Delhi
Holiday - No Service
Remainder of the week will be a day later

RECYCLE

Plastic containers - #s 1, 2 & 5. Must be removed from bags - No Styrofoam, No bags, No toys, No pools, No siding, No PVC pipe, No pesticide containers, No herbicide containers. PLEASE LEAVE CAPS ON BOTTLES.

RECYCLE

Steel and Aluminum - Food and beverage cans aluminum foil, pie pans and aerosol cans (must be empty). No food remaining - empty and clean. No need to remove labels on food cans.

RECYCLE

Glass - *Single Use, clear, green and brown bottles and jars (food and beverage containers only.) No need to remove labels. No light bulbs, mirrors, ceramics or dishes. Must be empty and clean. *Canning jars are not acceptable.

RECYCLE

Paper - Newspaper, junk mail, paperbacks, catalogs, phone books, envelopes (including windowed) and office paper. Do Not bundle or tie - place in cart loosely

RECYCLE

Cardboard - (folded flat) Brown paper grocery bags, boxboard (cereal, cracker, pasta and shoe boxes). No packing foam. No waxed cardboard. No furnace filters. No egg cartons of any kind.

Plastic Bags/Film Plastic: Please purchase and utilize reusable grocery bags, ask for paper or have your groceries loaded loosely into your cart. Do NOT place bags or other film plastic into your recycling container.

Shredded Paper: Please utilize our shredding service, which is FREE for personal papers, nominal fee for businesses. IF you shred your own paper, please bag it and bring it to the office located at the RRRMRF in Redwood Falls.



Good Neighbors You've Come To Trust
 4089 Abbott Drive · P.O. Box 796 · Willmar, MN 56201
Good Neighbors You've Come To Trust
 1-800-246-7630 · FAX 320-235-5715

Telephone:
 (507) 637-1800
 (320) 523-8002

Jul 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Aug 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Sep 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Oct 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Nov 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Dec 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					