

Courthouse Security in Redwood County: Personal Safety and Public Space

Recent incidents in Minnesota County courts and nationally suggest that norms for courtroom behavior are eroding, heightening security risks facing judges, court personnel, and public visitors to the courthouse. What response is necessary, who pays, and how can we reconcile the need for personal safety with the public character of the courts? That is the multi-million dollar question facing the Redwood County Commissioners.

POP QUIZ: To enter a county courthouse in Minnesota, you must:
A-Empty your pockets, walk through a permanent metal detector, and possibly take off your shoes and belt
B-Allow a security staffer to check for metal objects using a wand, depending on the kind of case being heard
C-Walk through the front door



It's a trick question: All depends on where the courthouse is. The state of courthouse security in Minnesota is governed by local funding and public policy decisions, leaving some with tight security, some with spotty security, and some with almost none at all.

The Redwood County Commissioners, law enforcement, and court personnel all take the issue seriously. It's not just the judges at risk; it's everyone in the courtroom-the public, jurors, witnesses, everyone who works there. The risk is there all the time and it's a huge issue that involves money.

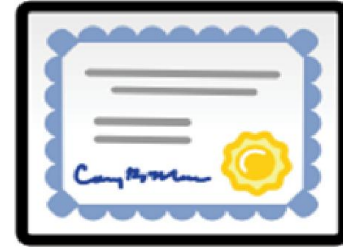
While the state has funded court administration since 2005, each county is responsible for the actual courthouse building and its security, which includes: equipment, such as metal detectors; personnel, such as sheriff's deputies to staff and kind of security checkpoint; and training for those personnel. These costs all come out of the county's general revenue fund.

In November, 2016, the Commissioners hired Wold Architects and Engineers to outline a project including upgrades to the Courthouse to improve security and court operations. This would provide space to allow proper separation of parties, secure holding for Courts that is separate from public, improve security and function for courthouse users and modernize the 1890's facility and courtrooms. Based upon these needs, the budget has been presented to the Board with a price tag of \$3.6 million. Security at what price? The Board is challenged with securing a 125 year old courthouse to modern day needs without the availability of unlimited funds. Not an easy task; but extremely important for the citizens of Redwood County and the Board is determined to find a solution.

REDWOOD COUNTY RECORDER'S OFFICE

NEED A DEED TO YOUR HOUSE?

The Recorder's Office files and records all real estate documents as permanent records such as a copy of the deed to your house or any other real estate document.



NEED YOUR BIRTH CERTIFICATE OR MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE?

We can also issue certified copies of vital records. You may obtain a certified copy of your birth certificate or marriage certificate. You may need these documents to renew your driver's license or apply for a passport. If you were born in the State of Minnesota, we will be able to issue you a certified copy of your birth certificate from the statewide system maintained by the MN Department of Health. The fee is \$26 and requires proof of identity along with a short application. You may access this application with the following link:

http://www.redwoodcounty-mn.us/County_Departments/Recorder/Birth_Certificate.pdf

If you applied for your marriage license in Redwood County, you will be able to purchase a certified copy of your marriage certificate for \$9. If you can't recall where you applied for the marriage license follow the link to a statewide indexing system for marriages: <https://www.moms.mn.gov/>

This system is called Minnesota Official Marriage System (MOMS) and is easy to navigate for searching where your marriage certificate is recorded.

The Recorder's Office is located in the Government Center at 403 South Mill Street, Redwood Falls. Please feel free to contact the Redwood County Recorder's office with any questions you may have regarding your real estate or vital records needs at (507) 637-4032.

2017 Redwood County Commissioners



From left to right:
Dennis Groebner (District 3), Dave Forkrud (District 5),
Lon Walling (District 1), Bob VanHee (District 4) and
Jim Salfter (District 2).



Taking Oath of Office on January 3, 2017

County Board of Appeal and Equalization

The process of Valuation and Classification begins each year with the County Assessor's Office placing a value and a classification on each parcel located in Redwood County as of January 2nd. The values for 2017 were based on sales that occurred during the sales study period of 10-01-15 through 9-30-16.

In March 2017 the Valuation Notices were mailed to each property owner informing them of the current value and classification for the 2017 assessment (that will be used for property taxes in 2018) along with their 2017 property tax statement. The back side of the valuation notice contains all the information for a property owner if they believe the classification or valuation is not correct. The Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meetings are held during the month of April. The date and time of this meeting is listed on the front side of the form.

On June 20th the County Board of Appeal and Equalization will be held at the Redwood County Government Center at 6:00 p.m. The County Board of Appeal and Equalization is the meeting for any property owner who attended their Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting to contest either their estimated market value or classification of the property they own and disagree with the decision of the Local Board.

You must have presented your case to the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization before appealing to the County Board of Appeal and Equalization. You will need to call 507-637-4016 for an appointment.

Need a fishing license? Or to renew your tabs?

The License Center can take care of all your licensing needs right here in Redwood County. Doing your licensing here keeps your tax dollars in your community. This includes all your Driver's Licenses/State ID, motor vehicle tab renewals, title transfers as well as DNR and Fish and Game Licenses.



What is going on with the Real ID? The TSA has granted Minnesota an extension to comply with the Real ID Act until January 2018. Your Minnesota Driver's license allows you to fly domestically until that date. We do not know what will happen at our State Capitol this session or if Minnesota will be granted another extension by the Federal Government.

What Identification Do I Need for Travel?

- Passport Book (for international or domestic travel)
- Passport Card (this allows you access to and departure from Canada and Mexico via land or sea. The Passport Card is also sufficient to fly domestically after January 2018)
- Enhanced Driver's License allows re-entry into the United States via land and sea from Canada, Mexico, Bermuda or the Caribbean. Currently needed for Federal buildings. (this license is not available in Redwood County)
- Real ID – not available in Minnesota yet.
- Minnesota Driver's License – Allows you to fly domestically until January 2018.
- Minnesota Identification Card – Identification for those who do not drive and currently allows you to fly domestically.

The Administration Office can process your passport applications. They are located just down the hall from the License Center.

Redwood County Online Mapping Demonstration

Redwood County would like to invite you to an open house demonstration of our new Beacon online GIS platform: It is similar to Google Earth, but with local data updated regularly.



Date: April 24th

Time: 7:00pm—8:00pm

Location: Redwood Falls Library

Why should I attend?

The need to access local government information often occurs outside of normal office hours. The ability to access Redwood County information such as property boundaries, sales, taxes, drainage ditch tile, DNR buffers, and much more from your home, business, or in the field via computer, tablet, or any mobile device is now available through Beacon™.

What is Beacon™?

Beacon™ is an easy to use interactive online geographic information system (GIS) mapping interface which allows users to view Redwood County spatial information overlaid on ultra-high resolution aerial photography better than Google Earth. Beacon™ also includes a wide range of tools to help you identify and analyze information, print out property information reports, and create annotated aerial maps of your farm land, hunting land, recreation area, construction area or any other area of interest that you would like to have a colored map with information.

A new integration to Redwood County's Beacon™ side is LandShark. LandShark is a subscription based comprehensive land record management system used by the Redwood County Recorder's Office that gives you the ability to look up recorded documents related to a piece of property.

Who can benefit from using Beacon™?

This information is all available to the public for free with advanced subscription options that can improve business efficiency and functionality for all citizens, including but not limited to: Farmers, Business Owners, Real-estate firms, Attorneys, Surveyors, Financial Services, Contractors, Utility Companies, Marketing, etc.



Ways to Access Redwood County GIS

<http://www.co.redwood.mn.us/>

· Click the "Beacon Online GIS" button on the home page

<http://beacon.schneidercorp.com/>

· Use the dropdown menus to select Redwood

Future training session will be set up for those that are interested, training sessions will also be made available on Redwood Connect: <http://www.econdev.radc.org/radc/redwoodconnect>

Zoning and Solid Waste Ordinance Updates

Redwood County will be updating its Zoning and Solid Waste ordinances in 2017. Many of the ordinances are over 20 years old and are in need of updating to reflect changes in Redwood County during that time. Each ordinance will be closely looked at to determine whether or not changes will be beneficial. Additionally, the ordinances will be compared to neighboring counties' ordinances to see how Redwood compares to other counties. The update will include reformatting and organizing the ordinances to remove repetitive sections and inconsistencies and generally make them easier for the public to use.

Public hearings will be held to discuss potential changes and gather public input. Dates and times of public hearings have not yet been set. When the meeting dates and times are determined, they will be published in the Redwood Gazette and other local newspapers. Please feel free to contact the Environmental Office for more information about the ordinance update process.

Permit Reminder

Residents and property owners in Redwood County should remember to contact the Environmental Office prior to starting any construction projects. County staff will be able to tell you whether or not a permit is needed for your project, and can direct you to any other agency that you may need a permit from. It's always easier to get everything together up front and avoid the need to halt or change your project after it's already begun. Environmental Office staff make every attempt to process permits quickly and without delay, but please contact us in the early stages of planning and don't wait until you are ready to start construction. Some types of permit have mandatory waiting periods before they can be approved. We look forward to hearing from you.

Septic Loan and Grant Programs

Low-interest septic loans and low-income septic grants are available to qualifying property owners in Redwood County. Please contact the Redwood County Soil and Water Conservation District Office or the Redwood County Environmental Office to see if you qualify!

Contact information:

Redwood County Environmental: (507) 637-4023

Redwood County Solid Waste: (507) 637-1800

Redwood County Soil and Water: (507) 637-2427

Redwood County Property Tax Payment Options:

The first half property taxes are due and payable May 15, 2017. All payments sent in by mail must be POSTMARKED and all payments made on line must be DATED no later than May 15, 2017, to be accepted without penalty.

Redwood County has made available a fast, convenient, hassle-free way to pay your property tax payments with the Direct Payment Plan. With this convenient program, you can have your property tax payment automatically deducted from your checking or savings account at your financial institution on a semi-annual or annual basis. To obtain a form, please call the Auditor/Treasurer Department at 507-637-4013 or visit <http://www.redwoodcounty-mn.us>.

A tax payment drop box located on the north side of the Government Center has been added for after hour payments.

Credit card payments are accepted on-line.

Visit <http://www.redwoodcounty-mn.us> and go to "Redwood County Tax Parcel Information" to make a payment.

Plum Creek Park Photo Contest!!!

We are looking for your best pictures of Plum Creek Park. All pictures that are taken within the park are welcome. Pictures can be of people, wildlife, landscapes, etc.

Rules:

- Photos must be submitted by 5:00 pm on 12/1/17
- Pictures must have been taken at Plum Creek Park
- You can submit up to 3 photos per person
- Photos from any year can be submitted
- Photos must be submitted digitally to environmental@co.redwood.mn.us
- Include your name, address and phone number when submitting photos



Winning picture of the 2016 photo contest take by Heather Rudynski

Grand Prize

- A framed print of your picture
- Your photo will be kept on display in the main office for years to come
- 2 free nights of camping

** You will be responsible for securing a camping reservation.



2017 Overnight Camping Rates

Primitive - \$17.50

Electric Only - \$22.50

Electric, water and sewer - \$25.00

Call ahead for reservations: (507) 859-2005

PULL THE PLUG ON AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS

Actions Required by MN Law

to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species:

- ✓ **Clean** aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other prohibited invasive species off watercraft, trailers, and equipment before leaving the water access.
- ✓ **Drain** water from boat, ballast tanks, portable bait container, and motor before leaving a water access – *and* drain bilge, livewell, and baitwell by removing drain plugs. **Keep drain plugs out** while transporting boats.
- ✓ **Dispose** of unwanted bait in the trash. It is illegal to release live bait into the water, or to dump worms on the ground.



mndnr.gov/ais
© 2014 MNDNR



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**



KNOW THE LAW:

You may not...

- Transport watercraft without removing the drain plug.
- Arrive at lake access with drain plug in place.
- Transport aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or other prohibited species on any roadway.
- Launch a watercraft with prohibited species attached.
- Transport water from Minnesota lakes or rivers.
- Release bait into the water.

PENALTIES:

- Transport aquatic plants, except as allowed in statutes (\$100 civil penalty or misdemeanor)
- Transport zebra mussels and other prohibited species of animals (\$500 civil penalty or misdemeanor)
- Place or attempt to place into waters of the state a boat, seaplane, or trailer that has aquatic plants (\$200 civil penalty) zebra mussels, or other prohibited invasive species attached (\$500 civil penalty or misdemeanor)
- Transport of water in boats or water related equipment from (\$100 civil penalty or misdemeanor)

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

Spray, rinse, dry — Some invasive species are small and difficult to see at the access. To remove or kill them, take one or more of the following precautions before moving to another waterbody, especially after leaving zebra mussel and spiny waterflea infested waters:

- Spray with high-pressure water
- Rinse with very hot water: 120°F for at least 2 minutes; or 140°F for at least 10 seconds.
- Dry for at least 5 days
- Run motor and personal watercraft for a few seconds to discharge water before leaving a water access.



Redwood County Connection

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

PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MARSHALL, MN
PERMIT NO. 20

Local Postal Customer

Contacts

Administration	637-4016
Assessor	637-4008
Attorney Office	637-4010
Auditor/Treasurer	637-4013
Court Administration	637-4018
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
Recorder	637-4032
Recycling Facility	637-1800
Restorative Justice	637-1139
Sheriff's Office	637-4036
Veteran's Office	637-4034

Commissioners

Lon Walling	747-2175
Jim Salfer	342-2431
Dennis Groebner	692-2235
Bob VanHee	616-1000
Dave Forkrud	978-2869

Redwood County Recycling

Curbside Recycling:

A detailed recycling schedule can be found on the website at:
http://www.renvillecountymn.com/RRRMRF/2017%20Recycling%20Schedule_Redwood.pdf

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW):

Household products that can present a hazard to our health and our environment when not properly used, stored, and disposed of, are considered Household Hazardous Waste. The Redwood County HHW Facility accepts hazardous materials from both Redwood and Renville County residents for NO CHARGE.

For more information about acceptable items and drop off schedule go to:
http://www.renvillecountymn.com/RRRMRF/HHW_2017.pdf

E-Waste & Appliance Collections

**First Wednesday of each month from April through October from 2-6pm
located behind the Redwood County Museum.
Collection is for Redwood and Renville County residents only.**

Free Electronics: CPU's, computer mouse, cell phones, radios, keyboards, VCR's, Speakers, iPods, cameras, GPS Units, CD Players, etc.

Free Appliances: Washers, Dryers, Dehumidifiers, Grills, Water Softeners, Stoves, household refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, etc.

There is a cost of \$20.00 for T.V.'s, laptops or anything with a screen.
\$10.00 for scanners, printers, copiers and fax machines, DVD player, VCRs.
\$50.00 for RV Refrigerators
**Prices MAY be subject to change.

Questions? Call S.W. Recycling 1-800-366-8665