

# Redwood County Connection

Vol. 2, No. 1

The Official Newsletter of Redwood County

Fall Edition 2017

## Greetings!

My name is Briana Mumme and I recently joined the Redwood County Team as your Economic Development Coordinator. I am originally from the Twin Cities, however moved to the area about eight years ago, where my husband Matthew and I are raising our two children. As a life-long volunteer, with a genuine passion to serve others; I am committed to the growth of our County with drive and enthusiasm!



## WHAT IS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT?

Economic Development can have many definitions, Redwood County defines it as: A process that influences growth and restructuring of an economy to enhance and improve the economic well-being of a community through efforts that entail job creation and job retention, tax base enhancements and quality of life.

Areas of focus will include:

- Workforce
- Business Retention and Expansion
- Business Recruitment
- Child Care
- Broadband
- Marketing

Feel free to contact me at 507-637-1122 or via email at [briana\\_m@co.redwood.mn.us](mailto:briana_m@co.redwood.mn.us).

I look forward to serving the County!

## A.C.E. of SW MN Redwood County Office has Moved!

Many of you have probably heard that Johnson Park Place Assisted Living where the A.C.E. office has been located recently closed its doors. Our office has moved to the Redwood County Courthouse at 250 South Jefferson St in Redwood Falls.

You can find our office by entering the double doors on the east side of the courthouse. You can climb the steps or to the right you will find an elevator that will bring you up to the second floor. Our office is the first door on the right. Many of you will remember this as the place where the license bureau was located in days past. We are still busy unpacking but we hope you will stop by to visit when you are downtown Redwood Falls.



The good news is that our telephone number remains the same:

507-627-1016 and our e-mail address will not change.

[ace.redwood@co.redwood.mn.us](mailto:ace.redwood@co.redwood.mn.us)

BUT our new mailing address has changed to:

Box 130, Redwood Falls, MN 56283. Our fax number has changed to:

507-637-1381.



# Redwood Soil & Water Conservation District

## **BUFFER UPDATE:**

Reminder: Buffers on Public Waters need to be established by November 1, 2017. Minimum 16 ½ foot buffers on ditches need to be established by November 1, 2018.

Two items that came about from the 2017 Legislative session that can impact individuals who have to install a buffer.

1) Current deadline for Public Waters buffers to be established is November 1, 2017. If you have a justifiable reason why the area can't be established by this date, you need to request an extension from the SWCD office.

2) The legislature authorized cost share funds to assist with the establishment of the buffers. You must also apply for these funds. Funds will be available on a first come first serve basis, but must be applied for before March 1, 2018.

## **NITRATE TESTING**

Redwood SWCD has a nitrate testing machine on loan from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture located in our office.

We are offering everyone in the county the opportunity to have water tested for nitrates. The machine is accurate; however, the test results are not certified.

Samples can be from groundwater, surface water or out of a tile line. The results are kept confidential. Water samples must be tested within 24 hours of collecting. Any clean glass or plastic bottles are the best containers used to collect the sample. Plastic whirl bags or plastic bags with a zip lock are also acceptable.

You need to call Redwood SWCD office prior to sampling to check whether a technician will be available to analyze your samples due to sampling needing to be completed within 24 hours of collection.

## **WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**

The Water Quality Certification Program is a program that provides farmers an opportunity to take the lead in implementing practices that protect our water resources.

Producers who execute and maintain good farm management practices will be certified and receive regulatory certainty for 10 years.

Producers who participate will achieve the following benefits:

- Help protect and improve water quality in Redwood County and in Minnesota
- Receive regulatory certainty
- Receive recognition for conservation stewardship
- Receive access to financial and technical assistance
- Help ensure land productivity for future generations
- Receive stability to plan for and invest in conservation practices
- Be part of the water quality solution

If you are interested in any of these programs or any other conservation program, please contact Redwood Soil & Water Conservation District at 507-637-2427 Ext. 3 or stop at our office at 1241 E. Bridge Street, Redwood Falls, Minnesota.

**Waterfowl Hunters**

Future hunters are relying on you to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species...do your part.

CLEAN  
 DRAIN  
 DRY

Minnesota  
DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES

STOP AQUATIC  
HITCHHIKERS!

Southwest Minnesota  
Redwood County

[mndnr.gov/ais](http://mndnr.gov/ais)



## MN Sheriffs' Scholarship Program

Sheriff Randy Hanson of Redwood County announced recently the commencement of the Law Enforcement Scholarship Program for 2017. Sheriff Hanson proudly announced the MSA Board of Directors has established a scholarship fund for the awarding of up to 15- \$600 scholarships for this year. These scholarships are due to the coordinated efforts of the 87 Sheriffs of the State of Minnesota.

The members MSA gives special recognition to the financial needs of students attending the peace officer skills course, or one of the two or four year law enforcement degree colleges. MSA recognizes the importance of pre-entry training for people considering law enforcement as their career choice. MSA recognizes some students need outside help in meeting the costs of such training, even though they excel academically.

The Scholarship Committee, in making its selection of awards, intends on achieving representation from all geographical areas of the state. Scholarship awards will be announced by December 30th of the same year. Application forms and a statement of procedures are available at the Redwood County Sheriff's Office. Scholarships are only available to students currently enrolled in one of the following three categories:

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

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

## Minnesota's Real ID Law: What you need to know

Gov. Mark Dayton signed a bill in May 2017 that should finally bring Minnesota into compliance with the federal security standards known as the Real ID. Here's what you need to know:

**Q: Do I need to replace my Minnesota driver's license now?**

**A:** No. State lawmakers ushering the Real ID legislation *believe* that the federal government will allow Minnesota's current, standard licenses to continue to comply until they expire. They should work for air travel, and to enter federal buildings & military facilities, likely through 2020.

**Q: When will I be able to get a Real ID in Minnesota?**

**A:** The law passed requires the Dept of Public Safety (which includes the Redwood County License Center) to have Real ID licenses available by October 1, 2018.

**Q: Can I get a Real ID license before I need to renew my current license? A:** Yes, once they are available, for a small fee of \$2-\$6, depending on how long it is until your next renewal.

**Q: What if my license expires before the Real ID is available?**

**A:** A standard license remains an option and should fall under a federal extension. But the state also offers an "enhanced" license, currently available for an additional \$15 that can be used for travel between the US and Canada, Mexico and some Caribbean countries. (please note that an "enhanced" driver's license is NOT available at the Redwood County License Center). The closest driver license exam locations to obtain an "enhanced" license are Mankato or St. Cloud, MN.

**Q: Will Real ID licenses be required? A:** No, the Legislature also created the option of a noncompliant license. The non-compliant license will not require the extra checks needed for a Real ID. Minnesotans who opt for the noncompliant license would need a passport or some other kind of added identification in order to board airplanes or get into some federal facilities.

**Q: Will Real ID licenses be more expensive than standard or noncompliant licenses? A:** No, renewal fees are the same.

**Q: How did Minnesotans end up in this predicament?**

**A:** Congress passed the Real ID Act in 2005 to set minimum security standards for state issued driver's licenses and identification cards. The Minnesota Legislature continued to vote to defy the standards. Within several years, the federal government began to crack down on noncompliant states but Republicans wanted the bill to bar the issuing of drivers licenses to undocumented immigrants while Governor Dayton disputed the requirement in Minnesota denying driver's licenses for undocumented or illegal immigrants. Ultimately, legislators took any mention of the issue out of the bill in order for the bill to be passed and signed by Governor Dayton. Minnesota was the last state to comply with the Federal Real ID Act narrowly avoiding a January 2018 deadline that would have complicated air travel for Minnesotans.



## Notes from the Assessor's Office

The State of Minnesota enacted a law that increases the level of licensure an assessor will need to have to assess taxable property. With the increase in the level of licensure a number of the local assessors will not have the license level required to continue assessing. This along with the number of licensed assessors in the state of Minnesota decreasing by 71 in just the last year has started the conversation of Redwood County looking at going "True County". Minnesota Statutes 273.052 gives the County Board the authorization by a formal resolution to elect to provide for the assessment of taxable property in the county by the county assessor. Such resolution shall be effective at the second assessment date following the adoption of the resolution.

Currently each taxing district is responsible for hiring a licensed assessor to view and value the taxable property located in their taxing district. There are 41 taxing districts located in Redwood County. Currently 21 of those districts are done out of the County Assessor's office. The remaining 20 districts have a local assessor hired. Under "True County" the local taxing districts would no longer have to worry about hiring a licensed assessor. That responsibility would fall on the county. The local district could remove that budget item from their local budget. As long as the local districts do just that the citizens of Redwood County should not see

an increase in taxes because of this change in duties.

In years past, all records of properties were hand written on a record card. Some local assessors are still using this method of listing properties. The county uses a computerized program called CAMA to list the properties. My goal for the county is to get all properties listed in the CAMA system.

The way information is sent to the state has also changed. The Department of Revenue created a process of reporting the properties located in a county at a parcel level layer. This new process is called PRISM or Property Record Information System of Minnesota. Their goal is to be able to analyze property data faster and more thoroughly to help the legislators make decisions as to how a change in assessments would affect property taxes. With PRISM the state can analyze property tax data faster and more thoroughly.

Uniformity is very important. Many Counties in Minnesota have already made the change to "True County Assessment" and it has proven to be very beneficial, and uniformity of their assessments improved.

The Redwood County Assessor's Office needs to look at how we can best meet all the new challenges we face. If you have any questions or concerns regarding Redwood County moving forward with "True County Assessment", please contact Kathy Hillmer, Redwood County Assessor at 507/637-4008.

## Auditor/Treasurer's Office News

### PROPERTY TAX NOTICE

The second half property taxes are due and payable on Monday, October 16, 2017.

- All payments sent in the mail must be postmarked and all payments made online must be dated no later than October 16, 2017, to be accepted without penalty.
- Penalty will be imposed on late payments per schedule on back of tax statement.
- However, if your property is classified as agriculture, you may pay as late as November 15, 2017, without penalty.
- Please send the second half stub or both stubs if also paying the first half with penalty.
- Payments sent in by mail must be postmarked no later than October 16, 2017.
- Payments made online must be dated no later than October 16, 2017.
- NEW! Redwood County has added a property tax payment drop box, located on the north side of the Government Center. Payments made at the drop box must be received no later than Oct 16, 2017.

### TAX FORFEITED PROPERTY SALE

Redwood County will hold a tax forfeited property auction in 2017. More information will be made available in mid-September with a public auction date to occur in mid to late October. Please check the Redwood County website for more details to come!



## Bright Beginnings Loan Program

Did you know you could receive a loan up to \$15,000 through the Bright Beginnings Loan Program? The Southwest Initiative Foundation designed the program to support new or existing day care provider's to fund:

- ◆ Start-Up or Expansion Expenses
- ◆ Code Requirements
- ◆ Repairs, Renovations or Upgrades
- ◆ Educational Toys and Materials
- ◆ Playground Equipment
- ◆ Curriculum
- ◆ Licensing

For more information contact Jackie Turner at SWIF at 800-594-9480 or [jackiet@swiftfoundation.com](mailto:jackiet@swiftfoundation.com).

## WANTED: Family Child Care Providers in Redwood County

Do you enjoy working with young children?  
 Could you work with children all day?  
 Do you keep calm in an emergency?  
 Are you willing to keep records?  
 Is your house clean and organized?  
 Are you willing to try new activities with children?  
 Can you discipline children without yelling?



If you answered yes to most of these questions, becoming a family day care provider might be for you! For more information, contact Melanie Guetter at 507-637-6113 or [Melanie.guetter@swmhhs.com](mailto:melanie.guetter@swmhhs.com)

## Redwood County Restorative Justice

Over the past seven years the Restorative Justice Program has expanded enormously providing support to many people in our community as well as repairing harms that have been caused. Through Restorative Justice, we use the Circle Process to communicate with one another our successes and struggles in a safe and sacred way. The process is difficult to explain in words, one of those things that one just needs to experience and you are very welcome to do so.

Instead of trying to explain the Circle Process, an indigenous way of having conversations, I will provide information about how we are reaching people within our community. Different Circles that are offered:

- Circle Sentencing
- Parent to Parent Circle
- Circle of Hope
- Healing Circle
- Women's Circle
- Oasis Circle
- AC3 Circle
- Transition Circle
- Circle in Schools

All of these Circles are intended to build relationships in all the different areas of life. If there is not a Circle to a person's specific need...we will create a space for that need. Each month, we have over 20 Circles, connecting over a hundred people that otherwise may not have been in contact with one another. Currently there are 28 volunteers in the Restorative Justice Program dedicated to supporting kids and families throughout Redwood County.

We are always looking for additional community members to participate

in Circle, whether it is as a volunteer opportunity, to build relationships within your community, and/or need support in an area of your life. We come together in Circle to support, teach, and bring together the collective wisdom of community to move forward in our daily lives in a good way. If you would like more information in how you can become a part of this amazing opportunity you can contact Eric Johnson at: 507-637-1139 or email at [eric\\_j@co.redwood.mn.us](mailto:eric_j@co.redwood.mn.us)

"Whether we can come here with heart full or heart empty, with spirits high or low, rested or tired, hopeful or despairing...whether we have come here out of habit, conviction, loneliness, or curiosity, we belong here because we are here, and all that we have and all that you are is welcome here. This evening we are, together, the heartbeat of this community."

--- Author Unknown



**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
Child Advocacy	637-1397
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	938-4269

## 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](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](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