

Redwood County Connection

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The Official Newsletter of Redwood County

Spring Edition 2018

The County Courthouse

The Redwood County Commissioners are faced with a very difficult decision when it comes to providing modern day security in our courthouse that is over a century in age. In a building with walls over three (3) feet thick, the idea of upgrading to modern day technologies is a real challenge. Over the years, wires have been strung virtually everywhere and are a tangled maze in an attempt to provide the modern day technologies needed to perform our jobs.

The heating system in the building is over sixty (60) years old and still in operation.

Every year, at minimum, \$3,000 is spent in upkeep, hoping it will run for another year. Winter heat and summer cold air virtually flows out of the uninsulated attic. There are 9 foot & 14 foot windows with glass block, which are cemented in the frame and provide little to no energy efficiencies. Contractors indicated it would take a full day to remove and replace one (1) window. There is a minimally adequate fire alarm system in the building.

These items are miniscule in comparison to the real issue at hand. SECURITY. For you, our citizens. For the employees

who work in the building each and every day. For the citizens serving as jurors. For all of our law enforcement officials walking/transporting inmates out in the open from the jail to the courtroom, and attempting to maintain safety and order when attorneys, witnesses, victims, criminals, and family members, are all cramped and comingled in the same area awaiting their time in court.



Think of all the recent tragedies occurring in our public facilities across the nation. The purpose of government is to provide for the health, safety and welfare of its public. The condition of the Redwood County Courthouse does not provide that safety necessary in today's

world. The County Board has been working on a solution for the past several years and with the most recent design, which addresses the security on the top floor only of the Court House, has a price tag in excess of \$4 Million. That price does not account for any of the unknowns, which always happen in a renovation project, especially in a building of its age. That price does not upgrade the heating and cooling system, electrical, IT/phone and the list continues on. That price does not address moving the inmates from the jail to the courthouse in a secure manner.



Our courthouse is not eligible to be on the Historic Register to access any funding from the state for historic renovations, due to the many alterations done over the years by past leadership. Everything we do to the courthouse must be paid by you, the taxpayers of Redwood County. Do you want to continue to pour money into a structure that has outlived its useful life? At what cost is too much and building new is the wiser option?

Please contact your County Commissioners and express your thoughts and concerns. They want to hear from you and value your input. Saying nothing now cannot change what is done in the future.

Even though we are sentimental about our landmarks, there comes a point in time when it is no longer feasible to expend what it takes to retrofit a 125 + year old building to our modern day needs.

Sometimes they just can't be saved. The harsh reality is that it all comes down to your tax dollars. Where do you really want your money spent?



LINC Redwood County

LINC Redwood County is a 9-month leadership program to engage community members to lead, inspire, network and create to build a sustainable future

in Redwood County. Each session members receive high quality professional development and visit community assets throughout the County.

Who Can Attend? Anyone who lives, works, or worships in Redwood County, Minnesota or



has children attending a Redwood County School.

Applications for the 2018-19 Session are being accepted. For more information visit lincincredwoodcounty.org



Redwood County Deputy Sheriff Mike Campbell and K-9 Partner Rolo

The Sheriff's office K-9 Rolo has been in service since 2013. Rolo is a 6-year old Chocolate Lab certified in narcotics detection. Rolo's job is to assist Deputy Campbell in searching for narcotics in houses, buildings, parcel packages, and vehicles. Before Rolo was put into service, approximately 600 hours of training with the handler was completed to be certified.

Redwood County Purchases Former Titan Machinery Building for Highway Department



On April 17 the Redwood County Board of Commissioners

unanimously approved a purchase agreement for the former Titan Building in Redwood Falls. The building will replace the County's current Highway Department Building. The existing highway building was constructed nearly 60 years ago. It has served the County well, but is rapidly deteriorating. It would require a very expensive remodel project to remain useable. In addition, today's large trucks and motor graders used by the highway department no longer fit in the existing building.

The former Titan Building was constructed in 2013. The main building has 39,000 square feet. It includes 8400 square feet of office and 24,000 square feet of heated vehicle repair and storage as well as parts storage areas. In addition the site has an unheated 11,000 square foot storage building.

Redwood County was given the opportunity to purchase the \$5.2 Million building for \$2.2 Million due to a lease buyout negotiated with the current long term lease holder. The County plans to sell the land where the existing building resides to recoup some of the new building investment cost.

Plum Creek Park

Come spend a weekend at Plum Creek County Park and cool off in Lake Laura. If it has been a few years, or if you have never been to Plum Creek Park, now is the time to go. RV and primitive camping available. Hiking, Swimming, Disc Golf, and more!

Coming in 2018/2019: Redwood County successfully received a grant from Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission in the amount of \$301,435.



This money is going towards the construction of 6 camper cabins, 8 primitive campsites, 2 new vault toilets, a self-serve kayak/paddleboard rental station, an accessibility trail, and improved gravel access roads.



Buffer Reminder

All 103E Public Ditches must have a 16.5 ft. buffer in place by November 1, 2018. If you have any questions, please call the Redwood County Environmental Office (507) 637-4023, or the Redwood Soil and Water Conservation District (507) 637-2427.

Also, please make note that the installation of a buffer under the buffer law does not make that land available for public use (hunting).

U.S. Flag Disposal Box

Proper disposal of the American flag is a sign of respect. It honors our history, the people who fight to protect our freedom and is an homage to the reverence for our great nation. When a flag is worn, tattered, ripped or soiled beyond repair, it is no longer fit to serve as a symbol of our county and should be retired and disposed of properly. As part of a new national campaign to support flag etiquette, Redwood County is taking the lead in ensuring a dignified retirement for the U.S. flag.



Through a

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.



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STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!



Sea Grant
Minnesota



Southwest Minnesota
Redwood County



partnership between NACo, the National Flag Foundation <http://www.nationalflagfoundation.org/> and the National Sheriff's Association <http://www.sheriffs.org/>, Redwood County has placed boxes throughout the County so residents can drop off their old, tattered and torn flags for

a proper, dignified disposal. Each City in Redwood County has a U.S. Flag Disposal Box located in their City Hall for citizens to respectfully recycle their flag. Please contact our Veteran Service Office at (507) 637-4034 if you have any questions.

Notes from the Assessor's Office

Around the 20th of March you should have received your envelope from Redwood County containing your 2018 property tax statement based on the classification and value placed as of January 2, 2017. Also in that envelope is your 2018 Valuation Notice which will be used for 2019 taxes. Review your Valuation Notice for the classification and value of your parcel as of January 2, 2018. The Valuation Notice also lists the date and time for the local Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting which gives all property owners the opportunity to discuss value and classification concerns with local officials.

The Assessor's Office has the responsibility of placing a classification and value on every parcel in the county. There are four main classification groups: Agricultural, Residential, Commercial, and Exempt. The classification with the most parcels in Redwood County is Agricultural.

For 2018 values, agricultural land had a reduction of 2 to 4 percent. Commercial properties had some increases. Residential properties increased depending on the district they are located in.

Minnesota Statutes, [section 273.13, subdivision 23](#), provides a number of requirements that ***must*** be met in order to be classified as class 2a land: (class 2a land is agricultural).

1. At least 10 contiguous acres must be used to produce agricultural products in the preceding year (or be qualifying land enrolled in an eligible conservation program, or be used for intensive livestock or

poultry confinement);

2. The agricultural products are defined by statute; and

3. The agricultural product must be produced for sale.

When the parcel contains the home of the property owner and there is less than 10 additional acres that qualify for the 2a agricultural classification, the parcel will be reviewed. Parcels classified as agricultural in the past may now be classified as residential. A change from agricultural to residential will affect the due date of taxes in 2019. If your parcel is affected by a classification change and you have additional agricultural land that you or a qualifying relative farm on your behalf, you may still qualify for agricultural homestead on your agricultural land by applying for Special Ag homestead. Contact our office for more information.

Salute to Excellence

Jerry Ludwig was recognized for his efforts with the 4-H Salute to Excellence award for outstanding service as a lifetime volunteer. Ludwig has been teaching area 4-H youth the skills that go along with shooting everything from a bow to a .22 rifle for several years, and in that time hundreds of those youth have been impacted by his dedication to them and the program.

Ludwig was announced as a recipient of the award in early December and received a plaque and further recognition from the University of Minnesota Extension Service during the January 16 Redwood County board meeting.

Ludwig was nominated for the award by Stacy Johnson, Redwood County 4-H program coordinator, with letters of support being provided from those who have been impacted by his service.



Marriage Licenses

As spring and summer approach, wedding season begins. A marriage license may be obtained from the recorder's office for a fee of \$115.

There are many different non-traditional ceremonies which are popular right now. If you choose to have a friend perform your marriage ceremony, that is now possible. A person will just need to become an ordained officiant through the web. This person will receive a certificate of ordination which will need to be recorded in the Recorder's office prior to performing a marriage ceremony. There is no fee to record this ordination certificate, however, there is a short form which will need to be completed. Once this certificate has been filed, you may perform marriages throughout the State of Minnesota.





Remember to Get Your Permit!

Don't forget that the construction of any new or replacement structure, or the construction of any addition to any existing structure, in rural Redwood County requires a permit from the Redwood County Environmental Office. "Construction" includes moving in a prefabricated or prebuilt building from offsite or from a different location on the same property.

You can stop in at the Environmental Office, in the Redwood County Government Center in Redwood Falls, on weekdays between 8 am and 4:30 pm to apply. The process takes about 15 to 30 minutes. You will need to know the proposed location, cost, and dimensions of the building – including total height to the peak of the roof. You will also need to indicate the location of any wells and septic systems or septic holding tanks on the property. All permit applications must include a site plan signed by the landowner.

Permit applications are also available on the Redwood County Environmental Office Website (Land Use/Zoning Permit Application).

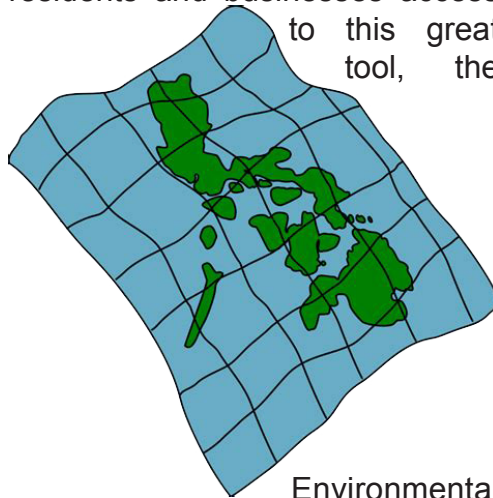
If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call us at 507-637-4023, or email at environmental@co.redwood.mn.us. Ask for Nick Brozek or Scott Wold.

Beacon Online GIS

Redwood County is continuing its efforts to increase access to public information in a user friendly fashion. There is now a free online mapping tool which allows residents to view parcel boundary lines, county ditch systems, high resolution imagery and other unique layers.

While access to the Beacon site is free to use, the county does have a subscription level giving users additional tools such as: comparable property search, creating multiple address mailing labels, and viewing locations from multiple angles (via Pictometry®).

In order to give more county residents and businesses access to this great tool, the



Environmental Office has lowered the subscription prices this year. The Beacon online mapping tool can be accessed via the Redwood County Website. Please call our office if you have any questions.

Subscription Rates:

One Week Option: \$10. / user
 One Year Option: 1-5 users: \$150.
 6-10 users: \$200.
 11+ users: \$250.
 One Month Option: \$25. / user

Ordinance Hearings

The Environmental Office has prepared proposed revisions to the Redwood County Zoning Ordinance. The proposed revisions, and a brief "bullet-point" summary thereof, are available for review at the Environmental Office, in the Redwood County Government Center. They are also available on the Redwood County Environmental Office Website.

A public informational open house was held on March 28th, in the Wabasso Community Center, to answer questions and gather information from the public. Additional public meetings will be held before the Planning Commission and the County Board of Commissioners, before any changes are made to the Ordinance. Notification of these meeting times and dates will be published in the Redwood Gazette, and other local newspapers, and will be mailed to all city clerks and township board clerks, once the times and dates have been set.

The reason for the ordinance revisions is to streamline the process, eliminate conflicting and repetitious provisions, update the ordinances with new information, and address common public complaints about land use.

If you have any questions, or if you are not able to attend the public meetings, do not hesitate to call us at 507-637-4023, or email at environmental@co.redwood.mn.us. Ask for Nick Brozek or Scott Wold.



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
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	828-4940
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/2018%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

(no collection in July due to the 4th of July holiday)

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.

\$75.00 for RV Refrigerators

***Prices MAY be subject to change.*

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