

Redwood County Connection

Vol. 2, No. 1

The Official Newsletter of Redwood County

Fall Edition 2018

Redwood County Declares State of Emergency

On Tuesday July 3, 2018 portions of Redwood County received heavy rainfall causing flooding to many areas of the county. Also on July 3rd, the Board of Commissioners declared Redwood County a State of Emergency due to the large amount of damages from these rains as well as previous rains that had saturated soils within the county as well as neighboring counties in Southern Minnesota. This Declaration allowed Emergency Management to gather damages to Roads, Bridges and other public facilities. After conducting a local Preliminary Damage Assessment, these damages were reported to the Minnesota Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in an effort to qualify for either the State Public Assistance Program or the FEMA Public Assistance Program. Redwood County damages quickly attained the threshold for both the state as well as FEMA programs. The amounts of damage needed for the state Public Assistance program is \$29,548.56 and for FEMA is \$59,097.12. The state threshold for the FEMA Public Assistance Program is \$7,743,730.50. Redwood County reported over \$3,000,000.00 in damages to uninsured public roads, bridges and public facilities.

On Friday, July 6th, Governor Dayton and Rep. Collin Peterson toured the Walnut Grove area to assess flood damages. Local County, City and Township officials held a public meeting with Governor Dayton.

On Monday July 30, 2018 Redwood County held a joint state/FEMA Preliminary Damage Assessment to

see if the County would meet the state threshold. Redwood County had 37 applicants in attendance and numbers were gathered and added to other counties in Minnesota. The \$7.7 million threshold was quickly reached statewide and Governor Dayton requested President Trump to authorize the FEMA Public Assistance Program for the counties affected in Minnesota. Currently the authorization is awaiting approval in Washington DC.



Governor Dayton



left-right: Commissioners: Bob Van Hee, Dave Forkrud & Denny Groebner. Mike Landuydt, Commissioner Lon Walling, Collin Peterson, Vicki Kletscher, Keith Berndt, Mary Berndt & Commissioner Jim Salfer.

A second program available through FEMA is the Individual Assistance program. Individual Assistance assists homeowners with uninsured damage to their primary residences. There are no established thresholds for this program and it is determined on a case by case basis for each declaration. On August 14 and 15, 2018 representatives from Minnesota Department of Homeland Security, FEMA, SBA (Small Business Administration), County Emergency Management and city officials reviewed damage at residences within the county. Although there is a large amount of damage, very few homes reached the definition of major damage. At this time, it is unknown if Redwood County will be eligible for the Individual Assistance Program.

Many individuals, City Clerks and Township officials worked diligently in gathering information to submit to the State. County Commissioners reached out to all of the cities and townships in their districts encouraging them to get their numbers in under a very stressful and short timeframe. Minnesota Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management staff have also been very helpful in gathering the numbers and forwarding them to FEMA.

Redwood County Highway Department Update

Summer is always a busy time at the Highway Department with a full schedule of construction and maintenance projects planned. This summer's flooding presented a whole host of added challenges. The County Highways and Bridges were overtopped in locations too numerous to mention during the height of the flooding. Once the water went down there were over 50 locations requiring repairs. Most of the damage sites were relatively minor with many of them repaired within a few weeks of the water residing. There are several sites that will require lengthy and expensive repairs and will necessitate extended highway closures. The Walnut Grove area was hit especially hard.

A 78 foot long wooden bridge on Highway 5 five miles north of Walnut Grove was damaged to the point of being beyond economical repair. Plans are underway to replace the bridge. Large permanent repair projects such as a bridge replacement require significant time to design, secure state and federal permits, and advertise for bids so Highway 5 will be closed through the winter.



A 9 foot high by 15 foot wide steel culvert through Highway 78 just west of Walnut Grove along with a large section of road was washed downstream by the floodwaters. The culvert will be replaced with a larger concrete box culvert that will be more resilient to future floods. This project will also require many months to complete.



2018 Redwood Co. Highway & Bridge Construction Projects

Redwood County's 2018 regular construction program included 15 miles of highway Resurfacing and 6 bridge replacement projects. The projects are summarized below.

County Highway & Location	Project Type	Constr.Cost	Contractor	Status
Highway 11 from the Redwood River near Franklin to Redwood Highway 2 near Morgan	Resurfacing	\$1,517,000	Duininck, Inc.	Paving complete and shoulder work complete
Highway 20 from Walnut Grove to the Lyon County Line	Resurfacing	\$1,523,000	Knife River, Corp.	Scheduled for Mid September Start
Highway 16 from State Highway 71 to Clements	Resurfacing	\$511,000	Central Specialties	Paving completed 8/15, shoulder work remaining
Highway 8 Five an 1/2 miles south of Milroy	Replace Bridge	\$638,000	M and K	Complete - reopened August 14
Hunter Avenue in Waterbury Township	Replace Bridge	\$447,000	M and K	Work Started 6/18/18, deck placed 8/16.
Harvest Avenue in Waterbury Township	Replace Bridge	\$528,000	M and K	Start after other Waterbury Bridge.
Harvest Avenue in Kintire Township	Replace Bridge with Culvert	\$133,000	R & G Const.	Work to Start late summer
270th Street in Westline Township	Replace Bridge with Culvert	\$150,000	R & G Const.	Work to Start late summer
160th Street in Brookville Township	Replace Bridge	\$415,000	River Ridge Const.	Minor clean-up work remaining

WOULD YOU LIKE TO START A BUSINESS?

OR

ARE YOU AN EXISTING BUSINESS READY TO EXPAND?

Redwood County has a Revolving Loan Fund to serve as a gap financing tool for eligible projects!



For more information, visit the Redwood County website!

redwoodcounty-mn.us



**Contact Briana Mumme,
Economic Development Coordinator
to learn more or to schedule an appointment
(507) 637 - 1122
briana_m@co.redwood.mn.us**

Congratulations to Redwood Soil and Water Conservation District!!

Redwood Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) had the first recorded easement in the state under CREP III (CREP = Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program). In the background of the picture is the buffer easement enrolled on the Donald VanderLinden farm. This buffer strip is a total of 8.85 acres. The width varies from 60-90 feet wide depending on the slope of the land that lies next to the ditch. Besides the required natives grasses VanderLinden elected to plant a pollinator friendly mix of grasses and flowers.

Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) recognized the producer along with the Redwood SWCD for its efforts to promote the program and help landowners enroll in this voluntary water quality conservation program.

SWCD had several brief presentations by Jeff Potter, chair of Redwood SWCD, Jim Salfer, Chair of Redwood County Commissioners, Larry Thielen, Executive Director of Farm Service Agency, Senator Gary Dahmes and Representative Paul Torkelson.

Redwood SWCD continues to lead the state in the number of approved applications at the state.



Picture from Left to Right: Representative Paul Torkelson, Senator Gary Dahmes and Redwood County Commissioner Jim Salfer.

United Way of Southwest Minnesota Invests in Safety & Well-Being

The Redwood County Children's Advocacy Center was awarded a Community Impact grant from The United Way of Southwest Minnesota in the amount of \$12,500 to provide regional forensic interview services for child abuse victims.

The Redwood County Children's Advocacy Center is the only Children's Advocacy Center in the Southwest Region. The CAC is designed to meet the needs of child victims and their families and to reduce the trauma associated with childhood abuse. Collaboration occurs at all stages of response, including investigations, prosecutions, needs assessments, and medical and therapeutic interventions. This multidisciplinary team approach protects the vulnerability of the child, assures that their voice is heard and immediate mental health and medical services are provided.

In 2018-19, United Way of Southwest Minnesota (UWSWMN) is investing \$90,500 in local programs working on Safety & Well-Being priorities. On August 29, 2018, community partners recently gathered for their annual meeting and official check presentation photos with United Way representatives.



Pictured are representatives from: Children's Forensic Interview Services (Redwood County Children's Advocacy Center), Community Support Program (Western Mental Health Center), Crime Victim Services (New Horizons Crisis Center), Domestic Abuse Services (Women's Rural Advocacy Center), Parenting Time Program (New Horizons Crisis Center) and Sexual Assault Victim Advocacy in Yellow Medicine County (Safe Avenues).



Redwood County Property Tax Payment Options:

The second half property taxes are due and payable October 15, 2018. All Payments sent in by mail must be POSTMARKED and all payments made online must be DATED no later than October 15, 2018 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 our website at <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.

2018 VOTING DATES

VOTE ABSENTEE

Vote by mail or in Person Sept. 21st - Nov. 5th

REGISTER TO VOTE

Register in advance by October 16th to save time on Election Day

ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, Nov. 6th

2018 MN ELECTION DATES GENERAL ELECTION

WHO CAN VOTE?

- To vote in Minnesota, you must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old on Election Day, and a resident of Minnesota for at least 20 days.
- If you had a felony conviction, you can vote after you finish ALL parts of your sentence, including any probation, parole, or other conditions such as restitution.
- You can vote while under guardianship, unless a judge has revoked your right to vote.

REGISTER TO VOTE:

You must be registered to vote at your current address. To register or to update your registration, go to mnvotes.org.

You can also register at your polling place on Election Day. You must show proof of your name and current address. For more details, visit mnvotes.org or call 1-877-600-VOTE.

What's New at the License Center

Starting Oct. 1st, 2018 the License Center will be offering REAL ID's or Enhanced Driver's License/Identification Cards.

REAL ID

5 Things to Know about REAL ID and the New Driver's License/ID Card Design



The new Minnesota driver's license and ID card design has people wondering about REAL ID. Here's what you need to know:

1. The newly designed cards being issued now are not REAL IDs.
2. You do not need to take any action at this time to comply with the federal REAL ID law.
3. You will be able to apply for a REAL ID-compliant card in October 2018, but you will have two years to obtain one if you choose. That means you will be able to use your standard license or ID card for federal purposes, including boarding domestic flights, until October 1, 2020.
4. Minnesotans whose driver's licenses or identification cards expire before October 2018 should plan to renew their cards as they normally would. The renewed license or ID card will be valid for four years, barring a suspension or revocation.
5. If you choose to apply for a REAL ID before your standard license expires, an early renewal fee would be charged and an additional four years would be added to the expiration date.

Remember:

There's no need to rush to get a REAL ID- compliant card. You

can use your standard license or ID card for federal purposes, including boarding domestic flights, until October 1, 2020.

WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING WHEN APPLYING FOR A LICENSE OR ID

REAL ID

Applying for a REAL ID compliant card requires additional documentation compared to the requirements for a standard Minnesota driver's license. A person must provide the following in person when applying:

1. One document proving identity, date of birth and legal presence in the United States.
 - If the name on the identity document is not the same as a person's current name, a name change document must be submitted.
2. One document proving social security number.
3. Two documents proving current residency in Minnesota.

ENHANCED DRIVER'S LICENSE / ENHANCED IDENTIFICATION CARD

What is an EDL card?

It is a dual-purpose, optional card designed for the user's convenience. In addition to serving as a typical driver's license, the card allows a Minnesota resident to re-enter the U.S. at its land or seaports when returning from Canada, Mexico, Bermuda or the Caribbean. This flexibility speeds your passage back across the border. They verify your identity and citizenship—no other proof is required. EDL cards are among the federally-approved border-crossing documents required under the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI). An EDL is also available to a Minnesota driver who qualifies for a commercial driver license (CDL).

Applying for an EDL or EID

requires additional requirements and documentation compared to a standard Minnesota license.

- Only an applicant who can provide proof of identity, full legal name, social security number, photographic identity, Minnesota residency and U.S. citizenship is eligible for a Minnesota EDL or EID.
- Two types of documents must be submitted to prove Minnesota residency. For example, an electric bill or phone bill and a tax return.
- An EDL/EID must list the Minnesota residence address.
- Complete an Interview Questionnaire at the time of application.
- A \$15 fee is required in addition to the fee for a driver's license or ID card. Check out the Redwood County License Center's website out for a full list of required documents for an Enhanced Drivers License/ID.

RECORDER'S OFFICE

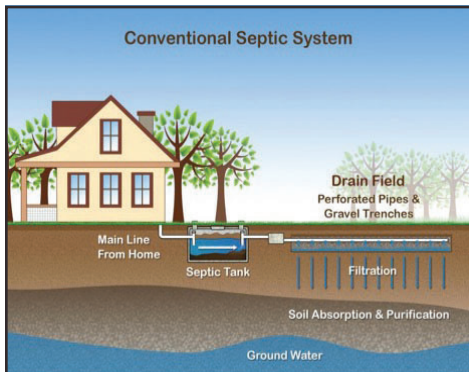
We are here to help you with all the requirements with the upcoming Real ID Driver's License.

Birth Certificate If you were born in Minnesota, you can obtain your certified birth certificate in the Recorder's Office located at the Government Center. You will need your driver's license and you will be required to fill out a short form. The fee for your certified birth certificate is \$26.

Marriage Certificate You may also need a certified copy of your marriage certificate for the Real ID. You will need to obtain this from the county you applied for it in. The fee for your certified marriage certificate is \$9. There is a statewide index of all marriage certificates, except for Scott County. You can check the website www.MOMS.mn.gov. For more information about these identity documents, please contact the Recorder's Office at (507) 637-4032.

Get your Septic System Ready for Winter

Winter is fast approaching, and with a few easy steps you can help ensure your septic systems will keep working great all winter long. If it has been longer than 3 years since you have had your tank pumped, call your maintainer and schedule an appointment before winter. Regular pumping helps ensure a long lifespan for your system as well as helping to identify any problems early. While freezing problems during winter are not common, it is possible. One way to help prevent freezing is to stop mowing above your drain field in mid-September. Leaving the grass long on top of your drain field will catch and hold more snow, providing additional layers of insulation. You should also check your toilets and faucets for leaks. Small leaks can cause the pipe leading out to your septic tank to freeze.



All you wanted to know about county ditches and drain tile

The Public Drainage system in Redwood County consists of 199 different drainage systems which

include over 500 miles of open ditch and over 1,200 miles of drain tile. The majority of the Public Drainage systems were originally constructed in the early 1900's. It is these drainage systems that opened up previously non-farmable ground and turned it into the highly productive agricultural land that it is today. All of the public drainage systems were established under Minnesota Statute 103E. This statute created a process to allow vast amounts of lands to be drained and made highly productive. Public Drainage is not to be confused with private drainage that individuals install on their own farm. The county does not assist with or keep records on the location of private drain tile.

You may be wondering who pays the bills for all of these "county ditches" and "county tile" systems. All costs associated with a particular drainage system are paid for by those who own land that has been determined to be "benefiting". When the drainage systems were originally established, there were "viewers" hired who went out and made the determination about which lands would be "benefiting" from the new drainage system. The "viewers" assigned "benefits" by quarter quarters (40 acres). All of the lands that are benefiting from a particular ditch make

up that ditches account. Some ditches have only 10-15 parcels paying into them, while others have hundreds. An individual's liability for costs incurred on that particular ditch are based off what the percent of benefits on their properties is in relation to the entire ditch system. For example, if an individual has lands with total benefits of \$1,500 and the ditch system (including all benefited lands) has total benefits of \$10,000, that individual would be responsible for 15% of the costs incurred. If there was a \$1000 repair that had to be completed to keep that drainage system in working order, that individual would end up paying \$150.

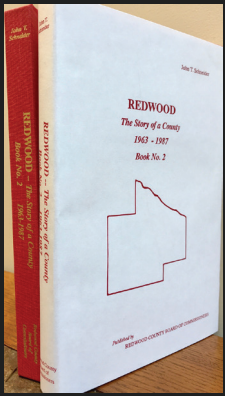
The County's responsibility for the Public Drainage system is to hire a drainage inspector to keep the systems running properly and to keep track of the accounts. The County acts as a general manager to ensure that work gets done when it's needed and to make sure everyone pays their fair share. The only costs that get charged to the drainage system are those that are necessary to keep the Public Drainage system functioning properly.

You can see all of the County ditch and drain tile on the County's online mapping service. <http://www.co.redwood.mn.us/>

BOOK FOR SALE

REDWOOD -
THE STORY OF A
COUNTY
1963 - 1987
BOOK NO. 2

ONLY
\$5.00



Available for purchase at the Government Center
● 403 SOUTH MILL STREET, REDWOOD FALLS ● (507) 637 - 4016 ●

The Redwood County Board of Commissioners
would like to congratulate the inaugural
LINC Redwood County Class!



lincwoodcounty.org



Jenifer Manthei, Shanya Prins, Stacy Heiling, Lisa Jones, Kara Siegfried, Chelsey Rettmann, Christie Rudenick, Heidi Wersal, Angie Gewerth, Barb Johnson, Duane Frank, Paul Parsons, Joel Harmoning, Josh Krause, Vanessa Hoffman, Russ Lesniak, Marcus Kendall, Will Hermanson, Matt Kurtz, Markeela Toreen, Doug Daub, Jenna Peterson, Brent Mack

Redwood County Veterans Service

Redwood County:

Thank you to all the Veterans and their Families of Redwood County for the opportunity to assist you in receiving benefits that you or your loved one rightfully earned due for the sacrifices made for our great Country!

Some of you may know who I am from the local Armory. If you don't know me, I challenge you to stop by the Veteran Service Office and say Hi. The coffee is always on!

A little about who I am. I am married to my beautiful wife, Amanda. We have 5 wonderful children ranging from the ages of 8 months-15 years.



My Family life is busy! Some hobbies that I have are camping with my family, fishing and hunting with my 2 oldest children and collecting/restoring my 6 John Deere tractors ranging from 1931-1950.

I currently have served 19.5 years with the Minnesota National Guard with two deployments. My first deployment was in March 2004

in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Stationed in Belgium by NATO Headquarters. The Second Deployment was in Support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in May 2007 for 22 months, making it the longest deployment since World War II. I am still Member of the Minnesota National Guard with the current rank of Sergeant First Class with the possibility of seeing my First Sergeant in the near future.

I have been working as the Redwood County Veteran Service Officer since July 16th, 2018. I am working on getting all my accreditations and training to be successful in helping our Veteran Community. We are currently in the early stages of developing an outreach program to assist any Veteran that can't make it to our office located here in Redwood Falls. We will be working with the American Legion and VFW Posts within Redwood County to see how I can accomplish this outreach program within their unique Communities.

A few Benefits that Veterans and their Dependents may qualify for are: Minnesota State Veterans Cemeteries, Bronze Star Markers, Veterans Preference, Pension, Claims Assistance, Veteran Nursing Homes, HUD/VASH Security Deposit, Subsistence, Special Needs Grant, Dental, Optical, Surviving Spouse/Dependent Education Benefit and Veteran Education Benefit to just name a few. Feel free to stop in and see if you qualify for any benefits. We are open Mon-Fri, 8am-12pm & 1-4:30 pm

Below is the contact information for our office.

Dustin Hunter, CVSO
 Tammy Blaine, Office Manager
 Redwood County Veterans Service
 403 South Mill Street, P.O. Box 130
 Redwood Falls, MN 56283
 P: (507) 637-4034 F: (507) 637-1531



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/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