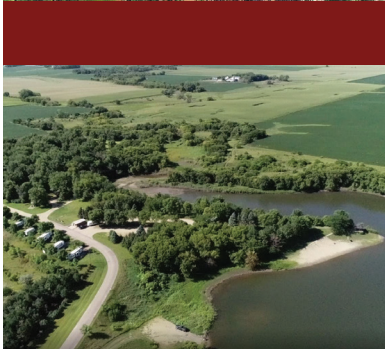
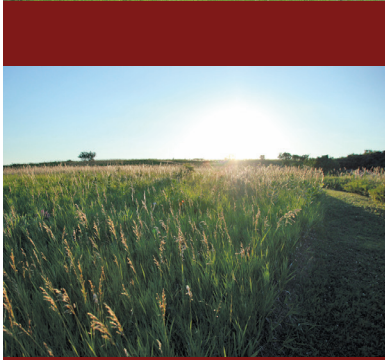


Redwood County Connection

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The Official Newsletter of Redwood County

Fall Edition 2019

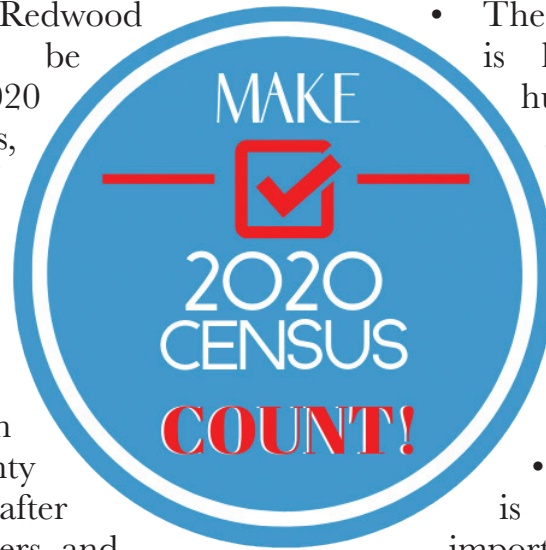


Everyone in Redwood County should be aware that the 2020 decennial Census, which is a count of everyone living in the United States, will be here in just over six months. It's very important for everyone in Redwood County to respond soon after the invitation letters and postcards begin arriving via US Mail in March 2020.

By responding to the 2020 Census, you are helping to make sure Redwood County gets its fair share of more than \$675 billion in federal funding that will be distributed to states and communities across the country between 2021 and 2030. Census data helps in multiple ways, including creating jobs, providing housing, preparing for emergencies, and building schools, roads and hospitals.

Census results also determine how many seats Minnesota will be allotted in the US Congress, as well as to redraw boundaries for congressional districts, state legislative districts, and school districts.

• There will be three ways to respond to the Census: Online — from your home, from your phone, anywhere— as well as by paper questionnaire.



- The Census Bureau is hiring locally for hundreds of jobs, and applying for these is as simple as filling out an application and taking a short assessment at www.2020census.gov/jobs.
- The 2020 census is easy, safe and important, and asks just a few questions and takes a few minutes to respond. It is against the law for the Census Bureau to publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you or your household. It is very secure as strong precautions are taken to keep your responses safe from hacking and other cyber threats.
- The Constitution requires a census every 10 years and has done so since 1790.
- Taking part in the 2020 Census is required by law, is your civic duty, and is a way to participate in our democracy and say "I count!"

Each residence that receives the Census invitation letter next March will have a unique ID that will insure you are counted in the right place. (If you don't have it, the Census Bureau will still be able to verify where you live.) When you respond, be sure to include everyone who usually lives and sleeps in your home.

Redwood County Attorney's Office

Redwood County Attorney Jenna Peterson had long recognized the need for a Crime Victim Services program within the County Attorney's office. The Redwood County Attorney's office Crime Victim Services (CVS) program has been in operation since February 2018 through a grant funded by the Minnesota Office of Justice. The Crime Victim Services Coordinator applied for and was approved for a continuation grant for this program and is now funded through October 2021.

In a prosecutor's office, the attorneys are focused on seeking justice through the prosecution of criminal cases. In crimes where there is a victim, justice includes involving these victims, keeping them informed throughout the criminal court process and assuring their voices are heard. The victim has a separate interest in the case. With the passage of the Crime Victims' Rights Statute 611.A, the Minnesota Legislature sought to ensure that crime victims' rights were taken seriously. The rights addressed in 611.A include The Right to Participation, The Right to Notification, the Right to Protection and the Right to Apply for Financial Aid. There are numerous protections under each category.

The numbers since the program's inception have confirmed that need. Within the first 10 months of operation alone the CVS Coordinator has met victims' rights by providing over 800 notifications, and over 500 forms of assistance, information and referrals to over 350 crime victims.

The CVS grant also allows the use of funds to provide needed training for area professionals. In 2018 a training on Strangulation in cases of Domestic Assault, Child Abuse and Sexual assault was held for professionals from the fields of Law Enforcement, Medical and Victim Advocacy. Local professionals appreciate the convenience of having trainings here in Redwood Falls so they don't need to spend time and money on travel and hotels.

Redwood County is fortunate to have various community-based victim services organizations serving crime victims. Their services are different than those of the program based out of the County Attorney's office but do compliment one another. Recently a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by those organizations providing services to crime victims. The purpose of this MOU is to provide complete services to crime victims and to assure that no one's needs 'fall through the cracks'.

MOU Signing

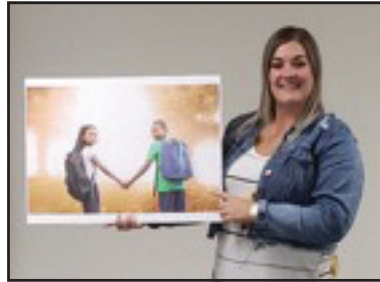
Back: New Horizons Crisis Center Redwood County Program Coordinator Haley Morlock and E.D. Carrie Buddy; Womens' Rural Advocacy Program E.D. Becci Tenbenschel (missing Brittany Miller-advocate), Redwood County Restorative Justice Coordinator Eric Johnson, Minnesota Womens' Indigenous Program Board member Angie O'Keefe and Advocate Katerie o'Keefe (missing E.D. Beth O'Keefe). Front: Redwood County Attorney Jenna Peterson and Crime Victim Services Coordinator Denise Kerkhoff.



Erin's Law Pledge

The Children's Advocacy Center would like to recognize and thank the schools in Redwood County that accepted our "Erin's Law Pledge" to offer body safety training annually, beginning with the 2019-20 school year.

- Cedar Mountain School District
 - Red Rock Central School District
 - Redwood Area School District
 - St. John Lutheran School
 - Wabasso Public School
 - Westbrook Walnut Grove Schools
- "Erin's Law" requires that all public schools in each state implement a



prevention-oriented child sexual abuse program which teaches:

- Students age-appropriate techniques to recognize child sexual abuse and tell a trusted adult
- School personnel about child sexual abuse
- Parents & guardians the warning signs of child sexual abuse, plus needed assistance, referral or resource information to support sexually abused children and their families

The Children's Advocacy Center will be in many of these schools throughout the school year with our Safe and Strong Child curriculum.

The Safe and Strong Child© Program consists of cognitively appropriate classroom lessons that are taught interactively through stories, group work and song. Children are taught to identify the difference between safe and unsafe touch. Children learn how to set and honor personal body boundaries. Most importantly, children learn that it is never a child's fault if they get a touch that is unsafe. Portions of the curriculum also provide support and education for teachers and parents who can help to keep kids safe.



Desiree Otto, Redwood County Child Advocate, was interviewed by KEYC TV on September 6, 2019 showcasing the Child Advocacy Center and what they are doing with their Erin's Law Pledge in area schools. www.keyc.com/2019/09/06/redwood-county-cac-helps-local-schools-educate-about-sexual-abuse

Veteran Service Officer Striving to be Available

Redwood County Veteran Service Officer, Dustin Hunter, is striving to be available to all Veterans. He is here to help Veterans and their families navigate through the many layers of benefits provided by the State of Minnesota and the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs.

The process of applying for benefits can be overwhelming and Dustin is available to assist you with VA medical care, compensation, pension & burial benefits and any other questions or concerns you may have.



Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery – Redwood County Proposed Site

Area leaders met to discuss the Veteran Cemetery project plans. Redwood County has entered into purchase agreements for the site of the project and road construction is nearing completion in hopes of making the Veterans Cemetery a reality in Redwood County. The next step is to attain funding in 2020 from the Federal Government. Please urge Congressman Collin Peterson to support legislation to invest in our local Veterans in the Redwood County area.

Pictured from left to right: Landowner Robert LeSage, Commissioner Lon Walling, County Administrator Vicki Knobloch-Kletscher, Sr. Administrator of Memorial Affairs David Swantek, Director of Veterans Programs & Memorial Affairs Andy Garvais, Redwood CVSO Dustin Hunter, Lower Sioux TVSO Galyn Minkel, Commissioner Larry Herke, Commissioner Jim Salfer & Commissioner Denny Groebner.



VETERAN SERVICE OUTREACH

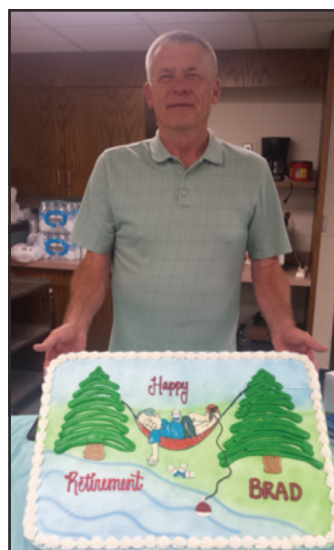
Schedule an appointment today!

<p>Lamberton Library 101 2nd Ave. East 9:30 am - 12 pm 2nd Wednesday of each month except December</p>	<p>Wabasso Library 1248 Oak Street 1 pm - 3 pm 2nd Wednesday of each month except December</p>
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Contact the Redwood County Veterans Service Office to schedule your appointment at
(507) 637-4034

Please note appointments are required 1 week prior to meeting

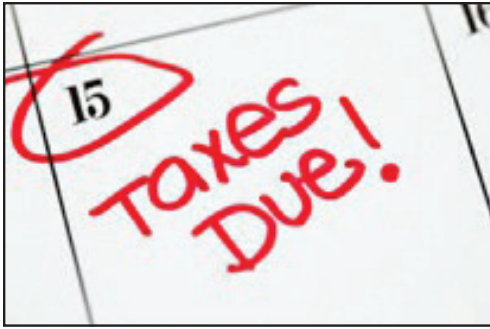
** Service Officer will only be present for schedule appointments **



Redwood County also said farewell to Brad Busack who retired after 18 plus years in the Maintenance Department. Brad will be greatly missed!



Congratulations to Lori Anderson on her Retirement. Lori has worked as a Probation Officer in Redwood County since 1991. Thank you Lori for your dedication and commitment to so many!



Property Taxes are Due October 15, 2019

All payments sent in by mail must be POSTMARKED and all online payments must be DATED no later than October 15, 2019 to be accepted without penalty.

Redwood County has made available a fast, convenient hassle-free way to pay your property taxes with the Direct Payment Plan. You can have your payment deducted directly 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's Office at (507) 637-4013 or visit our website at <http://www.redwoodcounty-mn.us>.

A tax payment drop box is also located on the north side of the Government Center for after hour payments. Credit card payments are also accepted online. Visit <http://www.redwoodcounty-mn.us> and go to "Redwood County Tax Parcel Information" to make a payment.

Redwood County Tax Forfeiture Property Sale will be held in October






Date and Time will be posted on the Redwood County website.

Which License/ID should I get?

Beginning Oct. 1, 2020, every air traveler 18 years of age and older will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license, enhanced driver's license or ID, passport or another acceptable form of ID to fly within the United States.

A full list of acceptable forms of identification is on the Transportation Security Administration website: <https://www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/identification>.

Still wondering which license is best for you? Follow this chart to see which one will best fit your needs.

					
	STANDARD DL	REAL ID	ENHANCED (EDL)	PASSPORT CARD	PASSPORT BOOK
DRIVE	X	X	X		
FLY IN THE US		X	X	X	X
DRIVE TO MEXICO/CANADA			X	X	X
FLY TO MEXICO/CANADA/OVERSEAS					X

Save time and arrive prepared when you're applying for a REAL ID or any license type using the online pre-application tool. Minnesotans can provide a significant amount of information online before they arrive at a driver's license office. The tool also includes a list of required documents for each license type.



Things to remember when upgrading your license. Please be patient and understanding as the process takes longer. If you follow the list provided, that can be picked up at our office or found online, it will go much smoother, but also remember it's on you if the documents provided are not correct. Our staff has been trained in the proper documentation that is acceptable, so be courteous if you are informed that it's not acceptable.

A.C.E. OF SW MN Formerly known as RSVP (Retired & Senior Volunteer Program) of SW Minnesota

The programs and services offered through A.C.E. are founded on Advocating, Connecting, and Educating the citizens of southwest Minnesota. Our resources and support help to enable adults to live safely and independently for as long as possible. We also help meet community needs by matching volunteers age 55 and older with activities that fit their interests, schedules, and experience.

Our Mission Statement: Creating strong, involved communities focusing on volunteerism and active living programs for adults 55 & above, and care partners of all ages.

Our Vision Statement: Bringing volunteers and healthy living programs together to create communities where older adults and care partners thrive.

We offer many FREE programs through A.C.E. of SW MN

- **Alzheimer’s Disease and/or Dementia Services and Support** – sponsored by the Redwood Area Dementia Awareness Network (RADAN)
- **Bone Builders**
- **Caregiver Support**
- **Evidence Based Health Promotion Programs**
A Matter of Balance, Powerful Tools for Caregivers, Better Choices-Better Health: Living Well with Chronic Conditions (CDSMP), Living Well with Diabetes.
- **Friendly Visiting**
- **Telephone Reassurance**
- **Healthy Living Series**
- **Nutritional Assistance Programs (NAPS)**

For more information about the programs offered by A.C.E. of SW MN or volunteer opportunities, contact your Redwood County Aging & Volunteer Services Coordinator,

Ann LeBrun,
507-627-1016

or visit us at

www.aceswmn.org



WANT TO STAY UP TO DATE WITH NEWS FROM REDWOOD COUNTY?

SIGN UP FOR EMAIL NOTICES



Redwood County

redwoodcounty-mn.us

Redwood County’s Online Maps



- View county Ditch and Tile location.
- High Resolution Aerial Imagery.
- Address Points.
- Parcel Boundaries.
- Snowmobile Trails.
- More!

View all of this FREE at beacon.schneidercorp.com and select “Redwood County”

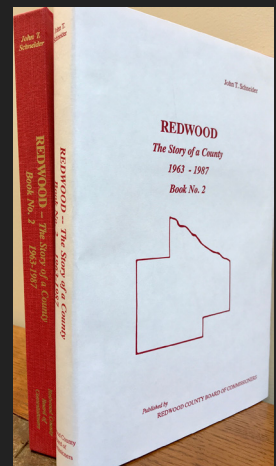
Or

Follow the link on Redwood County’s website

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 ●



Notes from the Assessor's Office

One of the most important distinctions in the various classifications of property is the distinction between homestead and non-homestead property.

WHAT IS A HOMESTEAD?

In general, a homestead is granted to a property that is used as a "principal or primary place of residence." Two classifications of property qualify for homestead status: residential and agricultural property. Residential property can qualify for either an owner-occupied homestead or a residential relative homestead. Agricultural property may be eligible for an owner-occupied homestead, relative homestead or a special agricultural homestead, depending on the circumstances.

During the 2019 legislative session, statute was amended to allow trust owned property owned by spouses to qualify for homestead. Previously trust-owned agricultural tax parcels could only be linked to a grantor's individually-owned parcel, or a parcel owned by the same trust. We now can link spouse's trust property.

In this issue, we will focus on the Special Ag Homestead.

SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL HOMESTEAD APPLICATIONS ARE CURRENTLY BEING ACCEPTED UNTIL DECEMBER 15TH IN THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE.

All special agricultural homesteads must meet the following basic requirements:

- The agricultural property is at least 40 acres, including undivided

government lots and correctional 40s. and is being tilled.

- The person receiving homestead and their spouse must not claim another agricultural homestead in Minnesota.

- The person receiving homestead and their spouse must live within 4 cities or townships of the agricultural property and must be a Minnesota resident.

- The qualified relative farming the land on behalf of the owner must also live within 4 cities or townships of the agricultural property and must be a Minnesota resident.

"Relative" for the purposes of an agricultural homestead is a grandchild, child, sibling, or parent of the owner of the agricultural property or of the spouse of the owner of the agricultural property. This relationship may be by blood or marriage.

There are three types of applications for the 2019 applications.

1. Agricultural property owned by individuals.
2. Agricultural property owned by entities.
3. Agricultural property owned by trusts.

To receive the special agricultural homestead an application must be completed and the owner and operator, and their spouses, must sign the application and provide their social security numbers. In addition an EZ 156 form from the Farm Service Agency office must be provided that lists who the owner is and who the operator of the parcel is, as well as a copy of the farmers' Schedule F, or equivalent, from their tax records from 2018. If the property is owned by an

entity, proof of who is a member of that entity is also required.

During the 2019 legislative session, statute was amended to allow unoccupied property owned by one entity to be operated by a different entity if certain conditions are met. Previously, if an entity-owned property was to receive special agricultural homestead, the same entity needed to both own and operate the property. Under the new law, a different entity may operate the property as long as:

1. the active farmer is a member of both the operating entity and the owning entity; and
2. more than half of the shareholders, members, or partners of each entity must be qualifying relatives.
3. the entity or entities are registered with the Department of Agriculture.

If all these conditions are met along with the rest of the requirements for entity owned special agricultural homestead, the homestead would be granted.

Special Agriculture Applications that were received in the Assessor's Office by the August deadline will receive updated information on the truth-in-taxation notice sent out in November. Applications received and processed after the deadline will not have updated information on their truth in taxation notice.

If you qualify for homestead and haven't received an actively farming application for the 2019 assessment, please contact us at (507) 637-4008 or go to our website: <https://redwoodcounty-mn.us/departments/assessor/> for application forms.

Prepare Your Septic System for Winter

The County receives very few reports of frozen septic systems. A septic that is used routinely through the winter, and not over-used, usually will not freeze even in the coldest weather. Septic tanks are generally buried deep enough (2 or more feet of dirt covering the top of the tank) that they will not freeze. Tanks set shallower should be insulated.

There are a few simple precautions you can take to provide extra assurance that your septic will not be affected by the freezing temperatures.

- Leave the grass long over the soil treatment area or mound in the fall. Letting the grass grow longer will trap more snow, which provides free insulation. Even in a clear winter, longer grass will provide some insulation on its own.
- If you don't have grass established on the septic, fall is a good time to plant some. Or, you can add 8-12 inches of loose straw over the supply pipe, tank, and treatment area.
- Attach insulation to the bottom of all manhole covers and inspection caps.
- Keep all vehicles, including ATVs and snowmobiles, off the system.
- Driving on a system, including over the pipe from the house to the tank, can crack the pipes, or it can compact the ground covering the pipes. Compacted ground is more likely to freeze.
- Use normal amounts of water and spread out warm water use throughout the week. For example, each day do one warm load of laundry or run the dishwasher. Regular introduction of warm water will prevent freezing.
- DO NOT do all your laundry on one day or on the weekend. Overloading the system will saturate the treatment area and will be many times more likely to freeze.
- DO NOT leave water running to prevent supply pipes from freezing. A slow trickle could freeze and a steady stream could overload the septic.
- Fix leaky plumbing and fixtures, such as toilets.
- If you have a high-efficiency furnace, re-route the drip water into a sump or a bucket.
- If you plan to leave for an extended period of time, get the tank pumped before you go.

**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**



LINC Redwood County will begin their third year of programming beginning in September 2019 and ending in May 2020. The Leadership program is designed to engage community members to lead, inspire, network and create to build a sustainable future in Redwood County. Monthly sessions are held with University of Minnesota educators and visits to valuable businesses throughout Redwood County.

2018-19 LINC GRADUATES:

Back Row: Dan Parker, Kyle Marlowe, Kelli Sorenson, Lynn Madsen, Tabia Goodthunder, Alex Hulinsky, Amy Busse, Susan Minkel, Robyn Hillesheim, Amy Gewerth, Amanda Schindler Front Row: Kelly Breikreutz, Jessica Johnson, Sarah Reynolds, Becky Bruns, Stacy Johnson, Jodi Robinson, Katie Borgen Not pictured: Kimberly Frank, Cheyanne St. John, Cody Kittelson, Deanna Zimmer



Nick Brozek, Land Use & Zoning Supervisor



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:
renvillecountymn.com/services/RRMRF/index.php

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:
<https://www.renvillecountymn.com/services/RRMRF/index.php>

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:

\$25.00 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