

Redwood County Connection

Vol. 4, No. 1

The Official Newsletter of Redwood County

Spring Edition 2019



COUNTY HIGHWAY UPDATE

By Keith Berndt, PE
Redwood County Engineer

The winter of 2018/2019 brought challenges to the Highway Department staff trying to keep the County Highways cleared of ice and snow. Before the snow plows were removed from the trucks, they went right into hauling material to repair roads overtopped in recent days by the spring flooding.

Along with the many challenges has been a lot of excitement.

An open house is planned on Tuesday April 16 from 3 to 6 pm to give the public an opportunity to see the New Highway Department building located at 1820 East Bridge Street in Redwood Falls. The Department moved its main shop into the former Titan Machinery building in December.

The building was constructed in 2012 and has been empty for a couple years. The purchase of this building was a very economical way to replace the previous dilapidated and undersized highway shop. The new facility provides a nice working environment for staff that meets current codes and regulations. It will help to reduce premature wear to equipment that previously had to be stored outdoors in the elements. The County is also working on determining the



best deposition of old highway property to make it an asset to the community and get the property into private ownership and back on the tax rolls.

There has been a lot of public interest in recent weeks about an ongoing discussion the County is holding regarding the future of the 8 satellite shops occupied by Redwood County employees. The matter has been discussed by the County Board, but no decisions have been made regarding if any satellite shops would be consolidated with other shops. The Department's objective is to continue to provide a high level of



service while keeping its operations as efficient as possible. The County is reviewing the operational efficiencies that might be achieved by consolidating some of the satellite shops. A recent review of 51 other Minnesota Counties concluded that the vast majority of Minnesota Counties have fewer satellite shops than Redwood County. The average number of satellite shops of the group was 3.6 as compared to Redwood County's 8.

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Discussions are also underway with the Minnesota Dept. of Transportation about sharing of the County Highway Department complex to avoid duplication of capital investments. Amongst the shared facilities under consideration are salt/winter chemical storage facilities and collocated building space. A side benefit of the partnerships would be the knowledge exchange between the employees of the two agencies.

The Department recently purchased two new snowplows to replace two 18-year-old plows, a replacement front end loader, and replacement motor grader. It's important to have a replacement plan for equipment to avoid excessive breakdown repair expense on equipment that has outlived its economic life.

The new plows are equipped with underbody plows that will allow for better scraping of compacted snow. The plows are also equipped with liquid tanks that will allow operators to apply products using the latest ice thawing technologies to melt ice at much lower temperatures than the dry salt/sand mixture that has been exclusively used. State-of-the-art controls will avoid waste and ensure proper application rates of deicing products.



Oath of Office



The Honorable Judge Rohland administered the Oath of Office to elected officials Auditor/Treasurer Jean Price, Recorder Joyce Anderson, Sheriff Randy Hanson and County Attorney Jenna Peterson on Jan. 8, 2019.



The Honorable Judge Rohland administered the Oath of Office to County Commissioners Lon Walling, Jim Salfer, Dennis Groebner, Dave Forkrud and Bob Van Hee on Jan. 8, 2019. Commissioner Jim Salfer was elected as the 2019 Board Chair and Commissioner Lon Walling was elected as the 2019 Board Vice Chair.

Do you own a business in Redwood County?

If so, you may be eligible to apply for a

Business Development Grant

administered by the Redwood County Economic Development Authority

Business Development Grant Program guidelines and application are available at redwoodcounty-mn.us/eda or contact Briana Mumme at briana_m@co.redwood.mn.us or (507) 637-1122

Applications due
Friday, July 31, 2019



ARE YOU A VETERAN? IF SO, YOU CAN ADD IT TO YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE OR ID CARD



Minnesota now allows a Veteran Indicator on your License or ID card. Required documents to add the Veteran Indicator is an original DD-214.

Please let us know if you want to add it at the time of renewal.

First Half Property Taxes Are Due May 15, 2019

- Payments sent in by mail must be **POSTMARKED** no later than May 15, 2019
- Payments made online must be **DATED** no later than May 15, 2019
- Payments made at the Dropbox must be **RECEIVED** no later than May 15, 2019

Penalty will be imposed on late payments per schedule on the back of the tax statement

To make an online payment or to obtain a copy of your tax statement go to Redwood County website:

<https://redwoodcounty-mn.us/departments/auditor-treasurer/>

Gorres Retires!

The Redwood County Highway Department honored and celebrated the retirement of Steve Gorres on January 4th. Steve worked in the Highway Department for 44 years serving as the Shop Supervisor. Thank you Steve for all your years of dedicated service to Redwood County!



VALUATION NOTICES FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Your Valuation Notice was mailed out the third week of March along with your property tax statement. The purpose of the notice is to let property owners know what classification and value has been set for the 2019 assessment. The 2019 assessment is used in 2020 for property tax purposes. The notice also lists the date and time of the local Board of Appeals and Equalization Meeting that will be held for the district that your property is located in. The backside of your local Board of Appeal and Equalization Notice gives you information regarding the appeal process.

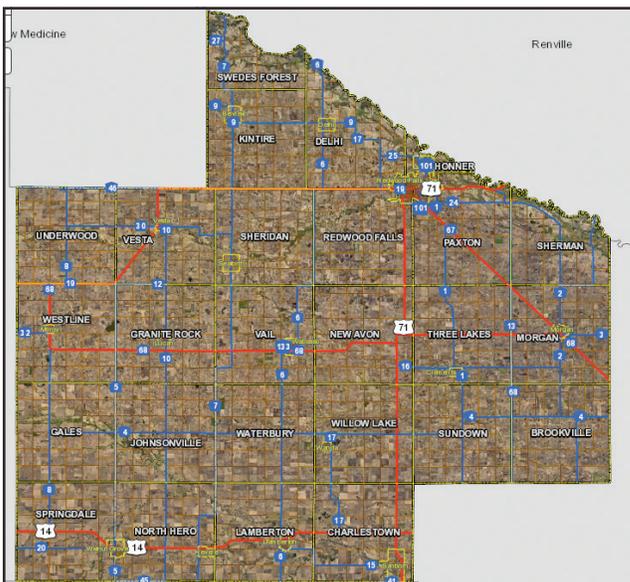
A list of the meeting dates and times can also be found on the Redwood County Website:

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

If you have questions regarding the classification or value of your property, you are urged to contact the Assessor's Office at (507) 637-4008 or visit the Government Center Assessor's Office.

BEACON

Redwood County's Online mapping website—Beacon—has now had nearly 68,000 visits to view public information. Information that would normally require a trip to the County office building can now be accessed from the convenience of your home computer or even a smartphone.



Types of data available through Beacon:

- High-resolution Aerial Imagery
- Parcel Information and Boundaries
- County Ditch and Tile Maps
- Zoning
- Hydrology
- And more

All of these services are free and available anytime - even when the County offices are closed. In just the past year there have been over 34,000 visits to Redwood County's Beacon site, the increasing use of this tool is saving both time and money for the County and its residents.

To access Redwood County's Beacon website:

www.co.redwood.mn.us

Scroll down and click on "Mapping Tool"

beacon.schneidercorp.com

Use the dropdown menus to select Redwood County

What Are Land Use Regulations For and Where Did They Come From?

Introduction

Ancient History:

Land use regulations, or Zoning, is the use of districts set aside for specific uses. Land use regulations have been around since ancient times. For example, in ancient Jerusalem, slaughter houses and leather tanneries were required to be located on the east end of town, so the prevailing wind would blow the smell away from the city. Likewise, there was a curfew on businesses operated away from the owner's residence, but businesses located in the owner's residence could operate anytime. This was an important rule, because throughout most of history, most economic activity took place in people's homes, or in outbuildings on the same site. However, during the industrial revolution the economy changed, and factory production became the norm. Since then, economic production has taken place primarily outside of the home, and people have grown accustomed to their homes being a refuge from their hectic, and often loud, work day.

Why do we Zone?

Zoning started in towns and cities as a way to preserve the peaceful character of residential communities. Zoning also allows the citizens of the city or county to protect their property values, by setting aside areas for land uses that are likely to negatively affect each other if they are mixed (such as industrial and residential). With zoning rules in place, property owners know that the essential character of their neighborhood will not change, unless they are notified beforehand and have a chance to participate in the public process used to make zoning changes. Zoning also allows for better planning.

Streets can be platted and built in the right places and right size to serve the planned developments. Also, water, sewer, electricity, and other utilities and emergency services can be provided more efficiently and economically.

Zoning in the U.S.A.:

Zoning as we know it in the United States has been around for about 100 years and the underlying law comes from the landmark United States Supreme Court case, *Village of Euclid v. Ambler Realty Co.* In the 1920s, the village of Euclid, Ohio, passed a zoning ordinance in response to the rapid industrial growth of the nearby city of Cleveland. Euclid wanted to prevent Cleveland from expanding into Euclid and changing the nature of the village. The court ruled 6 to 3 that zoning regulations are a reasonable and constitutional use of the local government's police power. Those voting in favor included Chief Justice (and former Republican President) William H. Taft, Civil War veteran Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., Louis Brandeis (first Jewish Justice), Harlan Stone, George Sutherland, and Edward Sanford.

Zoning in Redwood County:

Zoning came to Redwood County in 1971, when the County Board of Commissioners first passed the Zoning Ordinance. The land area of the County is divided into different zoning districts. The incorporated cities in the county are each in charge of their own zoning. Most of the county is zoned Agricultural, but there are also commercial, industrial, residential, and other zones. Each district has its own list of permitted land uses and conditional land uses, in the ordinance. Permitted uses are types of land uses that the County has decided are compatible anywhere within that district. No special permit is required to undertake a permitted use (but you still need a permit if constructing a building). Conditional Uses are land uses that the county has decided are compatible in some parts of the district, but may not be in all areas. A

Conditional Use Permit is required before beginning a conditional use.

What is a

Conditional Use Permit?

The conditional use permitting process includes at least one public hearing, the time and date of which are advertised in the official county publication (*Redwood Gazette*) and mailed directly to all landowners within 1/4 of a mile of the property on which the land use is proposed. The purpose of the public hearing is for the County to gather information about the proposed project and project location, in order to determine whether the location is a good fit for the project. If there are reasons that the project is not a good fit, the county will try to remedy those reasons by placing conditions on the permit. If placing conditions on the permit will not solve the anticipated problems, then the permit application cannot be approved.

Online Resources:

Anyone thinking about starting a business or other new activity on their property can look in the Redwood County Zoning Ordinance online to find out whether a permit is needed. First, look up your zoning district. This can be found on the Beacon website (<https://beacon.schneidercorp.com/>), under the zoning tab in the side bar. Make sure to check and highlight "County Zoning." This will highlight the map with the different zoning districts. Then use the information tool (the "i" in a blue circle on the tool bar on the top of the map screen to click on your property). This will bring up a text box showing the zoning district name. Once you know your zoning district, look up the district in the online code of ordinances (<https://redwoodcounty-mn.us/code/>) and scan through the permitted use and conditional use lists. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the county staff at the Environmental Office. We are here to guide you through the permitting process.

Everything You wanted to know about Zoning, but didn't know Who to Ask

by Nick Brozek

As your friendly neighborhood Zoning Officer for the past 7 years, I have run into frequent situations in which our fellow citizens had questions about, or were unaware of and some common zoning rules.

Some examples are as follows:

Building Permits: A zoning permit (also called a building permit) is needed before moving a building or moving in a “portable building.” This is because portable buildings have the same potential effects on surrounding properties and road rights-of-way as do buildings placed on permanent foundations. Thus they are subject to the same setback and land use requirements. The permit process is the way in which the Environmental Office makes sure that all buildings meet the County zoning requirements. **(Nearly) 50 Years of Permits:** Zoning permits have been required for all construction in Redwood County since 1971, when the zoning ordinance was first adopted by the County Board of Commissioners.

Don't Forget! Any permit obtained after construction has already been started, or a use of land already begun, is charged a higher “after-the-fact” permit fee, which is double the usual fee.

Signs: A zoning permit is also required to construct a sign. There are size limits and right-of-way setbacks for signs, which you can read about in the signs section of the code of zoning ordinances.

Decks: A zoning permit is also

required to construct a deck or patio. However, there is no fee (unless the permit is applied for after-the-fact, in which case the fee is \$35).

Trees and Drainage Don't Mix:

Trees, shrubs, fences, and buildings must be set back from County drainage ditches and County drain tile lines, as follows: 100 foot setback for buildings, 75 foot setback for trees and shrubs, 16.5 foot setback for fences (open ditch only – no setback required between a fence and a tile line – however, fence owner is responsible for the cost to move and replace if needed for ditch maintenance).

Tree Lines and Roads: Trees and shrubs must be set back from the road. Contact the Environmental Office to discuss how these setbacks are determined (using prevailing wind direction, etc.). Trees and shrubs planted contrary to the setback rules may cause snow accumulation on the roadway and will need to be removed!

County, Cities, and Townships:

Properties located within two miles of the city of Redwood Falls, and properties located in Paxton Township, may need permits from both the county and the city or township for their construction projects. The City

of Redwood Falls building inspector inspects projects within two miles of town (per Minnesota Statutes Section 326B.121(d)), except in Paxton Township. Paxton Township has its own building inspector who conducts inspections throughout the entire township. If you live in Paxton Township or within two miles of Redwood Falls, make sure to contact both

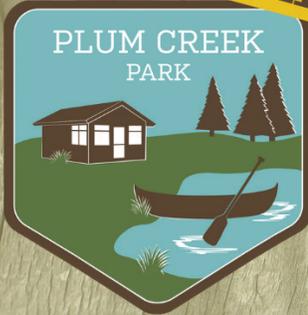
the Redwood County Environmental Office and the city or township for permits. Agricultural buildings are generally exempt from the city and township permitting, but it never hurts to check!

Kennels: Anyone wanting to keep 3 or more domestic animals for the purpose of breeding, commercial boarding, or sale, must obtain a conditional use permit (Note: kennels are prohibited in some zoning districts).

Different Places, Different Rules: Zoning Rules differ from county to county, and city to city, because each county and city is responsible for its own zoning enforcement. Consequently, they adopt rules that fit their own needs. Often, rules are very similar from county to county, but you will always find some differences. Sometimes this can be confusing and frustrating for people who own property in or work in multiple counties. But it's the price we pay for local control over our own affairs.

If you ever have any questions about Zoning, or about the Code of Ordinances, please do not hesitate to contact us at the Redwood County Environmental Office, (507) 637-4023.

WE ARE ONLINE!



For more
information and
to make a
reservation visit:

PLUMCREEKPARK.COM



Hiking



RV & Tent Camping



Lake Laura

VETERAN SERVICE OUTREACH

Schedule an
appointment today!

Lamberton Library

101 2nd Ave. East
9:30 am - 12 pm

2nd Wednesday of each month
except December

Wabasso Library

1248 Oak Street
1 pm - 3 pm

2nd Wednesday of each month
except December

Please note
appointments are
required 1 week
prior to meeting

Contact the Redwood County
Veterans Service Office to
schedule your appointment at
(507) 637-4034

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



Congressman Collin Peterson and the Redwood County Veteran Service Office held a Veterans Town Hall Meeting on Monday, March 18th with over 25 veterans and other local residents in attendance. Congressman Peterson is serving on the Veterans Affairs Committee and was visiting Veterans throughout Southwest Minnesota to gain their perspective of the VA system.

Public Drainage and Who Pays?

Public drainage systems are those that were established under MN Statutes 103E. These drainage systems consist of open ditch and drain tile. Many of these drainage systems date back to the early 1900's. All of these systems began because a group of landowners recognized the need for effective drainage and got together to petition the Drainage Authority (County Board) to construct a drainage system. If the project was deemed viable under MN Statute 103E, then the Drainage Authority could approve the project and begin construction. One of the main hurdles to a viable project is that the "benefits" of the drainage must outweigh the total cost of the project.

"Benefits" are determined by "Viewers" who the Drainage Authority hires to assess the land. Viewers use many tools to examine property and assign a value. They separate acres into 4 different categories ranging from standing water to very dry ground. Acres that would have standing water on it if not for drainage are deemed to benefit the most. Once all lands within the drainage watershed have been viewed, all the benefits are added up to come up with the total amount of benefits for that system.

When it comes time to pay the bills, landowners are responsible for paying their share compared to the overall system. For example, if a landowner owned land that had



benefits of \$1,000 and the total benefits on the system were \$100,000, then that landowner would be responsible for 1% of all maintenance costs.

All drainage systems in Redwood County have their own account. When those accounts get low, individuals who are benefiting will be assessed a levy on their taxes. When landowners are assessed and pay into a drainage system, that money stays in that systems account, it does not go into the Counties general budget. Taxpayers in the County who do not live on property that has drainage benefits do not pay into any drainage system. General tax levy dollars are not used towards the construction nor maintenance of the public drainage systems.

For more information please contact the Redwood County Environmental Office at (507) 637-4023.

Redwood County Child Care Shortage Update

By Briana Mumme
Redwood County Economic Development
Coordinator

In January 2018 the Economic Development Authority (EDA) launched an initiative to begin addressing the child care shortage throughout the County. Public meetings were hosted by the EDA and First Children's Finance, with over 50 people in attendance. Following a taskforce was developed, comprised of community leaders, parents, grandparents, government officials, school representatives, support agencies and child care providers. The taskforce identified two goals, which has served as the foundation for the EDA this past year. The first goal, is to increase capacity and second is to support the current child care providers and programs.

In an effort to carry out the goals created, First Children's Finance completed a gap analysis in December of 2017 and again in December of 2018 to identify how large of a need there is throughout the County. What is shown in the first table is in the Gap Analysis Results; reflecting the number of children under the age of six, with all parents in the workforce not utilizing licensed child care.

The second table reflects the number of Family Based Licensed Child Care Providers in Redwood County comparing 2017 to 2018. In 2017 a total of 4 new family based child care licenses were issued with 7 closures; resulting in a net loss of 3 or equivalent to 36 child care slots. In 2018 there were 12 new providers licensed and 3 closures; for a net gain of 9 providers equivalent to 108 slots. Additionally

the Lower Sioux Early Head Start and Preschool Program opened with a capacity of 52 slots. As a result, this increased the number of new slots in 2018 to 160.

While this data continues to help drive the areas of focus, there is understanding the data is simply a snapshot in time. As we are a very mobile society, there is awareness family's travel to various communities for their childcare needs which promotes inconsistencies.

Throughout the rest of the year a variety of activities were completed to pursue addressing the shortage. The primary focus for the EDA was implementing an awareness campaign to educate the public on the topic. Additionally, the EDA partnered with agencies to fulfill the second goal of supporting the current child care providers and programs. The EDA, in conjunction with Southwest Health and Human Services hosted a Child Care Provider Appreciation Event, where Child Care Providers received special recognition, along with training which allowed them to earn continuing education credits. Additionally, First Children's Finance is currently offering a Business Leadership Program for the Child Care Providers to obtain more technical training to operate their business.

We know this is not an initiative which can be resolved overnight, however the EDA will continue to monitor the needs of the County and continue to work with communities to develop right size solutions. More information can be found at the Redwood County website at redwoodcounty-mn.us under the Economic Development tab or feel free to contact me at (507) 637-1122 or

Briana_m@co.redwood.mn.us

Gap Analysis Results

	2017	2018
Sanborn	-59	-59
Lamberton	-30	-20
Revere	15	5
Walnut Grove	-36	-46
Belview	-26	-26
Clements	-26	-16
Lucan	1	1
Milroy	7	-3
Morgan	-11	-11
Redwood Falls	-44	6
Seaforth	6	6
Vesta	-3	7
Wabasso	-6	4
Wanda	0	0
	-211	-152

Licensed Child Care Provider Totals

	2017	2018	Total Slots	Provider Need
Sanborn	0	0	0	5
Lamberton	2	4	48	2
Revere	1	1	12	0
Walnut Grove	2	2	24	4
Belview	0	0	0	2.1
Clements	0	1	12	1.3
Lucan	2	3	36	0
Milroy	3	2	24	0.25
Morgan	5	6	72	1
Redwood Falls	18	22	264	0
Seaforth	1	1	12	0
Vesta	2	3	36	0
Wabasso	6	6	72	0
Wanda	0	0	0	0
Lower Sioux	0	0	52	0
TOTAL	42	51	664	15.65
New	4	12		
Closed	7	3		
Net	-3	9		



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/services/RRMRF>

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/services/RRMRF/resources.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