

**Carlton County
Coordinator/HR Office**

301 Walnut Avenue, Rm. 214
PO Box 510
Carlton, MN 55718
Phone: (218) 384-9141
Fax: (218) 384-9196
www.co.carlton.mn.us

Carlton County

County-wide newsletter brought to you by the County Coordinator's Office

Issue 02 April / May / June 2021

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Pg. 2 . . . Minnesota Property Tax Refund (PTR)
- Pg. 2 . . . Broadband Survey
- Pg. 3 . . . Let's Get Acquainted

Carlton County Vaccination Rates

Article submitted by Jenny Barta

Carlton County Public Health & Human Services was excited to partner with the Mobile Vax bus, BC&BS of MN and MDH to provide COVID-19 vaccine to our communities on June 17, 2021. This opportunity presented a 'no barrier' option for individuals to receive the one dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine and also eligibility to apply for the 'Your Shot to Summer' vaccine incentives through MDH. Through this partnership, Carlton County was able to surpass 70% of our population 16+ who have now received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine. This was a milestone worth celebrating and benefits both residents and visitors to our county, providing additional protection for those individuals who can't be vaccinated or who are vaccinated but have underlying health conditions which could still put them at risk for complications from COVID-19 disease.

Every shot in an arm means that COVID-19 disease is less likely to spread or develop new variants. Carlton County-sponsored clinics provided almost 7000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine to individuals from the end of December 2020 to June 15, 2021. This is the equivalent to 10 times as many doses of flu vaccine that Carlton County Public Health & Human Services administers in a typical flu season.

We are also pleased to announce that 98% of Carlton County residents 65+ have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine. The risk for developing severe COVID-19 disease requiring hospitalization, or even causing death, increases exponentially with each decade of life. Those who are over age 65 are not only at greater risk because of age, but are also more likely to have underlying medical conditions, which makes it more difficult for their immune systems to fight this virus. With such a high vaccination rate amongst residents in this age group, and vaccines boasting efficacy upwards of 90-95%, COVID-19 has very little chance of transmitting or causing severe disease and death in this population.

It is through partnerships with Fond du Lac Health & Human Services, Community Memorial Hospital & Essentia Moose Lake; Cromwell Medical, Gateway, Min No Aya Win, and Raiter-CMH Clinics; as well as other local pharmacies, clinics and healthcare, that Carlton County has reached these high vaccination rates before Independence Day 2021. This was a combined effort, all working together with the common goal: protecting our residents and visitors, promoting COVID-19 safety measures and preventing the spread of COVID-19 one shot at a time. Protect-Promote-Prevent; the cornerstones of Public Health, which have been utilized throughout this pandemic, and which will continue to be used going forward into the future.

For questions, please contact Public Health Specialist/Carlton County Disease Prevention & Control Coordinator Jenny Barta RN, BAN, PHN at jenny.barta@co.carlton.mn.us.



Photo credit: Jane Willie, Carlton County PIO

2021 Carlton County Board of Commissioners



Dick Brenner
Member
218.879.5572

District 1
Dick.Brenner@co.carlton.mn.us



Marv Bodie
Member
218.879.2085

District 2
Marv.Bodie@co.carlton.mn.us



Thomas Proulx
Chairperson
218.348.4288

District 3
Thomas.Proulx@co.carlton.mn.us



Mark Thell
Member
218.384.3878

District 4
Mark.Thell@co.carlton.mn.us



Gary Peterson
Vice-Chairperson
218.380.4949

District 5
Gary.Peterson@co.carlton.mn.us

*Board meetings are held at the Transportation Building on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 8:30 a.m. and the 4th Monday of every month at 4:00 p.m.

Minnesota Property Tax Refund (PTR) for Homesteaded Property Taxpayers

Carlton County would like to remind all taxpayers with homesteaded property to research and apply for the Minnesota Property Tax Refund (PTR) from the State of Minnesota's Department of Revenue.

The State of Minnesota Department of Revenue has two types of Homestead Credit Refunds and you may qualify for both. They are:

- Regular Property Tax Refund – this is based on your income and the amount of property taxes paid. You must have owned and lived in your home on January 2, 2021 and your total household income must be less than \$116,180. The maximum refund is \$2,840.
- Special Property Tax Refund – this is based ONLY on how much your property tax has increased. You must have owned and lived in your home January 2, 2020 and January 2, 2021 and your property tax must have increased at least 12% and a minimum of \$100. This increase cannot be due to improvements done to your property (i.e.: new construction, remodeling, etc.)

You may claim your refund online, through a software provider, or by calling 651.296.3781 or 1.800.652.9094 to request an application form. The program itself is administered entirely by the Department of Revenue. For more information please go to: <https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/homeowners-homestead-credit-refund>. Make sure to use the property tax statement that is mailed out in March or April (mid-July for manufactured homes in a park). DO NOT USE the Notice of Proposed Taxes.

Historically, Carlton County residents have qualified for an average refund of approximately \$850. According to the MN Department of Revenue only 1/3 of eligible residents apply for the PTR. This means many Carlton County residents are forfeiting this money, YOUR MONEY, simply because they do not apply! All residents are strongly encouraged to apply for this refund. This program is intended to help offset property taxes for residents who experience financial hardships, or live in an area with unusually high needs for services which can drive up local costs, causing higher property tax levies on its residents. While refund amounts vary, some residents can pay their 2nd half property taxes in the fall using their refund.

Please share this newsletter and word of the Property Tax Refund with all homeowners you know. There are millions of dollars of refund monies that go unclaimed annually!

Broadband Survey at County Fair Booth

The Carlton County EDA will be surveying individuals attending the Carlton County Fair about the level of satisfaction/dissatisfaction and need for alternate broadband services within the County. Using a Survey Monkey tool at the fair booth, it is hoped that the survey will provide input on the sufficiency or insufficiency of broadband throughout Carlton County and within individual County communities. The information gained will help guide the County Board and EDA along with individual community leaders on opportunities to explore ways to improve broadband services for all residents.

This survey will be the first step towards determining the need and demand to improve broadband connectivity within Carlton County. Survey information will be critical in guiding the next steps. Those individuals participating will enter their residential or commercial address to assist in tracking responses from each area.

County employees and residents are also strongly encouraged to take a free Minnesota Speed Test to determine actual upload/download speeds in real time from their work and home computers.

www.mnruralbroadbandcoalition.com/speedtest

Carlton County Committee's

Building Committee -
2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 a.m.
(Transportation Building -TB)

Committee of the Whole -
1st Tuesday of the month at 4:00 p.m. (TB)

Diversity Committee -
3rd Thursday of the month at 9:00 a.m.
(PH&HS)

Finance Committee -
1st Tuesday of the month at 2:30 p.m. (TB)

Policy Committee -
3rd Monday of the month at 2:00 p.m.
(Law Enforcement Center - LEC)

Management Team -
1st Tuesday of the month at 8:30 a.m. (TB)

Supervisors Committee -
3rd Thursday quarterly at 2:00 p.m.
(Varies)

Wellness Committee -
2nd Wednesday of the month at 8:30 a.m.
(PH&HS)

**For a more detailed Carlton County
Committee list [click here](#).**



Are you interested in submitting an article in the next Carlton County Newsletter? Email or mail your articles and pictures by the September 24, 2021 deadline to:

Shanny Hurst
Carlton County Coordinator's Office
P.O. Box 510
Carlton, MN 55718
shanny.hurst@co.carlton.mn.us

*Please note that all submissions are subject to editing, as needed.

Let's Get Acquainted with Carlton County Financial Assistance Supervisor

My name is Angela Korpela. I am a Financial Assistance Supervisor at Carlton County Public Health and Human Services (PHHS). I have worked for Carlton County for thirteen years, but in this capacity for three. In my current position I am responsible for managing the Income Maintenance unit, which administers public assistance programs that help community members with food, cash, and health insurance benefits. We also administer a burial fund and emergency assistance programs.



I grew up on a dairy farm in Carlton County, as did my parents, and their parents. I have two sisters, which may not equate to the typical farm family, but they are important to my story. My sister, Mandy, was diagnosed with Battens Disease, a Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinosis disorder that has a typical onset between ages 5 and 10 resulting in fatality by late teens or early twenties. She was 11 months older than me and passed away at the age of 19. The years of watching an awful degenerative disease shaped who I would be and what my life work would become. I found my career in service and have witnessed many stories and situations that have led people to needing to ask for help. That is why I am so proud to work with the greatest group of caring, kind, and compassionate people at Carlton County PHHS and specifically within the Income Maintenance unit. Our team understands that each situation is different, and our job is to serve our community with integrity, respect, and compassion.

I married my husband, Laramie, in 2002 and we have two children. Outside of working full time, we raise beef cattle and were fortunate to purchase the farm that my Mom grew up on. This ties to the other piece of being a public servant, being responsible for public funds. I hope our kids have the opportunity to purchase and own land in Carlton County if they choose. I will continue to try to find the balance of providing great service, while considering the impact to our overall county budget.

During the pandemic I was asked to support our Incident Command Team as the back-up to our Operations Section Lead. This included organizing COVID-19 vaccine clinics, sheltering contracts, and a call center to help assist community members in getting registered for the vaccine. It was an amazing experience to witness great collaboration from departments throughout Carlton County. Each providing their expertise and stepping up for the greater good of our community. We are fortunate to live in this Country, but also in a proactive County.

Outside of work and the farm I enjoy watching my kid's events. We enjoy taking vacations that include long hikes and few people. Some of my favorite hikes are the Grinnell Glacier Trail in Montana and the Chesler Park/Joint Trail loop in the Needles section of Canyonlands in Utah.

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

www.co.carlton.mn.us