

**Carlton County
Coordinator/HR Office**

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Carlton County

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

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Carlton County Recognized by National and International organizations for Innovation During COVID-19



GIS Coordinator Jared Hovi and GIS Specialist Siona Roberts

Carlton County's innovative work during the COVID-19 response has stood out across the nation and world. Because of the use of GIS software, Esri, a global market leader in GIS since 1969, recognized Carlton County through a [Special Achievement in GIS \(SAG\) Award](#). The award is given to user sites around the world to recognize outstanding work with GIS technology.

Carlton County Commissioner Marv Bodie commented, "Carlton County is extremely pleased with the ingenuity and innovative approaches to data collection, data mining and reporting that our GIS division provided to the public, Public

Health Staff and County Administration using the Esri suite of products. We are proud of our GIS staff for coming up with timely answers and solutions to questions and needs that could only come up during a once a century pandemic."

In addition to the award, Carlton County's important contributions will be showcased on their website as well as at the 2021 Esri User Conference. More about the project can be found [here](#).

Carlton County Public Health and Human Services was also honored for innovation, as an Honorable Mention for the 2021 Innovative Practice Award by the [National Association of County and City Health Officials \(NACCHO\)](#). The award celebrates local health departments for developing innovative programs to meet the needs of their community during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Honorable Mention designation demonstrates a high level of program innovation and reflects the collaboration, adaptability, and program resilience.

Commissioner Bodie also commended Public Health by sharing, "The creativity shown by the Public Health and other county staff in providing safe and efficient vaccine clinics during the middle of a pandemic just shows what a great can-do attitude and the commitment our county staff has to serve the needs of our citizens."

Innovative Practices are exciting approaches and strategies to local public health issues that were developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and were creatively adapted to meet the circumstances of the pandemic. The honorable mention features Carlton County's Point of Dispensing Drive Through Flu Clinic as preparation for drive-through COVID-19 vaccine clinics, as well as a safer way to receive the Influenza vaccine during a pandemic. Read more about these award-winning practices at the [Innovative Practices Database](#).



2021 Carlton County Board of Commissioners



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Gary Peterson
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*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.

Carlton County's Broadband Internet Survey is Underway

Carlton County has created a broadband internet survey for county residents, business owners, and property owners to complete which will provide critical information regarding internet service availability, quality and satisfaction.

The information is being gathered to verify where internet service is available and is not available across the county; and whether the service offered is meeting the needs and expectations of those who use it. We encourage everyone in Carlton County with or without internet service to participate in the survey to enhance the County's understanding of this critical infrastructure's reach and shortcomings.

So far, survey results have been typical to what other rural counties have seen. Cities within the county have more options and for the most part, have better internet service. Those outside city limits increasingly rely on a number of alternative internet technologies, from fixed wireless (AirFiber, Genesis) to satellite (HughesNet, Starlink) or hotspots (AT&T, Verizon). Some areas of the county have seen upgrades to fiber technology, increasing speeds, capacity and satisfaction. Other areas are hobbling along on antiquated copper phone lines delivering snail's-pace, unreliable connections.

Of all survey responses to date, 84% have acknowledged some sort of internet access with almost one-third of those dependent on a smartphone or cellular hotspot device. Over 50% of participants with an internet connection state they do not get the speeds they subscribe to. A majority of users run one to five devices in their home via the internet. One third of all survey respondents have tried more than one internet service provider at their current location. Of those with no current internet service, most noted that they did not subscribe to anything due to price or limitations of the service.

The data collected from this survey will allow Carlton County to identify problem areas and develop strategies to encourage and entice providers to find solutions to increase internet availability, speeds, reliability and affordability for the area's users.

Carlton County's survey link is <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Broadband> but it can also be accessed via the Carlton County website: www.co.carlton.mn.us under the News Flash section of the home page. Carlton County has also partnered with the Minnesota Rural Broadband Coalition which is conducting a state-wide broadband internet speed test. It, too, is being used to gather internet access data, dispute the speeds providers say are being offered and make a case for more funding mechanisms and policy to support the communities working on this tough initiative. The speed test link is <https://mnruralbroadbandcoalition.com/speedtest>. All are encouraged to participate in both the Carlton County survey and the state-wide speed test.

GIS Specialist Receives 2021 Young Professional Achievement Award

Carlton County GIS Specialist Siona Roberts receives [2021 Young Professional Achievement Award](#) from the Minnesota GIS/LIS Consortium. The award will be presented at the annual conference in St. Cloud this October. The award includes a Minnesota plaque and free registration to this year's conference. Siona was nominated by several Carlton County coworkers. More details about the criteria and nature of the Award can be found by clicking [here](#).

Carlton County hired Siona right out of college and she consistently demonstrated leadership and excellence in utilizing GIS for business optimization. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she used her training in the Incident Command System and her role in the planning unit to create an opportunity to educate county Public Health and Human Services (PHHS) on the power of GIS. Siona transformed paper forms into a digital platform with GIS – placing pre-registration, check-in, and vaccination records into simple tools and a centralized database. Her enthusiasm and dedication kept morale up throughout the project and Siona created a bond between PHHS and GIS staff leading to new ideas and partnerships.

From asset management to emergency response, Siona's work led to several cross-departmental improvements and united historically disparate entities to implement advanced solutions. This work increased the number of county GIS users tenfold and has improved the lives of Carlton County community members.



Siona Roberts

Dual Influenza and COVID-19 Drive-Thru Vaccination Clinics

Sign-up below to reserve your spot for either the Flu-shot/mist, COVID-19 vaccine, or both.* Carlton County Public Health will be administering vaccinations on two dates, in two locations for your convenience. If you are eligible for a third dose, please contact your healthcare provider prior to the clinic. Boosters will not be available.

Wednesday, October 13

Time: 2:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Location: Carlton County Transportation
Department
1630 Co Rd 61, Carlton, MN 55718

Please click on the vaccines you would like to register for on the hyperlinks below to reserve your spot. If you are registering for both vaccines, please choose the same appointment time for both (or closest available).

Influenza:

[FluMist](#) (ages 2-49)

[Flu Shot](#) (ages 6 months+)

[High Dose](#) (ages 65+, as available)

COVID-19

[Pfizer BioNTech](#) (ages 12+)

[Johnson & Johnson](#) (ages 18+)

Thursday, October 14

Time: 2:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Location: Carlton County Transportation
Department
3888 Co Rd 61, Barnum, MN 55707

Please click on the vaccines you would like to register for on the hyperlinks below to reserve your spot. If you are registering for both vaccines, please choose the same appointment time for both (or closest available).

Influenza:

[FluMist](#) (ages 2-49)

[Flu Shot](#) (ages 6 months+)

[High Dose](#) (ages 65+, as available)

COVID-19

[Pfizer BioNTech](#) (ages 12+)

[Johnson & Johnson](#) (ages 18+)

If you are unable to register via the hyperlinks above, registration links for all vaccines can also be found on the Carlton County COVID-19 Hub: <https://bit.ly/carltoncountyhub>, or residents can call 218-499-6310 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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 December 17, 2021 deadline to:

Shanny Hurst
Carlton County Coordinator's Office
1307 Cloquet Avenue
Cloquet, MN 55720
shanny.hurst@co.carlton.mn.us

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

Deputy Cawcutt and his K9 Partner Receive United States Police Canine Association (USPCA) Region 12 Lisa Kern Memorial Award

Carlton County Deputy Tory Cawcutt and his K9 Roman's apprehension of a murder suspect during an active manhunt in response to a homicide case in the City of Cloquet / Fond du Lac Reservation in 2020 earned them both the United States Police Canine Association (USPCA) Region 12 Lisa Kern Memorial Award Patrol Case of the Year 2020.

The USPCA Region 12 covers parts of MN, WI, ND, SD & Iowa. Each quarter, cases are submitted to the USPCA Region 12 for awards. Region 12 has a committee of seven people who vote on the case submissions. Deputy Cawcutt and Roman's case was selected as the case of the quarter. The quarterly winners are then sent to the national office for "National Case of the Quarter" considerations. At the end of the year, the same seven judges take the four "Case of the Quarter" winners and select the case of the year. Deputy Cawcutt and Roman were selected the 2020 case of the year winners.

Officer Lisa Kern was a Minneapolis Police Officer from 1990 to 2004. She was a canine handler with the Minneapolis Police Department and had a heart of gold – a mother to one. She had a smile that was infectious. Tragically in 2004 while at a Minneapolis Police Precinct, Lisa suffered a medical emergency to which she did not survive. She left behind a young son and the department and canine unit lost a great person. The Lisa Kern memorial award is dedicated to her memory and to keep her awesome spirit alive in Region 12.



Deputy Cawcutt, K9 Roman

Let's Get Acquainted with the Carlton County Community Navigator

My name is Emily Rish. I am the Community Navigator and work within the Community & Family Initiatives Department. Currently, I am working on the Community Resource Hub, which is part of the Preschool Development Grant. I provide outreach to families with young children age 0-8 years old and connect them to resources to provide support.

I grew up in Carlton County. I began working with Carlton County in April, but this past spring I was a county intern and provided support during many of the COVID-19 vaccination clinics throughout the pandemic. This past May I graduated from the University of Wisconsin La-Crosse with a Public Health Degree. I just recently got engaged to my fiancé Brett in June. Outside of work, I enjoy going on hikes, golfing and being around my family and friends.

The two resources that I use as the Community Navigator include Bridge to Benefits and Help Me Connect. Bridge to Benefits helps to connect families to financial assistance. After completing a short screening tool, families are able to find and apply for resources where they are eligible. Some resource examples include: food/nutrition programs, family tax credits and health insurance. As the Community Navigator, I am able to meet with the families one-on-one and help guide them through the application process.

Help Me Connect is a resource that helps connect families to services throughout our community. Help Me Connect allows families to search within their city/county and get results that are the closest to them. Help Me Connect offers resources in a variety of different topics: Healthy Development/Screening, Developmental/Behavior Concerns, Disabilities Services/Resources, Tribal & American Indian Families and many more.

Contact me at emily.rish@co.carlton.mn.us or (218) 900-7206 if you or someone you know is interested in finding out what resources you are eligible for or what resources exist within Carlton County.



Emily Rish

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