

**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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Cloquet Airport's New Fixed Based Operator Hangar Open House Celebration



On Wednesday, May 3rd, the Carlton County Transportation Department celebrated the Open House of the Cloquet Airport's new Fixed Based Operator (FBO) Hangar. Representatives from Chicago's Federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) and MnDOT Aeronautics flew to Cloquet to view the hangar that was built with grants from both entities, including \$1.2 million from the EDA and approximately \$1.07 million from MnDOT. Speakers at the Open House included Representative Jeff Dotseth, Jacob Warkentin from Representative Pete Stauber's office, Rachel

Loeffler-Kemp from Senator Amy Klobuchar's office, Orion DeFranco from Senator Tina Smith's office and both Thomas Barron and Kevin McGrath speaking for the Chicago and County EDA chapters.

The 6,960 square foot building, which includes office space and training classrooms, will be leased to Venture North Aviation, an accelerated flight training school, to provide additional space at the Cloquet Airport due to the growing demand for their services. Students of Venture North Aviation stay an average of 10 to 12 days in Carlton County benefiting local hotels, restaurants, and retail stores. The hangar is the first step in the County's growth plan for the Cloquet Airport. Carlton County Board Chair Dick Brenner, who also sits on the County's Airport Commission Board, hopes this project is the first of many.

(Photographs credit: Jana Peterson, Editor/Co-Owner of Pine Knot News)



Child Protection Case Worker Receives the Child Welfare Exemplary Service Award



Carlton County Child Protection Case Worker Keith Hauswith was the recipient of a 2023 Child Welfare Exemplary Service Award. This award was developed in early 2015 by the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare (CASCW) in order to recognize Minnesota county and tribal child welfare supervisors and frontline workers for exemplary service to children and families.

Keith carries his own case load and on occasion conducts co-case management activities with Fond du Lac, Mille Lacs, Grand Portage, White Earth, Bois Forte and Leech Lake Bands of Chippewa Indians. Keith has been at Carlton County Public Health & Human Services for 23 years.

To see more about this award, please [click here](#). Congratulations Keith!

2023 Carlton County Board of Commissioners



Dick Brenner
Chairperson
218.879.5572

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



Marv Bodie
Member
218.879.2085

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Thomas Proulx
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Susan Zmyslony
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Gary Peterson
Member
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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.

Ways To Reduce Your Property Taxes

The Minnesota Department of Revenue details multiple property tax reduction programs on their webpage. Please visit <https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/property-tax-refund> for MN property tax reduction information. Three of these programs are summarized below.

Property Tax Refund — For Homeowners and Renters — File by August 15, 2023

There are two types of Homestead Credit Refunds:

- Regular — based on your income and property taxes
- Special — based on how much your property tax increased

You may be eligible for one or both refunds even if you have not qualified in previous years. 2022 Form M1PR, Homestead Credit Refund (for Homeowners) and Renter's Property Tax Refund can be found at: https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/2023-01/m1pr_22.pdf. Instructions for Form M1PR can be found at: https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/2023-02/m1pr_inst_22.pdf.

Senior Citizen Property Tax Deferral — Senior citizens who need help paying for their property taxes may qualify for the Senior Citizen Property Tax Deferral Program.

To qualify, you must be 65 or older. If married, and one of you is 65 or older, the other must be at least 62. Your household income must be \$60,000 or less. You must have lived in, owned your home, and had it homesteaded for the last 15 years. Other liens against your property must be less than 75% of the estimated market value. You must not have a reverse mortgage, a life estate, or any state or federal liens on your property. More information for this program can be found at: <https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/property-tax-deferral-senior-citizens>.

Important: Participation in the Senior Citizen Property Tax Deferral Program is voluntary. If you participate, a tax lien will be placed on your property. This lien must be satisfied when your property is sold. In the event of your death, your heirs must satisfy the lien before they can acquire clear title. Read the instructions on the back of form CR-SCD carefully before completing the application. Homeowners with a reverse mortgage do not qualify to participate in this program.

Homestead Exclusion for Veterans with a Disability — You may qualify for a property tax exclusion on your homestead if:

1. You are an honorably discharged veteran who has a service-connected disability rating of 70% or higher
2. You are a surviving spouse of a qualifying veteran
3. You are a primary family caregiver of a qualifying veteran

More information for this exclusion can be found at: <https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/market-value-exclusion-veterans-disability>.

Carlton County Launches Online Company Storefront

Carlton County recently launched an online company storefront for employees and the public. The storefront currently offers a selection of branded products that you can purchase through the link <https://carltoncounty.communityprinting.net/>.



Minnesota Property Tax Refund

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

For those who are unaware, The State of Minnesota Department of Revenue has two types of Homestead Credit Refund and you may qualify for both. They are:

- Regular – this is based on your income and the amount of property taxes paid. You must have lived in your home on January 2, 2023, and your total household income must be less than \$128,280. The maximum refund is \$3,140.
- Special – this is based ONLY on how much your property tax increased. You must have lived in your home January 2, 2022, and January 2, 2023, and your property tax increased at least 12% and a minimum of \$100. This increase cannot be due to improvements done to your property (i.e.: new construction, remodel, etc.)

You may claim your refund online, through a software provider or through the mail (there are printed out applications in both the County Assessor's and County Auditor's offices available, but 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> or call (651)-296-3781. Make sure you use your 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 \$1,026. According to the MN Department of Revenue only 70% of eligible residents in Carlton County apply for the PTR. This means 30% of 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 higher needs of services which can drive up local costs, there causing higher property tax levies upon its residents. Many of our residents who apply and are awarded a refund use that refund to make the 2nd half property tax payments in the fall.

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!

Veteran's Corner - Did You Know

Community Emergency Treatment Reporting and Care Coordination - Information for Veterans

During a medical or mental health emergency, the Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA) encourages Veterans to seek immediate medical attention without delay. Veterans do not need to check with VA before calling for an ambulance or going to an emergency department. In most instances eligible Veterans are able to receive VA authorized emergency care at an In-network facility if VA is notified of the emergent event within 72 hours of the start of care.

It is important that your visit to a community emergency room be reported to VA as soon as possible because it allows VA to assist in coordinating your care or transfer, and it helps ensure that administrative and clinical requirements for VA to pay for the care are met.

Inform your Emergency Provider to Report Your Emergency Treatment to VA

- Providers should report your emergency treatment through VA's Emergency Care Reporting (ECR) portal, <https://EmergencyCareReporting.CommunityCare.va.gov> or by calling 844-72HRVHA (844-724-7842).
- They also need to contact the local VA medical center (VAMC) to coordinate follow-on care and transfer activities, if necessary.
- Phone numbers and email addresses to local VAMC's are available at https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/docs/providers/Care-Coordination_Facility-Contacts.pdf#.

Veterans, someone acting on the covered Veteran's behalf, or the eligible entity or provider can also report episodes of emergency care to the appropriate VA official at the nearest VA facility. However, VA should only be notified once and ideally that notification is from community facility staff where the Veteran is being treated.

For more information, visit https://www.va.gov/communitycare/programs/veterans/emergency_care.asp.

(Article credit: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs)

Employee Service Awards

Joseph Arnold - Transportation
10 Years

Donna House - Assessor's Office
10 Years

Michael Schmidt - PHHS
10 Years

Amanda Hietala - PHHS
10 Years

Ritchie Sandberg - Transportation
10 Years

Jordan Wagner - Transportation
10 Years

Gary Peterson - Commissioner
10 Years

Brenda Nyberg - PHHS
10 Years

Tory Cawcutt - Sheriff's Office
10 Years

Doug Rotta - Sheriff's Office
20 Years

Dan Danielson - Sheriff's Office
20 Years

Ruth Rowenhorst - PHHS
20 Years

Jodi Anderson - PHHS
30 Years

Richard Brenner - Commissioner
30 Years

Bridget Schrier (PHHS)
30 Years

Important Information for Medical Assistance, MinnesotaCare and Minnesota Family Planning Program Enrollees

During the COVID-19 emergency, the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) put special rules in place to help you keep your health care coverage. Due to a new federal law, we must now resume renewals. Regular Medical Assistance, MinnesotaCare and Minnesota Family Planning Program rules will now apply. Here is what you need to do.

Report changes to your contact information

Has your address, phone number or email address changed within the past 3 years? If so, please report these to your county agency to make sure we can reach you.

Watch for your renewal

We must review your eligibility to see if you still qualify for coverage. We will mail a renewal form to you. Without your completed renewal form, your coverage cannot continue. Your renewal month is based on your initial application month. For example, if you applied in August 2019, your renewal will be August 2023.

Save paper proofs

We will need proof of income for you and your family members. Please save current paystubs, income tax returns and other documents that show your income to send in with your renewal form.

Questions?

For more information, go online to <https://mn.gov/dhs/renewmycoverage>.

If you have questions about this notice or your case, call your county agency. Carlton County Public Health & Human Services 218-879-4511.

If you have general questions about Medical Assistance or MinnesotaCare, call DHS Health Care Consumer Support at 651-297-3862 or 800-657-3672.

If you have general questions about Minnesota Family Planning Program, call 651-431-3480 or 888-702-9968.

If you have hearing or speech disabilities, contact us using your preferred telecommunication relay service.

**IMPORTANT
INFORMATION
ENCLOSED**

Watch for the circle in blue marked on your envelope in the mail when it's time to renew.

**Carlton County
Committee's**

Building Committee -
2nd Wednesday of the month at 1:00 p.m.
(Government Services Building -GSB)

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

Diversity Committee -
4th Tuesday 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. (GSB)

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

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

**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 22, 2023 deadline to:

Shanny Hurst
Carlton County Coordinator's Office
1307 Cloquet Avenue, Suite #1
Cloquet, MN 55720
shanny.hurst@co.carlton.mn.us

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

**Let's Get Acquainted With a Carlton
County Commissioner**



My name is Susan Zmyslony, Carlton County Commissioner District 4, and I am very happy to be back working for the residents of Carlton County, specifically District 4.

My husband and I have lived in Carlton County since 1988 and both of our children attended and graduated from the Barnum school district. I am a past Carlton County Commissioner, Barnum School Board member, president and board member of the Carlton County Historical Society and Special Education Coordinator for the Northern Lights Special Education Cooperative. In addition, I continue to be an active member of the Carlton Area Lions Club, Carlton County United Way, Barnum Community Club, and Hanging Horn Lakeshore Management Association.

In my spare time, I enjoy being with my family and friends. I also enjoy traveling, reading, long walks, some crafts and spending as much time as possible on our pontoon during the beautiful summers in Carlton County.

My goal for this term is to be attentive and responsive to the needs of District 4 residents. I will continue to be visible in your communities, answer and return phone calls and respond to your emails. I will work to increase communication so all community members, from all walks of life, feel respected, informed, heard and involved in decisions working towards a more inclusive community. I will work hard and ask the tough questions in an effort to decrease spending while continuing to provide the necessary services.

Please call, text, email or stop me when you see me out in the community if you have any questions or would like to have further conversations. I look forward to working with you.

**Carlton County Justice Center Receives
\$10 Million Cash Appropriation from MN
Legislature**

Carlton County's new Justice Center was appropriated \$10 Million in cash in the State of MN's Capital Investment Bill which passed in the final hours of this year's legislative session. The \$10M is in addition to a \$2M grant received previously for the planning, furnishing, and equipping a new regional Justice Involved Female Program with the Justice Center. The State of Minnesota investment in Carlton County along with the half cent sales tax passed in November 2022 nearly covers the costs of the new facility, removing the expense of building from local property taxes.

The Justice Center, which is scheduled for completion in Fall 2024, will also include space for Probation, Legal Aid, 911 Emergency Dispatch, Law Library, County Attorney and staff, MN Judicial Court officers and staff, along with all Sheriff department staff and operations. The building, which includes geothermal heating and a proposed solar field, meets many of the requirements of a "green" building.

The Justice Involved Female Program will serve as a statewide model for females where no similar program statewide exists. Although the legislature passed a law requiring "parity" between both male and female inmates, it has not been enforced and now females will have access to the same and/or similar programming as male inmates. Studies have shown that providing appropriate resources to inmates results in lower repeat offenders.



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