

**Carlton County
Administrator/HR Office**

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CARLTON COUNTY MINNESOTA

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

Issue 01 January / February / March 2025

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Say "I Do" at the Historic Courthouse

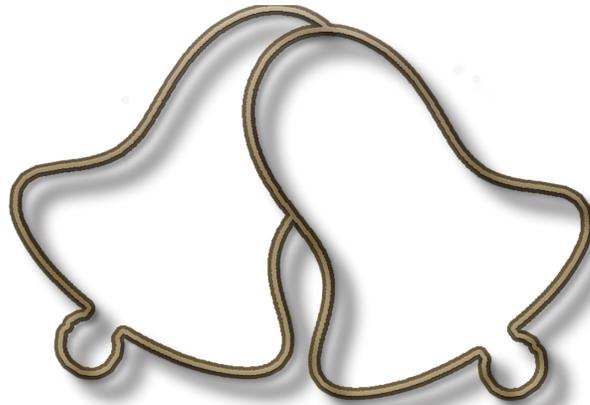
The Carlton County Recorder's Office is thrilled to announce a new service for our residents -- wedding ceremonies held at the elegant Historic Courthouse in Carlton, MN.

This picturesque location provides the perfect setting to celebrate love and commitment. Whether you're looking for a small, intimate ceremony or simply a meaningful moment to mark the beginning of your married life, we're here to make it special.

What We Offer:

- **Professional & Accessible Ceremonies:** Conducted by our dedicated team to ensure your day is stress-free and memorable.
- **Affordable Pricing:** A \$75.00 fee covers the ceremony, making it both beautiful and budget-friendly.

We are honored to play a part in your special day. Reach out today to plan your unforgettable ceremony at the Historic Courthouse.



For Further Information:

Contact the Carlton County Recorder's Office at **218-384-9156** or email vitalrecords@carltoncountymn.gov.

Employee Service Awards

Heather Giancola - PHHS
20 Years

Henry Moeller - PHHS
20 Years

KINSHIP CONNECTING & HEALING

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK
APRIL 6-12, 2025

This week marks the 44th week of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. This year's theme is kinship, a call to action to recognize that shared humanity should be at the center of supporting all survivors and victims of crime. NCVRW is an opportunity for those who work with crime victims to reflect and celebrate what it means to provide services. The Carlton County Victim Services program has issued two newsletter style emails detailing both the national and local history of NCVRW and later in the week will share survivor stories. With these in mind, the Victim Services program encourages our community to keep awareness, conversations, and efforts towards crime victim rights alive.

2025 Carlton County Board of Commissioners



Sarah Plante Buhs
Member
218.576.3989

District 1
Sarah.PlanteBuhs@carltoncountymn.gov



Marv Bodie
Chairperson
218.879.2085

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218.380.2170

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Susan.Zmyslony@carltoncountymn.gov



Dan Reed
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218.380.2857

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Dan.Reed@carltoncountymn.gov

*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.

Veteran's Corner - Did You Know

FACT SHEET FOR DENTAL ASSISTANCE PARTICIPANTS AND PROVIDERS

Eligible Participants: Minnesota Veterans and their dependents who meet strict income/asset guidelines.

Benefit Explanation - Three-Tiered Assistance:

1. Routine: Maximum assistance is \$1,500 per eligible family member per year covering basic and routine services, normal tooth extractions, crowns, and bridges. Implants, orthodontia, and cosmetic services are not covered.
2. Extractions in Preparation for Dentures: Once-per-life time up to \$2,500 (pre-approved by MDVA) covering extractions in preparation for dentures or partial dentures.
3. Dentures: Once-per-lifetime up to \$4,000 (pre-approved by MDVA) covering full or partial dentures.

Additional Information:

- Pre-authorization required for Extractions and/or Dentures. If the Provider determines a need for extractions in preparation for dentures and/or dentures, the Provider must submit a Request for Predetermination/Preauthorization to MDVA who in turn will issue separate Extraction (\$2,500) and Denture (\$4,000) Authorizations to the specified providers.
- Applicant must give the original Dental/Extraction/Denture Authorization to the provider they have selected (or have been referred to by their dentist in the event of needed Extractions and Dentures).
- Coverage extends for the 5-month (150 day) period stated on the Authorization(s). Extensions may be granted only if requested in writing from the CVSO or provider prior to the expiration date.
- This is **NOT** insurance coverage. No fee schedule is used.
 - * **If the participant is uninsured**, MDVA will pay the patient responsibility (including co pays, deductibles, and coinsurance as listed on the EOB) up to the respective dental/extraction/denture maximums.
 - * **If the participant is insured** (including Medicare and Medical Assistance), he/she must inform the dental provider(s) to ensure insurance is billed first. *Balance billing is prohibited.*
- Referral: A request for referral to another provider must be submitted in writing to MDVA prior to the expiration date. Participants/providers must wait for receipt of a referral approval letter from MDVA before receiving/providing services.
- Billing: Upon receipt of invoice, payments will be made directly only to the Dental Provider listed on the Dental/Extraction/Denture Authorization(s).

FACT SHEET FOR OPTICAL ASSISTANCE PARTICIPANTS AND PROVIDERS

Eligible Participants: Minnesota Veterans and their dependents who meet strict income/asset guidelines.

Benefit Explanation:

- Maximum assistance is \$600 per year, per eligible family member for an eye examination and/or prescription eyewear, including contact lenses.
- This is an annual benefit; however, assistance is not automatic -- applicant(s) **must** reapply each year with their CVSO choosing an optical provider who agrees to accept the Optical Authorization Letter. The effective date of subsequent authorization(s) will be no earlier than one year from the previous first date that services were provided.

Additional Information:

- Applicant must give the original Optical Authorization Letter to the provider they have selected.
- Coverage extends for the 5-month (150 day) period stated on the Authorization. Extensions may be granted only if requested in writing from the CVSO or provider prior to the expiration date.
- This is **NOT** insurance coverage. No fee schedule is used.
 - * **If the participant is uninsured**, MDVA will pay the patient responsibility (including co pays, deductibles, and coinsurance as listed on the Explanation of Benefits) up to \$600.
 - * **If the participant is Insured** (including Medicare and Medical Assistance), he/she must inform the optical provider to ensure insurance is billed first. *Balance billing is prohibited.*
- Referral: A request for referral to another provider must be submitted in writing to MDVA prior to the expiration date. The participant and provider must wait for receipt of a referral approval letter from MDVA before receiving/providing services.
- Billing: Upon receipt of invoice, payments will be made directly **only** to the Optical Provider listed on the Authorization.

Public Health In Action

Motherhood Walk & Talk

“The best part of our work as Public Health is engaging with our community!” according to the Public Health Supervisor, Joanne Erspamer. The Motherhood Walk & Talk does just this...every week, Public Health Nurses take turns hosting a walk with mothers/families with young children in the community. In the winter months, the walk moves indoors in the Cloquet Pine Valley Hockey Arena; in the summer months, the walk moves outside. The Walk & Talk is an opportunity for families with young children to connect with each other, find peer connections, and meet or chat with a Public Health Nurse about the growth and development of their children, or other parenting and health concerns. Parenting can feel lonely, and finding ways to create free community connections, building relationships, and supporting health, also supports maternal mental health. This was the goal for the program, initiated in 2023 as a strategy to address improving mental health and wellbeing in Carlton County.

Public Health strives to listen to the needs of the community and fill gaps in services where possible. In the 2022 community health assessment, which is performed every 5 years, one of the top priorities was mental health and wellbeing. In the 2020 Bridge to Health Survey, adults from Carlton County expressed having 14 or more poor mental health days in a month at a percentage higher than in the neighboring counties of Cook, Lake, and St. Louis. Depression rates for adults were also higher in Carlton County than in those counties and had risen from 2015 to 2020. This data, and other information, such as the 2023 Surgeon General’s advisory about the negative impacts of loneliness and isolation, and understanding the losses experienced in personal and community connections through the COVID-19 pandemic, led our community health improvement team to identify strategies to improve community connection and engagement to address mental health and wellbeing. From this priority area, the strategy for the Motherhood Walk & Talks was developed.

The program kicked off in June of 2023 and has continued through both summer and winter months ever since. The walks have already been a success, engaging an average of 3 to 8 families with a dozen or more children each week. Nurses have identified some of the strengths of the program to be the availability of nurses to engage in conversations related to child development, common parenting concerns, and postpartum health and well-being. The nurses love the opportunity to connect with moms and their kids in a relaxed fun way in the community. Families have expressed connections with both nurses and other local moms as something they appreciate, as well as getting their children out of the house for some physical activity. This is a meaningful investment for the Public Health Nurses as it supports a larger impact of building connections and relationships, while supporting community health.

MOTHERHOOD WALK & TALK

with Carlton County Public Health

**WEDNESDAYS
BEGINNING
JANUARY 8, 2025
10:00 - 11:00 AM
at the Northwoods
Credit Union Hockey
Arena in Cloquet**

NEW NEW NEW

On the first Wednesday of each month, stay until 11:30 for coffee and extra conversation time with other local moms while the nurses care for your kids!

No RSVP needed. Questions? Call Michelle at 218-391-0663. Join our Facebook group (Carlton County Family Home Visiting Events) to stay up to date on cancellations or other events.



Nurse Hannah and kids

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, 2024, 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, 2023, and January 2, 2024, 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!

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, 2025

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.

2024 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/2024-01/m1pr_22.pdf.

Instructions for Form M1PR can be found at: https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/2024-02/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>.

Article continued on next page.

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)

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

CARLTON COUNTY
MINNESOTA

Are you interested in submitting an article in the next Carlton County Newsletter? Email or mail your articles and pictures by the June 20, 2025 deadline to:

Shanny Hurst
Carlton County Administrator's Office
1307 Cloquet Avenue, Suite #1
Cloquet, MN 55720
shanny.hurst@carltoncountymn.gov

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

Let's Get Acquainted With the License Center Manager

My name is Holly Osvold. I am the new License Center Manager. I started with Carlton County in 2007 at the License Center, working with many of the great ladies that are currently there. I transferred to the Treasurers office in 2013. I am grateful for everything I learned while there and for the many lifelong friendships I have made. Looking forward to doing the same while at the License Center.

I live just outside of Carlton County with my husband Korie, sons Dennis & Jack, 3 dogs & 2 cats. We love to fish Lake Superior & Lake Michigan in the summer, and Lake of the Woods in the winter, hiking with the dogs, family game nights, and traveling. I am excited to be back where I started in 2007.



Continued: Reduce Your Property Taxes

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>.

Employee Assistance Program

MCIT's Employee Assistance Program Partner Changes Its Name

Your mental health and well-being matter. That's why we offer the Employee Assistance Program. It provides support to you and your family for a range of challenges that may affect your personal or professional life.

Our EAP partner, Sand Creek, recently announced that it is now doing business as AllOne Health, the name of its parent company. Access to services continue to be available through the same phone number, 800.550.6248, and website, SandCreekEAP.com. Availability of services also continue without interruption. Review the brochure to learn more about the Employee Assistance Program and how it may be able to support you and your family.

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