Beltrami County received a 2 Million dollar appropriation from the state legislature to pilot a sustainable integrated care Crisis Center that is patient centered, culturally competent, and uses evidence based principals that can be replicated throughout the state. We have begun to harness diverse regional stakeholders in building a collaborative community based solution that can be replicated throughout the state. The potential regional partners span up to a 7 county radius and include 3 tribes located within the catchment area.

In 1980 Beltrami County’s population was approximately 30,000 and today we number about 45,000, which is a 50% increase in total population. During that same time, our average daily jail population went from 21 inmates per day to approximately 120 inmates per day — which is about a 600% increase in the average daily jail population.

In 1980 our jail inmate population had virtually no one suffering from any mental illness because in those days people experiencing mental health crisis issues were brought to the state hospitals where they were admitted and received treatment for their illnesses. Today in our jail — according to our correctional health care company who provides our medical care in our facility — approximately 60 to 70% of our inmates suffer from some form of mental illness — with no place to take these people for treatment. These inmates are charged with crimes — many of them serious assaultive crimes — but it is because there has been no intervention and no place to take them for treatment during the many times they have experienced a crisis situation during their lifetime in which the end result was an injury or death to another person. Many others are charged with petty crimes such as disorderly conduct.

Beltrami County Mental Illness Crisis Hub — update

We have limited or no access to appropriate in-patient, outpatient, or community based services for adults or children with chronic/acute mental health and substance abuse disorders in Beltrami County and the entire northcentral region of Minnesota.

Beltrami County News and Highlights

COUNTY RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

On November 3rd the County Board passed a resolution supporting the work of all area law enforcement. The resolution began with: "Whereas: The citizens of our county, state and nation expect and deserve the law and order that comes from a well-trained and well supported Law Enforcement system, anchored by the men and women who perform their duties as Peace Officers;" and continued later to say, "Whereas: The men and women of our nation’s law enforcement agencies wear their uniforms with honor, dedication, and integrity as they protect and serve their communities..."

After recognizing, by name, the people in law enforcement around the nation that have been targets because of these very uniforms, the County Board resolved to stand together with the County Sheriff’s Offices, Bemidji Police, Blackduck Police, Leech Lake Tribal Police, Red Lake Tribal Police, Minnesota State Patrol, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, DNR Conservation Officers, FBI Agents, Border Patrol Officers, and Task Force Officers. Our sincere thanks and respect goes to the many people working in this field.

~Submitted by: Sheriff Phil Hodapp
From the Administrator’s Desk

In this edition of the newsletter, we again have the opportunity to talk about some really progressive work being done in Beltrami County. Each of these forward and creative changes that have been made needed staff, leadership, and governance that was committed to making those changes in spite of the hard work it took to get there.

The county puts a lot of thought and effort into getting this news letter out to the public, and we get really positive feedback from people that appreciate the fact that they feel better informed about county government than they ever have before. You will notice how often we talk about our employees. All of the things that we do in Beltrami County to provide better services on limited dollars have one thing in common - our employees. We are very proud of our workforce, and cannot say often enough how much we appreciate them.

A tradition that we started many years ago is to close our buildings and offices for one hour on the Monday of Thanksgiving week. We use that hour to recognize individual employees that are celebrating 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years in county positions. It is noteworthy that there is a large number of people that dedicate many years, and often their entire career to serving the public. For several editions, our newsletter has been recognizing the veteran county staff. If you add the years of service for just the eight longtime staff featured in this edition alone, it adds up to 230 years. That is a strong indicator of the dedication I see in every department in Beltrami County. Thank you, thank you to those employees.

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**Prescription Drug Drop Off**

The Paul Bunyan Drug Task Force is striving to keep homes safe from prescription drug abuse. One way we are doing that is our Prescription Drug Take Back which was started in 2011. We have been working in conjunction with the DEA Take Back initiative which is a nationally run program. The goal of this program is to take old or unused prescription medications out of the home and disposed of properly, before they fall into the wrong hands.

The Paul Bunyan Drug Task Force has a permanent drop off box located in the lobby of the Beltrami County Law Enforcement Center, 613 Minnesota Ave NW, Bemidji, MN (corner of 6th St NW and Minnesota Ave NW).

Citizens are welcome to drop off expired prescriptions or narcotics, however there are restrictions.

- No liquids will be accepted
- All drugs must be in zip lock bags NOT the original pill container...
- Absolutely NO SHARPS

The drop off box is clearly marked with a red sign that says PRESCRIPTION DRUG DROP OFF and is located to the left when you enter the lobby, and directly under a small shelf. Simply insert the zip lock into the tamper proof entry of the box. This service is available 24/7 no questions asked.

Other local drop off sites include: Leech Lake Tribal Police Department, Becker and Hubbard County Sheriff’s Office.

For further information, please contact the Paul Bunyan Drug Task Force at (218)333-8130 during normal business hours.

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**DWI Court ... is not for everyone!**

**From the National Office of Traffic Safety.** The program is referred to as DWI Court and began in 2007. Beltrami County was selected because historically, it has been a county with a high number of DWI arrests.

The DWI Court is an alternative to standard probation where the participants elect to enter into a program of intense supervision and treatment. The program is not for everyone. We are only looking for people with a significant history of chemical use and typically 2 or more arrests for DWI. Participants decide to enter the program because they will receive a shortened jail sentence and have recognized that they are not able to quit drinking on their own. This program is unique as it is collaboration between law enforcement, the Department of Corrections, treatment and the Court. The program utilizes law enforcement officers to stop at the residence of the participants and give them random breath tests to make sure that they are not drinking alcohol. In doing so, the participants begin to see that law enforcement supports their sobriety.

Why should you support this program and encourage more programs of this nature? Because they work!! National studies have shown that the average court saves $2.06 for every $1 invested. What these studies cannot measure is the value of seeing a parent or young person who is not taking care of their family or themselves, and helping that person get back on track. There have been 70 graduates of Beltrami DWI court and there are currently 20 active participants. Instead of being in jail or on county assistance, most graduates are employed and/or attending college. The most recent study of Minnesota’s DWI courts showed the following:

- Reduced recidivism/rearrests/jail by up to 69%
- Had more success with high risk participants
- Showed a yearly savings of $700,000 in taxpayer dollars (the most successful program are returning up to $3.19 for every $1 invested)

For those of you who don’t already know, Beltrami County is currently paying to transport and house inmates in other counties as our jail is overcrowded. This is a direct expense that could be significantly reduced by the use of specialty courts. Further, the prisons in Minnesota are also running over capacity. As taxpayers, we all bear this burden. Isn’t our money better spent addressing the issues before the person ends up confined? This is a program that the county cannot afford to not have.

*~Submitted by Mark Smith, DWI Court Probation Agent*

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Looking to the Future of Solid Waste

Solid Waste Transfer Station Update

In the last newsletter, we talked about the county’s success in securing state bonding dollars to be used to build a new Solid Waste Transfer Station. That article had some basic information about the financial implications as well as the engineering process. We hope to provide updates and information as we move through this process.

It should first be noted that Beltrami County does not own the existing Solid Waste Transfer Station. We contract with Waste Management to use their privately owned facility. The County Board and staff believe that the county will be able to find efficiencies and reduced costs for the transfer of our waste if we own our facility. Although a new Transfer Station will be at a different physical location, we do believe that the changeover will be seamless to our citizens after we get the word out about the change in address.

At this point, the county is working on options for locating the new Transfer Station. Our goal for the location will be that it will be easily accessible for citizens, that it will be on a good road for the waste haulers and truckers, that it have minimal negative impact on residential properties, and that it be financially feasible. There is a site on Adams Avenue NW, which was the location of the first County Transfer Station that was first located at by the county. But in receiving citizen input, the county is looking for a location that would have less residential impact and would be an easier transition for citizens and haulers. The county is currently analyzing parcels that could be acquired for this purpose.

In addition to determining the location for a Transfer Station, the County Board was required to take formal action to commit the local matching dollars that will be required by the state. During their board meeting on November 3, the County Board adopted a resolution that acknowledges that the county must meet the state dollars at no less than a ratio of $3 of state money to $2 of county money. The project will likely come out to be more like a $3 state to $2 county ratio due to the fact that the engineer estimate is projecting a higher project cost than was originally used when seeking the state money. In any event, we do believe that the state bonding money is going to leverage a great business solution for Beltrami County when it comes to handling our solid waste.

Submitted by: Kay Mack, County Administrator

Several Solid Waste Management Program questions were asked of our last quarterly newsletter regarding recycling. Beltrami County’s Environmental Services Director, Bill Patnaude has responded:

Q: What is the proper way for disposing of prescription medications in liquid form, ex: drops, lotions, creams, cough syrups?

A: Over the counter or prescription liquid medications can be disposed of in the regular trash. (See the Prescription Drop Off article on page 2 for information on disposing of narcotics and expired prescriptions).

Q: Why are we not recycling ALL of our plastics?

A: Currently we only have markets available to us for grades 1 & 2 plastic containers. We are trying all the time to be able to expand into more grades. However, market availability and distance to markets at this time just make it too cost prohibitive.

Q: Why doesn’t Beltrami County offer curb side collection for recyclables? Look how much money the county would save if there was this service for clean sorted recyclables from the other waste.

A: Cost is a big factor and how the cost would be addressed is another matter. No matter what you do for services in the Solid Waste Management Program it ultimately boils down to cost. The County remains committed to increasing the recycling efforts, and will balance the financial reality with the environmental concerns as well as we can.

Q: Why isn’t there an ordinance which would require large events to have a recycling plan and for the county to provide recycling containers?

A: This is an excellent idea which we will certainly look into during our process of drafting a new county wide Solid Waste Ordinance in the near future.

I want to thank our readers for these excellent questions and suggestion. Our Solid Waste Program Mission Statement is to provide access to an environmentally and economically sound Solid Waste Management Program to all Beltrami County tax payers. And please remember to Reduce Reuse and Recycle. If you have questions, please contact the Environmental Services Department at 218-333-4158.

Submitted by Environmental Services Director, Bill Patnaude
A committee made up of Veterans in the Bemidji area have built a beautiful and lasting memorial in honor and tribute to the men and women of the armed forces who defend America in war and peace, past, present, and future... all forces and all times. The centerpiece of the memorial is a life sized bronze statue of the late Charles Lindberg, a nationally recognized hero, in full battle dress, who at the time of the initial dedication was the last surviving flag raiser at the battle of Iwo Jimo during WWII. His statue is mounted on a stone pillar with appropriate plaques and flanked by the colors of the United States, Minnesota colors and the flags of each branch of service and a POW flag. In front of each of the six service flags are large stone pillars (each weighing six tons) which depict the figures of military men and women from each branch of service. A Walk of Honor is included made up of 8” x 18” individually engraved granite paver bricks designed to recognize those who have served and or are currently serving in the armed forces.

The project began in the year 2000 with the formation of a non profit committee and fundraising. Sufficient funds for the statue of Chuck Lindberg were raised and Jim Paulsen was commissioned to do a life sized bronze sculpture in full battle dress as he was at the time the flag was raised on Iwo Jimo. The committee grew and became a Board, a site was selected on land owned by the City of Bemidji, and sufficient funding and in kind concrete work was completed to allow for the dedication of the site, including the Lindberg statue, the nine flags, and the walk of honor on May 20, 2006. Mr. Lindberg was able to be present at this dedication as were many veterans and dignitaries.

Two years later additional fundraising resulted in the purchase of the six stone pillars and with them set in place with an in kind donation by Cuperus Construction they were dedicated at a ceremony on August 9, 2008. The ceremony included an exchange of resolutions between the City of Bemidji and the Freedom Defenders granting the City of Bemidji full ownership of the site. A full sized bronze statue of a Service Dog with an appropriate plaque was also commissioned to Jim Paulsen and dedicated during a ceremony on September 20, 2014.

The Board has met monthly and continues to do so. Members have donated their time and have taken no compensation for their work. Donations have come from many individuals and businesses. Pavers are in place at the site with the names of 31 donors who have given $1000 or more in cash or in kind. The total cost of building the memorial is estimated at $275,000. Fundraising and the sale of pavers are ongoing. Brochures are available at the red-white & blue info-box at the site.

For additional information please visit our website at www.bemidjiveteransmemorial.org

*Submitted by: Lee Coe*

The All Veterans Memorial in Kelliher was dedicated on October 13, 2014. During the dedication, Tim Lutz offered these words. “This memorial sends the clear message that our local communities and country respect and appreciate our veterans and their service and sacrifice for our community, state, and nation.”

He also stated that when the designer of the statue asked for a photo to use in designing the statue, he was given pictures of Staff Sergeant Dale Panchot of Northome, who was fatally wounded by enemy fire in Iraq, and died on November 17, 2003. In using the image of a local citizen, the community was able to highlight that the structure serves not only to honor all veterans, but to also honor the memory of individual soldiers.

Robert Hoyum addressed the crowd of people that attended the dedication and talked about the design process that started with a contest. High School students Aly Yingling, Emily Williams and Deb Ledford won the contest, with their design becoming the basis for the Memorial.

“The central design recognizes all veterans and recent wars by incorporating a modern original bronze statue of a kneeling soldier from the Iraq war facing a battle cross with items from WWII, Korea and Vietnam. The black granite plaques on the statue base represent the branches of the service and the Merchant Marines. The sand colored walkway has boot prints representing soldiers from each of those war eras.”

This is truly a beautiful and touching memorial. Finding the time and opportunity to visit it will be a deep and rewarding experience.

*Submitted by: Robert Hoyum and Tim Lutz*
‘Tis The Season for Icy Roads!

Have you ever wondered how the County Highway Department makes decisions on maintaining icy roads? Or, why is my road still icy for days after a storm has passed? The answer usually revolves around the factor of temperature.

Foremost, the Beltrami County Highway Department follows Best Management Practices for snow and ice removal which are also used by other local and State Departments of Transportation. These procedures provide the safest, most economical means of opening the County’s highway system within a reasonable amount of time after each winter storm event.

In dealing with icy roads, the first step is to remove any snow and ice with the plow trucks or motor graders. Removing ice mechanically is the most economical and environmentally friendly process. The second step is to use salt (NaCl) to help melt the ice. Salt (and sand) are applied at varying rates depending on temperatures to break up the ice so it can be removed. However, it is only cost-efficient to use salt if the pavement temperature is above 15°F. Below 15°F it takes more salt and more time to melt the ice and usually the salt will be blown away before it can have an effect. During those colder times the Highway Department may use a serrated plow blade with teeth to scratch and roughen the ice or may apply sand at intersections to try to help give vehicles traction.

Please remember it is up to the individual to drive according to the road conditions. Drive safely!

If you have any concerns about a County road you can contact the Beltrami County Highway at 218-333-8173.

How did we use the Penny Gas Tax??

Beltrami County has a shortage of foster parents, particularly foster parents that are Native American, and those willing and able to care for sibling groups and teenagers. Our goal is family re-unification and keeping children within the community and culture. We are looking for families to open their hearts and homes to children in need. As a foster parent you are able to be a part of healing our community, by keeping the children safe while allowing time for families to heal.

More than half a million children nationwide live temporarily with foster parents while their own parents struggle to overcome an addiction to alcohol, drugs, illness, financial hardship or other difficulties. Because of the hardship or maltreatment they’ve experienced at home, the trauma of being separated from their birth parents, and the uncertainty they face as they enter the foster care system, children in foster care have many needs. They can also be remarkably resilient. Most children reside only temporarily with their foster parents, until it is considered safe for them to return home. A child’s stay with foster parents can be as short as one night or as long as several years or more. Sadly, some are never able to return home, but most will be reunited with their parents or with other extended family members.

For Beltrami County, child foster families that are able to take teenagers into their care, is where the highest need currently exists. More often than not, when a young male between the ages of 17-17 is in need of a placement, County social workers must look to other agencies, often times out of the area, to find a safe living environment for this person. We are also in need of child foster families that have a makeup of at least one parent of Native American heritage so that when Native American children are in need of placement, they are able to be kept within their own community, maintaining their Native culture. Our other greatest need in recruiting new foster homes is to meet the need of homes that are able to take sibling groups of 3-6 children, so that brothers and sisters are able to stay together.

There are great rewards of becoming a foster parent. A few rewards are: making a difference in a child’s life, personal growth as you develop strength, courage and skills as well as connecting with children who may have lost their connection to family. You don’t have to be perfect to be a perfect parent. To be licensed as a foster home you may be single person or a two-parent family. You may be an empty-nester or a young family just starting out. You might like the busy teenager routine or just the opposite, or maybe a combination of both. You don’t have to own your own home. You could be renting an apartment, living in a mobile home or on a farm up in Puposky.

Quote from Rita F Pierson: “Every child deserves a champion – an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be.”

For more information, contact Beltrami County Health and Human Services at (218) 333-8317.
Corner Remonumentation in Buzzle and Shooks Townships

Beltrami County has contracted with the surveying firm of Kramer Leas DeLeo (KLD) to conduct remonumentation of Public Land Survey System (PLSS) section, quarter section, meander and witness corners in Buzzle and Shooks Townships from October, 2015 through November, 2016. As a result, individuals from this firm may be required to cross your property to establish or perform maintenance on these corner locations. These are not surveys of your property lines but rather the relocation of the original or existing PLSS corner locations.

Early in our nation’s history there was a need for a logical and systematic system to sell and develop the lands west of the thirteen colonies. In 1784 Thomas Jefferson and several military engineers developed a rectangular survey system which is known today as the PLSS. The system was devised to provide a basis for providing title to land and a way that the title can be related to the parcel it describes. One of the major requirements of the system was the establishment of monuments marking the corners of this rectangular system. This system would become the foundation for virtually all property ownership in the county. In the late 1800’s and early 1900’s the federal government originally surveyed lands in Beltrami County. This remonumentation project will help protect and perpetuate those corner monuments.

Representatives from Beltrami County and KLD will be attending the following Township meetings to inform Township officers and residents of the project in greater detail and answer any questions they may have.

Buzzle Township
Monday, Dec 14
8:15 PM
Pinewood American Legion
13269 Centerline Rd NW, Pinewood

Shooks Township
Tuesday, Dec 15
7:30 PM
Harold Frenzel Residence
26628 Hwy 1 NE, Northome

If you have any comments regarding the location of such monuments in these areas or questions, please contact Jim Kramer at 1-866-816-5333.

Highway Department Mailbox Repair Policy

It is the County’s policy to use special care and consideration when plowing snow in the vicinity of mailbox supports. Despite this care and consideration, some mailboxes will be damaged or destroyed during the snow removal season. In the vast majority of cases it is the weight of the snow coming off the plow or wing blade which destroys a mailbox. On occasion, however, wings will hit and damage them, especially when oncoming traffic makes it impossible for the plow operator to swerve around the support.

Mailbox installation and support, along with the on-going maintenance and conformity with current U.S. Postal Service and County standards, are the responsibility of the property owner. All mailboxes placed within the public right-of-way are owned by the property owner and are placed there at the owner’s risk. The Highway Department will repair or replace properly located, install and maintained mailboxes and/or supports damaged by actual physical contact with a County Highway truck or equipment. The Highway Department does not provide special mailbox installations or decorative designs. Damaged supports will be replaced with the Department’s swing-away type support.

Submitted by: Bruce Hasbargen, Highway Engineer

For additional information and detail, visit the County Board of Commissioners at www.co.beltrami.mn.us/Government/Board_of_Commissioners.html

CSAH 33—Mission Road Reconstruction Project
Beltrami County and Leech Lake Band worked together to complete the last phase of reconstruction on the Mission Road in 2015!
Beltrami County Domestic Violence Court
Creating Systems that Work to Enhance Victim Safety and Hold Offenders Accountable

Intimate partner domestic violence cases are some of the most dangerous and complex cases for our court system, our community partners and our families. Every day in our nation, an average of three women are murdered by their current or former partner. The number of known domestic violence homicide victims in Minnesota in 2015 has risen to 26, with the latest murder on Sunday, November 8 in Aurora, MN. Statistics also tell us that half the women killed by their partners had sought help from the police or the criminal justice system at least once, and that the single biggest indicator for domestic homicide was a prior incident of physical domestic violence.

One person or one agency alone cannot stop the violence. Everyone must be vigilant and not accept violent and controlling behaviors in our homes, in our schools, and in our community.

The Beltrami County Domestic Violence Court works together with law enforcement, prosecutors, probation, human services, schools, health care providers, civil legal services, victim advocates and intervention program facilitators to stop the violence. This type of coordinated community response has been proven to be a best practice in reducing domestic violence.

Since Beltrami County Domestic Violence Court opened its doors on September 6, 2013, over 400 intimate partner criminal cases have been heard and approximately 100 men have completed the batterer intervention program. Court ordered offenders receive education about power and control and ways to stop using violence in their relationships. They are held accountable for their actions through heavy judicial monitoring, swift violation consequences, and dedicated supervision. Continued analysis of our program will guide our team in filling gaps, learning from our mistakes and enhancing what is working. We will continue to hold victim and family safety at the center of every decision we make.

The 9th Judicial District recently was awarded a second three-year Justice for Families grant to continue the work of ending domestic violence in northern Minnesota. Through this OVW award, a dedicated domestic violence court will continue to add services in Beltrami County and implement a dedicated DV Court in Roseau County, MN.

~Submitted By: Deborah Baer, Coordinator of the Beltrami and Roseau County Domestic Violence Court; 9th Judicial District.

Current Beltrami 4-H Youth Development Program Offerings
- Clubs involving youth and their families
- Learning and leading experiences in important out of school hours
- Project-focused learning
- Youth leadership training (county, region, state)
- County 4-H Ambassador/youth leadership program
- County and state fair experiences
- Shooting sports/wildlife program
- Awards and recognition program
- Project Bowl and Rube Goldberg Teams
- Performing arts experiences (share the fun and Arts-In)
- County Council and program development committees
- Volunteer training and support

On Line Job Application Process
Beltrami Count has launched a new on-line job application process. The new system not only makes the application process easier for applicants it also streamlines the application scoring and review process which will speed up the hiring process. Applicants create an account, and are given a user name and password which they can use to update application information and apply for additional jobs. If an applicant is selected for an interview they will receive an email with instructions to self-schedule an interview on-line.

Individuals interested in Beltrami County employment can sign-up to receive email notifications when jobs are posted by completing a job interest card on the employment tab of the Beltrami County website.

If you do not have access to a personal computer, the MN Workforce Center, Bemidji Public Library & Oshkimaajitahdah have free public computers for use.

*Submitted by: Linda Tran, Human Resources Director

Motor Vehicle Insurance Information Required at the License Center

Legislation passed in 2014 established the Motor Vehicle Insurance Coverage Verification task force. The task force included legislators and legal experts as well as people from Driver & Vehicle Services, Minnesota Deputy Registrar Association, Department of Commerce, the insurance industry, and the American Automobile Association. The task force submitted a report of recommendations to members of the legislature.

In 2015, legislation passed requiring every owner applying for motor vehicle or motorcycle registration, re-registration, or transfer of ownership to provide proof of insurance (insurance company name, policy number, and policy expiration date). The new requirement becomes effective on January 1, 2016. The legislation reinforces that state law requires insurance coverage on vehicles used on public roads.

Will vehicle owners be allowed to renew registration without providing insurance information?
No. The owner must provide the insurance company name, policy number, and expiration date.

Will the customer have to show proof or just tell us the insurance information?
Vehicle owners only need to provide insurance company name, policy number, and expiration date. An insurance card or similar document is not required. Note: This does not change the requirement that proof of insurance must be carried in the vehicle.

Submitted by: Debbie Reierson, License Center Division Director
Employee Recognition

Beltrami County is fortunate to have many loyal and dedicated employees. We are pleased to recognize these individuals for all their hard work, and service to the citizens of Beltrami County!

29 years of service

Cindy Tobey-Borowski
Jail Administrator

Edmond Geving
Highway Maintenance Supervisor

29 years of service

Brian Sauve
Highway Maintenance Worker III

Lori Jensen
Community Health Manager

29 years of service

Sherry Schmickle, Child & Teen Outreach
Health & Human Services

Mary Krueger, Account Tech II
Health & Human Services

28 years of service

Erick Bauman
Highway Maintenance Worker III

Janelle Vance, Finance Manager
Health & Human Services

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