



News and Highlights

4th Quarter 2022

www.co.beltrami.mn.us

Beltrami County Mission and Values: We will strive to be the catalyst to firmly establish a community that promotes healthy families, environmental quality, expanding economic opportunity and a quality of life second to none.

Jail Project Progress Report

After 23 months of Steering Committee meetings, Sub-Committee meetings, studies and an extensive community outreach campaign that included more than 15 presentations, three town hall meetings, and two public hearings the Beltrami County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously on November 15, 2022 to move forward with building a new Beltrami County Jail as well as applying for the ability to finance this project through a Local Option Sales Tax or LOST with the legislature.

So what are the next steps? The Jail Steering Committee and Sub-Committees are now working feverishly on being ready to go to the legislature with an application seeking approval to have a future ballot referendum ready for our voters in 2023. This complete application is tentatively scheduled to be vetted through the Board of County Commissioners at the next regular meeting on December 13th.

Many ask, "Why is a LOST so important to the residents of Beltrami County?" Beltrami County has a very limited tax base, we all know it and feel it every time we get our property tax statements. Without the LOST, all of the future expenses related to this building project will be our burden alone, because even if we don't get the authorization from you to implement the sales tax, the project will still be there. We will still need to build a new jail. The project will not go away.

To help all of us better understand the impact of a LOST on the community the University of Minnesota Extension Office has been contracted to complete a study that

will be very definitive on where or who that LOST revenue will come from.

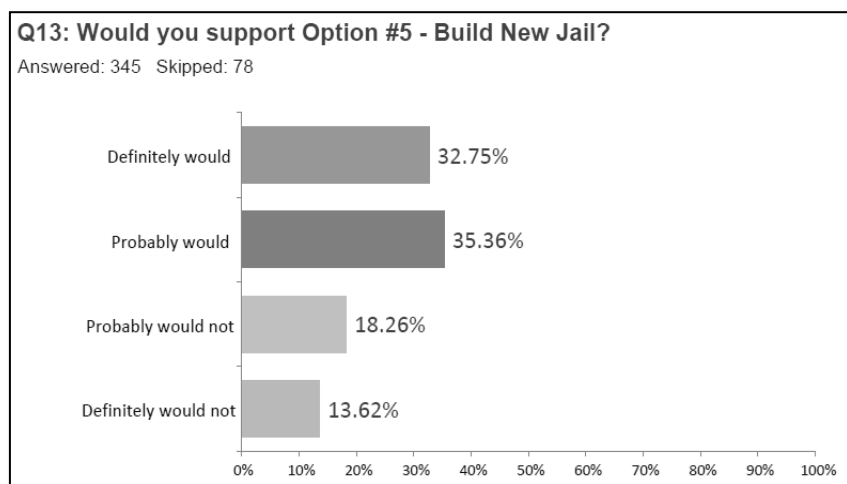
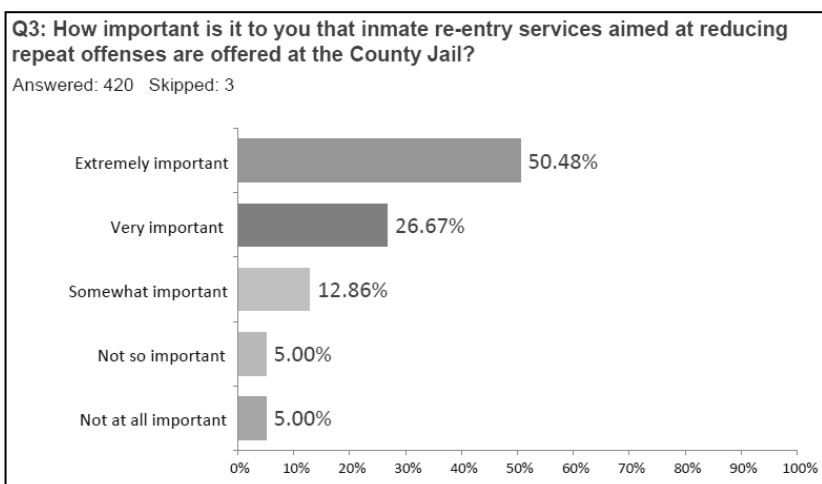
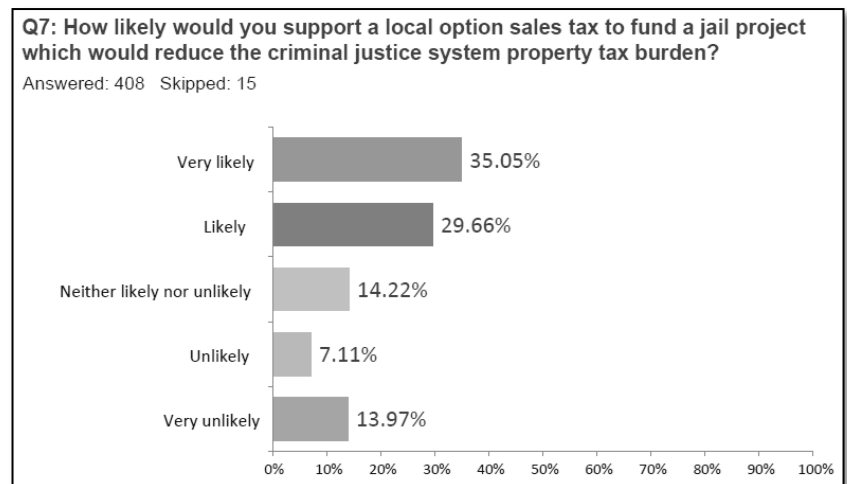
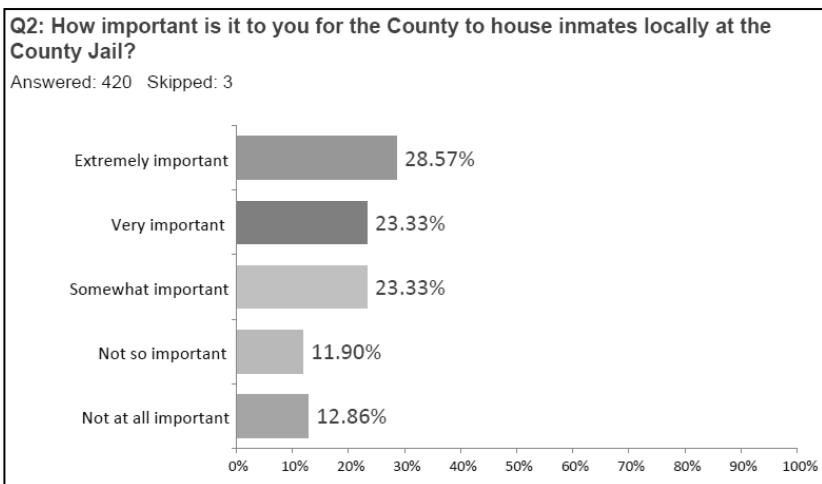
Narrowing the scope of the project is also another top priority of the Steering Committee and the Sub-committees as we finish out this year and prepare to go to St. Paul. We need to be as exact as we can on what this project will entail to include not only answering the financial questions, but questions such as where will it be built.

On the question of where it will be built there are many, many viable options for the Board to consider and many, many more to explore, but NO decisions on where the facility will be built have been made.

In closing my last newsletter to you on the jail project, I would like to thank you for your support. Your words of wisdom, your ear and your questions. I've learned a lot through this process and I hope that you have learned as well. Transparency with you is key to the success of this project. Sheriff Riggs will continue to share with you the information obtained, the current happenings, and our future steps in this project. Your trust is invaluable and we will not tarnish that trust.

If you have questions, concerns, or ideas your Sheriff, Board of County Commissioners and County Administrator welcome your feedback and continued support.

~Submitted by: Sheriff, Ernie Beitel



Beltrami County Sheriff

With the swearing in of Sheriff Jason Riggs on January 3rd, 2022 my term as Beltrami County Sheriff and my 38 year career in law enforcement will come to a close. Just yesterday, my wife, Colleen, and I were planning a trip and my first thought drifted towards work. I was reminded I'll be retired. After 38 years there will need to be some re-training of the brain!

I've had a successful and exciting career achieving many milestones. Those ranged from being a DARE Officer for 10 years and the rewards of being a part of so many children's education. Next I became a canine officer for 10 years having the honor and privilege of a great canine partner in Hunter. Hunter loved doing his job. He was a devoted partner, friend and companion. During that time I also became a patrol sergeant until Sheriff Hodapp promoted me to Chief Deputy. An opportunity that truly prepared me to be your elected Sheriff in 2019. During my term as Sheriff I was able to accomplish a lot, but none of it would ever have been possible without the dedicated and professional people of the Beltrami County Sheriff's Office and the support of my wife Colleen and our family.

Accomplishments include

- Officer Wellness Program for all of our employees, including a Peer Support Team, annual "Check up from the Neck Up", and Heart and Cardiovascular Screening to detect the early onset of heart disease, the number one killer of law enforcement professionals.
- Developed a Five Year Strategic Plan; transparency to the direction of the Sheriff's Office.
- Participated in the Office of President and US Department of Agriculture National Drug Summit; focus on the growing drug epidemic in rural America
- Implemented a Field Force and Field Force Extrication unit to respond to incidents of civil unrest.
- Transitioned from the UCR (Uniform Crime Reporting) system to the NIBRS (National Incident Based Reporting System)
- Operated under budget for fiscal year 2019 by 5%, 2020 by 9%, 2021 by 4% and estimated to finish on or near budget for 2022. Housing inmates in other facilities is, and will continue to be our biggest financial challenge.

Patrol Services/Investigations

- Became a member agency of the MN Sex Trafficking Task Force.
- Implemented body camera systems for all sworn staff and Corrections Officers.
- Became a member agency of the Lights On! Program. Allowing Deputies to give repair certificates for equipment violations to be repaired at no cost.
- Implemented a DUI Officer position through a Minnesota State Grant; dedicated a Deputy to focus on traffic enforcement.
- With an extreme short notice to our community, President Trump announced a visit to Bemidji. This was an "all hands on deck" for all divisions of our Sheriff's Office. It was exemplary example of teamwork, planning, and coordination with our Local, State and Federal law enforcement partners, as well as other divisions of government, making the President's visit a safe one for the estimated 20,000 people that visited Bemidji. Over 600 law enforcement officers from all over Minnesota responded when the call for assistance went out.

911 PSAP Center (Dispatch center)

- Equipment enhancement to provide Text to 911 Services to our community and other northern Minnesota communities that lacked the technology.
- Without impacting levy dollars, added two additional full time dispatchers. When someone is in crisis, waiting for their call to be answered or being put on hold is unacceptable.
- Migrated Beltrami County Fire Departments and First Responders to the Statewide ARMER radio system.

Beltrami County Adult Corrections Center

- Renamed the jail to the Beltrami County Adult Corrections Center to better reflect the services currently provided.
- Partnered with Sanford Behavioral health to implement the New Beginnings Re-entry Program
- Addressed staff retention & recruitment.
- Became the third Corrections facility in Minnesota to install a Body Scanner to reduce contraband from entering the jail facility.
- Appointed Chair of the Jail Project Steering Committee to address the deficiencies and challenges of our jail facility
- Currently working with Sanford Behavioral Health to bring the EMBER program to our facility. This program specifically addresses chemical dependency and mental health challenges.

Other New Positions

- Created a Patrol Captain position to increase supervision and oversight of the Sheriff's Office.
- Created a Jail Training Officer position
- Expanded Jail staffing level from 36 to 40 staff
- Created an Evidence Technician/Specialist position

Changes coming in 2023

- Records Division will have a part-time position expanded to full time
- 911 Dispatch Supervisor/Emergency Management Director will be split, making the 911 Dispatch Supervisor a standalone position.
- Pending budget approval, a new Public Information Officer/Emergency Manager position will be created.

~Submitted by: Sheriff Ernie Beitel



Citizen Appointment Opportunities

Beltrami County at-large position on the **Red Lake Watershed Board**. Meetings held the 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month at 9:00 am in Thief River Falls. This appointment is a 3 year term beginning in January 2023. More information can be found on the [RLWB website](#). Interested citizens can send a letter of interest, including background qualifications to the County Administrator's Office, 701 Minnesota Ave NW, Bemidji, MN 56601. Applications/Letter of interest due by December 23, 2022.

County Extension Committee is looking for a citizen representative from either District 4 or 5. Meetings are held quarterly at the County Administration Building at 9 am. The appointment is a 3 year term beginning in January 2023. For more information contact [Commissioner Richard Anderson](#). Application deadline is December 30, 2022.

Jail Design & Operations Team Member

A volunteer to serve on the Jail Design and Operations Team. This team will help review and make recommendations to the Jail Steering Committee and Board of County Commissioners regarding the County's New Jail Project. We are seeking an individual with a background in architecture, building engineering, or experience as a building official/inspector or related field. The term is indefinite and meetings will be generally twice per month for the next 2 years. Interested citizens can send a letter of interest, including background qualifications to the County Administrator's Office, 701 Minnesota Ave NW, Bemidji, MN 56601. Applications/Letter of interest are due by December 23, 2022.

Clip and Mail

Your opinion and feedback is important to us... tell us how you feel and return this clip to:

Beltrami County Administration

701 Minnesota Ave NW

Bemidji, MN 56601

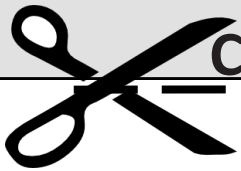
OR e-mail to: webmaster@co.beltrami.mn.us

1. Did you find the information in this Newsletter helpful?

2. What would you like to see in future issues of the Beltrami County News and Highlights?

3. A question I have of the County Board is:

4. A suggestion I have for the County Board is:



Clip and Send

Sheriff-Elect - Jason Riggs

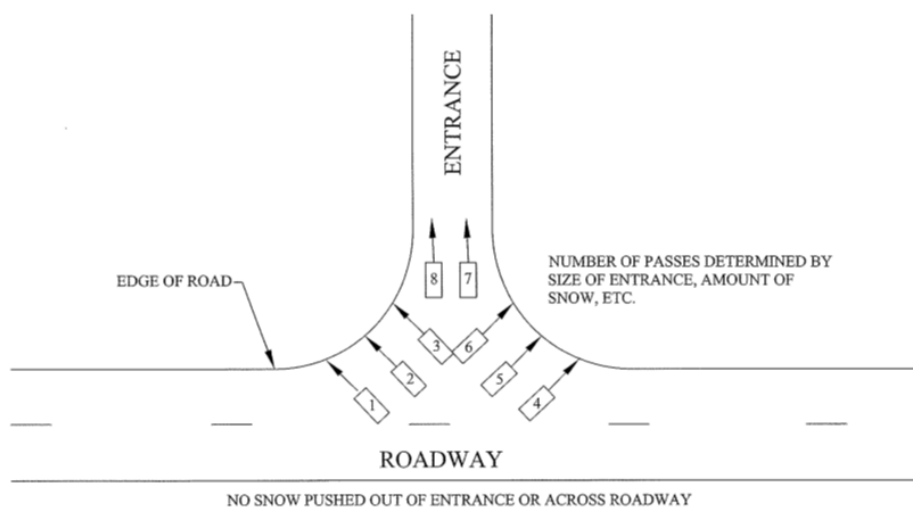
Hello from Sheriff-Elect Jason Riggs. I want to thank the citizens of Beltrami County for the past 21 years in filling the roles as Police Chief for the City of Blackduck and working as a Deputy Sheriff with varying roles for the Beltrami County Sheriff's Office under the administrations of Sheriff Keith Winger, Sheriff Phil Hodapp and Sheriff Ernie Beitel. I have learned a great deal from these excellent public servants and my hope is that I can continue to provide that level of experience for you. I look forward to serving you in the capacity of Sheriff and look forward to engaging with you in matters of public safety and making our communities stronger and safer. I will be transparent and present while providing excellent service to all. I have set some preliminary goals to accomplish during my first year in office and they are the following:

- Promote servant leadership within the office
- Create a positive working environment and allow people the ability to lead by example
- Build trust in the community by being transparent and focusing on community involvement
- Continue working toward a new correctional facility
- Expand our training to include area partners



~Submitted by: Jason Riggs, Sheriff-Elect

PROPER SNOW REMOVAL PROCEDURES FOR ENTRANCES OFF COUNTY ROADS



Proper Driveway Clearing

The Beltrami County Highway would like to remind county residents that it is unlawful under Minnesota Statutes 160.2715 to plow snow from driveways onto or across public roads. Piles of snow left on or near the road can freeze into a solid mass or cause drifting, creating hazardous situations for vehicles and snowplows. Accidents and damages caused by snow piles placed in the roadway may result in liability to the property owner. The diagram below demonstrates the proper way to remove snow from driveways.

~Submitted by: Highway Engineer, Bruce Hasbargen

Ice & Snowmobile Safety

ICE SAFETY: The Beltrami County Sheriff's Office would like to remind everyone about the dangers of early ice. Despite the colder temperatures and ice forming, ice on Beltrami County waterways remains too thin to be safe. The Minnesota DNR's guidelines for new ice is 4 inch thickness for foot travel, 5 inches for snowmobile or ATV, 8-12 inches for a car or small truck and 12-15 inches for a medium truck. Always remember that ice is never 100% safe!

When venturing out onto the ice wear a lifejacket or float coat and use a weighted ice chisel to check the ice ahead of you while walking. Ice thickness throughout the lake can vary drastically such as one spot being 4 inches and only a few feet away being 1 inch thick. As always it is very important to talk with children and teens about the dangers of thin ice and cold water. Please remain vigilant of children of all ages while outside near all bodies of water weather ice covered or open.

Once the lakes fully freeze and ice fishing season is in full boom, remember, ice is never 100% safe! Make sure to pay close attention to the ever changing weather conditions to include snow storms that could get you stranded out on the lake. Be sure that sleeper fish houses have working smoke alarms and CO2 detectors. Inform someone where you plan to fish, route of travel and estimated time of return.

SNOWMOBILE SAFETY: Now is a good time to get those snow machines uncovered and annual maintenance done before the hustle and bustle of the

holidays. Take a look at your registration stickers making sure they're up to date. The Grant-in-Aid snowmobile trails open Dec. 1, 2022 thru Apr. 1, 2023 and users must purchase a Trail Use Registration sticker when operating on these particular trails. Keep in mind portions of these trails run through private property, therefore, remain on the marked trails in order to not jeopardize your ability to use private lands. A major complaint to law enforcement regarding snowmobiles each season is trespassing.

The Beltrami County Sheriff's Office strongly encourages every snowmobiler to practice 'Zero Alcohol' use as part of their safe riding habits. Operating a snowmobile while under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance or its metabolite, or other hazardous substance is unlawful. An operator who is found to be impaired or has an alcohol concentration of .08 or more will be arrested for snowmobiling while intoxicated (SWI). If you are convicted or refuse chemical testing your driver's license will be revoked and your snowmobiling privileges will be suspended for one year.

The two major factors of snowmobile accidents are speeding and alcohol use. Let's have a safe and enjoyable snowmobile season by slowing down and practicing 'Zero Alcohol.'

To view a copy of the 2022 Snowmobile Regulations book visit the Minnesota DNR website.

~Submitted by: Deputy Josh Arhart

Its Officially Winter

It's that time of year again. The leaves have fallen, the days are shorter and snow is on the horizon. Although most people think about getting their snowblower and shovel ready for the impending weather, a lot of people forget about preparing themselves and their vehicles for winter driving. The colder temperatures, slippery surfaces and potentially dangerous situations drivers will face require proper vehicle preparation to navigate safely. You also need to make sure you are in the right mindset as a driver and ready to control the vehicle in these challenging conditions. With the proper preparation, winter driving will be safer.

As a driver, make sure you are in the right frame of mind to make good decisions and are prepared to operate the vehicle safely in snowy conditions. Some important things to do are plan ahead, keep your eyes further down the road, and separate your inputs. Knowing the temperature and conditions and being able to react to changing conditions is also vital in winter driving. Being able to determine the difference between a wet road and black ice, for example, is very important. A good way to tell is if the road looks wet but you don't hear water splashing, chances are you're driving on black ice. When driving on slippery surfaces like this, being smooth and separating your inputs is key. Traction on ice and snow is limited, so asking the tire to steer and brake simultaneously can be too much to maintain traction. Braking and getting the car slowed down before the turn will help you maintain traction. If you do slide, don't look at what you might hit, because you will probably hit it. The car follows your eyes so look where you want to go and your chances of keeping your car shiny side up are much higher if you look at a softer spot to land. You can avoid this situation in the first place by looking further down the road. This will allow you to react faster to changing road conditions and better control the vehicle.

Snow plow operators have one of the most important and underappreciated jobs in the winter. All they ask for is room to do their job safely, so you can make it to your destination safely. Plows need to keep the entire road clear. That means that they will drive with their blade on or over the centerline. This also means that they will keep the shoulder area clear. To do this, they will swerve around mailboxes, signs and other obstructions in the right-of-way to keep our roads clear. Please give them the room they need to do their job safely. If you are behind a plow, take that time to drive slowly and relax. Also, the highway department uses sand/salt mixtures to melt accumulated ice and snow from high risk areas of the roadways. Temperature impacts the effectiveness of salt on ice and snow. The colder the temperature, the icier the road will be. Keep in mind that

the county does not have a dry road policy, so there will always be slippery spots on our roads during the winter months.

One of the most important things to do to improve your winter driving is to install dedicated winter tires. All-season tires do not count. Even though tire technology has come a long way, trying to have a tire that can handle hot weather, cold weather, snow, rain, and dry pavement is, for all intents and purposes, impossible. What you end up with is a tire that is a jack of all trades and a master of none. Therefore, we recommend having dedicated summer tires for the summer and winter tires for the winter to get the best performance out of your car year-round.

To perform well in snowy conditions, winter tires are made from a much softer rubber compound so they remain pliable in the extreme cold. They also have siping, which are little grooves cut into the tread blocks of the tire. Siping creates even more edges on the tire which improve traction on ice and snow. As a result, winter tires allow you to stop, steer, and accelerate with a lot more control than with summer or all-season tires. Sure, a Suburban is four-wheel drive but what good is four-wheel drive if the tires can't put that drive to the ground. Not to mention trying to stop a large vehicle is very difficult with limited traction.

Another important measure to take is to make sure you have survival equipment in your car. Winter driving can be dangerous so if you have an accident or get stranded out in the cold, you'll want to be prepared. Make sure to keep a first aid kit, flashlight, blanket, matches, non-perishable foods, and water in your car. This may seem excessive if you are new to driving in snowy climates but it is not unheard of for drivers to spend hours stranded in their car in blizzard conditions. Should you find yourself in this situation, you'll be glad to have these simple items in your car.

Other things to do is make sure all of your vehicle's fluids are rated for the cold temperatures. One that is often overlooked is washer fluid. You'll want to ensure that you have fluid that will not freeze in subzero temperatures so you can clean your windshield. Proper visibility is important every time you drive but especially in the winter. It is also good practice to maintain your other fluid levels such as engine oil, transmission fluid, brake fluid, coolant/antifreeze and fuel. You especially don't want to run out of fuel. A good strategy is to always make sure you have at least half a tank of gas at all times to be sure you will not run out of fuel in a bad situation.

Safe travels!

~Submitted by: Sergeant Sam Lundquist

Sanford Behavioral Crisis Center

The Sanford Bemidji Behavioral Crisis Center has officially opened and provides services to children and adults experiencing a mental health crisis. This state of the art project is part of a long term collaboration between Sanford Health, Beltrami County, and the Minnesota Department of Human Services. The facility provides access to Emergency Psychiatric Assessment, Treatment, and Healing (EmPATH) a new service that provides a safe space for people to receive specialized outpatient services. There will be availability of ongoing mental health assessment and treatment with access to a multidisciplinary team. For adults who need psychiatric stabilization, in-patient psychiatric services will be available. For people experiencing behavioral health crisis, having resources such as the crisis center close to home will allow them to be with their loved ones while receiving immediate mental health services in a home-like setting. Beltrami County is excited to be a part of this innovative service within our community.



~Submitted by: Health & Human Services Director, Becky Secore

Health & Human Service Director, Becky Secore Announces her Retirement



Becky Secore
Health & Human Services
Director

Becky Secore, Director of Health and Human Services in Beltrami County, recently announced her plans to retire. Becky has been the director for almost 10 years and has worked hard to be a part of solutions for Beltrami County. She has dedicated her career to serving people who have challenges in their lives. She has been a champion for developing access to people with mental health and substance needs and has always been an advocate for children who have difficulties within their home and families.

Some specific areas of accomplishment include:

Partnership with PrimeWest Health, Red Lake Nation, and Sanford Hospital to fund and develop the **First Steps to Healthy Families** program.

Partnership with Red Lake Nation and internal partners on the **Red Lake Nation TANF, SNAP, Child Support, and Workforce programs transfers**.

Partnership with Red Lake Nation on the **Red Lake Child Welfare Initiative**.

President of Minnesota Association of Social Service Administrators.

Board member of Northern Dental Access Center.

Being a part of numerous behavioral health projects, the most recent being the new Behavioral Health **Crisis Facility at Sanford**.

Numerous internal project partnerships that include Centralized Intake, developing computer solutions, bringing workforce programs in-house.

Enjoying the team of leaders within Beltrami County that have supported and collaborated on too many projects to count.

Becky is particularly proud of her work with Red Lake Nation related to providing cultural services for tribal members and her work with local providers in increasing access to behavioral health services. Finally, Becky has been blessed to have amazing staff and partnerships within Beltrami County. Becky's last day of service will be 1-3-23.

2022 General Election

Mid-term elections were held Tuesday, November 8th 2022. Beltrami County has approximately 28,000 registered voters in 61 precincts.

The majority of Beltrami County voters voted at their poll sites on Election Day. These poll sites are manned by teams of election judges working from the 7am opening of polls to the 8pm closing. The local election judges do an amazing job keeping the lines running smoothly while upholding the integrity of the election process. Hats off to all of our election judges!

Thirty-one townships have opted to become mail ballot precincts. All registered voters in these precincts are mailed a ballot approximately 3 weeks before Election Day. The ballots are voted and then mailed back to the Auditor-Treasurer's Office for processing.

In the 2022 General Election approximately 30% of voters voted absentee or by mail ballot compared to approximately 50% in the 2020 General Election. The majority of these voters requested and voted their ballot in person at the Auditor-Treasurer's Office.

Voter turnout in Beltrami County was 62% for the 2022 General Election.

Join us Tuesday, January 3rd, 2023 at 5 pm in the County Board Room for the Swearing In Ceremony of County Commissioners and our new Sheriff. Light refreshments will be served.

~Submitted by: Auditor/Treasurer, JoDee Treat

Roundabouts

This past summer MnDOT constructed a roundabout at the intersection of Hwy 71 and Anne Street. The roundabout was a joint venture with the City of Bemidji having jurisdiction of Anne Street west of Hwy 71 and the County having jurisdiction of Anne Street east of Hwy 71. All three entities shared in the cost of construction and will share in the maintenance.

This new roundabout is configured a bit differently than the others in the area. On Hwy 71 there are two lanes approaching the roundabout. The left lane enters the roundabout. The right lane is for right turns only. Approaching traffic needs to be prepared and be in the correct lane. There are signs noting what each lane is for. Also, traffic in the right lane turning right needs to yield to traffic coming out of the roundabout. For traffic going westbound on Anne Street there is also an extra lane for only right turning traffic. However, this lane does not need to yield to traffic coming out of the roundabout, it is the restart of two lanes on Hwy 71 north of the roundabout.

Next year the County plans to construct a roundabout at the intersection of Irvine Avenue and Anne Street. This roundabout will be a single lane roundabout with only one lane entering on all legs. Plans are currently being developed.

Roundabouts are being utilized at these intersections because they are safer and efficient in moving traffic. They eliminate left turns against traffic and "T-bone" type of crashes. Vehicle speed is reduced so even if a crash does occur it is at a speed less likely to cause serious injury or a fatality. Roundabouts show an 86 percent decrease in fatal crashes and an 83 percent decrease in life-altering injury crashes.

For more information on roundabouts or these projects please contact the Beltrami County Highway Department at (218) 333-8173.

~Submitted by: Highway Engineer, Bruce Hasbargen



2022 Road Projects Update

Approximately \$12 million in construction projects were completed this past summer on County roads. The larger projects included resurfacing 11 miles of CSAH 5 (Centerline Rd and Debs Rd), an overlay of 12 miles on CSAH 12 (Power Dam Rd), new surfacing on 4 miles of CSAH 57 (Sumac Rd and Hazelwood Rd), new surfacing on 0.5 miles of CR 305 (Wildwood Rd), and started the reconstruction of 6 miles of CSAH 20 (Birchmont Beach Rd). The work on CSAH 20 will continue late into the late fall as weather permits and will be completed next summer.

This winter we will be preparing for next summer's construction projects. Major projects include the reconstruction of CSAH 15 (Irvine Ave) from 30th to Anne St including a roundabout, reconstruction of CSAH 57 (Sandpiper, Bittern and Island View Rds), resurfacing on CSAH 15 (Irvine Ave) north of CSAH 26, and an overlay of CSAH 15 (Irvine Ave) north of the Turtle River crossing.

For more information on any of these projects please contact the Beltrami County Highway Department at (218) 333-8173.

Commissioners can be contacted by phone or e-mail:

District 1 Commissioner Craig Gaasvig

218-766-9699

cgaasvig@paulbunyan.net

District 2 Commissioner Reed Olson

218-766-0383

reed.olson@co.beltrami.mn.us

District 3 Commissioner Richard Anderson

218-467-3275

richard@paulbunyan.net

District 4 Commissioner Tim Sumner

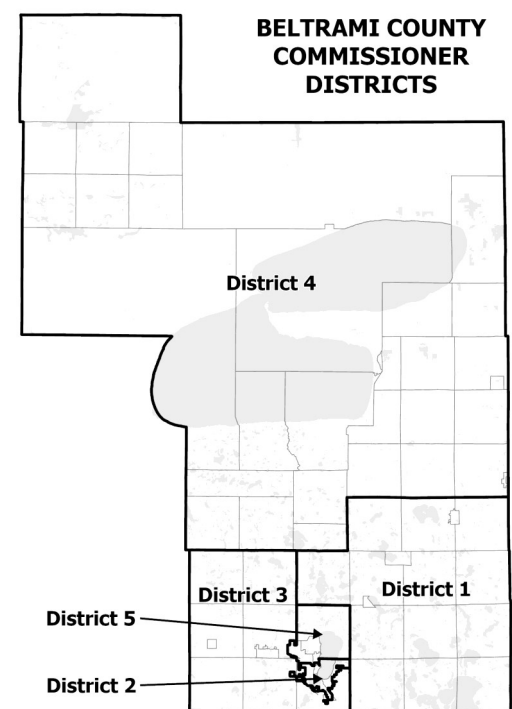
218-407-7589

tsumner15@gmail.com

District 5 Commissioner Jim Lucachick

218-586-3523

lukmar@paulbunyan.net



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

100% Graduation Goal

Beltrami County supports the 100% Graduation goal.

For more information, please contact:

Dr. John Eggers, Red Lake Nation Volunteer

envison@paulbunyan.net

218-766-9009



Bemidji Veterans Home Update

Northern Minnesota Veterans eagerly await the summer 2023 completion date of the new Veterans Home in Bemidji. Construction has been underway for over 15 months, creating an impressive site for incoming residents to enjoy very soon. A&P Construction Superintendent Matt Mongeon said, "Construction is moving along on target." He stated that the building is almost entirely enclosed with the heat on, allowing staff to work comfortably as they complete the mechanical, electrical, plumbing, etc.

The Minnesota Department of Veteran Affairs (MDVA) has also been working tirelessly to develop and administer the resident application process for the Bemidji Veterans Home. Since the application process began in mid-September, they have seen an immense response, with over 117 applications submitted to date. Know someone who might want to apply? There's still time! Contact your local County Veteran Service Office or go to mn.gov/mdva/ and search the Veteran Homes tab for more information.

Eligibility for admission requires a veteran to meet the following guidelines.

- Discharged under honorable conditions from any branch of the U.S. armed forces and is a current resident of Minnesota who served 181 consecutive days on active duty unless discharged earlier because of disability incurred in the line of duty.
- The spouse of an eligible Veteran who is at least 55 years old and meets residency requirements.
- Able to demonstrate a medical or clinical need for admission.

A complete admissions packet will require a signed and dated resident application form, a copy of the Veterans DD-214, and any legal decision-maker documents such as Power of Attorney (POA), Healthcare Directive, and Guardianship Conservatorship documents. Completed packets can be mailed to New Admissions, C/O 5101 Minnehaha Ave South, Minneapolis, MN 55417, or emailed to NewHomesAdmissions@state.mn.us.

Applicants who have been selected will be contacted to confirm they are on the waitlist. Those on the active list will also be contacted 30-90 days before anticipated admission to gather relevant clinical and financial information as residents contribute to the cost of their care according to their means. For questions or more information, contact the Reimbursement Specialist of each home.

It's important to remember that the Bemidji Veterans Home is not an assisted living facility. It will not provide domiciliary care; this is a skilled nursing facility that provides skilled nursing care, long-term care, short-term care for rehab after a hospital stay, physical, occupational, and speech therapy, laboratory, x-ray, respiratory therapy, dental, optometry, podiatry, and hospice as well.

If you or someone you know needs an application or has questions regarding the process, please get in touch with your County Veteran Service Officer at 1-888-LINKVET. Veterans living in Beltrami County can contact County Veteran Service Officer Shane Gustafson at 218-333-4178, or Assistant County Veteran Service Officer Luke Wilkowski, at 218-333-4177.

~Submitted by: Veteran Service Officer, Shane Gustafson



K9 Rip Gets Body Armor



Beltrami County Sheriff's Office K9 Rip will receive a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. K9 Rip's vest is sponsored by Rick and Cindy Haterius of Colorado Springs, CO and will be embroidered with the sentiment "In memory of K9 Jinx EPCSO, EOW 4-11-22". Delivery is expected within eight to ten weeks.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc., established in 2009, is a 501 (c)(3) charity whose mission is to provide bullet and stab protective vests and other assistance to dogs of

law enforcement and related agencies throughout the United States. This potentially lifesaving body armor for four-legged K9 officers is U.S. made, custom fitted, and NIJ certified. Since its inception, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. has provided over 4,740 vests to K9s in all 50 states at a value of \$6.9 million, made possible by both private and corporate donations.

The program is open to U.S. dogs that are at least 20 months old and actively employed and certified with law enforcement or related agencies. K9s with expired vests are also eligible to participate. There are an estimated 30,000 law enforcement K9s throughout the United States.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. accepts tax-deductible contributions in any amount, while a single donation of \$960 will sponsor one vest. Each vest has a value of \$1,744-\$2,283, weighs an average of 4-5 lb., and comes with a five-year warranty. For more information, or to learn about volunteer opportunities, please call 508-824-6978. Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provides information, lists events, and accepts donations at www.vik9s.org, or you may mail your contribution to P.O. Box 9, East Taunton, MA 02718.

~Submitted by: Emergency Services Director, Christopher Muller

Now Hiring!

Looking to start the new year with a new career? Beltrami County offers employment opportunities in over 100 different job titles. With over 400 employees the opportunity for advancement is also available. The County offers a competitive pay and benefit package along with paid time off, paid holidays, and enrollment in one of the State of Minnesota Public Employee Pension Plans (PERA).

Interested in Law Enforcement?

Become a Corrections Officer and work in our jail; or a Communications Officer in emergency dispatch; or a Bailiff working in Courts; or even A Deputy Sheriff enforcing the law and protecting the public.

What do we do in Health and Human Services ?

- Social Workers work in Child Protection, CP Investigation, Adult & Childrens Mental Health, or Managed Care. Helping our most vulnerable population.
- Case Aides work with clients, applications and paperwork to prepare files for processing.
- Eligibility Specialists determine which programs clients are eligible for and issue the appropriate benefits.
- Child Support Specialists work with parents to ensure children receive financial support from both parents.
- Support Enforcement Aides assist the Child Support process.
- Public Health Nurses or Registered Nurses work with WIC, Managed Care or Maternal Child Health programs.
- Account Technician II's process account payables, account receivables, and prepare reports.

Are your interests in more hands on work?

Highway Maintenance Workers plow snow and maintain County Roads, the Transfer Station employs multiple Solid Waste Operators, County buildings are maintained and cleaned by our Maintenance Workers and Custodians. Foresters manage the County timber acreage and Environmental Services staff provide environmental conservation services to land owners.

Other opportunities include:

- Working in the License Center issuing Drivers' Licenses, transferring titles and renewing vehicle tabs,
- In Real Estate & Tax maintaining the property tax records, collecting taxes and recording documents.
- As an Appraiser determining the value of property within the county
- In the County Attorney's Office as a Prosecutor or Legal Assistant

All county jobs and job descriptions are posted on the Beltrami County Website www.co.beltrami.mn.us To ensure you do not miss an upcoming job opening, on the "employment" tab, "menu" dropdown select the "Job Interest Card" option. Once you sign up for this option you will receive an email each time a job in your area of interest is posted. You can easily select the job opening and apply for the open position on-line.



www.co.beltrami.mn.us

Board of Commissioners

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| District 1—Craig Gaasvig | 218-766-9699 |
| District 2—Reed Olson | 218-766-0383 |
| District 3—Richard Anderson | 218-467-3275 |
| District 4—Tim Sumner | 218-407-7589 |
| District 5—Jim Lucachick | 218-586-3523 |

Administration Building

701 Minnesota Ave NW, Bemidji MN 56601

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|---|--------------|
| Administrator—Thomas Barry | 218-333-4109 |
| Assessor—Joe Skerik | 218-333-4116 |
| Auditor/Treasurer—JoDee Treat..... | 218-333-4175 |
| Environmental Services—Brent Rud | 218-333-4158 |
| Facilities Manager—Steve Shadrick | 218-333-8475 |
| Geographic Info Systems (GIS).Kevin T. | 218-333-8457 |
| Human Resources—Linda Tran | 218-333-4155 |
| License Center | 218-333-4148 |
| Mgmt Info Systems (MIS)—Kevin Warne | 218-333-4151 |
| Natural Resource Mgmt—Dick Moore .. | 218-333-4210 |
| Real Estate & Tax Services..... | 218-333-4138 |
| Recorder—Charlene Sturk..... | 218-333-4170 |

Community Service Center

616 America Ave NW, Bemidji MN 56601

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|---|--------------|
| Health & Human Services—Director Becky Secore | |
| Social Services - Director Jeff Lind | 218-333-4223 |
| Economic Assistance | |
| Director Anne Lindseth..... | 218-333-8300 |
| Public Health - Director Megan Heuer | 218-333-8140 |
| Veterans Services Shane Gustafson | 218-333-4177 |

Law Enforcement Center

613 Minnesota Ave NW, Bemidji MN 56601

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|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Sheriff Ernie Beitel | 218-333-9111 |
| Bemidji Police Chief Mike Mastin..... | 218-333-9111 |

Judicial Center

600 Minnesota Ave NW, Bemidji MN 56601

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|----------------------------|--------------|
| Attorney—David Hanson..... | 218-333-4219 |
| Court Administration..... | 218-333-4120 |

County Jail

626 Minnesota Ave NW, Bemidji MN 56601

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| Main phone number..... | 218-333-4189 |
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Highway Department

2491 Adams Ave NW, Bemidji MN 56601

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| Highway Engineer—Bruce Hasbargen... | 218-333-8173 |
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County Extension

7223 Fairgrounds Rd NW, Bemidji MN 56601

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|---------------------------|--------------|
| Extension Secretary | 218-444-5722 |
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State Government Contacts

Office Of Governor, Tim Walz.....651-201-3400

Senate

Justin Eichorn

Paul Utke

House of Representatives

Matt Bliss.....651-296-5516

Matthew Grossell