



News and Highlights

4th Quarter 2023

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.



Keep it Clean Program



Like many Minnesota lakes, Upper Red Lake has seen a dramatic increase in winter activity over the past decade. The increase in popularity of ice fishing has grown quickly with technology, better equipment, and wheelhouses, which make staying on the ice for extended periods of time more comfortable. With this increased activity comes more pressure on the natural resources, including an increase in the amount of garbage and waste left on the lake. In an effort to reduce waste left of the ice, Beltrami Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has formed a partnership with the Upper Red Lake Area Association and the Red Lake Watershed District to develop and implement the Keep It Clean Program on Upper Red Lake. This program is a public information initiative aimed at educating the public on responsible winter angling waste disposal.

Through a series of grants and donations, this partnership has been able to launch various media campaigns, provide human waste disposal sites at several lake accesses, and post advertising about proper waste disposal. Most recently, the SWCD received a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency grant to help launch a statewide effort to reduce the amount of waste left on Minnesota lakes. This grant allowed us to purchase a Keep It Clean wheelhouse to use as a mobile public education facility at fairs and fishing-related events. This display has already been at the Minnesota State Fair and the St. Paul Ice Show.

Beltrami has been working with other SWCDs as part of a larger, statewide effort to promote the Keep It Clean message to the public and encourage lawmakers to take action in preventing winter ice waste. One major result of this effort is a new 2023 law that prohibits the storage of garbage and other waste on the ice.

For more information on the Keep It Clean Program or to find out how you can get involved, contact Zach Gutknecht, Clean Water Specialist, at zachrie.gutknecht@co.beltrami.mn.us.



Keep It Clean volunteers meeting with the public in front of the wheelhouse at the 2023 Minnesota State Fair

2024 State and Federal Elections

2024 will be a Presidential Election year. The year will kick off with Minnesota's Presidential Nomination Primary in March to vote for the major parties' nominee for President. Voting will wrap up in November with the General Election.

Information and links on where to vote, what's on your ballot and how to request an absentee ballot can be found on Beltrami County's website.

- March 5, 2024: Presidential Nomination Primary
- March 12, 2024: Township Officer Elections
- August 13, 2024: Primary Election
- November 5, 2024: General Election

~Submitted by: Auditor-Treasurer, JoDee Treat

Auditor-Treasurer's Office

Where We Are and What We Do

Beltrami County Auditor-Treasurer's Office is made up of four distinct areas, Property Tax Administration, License Center, Election Administration and County Finance. All functions are located in the County Administration Building at 701 Minnesota Ave NW, Bemidji. Building hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 to 4:30.

Property Tax Administration: The property tax process consists of calculating the tax rate for all taxing authorities within the County, sending out the billing statement for all parcels, collecting the tax payments, and settling the collections to the respective taxing authorities. The Property Tax Office also processes passports and passport photos. The office can be reached at 218-333-4138 or taxes@co.beltrami.mn.us

License Center: This office handles the processing of County Business Licenses, Vital Statistics, Minnesota DNR Registrations & Renewals, Minnesota Driver's License Renewals, and Department of Motor Vehicle Title Transfers & Tab Renewals. The License Center can be reached at 218-333-4148 or beltrami.licensecenter@co.beltrami.mn.us

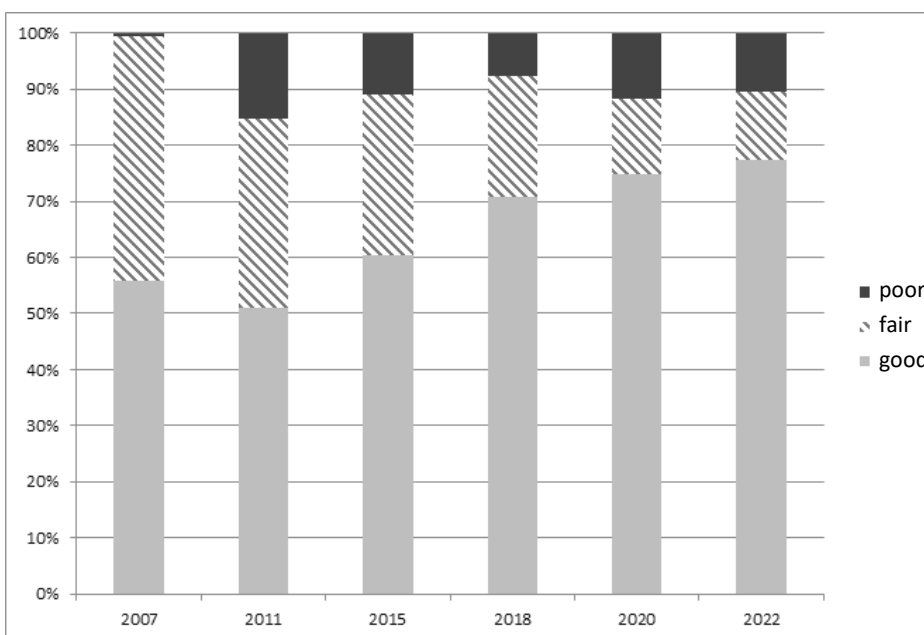
Election Administration: There are 27,500 Registered Voters and 61 Election Precincts in Beltrami County. The Auditor-Treasurer Office is the Chief Election Officer for all Federal, State and County Elections. Election Administration can help with voter registration, absentee ballots, and miscellaneous election questions. Located on the second floor of the County Administration Building and can be reached at 218-333-8448 or elections@co.beltrami.mn.us

County Finance: Finance handles the Annual Financial Audit, County-wide Finance Statements, Investment Portfolio, Grant Administration, Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable and Payroll. Audited Financial Statements can be found on the County website. This office can be reached at 218-333-8448 or accountspayable@co.beltrami.mn.us

~Submitted by: Auditor-Treasurer, JoDee Treat

Highway Department

Construction & Maintenance of Over 750 Miles of Road



The Beltrami County Highway Department is responsible for the construction and maintenance of over 750 miles of County roads, with approximately 400 miles of those being paved. To help provide an efficient paved road system Beltrami County utilizes a pavement management program. Within our PM program we prioritize investments on roads when deterioration is still minimal, extending the life of the pavement and avoiding the need for higher cost investments. Preventative type projects such as chip seals are prioritized because pavement life is extended more effectively versus higher cost complete resurfacing projects. For example, a chip seal costs \$35,000/mile and it lasts or extends the life of the road by 7-10 years, so each year of life costs \$5,000. A complete resurfacing project costs \$400,000 and lasts 30-40 years, so each year of life costs \$13,000. Investments in our roads are prioritized, we do not use a worst-first method. A common question we receive is "why are we not working on road X, the worst road in the county?" The answer, as explained above, is we are prioritizing investments. However, Beltrami County is addressing the "worst" roads as funding allows. In the next 5 years we plan to improve 31 of the 42 miles of roads in poor condition. We will be getting to many of the "worst" roads. Overall, pavement condition is improving in the County, as shown in the included Pavement Condition chart.

~Submitted by: Highway Engineer, Bruce Hasbargen

Beltrami County Planning Commission/Board of Adjustment

Citizen Position Vacancy

There is an opportunity to serve on the Beltrami County Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment for an interested citizen residing in Commissioner District 2, which is made up of Bemidji City Wards 1, 4, and 5 and served by Commissioner Joe Gould.

The Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment duties include:

1. conducting public hearings for variance applications, conditional use permits, and ordinance revisions,
2. making final decisions regarding conditional use permit and variance requests,
3. making recommendations to the County Board regarding plats and ordinance revisions, and
4. Other duties as assigned by the County Board.

The Planning Commission/Board of Adjustment meets on the 4th Monday of the month at 5:30 and typically meetings are 3 hours or less in duration.

If you reside in any of these City Wards and are committed to attending the regular monthly meetings, please direct questions and your letter of interest by

December 29th via email to

esd@co.beltrami.mn.us

or mail it to:

Beltrami County Environmental Services
701 Minnesota Ave Suite 113
Bemidji MN, 56601



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

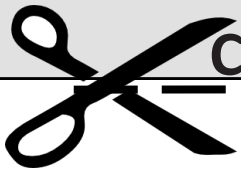
OR e-mail to: webmaster@co.beltrami.mn.us

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

News from the Sheriff's Office

New Marijuana Laws

Minnesota legalized cannabis use.... sounds pretty straight forward, doesn't it? Well it is far from that. There is a lot involved in the 300 plus page piece of legislation, which will likely be subject to court interpretation and future legal findings. This article will touch on several of the more substantial pieces of the law. Here is what we know:

On 08/01/23, Minnesota legalized adult use of cannabis. An adult may now legally possess or transport two ounces of green cannabis "flower" or eight grams of cannabis concentrate in public, including in their vehicle. The amount jumps to two pounds or 160 grams in their residence. Up to eight cannabis plants with no more than four being "mature" may be grown at a single residence.

However, persons under 21 may not legally use or possess cannabis, nor can adults smoke it around minors. Cannabis may not be used in motor vehicles, and there is an "open container" law very similar to the "open bottle" law for alcoholic beverages. Cannabis that is being transported in a motor vehicle must be in its original packaging or packaging that meets the requirements identified in the statute. It is also still illegal to use or possess on school property, in correctional facilities, or while carrying a pistol or possessing a firearm.

One piece of the legislation that has been misinterpreted is that it is not legal to use cannabis in public. Smoking or vaping cannabis is prohibited in location protected by the Clean Air Act and in multifamily housing.

Lastly, and most importantly, cannabis use impairs important skills required for driving by slowing reaction time and ability to make decisions, impairing coordination and distorting perception. Driving under the influence is not only dangerous but also illegal. Beltrami County deputies are on the lookout for under the influence drivers.

~Submitted by: Sheriff's Captain Joe Kleszyk

Rise in Opioid Related Issues

To say there has been a rise in opioid seizures in Beltrami County and the surrounding jurisdictions would be an understatement. The Beltrami County Sheriff's Office and Bemidji Police Department are partners in the Paul Bunyan Drug Task Force (PBDTF), a multi-jurisdictional drug enforcement team that includes Cass County, Hubbard County, Koochiching County and Mahnommen County along with White Earth Police Department, Leech Lake Police Department, Park Rapids Police Department, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Statistically, evidence of opioid use and seizures have risen at a higher pace than any other drug for PBDTF. Over the past six years the seizure of opioids has risen steadily and significantly. Opioid use prior to 2014 was basically non-existent, with the total seizures in 2012 and 2013 being around 10 grams each. In both 2014 and 2015, significant seizures were conducted in Beltrami County which skewed statistics for those years with a seizure of 1,150 grams in 2014 and a seizure of 2,270 grams in 2015. It was apparent that after 2015, opioids were in the area to stay. From 2014-2019 seizures were primarily heroin. In 2019 and 2020, agents began to seize fentanyl at the same rate as heroin. Since 2020, heroin has been a rarity, with almost all seizures being fentanyl. The ten-year increase of heroin/fentanyl from 2012 to 2022 was an astonishing 28,500%.

The evidence of opioid use can also be seen through the drastic increase in overdoses which is shown on the included graph. As tragic as the statistic in the graph may appear, they do not paint a full picture of the devastation that opioids have brought to Beltrami County as they do not include overdose statistics from the Red Lake Police Department which, if included, would add 14 additional fatal overdoses to 2022.

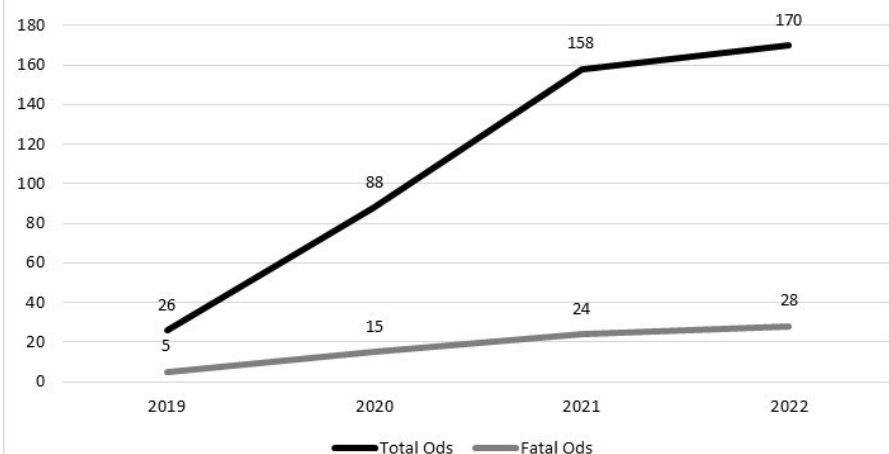
Let this sink in...42 people died last year in north-central Minnesota of opioid related overdoses. These 42 people came from every walk of life and leave behind a wake of tragedy and often an abundance of unanswered questions. These people were children, parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, friends and neighbors all of whom shared the common denominator of addiction.

Cases involving overdose deaths are treated as murder investigations and have been taken seriously by the Beltrami County Attorney's Office. In 2023, The Beltrami County Attorney's Office has successfully convicted four individuals for 3rd Degree Murder for causing a death of a human being by providing them with a controlled substance. Several other cases are progressing through the court process.

If you or a loved one are suffering from an opioid addiction, please seek help. We realize that we cannot arrest our way out of this problem, but the men and women of the Beltrami County Sheriff's Office, Bemidji Police Department and the Paul Bunyan Drug Task Force are working tirelessly to seek out those individuals responsible for bringing this poison to our area.

~Submitted by: Sheriff's Captain Joe Kleszyk

Paul Bunyan Drug Task Force Opioid Overdoses



Bemidji Veterans Home

Progress and Anticipated Opening

The Bemidji Veterans Home is scheduled to open on Tuesday, January 16th, pending some finishing touches with construction, surveys, and occupancy certification. If these items are completed as expected, admission staff will begin admitting 4 veterans per day for 6 working days until they reach their maximum starting capacity of 24 veterans. The home will then be required to pass a recognition survey from the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs within 30-60 days before admitting additional veterans and spouses, up to a max of 72.

Currently there is a waitlist of 275 individuals, including 232 veterans and 43 spouses, who are eager to be admitted to the home. The first 24 admissions will be selected chronologically, with those whom applied earliest getting the first opportunity. Admissions will also be required to meet eligibility requirements for long-term care. This means that estimated wait times for those on the list cannot be provided, as admission is dependent on a variety of factors that are federally regulated. Neither length of service nor medical conditions influence the waitlist or time to admission in any way.

In a recent conversation with Kevin Gish, the Administrator of the Bemidji Veterans Home, he mentioned that previous construction delays have allowed them to

focus on recruiting a strong team. They have successfully hired the entire leadership team and are now actively seeking direct care nurses, aides, housekeepers, and food service staff. Various staff will start in December with others coming in January. Continued vacancies include positions for Certified Nursing Assistants, RNs, LPNs, Food Service Workers, and Housekeeping. If you or anyone you know is interested, please visit the Minnesota Careers Website to apply.

Building tours are not yet available but will be arranged for stakeholder groups and families on the initial admissions list in the coming months. A celebratory grand opening is planned for Spring 2024, which will include state legislators and community members.

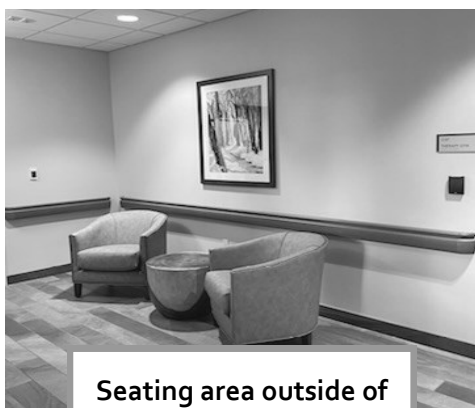
Please note that the Bemidji Veterans Home staff are unable to accept donations due to space constraints at this time. They deeply appreciate the overwhelming generosity of the community and continued support as they work towards facility opening.

In the meantime, please enjoy the 'sneak peak' pictures included here!

~Submitted by: Veteran Service Officer, Shane Gustafson



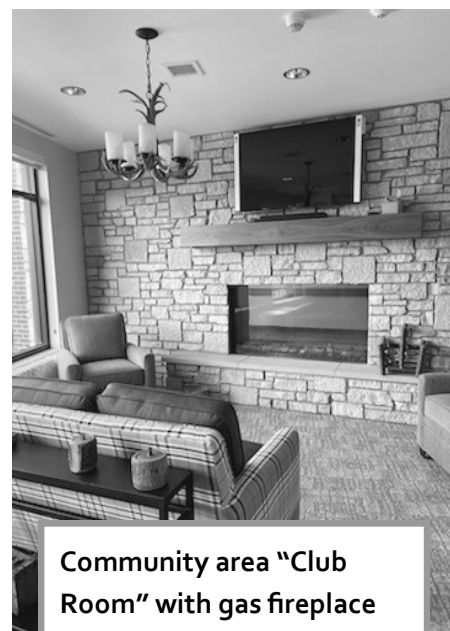
Therapy Spa/Whirlpool Room



Seating area outside of the Therapy room/gym



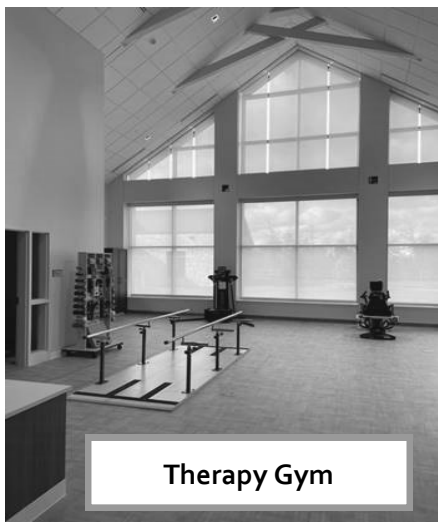
The Learning Studio



Community area "Club Room" with gas fireplace



Mediation Room/Chapel



Therapy Gym



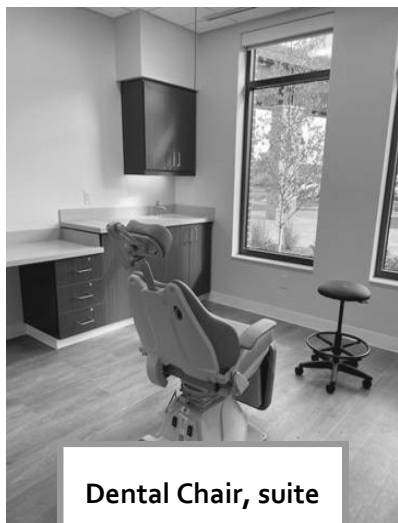
Entry hallway



Dining room and kitchen



Barbershop



Dental Chair, suite next door to Barbershop



Entry area artwork by local Native American Veteran artist Tom Gamache



View into residents' room from the hallway

Winter Park Activities

It's that time of the year again...skiing, snowmobiling, and maybe some hot chocolate! Winter in Beltrami County is always a wonderful time full of activities and beautiful scenery. Here is what's happening in the parks this season:

Movil Maze Recreation Area is open for many different winter sports. The main ski trails are limited to cross-country skiing only (damaging groomed ski trails is prohibited under Administrative Rule 6100.1355), but we have also opened the mountain bike trails as ungroomed, non-motorized multi-use trails for walking, running, snowshoeing, fat-tire biking, or walking the dog. For motorized use, snowmobile trails travel through the north portion of Movil Maze. The shelter is open to help warm up after an exhilarating, but perhaps chilly, outing in the woods.

Three Island Park is our other hub for winter recreation. The Gold and Orange Trails located at the north trailheads of the park are groomed and open to non-motorized uses. You can ski, snowshoe, walk, run, and bike and pets are also allowed on these multi-use trails. All other ski trails (Red, Green, Blue, and Brown) are only for cross-country skiing. The snowmobile trail travels from the south end of the park, over the Turtle River, and to the very north tip of Three Island Park, onto Black Lake Rd NE. The shelter at the north trailhead near the scenic Turtle River is also open as a warming house and there are wood stoves at each shelter, so bring some food and hot chocolate to warm up after a day of enjoying the park.

Whatever winter activity is your favorite, get out there as often as you can and enjoy your parks!

~Submitted by: Recreation Resource Manager, Lori Clark



Bemidji Regional Airport **As the Beacon Rotates**

Runway 13/31 Rehabilitation

This past summer the Bemidji Regional Airport Authority (Authority) completed a mill and overlay of runway 13/31 at the Bemidji Regional Airport (BJI). Runway 13/31 is BJI's primary runway as well as its most valuable asset. Maintaining its pavements to allow the airport to function safely and efficiently is a top priority. The Authority and Karvakko Engineering, Inc. began working with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) Aeronautics in 2022 to make this project a reality. Runway 13/31 is 7,004 feet long by 150 feet wide and was last reconstructed in 2007. The project was needed now to address a deterioration of the runway surface and to address the change in aircraft fleet to accommodate larger more frequent traffic. This project included the removal of the top two inches of bituminous, then placement of four inches of new bituminous thereby increasing the strength and extending its useful life at least for the next ten years. Total project cost was \$5.4 million. The project was funded primarily with a FAA's Airport Improvement Program (AIP) Entitlement and Discretionary grant at 95%. The FAA's AIP grant program is funded through the Airport and Airway Trust Fund which receives the vast majority of its funds from taxes generated within the national aviation system. Mn/DOT Aeronautics provided another 2.5% of the funds for the project through its grant program, which receives its revenues from the State Airports Fund, again primarily funded by users of the aviation system in Minnesota. The Authority's local share of 2.5% is funded through its capital levy.

The project began on July 24th when runway 13/31 was closed. Then on July 26th the airport was closed to all aircraft, except helicopters, to allow the contractor to work in the intersection of BJI's two runways. Closing the airport required upfront and ongoing coordination with all the users of the airport many months in advance and on a routine basis once the project started. Runway 7/25 was opened on August 2nd and air traffic resumed. Runway 13/31 remained closed until August 17th to complete the mill and overlay as well as temporary marking part of the project. The runway needed to be closed again September 5th through September 28th to groove

the new bituminous and put down the permanent pavement markings. An interesting fact about the machine used to groove the runway is that each pass of the machine was approximately three feet wide so the machine had to make over 2,300 passes to groove the entire runway. The project took 29,200 tons of bituminous and over 66,000 square feet of paint.

The Bemidji Regional Airport, the 4th busiest commercial service airport in Minnesota, is owned by the City of Bemidji and Beltrami County and managed by the Bemidji Regional Airport Authority through a joint powers agreement. BJI has an economic impact of over \$57.7 million annually and either directly or indirectly provides over 460 jobs to the region.

Airport Zoning

Part of keeping every airport and the community it serves safe is ensuring that the land use surrounding the airport is compatible. Airports must have zoning approved by the Mn/DOT Commissioner to receive funding through Mn/DOT Aeronautics. Recent state legislation allowed airports to pursue custom zoning. Custom zoning allows an airport and its community a way to comply with airport zoning while ensuring the safety of the users of the airport and those on the ground around the airport with compatible economic development.

In 2022, the Bemidji Regional Airport Authority, the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Joint Planning Board, Bemidji Township, Grant Valley Township, Eckles Township and Northern Township formed the Joint Area Zoning Board (JAZB) for the Bemidji Regional Airport. The JAZB reviewed current airport zoning, which did not conform to Mn/DOT Aeronautics standard zoning and updated it. Currently, all LGUs and JAZB have passed resolutions in support of the draft Airport Zoning Ordinance. The draft Airport Zoning Ordinance has been submitted to Mn/DOT Aeronautics for review. The next step in the process will be to address any input and comments from Mn/DOT and then hold Public Hearings prior to the final adoption and implementation of the new Airport Zoning Ordinance.

~Submitted by: Karen Weller

Winter 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 whether 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 pulled out of storage 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, 2023 thru Apr. 1, 2024 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 to not jeopardize our ability to use private lands. A major complaint to law enforcement regarding snowmobiles each season is trespassing.

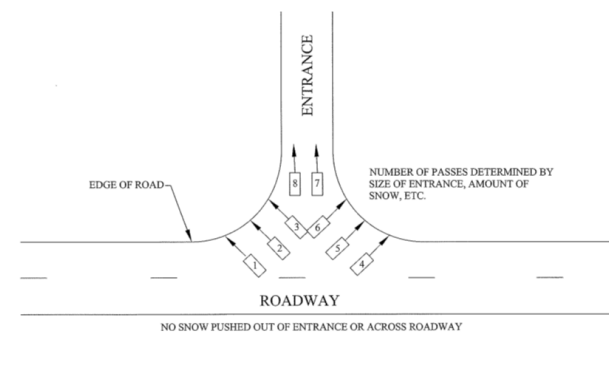
The Beltrami County Sheriff's Office strongly encourages every snowmobiler to practice 'Zero Alcohol' use as part of their safe riding habits. Operating a snowmobile while under the influence of alcohol, a controlled substance or its metabolite, or other hazardous substance is unlawful. An operator who 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 'Zero Alcohol.'

To view a copy of the 2023 Snowmobile Regulations book visit the Minnesota DNR website.

How to Plow a Driveway

The Beltrami County Highway Department would like to remind county residents that it is unlawful under Minnesota Statute 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

Commissioners can be contacted by phone or e-mail:

District 1 Commissioner Craig Gaasvig

218-766-9699

cgaasvig@paulbunyan.net

District 2 Commissioner Joe Gould

218-259-4342

Joe.gould@co.beltrami.mn.us

District 3 Commissioner Richard Anderson

218-467-3275

richard@paulbunyan.net

District 4 Commissioner Tim Sumner

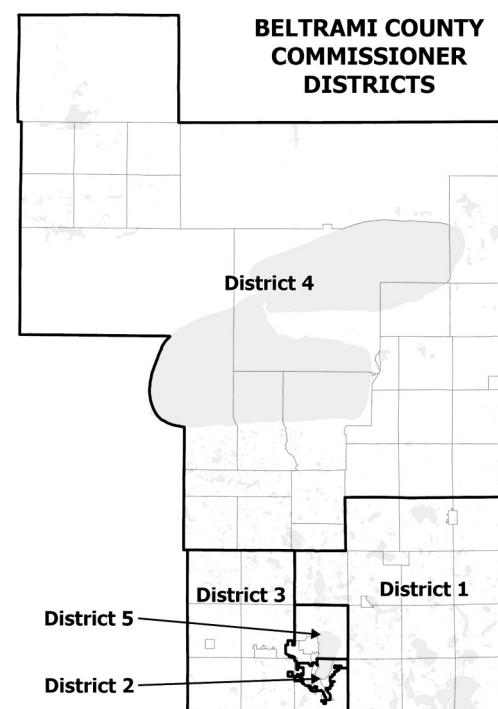
218-407-7589

tsumner15@gmail.com

District 5 Commissioner John Carlson

218-766-5010

John.carlson@co.beltrami.mn.us



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

Home and Holiday Fire Safety

During the winter months and holiday season, there is a significant increase in residential fires. This is a result of the combination of people spending more time indoors, heating sources, holiday decorations and cooking. Make sure your furnace is maintained and serviced to ensure it is operating properly as well as for efficiency. If you have a fireplace, make sure your chimney is properly cleaned to reduce the risk of fire. Keep combustible materials at least three feet from flame and heat sources.

Holiday activities also contribute to residential fire risk. If you are using holiday lights, do not overload outlets and extension cords. If you have a real tree in your home, make sure it's adequately watered so it doesn't dry out. Dry trees can ignite and turn into a fiery inferno in seconds, enveloping a room with flames. Remove the tree from your home when needles are brittle or begin to fall off. Do not position your tree where it will block exits from your home. Keep candles away from flammable materials, and never leave them lit when you're sleeping or away from home.

When cooking, the Minnesota State Fire Marshall's Office recommends avoiding loose-fitting clothing that can easily catch fire and to stay in the kitchen when cooking. If a fire starts, put a tight-fitting lid on the pan and turn off the heat source. Keep flammable items like towels, wooden spoons and oven mitts three feet from the stove. Cooking fires resulted in an average of \$4.5 million in damage each of the last five years in Minnesota. Have a safe and enjoyable holiday season!

~Submitted by: Emergency Management Director, Christopher Muller

Beltrami County Economic Assistance Child Care Assistance Program

One of the programs of the Economic Assistance Division of Health & Human Services, is to determine qualified applicants for its Child Care Assistance Program.

The Child Care Assistance Program can help pay childcare costs for children up to age 12, and for children with special needs up to age 15. These costs may be paid for the time a parent is working, looking for work, going to school, or participating in activities that have been approved in a Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) or Divisionary Work Program (DWP) employment plan. There is no time limit on how long you may receive childcare assistance, if you meet the requirements, and your income is within the limits for your family size. Your childcare must be provided by a legal provider who is at least 18 years old. To receive childcare assistance to help pay childcare costs you must be a parent, stepparent, legal guardian or eligible relative caregiver.

For those looking for resources for Child Care within the Bemidji area, please check out the information provided by the Bemidji Area Rural Child Care Innovation Program at <https://bemidjichildcare.org/>.

You can fill out an application on-line at [MNbenefits.mn.gov](https://mnbenefits.mn.gov) or you can stop by the 2nd floor of the Community Service Center building on our Beltrami County campus and fill out an application. If you have questions about your Child Care Assistance Program eligibility, please call 218-333-8300.

~Submitted by: Economic Assistance Division Director, Curt Anderson

Beltrami County Public Health Programs and Services

Community Partnerships:

Opioid Settlement Funds:

Did you know that there are 17 people on the Opioid Steering Committee? The Committee includes individuals from a variety of area agencies, and they include: Anne Lindseth, Sheriff Jason Riggs, Jeff Lind, Carissa Golden, Joe Kleszyk, Amanda Sachau, County Commissioner Tim Sumner, David Hanson, Dr. Joseph Corser, Selena Beasley, Melinda Broden, Joseph Beaudreau, Jennifer Greenleaf, David LaZella, Jenny Vance, Monica Thul, and Amy Bowles. The mission of this group is “to Allocate opioid settlement dollars to meet the needs of Beltrami County.” The committee hosted 2 community learning sessions in October and Sara Lovett provided the County Commissioners with local data at the November 21 board meeting.

Remodel:

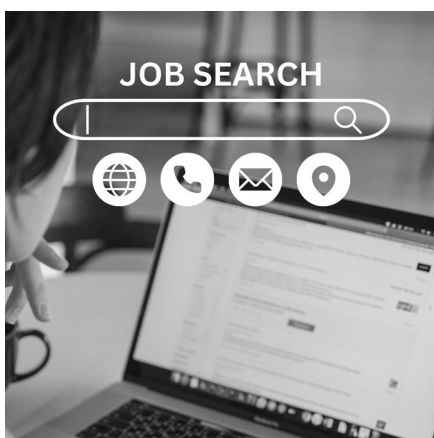
The Family Health Clinic is currently undergoing a remodel project that will improve the space utilized by both the clients served and the Public Health staff. The remodel is expected to be complete in February 2024. There are signs posted to redirect community members to the temporary location of the Family Health Clinic, which is still on the first floor next to the original space in the Beltrami County Community Services Center.

In September, Public Health hired a Community Health Nurse. This has resulted in the ability to build community partnerships that bring public health services to the people which addresses gaps in health equity. Examples include: Tuberculosis screening, an additional site for Woman Infants and Children (WIC) services, Immunization clinics, foot clinics, reviewing school immunizations for compliance, training school staff in Epi Pens and Narcan administration, response to seizures, and how to respond to general emergencies. In addition to providing these types of services, we have also partnered with Northwestern MN Juvenile Center, Sanford health, homeless shelters, and the Wellpath Staff at the jail. If your community program or agency would like to partner with the Public Health Division under Health & Human Services, please reach out and share your ideas with us.

~Submitted by: Public Health Division Director/Community Health Board Administrator, Amy Bowles, RN, BSN, MSN, PHN



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Your Local Health Department



Beltrami County Employment Opportunities

The county has an array of employment opportunities that open throughout the year for those seeking a new place to chill their lunchbox. Local government combines many different trades into one organization and there might be something that interests you, whether it be a public facing position or a position behind the scenes.

Working for local government is a way to invest in the community you are living or spending your free time in. The County, as an employer, is proud to say that we are committed to investing in the health and happiness of our employees. Most recently we developed new forms of communication to staff and ways to connect between departments.

Visit our website, Job Posting page to apply for a position on our team.

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/beltramimn>

~Submitted by: Human Resource Director, Ann Schroeder

2024 SWCD Tree Program

The Beltrami Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is holding their annual tree and plant sale again this year. Through the sale, the SWCD sells young tree seedlings and transplants in bundles of 20 or 25. If wildflowers are more your thing, you can find native plants (grasses and forbs) for sale in seed or plug kits.

Orders are filled on a first come/first served basis, so be sure to place your order now. Orders will be available for pickup during the first Thursday and Friday in May.

As with everything, the price of trees has been trending upwards, and that includes our costs to purchase trees in bulk. We are doing our best to keep prices reasonable for customers. If you would like to place an order, complete the form found on the Beltrami SWCD website or in our office.

~Submitted by: Conservation Technician, Aly Bergstrom



University of Minnesota
Farm Family of the Year
Award Recipients
Little Timber Farm
Rachel & Al Gray Family

The Farm Family of the Year program is sponsored by the University of Minnesota and honors families across Minnesota who are actively engaged in farming or agricultural production. The Beltrami County Extension Committee honors a farm family each year in this University program. The 2023 award recipient was Little Timber Farms in Blackduck, Minnesota, owned and operated by the Rachel and Al Gray Family.

In addition to being actively engaged in farming or agricultural production, the farm family must have made significant short-term progress or shown innovation over time and be involved in their community. If you know of a local farm that deserves recognition, you can nominate them for the 2024 Farm Family of the Year award by completing the online nomination form at: <https://z.umn.edu/beltramifarmfamily>. If you have questions about the award, please contact the Beltrami County Extension Office. mnext-beltrami@umn.edu 218-444-5722



Free Service Alerts Property, Homeowners to Potential Fraud

Property Fraud Alert is an online subscription service offered to the public that allows them to have their name monitored within the Recorder's Office in order to track possible fraudulent recordings that affect their property.

The threat of mortgage fraud and identity theft crimes continue to rise, and all too often victims of these types of fraudulent activities are unaware their homes or identity have been stolen. While Property Fraud Alert does not prevent fraud from happening, it provides an early warning system for property owners to take appropriate actions should they determine possible fraudulent activity has taken place.

A common property fraud scenario involves a criminal filing a bogus deed making it appear the actual owner had transferred ownership to someone else. The criminal takes the deed to the bank, fraudulently obtains a mortgage and then disappears with a large amount of money. While it can happen to anyone, perpetrators often prey on the elderly, people in long term care facilities, absentee property owners and owners who spend large parts of the year out of town.

With Property Fraud Alert, you will be notified when the name you submitted is used in any recording activities within the Recorder's Office. When subscribing to the service, you will have the option to choose the following notification methods: Email, Text Message or Telephone Call.

This service is easy to sign up for and offers a little peace of mind.

Property Fraud Alert is available by subscription on the web www.propertyfraudalert.com/MNBeltrami or by calling 800-728-3858. The Property Fraud Alert link is also available from the County's website.

~Submitted by: County Recorder, Charlene Sturk



www.co.beltrami.mn.us

Board of Commissioners

- District 1—Craig Gaasvig218-766-9699
- District 2—Joe Gould218-259-4342
- District 3—Richard Anderson218-467-3275
- District 4—Tim Sumner218-407-7589
- District 5—John Carlson218-766-5010

Administration Building

701 Minnesota Ave NW, Bemidji MN 56601

- Administrator—Thomas Barry 218- 333-4109
- Assessor—Joe Skerik218-333-4116
- Auditor/Treasurer—JoDee Treat.....218-333-4175
- Environmental Services—Brent Rud218-333-4158
- Facilities Manager—Steve Shadrick218-333-8475
- Geographic Info Systems (GIS).Kevin T. 218-333-8457
- Human Resources—Ann Schroeder218-333-4155
- License Center218-333-4148
- Mgmt Info Systems (MIS)—Kevin W. ... 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

- Health & Human Services—Director Anne Lindseth
- Social Services - Director Jeff Lind218-333-4196
- Economic Assistance Division
- Director—Curt Anderson.....218-333-2242
- Public Health - Director Amy Bowles.... 218-333-8140
- Veterans Services Shane Gustafson 218-333-4177

Law Enforcement Center

613 Minnesota Ave NW, Bemidji MN 56601

- Sheriff Jason Riggs218-333-9111
- Bemidji Police Chief Mike Mastin.....218-333-9111

Judicial Center

600 Minnesota Ave NW, Bemidji MN 56601

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

County Jail

626 Minnesota Ave NW, Bemidji MN 56601

- Main phone number.....218-333-4189

Public Works Department

2491 Adams Ave NW, Bemidji MN 56601

- Highway Engineer—Bruce Hasbargen...218-333-8173
- 751 Industrial Park Dr SE
- Solid Waste Director—Brian Olson218-333-8187

County Extension

7223 Fairgrounds Rd NW, Bemidji MN 56601

- Extension Secretary218-444-5722