

From: Minnesota Association of Townships <info@mntownships.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 10:27 AM
To: clerk@breitungtownship.org
Subject: November 2023 Newsletter



November 2023 Newsletter

Dear Township Officers,

A special thank you to Veterans and to all who serve our country. These selfless men and women dedicate themselves to protecting our freedom and ensure our nation remains strong. Happy Veteran's Day!

We are very excited to see township officers at the upcoming MAT [Annual Conference December 7-9](#) in St. Cloud. More information is below. It is an opportunity to receive new information on helpful township topics and network with your counterparts from across the state. The conference includes in-person workshops, dinner, exhibitors, and our MAT business meeting.

Finally, on behalf of the entire MAT team, we wish you have a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,
Jeff Krueger, Executive Director
Minnesota Association of Townships

"Township Tuesday" conference calls

Please join MAT staff for a casual update on the most recent township information, with question and answer time on any topic.

1st Tuesday of the month: 10 AM
3rd Tuesday of the month: 10 AM

Participate via Zoom meeting via computer (preferred):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88491131671>

Meeting ID: 884 9113 1671

OR participate via phone, (646) 558-8656 passcode 88-49-113-16-71#

Recordings and details of past calls can be found on the MAT website here.

MAT Educational Conference and Annual Meeting



DECEMBER 7-9, 2023 | ST. CLOUD

Please join us in St. Cloud for our 2023 Educational Conference and Annual Meeting! We'll (again) be at the St. Cloud River's Edge Convention Center on Thursday, December 7 through Saturday, December 9.

For all details - including registration, hotel information, agenda, and more, please visit the MAT website here:

<https://www.mntownships.org/annual-meeting>

Legislative & Research Committee

Please **Save the Date** for our Township Day at the Capitol in St. Paul on Monday, April 8 and Tuesday, April 9, 2024. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend to advocate on behalf of townships with our state legislators and leaders.



APRIL 8 AND 9, 2024
IN ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

TOWNSHIP DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Issues that matter



Trainer's Corner:

USEFUL TIPS *from the township* TRAINERS

Phishing Scam:

There is a new phishing scam going on now directed at townships. The email says it is from the "IRS" saying they haven't received the townships W-2s for 2020. Do not call the phone number on the email or letter if received via USPS. Call the IRS directly using a phone number on their website. This scam is asking to re-send the W-2's and asking for a fee.

Please be vigilant in looking at your emails before you open any attachments or call anyone. MAT will keep our membership informed when we have knowledge of what is going on.

CTAS:

I have been fielding quite a few questions regarding voiding checks in CTAS. You do not void checks in claims, you must void them in disbursements. The claims module is a holding place for bills to be paid. Once paid they become disbursements and any changes, voiding or deleting are to be done in disbursements module. Remember, CTAS is very date sensitive, so if you are running reports and something that should be there is not showing, your first step will be to ensure that the date of the transaction is correct. As always, please reach out to a MAT trainer if you have any questions.

Wishing you all a safe Thanksgiving holiday filled with blessings.
Lori Stalker, MAT Training Manager/Administrative Assistant

MAT-U Update: Now Free for 2024!



MAT is excited to announce that our new online training model: MAT-U, will continue to be free in 2024, as it has been in 2023. These online training videos give our officers greater access

to all training materials at any time!

The content is geared towards new MATIT systems, clerk and treasurer duties, and general township operations. All officers are welcome to submit suggestions and requests for specific or specialized training, as we will continually be creating and uploading new content. Videos, zoom recordings, PowerPoints, and handouts will all be available.

MAT-U is an annual subscription model with one master account for each township that allows all of your township officers to access the content library. After you sign up, your township's login credentials will be sent to the email provided, along with a link you can use to access MAT-U. It is best to use a township email when signing up, if possible. All officers in your township will use the same email for their usernames when accessing MAT-U. If you haven't already signed up for MAT-U, please [register for MAT-U online here](#).

News from MATIT: Risk Management as Mission Readiness



[View Print Version of this Article](#)

As it relates to Township Governance – Risk Management ensures Mission Readiness. What follows is a brief explanation of the Risk Management process. In honor of Veteran's Day – and in the interest of making the material relatable – I have included various terms my fellow Veterans may be familiar with. However, I will make sure to perform a language **C & S** (Clean and Sweep) for the **CP** (Civilian Personnel).

Now, as I am a former Zoomie, these terms may not have the same application to Grunts, Squids, Leathernecks and/or Jarheads – **HUA** (Heard, Understood, Acknowledged), Hoorah! and Huah!

What is Risk Management?

It's been referred to as many things depending on your **MOS** (Military Occupation Specialty) or **AFSC** (Air Force Specialty Code) – it may be:

COA (Course of Action)

SOP (Standard Operating Procedures)

ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance)

ROE (Rules of Engagement)

PMS (Planned Maintenance Schedule)

Whatever it was called, the essential goal of both Risk Management and Mission Readiness is the 7Ps - (Proper Prior Planning Prevents Pathetically Poor Performance). If you didn't want your next **EPR** (Enlisted Performance Report) to reflect a rating of **UNSAT** (Unsatisfactory); you made sure your unit was **FMC** (Fully Mission Capable) – and in my case an **OA** (outstanding Airman)!

This is a process of identifying, analyzing, controlling, and monitoring events. It is an ongoing cycle, ensuring resources are focused on the areas of greatest consequence to the township.

Risk Identification – **SA** (Situational Awareness)

As it relates to township governance, what keeps you up at night? When you think about it you break out in a cold sweat? What issues does the township face? Breakdown of equipment? Planning and zoning disputes? Lack of residential engagement/residential apathy? Something else? Make a list of those to discuss at an upcoming board meeting.

For the purpose demonstration in this exercise, I will use the risk of Succession Planning – the ability to fill township offices as existing occupants leave office.

Risk Analysis – **WCS** (Worst Case Scenario)

How likely are those nightmare scenarios to occur **AND** then what? If a nightmare scenario occurs, what does that mean for the township? Purchase of additional expensive equipment? Exposures from lawsuits? Will the newspapers write negative stories about the township/board? The key to this step is using uniform scoring systems, applicable to all risks identified. For example, scoring "likelihood" and "impact" on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest) – the product of these will be the "risk score."

If the officers of a township are not replaced, the effects could potentially be devastating for the future of the township. Unfilled, or filled with the wrong person – the board may become hostile to the existence of townships. Scoring may look something like this:

Risk Event	Likelihood (1-5)	Impact* (1-5)	Risk Score (L*I)
Township office(s) are unfilled.	5	3	15
Hostile actor wins township office(s).	2	5	10

*Any agreed upon metric can be used for Impact (money, downtime, reputation, press exposure, etc.)

Risk Control – **C2** (Command and Control)

“Controls” are meant to either prevent an event entirely **or** minimize the likelihood and/or impact. What can be done to prevent identified risks from occurring? Ensuring proper procedures are in place and record keeping when it comes to board decisions? Placement of signage when grading roads? – OR – If these risks are inherent to operations (when working around rocks, damage will occur), what efforts can be used to reduce the impact? The townships officers in place today should be encouraging and mentoring, members of the public they would like to serve as future township government leaders. Engagement with residents is a measure critical to facilitating the future of the township. Make sure the residents are considered when setting meeting dates and times, publishing meeting notices (could they be posted online?), and perhaps try different date/times to see if participation increases.

Risk Monitoring – **TBD** (To Be Determined)

Identified – Oorah!

Analyzed – Yut!

Controlled – Aye, Aye!

Did it work? How do you know? Do it again! Identify, Analyze, Control... While the list of exposures may not have changed, did the controls applied adjust either the likelihood and/or impact? Does that change the overall risk score? Can additional steps be taken to further reduce the score?

This won't be a board item every month. Once identified – the discussion on mitigating risks may only be once or twice a year. Do not get hung up on one risk, scoring, or trying to eliminate risk altogether. The conversation in the process is what is important. Leverage strengths, fortify weaknesses, and work together with other municipalities (other townships, county, state, federal) to mitigate (not eliminate) risks. Everyone faces similar issues, share what has (and has not!) worked, compare "war stories."

Remember – "I am a soldier. I fight where I am told, and I win where I fight." – Lt Gen George S. Patton

To all the Veteran's currently serving in township office – Thank You, for your service. To all the spouses and **brats*** (Born, Raised, And Transferred) – invaluable but often overlooked, who served alongside – Thank You, for your sacrifices – we couldn't have done it without you!

Happy Veteran's Day!

MATIT

* Originally defined British Regiment Attached Traveler

Use e-Services to Create a Certificate of Rent Paid

The Minnesota Department of Revenue is expanding access to their Certificate of Rent Paid (CRP) system. By January 1, 2024, all residential property owners and managers will be able to log in to e-Services. There is no cost to use this service.

Landlords are not required to use e-Services to create CRPs for rent paid in 2023.

However, landlords will be required to use e-Services to create CRPs for rent paid in 2024.

You can find more information and subscribe to receive email updates about this topic on their website: [CRP Information for Landlords](#)

Active Transportation and Safe Routes to School Grants

Attention all walkers, bikers, and rollers –

The 2023 Active Transportation (AT) and Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Infrastructure Solicitations are now open! The Letter of Intent (LOI) period will be available now through November 9th.



Who needs to submit a LOI?

- Applicants with limited State Aid process experience are strongly encouraged; however, not required
- Applicants with extensive experience working with State Aid programs may not need to submit a LOI

Why submit a LOI?

- All applicants will receive feedback on their proposed project before completing the full application
- Submittals will be in the same online format as the full application

The following program websites provide the LOI application link and a step-by-step guide to accompany the form to help ensure complete submissions. Additionally, the websites now feature program FAQs, as well as the PowerPoint slide decks from the informational webinars held in September.

AT – [Infrastructure - Active Transportation Program - MnDOT \(state.mn.us\)](https://state.mn.us/infrastructure/active-transportation-program)

SRTS – [Infrastructure Grants - Safe Routes to School - MnDOT \(state.mn.us\)](https://state.mn.us/infrastructure/grants-safe-routes-to-school)

Please help us spread the word and encourage applications from agencies with any unrealized active transportation infrastructure-related needs! Full application submittal will open Monday, November 27, 2023 and close Friday, February 2, 2024.

Minnesota LTAP trainings and news



View Minnesota's Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP's) online training offerings—including self-paced courses, webinars, and videos— they can be taken anytime and anywhere. Many are eligible for Roads Scholar Program credit, PDHs, and other professional development credits. [Browse the online training library](#) at your convenience!

Register and view the [full Minnesota LTAP Schedule of Trainings](#) to meet your needs in the coming year to enhance your skills in AutoCAD, leadership, pavement preservation, or other areas.

Grant and Funding Opportunities

2023 LRIP (Road) Funding and Upcoming Webinars

The competitive 2023 Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) solicitation opened September 12, 2023. A total of \$102.967 million in LRIP funds are available for funding assistance of construction, reconstruction, or reconditioning projects for counties, state aid cities, non-state aid cities, townships, and federally recognized Indian Tribes. The maximum award amount available is \$1.5 million for each project. Read More: [LRIP - State Aid - MnDOT](#).

Historical Society State Capital Grants-in-Aid

Program will be returning in January 2024. Eligible projects must be listed in the National Register of Historic Places or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places by the State Historic Preservation Office. The minimum grant amount is \$10,001 with no request cap. Funds must be matched at least 1 to 1. [Read More](#)

Minnesota Association of Townships

www.mntownships.org

CONTACT US



Minnesota Association of Townships | 805 Central Ave East, P.O. Box 267, St. Michael, MN 55376

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Sent by info@mntownships.org powered by



From: Minnesota Association of Townships <info@mntownships.org>
Sent: Monday, November 6, 2023 11:39 AM
To: clerk@breitungtownship.org
Subject: Invitation: 2023 Annual Meeting of the MN Association of Townships December 7-9 in St. Cloud

Minnesota Association of Townships



EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL MEETING

DECEMBER 7-9, 2023 | ST. CLOUD

**Please join fellow township officers from across the state
at the Minnesota Association of Townships 2023
Educational Conference and Annual Meeting.**

There will be time for networking, education, socializing and
entertainment.

NOTE: Our hotel room block cut-off is Tuesday, November 7. However, our guest
rate will continue to be available until rooms are sold out. Please book your
lodging ASAP!

Information on overnight accommodations can be found on the MAT [website](#)
[here](#) (Click on the "Hotels" tab).

DATE: Thursday, December 7 to Saturday, December 9, 2023

FORMAT: In-person

LOCATION: River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud, Minnesota

REGISTRATION: Pre-registration is now open and ends November 27. Registrations received after this deadline will be held and processed at the on-site rate.

[Information and registration can be found on the MAT website here.](#)

AGENDA:

Thursday, December 7

5:30 to 8:30 PM: Registration and check-in available

5:30 to 8:30 PM: Vendor Exhibition and Roundtable Discussions

5:30 to 8:30 PM: Heavy appetizers provided with Cash Bar

Friday, December 8

7:00 to 9:00 AM: Vendor Exhibition and Roundtable Discussions

7:00 to 9:00 AM: Breakfast buffet

7:00 to 9:00 AM: Registration and check-in available

9:00 AM: General Session

Presentations on cybersecurity, and by Minnesota's State Auditor and Secretary of State.

12:00 NOON: Lunch buffet

1:00 to 4:45 PM: Breakout educational sessions

Four (4) rooms and four hours of training presentations which include: CTAS (Auditor's Office), MAT Trainers, MAT Attorneys, Broadband, EMS, LTAP, Kennedy & Graven, MN Fire, MATIT, Corporate Purchasing Venture, Cannabis, Township websites, and more.

1:00 to 3:00 PM: Spouse/Guest Event at Iron Street Distillery

5:00 to 6:00 PM: Social Hour with cash bar

6:00 to 7:00 PM: Banquet with Scholarship presentation

7:00 to 8:30 PM: Entertainment (Game Show Night! Get ready for "Name that Price," Survey Showdown" and more!)

Saturday, December 9

8:00 to 9:00 AM: Breakfast buffet and Saturday on-site registration

9:00 AM: Business Meeting

Introduction of MAT, Directors, Financials – CLA, Proposed resolutions, Bylaw recommended changes, MAT dues structure, Question and Answer, Legislative Update.

10:45 AM: Door prizes

11:00 AM: Adjourn

COST: Pre-registration (open now) cost is \$170/delegate (NO Friday Dinner) or \$200/delegate (WITH Friday Dinner). After November 27 and on-site, costs increase \$30/delegate.

GUESTS: Guests are invited to participate in as much or as little as they want. Guest passes include access to both morning activities and food. The Guest event is a fun Friday afternoon getaway!

LODGING: Information on overnight accommodations can be found on the MAT [website here](#) (Click on the "Hotels" tab). Please book your room directly with the hotel. The event is at the River's Edge Convention Center. Our room block cut-off date is November 7.

[Information and registration can be found on the MAT website here.](#)



Minnesota Association of Townships | 805 Central Ave East, P.O. Box 267, St. Michael, MN 55376

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Pre-Registration Form

2023 MAT Annual Conference

December 7-9th

Rivers Edge Convention Center – St. Cloud

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Please print clearly and fill in completely. If registration is for more than one delegate, please make copies of this form or print blank forms from our website. You may also register online.

Postmark, fax, or submit online forms by **Nov 27th** (*No phone registrations accepted*) to:
Minnesota Association of Townships * PO Box 267, St. Michael, MN 55376

Fax: 763-497-3361 * www.mntownships.org

Township _____ County _____

Delegate _____ Attending Spouse/Guest _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Daytime Phone (_____) _____ Fax (_____) _____

DELEGATE Registration

_____ **Two-Day Conference with Banquet**
\$200/person (on-site will be \$230)

Includes all meals and events

_____ **Two-Day Conference without Banquet**
\$170/person (on site will be \$200)

Everyone must pre-register for Friday night dinner so set up can be done. Includes all other meals & events

_____ **Friday Only without Banquet**
\$110/person (on site will be \$130)

Includes all Friday meals and events excluding Friday Banquet

_____ **Friday Banquet Only**
\$40/person

_____ **Saturday Only (Annual Meeting)**
\$50/person (on-site will be \$60)

Includes breakfast and meeting.

SPOUSE/GUEST Registration

_____ **Friday Lunch - \$25/person**
Includes Exhibit Hall Pass. Friday Lunch ONLY.

_____ **Friday Banquet \$40/person**

_____ **Saturday Breakfast - \$25/person**

_____ **Guest Exhibit Hall Pass \$15/person**
Thursday Exhibitor/Refreshments & Friday AM Refreshments

_____ **Guest Tour \$30.00(Distillery Tour)**

Guests can participate as much or as little as they want. Guest Passes include access to both morning activities & food. The Guest Event is a fun Friday afternoon get away.....

_____ SUBTOTAL DELEGATE REGISTRATION

_____ SUBTOTAL SPOUSE/GUEST REGISTRATION

_____ GRAND TOTAL OF REGISTRATION

SELECT A PAYMENT OPTION:

_____ PAYMENT ENCLOSED (PAYABLE TO MAT)

_____ BILL ME DIRECTLY

_____ BILL TOWNSHIP

Registrations received after the deadline will be held and processed at the Conference Registration Area at on-site rates.

Questions contact Jessica Petersen jpetersen@mntownships.org 763-488-4051 or

Kayla Plaisance kplaisance@mntownships.org 763-488-4041.

Minnesota Association of Townships



EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE
AND ANNUAL MEETING

DECEMBER 7-9, 2023 | ST. CLOUD

Thursday, December 7

5:30 to 8:30 PM Registration Opens
5:30 to 8:30 PM Vendor Exhibition and Roundtable Discussions
Cash Bar and Snacks Available

Friday, December 8

7:00 to 9:00 AM Vendor Exhibition and Roundtable Discussions
Breakfast Buffet
7:00 to 9:00 AM Registration
9:00 AM General Session
Welcome and Flag Pledge
Introductions
General Assembly Presentations
9:15: Cybersecurity: Mark Lanterman
10:15: Mock township meeting
11:00: State Auditor Julie Blaha
11:30: Secretary of State Steve Simon
12:00 NOON Lunch Buffet
1:00PM – 4:45PM Breakout Educational Sessions
Four (4) rooms with the following tentative presentation topics:
CTAS (Auditor's Office) MAT Trainers
MAT Attorneys Broadband
EMS LTAP
Kennedy & Graven MN Fire
Corporate Purchasing Venture MATIT
1:00 to 3:00 Spouse/Guest Event (Distillery Tour)
5:00 to 6:00 Social Hour with cash bar
6:00 to 7:00 Banquet
Scholarship presentation
7:00 to 8:30 Entertainment (Game Show Night!)

THIS IS BEING SENT TO CLERKS AND CHAIRPERSONS FOR EACH TOWNSHIP, PLEASE SHARE WITH THE REST OF YOUR BOARD MEMBERS.

BY-LAWS, RESOLUTIONS, AND DUES INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE:
www.mntownships.org/annual-meeting

Saturday, December 9

8:00 to 9:00 Breakfast Buffet
9:00 Business Meeting
Introduction of MAT
Directors
Financials – CLA
By-Law Recommended Changes
MAT Dues Structure
Resolutions
Legislative Update – Shep Harris
Question and Answer
10:45 Door prizes
11:00 Adjourn

For more information and for registration go to our website at www.mntownships.org/annual-meeting
There is also an application on the reverse side of this notice that can be copied and used if necessary.

Hotel Information:

Best Western Kelly Inn

100 4th Ave S

St Cloud

320-253-0606

\$119.00 plus tax (Ask for MN Association of Townships Block)

Cut off for rate 11/7

Courtyard by Marriott

40 West St Germain ST

St Cloud

\$139-\$149 plus tax (Ask for MN Assoc. of Townships Block)

Cut off for rate 11/7

From: Minnesota Association of Townships <info@mntownships.org>
Sent: Friday, October 27, 2023 10:57 AM
To: clerk@breitungtownship.org
Subject: New CDL Requirements: Feedback Needed, Survey Response Requested



New CDL Requirements: Feedback Needed, Survey Response Requested

Township officers:

Recent rulemaking by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has increased the scrutiny and stringency of Commercial Driver's License (CDL) requirements. This has been added to challenges faced by local municipalities, who need assistance in identifying and utilizing cost-effective resources to facilitate staff training and certification.

To meet this need, the LRRB and the Center for Transportation Studies Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) are identifying, compiling, and developing training resources to assist local agencies in understanding the requirements and resources available to ensure staff can attain and maintain CDL certification.

Please consider taking this brief survey to help assess local need and desired areas of focus for LRRB and LTAP:: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7XLD8LT>. Partial answers and best guesses are preferred versus no replies.

Please submit responses no later than November 10. If you have any problems with the survey itself, please contact Charles Androsky at candrosky@srfconsulting.com.

Thank you for your participation!

From: Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation <IRRRB@public.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 3:53 PM
To: clerk@breitungtownship.org
Subject: The Ranger - Nov. 8



The Ranger

Nov. 8, 2023

Range Steel Fabricators acquires new equipment to meet client demand

Range Steel Fabricators (RSF) added a new Okuma Genos M560-V 4-axis vertical machining center (VMC) to its operations. The VMC decreases production time and increases quality of finished products for one of RSF's largest customers. Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation supported the equipment acquisition with a \$78,000 loan to RSF. Total project investment was \$163,500.

The new VMC replaced an older inefficient machine. The computerized VMC makes component parts utilizing 4-axis milling, has a 32-tool magazine, and offers excellent cutting performance, accuracy and repeatability. It can handle a variety of materials from steel to titanium to aluminum.





RSF machines and fabricates steel and aluminum components and supplies them to industries such as energy and utilities, mining and minerals, paper and forest products, commercial construction, heavy equipment and industrial manufacturing. Local companies use the components from RSF to assemble their products that are then sold and shipped all over the world from northeastern Minnesota.

RSF was founded over 100 years ago in downtown Hibbing. Jeff and Gina Halter purchased RSF in 2016 and moved their three children north from Orlando, Florida to Hibbing. Jeff was a real estate developer in Minneapolis and Orlando.

Gina has a professional background in graphic design and marketing. Together they transferred their experience and knowledge of process and operations to managing a manufacturing business.

Since 2016 RSF has expanded services, tripled their workforce to over 25 full-time employees and met customers' product needs with a modern manufacturing facility.

"Gina and I grew up in Grand Rapids and northeastern Minnesota was always very special to us," said Jeff. "After having our third child we decided to move home and give our children the same experience we had growing up in a small community and enjoying the outdoors. We now live in Hibbing where our children attend school."

[Email Scott Sundvall](#) or call him at 218-735-3015 for business loan information.

Note: Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation provided Range Steel Fabricators previous business assistance loans.



Chisholm renovates apartments, increases housing stock



The Chisholm Housing and Redevelopment Authority remodeled eight efficiency apartments located within one building that was built in 1960. The renovation of the Maplevue Apartments included new heating, electrical, plumbing, insulation, sheetrock, venting and roof upgrades, kitchen and bath cabinets, fixtures and countertops. Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation supported the project with a

\$210,000 Community Infrastructure grant. Total project investment was \$784,421.

The eight apartments were all original and in need of upgrades. The renovated apartments meet modern building codes, expanded the affordable workforce housing

stock in Chisholm and align with the city's comprehensive plan. Maplevue offers one- and two-bedroom units and is located within walking distance of downtown.

The Chisholm HRA was founded in 1949. The organization oversees the city's public housing totaling 155 units on five sites across the city, including Maplevue Apartments.

Other Maplevue project partners included Chisholm HRA, St. Louis County HRA and the Community Development Block Grant Program provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.



[Email Chris Ismil](#) or call him at 218-735-3010 for more information about Community Infrastructure grants.

Housing grant applications now open



This year Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation made available \$5 million for a new Housing grant to help address the regional housing shortage. The new Housing grant assists projects or programs that result in the creation of new housing units or the rehabilitation of existing housing units. The program supports housing solutions that align with local priorities and regional employer's needs.

The grant cycle is open now through May 31, 2024 or until program funds are substantially committed, whichever occurs sooner.

Cities, townships, counties, nonprofits and tribal governments are eligible to apply. All grant funds must be spent within or for the benefit of the agency's service area.

Examples of eligible projects include but are not limited to:

- Infrastructure and site work of new housing developments on vacant and redeveloped land.
- Repurposing non-residential buildings for residential use.
- Rehabilitating existing single family and multi-family housing and funding for housing trust funds or programming to support local workforce housing initiatives.

A one-to-one match per project is required. Applications should be submitted nine months prior to the project construction start date.

Applications must be submitted through the FLUXX grant portal. [Access the FLUXX portal.](#)

[Learn more about the Housing grant guidelines.](#)

Early Childhood Hub opens in Grand Rapids

The former Murphy Elementary School was remodeled and converted into KOOTASCA Community Action's Early Childhood Hub in Grand Rapids. The year-round facility provides care and education for 171 children ages 6 weeks to five years. There is also dedicated space for social and workforce services for families and individuals. Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation supported the project with a \$300,000 Development Infrastructure grant to the city of Grand Rapids to help pay for fire egress walks, a parking lot and site stormwater management. The agency also provided a \$30,000 Culture & Tourism grant to KOOTASCA Community Action to help pay for an accessible outdoor playground. Total project investment was approximately \$2 million.



The facility houses a commercial kitchen facility which will make several hundred meals and snacks fresh each day, two large indoor play areas and an outdoor community playground. KOOTASCA received two Business Energy Retrofit (BER) grants totaling \$40,000 that helped pay for new energy efficient lighting in the 2,800-square-foot gymnasium.



The opportunity to repurpose the former Murphy Elementary School was made possible when ISD 318 vacated Murphy and constructed the new East and West Elementary Schools in 2020.

In addition to child care operated by KOOTASCA and its partner Invest Early, the new hub is also home to other programs:

- **Early Childhood Special Education and Early Childhood Family Education**, provided by Grand Rapids Independent School District 318.
- **Teenage Parent Program**, provided by KOOTASCA.
- **Adult Basic Education**, provided by Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA).
- **Behavioral Health Services**, provided by Children Mental Health Services.
- **Employment and Workforce Services**, provided by Northeast Minnesota Office of Jobs and Training.
- **Early Childhood Internships** for students enrolled in the accredited Early Childhood Education certificate program, provided by Minnesota North College-Itasca Campus.

The project relocated 14 classrooms dispersed across Grand Rapids at four separate locations and centralized the services and programs into one location at the new hub. The centralization helped achieve economic efficiencies related to staffing, human resources, bussing and other shared professional services.



“The Early Childhood Hub is a great asset to the Grand Rapids area and to families, workers and employers in Itasca County,” said Commissioner Ida Rukavina, Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation. “We were happy to provide community development grants to support the project, which not only repurposed a vacant school building into a thriving child care center, but also co-located many important services.”



The childhood hub also received a \$1.37 million Targeted Community Capital Project grant from Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development. Other project partners included Blandin Foundation, Children’s Mental Health, city of Grand Rapids, KOOTASCA

Community Action, First Children’s Finance, Independent School District 318, Lake Country Power, Mardag Foundation, Minnesota Power Foundation, Northland Foundation, The Home Depot and Yanmar Compact Equipment North America.

[Email Chris Ismil](#) or call him at 218-735-3010 for more information about Development Infrastructure grants.

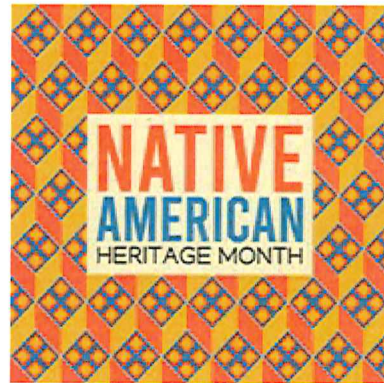
[Email Danae Beaudette](#) or call her at 218-735-3022 for more information about Culture & Tourism grants.

[Email Erik Bennett](#) at AEOA or call him at 218-780-8061 to learn more about BER grants. BER is funded by Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation and administered by AEOA.

November is Native American Heritage Month

November is Native American Heritage Month. There are four tribal nations located within Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation’s service area: Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, Grand Portage and Leech Lake. All are separate, sovereign nations whose people have lived in northeastern Minnesota for centuries. Each has an independent relationship with the United States and the state of Minnesota.

The Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Tribal Liaison, Billie Isham works to support government-to-government relations between the agency and the four tribal nations. Isham brings knowledge, perspective and expertise to the agency. She and Commissioner Ida Rukavina routinely



consult with the Tribal Governments to identify agency grant and loan programs that may be a good fit for tribal business, community and workforce development projects.

Four recent projects supported by agency grants include:

Bois Forte Band of Chippewa's Vermilion Public Works Service Facility *(in progress)*

\$386,500 Community Infrastructure grant to assist with the infrastructure and site work for the construction of a new 13,800-square-foot public works facility. The Vermilion Public Works Facility will provide a larger area for the equipment and vehicles used in the public works and housing departments. There will be four bays for equipment and vehicles, a food shelf area, office space, a conference room and restrooms. The facility will provide food shelf services to band members residing in Vermilion and also to the surrounding communities.



Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa's Water System Improvements *(completed)*

\$250,000 Community Infrastructure grant to assist with the improvements that allowed for the continuance of clean safe drinking water and fire protection for approximately 140 households and 550 people within a portion of the tribal territory. The project included the addition of a new 75,000-gallon

elevated water storage tower, two new wells, a water main distribution extension and a water treatment plant. The new water system was designed to reduce water contaminant levels, provide water for fire protection where none previously existed and pave the way for potential future expansion of communities that are not currently served by public utilities.

Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior's Community Center Infrastructure Upgrade *(completed)*

\$146,925 Community Infrastructure grant to assist with the replacement of the outdated and inefficient heating system and indoor swimming pool liner and decking. The community center houses the Oshki Ogimaag Charter School which provides local, quality education with an emphasis on the Anishinaabe culture to grades K-6. The center is home to a tutoring program, after school programming, youth summer camps, fitness center, gymnasium and the Elderly Nutrition Program.



Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe's Avenue of The Pines Scenic Byway S-Lake Cultural & Tourism Center *(in progress)*

\$243,000 Community Infrastructure grant to assist with the demolition of an existing building on a 16-acre site and to assist with construction of new community center in its place. The grant will also assist with infrastructure upgrades to the Inger RV Park and Roundhouse facility located nearby.

"Our agency works closely with each of the four Tribal Nations to discuss projects that they have prioritized within their reservations and how our grant programs can support

them,” said Commissioner Ida Rukavina, Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation. “The community infrastructure grants are helping to enhance public service buildings, essential services such as water and early child education and community gathering spaces.”

[Email Billie Isham](#) or call her at 218-735-3017 for Tribal Relations information. [Email Whitney Ridlon](#) or call her at 218-735-3004 for more information about Community Development grants.

[Learn more about Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation’s tribal relations.](#)

Dahl and Scholz join Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation team



Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation welcomed two new employees, Kerri Dahl and Stacey Scholz, on Oct. 25.

Dahl is the agency's new human resources (HR) director. She previously worked in the agency's HR division from 2013-2019, before accepting a position with Minnesota North College. Kerri is responsible for the leadership and overall administration, coordination and evaluation of agency human resources. She also oversees classification and compensation, benefits, HR systems, department

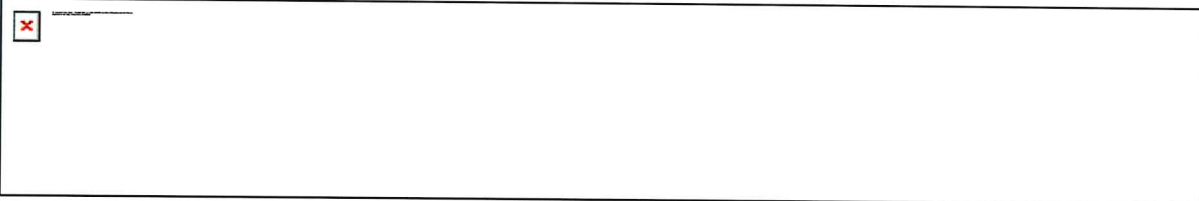
financials and metrics, recruitment and retention, training and development, personnel and labor relations and safety.

Scholz is the agency's new general counsel. She brings a wealth of legal experience from her years of service in the St. Louis County Attorney's Office. Scholz provides legal analysis and advice addressing complex issues related to economic development projects, use of the agency's various funds and issues regarding compliance with state laws, rules and regulations. She also oversees the development of legislation and policies that could impact the agency and prepares opinions on legal issues.



The Ranger is a publication of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation. Our mission is to invest resources to foster vibrant growth and economic prosperity in northeastern Minnesota. The agency's grants and loans are funded through taxes paid by Minnesota's mining industry.

From: Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation <IRRRB@public.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 11:18 AM
To: clerk@breitungtownship.org
Subject: The Ranger - Nov. 16

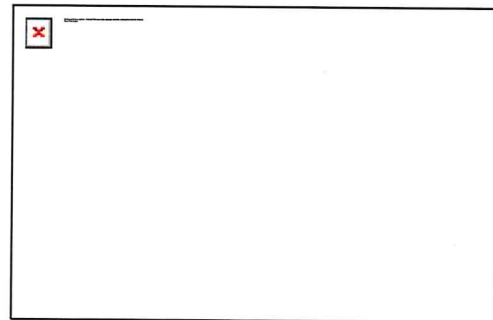


The Ranger

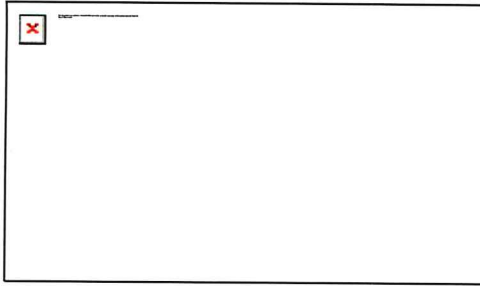
Nov. 16, 2023

Tower Train Depot & Museum undergoes renovation, upholds historic status

The city of Tower renovated the Train Depot & Museum with a new roof and interior improvements including repair and painting of the ceiling and ticket office walls. The roof had reached the end of its useful life and was beginning to leak, causing water damage to the depot's interior. Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation supported the project with a \$29,550 Culture & Tourism grant and \$3,000 in Grant Writing Assistance to the city of Tower. Total project investment was \$63,440.



The city used the Grant Writing Assistance to hire professional grant writer Nancy Larson to apply for additional project funding from the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS). Larson successfully secured \$10,000 from MHS plus \$1,000 from Lake Country Power. With the multiple funding sources and grants, the city, in partnership with the Tower-Soudan Historical Society, made the needed improvements to the Tower Train Depot & Museum which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

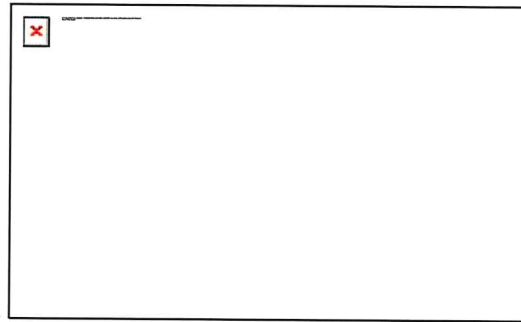


“Historical society grants can be very complex, so hiring someone with Nancy’s expertise increased our chances at a successful application,” said Michael Schultz, city clerk and treasurer. “Also, because the depot is an official historic site, the renovation work must meet the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, which can increase costs. The grants

she was able to secure, coupled with the Culture & Tourism grant, allowed us to complete the project to standards that honor this community treasure.”

The depot was built in 1916 by the Duluth & Iron Range Railroad Company (D&IR). With service of up to three trains per day, tourists and passengers had convenient access to Tower prior to the development of the state’s highway system. By providing passenger train service until 1951, the community experienced an influx of tourists wishing to visit Lake Vermilion and the many resorts, some of which were accessible only by boat. This trend spurred the resort and tourism industry on Lake Vermilion and eventually earned the community’s reputation as being the gateway to the large northeastern Minnesota lake.

Located at the entrance of Tower, the train depot complex features a 1910 steam locomotive engine, passenger car and caboose. The museum tells stories of life at the turn of the century through a collection of hundreds of historic pictures and logging and mining artifacts. The museum serves as an information center and has a small gift shop. The surrounding grounds offer a picnic area, playground, a two-room trapper’s log cabin and a monument honoring United States President William McKinley who was assassinated in 1901.

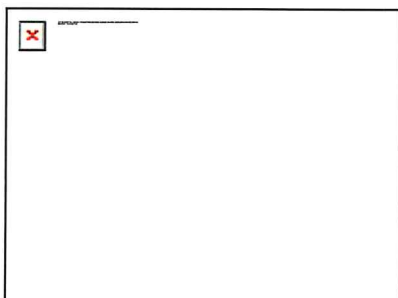


[Learn more about the Tower Train Depot & Museum.](#)

[Email Danae Beaudette](#) or call her at 218-735-3022 for Culture & Tourism grant information.

[Email Whitney Ridlon](#) or call her at 218-735-3004 for Grant Writing Assistance information.

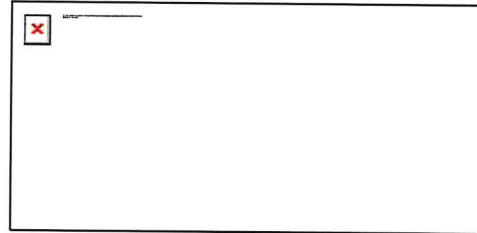
Blackberry Township adds walking trail



A three-quarter mile walking/hiking trail located adjacent to Blackberry Township’s community park was completed, providing a safe route for pedestrians along Highway 2 who are accessing the park. Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation supported the project with a \$29,737 Regional Trails grant to the township. Total project investment was \$59,475.

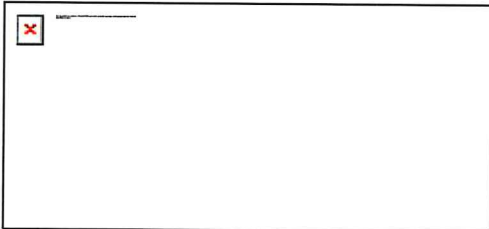
The new trail increased amenities within the township and improved access to the community center, outdoor pavilion, playground and baseball field. Blackberry Township is located in Itasca County.

Other project partners included Blandin Foundation and Minnesota North College-Itasca Forestry Department, who designed the trail layout and assisted with site preparation and trail construction. The partnership between Blackberry Township and the Forestry Department reduced project costs and provided hands-on experience for forestry students.



[Email Jim Plummer](#) or call him at 218-274-7006 for Regional Trails grant information.

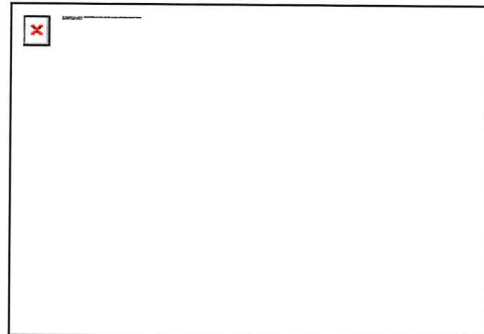
City of Virginia completes grand, new entrance to Olcott Park

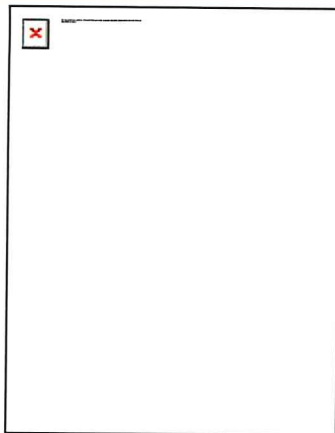


The city of Virginia completed construction of a new historically-inspired entrance to Olcott Park. The northern entrance (9th Street) was also widened to allow for two-way traffic and increased accessibility. Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation supported the project with a \$20,000 Culture & Tourism grant to the city of

Virginia. Total project investment was \$200,000.

The park is home to the Olcott Park Electric Fountain and Rock Garden which the city refurbished in 2018. The fountain is officially listed in the National Register of Historic Places, placing it in the company of sites across the nation that have been declared worthy of preservation in order to protect America's historic and archaeological resources. The park is also the site of youth baseball, music in the park, picnic pavilions, playgrounds, a disc golf course, a paved walking trail, a community greenhouse and the local historical society. Three of the region's major festivals take place each summer in Olcott: Land of the Loon, Sand Lake Shuffle and Brewfest.





Other project partners included US Steel, Olcott Park Brewfest, Virginia Community Foundation and the city of Virginia.

[Learn more about Olcott Park.](#)

[Email Danae Beaudette](#) or call her at 218-735-3022 for Culture & Tourism grant information.

Aitkin restores community welcome signs

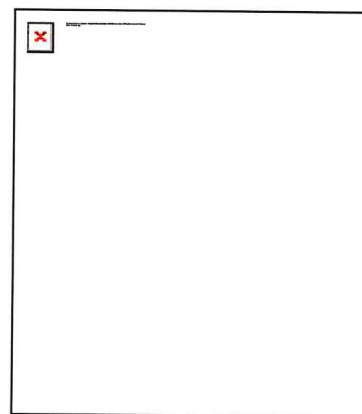
The city of Aitkin refaced five community entrance welcome signs. The signs call attention to the city that is home to about 2,200 residents, businesses, restaurants, a school district and a health care system. Three of the five signs are located along the highways that serve as the major arteries into the Aitkin area: Highways 169, 210 and 47. Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation supported the project with a \$3,000 Culture & Tourism grant. Total project investment was \$8,990.

The high-visibility signs will help welcome visitors to the Aitkin area, which draws tourists who utilize the outdoor recreation and other amenities such as camping, trails, concerts, performing arts center and opera house, dining and mini-breweries.

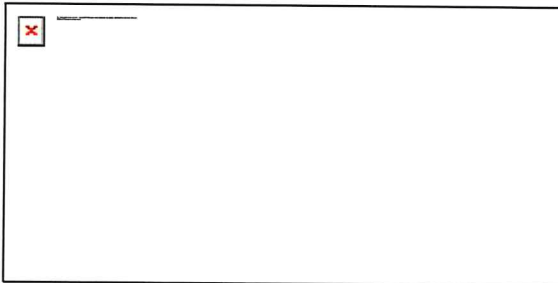
“The signs were in desperate need of refurbishing, and the town is abuzz about how beautiful the new signage is,” said Jennifer Thompson, city clerk. “A beautiful city attracts businesses, tourists, community buy-in and hopefully future investors. The signs exemplify the pride we take in our community and represent the welcoming nature we strive to extend to residents, visitors, and existing and potential new businesses.”

Other project partners included the city of Aitkin, Aitkin Economic Development Authority and Aitkin County Business Development & Recreation Grant Program.

[Email Danae Beaudette](#) or call her at 218-735-3022 for Culture & Tourism grant information.



November is National Entrepreneurship Month



November is National Entrepreneurship Month in America. Northeastern Minnesota is full of entrepreneurs who have a relentless spirit of launching and operating businesses. They are men and women who have taken financial risks to turn their ideas and innovations into a profitable business.

They are dedicated and hard-working

pioneers in many of the region's industries including: manufacturing, mining, timber, health care, retail, apparel, construction, industrial equipment, communications, outdoor recreation, transportation and aviation.

Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation has the privilege of knowing and working with many of the region's entrepreneurs who are at the center of the area's economy. Their small, medium and large-sized businesses provide products, services and jobs to local residents. Some of them ship their products around the nation and globe, and some provide services here in our local communities.

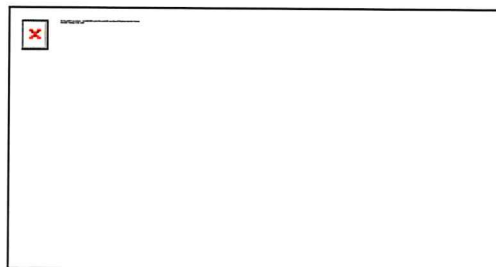
The business development staff at Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation work to help local entrepreneurs and their businesses gain access to funding for building acquisitions and renovations, new building construction, machinery and equipment purchases, land improvements and equity capital.

[Learn more about how Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation can help entrepreneurs launch a new or grow an existing business.](#)

Congratulations and thank you to all of the entrepreneurs in northeastern Minnesota. Thank you for making our economy and communities better and stronger.

New tax benefits available

Even if you are not required to file Minnesota income tax returns, you can still file to claim valuable Minnesota tax benefits. The Child Tax and Working Family Credits deliver tax relief to individuals whose income is below a certain level. Both credits are refundable, meaning you can receive a refund even if you do not owe tax.



What is the Child Tax Credit?

The new Child Tax Credit is available to Minnesotans who have children under age 18. By filing a Minnesota tax return, you may qualify for \$1,750 per child with no limit on the number of children.

What is the Working Family Credit?

The Working Family Credit is available to Minnesotans who earned income during the year. The maximum Working Family Credit is \$350 if your earned income is \$8,750 or more, and it can increase by:

- \$350 for no qualifying child.
- \$1,275 for one qualifying child age 18 or older.
- \$2,450 for two qualifying children age 18 or older.
- \$2,850 for three or more qualifying children age 18 or older.

Both the Child and Working Family Credits are phased out if your income is over \$35,000 for Married Filing Jointly or over \$29,500 for other filers. The credit is reduced by 12% of earned income or adjusted gross income, whichever is greater.

How do I claim these credits?

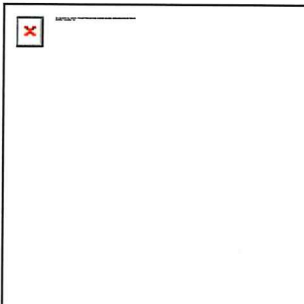
For tax years 2022 and earlier, claim the Working Family Credit using Schedule M1WFC, Working Family Credit. The Child Tax Credit is not available until tax year 2023.

For tax years 2023 and later, claim both the Child and Working Family Tax Credits using Schedule M1CWFC, Minnesota Child and Working Family Credits, available in the next filing season.

Free Tax Preparation

You may also qualify for free tax return preparation. Go to www.revenue.state.mn.us and enter free tax preparation into the Search box to find free tax preparation services near you.

Northland Foundation announces Canadian Border Counties Economic Relief Program



Grants up to \$50,000 each are being made available to businesses located in counties bordering Canada. For-profit businesses that lost 10% or more in revenues during the closure of the Canadian border since 2020 and/or the 2021 closure of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness will be eligible.

The Northland Foundation has been tapped by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) to help manage the process and award funding of more than

\$2.5 million. The funding and eligibility guidelines were established in law during the last legislative session.

[View details about the Canadian Border Counties Economic Relief Program.](#)

The Ranger is a publication of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation. Our mission is to invest resources to foster vibrant growth and economic prosperity in northeastern Minnesota. The agency's grants and loans are funded through taxes paid by Minnesota's mining industry.



SAINT
LOUIS
COUNTY
MINNESOTA

OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS ANNUAL MUNICIPALITY MEETINGS

Per the Minnesota Opioids State-Subdivision MOA, St. Louis County will be holding its annual municipality meetings in order to receive input as to proposed uses of the Opioid Settlement Funds and to encourage collaboration. **We encourage all municipalities within St. Louis County engaged in or impacted by the opioid epidemic to attend!**

Tuesday November 28th, 12-1 PM

Link to Webex: <https://stlouiscountymn.webex.com/stlouiscountymn/j.php?MTID=m90d0a0f5768226143befcbd880e18e2c>

Thursday November 30th, 3-4 PM

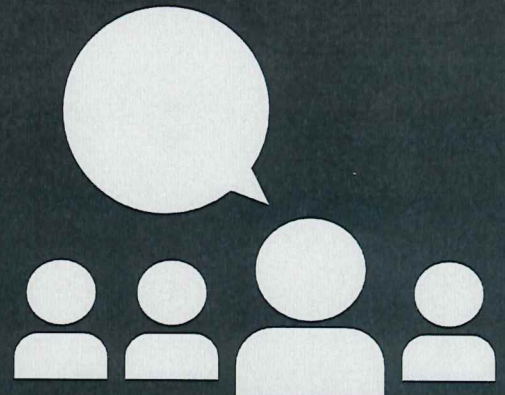
Link to Webex: <https://stlouiscountymn.webex.com/stlouiscountymn/j.php?MTID=m90d0a0f5768226143befcbd880e18e2c>

These meetings are virtual and open to the public.

Learn more about St. Louis County's Opioid Settlement work by visiting [OUR WEBSITE](#)

For any questions, please contact:

Brooke Wetmore
Administrative Specialist
(218) 733-2713
wetmoreb@stlouiscountymn.gov





Saint Louis County

Administration • 100 North Fifth Avenue West, Room 202 • Duluth, MN 55802
Phone: (218) 726-2448 • Fax: (218) 726-2469 • www.stlouiscountymn.gov

Friday, November 17, 2023

NOTICE: Opioid Remediation Settlement Annual Municipality Meeting

Date: Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Time: 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM

Location: WebEx - Virtual Meeting

<https://stlouiscountymn.webex.com/stlouiscountymn/j.php?MTID=m90d0a0f5768226143befcbd880e18e2c>

Call In: +1-415-655-0001 Meeting Code: 2535 444 8736

Agenda:

- Background Review
- Round 1 Funding Progress to Date
- Expectations for the Future, Round 2 Funding
- Resource Sharing
 - Website
 - St. Louis County Opioid Remediation Settlement Blueprint
- Open up for questions & feedback

Additional Information:

The Minnesota Opioids State-Subdivision Memorandum of Agreement includes the requirement that recipients consult with municipalities. From Section IV. E. Consultation and Partnerships:

“Each county receiving Opioid Settlement Funds must consult annually with the municipalities in the county regarding future use of the settlement funds in the county, including by holding an annual meeting with all municipalities in the county in order to receive input as to proposed uses of the Opioid Settlement Funds and to encourage collaboration between Local Governments both within and beyond the county. These meetings shall be open to the public.”



Saint Louis County

Administration • 100 North Fifth Avenue West, Room 202 • Duluth, MN 55802
Phone: (218) 726-2448 • Fax: (218) 726-2469 • www.stlouiscountymn.gov

Friday, November 17, 2023

NOTICE: Opioid Remediation Settlement Annual Municipality Meeting

Date: Thursday, November 30, 2023

Time: 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Location: WebEx - Virtual Meeting

<https://stlouiscountymn.webex.com/stlouiscountymn/j.php?MTID=m90d0a0f5768226143befcbd880e18e2c>

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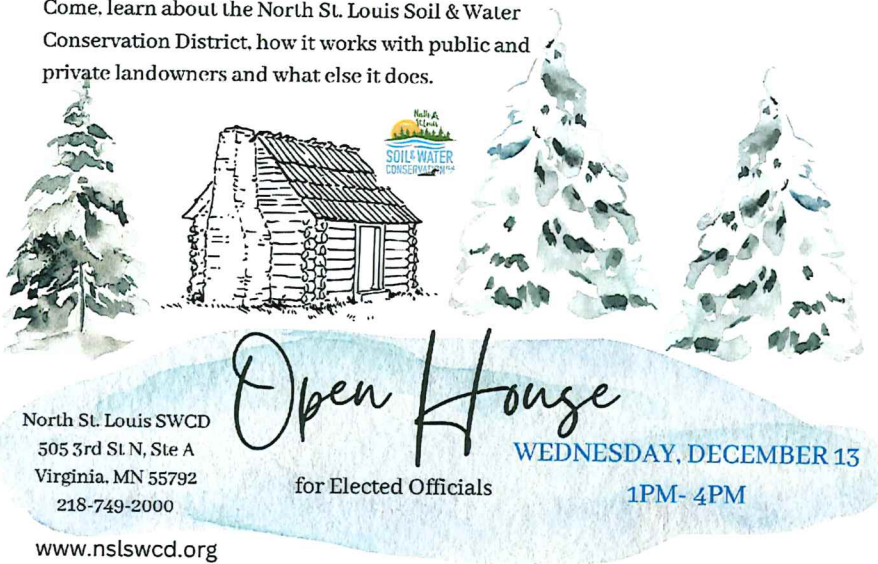
From: Becca Reiss <becca@nslswcd.org>
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2023 1:09 PM
To: Anita Provinzino; Becca Reiss
Subject: North St. Louis SWCD Open House for Elected Officials- Dec 13, 2023 1-4pm

Winter greetings,

We invite you to the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District Open House for Elected Officials on **Wednesday, December 13 from 1pm-4pm**. Please come to learn about the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), how it works with public and private landowners, and what else it does. Come to enjoy light refreshments, ask questions, and learn about:

- What your Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) can do for/with you & your constituents
- The draft plan for the Rainy Headwaters-Vermilion Watershed
- Your biggest natural resources concern - forestry, wetlands, climate, invasive species, water quality, erosion, etc.

Come, learn about the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District, how it works with public and private landowners and what else it does.



Please let me know if you have any questions. We hope to see you there!



Becca Reiss
Community Conservationist
North St. Louis SWCD
505 3rd St. N
Suite A
Virginia, MN 55792



Date: November 7, 2023
To: Plan Review Authority
From: Rainy Headwaters-Vermilion Watershed Planning Partners
Re: **Rainy Headwaters - Vermilion Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan,**
submittal of draft Plan for 60-day review.

The Rainy Headwaters-Vermilion Watershed Planning Partners, on behalf of the members, is happy to submit the Rainy Headwaters–Vermilion Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for 60-day review. The Rainy Headwaters-Vermilion Watershed Planning Partners invites all recipients of this notice to submit comments on the Plan by **January 6, 2024**. A copy of the plan **can be found at:** www.nslswcd.org/rhwwvr

Please submit written comments to **both**:

Becca Reiss
North St. Louis SWCD
Community Conservationist
505 3rd St. N, Ste A
Virginia, MN 55792
218-288-6143
becca@nslswcd.org

Chad Severts
BWSR Board Conservationist
403 4th St NW Room 200
Bemidji, MN 56601
218-770-9620
chad.severts@state.mn.us

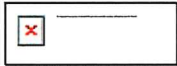
Comments are encouraged to be submitted electronically with the subject line "Rainy Headwaters-Vermilion Plan 60-day Review Comments."

After completion of this review period, a summary of comments received will be provided to all who commented, and the Rainy Headwaters-Vermilion Watershed Planning Partners will hold a hybrid public hearing at 10am on January 26, 2024, at tentative locations including the Minnesota North College-Vermilion Fireside Lounge and the Seagull Lake Community Center.

Thank you on behalf of the Policy Committee Members of the Planning Partnership.
Ann Sullivan (Cook County), Paul McDonald (St. Louis County), Chuck Bainter (North St. Louis SWCD), Beth Hippert (Lake County SWCD), Rich Sve (Lake County), and Stan Tull (Cook County SWCD)

From: Minnesota Rural Water Association <nicole.melaas@mrwa.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 8:31 AM
To: clerk@breitungtownship.org
Subject: Financing Your Community Projects November 28th

Don't Miss This Opportunity!



FINANCING YOUR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

REGISTER ONLINE

November 28, 2023
8:00am - 3:00pm

Best Western Kelly Inn
100 4th Avenue S.
St. Cloud, MN

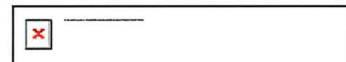
Meeting the demands of repairing and replacing water and wastewater infrastructure is taking its toll on many small utility systems. MRWA is bringing together several entities that offer funding for small systems in this session.

\$150 - MRWA MEMBERS
\$175 - NON-MEMBERS

Agenda

***THIS IS A "DON'T MISS" SESSION IF YOU ARE LOOKING TO
FUND A PROJECT FOR 2024!***

Our objective is to promote awareness of funding sources, the rules, regulations, application



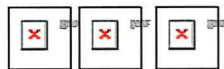
processes, names, addresses, and "HOW TO'S" all under one roof. Your attendance will greatly benefit your community for years to come.

Programs to be discussed will include USDA Rural Development, Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund, Clean Water Revolving Fund, Public Facilities Authority, Long Term & Interim Financing, and the grants process.

Learn how these funding entities are working together to put affordable projects together for communities. Acquiring funding for needed infrastructure improvements is time-consuming and complex. Learn how to do your research and "homework".

Groups targeted for participation in these sessions are mayors, administrators, economic development personnel, utility superintendents, engineers, water and wastewater operations specialists, and others involved or interested in the financial stability of municipal and rural water systems.

**Sponsored by
MRWA Corporate Partners:**



Minnesota Rural Water Association | 217 12th Avenue SE, Elbow Lake, MN 56531

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Sent by nicole.melaas@mrwa.com powered by



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From: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency <mpca@public.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 10:50 AM
To: clerk@breitungtownship.org
Subject: Apply Now: New climate resilience grants for MN communities



Apply for a grant to prepare your community for the impacts of climate change

The effects of climate change are being felt across the state, from overwhelmed infrastructure and damaged property to excessive heat and other health threats.

Minnesota state government is partnering with local leaders to develop climate-adaptation plans so that we are ready for what lies ahead. The MPCA has \$750,000 available to support climate-planning projects in communities across Minnesota.

This funding will help communities assess vulnerabilities and plan for the effects of Minnesota's changing climate in three areas:


- Improving stormwater resilience and reducing localized flood risk.
- Improving the resilience of wastewater systems.
- Reducing human health effects and adapting community services, ordinances, and public spaces.

The MPCA will host a webinar to share information and answer questions about this grant on **Tuesday, November 14 at 1 p.m.** More details about this grant and the webinar will be available at the link below.

[Learn More](#)

Tribal nations, cities, counties, towns/townships, soil and water conservation districts, water management organizations, and water districts are eligible to apply. **Applications are due no later than 4 p.m. on Thursday, December 14, 2023**

Any questions about this grant must be submitted to grants.pca@state.mn.us with the subject line "FY 24 Planning Grants for SWC Resilience" no later than 4 p.m. on Monday, December 11, 2023.

 [Minnesota Pollution Control Agency](#) [[Contact us](#)]

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This email was sent to clerk@breitungtownship.org using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North · Saint Paul, MN 55155 · 1-800-439-1420

2023-2024 Premium Rates

The League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust [Board of Trustees](#) evaluates loss projections every year to ensure premium rates are adequately set to respond to future claims. If estimates and members' losses are better than projected, the additional savings can be returned to members ([learn more about the dividend being returned for 2023](#)) or added to the Trust's fund balance for the purpose of saving money for members in other ways, such as the Trust retaining more risk.

The following provides information about premium rates going into effect for property/casualty coverages renewing on or after Nov. 15, 2023, and for workers' compensation coverages renewing on or after Jan. 1, 2024.

Property/casualty rates

What does property/casualty coverage include?

Coverage is tailored specifically for Minnesota cities and related entities like housing and redevelopment authorities, joint powers organizations, and other special districts and instrumentalities. It's broader than commercial policies and includes coverage for property losses, bond, comprehensive municipal liability, auto, cyber-related claims, liquor liability, and much more.

[Learn more about the types of entities that can participate in the Trust.](#)

How does the Trust set rates?

Rates are set at a level to generate enough premium to cover:

- Expected claim costs for the year based on actuaries' calculations.
- A contingency margin to protect the Trust and its members from the possibility that losses will be higher than expected.
- Projected administrative expenses.

What are property/casualty rates for 2024?

Rates will decrease by an average of 0.75%. The following list includes specific rate changes by coverage area.

- Liability rates will decrease by an average of 6%. That consists of:
 - A 10% decrease in employment liability rates.
 - A 15% decrease in sewer backup liability rates.
 - An 11% decrease in annual expenditure-based rates for cities.

- No rate changes for police liability, land use litigation, or annual expenditure-based rates for special purpose entities.
- Auto physical damage rates will increase 10%.
- Auto liability rates will increase 5%.
- Excess liability (optional coverage) rates will increase 3%.
- No rate changes for property or other coverages.

What about other variables?

Premiums will also be affected by factors such as a member's changes in expenditures, property values, payroll, experience ratings, and others. Contact the Trust's underwriting staff for questions about member-specific rates.

Connect with underwriters (choose "Underwriting" under "Department").

Why are rates changing?

The Trust works with an actuary to help project future claim costs, which in turn drives premium rates. Here's what is happening in the property/casualty program:

- There will be no rate change for property coverage, including mobile property, because projected loss costs are stable.
- The varying decreases in liability rates will better align projected liability premiums with actual loss costs.
- Auto rates are increasing because of increased loss patterns and, like the private market, inflationary pressure.
- The 3% rate increase for excess liability is due to increased rates from the Trust's reinsurer for that line of coverage.

Members can view their losses in the [LMCIT Member Center](#). Contact Senior Business Analyst Lena Gould at lgould@lmc.org or (651) 281-1245 to learn more about Trust members' loss patterns as a whole.

Workers' compensation rates

What is workers' compensation coverage?

Workers' compensation provides coverage for members that have employees who are injured while in the course and scope of employment.

How does the Trust set rates?

Rates are set at a level to generate enough premium to cover:

- Expected claim costs for the year based on actuaries' calculations.
- A contingency margin to protect the Trust and its members from the possibility that losses will be higher than expected.
- Projected administrative expenses for the program.

What are the rate changes for 2024?

Rates will decrease by an average of 15%.

Workers Comp

What about other variables?

Premiums will also be affected by factors like changes in a member's expenditures, payrolls, experience rating, and other exposure measures. Members and agents can contact their underwriter for member-specific details.

[Learn how experience ratings are used to adjust members' future premiums.](#)

[Connect with underwriters](#) (choose "Underwriting" under "Department").

Why are rates changing?

The primary reason for the 15% rate decrease is because the development on members' claim experience was favorable in 2022 and 2023, both on new claims received by the Trust and on case reserves for claims occurring prior to June 30, 2022.

In recent years the Trust has communicated with members about the impact of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) claims for public safety on the Trust's workers' compensation program. Premium rate increases have been necessary because these claims became a significant portion of the Trust's costs claim patterns; however, both PTSD and non-PTSD claims have changed the course of future claim projections, at least for 2024.

Whether and how PTSD, other types of claims, or legislative changes will affect workers' compensation rates in the future is impossible to know with certainty. There's inherent unpredictability in managing risk and knowing the cost of future claims. The Trust evaluates claim patterns through data analyses and actuarial projections to set premium rates as responsibly as possible. The Trust also has programs, services, and staff available to help members control all types of claims — from back injuries to land use and everything in between.

[Learn more about the new public safety duty disability law](#) aimed at curbing the number of public safety employees leaving their professions because of mental injuries.

[Learn more about the Trust's loss control programs.](#)

Members can view their losses in the [LMCIT Member Center](#). Contact Senior Business Analyst Lena Gould at lgould@lmc.org or (651) 281-1245 to learn more about Trust members' loss patterns as a whole.

Are there any other changes we should be aware of?

Nonsmoker credit: There is a discount in the workers' compensation rate for firefighters and police officers if members can assert 90% of their departments are nonsmokers. The rate credit will decrease from 10% to 5% because a recent evaluation shows members with "nonsmoking" departments have worse claim experience than "smoking" departments. Because of this, the nonsmoking credit will be phased out and discontinued on Jan. 1, 2025.

Experience rating: A few minor, primarily technical changes will be made to the Trust's experience rating formula for 2024 to align with revised industry standards.

From: MnDOT <mndot@public.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 9:14 AM
To: clerk@breitungtownship.org
Subject: Deadline Extended: Comment on the Draft State Highway Investment Plan

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)



20-Year Minnesota State Highway Investment Plan

Deadline Extended: Comment on the Draft State Highway Investment Plan

The draft 20-Year Minnesota State Highway Investment Plan is available for public comment. During the first two rounds of public engagement for the plan, Minnesota state highway users provided their priorities for spending on the state highway system over the next 20 years and gave their feedback on the draft investment direction. MnDOT used that information to revise the investment direction and develop the draft plan.

The public comment period has been extended through November 27th. We are inviting public comments on the draft plan. There are several ways to participate:

- [Comment](#) on the plan at minnesotago.org or email comments to stateplans.dot@state.mn.us
- [Request](#) an engaging presentation for your organization
- Follow MnDOT's social media accounts for posts about MnSHIP and share the posts with your followers
- [Sign up](#) for email updates
- Help spread the word!



NORTHWOODS PARTNERS

- caring connections -

NORTHWOODS PARTNERS
328 WEST CONAN STREET
ELY, MN 55731
218-365-8019
NORTHWOODSPARTNERS.ORG

NEWSLETTER

Volume 9

Fall / Winter 2023

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

LISA PORTHAN

Executive Director – Caregiver Consultant

Gratitude!

My heart is so full of appreciation and love for all of you who make the work of Northwoods Partners possible. Our beautiful community continues to wrap its arms around us and so many other wonderful programs in our little neck of the woods. In a world that at times can seem so hard and hopeless, YOU bring light and love. Your support this past year provided over 10,000 hours of service to our area older adults and their caregivers. That's AMAZING!

As we look back with gratitude, we also look forward with excitement for what lies ahead in 2024. We have been blessed with the opportunity to move into a new space this coming summer. We will have over 900 square feet of program space and two offices that will allow us to grow our programming opportunities and more efficiently & effectively serve our ever-increasing aging population. This opportunity is made possible through your generosity and support. Thank you for believing in us and caring for your community. You are the "GOOD NEWS"! Let your LOVE shine!

Gratitude can transform common days into *Thanksgivings*, turn routine jobs into *Joy*, and change ordinary opportunities into *Blessings*.

William Arthur Ward



NORTHWOODS PARTNERS

~ Festival of Trees ~

A Season of Giving

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

7:30pm Lighting of the Trees

Silent Auction Begins

Holiday Boutique Opens

Please join us as Northwoods Partners celebrates 21 years of Festival of Trees!

Festival of Trees is at long last upon us. Because of our communities' generous support, and a little holiday magic, the lobby of the Grand Ely Lodge will be transformed into a winter wonderland, complete with beautifully decorated Christmas trees, wreaths, chairs for care, and a holiday boutique.

This year's holiday event kicks off with a Lighting Ceremony at 7:30pm on Sunday, November 19th and runs thru December 3rd.

Because of our talented Festival of Trees committee, decorators, artists, crafters, and support of our community, the holiday magic continues throughout the year in the lives of our area seniors that are helped by Northwoods Partners every day.



ROCK *Around the* CLOCK

Miners Dry House served as the perfect backdrop for our "Rock Around the Clock" fundraising dinner in June. Attendees dressed in their finest 50's attire including poodle skirts, pencil skirts, fit-and-flair dresses, rockabilly, and some greaser looks too.

Our area businesses and community members really stepped up in donating items for our raffle and silent auction. Thank you!

The celebration continued late into the night with dancing to the musical stylings of Ed Ely.

We're already busy planning next years "Wild, Wild West" theme dinner. Watch social media for more information.



Thanks to the Heart of the Woods Quilters, Members of our Men's M&M group: Jim Orcutt, Byron Moren, Bob Maki, Duane Bieber, Dwight McConnell, and Gerry Fuhrmann were presented with Quilts of Valor.



We (and the ducks) loved our summer Tai Ji class on the shores of Shagawa Lake.



During our monthly Tasty Tuesday classes, the instructor demos healthy recipes like risotto with roasted winter squash and a garden fresh rustic galette. The best part is the samples at the end.



NORTHWOODS PARTNERS HEALTHY AGING EXPO

A total of eight experts in their respective fields shared information on a wide array of healthy aging topics. We, as a community, are so grateful for all these wonderful speakers for taking time out of their busy days to share their wisdom and knowledge with all of us.

Thank you to our event sponsors: Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital, EBCH Ely Community Pharmacy, and Essentia Health Pharmacy; because of our sponsors, we were able to host this event including lunch, free to the public.

If you missed the event, it's not too late. Visit NorthwoodsPartners.org/events to see recordings of the day's presentations.

Northwoods Partners Healthy Aging Expo, held May 22nd at the Grand Ely Lodge, was an enormous success.



November is National Family Caregivers Month

"During National Family Caregivers Month, we recognize the love and sacrifice of more than 50 million Americans providing crucial care and medical assistance to parents, children, siblings and other loved ones, ensuring their health and dignity."

"Today, far too many Americans find themselves sandwiched between the enormous tasks of supporting aging parents, raising young children and earning a living. Others bear the responsibility of caring for loved ones with a disability or looking after wounded, ill or injured service members and veterans who have sacrificed so much for us all. The truth is, at some point in our lives, each of us will likely need to be a family caregiver — but the burden falls especially hard on those who cannot afford support. Women, people of color and immigrants shoulder a disproportionate share of the obligation, sometimes forced to leave good jobs to instead provide care. Their work is a profound service to their families and to our nation, but they are still too often unseen, undervalued and unpaid."

From The American Presidency Project, Proclamation 10488—National Family Caregivers Month, 2022

Caregiver Support Group

Are you caring for someone:
Aged
Chronically Ill
Suffering from Memory Loss

Caregiver Support Group
2nd Monday of the Month
10-11am @ Ely Senior Center



1 in 5 adults
are caregivers

CAREGIVERS provide regular care or assistance to a FRIEND or FAMILY member with a health problem or disability

CAREGIVING CAN BE

LENGTHY
Half have provided care for at least two years



INTENSE
30% have provided care for at least 20 hours per week



HOW DO CAREGIVERS HELP?

4 in 5 manage household tasks



Over half assist with personal care



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

WHO ARE CAREGIVERS?

58% are women

20% are 65 years old or older

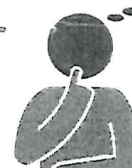
37% are caring for a parent or parent-in-law

Nearly 10% are providing care to someone with dementia



FUTURE CAREGIVERS

1 in 6 NON-CAREGIVERS expect to BECOME CAREGIVERS within 2 years



cdc.gov/aging

CS-14-0254-A August 2014



Please visit our website **NorthwoodsPartners.org**. While on the home page, sign up for our **Email News** to stay informed on the latest and greatest programs, classes, information, and training opportunities being offered in our community by Northwoods Partners. Be sure to check the **News** and **Events** tabs too, that way you'll be up-to-date with all that's going on at Northwoods Partners.



☒ EMAIL NEWSLETTER

Board of Directors

Rae Bentz
Christine Braun
Heather Fitzgerald
Dick Flesvig
Sheila Gruba
Craig Haberman
Walt Leino
Dave Nichols
Caroline Owens
Pat Rolando
Abby Sirek
Sid Thomson
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Northwoods Partners is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is funded by grants and support from:

Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging
Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency
Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital
Essentia Corporate Giving
Medica Foundation
Northland Foundation
United Way of Northeastern MN

And by generous donations from businesses and individuals like you.

Charities
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Council

**MEETS
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smartgivers.org



NORTHWOODS PARTNERS

328 WEST CONAN STREET
ELY, MN 55731

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Congratulations
2023
Heart of Gold Recipients



Town of Breitung
PO Box 56
Soudan, MN 55782

Sheila Gruba & Norma Cersine



Follow us on
Facebook

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

UPCOMING CLASSES:

S.A.I.L. STAY ACTIVE AND INDEPENDENT FOR LIFE
BABBITT COMMUNITY CENTER GYM 10-11AM
TUESDAY & THURSDAY • JANUARY - MARCH

TAI JI QUAN MOVING FOR BETTER BALANCE
ELY RECREATION CENTER 10-11AM
TUESDAY & THURSDAY • FEBRUARY - APRIL

TAI JI QUAN ADVANCED CLASS
OPEN TO THOSE WHO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED
THE TAI JI QUAN MOVING FOR BETTER BALANCE CLASS
ELY RECREATION CENTER 9-10AM
TUESDAY & THURSDAY • FEBRUARY - APRIL

GROUPS:

MEN'S MEMORIES & MOVEMENT
ELY SENIOR CENTER
EVERY WEDNESDAY 10:30-11:30AM

COMMUNITY EXERCISE GROUP
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH BASEMENT
EVERY THURSDAY 10:30-11:30AM

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP
ELY SENIOR CENTER
2TH MONDAY OF EACH MONTH 10:00-11:00AM



EVENTS: FOLLOW US ON FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION

DONOR APPRECIATION EVENT (PLEASE RSVP)

GRAND ELY LODGE
DONORS MAY JOIN US FOR LIGHT APPETIZERS AND BEVERAGE
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 6:30PM - 8:00PM

FESTIVAL OF TREES

GRAND ELY LODGE, KICK-OFF IS SUNDAY, NOV 19 AT 7:30 PM
SILENT AUCTION • HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE • CHAIRS FOR CARE
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19 THRU SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER APRIL 2024

HEALTHY AGING EXPO SPRING 2024

WILD, WILD WEST DINNER TO DONATE SUMMER 2024

MAKE A MEANINGFUL IMPACT THIS GIVE TO THE MAX DAY
AS A DONOR, YOUR SUPPORT CAN MAKE A WORLD OF
DIFFERENCE TO THE CAUSES AND ORGANIZATIONS YOU
CARE ABOUT. WITH GIVE TO THE MAX DAY 2023 JUST
AROUND THE CORNER - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16 - IT'S



THE PERFECT TIME TO
REFLECT ON YOUR
CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION
PLAN AND ENSURE YOU'RE
MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR
GIVING OPPORTUNITIES.



DONATE NOW

In Memorial

Gifts have been made to Northwoods Partners in 2023

In Loving Memory of the following:

Al & Caroline Musich	Grace Cherne	Melia Shikonya
Ann & Oliver Filson	Jackie Carlson	Merlin Pipho
Ann Mobilia	Jean Nelson	Mike Pechek
Ann Reko	Jerry Nemanich	Mike Weinzierl
Antoinette Hokkanen	Jim Belehar	Molly Hill
Arden Siebert	Jim Pluth	Pat Lammi
Bernice Anderson	Joan Nicholas	Paulette Tekaveck
Betty Erickson	John Braun	Richard Jiacik
Bob Niskala	Joseph Baltich, Sr.	Robert Wilmunen
Bonnie Zupancich	Joyce Maki	Roberta Anne Eastman
Brian Roy Zimmerman	Joye Soderberg	Roger Thompson
Carol Marshall	Judy Vollom	Rollie Green
Chuck Glass	Karen Jiacik	Sharon Anderson
Clary Larson	Linda Fryer	Sheila Shultz
Darlene Graupman	Linda Williams	Tootie Nelson
Dave Staubit	Lois (Jeno) Warren	Tootsie Moravitz
Don Christey	Loren Sampson	Violet Aldrich
Donald Maroney	Lorena (Rena) Loushin	Virginia Brula
Doris Adamic	Lyle Klein	Walter Bonovsty
Dorothy Harri	Marilynn Mazva	Watson McCray
Elsie Wiermaa	Mark Leustek	Winnifred Thaisen
Evelyn Anderson	Marlene Gabbson	Woods Davis
George (Sonny) Bonovsty	Mary Ann (Dolly) Starkman	

*What we once enjoyed and deeply loved we can never lose,
for all that we love deeply becomes a part of us. ~ Hellen Keller*

Gifts have been made to Northwoods Partners in 2023

In Honor of

Byron Moren's 95th Birthday

Richard & Susan Flesvig Gene & Jane Hicks the Hotaling Family
Mike Musich & Atticus Lisa Porthan Candy Schindele



Never is anyone charged for services provided by Northwoods Partners. We are not a line item on someone's budget. We are not funded by the City or State. So, how are we funded? We are funded entirely through grants and donations.

Please consider supporting the ongoing work of Northwoods Partners. There are many reasons and ways to give:

- Remember a loved one with a **Memorial**
- Honor someone special with an **Honorarium**
- Join our **Monthly Donors Circle**
- Set up a **Legacy Gift** from your estate or will

This is what your donation will provide for our area seniors:

\$3 = one local ride



Provide resources that promote
independence and healthy aging