

McLEOD COUNTY

News and Information

Summer | 2020

CONTACT US

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www.co.mcleod.mn.us | (320) 864-5551

COUNTY UPDATES

McLEOD COUNTY PARKS

MCLEOD COUNTY PARKS ARE FULLY OPEN TO ALL VISITORS TO ENJOY THE 6 COUNTY PARKS.

Campgrounds at Lake Marion Regional Park and Piepenburg Regional Park are open for camping.

To make a reservation go to:

<https://mcleodparks.maxgalaxy.net/Home.aspx>

Phone # to Lake Marion 320-328-4479

Phone # to Piepenburg Park 320-587-2082

Park office # 320-484-4301 for questions



Check out this drone photograph of the County Road 11 Bridge Progress! This work is anticipated to be complete in September, 2020. Photo taken by McLeod County Public Works Department.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer season outdoors!

Photo below of Piepenburg Campgrounds, taken by McLeod County Parks staff.

COUNTY CALENDAR

COUNTY OFFICE CLOSURES

July 03, 2020, Independence Day (observed)

September 07, 2020, Labor Day



UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

July 7th and 21st

August 4th and 18th

September 1st and 15th



A MESSAGE FROM THE AUDITOR-TREASURER

Primary Election Day is Aug 11, 2020. General Election Day is Nov 3, 2020.

Are you REGISTERED to vote? We encourage you to register before Election Day. It will save you time at the polling place. Registration temporarily closes 21 days before the election (July 21) and opens again on Election Day for voters who register at their polling place.

VERIFY YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION STATUS:

<https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterStatus.aspx>

REGISTER TO VOTE ONLINE (REQUIRES EMAIL ADDRESS):

<https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterRegistration/VoterRegistrationMain.aspx>

REGISTER TO VOTE BY PAPER APPLICATION:

<https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote/register-on-paper/>



The following cities and townships will hold IN PERSON elections at their precinct in 2020: Acoma Township, Penn Township, Brownton City, Glencoe City, Hutchinson City, Lester Prairie City, Silver Lake City, Stewart City and Winsted City.

The following cities and townships will be MAIL BALLOT precincts in 2020: Bergen Township, Collins Township, Glencoe Township, Hale Township, Hassan Valley Township, Helen Township, Hutchinson Township, Lynn Township, Rich Valley Township, Round Grove Township, Sumter Township, Winsted Township, Biscay City and Plato City. (All registered voters will be mailed a ballot. This designation may be a change. If so, the approval was by Township Supervisor vote.)

How do I request an absentee ballot? You can apply for a ballot any time during the year, except the day of the election. Leave time for election officials to mail your ballot. Your returned ballot must be postmarked on or before Election Day (August 11, 2020) and received by your county by the day before the county canvass. Your ballot will not count if it is received after the deadline. <https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/ABRegistration/ABRegistrationStep1.aspx>

How do I track my ballot? You can track the status of your mail or absentee ballot to confirm its status (e.g. mailed, received, accepted). <https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/AbsenteeBallotStatus.aspx>

The Office of the Auditor-Treasurer works diligently to ensure that every vote is properly cast, counted and reported. We respect that Minnesota has consistently been a national leader in voter turnout with our paper ballot integrity. Please call us with your election questions at 320-864-1203.

IN THE COMMUNITY:



Community Work Service (CWS) crews planted over 400 perennials from Holasek Flower Power Garden Center (Lester Prairie, Minnesota) at the Fairgrounds and the McLeod County Environmental Services Building this spring.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ASSESSOR

What is Mass Appraisal?

Over the next few months you will see the Assessor's Office staff out and about in the cities and townships. We are beginning our review process – a quintile review. According to MN Statute 273.08, "The assessor shall actually view, and determine the market value of each tract or lot of real property listed for taxation, including the value of all improvements and structures thereon, at a maximum interval of five years, and shall enter the value opposite each description." MN Statute 273.01 further states "all real property subject to taxation shall be listed and at least one-fifth of the parcels listed shall be appraised each year with reference to their value on January 2nd preceding the assessment so that each parcel shall be reappraised at maximum intervals of five years."

Why do we need to review every five years? In order for the County to determine market value, we need data. For example: size of the building, room counts, fireplaces, decks, garages, sheds, etc. We then apply a standardized cost guide to the buildings, taking into account the condition of the buildings and depreciation calculations. It is this number that the Assessor uses to compare to any property sales that come in.

Why is this important? Minnesota employs a process called Mass Appraisal in determining the market value of each parcel. This is required by MN statute and is referenced in the following statutes: 272.03, 273.11, 273.12, and 273.13.

The Dictionary of Real Estate Appraisal (Appraisal Institute; 5th ed. 2010) defines mass appraisal as "the process of valuing a universe of properties as of a given date using standard methodology, employing common data, and allowing for statistical testing." The International Association of Assessing Officers' Standard on Mass Appraisal of Real Property (January 2012) states that mass appraisal models "attempt to represent the market for a specific type of property in a specified area" and should "identify the variables (supply and demand factors) that influence value, for example square feet of living area."

For example – two identical houses were built in the same year; one on the west side of the County and the other on the east. When the Assessor's Office runs its cost guide against the homes, the base value would be the same. What could alter the value is the market. For example, the home on the east side of the County might sell for a higher price due to its proximity to the metro. The Assessor would then adjust all homes on the east side of the County to reflect these higher sales prices.

As sales data comes in we compare the sale price to our market value. Since there is a State requirement that our value needs to be between 90% to 105% of the sale value, it is extremely important to have accurate information. In Mass Appraisal, if McLeod County is low in its values on properties that sold, then it is low on all of its properties and we need to adjust all in a taxing districts. If a property had extensive improvements to the interior and sells without the Assessor's Office knowing of the improvements, it could cause the County's ratio to drop below 90%. We would then need to raise all properties to meet that minimum ratio requirement, which in turn may cause an inaccurate increase of values for all properties.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Assessor's Office is adjusting its process somewhat. We will be sending out postcards to the properties we will be reviewing. We simply ask for you to call and verify information with us. Our staff will be doing a walk along the road but will not approach the doors. If they have any questions they will contact you by phone.

Sue Schulz, McLeod County Assessor

VETERAN

I Served Proudly



FOR BENEFIT INFORMATION CONTACT:

McLeod County Veteran Services
2381 Hennepin Avenue North
Glencoe, Minnesota 55336
(320) 864-1268

mcleod.veterans@co.mcleod.mn.us

VETERANS RELIEF GRANTS

The State of Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs still has Relief Grants available for veterans or their surviving spouses whose immediate families have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 restrictions.

Those impacts might include being furloughed or laid off, having work hours reduced or wages lost due to business slowdowns, closings or even having to stay home with school aged children. Even if you have since returned to work, any documented loss of income since the Governor's first Executive Order on March 13, 2020 may qualify you for this \$1,000 cash grant.

For more information, contact Veteran Services at (320) 864-1268 or mcleod.veterans@co.mcleod.mn.us

COVID-19

Wearing a mask = Caring for your neighbor

Wearing a mask during this COVID-19 pandemic won't necessarily protect you from catching the virus, but there is increasing evidence it protects your family and friends. Since the coronavirus is spread mainly by "droplets" created from the coughs and sneezes of an ill person; wearing a cloth or paper mask, scarf, or even a bandana can keep the droplets inside and away from other people. This virus is so easy to spread that singing, heavy breathing when exercising, or even talking within 6 feet of someone can be risky.

We know that people with COVID-19 often don't realize they have it because they don't personally feel sick. However, a virus that doesn't make one person sick can be deadly to another. That's why we are asking everyone to wear a mask in public. Far from being a political statement, by wearing a mask when out in public, you are really sending a message of how much you care for your neighbor!

While the number of new COVID-19 cases in Minnesota seems to be leveling off, infection rates are climbing rapidly in McLeod County. If you think wearing a mask looks silly or feels too hot or too uncomfortable, you may be right! At the same time, as Americans -- and as Minnesotans in particular -- we have a rich tradition of taking care of one another. Let's demonstrate that care and concern by wearing masks and keeping our friends, family and neighbors healthy.

Meghan Mohs, Interim McLeod County Health and Human Services Director

