

# NEWS AND INFORMATION

*McLeod County Newsletter*



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## **MCLEOD COUNTY**

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## **McLeod County Dispatch**

As of September 1, 2021, the City of Hutchinson's radio traffic and dispatching is handled by the McLeod County Sheriff's Office.

### *WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?*

Hutchinson Police Officers will continue to be on duty 24/7 and the public will continue to have the ability to contact an officer from a call box at the Hutchinson Police Department, if necessary.

Staffing levels for Hutchinson Police Officers will be remaining the same.

All calls made to 320-587-2242 will be now be answered by the McLeod County Sheriff's Office and dispatched accordingly by the McLeod County Sheriff's Office.

*cont'd p.2*

# Dispatch

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**320-587-2242**

HUTCHINSON RESIDENTS SHOULD CALL 320-587-2242 TO SPEAK TO AN OFFICER AND MAKE A POLICE REPORT

**320-234-4290**

HUTCHINSON POLICE DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION:  
CALL 320-234-4290 TO REQUEST RECORDS/REPORTS OR OTHER GENERAL INQUIRIES

**320-864-3134**

MCLEOD COUNTY DISPATCH:  
CALL 320-864-3134 TO REACH MCLEOD COUNTY DISPATCH

## PLEASE NOTE:

THE HUTCHINSON POLICE DEPARTMENT LOBBY WILL NO LONGER BE ACCESSIBLE  
24 HOURS A DAY/7 DAYS A WEEK.

THE HUTCHINSON POLICE DEPARTMENT LOBBY HOURS ARE:

- MONDAY-FRIDAY 7AM-11PM
- CLOSED ALL HOLIDAYS

## DID YOU KNOW?



McLeod County  
Dispatch receives 4,565  
calls each month.



McLeod County Sheriff's  
Office staffs 15 full-time  
and 2 part-time  
communications officers.



McLeod County Dispatch  
serves 6 police  
departments, 8 fire  
departments and 4  
ambulance services.



McLeod County first  
opened its dispatch  
center in 1982.



# Annual Budget and Tax Levy

## An overview of the County's process and timeline

### DEPARTMENT PLANNING

Department Heads are tasked with preparing their anticipated expenses and revenues for the following year. This process begins in June and continues throughout the summer.

### FINANCE & BUDGET MEETINGS

The McLeod County Finance Director meets with individual Department Heads, compiling and verifying the budget information before compiling it and presenting it to the budget committee for discussion.

### PRELIMINARY LEVY

The Budget Committee makes a recommendation to the County Board in September to set the preliminary levy. Once the preliminary levy is set, it cannot be increased, only decreased. After this stage in the process, staff work to fine-tune the budget and prepare it for its final approval.

### FINAL LEVY

In December each year, the Finance Director presents the final Budget Committee recommendations to the County Board to set the final levy. Once the levy is adopted, the Finance Director has it printed in the official county newspaper and sends it to the Office of the State Auditor for recording.

DEPARTMENT  
PLANNING

.....  
June and July

FINANCE &  
BUDGET  
MEETINGS

.....  
August

PRELIMINARY  
LEVY

.....  
September

FINAL LEVY

.....  
December



## Parks

Autumn is here and there are plenty of opportunities to enjoy the outdoors at any of the McLeod County Parks; October can offer great camping weather. Campgrounds at Lake Marion Regional Park and Piepenburg Regional Park remain open thru Sunday, October 17th with plenty of sites currently available. Reservation information is available online.

Now is also a great time to experience the vibrant fall foliage at any of McLeod County's six parks. In addition to Piepenburg and Lake Marion, we encourage you to visit William May Park by Winsted, Buffalo Creek Park near Glencoe, Swan Lake Park by Silver Lake and Stahl's Lake Park near Hutchinson; all offer hiking trails of varying lengths, ideal for anyone from families with young children to those looking to spend more time enjoying nature.

**Reservations for campsites and/or the McLeod County Fairgrounds can be made online at [https://www.co.mcleod.mn.us/doing\\_business/parks/index.php](https://www.co.mcleod.mn.us/doing_business/parks/index.php) or by calling (320) 484-4301.**



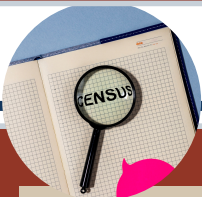
## Veteran Services

Veterans Affairs (VA) Health Care System is once again offering flu shots to enrolled veterans.

Options for Veterans to receive a flu shot include:

- At a regularly scheduled appointment at your VA Medical Center or Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC)
- At a walk-in flu shot clinic, occurring on specific dates at the VA Medical facilities
- At a drive-up flu shot clinic, occurring on specific dates and at various locations
- At in-network community care pharmacies. Use the VA Locator to find the nearest in-network pharmacy by going to: <https://www.va.gov/find-locations> or by calling Veteran Services for assistance

**As always, McLeod County Veteran Services is available to answer your questions at (320) 864-1268 or [mcleod.veterans@co.mcleod.mn.us](mailto:mcleod.veterans@co.mcleod.mn.us)**



## Auditor-Treasurer

REDISTRICTING is the process of redrawing the boundaries of election districts, completed by legislature (congressional and legislative districts), by city councils (wards and precincts), by township boards (precincts), by school boards (school board election districts) and by county boards (commissioner districts) after the completion of the decennial Census in the United States. The purpose of redistricting is to ensure that the people of each district are equally represented.

Estimated timing of redistricting includes the census data released September 2021, legislative sessions beginning January 2022, congressional and legislative plans completed February 2022, precinct and city redistricting deadline March 29, 2022, county commissioner and other redistricting deadline April 26, 2022.



# Administrator's Message:

## American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)



McLeod County has been allocated \$6,971,794.00 of federal funds through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA); the first "tranch" received by the County has been \$3,485,897.00. Cities and townships must directly apply for their funds no later than October 04, 2021 with the Minnesota Management and Budget Office. Many of McLeod County's cities and townships have already applied and received their first half of funds.

These funds must be allocated to approved uses by December 31, 2024 with funds needing to be spent by December 31, 2026. The Coronavirus Relief Fund Committee and Board of Commissioners are working together and with guidance from the Association of Minnesota Counties and the US Department of Treasury to navigate the preliminary guidelines identifying appropriate uses for the funds.

The County is currently identifying eligible uses and allocating the funds into applicable categories; since the US Department of Treasury has only issued an "interim" final ruling, it is possible that the eligible expenses will be adjusted until a final ruling is issued.

McLeod County continues to research the eligible uses of these funds in cooperation with the municipalities within our borders, and also with neighboring counties. The County's Coronavirus Relief Fund Committee has been tasked with making recommendations to the County Board of good investments in our community.

*Sheila Murphy, McLeod County Administrator*  
*sheila.murphy@co.mcleod.mn.us*  
*320.864.1320*



# Back to the County Fair!



The McLeod County Fair returned once again for 2021--this year with a new shortened, four-day schedule over August 19-22, 2021--to showcase the talents and resources that our community has to offer, celebrate our agricultural traditions and showcase the talents and achievements of our community members.

Fairgoers turned out, despite a rainy forecast and COVID-related challenges, for a variety of events and activities ranging from rides, live music and entertainment to food and other vendors. People were excited to get out and have a reason to get together. While the Fair does not track official attendance numbers, the estimated attendance this year was 32,000.

Evening entertainment was provided by The Ladies of the 80s, The Johnny Holm Band, GB Leighton and The Whitesidewalls while Grandstand events included Supercross on Thursday, Demolition Derby on Friday, Autocross on Saturday and a second Demolition Derby on Sunday.

**Thank you to all who participated in this year's fair in one way or another.**

**We'll see you next year for McLeod County Fair's 150th Anniversary celebration.**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR AUGUST 18-21, 2022!**

## McLeod County 4-H

### By the Numbers

210

Youth County  
Fair exhibitors  
in 2021

1600

Total project  
entries for the  
2021 County Fair

48

Youth livestock  
project  
exhibitors

30

Youth general  
project  
exhibitors

17

Purple Ribbon  
recipients in  
addition to 47 blue  
ribbons and 7 red  
ribbons

105

Screened  
volunteers  
available to help  
with 4-H activities  
at the Fair



## Health and Human Services: COVID-19 Response Update

We are currently facing a critical stage in the COVID-19 pandemic. The Delta variant is pushing case numbers up across the country, including right here in Minnesota. The Delta variant is significantly more infectious than the original strain of COVID-19 and is the dominant version circulating in Minnesota, causing 3 out of every 4 COVID-19 cases in our state. As children are back in school, we need to do everything we can to prevent a new surge in cases.

According to the CDC COVID Data Tracker, McLeod County has seen an increased rate of COVID-19. McLeod County has moved into the Centers for Disease Control and Preventions' (CDC) high community transmission rate for COVID-19 as positive cases, hospitalizations, and deaths are once again increasing in nearly all states, fueled by the B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant. The highest spread of cases and severe outcomes is happening in places with low vaccination rates. Although COVID-19 vaccination is the most effective prevention measure, vaccination rates across the United States have varied.

### **MCLEOD COUNTY TO DATE**

As of September 24, 2021, the county has had 5,196 COVID-19 cases since the start of the pandemic, and 65 deaths.

Currently, 61.3% of the county's population 16 years of age and over has received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and 50.4% of the county having completed their vaccinations.

### **RESIDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO GET VACCINATED**

Residents are encouraged to get vaccinated to minimize transmission. Vaccination can build a wall of protection around a large piece of the population, including children under 12, who have not had the opportunity to receive a shot. For those who are eligible (ages 12+) to get vaccinated but haven't yet done so, now is the time to do it. A full vaccination series provides strong protection against serious illness, hospitalization, and death.

Several places currently offer vaccines, including local clinics and pharmacies. McLeod County Health and Human Services continues to offer vaccination clinics for residents ages 18 and up. Visit McLeod County's website for registration information, [https://www.co.mcleod.mn.us/government/departments/public\\_health/index.php](https://www.co.mcleod.mn.us/government/departments/public_health/index.php).

*Berit Spors, Health and Human Services Director*

*Berit.Spors@co.mcleod.mn.us*

*320.864.1288*

# McLEOD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## Nathan Schmalz

nathan.schmalz@co.mcleod.mn.us



### DISTRICT ONE

19906 Cable Ave  
Lester Prairie, MN  
55354  
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## Paul Wright

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### DISTRICT THREE

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Hutchinson, MN  
55350  
320.587.7332

## Joe Nagel

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### DISTRICT FIVE

20849 196th Road  
Hutchinson, MN  
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## Doug Krueger

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### DISTRICT TWO

9525 County Road 2  
Glencoe, MN  
55336  
612.756.2855

## Daryl Luthens

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### DISTRICT FOUR

18964 Nickel Ave  
Hutchinson, MN  
55350  
612.281.4840

## Sheila Murphy

sheila.murphy@co.mcleod.mn.us



### COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

520 Chandler Ave N  
Glencoe, MN  
55336  
320.864.1320

## UPCOMING MEETING DATES

COUNTY BOARD MEETING | OCTOBER 5, 2021 | 9:00AM  
McLeod County Government Center

COUNTY BOARD MEETING | OCTOBER 19, 2021 | 9:00AM  
McLeod County Government Center

COUNTY BOARD MEETING | NOVEMBER 2, 2021 | 9:00 AM  
McLeod County Government Center

COUNTY BOARD MEETING | NOVEMBER 16, 2021 | 9:00 AM  
McLeod County Government Center

COUNTY BOARD MEETING\* | DECEMBER 13, 2021 | 4:30 PM  
McLeod County Government Center

TRUTH IN TAXATION\* | DECEMBER 13, 2021 | 6:00 PM  
McLeod County Government Center

COUNTY BOARD MEETING | DECEMBER 21, 2021 | 9:00 AM  
McLeod County Government Center



### MCLEOD COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER

520 CHANDLER AVENUE N  
GLENCOE, MINNESOTA 55350

\*Note date change from December 07, 2021