

NEWS AND INFORMATION

McLeod County Newsletter



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RECORDING A NEW ERA

A new McLeod County Recorder is in office

For the first time in nearly two decades, McLeod County has a new Recorder.

Deb Jensen officially took over as the 13th County Recorder in McLeod County history in early June, following the retirement of Lynn Ette Schrupp.



Taking over as the 13th McLeod County Recorder in County history is Deb Jensen (above).



Former McLeod County Recorder Lynn Ette Schrupp (below) retired June 3 after nearly 20 years.

Schrupp had worked in the Recorder's Office for 37 years and served as County Recorder since 2003. Despite the change in leadership, County residents likely haven't noticed a difference. Though she's new to the role, Jensen has worked in the County Recorder's Office since 1992, and has been Chief Deputy Recorder since Schrupp first took office.

"She's my right hand, and sometimes my left too," Schrupp said of Jensen.

"We're two months short of working together 30 years," Jensen said.

While the Recorder's Office may not receive as much publicity as other County

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A furry new recruit

Deputy Nick Draper and Archie join K9 unit

The McLeod County Sheriff's Office has a new recruit ready to serve the residents of McLeod County. But unlike most new recruits, this one has a tail.

Archie, a 1-year-old German Shepherd/Belgian Malinois mix, and his handler, Deputy Nick Draper, recently completed approximately 480 hours of training to be certified in narcotics detection and patrol. They've joined Kilo and his handler, Sergeant Brian Stiles, as members of the K9 unit.

This was Draper's first time training his own dog, and he called the K9 community a "tight-knit group."

In a change, the Sheriff's Office plans to keep two K9s on duty at a time, rather than just one. That means as Kilo nears retirement in the next two years (most dogs average 8-10 working years), the hunt for a new handler and dog will begin again soon.

With constant training, veterinary bills and equipment needed, funding for the dogs is important. Those who would like to support the K9 unit may do so by purchasing new challenge coins at the McLeod County Law Enforcement Center during business hours. Two coins featuring Kilo and Archie were donated by Gary Schott, in



Deputy Nick Draper and Archie are the newest team to join the McLeod County Sheriff's Office K9 unit. New challenge coins are available for purchase to raise money for the K9 program.

memory of Deb Schott. The cost is \$10 per coin, with all money going towards the K9 program.

"The coins are very unique, and it shows the support from the community," Draper said.

McLeod County Newsletter

Issue 10

McLeod County Newsletter is published quarterly. Visit www.tinyurl.com/3mruj54a to see past McLeod County newsletters or subscribe to have the newsletter delivered to your residence or business. The next issue of the newsletter is published September 28, 2022.

McLeod County was established in 1856.

Serving the cities of Biscay, Brownston, Glencoe, Hutchinson, Lester Prairie, Plato, Silver Lake, Stewart and Winsted; the townships of Acoma, Bergen, Collins, Glencoe, Hale, Hassan Valley, Helen, Hutchinson, Lynn, Penn, Rich Valley, Round Grove, Sumter and Winsted; and independent school districts #423 (Hutchinson), #424 (Lester Prairie), #465 (Litchfield), #2159 (Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart), #2365 (Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop), #2687 (Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted) and #2859 (Glencoe-Silver Lake).

Contact Information

Government Center

520 Chandler Ave. N. | Glencoe, MN 55336
p. 320-864-1328 | f. 320-864-1809
mcleod.administration@co.mcleod.mn.us

Fairgrounds/Parks and Recreation

840 Century Ave. S.W. | Hutchinson, MN 55350
p. 320-484-4334 | f. 320-864-1811
mcleod.parksandrecreation@co.mcleod.mn.us

Court Administration

830 11th St. E. | Glencoe, MN 55336
p. 320-864-1281 | f. 320-864-5905

Environmental Services

1065 Fifth Ave. S.E. | Hutchinson, MN 55350
p. 320-484-4300 | f. 320-484-4315
mcleod.solidwaste@co.mcleod.mn.us

Law Enforcement Center

801 10th St. E. | Glencoe, MN 55336
p. 320-864-3134 | f. 320-864-5920

Public Works/Highway

1400 Adams St. | Hutchinson, MN 55350
p. 320-484-4321 | f. 320-234-6971



Save time scheduling appointments with QLess

Planning a visit to the McLeod County Government Center? Save time with QLess, the County's virtual waiting line and appointment scheduler. Simply visit <https://tinyurl.com/b5yey8ds> to schedule your appointment in advance or check for same-day availability. Call 320-864-1426 for assistance.

Use QLess for your License Center, Assessor, Auditor-Treasurer, Recorder and Veterans Services needs. Once you've scheduled an appointment, QLess will send you live updates on your place in line. Appointments scheduled with QLess are prioritized over walk-in appointments.



Administrator's Message

See You at the Fair!

FREE

Did you hear the good news yet? Our favorite event of the year, the McLeod County Fair, is FREE admission this year! To celebrate the 150th Anniversary, and to encourage you, your family and friends to gather together, there is no cost for admission - this year only.

The McLeod County Fair is hosted and planned by the McLeod County Agricultural Association, and has been each year since 1872. Thank you, McLeod County Agricultural Association, for 150 years of dedication!

ADMINISTRATOR

Sheila Murphy



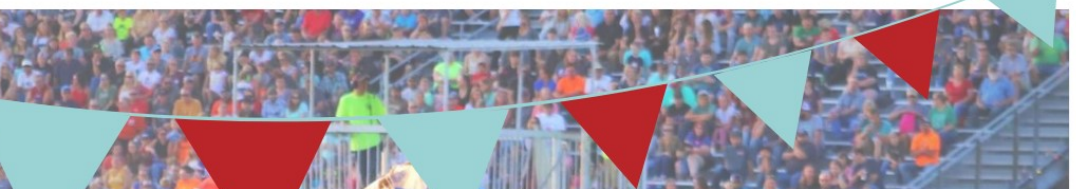
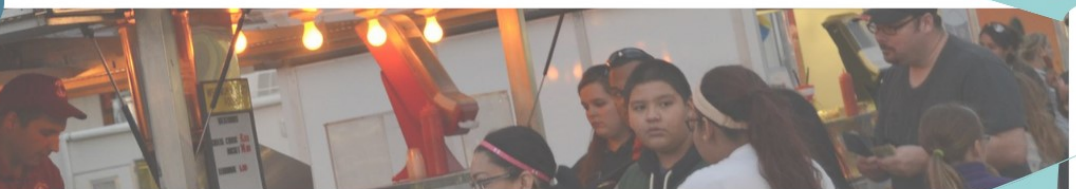
August 18 - 21

We hope you all enjoyed fishing opener, have been to a few baseball games, and successfully planted all of your crops & gardens. Summer in Minnesota - always a whirlwind, but worth every moment. We're already looking forward to the McLeod County Fair in August! To prepare, here's a list of favorite things everyone should try or see at least once:

- Cheese-covered, fresh-cut French fries
- The walking taco from the 4-H Cafe
- Xtreme Auto-Cross. Full-size to compact, they all fly!
- The DNR fish tanks
- The "new" Pavilion, especially at night
- Stand in line at the malt wagon, it's worth the wait
- Stop in to view everyone's exhibits, lots of talent in McLeod!

There's plenty of sunshine left for Summer 2022, get out and enjoy the McLeod County Parks and all of the wonderful recreation in your cities. Before we end, help us welcome Stephen Wiblemo to the County Administration team. If you have any ideas for future newsletters, email him at: stephen.wiblemo@co.mcleod.mn.us.

Stay safe and have a great summer!



2022 Election Update

Are you registered?

AUDITOR-TREASURER

Connie M. Kurtzweg



Primary Election Day is August 9, 2022.

General Election Day is November 8, 2022.

We encourage you to register before Election Day. It will save you time at the polling place. Pre-registration closes 21 days before the election (July 19). Voters not registered are able to register at their polling place on Election Day.

The following cities and townships will hold IN-PERSON elections at their precinct in 2022:

Brownton City, Glencoe City, Hutchinson City, Lester Prairie City, Silver Lake City, Stewart City, Winsted City, Acoma Township, Bergen Township, Collins Township, Glencoe Township, Hale Township, Hassan Valley Township, Helen Township, Hutchinson Township, Lynn Township, Penn Township, Rich Valley Township, Sumter Township and Winsted Township.

The following cities and townships will be MAIL-BALLOT precincts in 2022:

Biscay City, Plato City and Round Grove Township. (All registered voters will be mailed a ballot.)

How do I request an absentee ballot?

Visit <https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/ABRegistration/ABRegistrationStep1.aspx> to apply for an absentee ballot any time during the year, except the day of the election. Allow time for election officials and the postal service to mail your ballot. Your returned ballot must be postmarked and received by the county on or before Election Day. Your ballot will not count if it is received after the deadline.

How do I track my ballot?

Visit <https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/AbsenteeBallotStatus.aspx> to track the status of your mail or absentee ballot to confirm its status (mailed, received, accepted). You must provide the same ID number (Minnesota Driver's License/State ID or last four digits of Social Security Number) that you provided on your absentee ballot application. You are able to separately attempt using each number if you are unclear which number you provided.

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.

Helpful addresses

To verify your voter registration status

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

To register to vote online (requires an email address)

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

To register to vote by paper application

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

Election judges needed **WE WANT**

McLeod County is seeking election judges to assist 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. To be eligible to be an election judge, interested persons must be eligible to vote in the State of Minnesota, and be able to read, write and speak English. Election judges must not be a candidate in the election, must not be the spouse, parent, stepparent, child, stepchild, sibling or stepsibling of any election judge serving in the same precinct or any of the candidates in that election, and must not be living with a candidate. Interested persons must complete Absentee Ballot Board Training and Election Judge Training.

Persons interested in serving as an election judge must apply online, which includes completion of supplemental questions and completion of an Election Judge Interest Form at <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/mcleodcountymn>.



YOU

RECORDER from Page 1

offices, it provides an important function to taxpayers and residents. The County Recorder, also known as the Registrar of Titles, is the custodian of all legal records accepted and filed in McLeod County pertaining to areas such as notary commissions, passports, military discharges and, of course, real estate.

"We're actually the start of what makes the County go around," Schrupp said. "It's what gives the ownership to property owners, or taxpayers, in McLeod County. It starts here, then they assess the property, then they tax the property. But if we screw something up, everything's wrong. We're an important start of the right to ownership for the taxpayers."

"If we don't get your deed recorded, you can't take your mortgage out on your property, so you can't start construction on your new

McLeod County Recorders

The title was "Register of Deeds" until it was changed to "County Recorder" in 1976.

William S. Chapman	1857-1861
Eli W. Stocking	1861-1868
A.J. Snyder	1868-1871
L.W. Lester	1871-1879
S.P. Brown	1879-1891
Frank Kasper	1891-1909
Theodore Wosmek	1909-1915
Ed Churchill	1915-1946
Edward Stoeckman	1947-1967
Anne Stoeckman	1967-1985
Carmen Ostlie-Mulder	1985-2002
Lynn Ette Schrupp	2003-2022
Deb Jensen	2022-present

home," Jensen said. "It's a trickle-down effect."

Like many jobs, things have changed in the Recorder's Office since Schrupp and Jensen joined the County, particularly regarding how the

work is done. Technology has improved in the past three decades.

"When I started I had a typewriter," Jensen said. "I think they were just getting computers in the office, not everyone had them."

"We were writing everything in books, and we had a grantor and a grantee, or a mortgagor and a mortgagee, and each of those had books," Schrupp said. "So we had to write all of those in books, by hand, no matter how many documents we had. Now the documents are coming in electronically, we don't even see a paper document, and we record it and it goes right back."

Another recent change to the County Recorder job is that it's no longer an elective position. While County residents elected Schrupp five times – she ran unopposed in

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Flowers for Piepenburg

DNR grant will help with prairie enhancement

If you like to take time to stop and smell the flowers, the McLeod County Parks, and Soil & Water Conservation District have exciting news for you. Piepenburg Park, 7 miles north of Hutchinson on the southeast corner of Belle Lake, is about to bloom thanks to a \$7,050 Conservation Partners Legacy Grant through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Piepenburg Park, a 156-acre complex of upland forest and prairie habitat, is the largest of McLeod County's parks. It includes 41 camp sites, exceptional fishing opportunities, and it's home to multiple species of wildlife and flora. Thanks to the Legacy Grant received this year, visitors will also be able to enjoy nearly 20 acres of native grass and wildflowers.

Three separate areas of Piepenburg Park will be seeded with a Minnesota CP42 Premium Pollinator Mix that consists of Big Bluestem, Sideoats Grama, Canada Wild Rye, Little Bluestem, Prairie Dropseed, and more than 30 species of native flowers and forbs. The areas to be seeded include a 4.5-acre section of short, cool-season grasses on the northeast side of the park; an 11.5-acre section of similar grasses east of the park entrance; and a 3.5-acre section of native grasses west of the park entrance that needs inter-seeding to enhance the existing vegetation.



This map outlines the three areas of Piepenburg Park that will be enhanced by a seeding of native grasses and wildflowers this summer.



A similar prairie enhancement project was completed at Stahls Lake Park in 2019. This sign shows some of the different grass and forbs that will also be part of the restoration done at Piepenburg Park this summer.

The restoration will be completed in three phases ending in mid-July, and then park visitors will have to wait a year for the seeded areas to fully develop. In the meantime, park and wildflower lovers can travel a few miles south of Piepenburg Park to a 27-acre patch on the west side of Stahls Lake Park, where a similar restoration of native grasses was completed in 2019.

Piepenburg Park offers a bountiful amount of wildlife and provides pollinators habitat that will thrive from this enhancement. This project will improve the public recreation for shore fishing, hiking, scenery, and make a destination for the community to enjoy.





McLeod County Announcements

Upcoming office closures

McLeod County offices will be closed Monday, July 4, 2022, for Independence Day, and Monday, September 5, 2022, for Labor Day. Normal business hours will resume the following days.

Mortgage relief extension

The application period for HomeHelpMN has been extended until August 17, 2022, to allow more time for Minnesota homeowners to apply for assistance. The program provides federal assistance to homeowners who have fallen behind on their mortgage or other homeownership-related expenses due to factors related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Income limits apply. Visit www.homehelpmn.org for more information or to submit an application.

Building a better parks system for tomorrow

Help develop a plan for McLeod County's parks

McLeod County Parks provide an abundance of recreational activities to keep you moving and healthy throughout the year. Whether you enjoy swimming, hiking, fishing, camping, skiing or other outdoor fun, you can find it at our six rural parks.

Now, with the help of Mid-Minnesota Development Commission, McLeod County wants to make these gems even better with the development of a master park plan. The plan will help the County better focus its resources towards the improvement of park amenities. That's where you come in.

The County is seeking public input to identify the park projects people most desire. This will give the plan direction to help the County focus on the priorities that are most important to you.

Throughout July and August, watch the County website and Facebook pages for opportunities to share your feedback. The County is developing a survey and planning an open house to gather input, and we want to hear from you! Whether you're an avid park user, or someone who would like to visit more often, we want your input.

With your help, the McLeod County Master Parks Plan can be ready to put into action as soon as next year.

RECORDER from Page 5

all but her first campaign – Jensen is an appointee.

State law was amended in 2019 to allow county boards to change the recorder position to appointive if it became vacant. In February of this year, after Schrupp announced she would be retiring on June 3, the McLeod County Board of Commissioners unanimously changed the McLeod County Recorder position to an appointive one, rather than elective.

It was a decision that made sense for the duties of the job, according to County Attorney

Michael Junge.

"The reason you would do that is that although it's a very important function, it's an administrative rather than a policy-making (role)," Junge explained during a regular Board meeting back in January 2022.

During their May 17, 2022, Board meeting, the Commissioners appointed Jensen as the County's new Recorder, and she was officially sworn in June 6, 2022. She will finish out Schrupp's current term through the end of the year. From that point on, the Board will continue to appoint a McLeod County Recorder to

to the position for four-year terms.

As she begins her retirement years, Schrupp knows she's left the McLeod County Recorder's Office in good hands. And although it is different not having Schrupp around, Jensen and the rest of the staff in the Recorder's Office have learned a lot from their mentor and are prepared to carry on her work.

"All of the knowledge that she's given to all of us (has been helpful), but to me it's almost like she's been prepping me," Jensen said. "She's been very open about giving us all the information and tools to do the job."

McLEOD COUNTY**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS****Nathan Schmalz**

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Sheila Murphy

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**COUNTY
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Glencoe, MN
55336
320-863-1320

UPCOMING MEETING DATES**COUNTY BOARD MEETING | 9:00 A.M. JULY 5, 2022**

McLeod County Government Center

COUNTY BOARD MEETING | 9:00 A.M. JULY 19, 2022

McLeod County Government Center

COUNTY BOARD MEETING | 9:00 A.M. AUGUST 2, 2022

McLeod County Government Center

COUNTY BOARD MEETING | 9:00 A.M. AUGUST 16, 2022

McLeod County Government Center

COUNTY BOARD MEETING | 9:00 A.M. SEPTEMBER 6, 2022

McLeod County Government Center

COUNTY BOARD MEETING | 9:00 A.M. SEPTEMBER 20, 2022

McLeod County Government Center

**MCLEOD COUNTY
GOVERNMENT CENTER**

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