

# NEWS AND INFORMATION

*McLeod County Newsletter*



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# WILLIAM MAY MAKEOVER

## Mark Anderson is working hard to become an Eagle Scout

In William May Park, just southeast of Winsted, 17-year-old Mark Anderson has been hard at work. Since early September, he and his crew of volunteers have been painting, digging, cleaning and clearing as part of a project to restore William May and its 71.5-acre forest of maple trees.

Anderson planned the project, with cooperation from the McLeod County Parks Department, as part of his Eagle Scout project. Although he lives just north of Winsted, slightly over the border in Wright County, the park is a favorite of his from time spent there with his father.

"I've always enjoyed cross-country skiing, and we go



Boy Scout Mark Anderson removes old logs that had surrounded the parking lot at William May Park. The County plans to plant hedges in place of the logs next spring.

there every winter," Anderson said. "So I thought, how could we make it better?"

After speaking to the County about what was needed, he created a plan got to work.

Some of the rejuvenation the project includes is fresh

**See WILLIAM MAY Page 2**



### CANCER AWARENESS

The McLeod County Sheriff's Office is going pink this October  
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## WILLIAM MAY from Page 1

coats of paint on the water pump and shelter, filling in potholes where stumps had been removed, trimming trees, and cleaning up sticks and other debris.

Along the concrete base of the shelter were ledges as high as 13 inches, which created safety hazards and accessibility issues. Anderson's team hauled wheelbarrows of gravel up the hill to create a slope around the shelter to mitigate the problem.

Around the parking lot, the group removed old log borders to be replaced by County parks employees next spring. Anderson plans to clean up the William May Memorial stone and bathrooms near the parking area as well.



Mark Anderson shovels a gravel slope along the ledge of the William May Park shelter to fix a ledge that was a safety and accessibility concern.

While Anderson has done most of the project planning himself, the Parks Department has been pleased to assist him. They are grateful for the work he's put in to improve one of McLeod County's six county parks.

"As an Eagle Scout, I know the

time and effort that goes into an Eagle Scout project and I'm very pleased Mark chose to improve and beautify William May Park," said John Brunkhorst, County Public Works Director. "McLeod County and its parks users will benefit from his work for years to come."

While it's hard work, it's been a labor of love for Anderson, who is looking forward to enjoying the finished project, and seeing others enjoy it as well.

"One of the things that's so special about it is how close it is to the Luce Line (Trail)," he said about William May Park. "And it's still very natuery. It's vintage almost how it doesn't have all these features, and it's really nice that you can still go hiking and be at peace with yourself."

## McLeod County Newsletter

### Issue 11

McLeod County Newsletter is published quarterly. Visit [www.tinyurl.com/3mruj54a](http://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 December 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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

## NOVEMBER CHECKLIST:



ADMINISTRATOR

Sheila Murphy

### ✓ Your Vote Counts

The signs are up, the race is on. Your voice really does matter, especially in local elections. Election Day is **Tuesday, November 8, 2022**. Your in-person voting locations in McLeod County based on your precinct are:

- ACOMA TOWNSHIP: Acoma Town Hall, 23486 – 230th Street, Hutchinson
- BERGEN TOWNSHIP: Lester Prairie Sportsmen's Club, 3548 – 180th Street, Lester Prairie
- COLLINS TOWNSHIP and CITY OF STEWART: Stewart Community Center, 551 Prior Street, Stewart
- GLENCOE TOWNSHIP and CITY OF GLENCOE: Glencoe City Center, 1107 – 11th Street East, Glencoe
- HALE TOWNSHIP: Hale Town Hall, 9527 – 220th Street, Silver Lake
- HASSAN VALLEY TOWNSHIP: Hassan Valley Town Hall, 420 Ames Street, Biscay
- HELEN TOWNSHIP: Plato Fire Hall, 112 – 2nd Avenue Northeast, Plato
- HUTCHINSON TOWNSHIP: Gopher Campfire Club, 24718 County Road 7, Hutchinson
- LYNN TOWNSHIP: Lynn Town Hall, 14995 County Road 7, Hutchinson
- PENN TOWNSHIP: Penn Town Hall, 15989 – 40th Street, Brownton
- RICH VALLEY TOWNSHIP: Rich Valley Town Hall, 16543 Ideal Avenue, Glencoe
- SUMTER TOWNSHIP & CITY OF BROWNTON: Brownton Community Center, 310 – 2nd Street North, Brownton
- WINSTED TOWNSHIP: Winsted Fire Hall, 431 – 6th Street South, Winsted
- CITY OF HUTCHINSON PRECINCT 1: Ridgewater College, 2 Century Avenue Southeast, Hutchinson
- CITY OF HUTCHINSON PRECINCT 2: Days Inn, 1000 Highway 7 West, Hutchinson
- CITY OF HUTCHINSON PRECINCT 3: Recreation Center, 900 Harrington Street, Hutchinson
- CITY OF LESTER PRAIRIE: Lester Prairie City Hall, 37 Juniper Street, Lester Prairie
- CITY OF SILVER LAKE: Silver Lake Auditorium, 320 Main Street West, Silver Lake
- CITY OF WINSTED: Winsted City Hall, 201 – 1st Street North, Winsted
- CITY OF BISCAY, CITY OF PLATO & ROUND GROVE TOWNSHIP: Mail-in ballot precincts only

### ✓ Honor Veterans

**Veterans Day is Friday, November 11, 2022.**

Watch our Veteran Services county webpage at [www.mcleodcountymn.gov](http://www.mcleodcountymn.gov) for upcoming Veterans Day area event information, along with listings on local media. Please join us in honoring all who have served, and continue to serve; thank you, Veterans.



*Thank You!*

An extra THANK YOU to McLeod County's Veteran Service Officers, Jim Lauer and Cassandra Carrigan. Thank you for all you do to support our community Veterans, and, thank you for your service!

### ✓ Give Thanks

Reach out to family, friends, and those in need this season. Wishing a safe and happy Fall season to all of our employees and citizens of McLeod County!

# 2022 Election Update

## How to absentee vote

### AUDITOR-TREASURER

Connie M. Kurtzweg



**General Election Day is November 8, 2022.  
Polls are open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

While many people choose to vote in-person on Election Day, some voters may opt to vote early by absentee ballot or have questions about the absentee ballot process. Here is information about absentee voting and what happens behind the scenes.

#### Who can vote by absentee ballot and when?

Minnesota state law provides that all eligible voters can vote early by absentee ballot at any election. Absentee voting for the 2022 General Election began September 23, 2022.

#### Where can I absentee vote?

All McLeod County voters may absentee vote 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the McLeod County Government Center, 520 Chandler Avenue North, Glencoe. City of Hutchinson precincts P1-P3 may also absentee vote 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the Hutchinson City Center, 111 Hassan Street Southeast, Hutchinson.

#### 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. You can also request by paper application to be placed on a recurring cycle and have an absentee ballot application automatically mailed to you before each 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.

#### What happens after my absentee ballot is returned?

After your absentee ballot is received by the McLeod County Auditor-Treasurer's Office, it is reviewed by an absentee ballot board to check the signature envelope was filled out correctly. Each envelope is reviewed by at least two members of the board.

#### How does the ballot board decide if a ballot is accepted?

They ensure that the name, address and ID match the data on the absentee application, that the voter signed the envelope, and the witness portion is complete. The board also ensures the voter is registered or has included a properly completed voter registration application, and that the voter hasn't already voted in the election.



# 2022 Election Update

## What happens after my absentee ballot is accepted?

Accepted ballots are stored in a secure location until seven days before the election, when the processing of the ballots may begin.

## When are absentee ballots counted?

Absentee ballots may be inserted into ballot tabulators seven days before Election Day. No totals are produced until polling places close at 8:00 p.m. on election night.

## 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/>

### To track your ballot:

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

## What happens if my absentee ballot is rejected?

If your ballot is rejected before November 3, you will be mailed a replacement ballot along with an explanation of why your ballot was rejected. If your ballot is rejected within five days of Election Day, election officials will attempt to contact you to let you know.

## How do you verify people can't vote twice?

All ballots are tracked individually and linked to a voter in Minnesota's voter registration database. Once a ballot is accepted, if that voter tries to vote again, the election official or election judge will see that the voter has an accepted ballot. Lists in the polling place are even updated throughout Election Day as ballots are accepted.

## Where can I find more information?

You can find the Absentee Voting Administrative Guide online at <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/media/5058/absentee-voting-administration-guide.pdf> for more details about the absentee ballot process.

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.



## McLeod County Announcements

### Upcoming office closures

McLeod County offices will be closed on the following days:

- Friday, November 11, 2022, for Veterans Day
- Thursday and Friday, November 24-25, 2022, for Thanksgiving
- Monday, December 26, 2022, for Christmas

Normal office hours will resume the following business days.

### October 18 Board meeting moved to Winsted

The McLeod County Board of Commissioners meeting at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, October 18, 2022, has been moved to the Winsted City Hall Council Chambers, 201 First Street North, Winsted, Minnesota.

### County parks close gates on October 24

McLeod County campgrounds officially close for the season Monday, October 24. While campgrounds and park gates are closed, the parks remain open throughout the winter months for public hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and other activities. The six county parks include: Buffalo Creek Park, Swan Lake Park, William May Park, Stahl's Lake Park, Lake Marion Regional Park, and Piepenburg Regional Park. Online reservations for the 2023 camping season will be available at <https://mcleodcounty.perfectmind.com/> starting on March 1, 2023.

# What is Truth in Taxation?

Proposed levies from all taxing authorities (county, cities, townships, school districts, watersheds, economic development authorities, housing redevelopment authorities, and so on) are due to the Auditor-Treasurer by September 30. These are used to calculate the Proposed Taxes Payable for the following year.

Proposed Tax Statements are mailed to taxpayers in November. Generally, McLeod County statements are in the mail just before Thanksgiving.

Certain taxing authorities with levying input to the taxes are required to hold a *Truth-in-Taxation* meeting, during which their budgets and levies are discussed and public input is received. The meeting agenda does not include discussion relating to property values.

The Proposed Tax Statement lists the meeting information (dates and times) for those required meetings. Townships and certain special taxing districts are not required to hold a public meeting.

The McLeod County Truth-in-Taxation meeting is at 6 p.m. Thursday, December 8, 2022 at the McLeod County Government Center, 520 Chandler Avenue North, Glencoe, Minnesota.

The County Auditor is not required to coordinate a taxing authority's selection of its meeting day to prevent a conflict with

a meeting of another taxing authority

### New Truth in Taxation supplement for 2023

State legislators have created a supplemental statement with parcel-specific data to be mailed along with the 2023 Proposed Tax Statement. This separate document must include a list of various levy and budget details for the county and school district the parcel is within, and the percent change in the proposed levy by jurisdiction.

If the parcel is located within a city or township with a population of at least 500, the same information must also be included for that taxing authority.

McLeod County will be combining some districts with common taxing authorities, and we will have 28 styles of the Truth in Taxation supplement document. There will be one mailed behind each parcel as required by statute.

If you have questions on the data within the Truth in Taxation supplement document, please refer to the 2023 Proposed Tax Statement and contact the taxing authority about its data. McLeod County is only able to answer questions about McLeod County data.

Minnesota Statutes 275.065, Subdivision 3 dictates the mandatory supplemental information requirements.



# Learning to be Leaders with McLeod County 4-H

For more than a century, McLeod County 4-H clubs have brought students and volunteers together to grow generations of outstanding citizens. When students graduate from 4-H, they take away the skills and lessons learned to make their communities better places to live.

According to a study by Tufts University, students engaged in 4-H are twice as likely to get better grades in school and attend college, and females are twice as likely to pursue science careers. The study also found that youth involved in 4-H are 41% less likely to engage in risky behaviors, 25% more likely to positively contribute to their families and communities, and 2.3 times more likely to exercise and be physically active.

It's easy to see why 4-H means so much to McLeod County. That's why Board Chair Doug Krueger joined counties around the country in proclaiming October 2-8, 2022, as 4-H Week throughout McLeod County.



Commissioners Nathan Schmalz, Joe Nagel, Doug Krueger and Paul Wright stand with 4-H'ers Shelby Swanson, McKenna Wright, Shelby Lang and Julia Quast, and 4-H Extension Educator Darcy Cole.

"In McLeod County, they do an excellent job, and we're very proud of our 4-H'ers," he said.

"A big part of (4-H) is community service and having pride and contributing to those around you," said Darcy Cole, Extension Educator.

The Board of Commissioners encourage everyone to recognize the accomplishments of local 4-H clubs, whether it be the many ribbons and awards earned this past year, or the numerous other activities and programs they use to make an impact in the places they live.



McLeod County 4-H had 43 youth livestock project exhibitors and 41 youth static project exhibitors at the State Fair this year, and they earned a combined 28 purple ribbons, 53 blue ribbons, and many more acknowledgments.

**BY THE  
NUMBERS**

**103**

**SCREENED  
VOLUNTEERS DONATED**

**11,134**

**HOURS OF SERVICE**

**\$63,625**

**IN PREMIUM SALES  
AND DONATIONS  
RAISED BY**

**56**

**PARTICIPANTS  
AT THE ANNUAL  
LIVESTOCK AUCTION**

**283**

**CLUB MEMBERS  
PARTICIPATED IN**

**9**

**COMMUNITY CLUBS,  
PLUS AN ADDITIONAL**

**756**

**AFTER-SCHOOL AND  
SUMMER PROGRAM  
PARTICIPANTS**

# Please drive safely this harvest season

It's harvest season in Minnesota, and that means motorists need to be aware of farm equipment moving to and from the fields and transporting crops.

Farm equipment is large and heavy, making it hard for operators to accelerate, slow down and stop. The machines also make wide turns and sometimes cross over the centerline.

They can create large blind spots, making it difficult for operators to see approaching vehicles. All these factors require all drivers to exercise extra caution this time of year.

According to a press release this past spring from the Minnesota Department of Transportation, there had been 374 crashes involving farm equipment since 2019,



## SHARE THE ROAD

resulting in eight deaths and 133 injuries. Inattentive driving and speed were the biggest contributing factors in those crashes.

Here are some reminders to help farm equipment operators and motorists have a safe harvest season.

### Farm Equipment Operators:

- Use lights and flashers to make equipment more visible.

- Use slow-moving vehicle markers on equipment, traveling less than 30 mph
- Consider using a follow vehicle when moving equipment, especially at night.
- Wear seat belts.
- Park the phone and put the distractions away.

### Motorists:

- Watch for falling debris or debris in the road.
- Don't veer for debris, it could result in a head-on collision or a driver going into a ditch.
- Wait for a safe opportunity to pass. Farm equipment operators often make wide left turns, which can indicate that the operator is moving right and it is safe to pass.
- Wear seat belts.
- Drive with headlights on.
- Park the phone and put the distractions away.

# Manufacturing Month

October is Manufacturing Month throughout McLeod County. Check out these statistics to help us recognize all that manufacturers do for our communities and residents.

**\$23.4 billion**

Workers took home \$23.4 billion in wages from Minnesota manufacturing jobs in 2021, and in McLeod County manufacturing jobs reported an average annual wage of \$68,414, which is 36% more than the County's overall average annual wage.

Manufacturing added \$56 billion to Minnesota's economy in 2021, the second largest contribution to the state's gross domestic product by any industry. That includes \$22 billion in exports.

**\$56 billion**

**29.4%**

McLeod County has a strong manufacturing industry that provided 4,530 jobs in 2021, representing 29.4% of the total jobs in the County. Throughout the state there are more than 310,000 manufacturing jobs.



# GOING PINK IN OCTOBER

The McLeod County Sheriff's Office hopes to raise awareness and money for cancer with its Pink Patch Project

Cancer touches millions of lives each year. According to the American Cancer Society, in 2022 alone it is expected there will be 1.9 million new cancer cases and 609,360 deaths due to cancer. That's about 1,670 deaths a day.

**The World Health Organization says breast cancer is the most common form of cancer among women worldwide. The National Breast Cancer Foundation reports that 1 in 8 women in the United States will develop breast cancer in her lifetime, and approximately 43,550 women will die from breast cancer in the U.S. this year.**

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and once again the McLeod County Sheriff's Office is pleased to join the Pink Patch Project, a public awareness campaign to bring attention to the fight against cancer.

Throughout the month of October, McLeod County deputies may wear the pink patches on their uniforms. The goal is to stimulate conversation and encourage public awareness about the



McLeod County Sheriff Tim Langenfeld and Deputy Angie Malz show off the colorful patches they wore last year as part of the Pink Patch Project for National Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October.

importance of early cancer detection and the ongoing fight against the disease.

**The pink patches are also on sale to members of the public who wish to show their support. The cost is \$10 cash, check or money order, and they may be purchased at the McLeod County Sheriff's Office, 801 10th Street East, Glencoe, Minnesota. The limit is two patches per person.**

If you can't make it to the Sheriff's Office to buy a patch in person, you can have it mailed to you for an extra \$1 fee. Simply email Deputy Angie Malz at [angie.malz@co.mcleod.mn.us](mailto:angie.malz@co.mcleod.mn.us), or call her at 320-864-1726

to purchase a patch

All money raised through the sale of patches will be donated to McLeod County Relay for Life. Last year, the Sheriff's Office raised \$1,486.00 through the Pink Patch Project, and it hopes to match or exceed that number again. So please join us in spreading awareness about the fight against cancer.

If you would like to learn more about treatment, prevention or early detection of cancer, visit the American Cancer Society's webpage at [cancer.org](https://www.cancer.org).

**CANCER.ORG**

# McLEOD COUNTY

# BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## Nathan Schmalz

nathan.schmalz@co.mcleod.mn.us



### DISTRICT ONE

19906 Cable Ave  
Lester Prairie, MN 55354  
320-282-9647

## Paul Wright

paul.wright@co.mcleod.mn.us



### DISTRICT THREE

15215 County Road 7  
Hutchinson, MN  
55350  
320-587-7332

## Joe Nagel

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### DISTRICT FIVE

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55350  
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## Doug Krueger

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### DISTRICT TWO

9525 County Road 2  
Glencoe, MN  
55336  
612-756-2855

## Daryl Luthens

daryl.luthens@co.mcleod.mn.us



### DISTRICT FOUR

18964 Nickel Ave  
Hutchinson, MN  
55350  
612-281-4840

## Sheila Murphy

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### COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

520 Chandler Ave N  
Glencoe, MN  
55336  
320-863-1320

## UPCOMING MEETING DATES

COUNTY BOARD MEETING | 9:00 A.M. OCTOBER 4, 2022  
McLeod County Government Center

COUNTY BOARD MEETING | 9:00 A.M. OCTOBER 18, 2022  
Winsted City Hall, 201 First Street North, Winsted

COUNTY BOARD MEETING | 9:00 A.M. NOVEMBER 1, 2022  
McLeod County Government Center

COUNTY BOARD MEETING | 9:00 A.M. NOVEMBER 15, 2022  
McLeod County Government Center

COUNTY BOARD MEETING | 4:30 P.M. DECEMBER 8, 2022  
McLeod County Government Center

COUNTY BOARD MEETING | 9:00 A.M. DECEMBER 20, 2022  
McLeod County Government Center

COUNTY BOARD MEETING | 9:00 A.M. DECEMBER 27, 2022  
McLeod County Government Center



### MCLEOD COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER

520 CHANDLER AVENUE N  
GLENCOE, MINNESOTA 55350