

NEWS AND INFORMATION

McLeod County Newsletter



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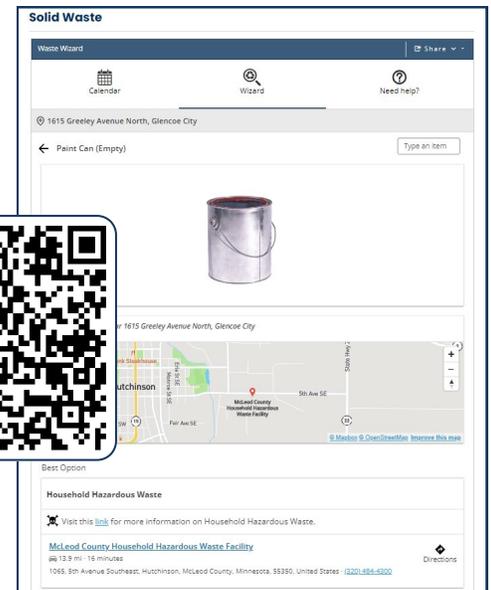
Recycling made easy with ReCollect

New tool helps residents dispose of household waste properly

Did you know that Styrofoam packaging is recyclable, or that you shouldn't throw old batteries in your trash? Do you know what to do with light bulbs after they've burned out, or car seats when your children have outgrown them?

When it comes to recycling and household waste, most people want to do the right thing by disposing of items properly, but they may not know when, where or how to do so. To help remove some of these barriers and encourage more people to "do the right thing," McLeod County Environmental Services has a new tool called ReCollect.

There are two ways to use ReCollect. You can



The new ReCollect recycling wizard for McLeod County will tell you when, where and how to properly dispose of your household waste. Scan the QR code to visit the website.

download the "McLeod Enviro App" on your smart devices through Google Play and Apple's App Store, or visit the Solid Waste page at www.mcleodcountymn.gov or scan the QR code above to be taken to the County's website.

Once you have the tool, you

See RECOLLECT Page 5

Be prepared with CodeRED

Stay safe and informed with County emergency notifications

Severe Weather Awareness Week in Minnesota is April 8-12, and it's a good time for everyone to make sure they'll be ready if a natural disaster or other emergency happens where they live.

One of the most important events during Severe Weather Awareness Week are the two annual statewide tornado drills. This year these drills are scheduled for **1:45 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. on Thursday, April 11, 2024.**

Outdoor sirens will sound in a simulated tornado warning. The first drill is intended for institutions and businesses.

The evening drill is intended for second shift workers and families at home.

Make sure you have a plan no matter where you are. If you'd like ideas, you can visit tinyurl.com/2023tornado for a preparedness list provided by Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Another great way to be prepared is to sign up for McLeod County's emergency notification system, CodeRED. This serves as the County's outreach program for residents and response personnel. It can send telephone calls, text

Scan this QR code to learn more and sign up for CodeRED, McLeod County's emergency notification system.



messages, emails and social media messages. The County uses it to notify residents regarding hazardous materials, floods, drinking water emergencies, and other incidents that may threaten communities.

To sign up for CodeRED, visit tinyurl.com/mcleodred or scan the QR code above.

McLeod County News and Information

Issue 14

McLeod County News and Information 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 tentatively scheduled to be published June 28, 2024.

McLeod County was established in 1856.

Serving the cities of Biscay, Brownton, 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

Court Administration

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

Law Enforcement Center

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

Fairgrounds/Parks and Recreation

840 Century Ave. S.W. | Hutchinson, MN 55350
p. 320-484-4334 | f. 320-864-1811

Environmental Services

1065 Fifth Ave. S.E. | Hutchinson, MN 55350
p. 320-484-4300 | f. 320-484-4315

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

McLeod County's American Rescue Plan Act dollars were put to work

County, city, and township officials have been busy allocating and distributing funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) COVID relief since 2021. The final year to determine spending has arrived; all ARPA dollars must be allocated by the end of 2024. Spending on the allocations must be completed no later than December 31, 2026. Funds expended must meet the requirements issued by the U.S. Department of Treasury's Final Rule (2022).

McLeod County has met with its local governments to help understand the guidelines, plan spending, and support mutual effectiveness with these dollars. We are proud to see they have done excellent work in their communities with the funding.

McLeod County was awarded approximately \$6.9 million dollars from the program. In addition, the County was allocated approximately \$50,000 in Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Funds (LATCF) specified to be used for governmental purposes.

Several significant projects have been either implemented or completed with these funds:

ARMER Radios - Over \$1.8 million dollars for upgraded emergency radios for local public safety agencies.

McLeod County Fairgrounds and Parks - \$2.65 million for the improvement of County parks and Fairgrounds. Over \$17,000 was identified for the McLeod County Parks Plan, and \$1 million was allocated to the construction of a new facility at the Fairgrounds that is in progress.

Glencoe Area Transportation Services (GATS) - \$1 million was put toward the costs of constructing a public works/highway facility in Glencoe, which was completed in 2023.

McLeod County Agricultural Association - \$500,000 to the Agricultural Association; the majority being allocated toward offsetting McLeod County Fair admission costs to create an event that all McLeod County citizens can participate in with no entry fee.

McLeod County Housing and Redevelopment (HRA) - \$500,000 toward existing housing updates; projects have begun on the housing facilities including necessary upgrades for heating, cooling, roofing and windows.

Other impacts include water improvement projects (Buffalo Creek Watershed District, Lake Marion Improvement Project, County Ditch 11), Adult Training and Habilitation Center facility improvements, an air unit replacement at the Courthouse, and signage for vaccination clinics.

The McLeod County Board agendas include upcoming news regarding expenditures; please contact sheila.murphy@mcleodcountymn.gov with questions.

ADMINISTRATOR

Sheila Murphy



The Glencoe Area Transportation Services (GATS) facility is one of the many projects supported with funds McLeod County received from the American Rescue Plan Act.

Minnesota Veteran Benefits

Achieving success through increasing support for all Minnesota Veterans



VETERAN SERVICES

Cassandra Carrigan

Minnesota is always looking for ways to be a more "Veteran Friendly State," and recent changes in state benefits show that commitment to honoring those who have served.

The state recently opened three Veterans Homes in Preston, Montevideo and Bemidji. Combined with Homes in Minneapolis, Hastings, Luverne, Fergus Falls and Silver Bay, Minnesota's eight State Veterans Homes is second in the nation behind only Texas.

Beginning on January 1, 2024, Veterans who are rated 100% permanent and total (P&T) are exempt from vehicle registration fees, vehicle title fees, and driver's license and ID fees. They must show the DMV proof of their P&T service-connected disability to receive these benefits. Additionally, effective July 1, 2024, these same P&T Veterans will be exempt from motor vehicle sales taxes.



Veterans should learn how to take advantage of new state benefits in Minnesota.

In Memorial Affairs, a new State Veterans Cemetery was dedicated on August 19, 2023, in Redwood Falls, increasing the number of State Veterans Cemeteries to four. The other three are in Little Falls, Preston and Duluth. These cemeteries provide more than 10,000 Veterans and their dependents dignified and compassionate burial options, often one of the only benefits that many Veterans request.

There are more changes to State Veteran benefits. The Minnesota GI Bill increased the lifetime cap to \$15,000, with a \$5,000 annual cap. The

State Soldiers Assistance Program increased the allowed income and asset limits for the annual optical and dental vouchers. The vouchers themselves also increased to \$600 (optical) and \$1,500 (dental), with an additional lifetime benefit of \$2,500 for extractions in preparation of dentures, and \$4,000 for dentures.

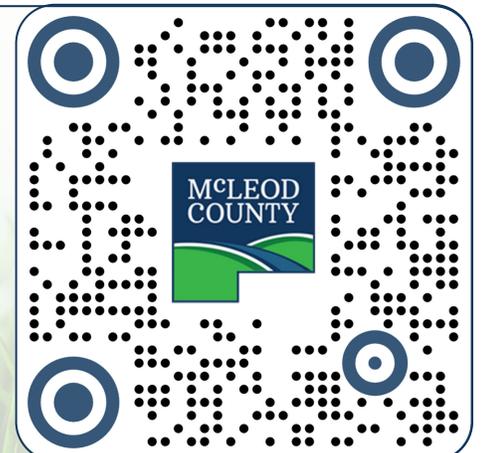
One benefit that is ending on June 30, 2024, is the Post-9/11 Veteran Service Bonus, which is available to Veterans or certain surviving dependents of Veterans who served on active-duty any time between September 11, 2001, to August 30, 2021. There are three tiers of this bonus: \$600, \$1,200 and \$2,000.

Veterans interested in learning more about benefits should call McLeod County Veteran Services at 320-864-1268, or email mcleod.veterans@mcleodcountymn.gov to set up an appointment.

Follow the path to meaningful work

Like the weather, life also changes seasons. If you or someone you know is looking for a new career, McLeod County has a variety of opportunities for people to grow with a role in public service.

Scan the QR code or visit www.mcleodcountymn.org.



Saturday Hours

The McLeod County Household Hazardous Waste Facility is tentatively scheduled to be open 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on the following Saturdays in 2024:

- April 6
- May 4
- June 1
- July 13
- August 3
- September 7
- October 5
- November 2
- December 7

Curbside Appliance and Electronic Collection

The following curbside appliance and electronic collection events are tentatively scheduled:

- **May 8** — City of Glencoe
- **May 15** — City of Plato, and Helen and Glencoe Townships
- **May 22** — City of Lester Prairie and Bergen Township
- **September 11** — City of Winsted and Winsted Township
- **September 18** — City of Brownton, and Sumter, Penn and Hassan Valley Townships
- **September 25** — City of Stewart, and Collins, Round Grove, and Lynn Townships
- **October 2** — City of Silver Lake, and Hale, Acoma and Hutchinson Townships
- **October 9** — City of Glencoe

RSVP and pre-payment is required. Visit the Solid Waste Events page at www.mcleodcountymn.gov for more information on pricing.

With ReCollect calendar, never miss recycling day

RECOLLECT from Page 1

can look up items and ReCollect will tell you when, where and how to properly dispose of them. If you have old paint cans, take them to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility. If you have broken plastic Easter eggs, put them in the trash not the recycling bin. Hutchinson residents can also use the app to determine what does and does not belong in their organic bin.

ReCollect’s calendar can also help you keep track of events such as your recycling collection day and Saturday hours at the HHW Facility. Just enter your home address and sign up to receive notifications to



The “McLeod Enviro App” is available for smart devices on Google Play and Apple’s App Store.

never miss another day.

Knowledge is power, and with ReCollect, McLeod County wants to empower residents to make good choices when disposing of their recyclables and household waste.

What materials are compostable?

Learn more at hutchinsonmn.gov/composting

CONSTRUCTION

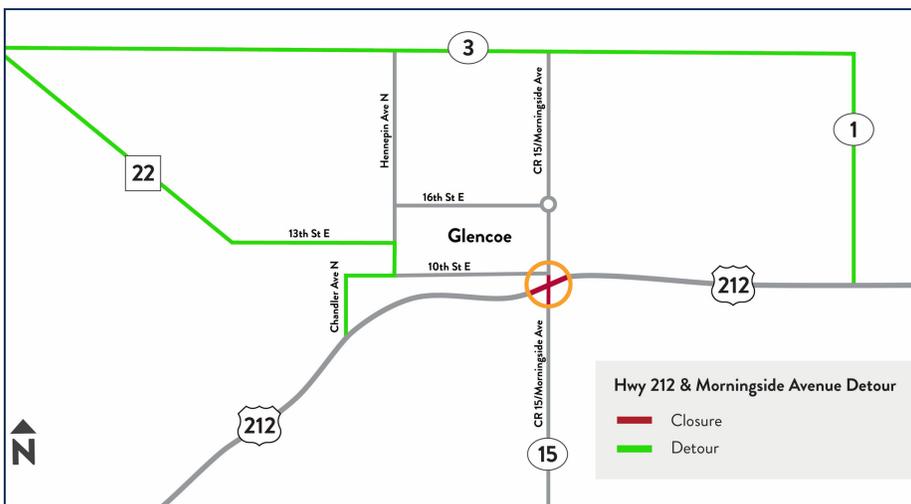
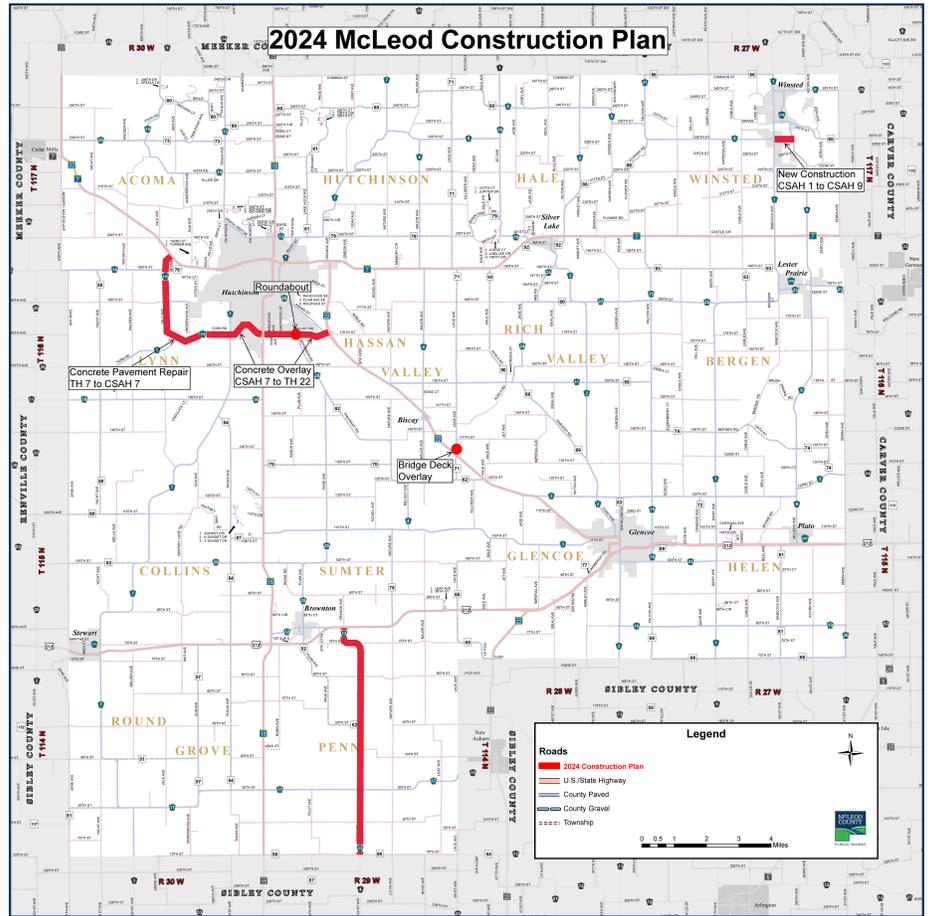
IN McLEOD

Spring is here and it will be summer before we know it. In Minnesota that means construction season, and the McLeod County Public Works Department has several highway projects planned for 2024.

Included in this year's plan is significant work on the west and south ends of Hutchinson, continued work on a project started last year near Winsted, one bridge overlay, and another overlay on a road south east of Brownton.

Here are the details on each planned project:

- Concrete pavement repair on County State-Aid Highway (CSAH) 115 from CSAH 7 to State Highway 7
- Concrete overlay on CSAH 115 from CSAH 7 to State Highway 22
- Construction of a roundabout at the intersection of CSAH 115 and CSAH 25, also known as Airport Road and Jefferson Street
- Bituminous overlay on CSAH 13 from U.S. Highway 212 to the Sibley County line
- County Road (CR) 71 bridge deck overlay over the South Fork of the Crow River, south of Biscay near the landfill
- CR 5 extension from CSAH 1 to CSAH 9, south of Winsted



It's not just the County's Public Works Department with projects scheduled this summer. The Minnesota Department of Transportation is constructing a single-lane roundabout at the intersection of U.S. Highway 212 and CR 15 (Morningside Avenue) in Glencoe.

Work is scheduled to begin on May 6, 2024, and will require a detour (see map). To track the progress of this project, visit www.dot.state.mn.us.



McLeod County Announcements

Upcoming office closures

McLeod County offices will be closed for:

Memorial Day on Monday, **May 27, 2024**

Juneteenth on Wednesday, **June 19, 2024**

Normal hours of operation will resume the following business day.

Primary Election results

McLeod County residents voted in their first election of 2024, the Presidential Nomination Primary, on Tuesday, March 5.

McLeod had 2,945 voters cast ballots out of 23,278 registered voters, a turnout of 12.65%.

Republican Donald Trump received 1,821 votes, which was the most votes of any candidate across all parties in McLeod County. He captured 78.36% of McLeod's Republican votes, while Nikki Haley took second in the Republican primary with 444 votes, or 19.10%.

President Joe Biden led the way in the McLeod County Democratic primary with 445 votes, which was 75.30% of McLeod DFL votes. Dean Phillips earned 69 votes, or 11.68%, while 49 voters were "Uncommitted," or 8.29%.

Krystal Gabel received eight votes to lead the Legal Marijuana Now primary.

Visit sos.state.mn.us to see full election results.

community spotlight

The Perfect Mix: Form-A-Feed + Stewart

Custom solutions and core values lead to 50 years of success

by Buzz Nelson, and the third-generation of Nelsons continue to serve in leadership roles.

Although it was family-founded, it is employee-owned today.

Not everyone knows Stewart, Minnesota, as a national hub of ag industry. But then again, not everyone knows Form-A-Feed.

"Why we are so unique, we feel around here, is we support ag," said Eric Nelson, one of the third-generation of Nelsons still leading Form-A-Feed. "That can't be any more important. Everything we do is ag related."

What started as a small feed mill in 1973 now distributes a vast range of agricultural products to 24 states nationwide. Products range from livestock feed to lick tubs, and if they don't already have what you're looking for, they can customize an order to your specific needs.

Stewart is a small community, but that hasn't stopped Form-A-Feed from growing. Since 2008, Form-A-Feed has grown by adding eight companies.

"We are proud of the diversity (of our products), said Jarvis Haugeberg, Executive Vice President. "As an example, we take black soldier flies that come to us from Columbia and Costa Rica, and we put them in little bags that people sell on Amazon from New Jersey.

"We absolutely enjoy where we are with our headquarters in Stewart, Minnesota, McLeod County," said Nelson.

"We've taken some of the ingredients we have in our feed mill and we've put them together and they wound up on a golf course in Florida where they're going to play the PGA Tournament," Haugeberg added. "A lot of people don't realize the things we do."

As it celebrates its 50th anniversary, it attributes much of its success to six core values: family, respect, professionalism, integrity, innovation, and quality. And while Form-A-Feed is proud of its history and heritage, it is more concerned with where it's going than where it's been.

Form-A-Feed was founded

"What we're really looking forward to is our future," Haugeberg said. "That's one of the things that makes it exciting."

McLEOD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

McLeod County Government Center, 520 Chandler Ave N, Glencoe, MN 55336

Nathan Schmalz

nathan.schmalz@mcleodcountymn.gov
320-282-9647 — Lester Prairie, MN



DISTRICT ONE
City of Lester Prairie
City of Silver Lake
City of Winsted
Bergen Township
Hale Township
Winsted Township

Paul Wright

paul.wright@mcleodcountymn.gov
320-587-7332 — Hutchinson, MN



DISTRICT THREE
City of Hutchinson (SW)
City of Stewart
Collins Township
Lynn Township
Penn Township
Round Grove Township

Joe Nagel

joseph.nagel@mcleodcountymn.gov
320-296-1739 — Hutchinson, MN



DISTRICT FIVE
City of Hutchinson (NW)
Acoma Township
Hutchinson Township

Doug Krueger

doug.krueger@mcleodcountymn.gov
612-756-2855 — Glencoe, MN



DISTRICT TWO
City of Glencoe
City of Plato
Glencoe Township
Helen Township

Daryl Luthens

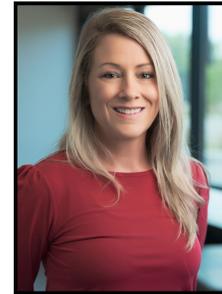
daryl.luthens@mcleodcountymn.gov
612-281-4840 — Hutchinson, MN



DISTRICT FOUR
City of Biscay
City of Brownton
City of Hutchinson (NE)
City of Hutchinson (SE)
Hassan Valley Township
Rich Valley Township
Sumter Township

Sheila Murphy

sheila.murphy@mcleodcountymn.gov
320-864-1320



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
McLeod County
Government Center
520 Chandler Ave N
Glencoe, MN 55336

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

COUNTY BOARD MEETING | 9:00 A.M. APRIL 2, 2024

McLeod County Government Center

COUNTY BOARD MEETING | 9:00 A.M. APRIL 16, 2024

McLeod County Government Center

COUNTY BOARD WORKSHOP | 9:00 A.M. APRIL 30, 2024

McLeod County Government Center

COUNTY BOARD MEETING | 9:00 A.M. MAY 7, 2024

McLeod County Government Center

COUNTY BOARD MEETING | 9:00 A.M. MAY 21, 2024

McLeod County Government Center

COUNTY BOARD WORKSHOP | 9:00 A.M. JUNE 4, 2024

McLeod County Government Center

COUNTY BOARD MEETING | 4:30 P.M. JUNE 18, 2024

McLeod County Government Center

BOARD OF APPEAL AND EQUALIZATION | 6:00 P.M. JUNE 18, 2024

McLeod County Government Center



MCLEOD COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER

520 CHANDLER AVENUE NORTH
GLENCOE, MINNESOTA 55336