

## News and Highlights

Anne Lindseth

Director of Beltrami County Health & Human Services

### Housing Trust Fund

Addressing Housing Needs in Beltrami County

Year one of the Beltrami County Housing Trust Fund has laid the groundwork for impactful housing solutions. With initial funding allocations complete and development projects under review, Beltrami County Housing Trust Fund allocated funds totaling \$49,500 to two community housing programs aimed at providing safe and stable housing for individuals and families in Beltrami County.

**Society of St. Vincent de Paul – Hope in Bemidji Program:** St. Vincent de Paul has received funding to directly address the urgent housing needs of low-income individuals and families in Bemidji. With this grant, St. Vincent de Paul can act quickly – often within 24 hours – to meet with individuals, assess their needs, and provide immediate assistance to secure housing. This grant empowers St. Vincent de Paul to provide faster, more efficient support for new housing placements and crisis intervention.

**BI-CAP – Affordable Housing Program:** Bi-County Community Action Programs (BI-CAP) has been awarded funding to perform essential repairs on two critical housing units in Bemidji, enabling the organization to continue its mission of providing affordable, stable housing for



Beltrami County is in need of the full housing continuum as illustrated above

low-income families. Planned repairs include sheetrock replacement, painting and flooring upgrades, new fixture repairs, window, cabinet, and door replacements. The repairs will be carried out by a local contractor, supporting both housing stability and the local economy. This initiative will create safe and operational housing for homeless, low-income families working with local housing programs, helping them overcome significant barriers to economic stability.

This next phase of the Housing Trust Fund process focuses on allocating funds for housing development projects. The pre-application period, which ran from mid-November through the end of January, received six submissions. These pre-applications will now be reviewed by the Housing Trust Fund Cabinet. Selected applicants will be invited to submit full applications, which will undergo further evaluation to determine the allocation of development funds.

Beltrami County and The United Way of Bemidji Area remain committed to transparency, collaboration, and strategic growth in addressing housing challenges throughout Beltrami County.



Brent Rud

Environmental Services Director/Soil & Water Conservation District Manager

### Permitting

Here to Help You Have a Successful Project

Beltrami County Environmental Services Department wants to remind citizens that permits are required for many activities such as constructing or placing new structures and earthmoving (such as putting in a driveway or hauling in fill for a future building pad) within 1,000 feet of lakes and within 300 feet of rivers.



Environmental Services staff are available to assist current and prospective landowners with tasks such as identifying if a permit is required, what entity is the correct permitting authority, and what the general standards are that must be met for your project. If you would like assistance with your project or have any questions, please contact the Environmental Services Department at 218-333-4158 or [esd@co.beltrami.mn.us](mailto:esd@co.beltrami.mn.us).

**Jason Riggs**

Beltrami County Sheriff

## Life Safety Awards for Selfless Actions

### 2024 Upper Red Lake Ice Rescue

On January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at approximately 5:10PM the Beltrami County 911 center received a 911 call of an adult male who had reportedly fallen through the ice on Upper Red Lake. Multiple agencies including Kelliher Fire & Rescue, Kelliher First Responders, Blackduck Ambulance, MN DNR Conservation and Beltrami County Deputies responded.

It was later learned that two males were coming off the lake from fishing when their Polaris Ranger side-by-side went through thin ice. The two men had been fishing on the lake with two additional men on snowmobiles. The group exhausted all efforts in attempting self-rescue. Richard Wieneke, an area employee of Greater MN rentals, was on the ice nearby and was found by one of the fishermen assisting. Richard, his brother David Wieneke and Carter Gilge from Greater MN Rentals responded to the scene.

One man had been able to extract himself from the Ranger through a window and was rescued first by David Wieneke and Carter Gilge. Upon pulling him from the open water, the other victim floated to the surface. Efforts to throw him a rope were initially unsuccessful due to his inability to grab the rope. It was estimated that he had been in the water for well over 20 minutes before being pulled out. Thankfully, both men were wearing float coats. The air temperature was approximately 0 degrees.

David Wieneke guided the group back to Greater MN rentals where they were assisted by Marlys Carlson who provided first aid and to keep the group warm while waiting for the Blackduck Ambulance to arrive.

One man was assessed and treated on scene and the other was transported by ambulance to Sanford Medical Center in Bemidji for hypothermia.

The actions of Richard Wieneke, David Wieneke, Carter Gilge, and Marlys Carlson ultimately saved the lives of these two men. The Beltrami County Sheriff's Office is grateful to those who selflessly acted for the preservation of life. Beltrami County Sheriff Jason Riggs submitted these efforts to the Minnesota Sheriff's Association as a life saving award in early 2024. The Minnesota Sheriff's Association awarded Richard Wieneke, David Wieneke, Carter Gilge, and Marlys Carlson the MSA Life Saving Award.



MSA Life Saving Awards to Richard Wieneke, David Wieneke, Carter Gilge, and Marlys Carlson.



Beltrami County Sheriff's Office, Community Impact Deputy, Zach Rupert

**Jason Riggs**

Beltrami County Sheriff

## Meet Deputy Rupert

### Community Impact Deputy for Beltrami County

Meet Deputy Zach Rupert who serves as the Community Impact Deputy for the Beltrami County Sheriff's Office, a role dedicated to enhancing community engagement and fostering strong relationships between law enforcement and residents. In this capacity, Deputy Rupert focuses on increasing community involvement, building trust, and addressing crime proactively.

Before joining the Sheriff's Office, Zach had an extensive career with the Bemidji Police Department, where he served for eight years. Deputy Rupert was hired by Sheriff Jason Riggs in 2023. His commitment to public service is further exemplified by his service as an Army veteran. A Bemidji native, Deputy Rupert is deeply connected to the community he serves, having grown up and attended school in the area. In January 2025,

Deputy Rupert was featured in a "Law Enforcement Spotlight" by Bemidji Now, highlighting his dedication to community service and his role in the Sheriff's Office.

Deputy Rupert's dedication to public safety and community well-being is evident in his proactive approach to law enforcement and his commitment to building trust within the community. Deputy Rupert will also be engaging in community events and coordinating events with Sheriff's Office personnel to attend functions. He will be following up with quality-of-life concerns and will work directly with community partners to achieve the public safety goals of the Beltrami County Sheriff's Office. Additionally, Deputy Rupert has been vital to the training of newly hired Deputy Sheriffs as they start their career here. Deputy Rupert's level of training, professionalism, and life experiences made this an easy decision for Sheriff Riggs who placed Deputy Rupert in this role.

The position was created by Beltrami County Sheriff Jason Riggs in late 2024. Deputy Rupert took on this role in January 2025. Funding for this position was a direct result of Public Safety Aid Funding from the State of Minnesota in 2024.



**Jason Riggs**

Beltrami County Sheriff

## Meet Riot

### K-9 Partner

The Beltrami County Sheriff’s Office has a storied K-9 history going back several decades. Throughout these years, all dogs were trained in drug detection, criminal apprehension, or both. In 2024, at the request of Deputy Alison Critchfield, the Sheriff’s Office started exploring the idea of adding a dog to be trained in search and rescue. In the fall of 2024, Deputy Critchfield and Riot started patrolling together.

Riot, a four-year-old male Beauceron, and Deputy Critchfield, an 11 year Sheriff’s Office veteran’ were certified with the National Search Dog Alliance in Search and Rescue. Riot has been deployed several times already, looking for elderly individuals who have wandered away, individuals suffering mental health incidents, and people reported as missing or lost. A Search and Rescue dog

differs from an apprehension dog by the way they find humans. While an apprehension dog smells odor left on the ground by the person they are tracking, a Search and



Deputy Critchfield and her K-9 Partner Riot

Rescue dog focuses on odor which is carried on the air currents. This is particular handy when looking for an individual but he area has already been searched by others who have left their own scent behind. The other difference is that Search and Rescue dogs are not trained to bite, eliminating the risk of injury during non-criminal searches.

Riot is also a certified therapy dog who spends time working with the local first responder’s peer support team during critical incident debriefs. Riot is available to lend his calming demeanor and therapy skills during other portions of the criminal justice process.

When Riot is not searching for lost individuals or calming nerves, he enjoys interacting with the public, particularly students at area schools.

The Sheriff’s Office now has a total of three K-9s.

**Lori Clark**

Recreation Resource Coordinator

## Spring Recreation is Coming

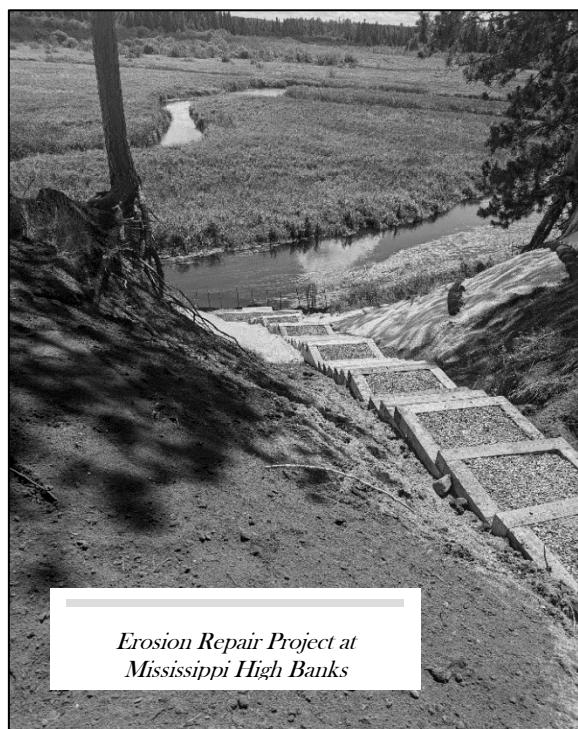
### To County Parks

The start of 2025 has been a little more wintry than last year. Luckily there has been enough snow for winter recreation, albeit a slower start than our normal northern winters. There is snow in the forecast and the little groundhog has predicted six more weeks of winter. But we all know spring is on the horizon, so let’s take a look at what we accomplished last year and what we are looking forward to this spring:

- We completed the erosion repair project at the Mississippi High Banks campsite. Over many years, the sandy bank became unstable and eroded into the river. A set of stairs, bank stabilization, and vegetation was placed to restore the hillside. There is a platform at the bottom for access to the river and to tie up canoes or kayaks. This project was paid for with Enbridge and Mississippi Headwaters 1W1P grant funds.
- The bike workstation at Movil Maze should be installed this coming spring. A concrete pad was poured last fall but a

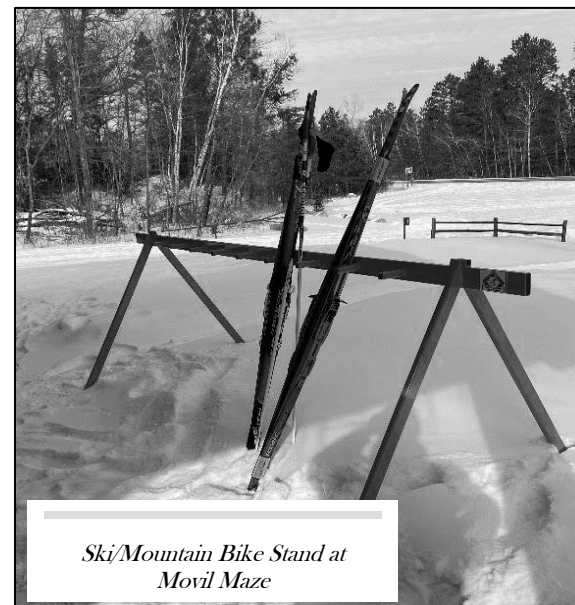
small delay with installation occurred (whoops...they forgot to send the hardware). With a Neilson Foundation grant, we were able to purchase the workstation, and picnic table, among other things. A big thanks to the George W. Neilson Foundation for their continued support at Movil Maze Recreation Area.

- A combination cross country ski and mountain bike stand was built by volunteers for Movil Maze. The stand was placed and is ready for use!
- Last but not least (we’ve been teasing this for years...), this May, we will be installing new concrete vault toilets at Movil Maze and the north and south trailhead at Three

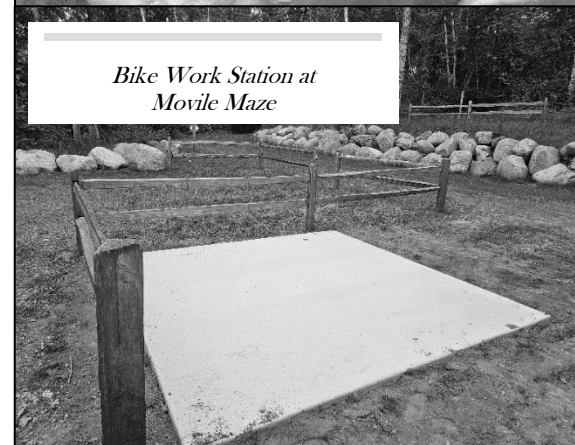


Erosion Repair Project at Mississippi High Banks

Island Park. In 2023, we were awarded an American Rescue Plan grant to replace an aging restroom infrastructure. Finally, after two years, the project will come to fruition. The restrooms will be brought in on a semi and a crane will be used to put them in place.



Ski/Mountain Bike Stand at Movil Maze



Bike Work Station at Movile Maze

**Shane Gustafson**  
 Veteran Service Officer

## Northern Warriors Outreach & Mobile Claims Unit

Expanded Veteran Services



2024 Dodge Ram 2500 - Mobile Claims Vehicle (Pre-wrap)

Veterans in Beltrami County will soon have better access to the benefits and support they deserve, thanks to the launch of Northern Warriors Outreach (NWO). This groundbreaking initiative by the Beltrami County Veterans Service Office is designed to bring essential services directly to veterans wherever they are.

A major component of NWO is the upcoming Northern Warriors Outreach Mobile Claims Unit (NWOMCU), a first-of-its-kind mobile office that will travel to rural and underserved areas within Beltrami County to help veterans access their benefits, file claims, and receive vital healthcare navigation. The initiative is made possible through a \$180,000 grant from the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) Competitive Grant Process, ensuring that more veterans can get the assistance they need without the burden of long-distance travel.

### Bringing Services to Those Who Need Them Most

For many veterans in Beltrami County, transportation challenges and remote locations have made it difficult to connect with essential services. The NWOMCU will remove these barriers by providing face-to-face support from trained CVSO representatives in key community locations.

While the Bemidji Veterans Service Office remains the primary location for veteran services, the mobile claims unit will allow staff to schedule times to bring these services directly to local communities, ensuring that veterans who cannot travel still receive the assistance they need.

Additionally, the Veterans Service Office will periodically collaborate with the MDVA Tribal Veteran Service Officer to expand resource opportunities for Native American veterans, ensuring that those who have served receive the support they deserve.

### What the Mobile Claims Unit Will Provide

Once launched, the NWOMCU will serve as a lifeline for veterans by offering:

On-the-spot assistance with VA benefits and claims processing to speed up access to disability compensation, pensions, and healthcare.

Guidance on healthcare enrollment and services to connect veterans with the medical care they need.

Regular visits to rural and tribal communities to ensure all veterans have equal access to resources.

Proactive outreach to at-risk veterans, including those facing financial hardship, medical issues, or homelessness.

### What's Ahead for Northern Warriors Outreach?

The Northern Warriors Outreach Mobile Claims Unit is currently in development, and preparations are underway to ensure it effectively serves veterans across Beltrami County. As the program moves forward, updates on its availability, community visit schedules, and additional service details will be shared through the Beltrami County website, County News Letter, and the Beltrami County Veterans Service Office.

Veterans and their families are encouraged to stay informed by following official announcements and checking for updates through the Beltrami County Veterans Service Office.

For general information about veteran services, contact the Beltrami County Veterans Service Office at 218-333-4192. For veterans outside of Beltrami County please contact 1-888-LINKVET to connect with resources within your community.



Special thanks to Bemidji Chrysler Center and Sales Representative Tom Westermann for their support - Veterans Service Officer, Shane Gustafson

## Your Feedback Matters

Visit our website or drop us a line

Your opinion and feedback are important to us! Visit the Beltrami County website at [www.co.beltrami.mn.us](http://www.co.beltrami.mn.us) and send your e-mail to [webmaster@co.beltrami.mn.us](mailto:webmaster@co.beltrami.mn.us)

Or mail your comments to:  
 Beltrami County Administration  
 701 Minnesota Ave. NW, Ste 200  
 Bemidji, MN 56601

We are interested in knowing:

- Do you find the Newsletter helpful?
- Do you have any suggestions for future issues?
- Do you have any questions or suggestions for the Board of Commissioners?

**Bruce Hasbargen**  
 Public Works Director

## Right of Way Obstructions

Along County Roads

The Beltrami County Highway Department strives to provide a public right-of-way that is safe and free of hazards. At times, objects are erroneously placed in the right-of-way. Those objects are a safety hazard for vehicles that run off the road, which is the most common type of crash. Objects are also a hazard for operators of ATV's and snowmobiles. Minnesota Statute 160.2715 prohibits placing objects in the road right-of-way. Examples of illegal objects are fences, signs, billboards, political signs, retaining walls, rocks, or any other items that may hinder passage.

The County is addressing any objects that are found to be within the road right-of-way. No new obstructions will be allowed, and any existing obstructions will be required to be removed by the owner within a reasonable timeframe.

If you have any questions regarding road right-of-way, please contact the Beltrami County Highway Department at 218-333-8173.



**BELTRAMI COUNTY RECYCLING GUIDE**

**Not Accepted**  
 Cartons, plastic bags, film and wrap, plastic foam; Styrofoam™, food waste, paper cups and plates, glass dishes, drinking glasses, window glass and ceramics, trash, containers that held hazardous products; oil, antifreeze

**Paper**  
 • Mail, office and school paper  
 • Magazines and catalogs  
 • Newspaper and inserts  
 • Phonebooks

**Boxes**  
 • Cardboard  
 • Cereal and cracker boxes  
 • Shoe boxes, gift boxes, electronics boxes

**Glass**  
 • Food and beverage bottle and jars

**Plastic\***  
 • Empty Water, soda and juice bottles  
 • Milk bottles  
 • Ketchup and condiment bottles  
 • Dishwashing and detergent bottles  
 • Shampoo, soap, and lotion bottles  
 • Yogurt, pudding and fruit cups  
 • Margarine, cottage cheese and other containers  
 • Produce, deli and take out containers

**Metal**  
 • Food and beverage cans

SCAN HERE [QR Code]

Beltrami County Solid Waste  
 218-333-8187

\*Look for this symbol - Only "containers/bottles" with a 1, 2 & 5 can be recycled in Beltrami County

The proposed recycling site location will be at 1917 Fern Street North, PIN: 800700200. This site will only be for Single Sort Recycling, and collection of lithium and rechargeable batteries.

This site will have one compactor instead of the current roll-off container, which will reduce the number of times the containers need to be emptied. Currently we service (empty) eight containers three times a week. The use of a compactor will reduce the amount we need to service to once a week. If needed, the site will have the capacity to add one more compactor in the future.

How is this site being paid for? The County was successful in applying for a Minnesota Pollution Control Grant and awarded a grant that will pay for 75% of the project. Without state grant help, the cost saving would have taken 2.5 years to pay for the site.

Brian Olson

Solid Waste Division Director

## New Recycling Site Proposed

Located in the City of Bemidji

Beltrami County Solid Waste Division has been planning for and will be creating a new Recycling Site within the City limits. This site will replace both the Northdale Oil site and the Target site.

Why: The Northdale Oil site will no longer be accessible due to road construction planned for 2025, and the County is looking at selling

the Target location land sometime in the near future

Plans have been approved by the County Board and City of Bemidji and waiting on final approval from the Airport Authority/FAA since this location has limited use due to being in the airport authority jurisdiction.



Heather M. Snesrud, University of Minnesota Extension

## SNAP-Ed

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education

SNAP-Ed is federally funded and administered by SNAP State and local implementing agencies. States conduct needs assessments to ensure that SNAP-Ed is delivered in a hands-on and tailored way for their communities. SNAP is the nation's first line of defense against hunger and a powerful tool to improve nutrition among people with low income. SNAP-Ed agencies should emphasize the importance of programming that addresses both food and nutrition security and should adapt all approaches they use to deliver evidence-based nutrition education and obesity prevention activities with an equity lens. We do this by serving the community members who qualify by offering Nutrition Education and Policy, System, and Environmental Change opportunities.

Here is a resource created for the community to use recipes & cooking tips: <https://reallifegoodfood.umn.edu/>.

Nate Douglas has started programming with BI-CAP Head Start in both the Bemidji and Blackduck locations, teaching a nutrition curriculum called Harvest for Healthy Kids. Starting in the spring of this year, he is collaborating with the Kelliher Public Library on their community gardens. SNAP-Ed will be working with local families and

providing nutrition education during the scheduled events. Nate is continuing to build a relationship with a community partner and Joe Johnson of *Parenting Solutions* to create a new Men & Fathers class around healthy eating & cooking in Beltrami County.

This fall and winter, Eve Lavrenz has conducted nutrition education using a curriculum created by SNAP-Ed called "Go Wild" in third-grade classrooms at Kelliher Elementary and Lincoln Elementary. Plans include expansion to more third grade classrooms next school year. The goal is to engage all free & reduced eligible third-grade classrooms in Beltrami County, being intentional about serving the communities outside of Bemidji, such as Kelliher, Blackduck, and Red Lake. Additionally, Eve has been working closely with Evergreen Youth and Family Services to provide a youth/young adult cooking class with great success using a trauma-informed curriculum designed to promote community among participants. For summer of 2025, there are plans to collaborate with *Light My Lotus*, an organization that promotes active living, to start a multi-organizational effort to engage older adults and children in an outdoor walking club. This effort includes a variety of partnerships with Bemidji Park and Recreation, BSU, and Bemidji Early Childhood Collaborative.



Amy Bowles, Public Health Director

## Funding Opportunities

Advancing Our Mission  
2022-2025

The committee released its first Request for Proposals (RFP) and awarded funding to four community organizations in 2024. Another RFP was released in January 2025.

### RFP Awards

- Ours to Serve House of Hospitality was awarded \$36,500
- Stellher Services was awarded \$50,000
- North Homes was awarded \$33,049
- Drug Court was awarded \$10,000

### Funding Hope

- Nameless Coalition was awarded \$1,079

### County Programs and Services

- RESET Program was awarded \$15,000
- Children and Family Services was awarded \$34,000
- Administration, salary, supplies, meetings and marketing was awarded \$112,023

### County Board Support

Beltrami County formed an Opioid Steering Committee to advise the County Commissioners on addressing the opioid crisis. The Committee thanks the Board for approving funding for various activities under the State's remediation categories, which supported a range of initiatives.

- Staff training
- Transportation
- Sober living activities
- Winter supplies
- Comprehensive assessments
- Peer recovery
- Support Groups
- Housing
- Communication
- Housing supplies
- Baby supplies
- First aid kits
- Clothing
- Personal hygiene supplies



## Opioid Spending Report

2022-2025

### Public Presence - Website

A key achievement was the launch of the "Funding Hope" website and logo, which strengthened the County and committee's outreach and improved communication. Featured on all committee and County advertisements, the logo symbolizes hope and support for those impacted by opioids, addiction, and recovery. The committee is committed to making lasting, positive changes in Beltrami County through sustainable initiatives. Please take time to visit the website

[www.co.beltrami.mn.us/services/public-health/](http://www.co.beltrami.mn.us/services/public-health/) to learn more about the committee and to access historical documents, including:

- Meeting minutes
- Presentations
- Annual updates
- State and local resources

### Community Engagement

Communication:

To ensure strong communication, the committee held community presentations to raise awareness, engaged stakeholders through meetings, listening sessions, and newsletters, and attended various community events.

Collaboration:

Committee members recognized the importance of community partnerships. Some key collaborative efforts have included:

- Attending the Red Lake Opioid Summits
- Touring the Red Lake Chemical Dependence Center and meeting staff
- Attended Red Lake's Community Wellness Gathering
- Presenting at the Kelliher and Bemidji City Council meetings
- Meetings with various local organizations to share 1:1 about the Opioid Funds.
- Participate in a 4-County Opioid workgroup

Through

Treatment Prevention Other Strategies

Bruce Hasbargen, Public Works Director

## Spring Weight Restrictions

On County Roads

In the spring of each year, vehicle weight limits are put in place by road authorities to protect the significant investment that has been made in the road system.

When the ground thaws, the materials under the road surface become saturated and soft. With the reduced support from the underlying material, the road surface will bend and crack under heavier vehicles. On paved roads, the freezing and thawing of moisture in the cracks can deteriorate into potholes or additional cracking. On gravel surfaced roads, these cracks can turn into soft spots or even impassable roads.

Spring weight restrictions have proven to be essential in protecting roadways. Limiting the weight reduces the damage and further deterioration. The timing and length of the restrictions vary but usually start in Beltrami County around mid-March and last for approximately eight weeks. Unless posted otherwise, gravel roads are restricted to 5 tons per axle and paved roads are restricted to 10 tons per axle. Specific road restrictions in Beltrami County can be found on Beltrami County's website at: <https://www.co.beltrami.mn.us/living-here/roads-bridges/road-restrictions/>

Thank you for your cooperation in abiding by spring load restrictions. If you have any questions regarding road restrictions, please contact the Beltrami County Highway Department at 218-333-8173.

Katelyn Bergstrom, ESD/SWCD

## Tree Sales

The Soil & Water Conservation District is now accepting orders

There are a wide variety of shrubs, conifers, and deciduous trees available as well as seed mixes and plant plugs. Order forms can be found on the Beltrami SWCD's website at [beltramiswcd.org](http://beltramiswcd.org). Trees come in bundles of 25 saplings. Completed order forms can be sent to Claire Hansen ([claire.hansen@co.beltrami.mn.us](mailto:claire.hansen@co.beltrami.mn.us), 218-333-4141) or brought to the Environmental Services office (Beltrami County Administrative Building; 701 Minnesota Ave. NW). Pickup on May 1-2, 2025 at the Old Fairgrounds 2115 23<sup>rd</sup> S NW, Bemidji



**Chris Muller**

Emergency Management Director

## **April 7-11, 2025**

### Designated Minnesota Severe Weather Awareness Week

It may seem early to be thinking about severe weather and summer weather hazards, but spring is nearly here. Each year, Minnesota's Emergency Managers partner with the National Weather Service to promote severe weather preparedness. April 7-11, 2025 is designated Minnesota Severe Weather Awareness Week. There are daily topics to address the hazards Minnesotans face during the spring and summer months.

Monday's topic is alerts and warnings. When impactful weather is occurring, the National Weather Service may issue alerts and warnings. It is important to have several sources to receive this information. These alerts can include severe thunderstorms,

tornadoes and flooding. Watches mean conditions are favorable for the identified hazard and warnings indicate it is occurring or likely to occur. NOAA Weather Radios are reliable and the fastest way to receive warnings. There are also many different apps you can use on smart devices.

Tuesday's topic covers severe weather, lightning and hail. Beltrami County is no stranger to severe weather and has experienced significant wind events. Thunderstorms can produce straight-line winds over 100mph and can cause tornado-like damage. Lightning can kill. If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck by lightning. If you are outdoors

remember the saying, "When thunder roars, go indoors!" Hail can also be destructive, ruining crops and causing damage to homes and vehicles. Hail as large as baseballs has hit areas of Beltrami County in recent years.

Flooding kills more people annually than other weather events. Wednesday is dedicated to flood awareness. As little as six inches of fast flowing water can knock you off your feet. Twelve inches of flowing water can float vehicles. Of the deaths related to flooding, many were caught in vehicles and the majority died at night. If you encounter flooded roadways, turn around, don't drown. You don't know how deep the water is or if the road has washed out.

Thursday, April 10, 2025 is tornado drill day. Two simulated tornado warnings will be conducted. The first is scheduled for 1:45pm to allow schools, offices and other institutions to practice their tornado plans. A second is scheduled for 6:45pm to allow families to practice their plan at home as well as second shift workers. If severe weather is possible on this day, the drill will be cancelled.

While Minnesota isn't known for its hot weather, dangerous heat does occur. During hot weather, drink plenty of water and avoid outdoor activities. Heat related injuries and ailments are emergencies. Some symptoms of heat related illness include cool, moist, pale or flushed skin; heavy sweating; headache; nausea; dizziness; weakness and exhaustion. Vehicles act like greenhouses, especially on sunny days. It only takes minutes for cars to warm to deadly temperatures. Never leave children or pets in vehicles on warm days.

**Steve Shadrick**

Facility & Safety Director

## **The County Jail**

### What to Do with the Existing Jail

Now that the new jail design is complete and construction is scheduled to start in April, the D&O (design and operations) committee has shifted its focus to determining what should be done with the existing jail. We know that this facility was built in 1988, so it is around 37 years old. We also know that this facility does not meet current MN Department of Corrections regulations due to existing layout and functionality. And lastly, we know that if this facility is to be used in the future, there will need to be significant upgrades in building infrastructure.

With that being said, the D&O committee determined that it needed more information about the existing jail in order to provide a fiscally responsible recommendation to the County Board on future use and operations of this facility. On February 4, 2025 the County Board approved a contract with Kraus Anderson Construction Company to conduct an FCA (facility condition assessment) for the purpose of

determining the current condition of the facility and equipment, what equipment upgrades are needed now and into the future, and estimated costs to update facility and equipment to possibly continue to operate this building in some capacity into the future.

Information obtained from the FCA will help identify which of the following may be a viable and fiscally responsible option for the County to move forward with. The options currently being reviewed are as follows:

- Reuse and or repurpose the facility.
- Partial demo of facility (reuse part of facility for sally port inmate transfer to courthouse).
- A complete demo of facility.

The FCA process has started and is expected to be completed within the next few months. The results of this assessment will be instrumental to architects as they work to determine the best methods of transfer of inmates to and from the courthouse.

**Bruce Hasbargen**  
Public Works Director

## 2025 Road Construction Projects

This upcoming summer Beltrami County has the following improvement projects planned:

- CSAH 7, Becida Rd SW, from Co. line to CSAH 14, bituminous overlay
- CSAH 27, Parkers Lake Rd NE, from CSAH 12 to CSAH 20, resurfacing
- CSAH 29, Gull Lake Loop Rd NW, in Tenstrike to CSAH 23, resurfacing
- CSAH 31, Hines Rd NE, from TH 71 to CSAH 32, resurfacing
- CSAH 43, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave N, in Tenstrike to TH 71, resurfacing
- CSAH 3, Centerline Rd NW, from US 2 to CSAH 22, bituminous mill and overlay
- CSAH 15, Irvine Ave NW, from Townhall Rd to Turtle River, bituminous overlay
- CR 307, Main St E, in Tenstrike from CSAH 43 to Three Culverts Rd, reconstruction
- CSAH 7, Division St W, from Jefferson to the High School, multi-use trail
- CSAH 20, Birchmont Beach Rd NE, from CSAH 21 to CR 414, reconstruction with multi-use trail

60 miles of chip seals are planned on the following routes:

- CSAH 6, 15<sup>th</sup> St NW, from CSAH 11 to Norton Ave
- CSAH 8, Roosevelt Rd SE, CSAH 25 to Co. line
- CSAH 20, Birchmont Beach Rd NE, from CSAH 27 to CSAH 39
- CSAH 21, Bemidji Rd NE, from CSAH 52 to TH 71
- CSAH 24, Aure Rd NW, from Co. line to TH 89
- CSAH 32, Nebish Rd NE, from CSAH 31 to TH 72
- CSAH 35, Pass Rd NE, from TH 71 to CSAH 30
- CSAH 57, Sumac Rd NE, Sandpiper Rd NE, Bittern Rd NE, and Island View Dr NE, from CSAH 21 east and north to TH 71
- CR 305, Wildwood Rd NE, from CSAH 57 to CSAH 21
- CR 401, Monroe Ave SW, from Co. line to CSAH 11
- CR 402, Oak Hills Rd SW, from Oak Hills Christian College to CSAH 46
- CR 403, Van Buren Ave SE, from CSAH 4 to CR 404
- CR 407, Sunnyside Rd SE, from CSAH 4 to CSAH 12

We have additional maintenance projects planned. One of the larger ones is drainage improvements along CR 503, Sundown Rd NW.

Remember to drive safely through work zones. Slow down and pay attention. Please contact the Beltrami County Highway at 218-333-8173 or stop in to see us if you ever have questions or concerns.


### Are You REAL ID Ready?

Federal enforcement begins May 7, 2025


Minnesotans 18 years of age or older will not be able to use their standard driver’s license or identification card to board domestic flights or enter certain federal facilities. Instead, they will need one of three options:

- Minnesota REAL ID driver’s license or identification card.
- Minnesota Enhanced driver’s license or identification card.
- Other federally approved forms of identification.

For additional information on REAL ID:



Pre Apply Online under Driver’s Services:



Beltrami County License Center  
County Administration Bldg.  
701 Minnesota Ave NW  
Bemidji, MN 56601  
218-333-4148

**Board of Commissioners**

|                          |              |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| District 1—Craig Gaasvig | 218-766-9699 |
| District 2—Joe Gould     | 218-259-4342 |
| District 3—Scott Winger  | 218-556-7589 |
| District 4—Tim Sumner    | 218-407-7589 |
| District 5—John Carlson  | 218-766-5010 |

**Administration Building**  
701 Minnesota Ave NW Bemidji MN 56601

|                                   |               |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Administrator—Thomas Barry        | 218-333-4109  |
| Assessor—Kaleb Bessler            | 218-333-4116  |
| Auditor/Treasurer—JoDee Treat     | 218-333-4175  |
| Environmental Services            |               |
| Brent Rud.....                    | 218-333-4158  |
| Facilities Manager Steve Shadrick | .218-333-8475 |
| Geographic Info Systems (GIS).    |               |
| Kevin Trappe .....                | 218-333-8457  |
| Human Resources                   |               |
| Ann Schroeder .....               | 218-333-4155  |
| License Center.....               | 218-333-4148  |
| Information Technology (IT)       |               |
| Kevin Warne.....                  | 218-333-4151  |
| Natural Resource Management       |               |
| Shane Foley .....                 | 218-333-4210  |
| Real Estate & Tax Services.....   | 218-333-4138  |
| Recorder—Charlene Sturk.....      | 218-333-4170  |

**Community Service Center**  
616 America Ave NW, Bemidji MN 56601

Health & Human Services

|                                       |              |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Director Anne Lindseth.....           | 218-333-4195 |
| Social Services Division Director     |              |
| Jeff Lind .....                       | 218-333-4196 |
| Economic Assistance Division Director |              |
| Curt Anderson.....                    | 218-333-4199 |
| Public Health Division Director       |              |
| Amy Bowles.....                       | 218-333-8116 |

Veterans Services Officer

|                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Shane Gustafson ..... | 218-333-4192 |
|-----------------------|--------------|

**Law Enforcement Center**  
613 Minnesota Ave NW, Bemidji MN 56601

|                                  |              |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Sheriff Jason Riggs.....         | 218-333-9111 |
| Bemidji Police Chief Mike Mastin | 218-333-9111 |

**Judicial Center**  
600 Minnesota Ave NW, Bemidji MN 56601

|                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Attorney—David Hanson..... | 218-333-4219 |
| Court Administration.....  | 218-888-5060 |

**County Jail**  
626 Minnesota Ave NW, Bemidji MN 56601

|                        |              |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Main phone number..... | 218-333-4189 |
|------------------------|--------------|

**Public Works Department**  
2491 Adams Ave NW, Bemidji MN 56601

Public Works Director

|                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Bruce Hasbargen ..... | 218-333-8173 |
|-----------------------|--------------|

751 Industrial Park Dr SE

Solid Waste Director

|                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Brian Olson ..... | 218-333-8187 |
|-------------------|--------------|

**County Extension**  
7223 Fairgrounds Rd NW, Bemidji MN 56601

|                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Extension Secretary ..... | 218-444-5722 |
|---------------------------|--------------|