

# Polk County Newsletter

Fall 2007



New Northwest Regional Corrections Center jail and Polk County Justice Center nearing completion

## When will it be ready? *Justice Center about Dec. 1; jail in mid-January*

As completion nears, construction of the new Northwest Regional Corrections Center jail and Polk County Justice Center in Crookston continues to be on schedule and within budget. The Justice Center portion of the building is slated to be put into use about Dec. 1, while the 218-bed jail is expected to become operational in mid-January.

An open house event, during which a somewhat limited number of county residents will be able to experience spending a night in jail and the general public will be given the chance to tour the facility, is in planning for early January. Those events will naturally occur prior to the transfer of any inmates to the new jail.

Tri-County Community Corrections, the agency formed by Norman, Polk and Red Lake counties through a joint powers agreement in 1975 to provide corrections services for the three counties, is currently in the process of developing policies and procedures for operat-

ing a jail facility that is almost three times larger than the current facilities.

A change in operations will also occur in the Justice Center, which will house the District Court, district judges, Court Administration, Polk County Attorney's Office, public defenders, court reporters, law clerks, Polk County Probation and the administrative offices of Tri-County Community Corrections.

### Justice Center Security

Security will be provided in the building during normal business hours Monday through Friday by North Country Security, Inc., Brainerd, Minn., which will have armed personnel at the public entrance to the building. The Polk County Sheriff's Office will have oversight over that activity.

Two North Country Security officers will control entry to the building at the door. The firm will use mainly retired and/or off-duty law enforcement officers, who are licensed to carry

weapons.

A third officer will also be in the building and be available to cover for break times and otherwise assist in providing security. The current bailiff system will be retained to work in the courtrooms.

Conversion of the upper floor of the Courthouse into quarters for the Income Maintenance Division of Polk County Social Services will begin once District Court and Court Administration move to the new Justice Center. This group of employees is currently housed in the Professional Building. Located northeast of the Courthouse, this 106-year-old building and was built as a hospital and later became the St. Vincent's Nursing Home.

As a way to further facilitate cooperative efforts, some staff of Polk County Public Health — those who work closely with Social Services

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## Flu shot clinics being planned at 2 sites on Nov. 17

Polk County Public Health will conduct two flu shot clinics in East Grand Forks and Erskine on Saturday, Nov. 17. Hours of the clinics will be from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Northland Community & Technical College in East Grand Forks and at Win-E-Mac School in Erskine.

In addition to offering flu vaccine to county residents, the clinics will also be exercises for two of the county's mass dispensing sites that would be used in the event of a pandemic. The county's third mass dispensing site (at the University of Minnesota-Crookston) hosted the flu shot

clinic last year.

When the flu shot clinics are held again in 2008, all three mass dispensing sites are expected to be used, according to Sheri Altepeter, Polk County Public Health director.

There will be a \$20 charge for the flu shot. Medicare, medical

assistance and Minn Care clients can receive the shot at no charge. The shot is recommended for all persons nine years old and above.

As plans for the two upcoming clinics are being further developed, Public Health will be asking for assistance from many of its

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# New jail policies, procedures being developed

## Work goes on behind the scenes in preparation for move into new facility

Although construction on the new Polk County Justice Center and Northwestern Regional Corrections Center jail building has been evident on site, the project includes a great deal of "construction" of operations for the facility.

For more than a year our Tri-County Community Corrections (TCCC) transition team has been working on the development of new operational policy and procedure that will literally dictate all activity in the jail. Not only is the size of the building significantly larger and different than current facilities but the design to accommodate all levels of secure inmate housing is notably different as well.

Using living areas, or a podular design, the new facility was built with the "direct supervision" concept. Corrections officers in the pods have back-up from a 24-hour central control station that operate doors through a system of electronic locks and monitors activity.

### Can manage 60 inmates

With visual surveillance from cameras and communication through radios worn by each officer, each pod can be managed individually with as many 60 inmates at one time. Corrections officers also remain in constant contact with central control when moving inmates (throughout the building and for court appearances, etc.) in

order to provide safety for staff and inmates alike.

In advance of these significant changes in jail operation, new operating policy needed to be developed to fit the new facility. Preparation for this move actually began in 2005 when we changed from operating food service "in-house" to a food service vendor that uses inmate labor working with their employees.

### Food service savings

Inmate food service is a large and important part of operations in jail settings. Maintaining quality and quantity of the food served has considerable impact on day-to-day behavior of inmates and staff satisfaction. Not only did TCCC save about \$34,000 in the first year after the change but satisfaction with food service has risen considerably having been allowed time in advance to adjust to the new provider.

Paul Bissonette, TCCC facility supervisor, is in charge of contracted services and has done an excellent job of monitoring cost while also developing changes to meet our needs.

### Transition team

As these behind the scene changes have been established, our Transition Team has been hard at work creating a new facility Policy/Procedure Manual to cover all action, programs and prisoner movement. Led by Jail

Administrator Andrew Larson and Bissonette, the Transition Team of Chad Johnson, Phil Schroeder and Connie Holmer has prepared policy drafts with hours of work on each action scenario that will be finalized by an internal approval process that ends with me.

### 300-page manual

I'll submit our final draft to the Minnesota Department of Corrections with fingers crossed that the over 300-page manual, which requires state approval prior to moving inmates to the new building, will receive DOC blessing in time for training of corrections officers to begin in October.

Additionally, jail operations, inmate activity and inmate status are tracked through a new computer program that TCCC purchased over a year ago to meet the need for a much more advanced system to meet the operational needs of the future. Existing staff are well trained in the new program, which will be moved over to the new building.

### Changes required

Our jail laundry requires five sets of "oranges" (shirt and pants) per inmate in addition to towels and enough bedding to provide for the DOC-required change out every three days. This is a large internal process as well. TCCC moved to an inmate operated laundry more than 10 years ago using inmate labor to handle consider-

able loads every day, which requires that a considerable clean inventory must be maintained.

By designing these new procedures far in advance of the opening of the new facility, our staff has had time to learn and adjust accordingly before the big move into the new building. Otherwise, the move into a new building with brand new computer programming and new services to operate would be much more difficult

Currently, TCCC is working to fill six new Corrections Officer positions that will be required by the Minnesota Department of Corrections when the new building comes on line. The training of new and existing staff will rev up considerably this fall to meet the early 2008 jail opening. — Susan Mills, TCCC executive director

## Flu shots

Continued from Page 1

community partners, including staff from private clinics and hospitals, Polk County Emergency Management personnel, ham radio operators, law enforcement, mental health staff, Retired Senior Volunteer Program members, county commissioners, mayors, newspapers, radio stations, and others.

## Operational

Continued from Page 1

on the issues of alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse — will also relocate to the upper floor of the re-organized Courthouse.

Plans for how space in the Courthouse — both on the ground floor and on the upper floor — will be used are currently being developed by Richard Rude Architects, Bemidji. Little construction and/or demolition is expected to be needed to prepare the quarters for the new use of that space. In the plan, too, some social service workers will move upstairs from their current location on the lower level of the Courthouse.

### Building to be emptied

With the departure of the Income Maintenance Division from the "Pro Building" next spring or summer, that building will have been totally vacated. The Polk County Attorney's Office, public defenders and Polk County Probation are moving to the Justice Center later this fall, while the Information Technology office will be moving to quarters at

the Law Enforcement Center that are ideal for them and have emergency generation back-up.

Public Health is currently based in leased space at 721 So. Minnesota St. in Crookston. Polk County has options to extend that lease as it sorts out space availabilities in such buildings as the new Justice Center and the Annex and works through efforts to develop a combined, more customer-friendly one-stop service center arrangement for the Auditor-Treasurer's Office, the Recorder's Office and the Assessor's Office on the main floor of the Courthouse.

Space in the Law Enforcement that now houses the administrative offices of Tri-County Corrections and the current 32-bed secure jail will be taken over by the Polk County Sheriff's Office, which has become squeezed for room.

The Red River Juvenile Center will remain in the Law Enforcement Center as will the Polk County Dispatch Center and Emergency Management. The jail cells will remain in place at least partly because it would be very costly to remove them. However, the cells will have a use... for such things as secure evidence storage

and for the storage of equipment and other supplies of the Sheriff's Office.

Located on the Law Enforcement Center campus, too, is the Annex Building, which was constructed as the Sunnyrest Tuberculosis Sanitarium in the 1920s and later served as the home of the Glenmore Chemical Dependency Agency. It currently houses a 49-bed minimum-security detention facility for adult males.

### Also to move

Like the secure jail located in the Law Enforcement Center, the minimum-security detention function in the Annex will move to the new jail. It will move into the work release "pod" there.

The two-story Annex building will then be used for storage, including that needed for many of the paper records currently kept in lower levels of the Courthouse and the Pro Building. One of the decisions left to be made may be choosing a new name for the Courthouse, since it will no longer be a "courthouse." Polk County Government Center is one of the names being considered.

# Larson named jail administrator, 5 shift supervisors are selected

Andrew S. Larson has been advanced to the new position of jail administrator and five shift supervisors have been named in advance of the move into the new, 218-bed Northwest Regional Corrections Center Jail that will be made in January 2008.

Larson, who had been the security supervisor, and the five shift supervisors are all advancing from their present roles with the Tri-County Community Corrections (TCCC) agency that operates the jail for the three county partners — Norman, Polk and Red Lake counties.

The shift supervisors, which are new positions that will be needed in the staffing of the new, direct-supervision jail, are: Catherine Barstad, Michelle Olson, Joey Pederson, Phil Schroeder and Chad Johnson. Both Schroeder and Johnson are members of the transition team that is determining policy and procedures for officers when they move into the new facility.

A native of Valley City, N.D., Larson had held positions as a corrections officer and a caseworker for the North Dakota Department of Corrections at its James River Correctional Center in Jamestown prior to becoming a TCCC probation officer and director of its Productive Day Program in October 2001.

Larson succeeded the retiring Norvald Anderson as security supervisor in May 2003. He has a B.S. degree in human resource management from Valley City State College.

Larson and his wife, Lisa, who is a TCCC probation agent, live in Crookston with their two children.

**Barstad**, who grew up in Oregon and now lives at Fertile, completed corrections and security police training while serving in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1986 to 1989.

After graduating from the Oregon Police Academy following her discharge from the Marine Corps, she was certified as a corrections officer and deputy and did both direct and indirect inmate supervision for the Washington County Sheriff's Office at Hillsboro, Ore., for eight years. That experience included transitioning from a linear supervision jail with 200 beds to a direct supervision facility that housed 572 inmates. She has been a TCCC corrections officer for five years.

**Olson**, Crookston, who has been the lead corrections officer for



**Andrew S. Larson**  
is named jail administrator

TCCC and has worked for the agency for 22 years, was the organization's 1991 employee of the year. A native of Fertile, she completed Moorhead Technical College's two-year secretarial studies program in 1984.

Olson's work experience prior to joining TCCC in 1985 includes two years as an emergency medical technician for Crookston Ambulance Service. Besides normal duties for TCCC, she has been involved in the re-writing of the agency's policy and procedures handbook.

**Pederson**, who grew up at Warren and now lives in East Grand Forks, has been a corrections officer for 11 years. He has studied radiology at the Northwest Community and Technical College in East Grand Forks and criminal justice at the University of

Minnesota- Crookston and is trained and certified in CPR and self-defense.

In his spare time, he has owned and operated Pederson Trucking in East Grand Forks since 2001 and has been the owner-manager of Pederson Rental Properties, also in East Grand Forks, since 1999.

**Schroeder**, who grew up in Crookston and now lives at Thompson, N.D., has been a TCCC corrections officer for the past six years. He received a welding certificate from the North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton in 1988.

In addition to his work at TCCC, he also works part-time for the Polk County Sheriff's Department as a civilian transporter for inmates going to court, other county jails or medical appointments.

**Johnson**, who grew up and lives in Crookston, has been a corrections officer since 1998. He studied natural resource management at the University of Minnesota-Crookston for three years and has also worked part-time for the Polk County Sheriff's Department as a civilian transporter for inmates for the past two years.

Prior to joining TCCC, Johnson was an electronic home monitoring specialist for General Security Services Corp., Minneapolis, for five years supervising clients who were sentenced by the court to be confined to their homes rather than to serve time in jail.

## A night in jail??

While plans are still in the making, there will be the chance for a somewhat limited number of county residents to spend a night in the new Northwest Regional Corrections Center jail.

That, of course, would likely be on the weekend before the new facility begins to house the criminal element.

As envisioned, persons would be given the opportunity to make a contribution to a selected charity in exchange for a bed for the night in the new jail.

Some thought is being given to having the experience include an arrest with the "prisoner" being handcuffed, sent through the jail intake process and maybe even routed through District Court in the adjoining new Polk County Justice Center the next morning.

With the possible involvement of schools, there is some thought, too, of offering the opportunity for students to tour (not stay overnight) the facility.

The two-person cells — only about 7 by 10 feet with no windows, two bunks, a toilet and a sink — don't provide a whole lot of freedom, so those who suffer from claustrophobia should be wary of participating.

Final plans will be announced as the expected mid-January opening of the jail nears.



**Shift supervisors** — Recently named to serve as shift supervisors when the new Northwest Regional Corrections Center jail opens in mid-January were, left to right: Phil Schroeder, Michelle Olson, Joey Pederson, Catherine Barstad and Chad Johnson.

# Floodplain mapping issues continue as county, cities work for federal recognition

Work related to the 1997 floods has yet to be completed. More than 10 years later, Polk County and East Grand Forks and Crookston city officials are still dealing with closing out grants, finalizing paperwork and completing projects related to those record floods.

Work on the levees around East Grand Forks and Crookston are essentially complete, as are their respective diversion projects. All that remains is getting state and federal recognition that these projects were constructed properly, so their citizens may be afforded the benefits of them.

Both cities and the county are in various stages of reviewing and adopting revised flood maps – or LOMR's. This LOMR (Letter of Map Revision) is the adoption of new flood maps that reflect the last flood of record based upon information gathered during the 1997 flood.

## Adoption is required

Adoption of revised flood maps is a requirement of the NFIP (National Flood Insurance Program). Cities and counties have agreements with the NFIP so that their citizens have access to securing flood insurance.

In exchange for the NFIP providing local insurance agents access to flood insurance policies, the city or county agrees to enforce a Floodplain Ordinance that guides and restricts the uses and construction activities within defined flood zones. Eventually, all communities in the Red River Valley will be adopting revised flood maps based on this flood data.

The City of Crookston recently adopted a new flood map and floodplain ordinance. That map was developed as part of the LOMR issued this past February. The City of East Grand Forks is in the process of adopting a LOMR that would include the entire city.

Polk County made Floodplain Ordinance revisions this past spring and is now in the process of adopting a small-scale LOMR in conjunction with the City of East Grand Forks. This LOMR is required because the municipal levee extends out into the county. Without the county's adoption of revised maps for those areas immediately around the municipal levee, an approximate 1-mile perimeter, the city's LOMR will not be approved.

## 3 LOMRs in county

Initially, the county was asked to adopt a LOMR that would impact a much larger area of the county. However, the federal and state agencies that oversee the county's floodplain compliance program have allowed for the reduced scope in this LOMR as part of the city project. This will

result in the county having three (3) LOMR's over the next few years.

The first LOMR will be done immediately and will impact only those areas within the 1-mile perimeter of the East Grand Forks municipal levee. That process is currently underway.

The second LOMR will most likely be done over the winter of 2007-2008. This will include those areas along the Red River of the North (between the Polk-Marshall to Polk-Norman county lines), the Hartsville Coulee, plus a limited stretch of the Red Lake River outside the City of East Grand Forks.

The last LOMR is tentatively scheduled to begin in 2008 and conclude in 2010-2011. This last LOMR will cover all other delineated water bodies in Polk County.

The first and second LOMR will result in defined floodways. Current flood maps do not delineate floodways, except for a few isolated instances. This burden has been placed upon the landowner at the time they apply for a permit – which increases surveyor/engineer fees borne by the applicant. These LOMR's will also result in defined base flood elevations, which have not been previously indicated on the effective flood maps for many stretches of these water bodies. Again, this was a burden for the applicant and impacted surveyor/engineer fees.

## Other water bodies

The third LOMR will encompass the other water bodies, or excluded stretches of waterbodies that were part of the second LOMR. These water bodies include the Sand Hill River, Grand Marais, the Red Lake River (from the limit of the second LOMR going east) and portions of the Snake River in Polk County. What detail the remapping of these areas has yet to be determined.

All LOMR's will use the most recent data available to delineate any floodway, 100-year floodplain, 500-year floodplain and respective base flood elevations that will be part of the mapping project. This should result in better, more accurate maps, and satisfy the state and federal agencies which ensure county compliance with the floodplain regulations as part of the NFIP agreement.

Draft maps for the county's first LOMR may be reviewed at the Polk County Environmental Services office located at 320 Ingersol Ave. in Crookston. To make an appointment to review the maps, contact Polk County Environmental Services at 281-6445 or 1-800-482-6804. — **Jon Steiner, Polk County Environmental Services administrator**

# Road work limited by funding, no bridge replacements

Another construction season is over.

This year, construction was down due to a lack in transportation funding. Normally, we are busy into the fall constructing township bridges but with the governor's veto of the bonding bill, there was no funding to replace bridges.

However, we did have a successful road construction year. This year, we received funding to construct County Road (CR) 281 to the proposed ethanol plant site just southeast of Erskine.

We also used local county funds to surface CR 210 to the newly constructed grain loading facility between Mentor and Erskine. Both of these projects were constructed to support economic development in Polk County.

In McIntosh, we reconstructed County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 8. This work involved constructing new sidewalk, curb and gutter, storm sewer, sanitary sewer and waterlines. Along with this project, we milled and overlaid our municipal streets within McIntosh. These projects needed to be completed so that we can construct CSAH 8 from the north limits of McIntosh to the north county line. This project will be bid in October with completion in 2008.

We also reconstructed CSAH 17 from Business Trunk Highway (TH) 2 to TH 2 at East Grand Forks, CSAH 13 from 2.25 miles north of CSAH 11 to CR 252, and placed Geogrid and aggregate base on CSAH 66 from CSAH 21 to Marshall County's TH 1.

## Bridges re-inspected

As everybody is aware, the Interstate 35W bridge over the Mississippi River in Minneapolis collapsed. Because of this, we were required to re-inspect all Polk County and township bridges that were listed as structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. This inspection was completed on Sept. 7. No significant differences in any of the bridges were found. We also had the Minnesota Department of Transportation and North Dakota Department of Transportation bridge maintenance crews do fracture critical inspections on our Red River bridges at Nielsville, Climax, and Thompson. The results of these inspection reports will be available at a later time.

Other maintenance activities that we completed were: Chipseal of 40 miles of roadway in northwestern Polk County, gravel surfacing of all Polk County-owned gravel roads, and crack filling of 40 miles of bituminous roadways. — **Richard Sanders, Polk County engineer**

# Fosston shop work done; 2 salt/sand facilities are nearing completion

The Polk County Highway Department has completed an addition to the Fosston Shop to provide storage of one of three new snowplow/sanding trucks. The other two trucks are stationed at Fertile and Crookston.

Sand and salt storage facilities are being built in Trail and Fosston with that work scheduled to be completed in early October.

"We are also looking at upgrading our facility in Fertile," Richard Sanders, county engineer, reports. "All of this work is designed to make us more efficient in snow plowing and ice control."

# New, 3-year wage contracts get okay

New wage agreements are in place to continue Polk County government services and operations as normal for the next three years. All six of the organized employee groups have approved new wage and benefits contracts.

The new agreements, which cover the period from Jan. 1, 2007 through Dec. 31, 2009, provide 3 percent salary increases in the first two years followed by 3.5 percent increase in the third year of each of the contracts.

Also a part of the settlements were a \$100 per month increase in the cafeteria plan benefits package in the first year of the contracts with \$25 a month increases in years two and three.

The same wage and benefit increases were provided for the 105 employees in the Social Services Department, who are not organized, as well as for administrative personnel in the other departments.

Commissioners Bill Montague and Jerry Jacobson represented the County Board in the negotiations.

The organized employee bargaining groups and number of members in each are:

- American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (office and public health nurse workers), 62.
- International Union of Operating Engineers (known as "the 49ers")-Maintenance Division (Highway Department maintenance workers), 22.
- 49ers-Engineering Division (Highway Department engineers), 11.
- 49ers-Solid Waste Division (Transfer Station and Incinerator workers), 26.
- Law Enforcement Labor Services (LELS) Local 216 (dispatchers in the Sheriff's Office), 7, and Local 57 (Sheriff's Office deputies), 22.

# State law now requires video display devices to be recycled

As of July 1, 2007, all video display devices (VDD) are required to be recycled in the State of Minnesota.

This law compliments the VDD disposal ban in Minnesota that went into effect on July 1, 2006, which was aimed at reducing the amount of toxic metals such as lead, cadmium, nickel and mercury placed in Minnesota's waste disposal facilities each year.

The responsibility to recycle residential VDD's falls to the manufacturers of these products. Each manufacturer's recycling obligation is determined based upon residential sales in the state in the previous year. It is the responsibility of each individual business to recycle their VDD's at their own expense.

As a result of this electronic waste recycling law, Polk County will accept the following residential electronics at no charge to Polk County residents (except those residing in East Grand Forks, since that city does not participate in County Solid Waste programs):

- Televisions
- Computer Monitors

- VCR's
- Hard Drives/CPU's
- DVD Players
- Keyboards/Mice
- Fax Machines
- Printers

These items will be accepted from eligible Polk County residents at the Polk County Transfer Station in Crookston and at the Occupational Development Center's Recycling Center in Fosston. Items may be dropped off at no charge Mon. - Fri. from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Business electronics will be accepted at the Polk County Transfer Station during the aforementioned days/hours for a fee. Fees for business VDD's range from \$10 to \$30 per unit based upon screen size, which is the actual cost incurred to recycle these materials.

For additional information on how to manage or dispose of your waste electronics, please contact Polk County Environmental Services at (218) 281-6445 or 1-800-482-6804. — **Jon Steiner, Polk County Environmental Services administrator**

# Guardsmen: Apply for benefits so eligibility can be determined

There have been many recent changes to the Veterans Administration Education Program for our returning Iraq/Afghanistan National Guard veterans. First is their ability to apply for educational benefits under Chapter 30, titled Montgomery G.I. Bill (MGIB) for active duty. This now pertains to those National Guard members who were activated for the Persian Gulf War.

A recent e-mail from the Department of Veterans Affairs Office is quoted here for your information:

*"Many of you have been asking about the status of the returning National Guard members and their eligibility for Chapter 30 benefits. There are many factors that could effect entitlement to Chapter 30 and other education benefits. The best course of action is to have the individual submit an application for benefits (V.A. Form 22-1990) and attach any documentation that could assist in making an entitlement decision (e.g. DD Form 214, active duty orders, MGIB \$1,200 contribution, 1606 Kicker Contract, \$600 increased contribution for Chapter 30, etc.)."*

*"If an individual is unsure of which benefit they may qualify for, then that should be indicated on the application by checking the appropriate block and/or making remarks. The most important thing for them to do is to apply for benefits so that the V.A. can determine their entitlement."*

Time Reserve Member Serves on Active Duty	% of Ch. 30 3-Year Rule
90 days but less than 1 year .....	40%
One year but less than 2 years .....	60%
Two years or more .....	80%

The other possibility is Chapter 1607 titled Increased Rates of Educational Assistance Allowance for Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP). The benefit amount payable under Chapter 1607 is a percentage of the MGIB (Chapter 30) three-year rate based on the number of continuous days served on active duty.

When in doubt, contact your college rep or our Veterans Service office for specific information. Or, call 1-888-442-4551 or go on line to [www.gibill.va.gov/](http://www.gibill.va.gov/). — **Les Goodwin, Polk County Veterans Service Officer**

# Association of Minnesota Counties Diedrich, Mills selected for new Public Safety Committee

Polk County Commissioner Don Diedrich, rural Warren, and Susan Mills, Crookston, have been selected to be voting members of the new Public Safety & Corrections Policy Committee of the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC).

Diedrich was chosen by fellow county commissioners from AMC's eight-county District 3 service area to be one their three delegates to the committee.

Mills, who is executive director of Tri-County Community Corrections agency and who twice served as state president of the Minnesota Association of

Community Corrections Act Counties (MACCAC), is one of two representatives on the committee from that organization.

The other District 3 delegates are Kittson County Commissioner Craig Spilde, Karlstad, and Roseau County Coordinator Trish Harren-Klein, Roseau. Norman County Commissioner Warren Olson, Halstad, and Mahan County Commissioner Jerry Dahl, Bejou, are alternate delegates from AMC District 3.

The second delegate representing MACCAC is Ron Wiborg of the Hennepin County Corrections Department in Minneapolis.

# Passports: Who, when, where, why & how to get one in Polk County

The Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) was mandated by Congress as a part of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 to strengthen border security and facilitate entry into the United States for citizens and legitimate international visitors.

The WHTI requirements for air travel took effect on Jan. 23, 2007. Since then, all citizens of the United States, Canada, Mexico and Bermuda have been required to present a valid passport when entering the United States at any airport.

## Passport encouraged

Land and sea travelers to Canada are encouraged to have a valid U.S. passport. If they do not have a passport, they should be prepared to provide a government-issued photo ID (e.g. driver's license) and proof of U.S. citizenship such as a U.S. birth or naturalization certificate.

As early as January of 2008 the U.S. Department of State will begin to implement WHTI at the land and sea ports of entry.

To obtain a passport for the first time, you need to go in person to one of over 9,000 passport acceptance facilities located throughout the United States.

In Polk County, an acceptance facility is located in County Recorder's Office.

The items needed for the passport application process are two passport photographs of yourself, proof of U.S. citizenship (most commonly a certified copy of a birth certificate or naturalization certificate), a valid form of photo identification such as a driver's license and a completed application.

## Requirement for children

There are special requirements for passport applications for children. Each minor child applying for a passport must appear in person in addition to both parents or the child's legal guardian must also appear and present the following: Evidence of the child's U.S. Citizenship, evidence of the child's relationship to the parent/guardian and parent/guardian identification.

If only one parent appears, the second parent's notarized written statement consenting to passport issuance for the child is required in addition to primary evidence of sole authority to apply or a written statement (made under penalty of perjury) explaining the second parent's unavailability.

## Recorder's Office has applications

Applications are available at the Polk County Recorder's Office or can be downloaded from the U.S. Department of State's website at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov). The fee for a new passport is

\$97 for adults and \$82 for children under the age of 16.

If you are renewing your passport, you may do so by mail if: Your most recent passport is available to submit and it is not damaged; you received the passport within the past 15 years; you were over age 16 when it was issued; you still have the same name, or can legally document your name change. If your passport has been altered or damaged, you cannot apply by mail. You must apply in person.

## Renew on the web

Applications for renewal are also available on the U.S. Department of State's website or in the Recorder's Office.

Processing time for both renewals and new applications is approximately 12 weeks. If a passport is needed sooner than that a \$60 per application expedite fee cost is charged in addition to the regular application fees, plus overnight delivery costs. Two-way overnight delivery is strongly suggested.

In 2005, the Polk County Recorder's Office processed 194 passport applications. In 2006, that number increased to 260. Through Sept. 5, 2007, we have already processed 278 applications.

U.S. citizens traveling to Canada, Mexico, Bermuda or countries in the Caribbean region who have applied for, but not yet received passports, can re-enter the United States by air through Sept. 30, 2007 by presentation of a government issued photo identification and Department of State official proof of application for a passport.

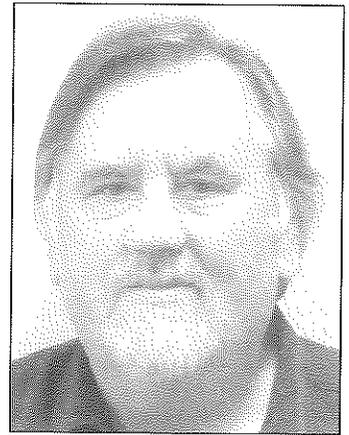
## Accommodations for air travelers

The official proof may be obtained from the U.S. Department of State's website. The federal government is making this accommodation for air travel due to longer than expected processing times for passport applications in the face of record-breaking demand.

To facilitate the frequent travel of those living in U.S. border communities and those traveling on commercial maritime vessels, the U.S. Department of State has committed to producing a passport card referred to as the North American Travel Card that incorporates cutting-edge technology.

This limited-use passport card will be adjudicated to the same standards as a traditional passport book. The rule published today proposes a wallet-sized card that would cost \$10 for children and \$20 for adults, plus a \$25 execution fee.

Please contact the Polk County Recorder's Office at 218-281-3464 with any passport questions. — **Michelle Cote, Polk County recorder**



Keith Mills

## Mills given state award for corrections

Keith Mills, a 33-year veteran of Tri-County Community Corrections (TCCC) and its assistant director of community services, has been awarded the Professional Achievement Award for excellence in corrections by the Minnesota Corrections Association.

A native of Ada, where he began his career as a probation agent in 1974, Mills has trained and been a mentor to many TCCC probation agents while developing strong relationships with judges, prosecutors, public defenders and law enforcement, according to Tami Jo Lieberg, TCCC director of probation services.

Mills developed TCCC's Intensive Supervision Program for sex offenders in 1992 and later expanded it to include high-risk, violent offenders.

He was also instrumental in developing the Group Supervision Program in 2001 and has worked on projects involving staff safety, probationary searches, probation fees, risk assessment tools, cognitive groups and the Restorative Justice program.

Currently, Mills is assisting in the development of a chemical dependency treatment program for inmates while they are in jail.

## Maps Available

Polk County maps showing the street and avenue locations in the rural addressing system continue to be available at the Highway Department and Auditor-Treasurer's Office. The cost is \$2 each.

## Affeldt named to chair Inter-County Community Council, head Household Hazardous Committee

Polk County Commissioner Warren Affeldt, Fosston, is serving as chair of the Inter-County Community Council.

Based at Oklee, the community action organization serves people in East Polk, Clearwater,

Pennington and Red Lake counties.

Programs include those offering job training, energy assistance and weatherization, food and nutrition programs, Head Start programs for pre-school children and several

other programs designed to assist persons and families in need.

Affeldt has also been chosen as chair of the five-county Household Hazardous Waste Advisory Committee. Those five counties include Beltrami, Clearwater, Mahanomen, Norman and Polk.

## Tip line for more than drug activity

The "Help.Us.2" Fight Meth anonymous tip line of the Polk County Sheriff's Office "isn't just for methamphetamine or other drugs," Sheriff Mark LeTexier says.

"It's for all crime... for all suspicious activity and it is completely anonymous. People can call our special number and not have any fear of retribution or of having to testify in court," he adds.

Educating the public about the tip line is taking time, he says. "We're getting some calls but not as many as we'd like."

"We'd like information on any suspicious activity... even if it might not seem all that important at the time. But, that little tip might tie in with other information that we already have and give us enough evidence to solve a crime. We want people to call in and let the investigating officer have the chance to check it out," LeTexier says.

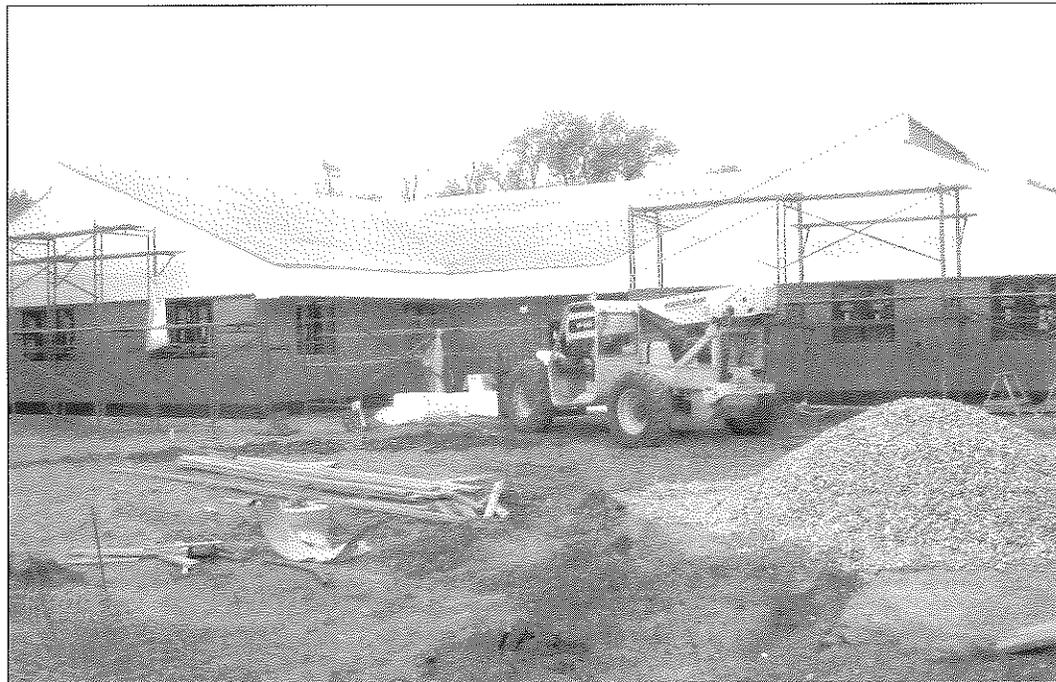
While the local manufacture, use and trafficking of methamphetamine, commonly known as "meth," is down in the region because of legislation that limits the availability of the pseudoephedrine needed for the process, LeTexier notes that the overall situation remains a big problem.

"It is still here. But now, about 90 percent or more of the meth comes in from places like Texas, California, Mexico and other areas."

About the anonymous number, LeTexier says, "People ask us why we don't have a toll-free, 800 number. But if we were to do that, the call wouldn't be anonymous. An 800 number has the caller ID feature, which we don't have with our number.

"We worked with Garden Valley Telephone Co. in Erskine to develop a tip line that completely protects the caller's identity."

The line became operational last winter. The "Help.Us.2" name relates to the number 435-7872. For calls from out of the 435-service territory (the prefix for Fosston), callers need to use the 218 area code.



Work on Northwest Mental Health Center addition is underway

## With growing staff, Northwest Mental Health Center enlarging

The Northwest Mental Health Center, which provides services for six northwest Minnesota counties, is in the process of constructing an addition to its office and clinic building in Crookston.

"With a staff of 100 in a building originally designed for about 35, we've really been cramped. This is a project that is long overdue; it's been in planning for several years," Dan Wilson, executive director, says.

Under construction is a 4,885-square-foot, ground-level addition to the south side of the current center that will provide space for offices, administrative support plus a training room that can be utilized by staff and for community meetings.

### Lower level used

Another 3,500 square feet of space in the lower level will provide nine additional offices and a meeting room, as well as space for storage.

"With the addition of a federal grant for children's mental health services and new state policy bringing resources into the community as Minnesota

shuts down its system of large state hospitals, we needed to expand services," Wilson says.

"This resulted in the need for additional space beyond the ground-level space that was provided in the original planning. The response from the Center's Board of Directors was to finish the lower level. Fortunately, that possibility was readily available and easily the most cost-effective option to pursue."

Projected total cost of the project, which includes property that was purchased between the center and Business Highway 75 and also some repairs to the current facilities, is \$1,359,672.

The addition is being constructed on much of the current

parking lot with new parking provided on the recently purchased property.

### Financing set

The center is using existing resources for a portion of the project and, to complete the financing, has arranged a 30-year, low-interest loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture loan and a Bremer Bank USDA-guaranteed loan.

Counties served by the center include Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Red Lake, Mahanomen and Polk.

"We are excited about the prospect of having enough space to work in," Wilson says. The project is expected to be completed in mid-December, with an open house anticipated for late January.

## County Board Meeting Times

8:30 a.m. on 1st Tuesday  
of each month

1:20 p.m. on 3rd Tuesday  
8:30 a.m. on 4th Tuesday

All meetings are  
open to the public

### Commissioners:

Dist. 1 — Jerry Jacobson  
Dist. 2 — Warren Strandell  
Dist. 3 — Bill Montague  
vice chair  
Dist. 4 — Warren Affeldt  
chair  
Dist. 5 — Don Diedrich

*Nobody calls when they are happy*

# Dispatchers send needed help 24-7

Julie Deziel, East Grand Forks — 5 years; Holly Duciaume, Red Lake Falls — 6 years; Jackie Erickson, Fertile — 6 years; Jolene McCollum, Fertile — 7 months; Sheila Menard, Crookston — 19 years; Nancy Shafer, Crookston — 13 years; Denise Waxler, Crookston — 12 years.

Sound like a list of young ladies who ran afoul of the law and are doing jail time?

Not so. These are the good guys but they do spend a lot of time in the building that still houses the Northwest Regional Corrections Center jail.

These ladies operate the Polk County Dispatch Center. They are the ones who take the calls (there were almost 1,500 last year that were legitimate 9-1-1 calls) from people whose homes might be on fire, from mothers whose child is choking, from accident victims or the persons who are the first at an accident scene, from those reporting a crime in progress, or maybe even the route of an approaching tornado.

## Time on the job

The numbers behind the names of these dispatchers represent the length of time that each has been on the job in Polk County... the time that they have been doing things like trying to calm and listen — sometimes for an hour at a time when phones on five other lines are ringing — to a person thinking about suicide.

They are the ones who give directions over the phone on how to perform CPR or the Heimlich maneuver. And they are the ones who help to watch out for the safety of law enforcement officers at the scene of a crime or accident.

They dispatch for five ambulance services, 13 fire departments (and their first responders), and 8 police departments, including both full- and part-time units. They collect information from frantic, sometimes hysterical callers, and pass it on to where it needs to go to cover all of the support bases.

## Stressful but satisfying

And they do these things 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for all 365 days of the year. While very stressful, the job can be awfully satisfying, too. The satisfaction comes when a bad situation is averted or at least attended to without further injury or damage.

Hidden deep within the Law Enforcement Center — the same building that houses the 32-bed jail that is operated by Tri-County Community Corrections along with the Sheriff's Office, Emergency Management and the Red River Valley Juvenile Detention Center — the Dispatch Center has no visual contact with the outside world. The only thing that a dispatcher can see on the outside comes through the cameras that watch the entrances to the building.

So, based on their working conditions, they are probably doing "time" 10 hours at a shift from behind a series of heavy, locked doors. While they do have the power to operate those doors via the conglomeration of video screens and electronic equipment in the command center, they cannot leave.

## Isolated

"We're completely isolated except for some staff movement that might be occurring in the juvenile center," Dispatch Center Director Nancy Shafer says. "We



**Nancy Shafer**  
Dispatch Center director

bring our lunch. Eat it when we can. We go to the bathroom when we can. There is some overlap of shifts to cover for the really busy periods but mostly we work alone. There aren't any scheduled breaks. We eat at our desks and, during the really busy times, that might not happen until 9 at night."

The busiest times, she says, usually occur in the summer when the most violent storms occur requiring that community agencies in the county be kept abreast of the latest information. Summer is also the time when more people are on the road and, with the presence of speed and alcohol, the most serious accidents often occur.

## Demanding time

"A serious accident can keep you busy for two, three hours before everything, like calling ambulances, law enforcement, hospitals, wreckers, and more, is taken care of," she relates.

Winter, with its own set of weather issues, can be busy, too.

"Storms, with white-out conditions and blocked or icy roads, cause a lot of problems," Shafer says.

For the latest and best information on weather, summer or winter, Shafer says people should just listen to the radio. "They have everything that we have. They have all the information from the Weather Bureau about 'watches' and 'warnings.' They have all the school announcements. And they keep in contact with the Minnesota Department of Transportation about road conditions."

While people should call the Dispatch Center if they spot a tornado or are experiencing really bad weather, there are many times, too, when it is not appropriate to call 9-1-1.

Among them are questions concerning whether a road is open and if they should try to go somewhere or not.

## Best information

"We aren't the ones with the best information on roads. Many times people will call and tell us, 'I have four-wheel-drive' but there gets to be just as many 4-wheel-drives in the ditch as cars. We've even had people ask us to call their employers to tell them that it is too stormy for them to get to work. Then, they try to go to Grand Forks shopping.

"We get calls about when people's power will come back on... about why their cable TV isn't working. We get the whole gamut of requests and stories. And some people will call in the middle of the night wondering how they can get hold of someone because they just ran out of heating fuel. They probably call us because we're the only ones answering the phones at

Continued on Page 9



**Julie Deziel**



**Holly Duciaume**



**Jackie Erickson**



**Jolene McCollum**

# Dispatchers

Continued from Page 8

that time of night.”

Being a dispatcher, Shafer says, requires that you know where to find the answers. “In Polk County, you need to know a little about the landscape... where some things are. And you need to know something about law, about utilities and the people who have to be called when a line goes down.”

The legitimate calls might also include those about missing persons... about when a motorist hasn't arrived at a destination on time. There are calls, too, about vulnerable adults. Those instances involve completing a lengthy form by doing an interview over the phone... probably at the same time as when other people, or even law enforcement officers, are on other lines waiting for the information that they need.

## Send a cop, right now

There are instances, Shafer says, when people are asking you to “get a cop over here right now.” For the safety of the officer and everyone else, she says, “that’s when you have to try to find out what is really going on. Get the name of the person who is calling, where they are calling from, the number that they can be reached at should something happen to the call. Who the perpetrator is, if they are still at the location or where they might have gone, the type of vehicle.

“Some people become perturbed when you start asking all of those questions but you really have to try to get as much information as you can for everyone’s safety.”

## Rural addressing

The rural addressing done in the county several years ago, Shafer says, has helped people pinpoint where an activity or accident has occurred. “With rural addressing,” she says, “people have had to learn their addresses. Before, no one knew where they lived... only that they were on route such and such, but not really where that was.”

In addition to answering all of the 9-1-1 calls for the entire county, the Dispatch Center also takes all regular calls to the Sheriff’s Office during regular business hours.

The phone rang more than 18,000 times last year. Dispatchers also handle jail and juvenile center security, which involves electronically opening and closing those big, heavy doors for the people needing to pass through them.

“By the time a shift is over, you are really ready to go home. We work 10-hour shifts and try not to

work more than three days in a row,” Shafer says. “We’re operating one dispatcher short. I think we’ve been short almost the whole time since I started working here in 1994.

## Big learning curve

“There is quite a learning curve when someone new comes on. I just tell them that they don’t have to know everything, just where to find the answers.

“We’ve got a really good group of dispatchers. We get along well together. We cover for each other when someone needs to switch shifts so that they can be off or maybe go on vacation at a certain time.

“We’re all 9-1-1-certified to provide information on CPR and the Heimlich maneuver over the telephone.

“The shifts rotate so that you are on days for a month, evenings for a month, and then nights for a month. There is some overlap of the shifts so that the new people coming on can be brought up to speed on ongoing issues and so that two people are working during some of busiest times.

“Things can get pretty crazy around here at times and then there are times, too, when you are here by yourself and it actually gets boring. After you’ve had times when you have had one phone in each ear with two other phones ringing, you really appreciate those times but you know that they won’t last for long... that something big could happen at any minute.”

## All-woman staff

The female trait of being better able to ‘multi-task,’ Shafer says, is probably some of the reason why the staff is made of up of all women. “Although, we did have Don Fall here for many years before he retired. He was a great dispatcher... probably the male exception,” she says.

“If anyone lasts in this job over four or five years, it is because they like it. You have to be pleasant and courteous at all times. When someone is hysterical, you have to try to calm him or her down.

“People don’t call us because they are having a good day. You don’t last in this job because of the paycheck. You’re going to miss a lot of family dinners and holidays.

“But when you help someone, when you can make a difference for someone in need, there can be awful lot of satisfaction, too.”



Sheila Menard



Denise Waxler

## What information to have available & what to expect when you call 9-1-1

The 9-1-1 call is meant to be made for emergencies only... when somebody needs a fire, police or ambulance response right away.

However, if in doubt as to whether or not the situation is an emergency, persons should make the call. Let the dispatcher determine if the situation is actually an emergency.

If you should you call 9-1-1 by mistake, don't hang-up. It is the policy of Polk County 9-1-1 to call back all 9-1-1 hang-up calls. So, if you have misdialed, stay on the line and tell the dispatcher what happened so they know that there really isn't an emergency.

### Cell phone calls

When calling from a cell phone (which accounts for about 40 percent of all 9-1-1 calls), providing the exact location from where the call is being made is very important. Although new cell phones contain a GPS chip, not all cell towers are able to read the GPS signal.

Thus, the caller should know their address, the road that they are traveling on, or be able to describe the exact location of the emergency. And they should be ready to provide their own cell phone number so that a reconnection can be made if the call is lost.

### Stay on the line

Callers need to speak clearly and loudly and be ready to answer the dispatcher's questions, so that the proper informa-

tion can be obtained and a response by fire, law enforcement or an ambulance can be initiated and sent to the right location.

Then, stay on the line. Don't hang-up until the dispatcher tells you that it is okay to do so.

When calling for an ambulance, the dispatcher will want to be able to tell the ambulance crew if the patient is conscious, breathing, experiencing pain, where the pain or injury is located, and any medical history that you know of... such as heart problems, if diabetic, epileptic, etc.

If reporting a motor vehicle accident, expect to be asked if it is a one-vehicle or multi-vehicle accident, if persons are injured, if bleeding and from where, if the vehicle(s) block a roadway, and any other information you can provide.

If reporting a reckless or possibly intoxicated driver, you will be asked to provide the location of the vehicle, describe it and the person driving it, and possibly to provide the license number.

### Helpful numbers

Sheriff's Office .....281-0431  
Emergency Mgmt .....281-0437  
NW Regional Corrections Center (jail) .....281-6092

For road and weather information, listen to your local radio station, call Mn DOT's Information Center at 511 or 1-511, or go to [www.511mn.org](http://www.511mn.org) on your computer

# Votava chosen to represent East Polk on Red Lake Watershed Board

Jim Votava, McIntosh, has been appointed to serve as the East Polk County representative on the Board of Managers of the Red Lake Watershed District.

He will complete the term of Allan Carlson, Erskine, who was in the first year of his second three-year term on the board when he became ill and died in August.

"Having grown up on a farm near Gully where there were a lot of problems with water and drainage, I've always been interested in those subjects and am finding that the issues that come before the board are very interesting," Votava, who was a friend of Carlson, says of his first experiences on the board. "I have a lot to learn, of course, but I am enjoying it."

Votava, who had enlisted in the Army Air Corps Reserves while still in high school at Fosston in 1945, was called to active in March of his senior year. "In those days when you were that close to graduating and had left to go into the service, they just let you graduate without making up any work. I got my signed diploma in the mail when I was on active

duty."

After completing his enlistment, a part of which was spent in the Philippines, Votava started college at Bemidji State College. Then on a whim, as a position in the Gully Post Office opened up, he walked into his hometown Post Office, took the test, passed and got the appointment. Still in the active Air Force Reserves in 1951, Votava was called to active duty again and served as an airborne radio operator for seven months during the Korean War.

He was transferred to McIntosh in 1954 and retired from the U.S. Postal Service there in 1986. Since then, Votava has combined work as a medical transport driver, which he did for eight or nine years, with work on his small farm near McIntosh and as a driver for incapacitated persons needing to get to their medical appointments.

Votava and his wife, Eileen, have five children, who live in the Twin Cities, Wisconsin, South Dakota and Colorado, and six grandchildren.

## Campgrounds get additional improvements

Another camping season is about to wrap up. This year, we added 19 electrical pedestals to the campsites at Cross Lake/Tilberg Park and are currently working on a plan to also add a bathroom facility. We also employed a new camp host.

At Maple Lake Park, we have added 5 new docks and planted perennials in the flower beds near the new bathhouse. We will be completing the landscaping next spring.

If you are interested in a seasonal site at either campground, please call the Polk County Highway Department and get your name on the waiting list.

The camping season begins in early May and lasts until Oct. 1.  
— Richard Sanders, Polk County engineer

## Report Welfare Fraud

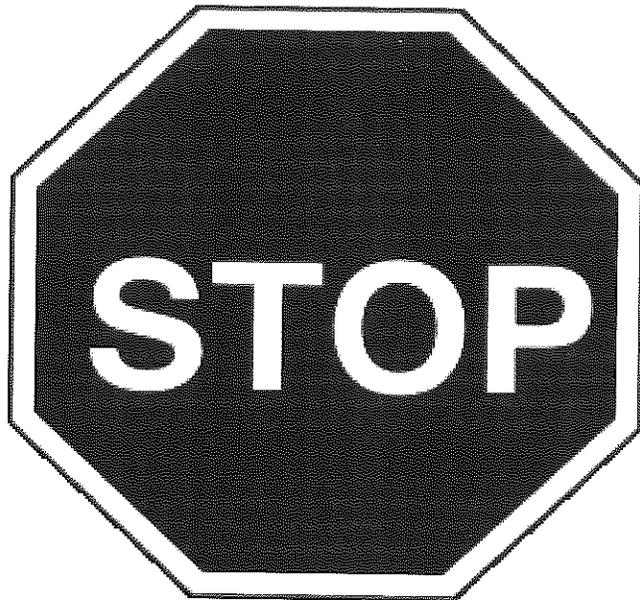
People who give false information or withhold facts in order to receive Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) aid, food stamps, general assistance, childcare or medical assistance may be guilty of fraud.

### You may wish to report:

- Persons not reporting income
- Incorrect reporting of persons living in the home
- Misuse of food stamps or Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards
- Falsifying of information on application
- Unreported property and assets
- Persons receiving dual benefits (from more than one state)

### What you should report:

- **Who** — The name of the person
- **What** — The fraud suspected
- **When** — Date of occurrence
- **Where** — Address of person



## Welfare Fraud

You may remain anonymous

If you suspect someone of misusing or abusing Minnesota assistance programs, call the Polk County Sheriff's Office at this number 24 hours a day, 7 days a week:  
**1-218-281-0431 (ask for extension 2249)**

You can also contact the toll free Minnesota Welfare Fraud Hotline 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at:  
**1-800-627-9977 YOU MAY REMAIN ANONYMOUS**



Curt Knutson



Patricia Erickson

## Knutson, Erickson join Extension Committee

Curt Knutson, Fisher, and Patricia Erickson, Fertile, are new members of the Polk County Extension Committee.

Knutson replaces Donna Christianson, Mentor, as the at-large member, while Erickson succeeds Brent Sorenson, Crookston, as the member representing Commissioner District 1. Both Christianson and Sorenson had completed the maximum number of two three-year terms allowed for members of the committee.

### Oversees activities

The committee oversees Extension Service activities in the county and makes recommendations about staffing and budgeting to the County Board.

Chuck Vanyo, East Grand Forks, is chair of the committee with Rick Roed, Fosston, as the vice chair. Other members are: Judie Kanten, Crookston; Robert Bratvold, East Grand Forks. County commissioners Warren Affelt, Fosston, and Don Diedrich, Warren, also serve on the committee. Polk County Auditor-Treasurer Gerald Amiot serves as secretary of the committee.

The University of Minnesota Extension Service educators based in the county are Russ Severson at the Crookston office and Jim Stordahl at the McIntosh office. Aaron Rongen, who is the 4-H program coordinator, is also offered at McIntosh.

### Agassiz Ambassadors

Knutson and his wife, Kim, served as the Red River Valley Agassiz Ambassadors (King Agassiz) in 1995. He raises sugarbeets, wheat and soybeans in a farming operation south of Fisher that includes his son and a brother.

The operation also includes a registered Black Angus herd, a few ABBI registered bucking bulls and the breeding and raising of quarter horses.

As captain of the Polk County Sheriff's Mounted Posse, Knutson leads 30 active members in a role that he calls "the most rewarding" he has ever been involved with. He recently retired from the Fisher School Board, which he served as chairman for many of the 16 years that he was on the board.

Curt and Kim, who works at the University of Minnesota-Crookston, have four children: Amy, 26, is a registered nurse and will soon become a physician's assistant; Chad, 24, farms with his father and uncle; Kristen, 21, is also a registered nurse; and Nicole, 18, is a student at the University of North Dakota.

### Emerging Leaders

Erickson and her husband, Matt, have been selected as Emerging Leaders for East Polk County. They farm and ranch with Matt's father, Jerry, near Fertile. Erickson Farms includes a 150 cow-calf operation that feeds out all offspring to slaughter weight and also raises wheat, oats, soybeans and corn.

Patricia is involved with St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Fertile, is a member of the Fertile-Beltrami Early Childhood Family Education Board, is a 4-H adult volunteer, is the 4-H Youth Division superintendent and is co-chair of the Kiddie Calf Show of the Polk County Fair. She also works part-time as a substitute rural mail carrier.

The Ericksons have three children: Emery, 6, Catherine, 3, and Sidney, 1.

## Tax-forfeited properties to be sold at auction

Polk County will conduct a Tax-Forfeited Property Sale at the Courthouse at 10 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 16.

Up to 25 properties will be available for purchase by the public. Minimum sale prices for each property have been determined following recent on-site inspections by County Auditor-Treasurer Gerald Amiot, County Assessor Robert Wagner, County Environmental Services Officer Jon Steiner, and Commissioner Don Diedrich.

### Public auction

The sale will be conducted as a public auction with an oral bidding process held to determine the highest bidder. All past-due taxes, penalties and interest assessed against the properties will be cancelled for

the new owners.

### No terms

No installment terms will be accepted. Sales are cash only.

The most recent past owners of the tax-forfeited properties are allowed to reacquire them prior to the sale by paying up the total amount of past-due taxes, penalties, interest and special assessments that is owed.

Legal advertisements listing the properties to be offered for sale will be published in the official county newspaper, The Exponent in East Grand Forks, and also in other county newspapers. Additional information is available at the Auditor-Treasurer's Office in the Courthouse.

## Paulsrud selected as new Social Services supervisor

Molly Paulsrud is the new Polk County Social Services supervisor working with adult mental health, chemical dependency, licensing, family-based and intake services.

A native of Red Lake Falls where she graduated from high school in 1996, Paulsrud earned a B.S. degree in applied psychology at Bemidji State University in 1999. In 2000, she joined Polk County Social Services as a social worker in the Fosston and Win-E-Mac schools. From 2001 until her recent selection for the new position, Paulsrud had worked in the child protection area.

She and her husband, Dana, have a daughter, Ella, 2.



Molly Paulsrud

## Polk County Attorney's Office

Activity Summary Jan.-June 2007

### Felony & Gross Misdemeanors

Complaints prepared	206
Sentencing hearings	232
Committed to state prison	33
Probation violation hearings	258
Committed to state prison	15
Jury trials	6
Defendants convicted	5
Total committed to state prison	48

### Misdemeanors

Guilty pleas	65
Trials	4

### Juvenile Cases

Delinquency petitions	33
-----------------------	----

Child in need of protective services (CHIPS) petitions	45
Delinquency hearings	181
CHIPS hearings	161

### County Welfare

Commitment petitions*	12
Commitment hearings	25
Guardianship petitions	11
Guardianship hearings	9

\* Mentally ill and/or inebriate

### Child Support

Child support hearings	77
Paternity hearings	

*Should new federal money become available...*

## Plans will be there for new Thompson Bridge

Polk County and its North Dakota counterpart, Grand Forks County, expect to have a plan in place for the replacement of the Thompson Bridge should new federal money become available for bridge repair or replacement in the wake of the I-35W bridge collapse in Minneapolis.

"We want to have a plan on the shelf so that we can move ahead as fast as possible if new federal money becomes available," Polk County engineer Richard Sanders says of the bridge over the Red River south of East Grand Forks-Grand Forks. "We had been planning for replacement in 2012 but, if new money becomes available, we want to be in position to do it sooner."

### 1,500 vehicles a day

The bridge, which connects Polk County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 9 with Grand Forks County Road 7, has been determined to be hydraulically, structurally and geometrically deficient. It had a rating of only 34.10 in the fall 2006 inspection (on a scale to 100). While structurally deficient, the bridge has been determined to be safe for the about 1,500 vehicles that cross it each day.

Built in 1940 with just a 24-foot wide deck and a 16-foot vertical clearance, the bridge substructure experienced major soil movement on the North Dakota side in the summer of 2004. Following a resetting of the west truss then, the



**Built in 1940, the Thompson Bridge was not designed for modern transportation**

bridge moved back to within an inch of the summer 2004 position in just two years. While resetting the bridge in 2004, damage was done to a jacking plate, which now precludes future adjustments with future soil movement anticipated.

With the technical information indicating that replacement is the only option and is needed as soon as possible, Sanders, assistant Polk County Engineer Darin Carlstrom, Grand Forks County Engineer Richard Onstad, and structural engineers Timothy Moe and Kent Rohr of the Alexandria, Minn., office of Widseth Smith

Nolting, met recently to discuss a course of action. The agreed upon action was to immediately begin the process of developing the design for the construction of a new bridge.

### Work is going on

Polk County is taking the lead in that process, the cost of which will be shared equally by both counties. Work, which is already going on, is to include conducting bridge and approach surveys, investigating soil and slope stability, performing hydraulic analysis and risk assessment, and performing the other related engineering practices needed to develop a replacement plan.

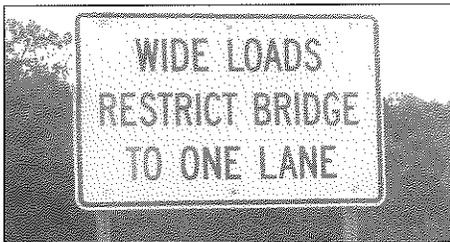
Midwest Testing Laboratory, Inc., Grand Forks, has been chosen to do the soil boring investigations and give recommendations for soil slopes and piling depths for the bridge. The University of North Dakota Anthropology Research Department is doing the cultural research survey.

The design process will, of course, address options for bridge type, length and configuration. Initial discussions have revolved around the need to have a structure that would remain high and dry during a 100-year frequency flood and have a deck almost twice the current width.

It would be built approximately 150 feet north of the present bridge, which would allow the present bridge to remain in place and in use during the construction period.

Current thoughts, according to Sanders, are to have a bridge deck that would be three feet higher than the 1997 flood. Preliminary plans are expected to be completed by Jan. 1, 2008.

Cost estimates for such a bridge, including extensive approach work, are near \$8.5 million. With federal funds expected to cover about 80 percent of that cost, each county could be liable for about \$1.25 million.



**Wide load warning**



**The the painted horizontal line below the "R.T. 97" on the upper structure of the Thompson Bridge marks the Red River level during the height of the 1997 flood**

## Landfill life extended

# One year's collection of ash used in asphalt road mix projects

Polk County owns and operates a resource recovery plant located in Fosston. This facility processes over 33,000 tons of mixed municipal solid waste annually from Polk and four other partner counties. A byproduct from the burning process is ash, which is transported and deposited in special lined cells at the Polk County landfill near Gently.

In 2000 and 2001, Polk County performed its first Demonstration Research Project (DRP) utilizing the ash as a partial aggregate replacement in hot mix asphalt paving materials. The project consisted of building and monitoring a section of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 13 using the ash-amended asphalt in the base and non-wear courses of the road.

### 2nd project in 2004

In August 2004, Polk County completed a second DRP including ash as a partial replacement of aggregate in another asphalt paving project. That project included the paving of a two-mile section of CSAH 44, which leads to the Polk County Landfill and the quarter mile section of road that accesses the landfill. As a conservative measure, no ash was included in the wear course of either project.

The results of the both projects show no negative environmental or worker safety issues and demonstrate improved structural and flexibility performance from the ash-amended asphalt as compared to conventional asphalt.

"We've found that it has performed very well from a construction standpoint. It provides a stronger road surface that is more flexible than traditional asphalt mixes," Richard Sanders, Polk County engineer, relates.

### New authority sought

Polk County has submitted an application to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for issuance of a Case-Specific Beneficial Use Determination (CSBUD) that would allow Polk to perform future similar projects without prior MPCA review and approval.

However, concerns from MPCA Air Quality Division due to a slight increase in stack emissions of mercury when adding ash into the asphalt plant for the CSAH 13 project has delayed approval of this request.

Polk County has reported that the stack test per-

formed with the CSAH 13 DRP was flawed in that the contractor's baghouse was not performing properly. This has raised some doubts as to the accuracy of the mercury emission levels.

A request for approval of a third DRP has been submitted and approved by the MPCA. The primary goal of this third demonstration project is to perform another stack test to gather data relative to mercury emissions. The DRP will construct another asphalt road with and without the addition of waste combustor ash into the asphalt.

### Test to be performed

A stack test will be performed to quantify particulate and mercury emission levels under both conditions to verify the small amount of mercury being released to the environment in order to obtain approval of the CSBUD.

The project selected is relatively close to the landfill and is a continuation of CSAH 13 to the north. This project involved overlaying a 6.2-mile section of existing asphalt pavement and widening the driving lanes to 12 feet. The paving portion of the project was accomplished in two lifts. Waste combustor ash was added to the non-wear lift using construction techniques learned on CSAH 44 with no ash in the wear course.

In the project, grading and preparation was done by Davidson Construction Co., Newfolden, with the asphalt mix, which includes 15 percent ash, developed by Minn-Dak Asphalt, Crookston.

### Work started Sept. 17

The asphalt placement began on Sept. 26 and took five days to complete both the non-wear and wear course. This allowed sufficient time to perform the stack tests both with and without the ash. The final substitution rate was 15 percent ash for aggregate, which consumed approximately 1,650 tons of screened ash for this project.

The three projects in total have utilized approximately 5,000 tons of ash thereby saving valuable landfill space. The 5,000 tons represents the equivalent of ash generated by the resource recovery plant in one year.

A report will be prepared and submitted to the MPCA following tabulation of the production and economic data and review of the stack test results.

— **Bill Wilson, facilities manager, Polk County Waste**

## All Vietnam vets eligible for Medicare

All Vietnam War veterans, who were not previously enrolled, are now eligible for Medicare through their Veterans Affairs hospital. This includes all of those who served in Vietnam or that country's inland waterways. Veterans of other war eras will continue to be served on an income basis.

The V.A. had previously established income eligibility guidelines that prevented some veterans of war from being able to enroll in their local V.A. hospital because they made too much money. That decision, made Jan. 16, 2003, was done to help V.A. personnel deal with what was a three-year waiting period for initial medical appointments in some parts of the country.

Veterans enrolled in the V.A. prior to 2003 were grandfathered into the V.A. regardless of income.

After that policy change, only new V.A. clients had to meet the income eligibility guidelines, have a service-connected physical or mental condition, or a pre-existing condition that worsened during their time of service.

Veterans who served in Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, may have been exposed to the "agent orange" herbicide used to defoliate plant life that may have provided cover for enemy forces. A variety of health problems have been associated with that chemical and those veterans should contact their Veterans Service Office.

## Jacobson is chair of Pembina Trails RC&D body

Polk County Commissioner Gerald Jacobson, Fertile, is serving as chair of the seven-county Pembina Trails Resource Conservation & Development Association, based in Red Lake Falls.

The seven counties are Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake and Roseau.

The organization provides leadership and assistance in coordinating the development of projects to support the human and natural resources in the region. Sponsors are the boards of county commissioners and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts from each county. The board meets six times a year.

## Strandell elected to board of state organization

Polk County Commissioner Warren Strandell, East Grand Forks, has been elected to serve a two-year term on the board of directors of the Association of Minnesota Counties representing District 3. He succeeds Pennington County Commissioner Don Jensen, Goodridge.

Besides being a voting member on the board of directors of the state organization, he will lead semi-annual meetings in the district that includes eight

counties in northwestern Minnesota — Kittson, Mahanomen, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake and Roseau.

District meetings are held to refine the association's policy and platform positions and to receive and provide information on specific county government issues and concerns. The next district meeting will be held Thursday, Oct. 25, at the Northland Inn, Crookston.

*"I'm 16 and I used meth about a year.  
It was the worst mistake of my life.  
Thought it would take away all the hurt I felt  
but instead it caused more..." --Anonymous*

Help Us 2  
FIGHT  
Meth!

and other crime in Polk County, MN  
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Call: **HELP.US.2**

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Polk County Sheriff's Office  
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## Cellblock

This is the general population cellblock and dayroom. Corrections officers will work from the desk at left. Prisoners are not to enter the dark area on the floor in front of the desk. Those who do will be disciplined, even sent to 'lock-down' in their cells. This 'direct-supervision' design allows one corrections officer to supervise up to 60 prisoners.

## Courtroom

The judge's "bench" in this courtroom is flanked by the witness stand on the right and the recorder/clerk work area at left. There are four courtrooms on the second floor of the Justice Center along with offices for Court Administration, judge chambers and other support services.



## No view

This "room without a view" is one of the cells in the new jail. Cells have no windows and are only wide enough to provide for the length of a bunk. Each, of course, has a toilet and a sink. Cells in the general population, work release and women's cell blocks are all double-bunked. Prisoners won't get to chose their cell-mates.

# Turbine now producing 'green' energy

Heat that used to be exhausted into the atmosphere when it wasn't needed by the Polk County Solid Waste Resource Recovery Plant in Fosston to produce steam for its three food processing customers now goes through a steam-driven turbine generator to make electric power.

And that power amounts to a win-win for everybody involved... for Fosston Municipal Utilities and its power provider the Northern Minnesota Power Agency (NMPA), for Minnkota Power Cooperative (MPC), for the three steam customers in Fosston, and for the Polk county Solid Waste Resource Recovery Plant.

The plant, which was built for \$6.8 million in 1988 and is known to many simply as the "incinerator," burns municipal solid waste (garbage) from homes and businesses in Beltrami, Clearwater, Mahnomon, Norman and Polk counties.

Besides the benefits of getting rid of that solid waste and extending the life of the Polk County landfill at the same time, the heat that is produced in the burning process is used to develop steam for the three food processing firms in the Fosston — Minnesota Dehydrated Vegetables, Sun-Opta and Specialty Products.

## Steam customers retain priority

Since steam sales produce greater returns for the plant, which operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, those customers continue to enjoy a priority position to get steam.

But by the nature of their businesses, they aren't always on-line and using it. In that situation in the past, the heat was just exhausted to the atmosphere.

The steam turbine generator is connected in parallel with Fosston's electrical distribution system. Meters are in place to document all of the power that is generated by the turbine and that which is required to operate the plant regardless of whether the energy comes from Fosston Municipal Utilities or from that produced internally by the turbine generator. In either situation, Fosston Municipal bills the plant for the total amount that is consumed... just like it has always done.

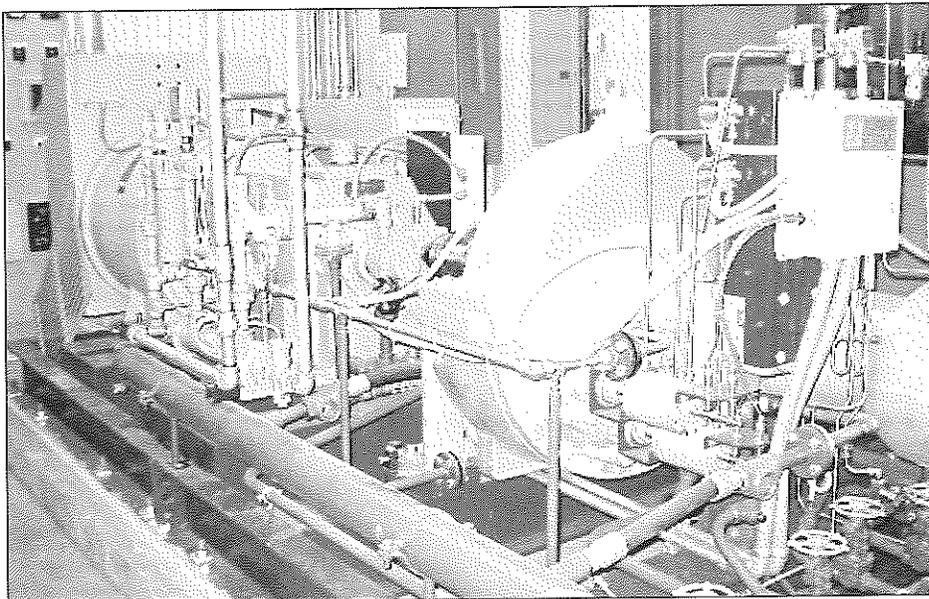
The benefit to the Solid Waste Resource Recovery Plant is that it receives 4 cents per kilowatt-hour from Minnkota Power Cooperative (MPC) for the energy that is produced. Minnkota is the operating agent for NMPA.

## Generating revenue

The plant also will receive an "accredited capacity rate." That rate has been set at \$21 per kilowatt per year and already through mid-August it had generated over 200,000 kWh of electricity for which Minnkota paid the Solid Waste Resource Recovery Plant \$8,412 for the renewable energy.

The benefit to NMPA is that it can now use the production from the turbine generator toward the new state requirements that a percentage of the power provided to Minnesota customers must be "renewable" energy.

That Renewable Energy Standard Bill requires that 10 percent of all energy produced by utilities come from renewable sources by 2015 and 25 percent by 2025. Both the federal



Steam-driven turbine in place and producing

and Minnesota governments have established that municipal solid waste qualifies as biomass and therefore is a source for the production of renewable energy.

Renewable energy can also be produced from wind, hydro, solar and biogas sources, all of which reduce the nation's dependence on fossil fuels including foreign oil.

After experiencing some start-up delays that dealt mainly with programming safeguards to prevent electricity from being delivered back into the grid at a time when it could endanger utility personnel working on power lines, the turbine was put into use in April.

Darryl Tveitbakk, general manager of NMPA, relates, "This is good for all of us because it will help us meet the new Minnesota renewable energy standard. The agreements that we have developed for this project are meant to work for everybody. We're all partners."

## Pay-back in 5 to 6 years

As owner of the solid waste resource recovery plant, Polk County expects to have payback from the \$800,000 turbine generator project within five to six years.

The quick return on investment, according to Bill Wilson, facilities manager of the Solid Waste Resource Recovery Plant, became possible when the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) allowed the county to redirect about \$400,000 that had been left over from a previous grant to pay for 50 percent of the turbine project.

That unused grant money was from a project to retrofit the plant with air pollution control equipment that would bring it into compliance with the federal rules and regulations for emissions that were put into effect in 2003.

Not all of that money was needed after it was determined that the plant could meet the new clean air rules without replacing the existing electrostatic precipitators with a baghouse. The results from emissions testing at the plant regularly fall well within the new rules.

The decision by MPCA to provide the 50 percent funding for the turbine generator made the project economically feasible. Earlier studies had not been favorable.

## Favorable financials

Now, even after allowing for the needs of the third steam customer when it came on-line a year ago, the financials work out very favorably.

The turbine generator, which arrived at the Fosston plant in November, became operational in April after some critical installation issues involving alignment and vibration were met.

"This was just something that had to be worked through to get things right," Wilson relates. "It is essential to the maintenance and life of the turbine that vibration not exceed recommended tolerances. A part of the problem dealt with the expansion that occurs with the high temperature of the steam," he says. "Now, what was wasted in the steam condenser in the past now goes through the turbine."

## Plant of the year

The plant, which received recognition as the "plant of the year" at the North American Waste to Energy Conference in 2001 and again in 2006, has two incineration units.

The waste stream coming into the plant goes through a materials recovery facility, built for \$1.8 million in 1996, where glass, aluminum, steel, cardboard, and other problem/objectable items are removed for recycling prior to it going to the burn units. Revenues from the recycling effort total about \$400,000 a year.

Steam sales, according to Wilson, who supervised construction of the plant as a mechanical engineer and then took the job with Polk County as its operating manager, account for about another \$500,000 to \$600,000 annually.

Accumulated savings over the past several years have provided the funding necessary for the turbine generator project while the plant remains debt-free.