



McINTOSH

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Times

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Hub of the Thirteen Townships

McIntosh, Minnesota



They came to McIntosh by car, truck, motorcycle and even bus to congratulate and celebrate the retirement of Mark Thompson from Garden Valley Technologies last Tuesday, May 5th.



Mark Thompson of McIntosh, retired from his career at Garden Valley Technologies last Tuesday. There was a parade passing his home to celebrate. The McIntosh Fire Department joined in the celebration as Mark spent many years as a fireman volunteer for the community.

Continuing service of LSS meals for local communities

Editors note: The story contained in last weeks McIntosh Times with information about Senior Meals was a misprint from an unknown source.

While we at Lutheran Social Services LSS Meals of Erskine wait with everyone else for our State to reopen, we are committed to continue to serve our clients in the communities of Erskine, McIntosh, Fosston and Mentor in the same way we have been since the COVID-19 Pandemic Response began.

Currently, pickup service is available in Erskine at 11 a.m. Monday - Friday. Please call 687-2262 to reserve a meal and we will hand your meal to you at the back door of the Erskine Community Center through your car window, using masks and gloves, doing all we can to help you to stay safe and allow for social distancing. Volunteers continue to deliver our Meals on Wheels in Erskine, Monday-Friday as well.

The communities of McIntosh, Mentor and Fosston are served by volunteers who deliver the Meals on Wheels. McIntosh Meals are delivered in front of the Community Center in McIntosh and clients may pick them up from the volunteers between 10:45-11:00 a.m. Tuesdays and Wednes-



Kira and Laura prepare meals each weekday for Lutheran Social Services LSS Meals in Erskine.

days each week. Please call the above mentioned number to reserve a meal for delivery. Frozen meals are also available upon request.

Mentor community meals are delivered Monday, Wednesday and Friday each week by volunteers who will knock on the clients door and leave the meal, again allowing for social distancing.

Fosston community meals are delivered on Tuesdays each week. Fosston clients receive a

combination of hot and frozen meals. Our volunteer will deliver to the door, knocking and leaving meal there.

If you have any questions at all or would like to begin receiving meals in any of these communities, please call 218-687-2262 and speak to Laura or Kira. We are thankful to be able to continue serving our surrounding communities, and appreciate immensely all our volunteers who make this service possible!

COVID-19 update from Polk County Public Health

The Minnesota Department of Health has confirmed a Polk County resident in their 50's is the first Covid-19 related death in the county. It is believed that the deceased individual had underlying health conditions. As of today, Polk County has 48 total cases with ages ranging from under 1 year to late 60's. The individuals average age is thirty-eight and two individuals have been hospitalized. Thirty people have recovered and no longer need to be isolated.

Our hearts go out to the family and friends of the individual who has died," said Sarah Reese, Polk County Public Health Director. "We were certainly aware of the likeliness to see Covid-19 related deaths in Polk County, but it is still heart-breaking when confirmed. We extend our deepest sympathies to the loved ones. As COVID-19 continues to spread in our com-

munities, we must all do our part to keep those around us safe and help slow the spread of COVID-19. At Polk County Public Health, we are all doing our best to ensure accurate information is provided to the public as we continue to address the very real needs to protect the health of people in our community."

Governor Tim Walz has extended the Stay At Home order to May 18th. It is crucial that we as Minnesotans and Polk County residents continue to follow the Stay At Home order to protect our neighbors and those around us that are most vulnerable. "We know our inconveniences during this pandemic pale to those who lose loved ones or get sick. Polk County remains committed to the health and safety of our residents," said Chuck Whiting, County Administrator. The County's various depart-

ments and emergency management are working together with other government, healthcare and community partners to get us all through this pandemic.

Visit the Minnesota Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention websites for more COVID-19 information. Follow Polk County Public Health on Facebook (@pcphhealth), Instagram (@polkcountypublichealth) and Twitter (@HealthPolk) for local information. Polk County Covid-19 Response: <https://coronavirus-response-pcg.hub.arcgis.com/>

Did you know?

Community service is a great way to strengthen one's community and build relationships with neighbors. But the benefits of volunteering go beyond building communities. According to Harvard Health Publications, people who routinely volunteer are less likely than non-volunteers to develop cardiovascular issues, including high blood pressure. Additional studies have found that individuals who volunteer have lower mortality rates

than non-volunteers. But one's motivation when volunteering is important, especially as it pertains to the effect that community service can have on individuals' overall health, including their mortality. A 2012 study published in the journal Health Psychology found that people who volunteered for self-oriented reasons had similar mortality risk as non-volunteers, while those who volunteered had a lower mortality risk than non-volunteers.



Randy Landsverk works from his new office located in Fosston next to DaRoo's Pizza. He is an experienced accountant and serves his hometown.



Randy A. Landsverk, CPA

All kinds of roots can be found in our rural area, literally and figuratively. Corn, grain and bean fields are part of our countryside's tapestry. They are so commonplace that we often do not notice them. But if they were absent, not only would the land look bare but many pantry shelves as well. Some roots are not evidenced by distinctive stalks or rippling stands of grain.

Though invisible, they are tangible. Proof they exist is seen in the continuity of the connections we share within the Thirteen Towns community. We are right in the heartland of America.

Although we may root for different school teams, attend churches of varying denominations and differ on politics, the ingrained morality of neighbor helping neighbor unifies us. It is a bond stronger than opposing opinions.

Our rural heritage is handed down generation to generation: with family at the center. Lately, we have stepped back from crowded church, work, school and extra-curricular schedules. Although our struggles have been challenging and continue to be so, one benefit has been threshed from the chaff. Sweeping through communities not only in the heartland, but nationwide.

Neighborhoods are populated with people shooting hoops, walking or biking. Yards—whose typical traffic comes from lawnmowers this time of year—are getting trampled by the feet of croquet and badminton enthusiasts. And backyard playsets have never worked so hard in their lives. Families have been rediscovering and enjoying "family time."

Randy Landsverk's roots run deep in the Thirteen Towns area. Growing up on a family dairy and grain farm, he graduated from Win-E-Mac in 1996.

Then he spent the next five years working on the farm. Though he enjoyed farming, he felt a strong urge to pursue a degree in Accounting, which he earned in three years at Bemidji State University. His first CPA position took him and his wife, Jodi (Kiecker), another Win-E-Mac graduate, to Brainerd, MN. While he gained experience in his field, their family grew with two girls: Annika

and Chloe. Eventually, Randy and Jodi returned to their native roots. Moving into his maternal grandmother's farmhouse—outside of Fosston—they were able to help Eleanor stay in her home for a time before she went to a care facility.

Randy and Jodi are still on that farm and have since added two more girls—Brooke and Molly—to their family. As they have been sowing their roots in the fertile soil of the Thirteen Towns community, Randy has cultivated his professional résumé. First, he was a personal banker at Fosston's American Federal Bank location. But he realized he was not utilizing his CPA degree as much as he preferred.

Then when the opportunity to buy into Farmchek Services in McIntosh, MN presented itself, he took it. He enjoyed the challenge of working with different types of clients and customizing his expertise to their unique situations.

Recently, the desire to have more flexibility in his schedule for family time motivated Randy to strike out on his own. In February 2020, he broke new professional ground: Randy A. Landsverk, CPA: Income Tax, Accounting and Payroll Services. He now works from home and an office space in the DaRoo's Fosston location. Accounting may seem like a foreign language for most of us but finding ways to make money do the work for his clients while they sleep energizes him. Ever expanding technological advances have created more opportunities for a one-man enterprise and the transition has gone well—despite these interesting times.

Though the 2019 tax deadline has been extended to July 15, 2020—there are still financial considerations to bear in mind.

Unlike farming, where it typically boils down to weather or breakdowns that wreck your plans—plowing through the myriad of complications for businesses in these unprecedented times is dizzying and frustrating.

During this season, Randy has addressed client concerns regarding ever-changing procedures for filing EIDL (Economic Impact Disaster Loan) or unemployment paperwork. Small businesses—especially those whose owners are their only employees—have been scrambling to improvise and find solutions. Baling wire and duct tape—the farmers' go-to for most quick-fixes—cannot repair our fleet of stalled economic equipment.

If you have become sud-

denly unemployed and collect benefits, are they taxable? If you are the recipient of an SBA loan, are those monies taxable income? Is the PPP (Payroll Protection Plan) really forgiven? If you pay your employees with the PPP, is that portion of your payroll still an expense if you did not earn the income? All of these are valid questions, and Randy can find the answer.

Spring is a season for cultivating and planting, with hope for a bountiful harvest. During this economic drought, what are your business goals? What are the unique business challenges you face? Would you like a comprehensive approach to maximize your earning potential? Just like farmers rotate crops to steward their lands' potential, businesses must adapt and invest accordingly.

Consider the innovative and individualized assessment a qualified CPA can offer. One who has been sowing into this community since he was a whipper-snapper feeding calves in the dairy barn. Randy is available by appointment Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm and flexible for people needing to meet outside of normal business hours. He can be reached at randylcpa@gmail.com or by calling 218.280.6819

If you would like to have your local business highlighted in The Local Pulse or you have a human interest idea, please contact Alison Opdahl at opdahlalison@gmail.com or call 218.563.2504



WEM AAA program

Tune in this Wednesday, May 13th at 7:00 pm on Garden Valley TV Channel 30 to view this years Win-E-Mac AAA Banquet.

The Win-E-Mac Academic, Athletic and Fine Arts Award program will take place live on the Win-E-Mac cable channel.

Due to the Stay-at-Home order celebrating the Senior class accomplishments will be aired on television.

If you do not have GVTV, you can still view the program by logging in at <https://www.gvtv.com/video/livestream/>.



WEM Preschool

Enroll students for their 2020 - 2021. Win-E-Mac offers students two full days each week and every other Friday.

To learn more or to register your child for preschool, please call or email Heather at: 218-689-0605; hearlts@win-e-mac.k12.mn.us.

Or call the Win-E-Mac school office at: 218-563-2900 or 218-687-2236. (preschool screening to be announced at a later date)

***to be eligible for preschool in the classroom at Win-E-Mac, students must be four years old by September 1, 2020.*



The Patriot Promoters honored Win-E-Mac teachers last week with yard signs and treat bags delivered to our hard working staff at their homes.



Randy Landsverk, CPA is located in the same building as DaRoo's pizza on Main Street in Fosston and offers a variety of accounting services.

Mac Memorial Day plans for 2020

The McIntosh Friends of Veterans are hosting the 2020 Memorial Day on line because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Memorial Day program will be at 11:00 a.m., Monday, May 25, 2020 on Garden Valley Channel 30 and on Facebook and on YouTube.

The Invocation will be given by Ben Ramse and the Memorial Day address will be given by Polk County Veterans Officer, Kurt Ellefson., and there are several other persons from the area who will also be a part of the program.

The Memorial Day Committee would like some help from the people in your community.

There are several Veterans on our Roll Call list which we have no information.

If you are acquainted with any of these names, please contact Garnet Aanenson (218-563-2753) or Darlene Dierkes (218-563-3382)--Charles Berg, Edward L. Hanson, Herman Olof Hanson, Robert Lindberg,

Carl Mathison, Adolph Nelson, Lawrence Schmidt and Gordon Simonson.

We would like information about their birth, death, and any other information you would have about them.

These are the only members on our deceased Roll Call list

Win-E-Mac

AAA Banquet

The Win-E-Mac Academic, Athletic, and Fine Arts Awards Program will take place LIVE.

Due to the Stay-at-Home order we will televise the program live on our GVTV local Channel 30.

If you are not a GVTV subscriber you can still view it for free by going to this link: <https://www.gvtel.com/video/livestream/>

We still want to celebrate the accomplishments of our Class of 2020 and make this a special evening for our seniors and underclassmen. While we cannot be together for

this special event, we want to take the time to honor our senior scholarship recipients, celebrate our academic achievements, and present special awards in fine arts and athletics.

**Wednesday,
May 13th
at 7:00 pm**

Senior care providers strongly support the state's 5-point battle plan to protect the most vulnerable

The Long-Term Care Imperative, representing Minnesota nursing homes and assisted living settings, today strongly supported the Governor's announcement of a five-point battle plan to help protect Minnesota's most vulnerable seniors.

"Governor Walz has heard the call from caregivers for an even stronger Minnesota collaboration to address the need for more testing, personal protective equipment and adequate staffing for senior care settings," said Gayle Kvenvold, President & CEO, LeadingAge Minnesota. "Senior care providers, who are actively working to prevent and mitigate coronavirus in their settings, welcome the news of this action plan and stand ready to implement its recommendations."

Before the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed in a Minnesota senior care setting, providers were already implementing Centers for Disease Control and Minnesota Department of Health recommendations for strictly limiting visitors, as well as expanding social distancing and infection control procedures. Providers have also worked directly with

officials at the State Emergency Operations Center to help shape emergency staffing plans and evolving infection control strategies.

Minnesota seniors who live in congregate care settings have accepted a heavy burden during this pandemic. These residents are more likely to suffer from the pre-existing conditions that COVID-19 targets, and if they are stricken, they must fight the disease while isolated from their families.

"Caregivers throughout the state support the goals to reduce transmission, support caregiving staff and protect residents and will move quickly to work with the Department to implement this plan," said Patti Cullen, Care Providers of Minnesota.

"We are so grateful to our workforce who have continued to provide quality care under difficult circumstances, and know they will embrace these additional tools"

As testing expands, more cases will be discovered and staff within senior care settings will need to depend on this strengthened collaboration to address the growing

care needs. This plan will require patience, as it will take time until all senior care settings can receive the testing and equipment needed to better protect our seniors and their staff.

"Minnesotans can be confident in knowing senior care providers are continuing to do all that they can to protect residents and staff, prevent illnesses and save lives," Kvenvold said. "We are inspired by the seniors in our settings who have endured and defeated the virus at the same time as we share the sorrow of the families of those who we have cared for but lost during this pandemic."

Both Kvenvold and Cullen added that they expect the Governor's call to action will continue to evolve as more is learned about the virus, and as treatments and eventually vaccines become available.

"Having additional support in key areas of testing, PPE and staffing will contribute to our collective success against this deadly virus," Cullen added. "Today's announcement strengthens a valuable collaboration, and Minnesota's senior caregivers are ready to answer this call."

More healthy meals available to older Minnesotans during COVID-19

Through a new federal grant that is part of the CARES Act, Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota is now able to provide older Minnesotans ages 60+ two meals a day, seven days a week through its LSS Meals service – up from one daily meal.

Since the start of the pandemic, Lutheran Social Service has experienced a dramatic increase in meals requested. More than 120,000 meals have been served since mid-March, an increase of 30 percent over the same period last year.

The availability of additional meals comes at a time of increased demand when many older adults are facing more difficulties securing healthy nutrition.

"While social distancing measures are important for our safety and health, they also have an impact on older adults

and nutrition," explained Kristin Schurrer, senior director of LSS Meals. "It's a risk for them to go to the grocery store. And adult children or neighbors who might have helped them with shopping or cooking may not be leaving their homes, because of underlying health conditions."

Lutheran Social Service provides home-delivered and curb-side meals to Minnesotans age 60 or older in 39 counties in Minnesota. Federal and community funding allows Lutheran Social Service to provide meals for a suggested donation of \$5 per meal. No diner will be turned away because they can't afford a meal.

Lutheran Social Service also offers Meals to Go, which ships healthy, affordable frozen meals anywhere in Minnesota. A generous donation from Dr. Donald Nelson of Northfield recently helped Lutheran Social

Service renovate its kitchen in Waterville, Minnesota near Faribault. The newly-refurbished kitchen is also helping to meet a growing need for shipped meals.

Lutheran Social Service will continue offering meals for curbside pickup as well as home-delivered Meals on Wheels left at diners' doors to limit contact.

To order meals or find an LSS Meals location near you, please visit lssmn.org/meals.

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota began in 1865 when a Lutheran pastor and his congregation opened an orphanage for children near Red Wing in southeastern Minnesota. Today, with 2,400 employees and 10,000 volunteers, Lutheran Social Service supports one in 65 Minnesotans through services that inspire hope, change lives and build

community. Statewide, the organization seeks to foster safe and supportive homes for children, restore health and wellness in families, empower people with disabilities to live the lives they imagine, and promote health, independence and quality of life for older adults. For comprehensive information about the work of Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, visit www.lssmn.org.

Farmers Markets during COVID-19

As farmers markets begin opening across Minnesota, farmers and market managers are working harder than ever to create access to local foods. Markets have taken several creative and drastic measures this season in the wake of the pandemic because protecting the health and safety of customers and vendors is of the utmost importance.

Following the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's guidance for farmers markets and vendors, many markets around the state have made the following changes to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 including:

- Having all vendors wear masks
- Creating physical barriers to separate staff, vendors, and customers.
- Setting up hand washing stations throughout the market.
- Limiting the number of people allowed to shop at one time.
- Continuing to offer SNAP/ EBT sales and the market bucks program.
- Additionally, markets have drafted a number of

Parents can exercise caution with youth-based social apps

Internet access is no longer limited to desktop or laptop computers. World Advertising Research Center, using data from mobile trade body GSMA, says almost three-quarters of internet users, or roughly 3.7 billion people, will access the internet exclusively via smartphones by 2025.

Young people are one of the largest demographics utilizing smartphones today. A Common Sense Media survey says just over half of children in the United States now own a smartphone by the age of 11. In addition, 84 percent of teenagers have their own phones. Most youth grew up with the internet, and they have embraced a variety of apps, particularly social media apps, that connect them to the world.

Social media certainly can be an asset, but it has inherent risks, such as making kids easy targets for identity theft or sexual predators. Other apps expose users to explicit, unfiltered content. Parents must educate themselves about the popular apps their tweens and teens may be using and weigh their pros and cons. Here's a list of apps every parent should know in 2020.

• **TikTok:** This app (formerly Musical.ly) is designed for creating and sharing short videos, notably music videos. Users are urged to express their creativity, and special effects can be added. While minimum age for use is 13, there is no real way to validate users' ages so anyone can download the app. Parents say the videos are plagued by inappropriate language and content, including pornographic material. Also, some have warned that when sexual predators are identified, the app is slow to flag and remove these users.

• **Kik:** This is a cross-platform messaging app that enables users to chat anonymously without the need for phone service. Users also can share most digital media and video chat with one another. Forbes reports that Kik has had issues with child exploitation and sexual harassment.

• **Tellonym:** The web resource FamilyEducation says this messenger app allows kids to ask and answer questions anonymously, purporting to be the "most honest place on the internet." Cyber bullying and violent threats are common, according to watchdog groups.

• **MeetMe:** This social app advertises its ability to have users meet new people through messages, video calls and live streams. With no option to set privacy limitations, users can

Polk County Sheriff's Report

Publishers

Clearing House Scam

Polk County Sheriff's Office is receiving reports about Publishers Clearing House Scam in the area. The Scam starts with a phone call or an email advising they won the Publishers Clearing House Sweepstakes.

safety guideline for shoppers including:

- Stay home if you are sick or have been in contact with someone who has been sick.
- Shop solo, only send one family member.
- Wear a mask and wash your hands.
- Make a grocery list for a quicker visit.
- Pre-order/pre-pay with vendors.
- Don't touch products. Let vendors grab the items you wish to purchase.
- Limit conversations, don't mingle. Maple Grove Farmers Market's new motto is "Get in. Get your goodies. Get back home."
- Maintain 6 feet social distancing at all times.

While these are general guidelines that our member farmers markets have been taking, each market is making unique adjustments and modifications. Always remember to check the website of your local farmers market often to stay informed about the latest precautions.

Use the Minnesota Grown online directory to find the market closest to you.



freely view other profiles within the vicinity. Also, reaching out to others and viewing profiles generates in-app reward incentives.

• **Bigo Live:** Common Sense Media says this app is like YouTube and Twitch in that Bigo Live lets users stream live video of themselves that others can see and comment on in real time. People also can send and receive "beans," which are virtual gifts that cost real money.



Wed. May 13: Jerry Shaver, Cameo Herem
Thurs. May 14: Sharon Krossen, *Bruce & Debbie Haaven
Fri. May 15: Grace Klemer, Paul Lindseth, Arlene Bly, Justin & Amanda Schultz
Sat. May 16: William Shimp, Jon Lecy
Sun. May 17: Jane Aakhus, Carl Hedlund
Mon., May 18: Nathan Gensburger, *Chris & Kristi Grelum
Tues. May 19: Jeanie Votava, Ann Hutchison, Courtney Lecy, Kevin Caron

One reporter was told their prize would be delivered in 45 minutes and that they would have to be home for delivery. If the complainant was at work, they were asked if they could leave and then were advised to go to their vehicle and honk the horn to prove they were in the vehicle. After honking the horn, they were given instructions to write down the name and badge number of the person calling, package code number and UPS drivers names that were delivering the money prize.

Publishers Clearing House doesn't email or call big winners. All prizes of \$500.00 or greater are awarded by either certified letter, express letter, or in person. You never have to pay to receive a legitimate Publishers Clearing House win.

Do not give out confidential information when you enter and do your research before you respond. Talk to a relative or friend or call the police if you feel it is too good to be true.

Do you have a story to share?

If you have a story, a story idea or any photos you want to share, please send to: mcintoshtimes@gmail.com

The warning is that Bigo has a lot of mature content and predatory commentary.

Yolo: Yolo is an easy add-on for Snapchat, which also is a popular app among children. Yolo lets users ask anonymous questions and receive feedback. The anonymity of commentary can be a recipe for bullying, trolling and hurt feelings.

Parents can safeguard their children by monitoring internet access and understanding popular apps used by today's youth.

LSS Meals Menu 687-2262

Tuesday, May 19th -

Roast Turkey - Mashed Potatoes & Gravy - Broccoli - Wheat Rolls - Chocolate Chip Cookie Bar - Milk

Wednesday, May 20th -

Country Steak - Boiled Potatoes with Country Gravy - Squash - Bread - Butterscotch Pudding - Milk

**Menu subject to change due to availability of food items.



ST. MARY'S CHURCH Fosston

Fr. John Suvakeen, Pastor

No Mass at St. Mary's Church, Fosston until further notice.

MCINTOSH AFLC
McIntosh Trinity / Mount Carmel:

Pastor Karl Anderson
Services from Mt Carmel and Trinity Free Lutheran Churches will be on the Garden Valley TV Win-E-Mac channel 10am Sundays and repeated at 7pm Sunday and 6pm Wednesday.

GOSEN LUTHERAN CHURCH Independent

Gary Johnson, Pastor
www.gosen-church.com
Face Book: Gosen Church
Sun. May 17: No Sunday School and Adult Bible Study; Worship Service on Facebook: gosenchurch.com and gosenchurch.com

Tues. May 19: 10:00 a.m. Sunday worship service telecast on GVTV--30

OURS SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

McIntosh Supply Pastor Gordon Syverson

There will be no Worship Services or Lenten Services for the next 4 weeks: March 29, April 5th and 12th. The issue will be reassessed after that time.

Calvary Lutheran Church, Winger, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Bejou, and Our Saviors Lutheran Church, McIntosh will run church services on Channel 30 on Garden Valley Channel 30. They will also be available on YouTube on channel One in Spirit Calvary. Our Saviors service will be available by 8:30 am each Sunday until further notice.

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THE WINGER ENTERPRISE

3

Wednesday, May 13, 2020

FSA reminds producers of ongoing disaster assistance program signup

Payments have started for producers impacted by drought, excess moisture.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has started making payments through the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program – Plus (WHIP+) to agricultural producers who suffered eligible losses because of drought or excess moisture in 2018 and 2019.

Signup for these causes of loss opened March 23, and producers who suffered losses from drought (in counties designated D3 or above), excess moisture, hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, typhoons, volcanic activity, snowstorms or wildfires can still apply for assistance through WHIP+.

“To date, FSA has received more than 33,000 WHIP+ applications,” said Richard Fordyce, Administrator of USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA). “We want to remind producers that we are still accepting applications for WHIP+, and we encourage producers to call our offices for next steps on how to apply.”

To be eligible for WHIP+,

producers must have suffered losses of certain crops, trees, bushes or vines in counties with a Presidential Emergency Disaster Declaration or a Secretarial Disaster Designation (primary counties only) for qualifying natural disaster events that occurred in calendar years 2018 or 2019. Also, losses located in a county not designated by the Secretary as a primary county may be eligible if a producer provides documentation showing that the loss was due to a qualifying natural disaster event.

For losses due to drought, a producer is eligible if any area of the county in which the loss occurred was rated D3, or extreme drought, or higher on the U.S. Drought Monitor during calendar years 2018 or 2019. Producers who suffered losses should contact their FSA county office.

In addition to the recently added eligible losses of drought and excess moisture, FSA will implement a WHIP+ provision for crop quality loss that resulted in price deductions or penalties when marketing

crops damaged by eligible disaster events. To ensure an effective program for all impacted farmers, the Agency is currently gathering information on the extent of quality loss from producers and stakeholder organizations.

USDA Service Centers, including FSA county offices, are open for business by phone only, and field work will continue with appropriate social distancing.

While program delivery staff will continue to come into the office, they will be working with producers by phone and using online tools whenever possible.

All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with the FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service or any other Service Center agency are required to call their Service Center to schedule a phone appointment. More information on Service Centers can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus, and more information on WHIP+ can be found at farmers.gov/whip-plus.

USDA’s new CRP pilot program offers longer-term conservation benefits

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) will open signup this summer for CLEAR30, a new pilot program that offers farmers and landowners an opportunity to enroll in a 30-year Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contract. This pilot is available to farmers and landowners with expiring water-quality practice CRP contracts in the Great Lakes and Chesapeake Bay regions. The program signup period is July 6 to Aug. 21, 2020.

“This pilot allows us to work with farmers and landowners to maintain conservation practices for 30 years, underscoring farmers’ commitments to sound long term conservation stewardship on agricultural land,” said Minnesota Executive Director Joe Martin.

“Through CLEAR30, we can decrease erosion, improve water quality and increase wildlife habitat on a much longer-term basis. We want to share this opportunity early, before the sign up period, so farmers

and landowners have more time to consider if CLEAR30 or another program is right for their operation.”

The pilot is available in Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin. Eligible producers must have expiring Clean Lakes, Estuaries and Rivers (CLEAR) initiative contracts, including continuous CRP Cropland contracts with water-quality practices or marginal pasturelands CRP contracts devoted to riparian buffers, wildlife habitat buffers or wetland buffers.

The longer contracts will help ensure that practices remain in place for 30 years, which will help reduce sediment and nutrient runoff and help prevent algal blooms. Traditional CRP contracts run from 10 to 15 years.

Annual rental payment for landowners who enroll in CLEAR30 will be equal to the current Continuous CRP an-

nual payment rate plus an inflationary adjustment of 27.5 percent, since CLEAR30 contracts will be for 30 years – much longer than the 10 to 15-year contracts for Continuous CRP offers.

Another unique program feature is that FSA will help producers maintain CLEAR30 contract acreage.

USDA Service Centers are open for business by phone appointment only, and field work will continue with appropriate social distancing. While program delivery staff will continue to come into the office, they will be working with producers by phone and using online tools whenever possible. Anyone wishing to conduct business with the FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service or any other Service Center agency is required to call to schedule a phone appointment.

More information can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus.

MPCA grants aim to strengthen demand for recyclable materials

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is now offering grants designed to help create a strong, sustainable market for recyclable materials.

The MPCA will award a total of \$400,000 in amounts from \$50,000 to \$250,000, to Minnesota businesses or organizations that use recyclable materials in their products. The goal is to help increase both demand for and value of such materials, while also keeping items out of landfills and creating jobs in Minnesota.

Recognized as a national leader, Minnesota’s recycling manufacturing industry is an important contributor to the state’s economy. In recent years, the industry has supported more than 60,000 jobs and more than \$3.4 billion in wages.

But in the wake of China refusing to import U.S. recy-

clables, recycling markets are fragile.

Though Minnesota boasts many businesses that use recycled materials to manufacture new products, it’s still possible for markets to destabilize in the current international climate.

This new Recycling Market Development Grants program was approved by the Minnesota Legislature in 2019 to ensure the recycling market remains strong and to protect jobs.

Businesses and nonprofit organizations are encouraged to submit proposals for projects, including research, development, and testing of new or existing recyclable materials as the basis for products. Grants will also support businesses looking to expand their use of recyclable materials with new equipment, facilities, or production methods.

Maple recipes for spring

Looking for recipes that highlight pure maple syrup? Check out these favorites submitted by Minnesota Grown member Camp Aquila Pure Maple Syrup.

Chicken, Bacon, and Apples with Maple, Submitted by Camp Aquila

2 tbs vegetable oil
2 of each: boneless skinless chicken breasts and thighs cut into bite size pieces

1 Granny Smith apple, peeled, cored and cut into bite sized pieces

4 slices thick-cut bacon, cut crosswise into 1/4-inch slices

6-8 mushrooms, cleaned, trimmed, and quartered

1 medium yellow onion, diced

1 medium clove garlic, minced

1/2 cup maple syrup

1/4 cup apple cider vinegar
1 cup fresh chicken stock
2 tbs Dijon mustard
2 tbs chopped fresh thyme
2 tbs chopped fresh sage
1/4 cup chopped Italian parsley

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

Place a large Dutch oven on the stove over medium-high heat and add the oil. Pat chicken dry with paper towel and season with salt and pepper. Add the chicken, Saute until browned. Transfer the chicken to a plate.

Add apples to the pot and sauté, stirring frequently until just softened and caramelized, about 5 minutes. Transfer apples to the reserved chicken plate.

Add the bacon, onions and mushrooms to the pot and cook,

stirring occasionally, until the vegetables are tender and the bacon fat has rendered, but the bacon is not crisp, about 5 minutes. Add the garlic and cook until fragrant, about 1 minute.

Add the maple syrup, cider vinegar, and chicken stock. Reduce by half. Stir to scrape up the browned bits from the bottom of the pot. Bring to a boil and reduce the liquid by half. Stir in the chicken, mustard, apples, parsley, sage, and thyme. Simmer, uncovered, for about 10 minutes to allow the sauce to thicken. Just before serving, off the heat, finish with a nice knob of butter. Taste and adjust seasoning with salt and pepper.

Notes: To make this into more of a “winter dish” add ¼ cup of heavy cream. Serve with pasta, couscous.

Polk County Commissioners Minutes

APRIL 28, 2020 WEBEX PHONE CONFERENCE BOARD MINUTES

Pursuant to motion of adjournment the Polk County Board of Commissioners met in regular session via Webex Phone Conference at 8:00 o'clock a.m., April 28, 2020. Members present: Commissioner Gerald Jacobson, Commissioner Warren Strandell, Commissioner Gary Willhite, Commissioner Joan Lee and Commissioner Don Diedrich and Charles S. Whiting, County Administrator, Clerk of the Board. Others present: Michelle Cote, Deputy Clerk of the Board.

REVISED AGENDA
A motion was made by Commissioner Lee seconded by Commissioner Jacobson and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the April 28, 2020 revised agenda adding Mark Dietz, Facilities Management Director.

CONSENT AGENDA
A motion was made by Commissioner Lee seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the April 28, 2020 consent agenda: Approve the April 21, 2020 Board Minutes.

COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS ISSUE FORUM

1. Commissioner Jacobson brought forth that he participated in a virtual Dancing Sky meeting on Aging. He also participated in a Northwestern Mental Health Center meeting.
2. Commissioner Strandell brought forth that he participated in the MPO and the Northwest Regional Development Commission meetings.
3. Commissioner Willhite brought forth that he provided a Polk County update on KROX radio. He also participated in the County Personnel Committee meeting.
4. Commissioner Lee brought forth that she participated in the County Personnel Committee meeting. In addition, she attended the AMC meeting where Governor Walz provided a COVID-19 update. She also participated in an AMC Health and Human Services Committee meeting and a NACO teleconference call. Discussion was brought forth regarding a call received from Christine Davis of Enbridge.
5. Commissioner Diedrich brought forth that he participated in call for the MCIT Personnel Committee meeting. He also participated in a virtual Northwestern Mental Health Center meeting. In addition,

he participated in an Executive meeting for Tri-Valley Opportunity Council.

- SHERIFF**
Jim Tadman, Polk County Sheriff came before the Board with matters pertaining to his department:
1. **Dispatcher Resignation & Post for New Hire** Due to a dispatcher resignation a motion was made by Commissioner Lee seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve refilling the Dispatcher position.
 2. **Request from Beltrami Fire Department for any Used Emergency Light Bars** A motion was made by Commissioner Jacobson seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve donating unused light bars from the Sheriff's Office to the Beltrami Fire Department.
 3. **Resolution (2020-39) Ac-cepting Financial Donations On Behalf Of Polk County Sheriff's Office From Judy Thoren**
Resolution Accepting Financial Donations On Behalf Of Polk County Sheriff's Office From Judy Thoren
RESOLUTION (2020-39)

The following resolution (2020-39) was offered by Commissioner Diedrich:

WHEREAS, Judy Thoren has made a financial donation of \$200.00 to support the Polk County K9 Program in Polk County; and

WHEREAS, Polk County Sheriff's Office, wishes to have the County Board formally accept these financial donations on behalf of Polk County Sheriff's Office and put towards the Polk County K9 Program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, By the County Board of Polk County, Minnesota as follows:

1. The financial donations from Judy Thoren, which is listed above, hereby are accepted by the Polk County Board of Commissioners on behalf of the Polk County Sheriff's Office and used for Polk County K9 Program.
2. Commissioner Lee seconded the foregoing resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote. YEAS: Lee, Diedrich, Willhite, Strandell, Jacobson NAYS: None
4. **Resolution (2020-40) Ac-cepting Financial Donations On Behalf Of Polk County Sheriff's Office From Mary Filipski On Behalf Of Her Father Maurity Thompson**

Resolution Accepting Financial Donations On Behalf Of Polk County Sheriff's Office From Mary Filipski On Behalf Of Her Father Maurity Thompson

RESOLUTION (2020-40)
The following resolution (2020-40) was offered by Commissioner Strandell:

WHEREAS, Mary Filipski has made a financial donation of \$50.00 on behalf of her father Maurity Thompson to support the Polk County K9 Program in Polk County; and

WHEREAS, Polk County Sheriff's Office, wishes to have the County Board formally accept these financial donations on behalf of Polk County Sheriff's Office and put towards the Polk County K9 Program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, By the County Board of Polk County, Minnesota as follows:

1. The financial donations from Mary Filipski, which is listed above, hereby are accepted by the Polk County Board of Commissioners on behalf of the Polk County Sheriff's Office and used for Polk County K9 Program.

Commissioner Jacobson seconded the foregoing resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote. YEAS: Lee, Diedrich, Willhite, Strandell, Jacobson NAYS: None.

5. Monthly Sheriff Reports

The March monthly Sheriff Reports were discussed and presented to the Board. (Monthly reports on file in the Administrator's Office)

TAX PAYER SERVICE CENTER

Sam Melbye, Taxpayer Service Center Supervisor/Tax System Administrator came before the Board with matters pertaining to the Taxpayer Service Center:

1. **Resolution (2020-41) Proposed Abatements in the City of Crookston & City of East Grand Forks**

Proposed Abatements in the City of Crookston & City of East Grand Forks

RESOLUTION (2020-41)
The following resolution (2020-41) was offered by Commissioner Strandell:

WHEREAS, The County of Polk has held a Public Hearing on the proposed abatements in the City of Crookston & City of East Grand Forks pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 469.1812 through and including 469.1815, and;

WHEREAS, The Polk County Board of Commissioners has proposed to abate the County's share of property taxes on the following parcels for two years:

City of Crookston			
82.03958.00	DENNIS & JENNIFER TATE	528 3RD AVE NE	\$695.93
82.00371.00	TK PROPERTIES OF CROOKSTON LLC	7TH ST E	\$1,380.70

Total for City of Crookston \$2,076.63

City of East Grand Forks			
83.04253.00	MICHAEL & LAURA LUKKASON	927 GREENWAY BLVD SE	\$1,315.24
83.04222.00	MARK & AMY GUMTO	1505 LAUREL DR SE	\$1,678.36
83.04471.00	JASON & JENNA KAISER	1403 14TH AVE SE	\$1,095.31
83.04262.00	JODI STAUSS-STASSEN	2514 AUGUSTA DR	\$1,516.67
83.04239.00	MIKE & NICOLE KOLSTOE	812 13TH ST SE	\$1,761.45
83.00235.00	JUSTIN & ALLISON JOHNSON	529 12TH ST NW	\$640.56
83.04472.00	VIRGINIA STAUSS	1407 14TH AVE SE	\$1,369.34
83.04065.00	MICHAEL HEDLUND & MELANIE JACOBS	2510 PEBBLE BEACH RD	\$3,039.82
83.04083.00	CHAD & NICOLE ANVINSON	2415 ST ANDREWS DR	\$2,097.54
83.04097.00	KEITH & SHELLY WESTOVER	2324 ST ANDREWS DR	\$1,530.09
83.04105.00	BHARAT & PROMIL BHUTANI	2324 TROON CIRCLE	\$2,503.15
83.04475.00	LORALEE TAYLOR	1419 GREENWAY BLVD SE	\$1,151.06
83.04449.00	STUART MARRSON & PEGGY DUNN	1428 CRYSTAL CIRCLE	\$1,808.64
83.04476.00	DONALD & RHONDA HOLLARN	1423 GREENWAY BLVD	\$1,164.13
83.04447.00	MATTHEW & TIFFANY FOSS	627 BRANDON BLVD	\$1,937.87
83.04474.00	ZACHARY & KARLI FINNEY	1417 14TH AVE SE	\$1,170.64
83.04403.00	BROCK & ELIZABETH LARSON	29 RIVERVIEW LANE SE	\$1,230.16
83.04064.00	JIM & KATHY TORKELSON	2518 PEBBLE BEACH RD	\$2,307.99
83.04101.00	KEVIN WEBER & STEPH KAZNIERCZAK	2424 ST ANDREWS DR	\$1,830.81
Total for City of East Grand Forks			\$31,148.83

Commissioner Jacobson seconded the foregoing resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote. YEAS: Lee, Diedrich, Willhite, Strandell and Jacobson. NAYS: None.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Jon Steiner, Environmental Services Director came before the Board with matters pertaining to his department:

1. **SSOM Compost Pad – Correction to Close-out Action**

Polk County constructed a new Source Separated Organic Material (SSOM) Compost Pad at the Polk County Landfill Complex near Gentilly, MN using CAP Grant dollars from the State of MN. With the approval of the final Change Order (CO #02) and Board approval on January 28, 2020 to release the retainage of \$18,610.84, the SOM Compost Pad was closed out. There were two issues with the close-out which require acknowledgement: (Issue #1) the State Auditor questioned why the original contract value plus the two approved change orders do not equal the total contract payment. (Issue #1 has been dealt with within the Original Contract. (Issue #2) An error in the formula for the bid were found for this project to result in discrepancy in payment to contractor in pay request #3. (Issue #2 has been resolved). Addenda's pertaining to these issues were presented to the Board. (Addenda's on file in the Administrator's Office)

2. **CAP Grant – RRF Scale Project – Release of Retainage**

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee seconded by Commissioner Jacobson and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the release of the retainage amount of \$16,319.39 upon receipt of reimbursement of costs, IC-134 form and lien waivers to Reiersen Construction, Bemidji, MN to serve as payment in full for the Fosston Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) Scale Project.

3. **Fosston RRF – RATA Testing**
Polk County Resource Recovery Facility, Fosston, MN is required to

conduct a Performance Stack Test every 3 years and Relative Accuracy and Testing Audit (RATA) of its emission monitoring equipment each year under the terms of its Air Permit. A motion was made by Commissioner Strandell seconded by Commissioner Willhite and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the quote by Elemental Air Inc. in the amount of \$10,376.00 for the 2020 RATA at the Polk County Resource Recovery Facility in Fosston, MN.

4. **Transfer Station - Parking Lot Improvements**

Discussion along with a parking lot map was presented to the Board regarding the Transfer Station pursuing an extension of the west parking lot to the north, adding additional parking, another ingress/egress to the public road, and create a connection through the fenced area to the back lot. Polk County has engaged Wenck Assoc. to survey the property in question and prepare estimates and drawing of the expansion for review and quote purposes. (Map on file in the Administrator's Office).

PUBLIC HEALTH

Sarah Reese, Public Health Director came before the Board with matters pertaining to her department:

1. **Covid-19 Update**
An update was given to the Board regarding the Covid-19 virus.

PROPERTY RECORDS

Michelle Cote, Property Records Director came before the Board with matters pertaining to her department:

1. **Lease of Flood Buyout Property 09.00288.00**

A request has been made to transfer the lessee interest of Parcel 09.00288.00 from Jon Wurden (Former Richard Benson Property) to Steve Flaot. The lease has been reviewed and approved by the County Attorney. Upon the Boards request at the 04/21/2020 County Board meeting the matter of securing bids for this property was reviewed with Greg Widseth, Polk County Attorney. The lease along

with a GIS map was presented to the Board. Jon Steiner Environmental Services Director offered information regarding the origination of the flood buyout leases. A motion was made by Commissioner Diedrich seconded by Commissioner Jacobson to approve lease of Parcel No. 09.00288.00 to Steve Flaot, Fisher, MN as presented. (Lease and GIS map on file in the Administrator's Office)

*FACILITIES

Mark Dietz, Facilities Management Director came before the Board with matters pertaining to his department:

1. **Polk County Projects – Update**

An update was given to the Board regarding the Polk County projects.

ADMINISTRATION

Chuck Whiting, Polk County Administrator came before the Board with matters pertaining to his department:

1. **COVID-19 Operations Status**

Discussion was held with the Board regarding Covid-19 and the operations of Polk County. Handouts were also presented to the Board pertaining to the Emergency Executive Order 20-40 Allowing Workers in Certain Non-Critical Sectors to Return to Safe Workplaces as well as the Guidance on Executive Order 20-40 & Businesses Reopening. (Handouts on file in the Administrator's Office) An update was also provided by Richard Sanders, Polk County Highway Engineer regarding COVID-19 operational items in addition to a legislative update regarding the Nielsville and Climax Bridges.

With no further business the Board adjourned to reconvene at 8:00 a.m., May 5, 2020.

Gary Willhite, Chair
Charles S. Whiting, Polk County Administrator
Clerk of the Board
M8C

Foster parents needed for kids

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSS) is seeking foster parents for children and youth in need.

If you have a special heart for children, consider becoming a foster parent.

On an average day in 2019, there were approximately 9,300 children in foster care in Minnesota, according to the Minnesota Department of Human Services. Most children are referred to foster care because of parental drug abuse and neglect.

Even amidst COVID-19, Minnesota still has a great need for foster parents to provide safe, supportive homes for children and youth. According to researchers with Harvard

University, supportive relationships with adults are key to children developing resiliency.

“It is vital for children in foster care to have support from caring adults during this difficult time in their lives,” said Jodi Raidt, statewide program manager with Lutheran Social Service. “We need families who are committed to children’s overall wellbeing.”

Foster parents can be single or married, home owners or renters. Lutheran Social Service is seeking prospective foster parents who have time to listen, support young people through challenges, and provide positive relationships in the family and community.

Flexibility, patience, consistency and a healthy sense of humor are also ideal characteristics for foster parents.

Lutheran Social Service provides Therapeutic Foster Care, which is a highly supportive, trauma-informed service.

Foster parents receive ongoing education and support. Children also receive weekly support from a mental health professional.

If you are interested in becoming a foster parent, mark your calendars for Wednesday, May 20 at 4:30 p.m. when Lutheran Social Service will host an online information session. Registration is available on Eventbrite: [bit.ly/2KPV4LZ](#).

You can also learn more by contacting Jodi Raidt at fostercare@lssmn.org or 612.879.5219, or by visiting www.fostercaremn.org.

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota began in 1865 when a Lutheran pastor and his congregation opened an orphanage for children near Red Wing

in southeastern Minnesota.

Today, with 2,400 employees and 8,000 volunteers, Lutheran Social Service supports one in 65 Minnesotans through services that inspire hope, change lives and build community. Statewide, the organization seeks to foster safe and supportive homes for children,

restore health and wellness in families, empower people with disabilities to live the lives they imagine, and promote health, independence and quality of life for older adults.

For comprehensive information about the work of Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, visit www.lssmn.org.

Constructive activities for home bound youth



The activities range from: social skills, virtual meetings online, games, crafts, science, do.

citizenship, family time and more! Check out <https://www.nlcbsa.org/homebasecamp> for more information on these fun things to do while home with the kids.

Anyone that completes three activities on the Home Base Camp page will be eligible to receive a free Home Base Camp patch!

For more information about joining a Scouting group in the future, visit <https://www.nlcbsa.org/join>

McIntosh 2019 DRINKING WATER REPORT

Making Safe Drinking Water

Your drinking water comes from a groundwater source: two wells ranging from 206 to 210 feet deep, that draw water from the Quaternary Buried Artesian aquifer.

McIntosh works hard to provide you with safe and reliable drinking water that meets federal and state water quality requirements. The purpose of this report is to provide you with information on your drinking water and how to protect our precious water resources.

Contact Peter Tranby, Public Works Supervisor, at 218-563-3747 or macmaint@gvtel.com if you have questions about McIntosh’s drinking water. You can also ask for information about how you can take part in decisions that may affect water quality.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets safe drinking water standards. These standards limit the amounts of specific contaminants allowed in drinking water. This ensures that tap water is safe to drink for most people. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulates the amount of certain contaminants in bottled water. Bottled water must provide the same public health protection as public tap water.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 18004264791.

McIntosh Monitoring Results

This report contains our monitoring results from January 1 to December 31, 2019.

We work with the Minnesota Department of Health to test drinking water for more than 100 contaminants. It is not unusual to detect contaminants in small amounts. No water supply is ever completely free of contaminants. Drinking water standards protect Minnesotans from substances that may be harmful to their health.

Learn more by visiting the Minnesota Department of Health’s webpage [Basics of Monitoring and testing of Drinking Water in Minnesota](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/sampling.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/sampling.html>).

How to Read the Water Quality Data Tables

The tables below show the contaminants we found last year or the most recent time we sampled for that contaminant. They also show the levels of those contaminants and the Environmental Protection Agency’s limits. Substances that we tested for but did not find are not included in the tables.

We sample for some contaminants less than once a year because their levels in water are not expected to change from year to year. If we found any of these contaminants the last time we sampled for them, we included them in the tables below with the detection date.

We may have done additional monitoring for contaminants that are not included in the Safe Drinking Water Act. To request a copy of these results, call the Minnesota Department of Health at 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Definitions

- AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- EPA:** Environmental Protection Agency
- MCL (Maximum contaminant level):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- MCLG (Maximum contaminant level goal):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- MRDL (Maximum residual disinfectant level):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- MRDLG (Maximum residual disinfectant level goal):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- N/A (Not applicable):** Does not apply.
- pCi/l (picocuries per liter):** A measure of radioactivity.
- ppb (parts per billion):** One part per billion in water is like one drop in one billion drops of water, or about one drop in a swimming pool. ppb is the same as micrograms per liter (µg/l).
- ppm (parts per million):** One part per million is like one drop in one million drops of water, or about one cup in a swimming pool. ppm is the same as milligrams per liter (mg/l).
- PWSID:** Public water system identification.

Monitoring Results – Regulated Substances

LEAD AND COPPER – Tested at customer taps.

Contaminant (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA’s Ideal Goal (MCLG)	EPA’s Action Level	90% of Results Were Less Than	Number of Homes with High Levels	Violation	Typical Sources
Lead (09/07/17)	0 ppb	90% of homes less than 15 ppb	3.2 ppb	0 out of 10	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper (09/07/17)	0 ppm	90% of homes less than 1.3 ppm	0.7 ppm	0 out of 10	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing.

INORGANIC & ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS – Tested in drinking water.

Contaminant (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA’s Ideal Goal (MCLG)	EPA’s Limit (MCL)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Arsenic	0 ppb	10.4 ppb	4.55 ppb	N/A	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Combined Radium (2018)	0 pCi/l	5.4 pCi/l	1.1 pCi/l	N/A	NO	Erosion of natural deposits.

CONTAMINANTS RELATED TO DISINFECTION – Tested in drinking water.

Substance (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA’s Ideal Goal (MCLG or MRDLG)	EPA’s Limit (MCL or MRDL)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA)	N/A	60 ppb	1.6 ppb	N/A	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Chlorine	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	1.5 ppm	1.00 - 1.50 ppm	NO	Water additive used to control microbes.

Total HAA refers to HAA5

OTHER SUBSTANCES – Tested in drinking water.

Substance (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA’s Ideal Goal (MCLG)	EPA’s Limit (MCL)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Fluoride	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	0.65 ppm	0.50 - 0.85 ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive to promote strong teeth.

Potential Health Effects and Corrective Actions (If Applicable)

Fluoride: If your drinking water fluoride levels are below the optimal concentration range of 0.7 to 1.2 ppm, please talk with your dentist about how you can protect your teeth and your family’s teeth from tooth decay and cavities. For more information, visit: MDH Drinking Water Fluoridation (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/com/fluoride.html>). Fluoride is nature’s cavity fighter, with small amounts present naturally in many drinking water sources. There is an overwhelming weight of credible, peer-reviewed, scientific evidence that fluoridation reduces tooth decay and cavities in children and adults, even when there is availability of fluoride from other sources, such as fluoride toothpaste and mouth rinses. Since studies show that optimal fluoride levels in drinking water benefit public health, municipal community water systems adjust the level of fluoride in the water to a concentration between 0.5 to 1.5 parts per million (ppm), with an optimal fluoridation goal between 0.7 and 1.2 ppm to protect your teeth. Fluoride levels below 2.0 ppm are not expected to increase the risk of a cosmetic condition known as enamel fluorosis.

Some People Are More Vulnerable to Contaminants in Drinking Water

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. The developing fetus and therefore pregnant women may also be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water. These people or their caregivers should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 800-426-4791.

Learn More about Your Drinking Water

Drinking Water Sources

Minnesota’s primary drinking water sources are groundwater and surface water. Groundwater is the water found in aquifers beneath the surface of the land. Groundwater supplies 75 percent of Minnesota’s drinking water. Surface water is the water in lakes, rivers, and streams above the surface of the land. Surface water supplies 25 percent of Minnesota’s drinking water.

Contaminants can get in drinking water sources from the natural environment and from people’s daily activities. There are five main types of contaminants in drinking water sources.

- Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses, bacteria, and parasites. Sources include sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, pets, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants** include salts and metals from natural sources (e.g. rock and soil), oil and gas production, mining and farming operations, urban stormwater runoff, and wastewater discharges.
- Pesticides and herbicides** are chemicals used to reduce or kill unwanted plants and pests. Sources include agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and commercial and residential properties.
- Organic chemical contaminants** include synthetic and volatile organic compounds. Sources include industrial processes and petroleum production, gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants** such as radium, thorium, and uranium isotopes come from natural sources (e.g. radon gas from soils and rock), mining operations, and oil and gas production.

The Minnesota Department of Health provides information about your drinking water source(s) in a source water assessment, including:

- How McIntosh is protecting your drinking water source(s);
- Nearby threats to your drinking water sources;
- How easily water and pollution can move from the surface of the land into drinking water sources, based on natural geology and the way wells are constructed.

Find your source water assessment at Source Water Assessments (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/swa>) or call 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Lead in Drinking Water

You may be in contact with lead through paint, water, dust, soil, food, hobbies, or your job. Coming in contact with lead can cause serious health problems for everyone. There is no safe level of lead. Babies, children under six years, and pregnant women are at the highest risk.

Lead is rarely in a drinking water source, but it can get in your drinking water as it passes through lead service lines and your household plumbing system. McIntosh is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but it cannot control the plumbing materials used in private buildings.

Read below to learn how you can protect yourself from lead in drinking water.

- Let the water run** for 30-60 seconds before using it for drinking or cooking if the water has not been turned on in over six hours. If you have a lead service line, you may need to let the water run longer. A service line is the underground pipe that brings water from the main water pipe under the street to your home.
 - You can find out if you have a lead service line by contacting your public water system, or you can check by following the steps at: <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2016/06/24/npr-find-lead-pipes-in-your-home>
 - The only way to know if lead has been reduced by letting it run is to check with a test. If letting the water run does not reduce lead, consider other options to reduce your exposure.
- Use cold water** for drinking, making food, and making baby formula. Hot water releases more lead from pipes than cold water.
- Test your water.** In most cases, letting the water run and using cold water for drinking and cooking should keep lead levels low in your drinking water. If you are still concerned about lead, arrange with a laboratory to test your tap water. Testing your water is important if young children or pregnant women drink your tap water.
 - Contact a Minnesota Department of Health accredited laboratory to get a sample container and instructions on how to submit a sample: [Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program](https://eldo.web.health.state.mn.us/public/accreditedlabs/labsearch.seam) (<https://eldo.web.health.state.mn.us/public/accreditedlabs/labsearch.seam>)
 - The Minnesota Department of Health can help you understand your test results.
- Treat your water** if a test shows your water has high levels of lead after you let the water run.
 - Read about water treatment units: [Point-of-Use Water Treatment Units for Lead Reduction](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/poulead.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/poulead.html>)

Learn more:

- Visit [Lead in Drinking Water](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/lead.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/lead.html>).
- Visit [Basic Information about Lead in Drinking Water](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead) (<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>)
- Call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 18004264791. To learn about how to reduce your contact with lead from sources other than your drinking water, visit [Lead Poisoning Prevention: Common Sources](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/sources.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/sources.html>).

Help Protect Our Most Precious Resource - Water

You Can Prevent Pollution

Many of our daily activities contribute to the pollution of Minnesota’s surface water and groundwater. You can help protect these drinking water sources by taking the following actions:

- Lawn and property:
 - Limit use of herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers on your property.
 - Keep soil in place with plants, grass, or rocks.
 - Cover temporary piles of dirt with a tarp or burlap sack.
 - Keep leaves and grass off of streets and sidewalks.
 - Maintain any septic systems, private wells, and storage tanks to prevent leaks. Seal any unused wells.
- Out-of-date medications: Never flush unwanted or out-of-date medications down the toilet or sink. Always take them to a waste disposal or prescription medication drop-off site. More information is available at [Managing unwanted medications](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/living-green/managing-unwanted-medications) (www.pca.state.mn.us/living-green/managing-unwanted-medications)
- Hazardous materials: Safety store hazardous materials such as paint, batteries, herbicides, pesticides, and pool chemicals. Dispose of them at a proper waste disposal facility or drop-off event. Do not dump down storm drains, sink or onto your land. Learn more at [Keep hazardous waste out of the garbage](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/featured/keep-hazardous-waste-out-of-the-garbage) (<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/featured/keep-hazardous-waste-out-of-the-garbage>).
- Pet waste: Pick up after your pet and put waste in the trash.
- Trash: Seal trash bags and keep litter out of the street.
- Winter ice removal: Chemicals used to break up the ice are called deicers or anti-icers. They can be harmful to the environment, corrosive to driveways and sidewalks and harmful to plants, pets and humans. Always shovel first, and then only apply deicers/anti-icers lightly if needed. Learn more at [10 smart salting tips to protect Minnesota waters](https://www.pca.state.mn.us/featured/10-smart-salting-tips-protect-minnesota-waters) (<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/featured/10-smart-salting-tips-protect-minnesota-waters>).
- Keep an eye out for car and motor fluids: Seal or repair any fluid leaks that could run off onto streets and into storm drains. Take used motor oil or other fluids to a neighborhood drop-off site.
- Be a water advocate: Spread the word; get involved. There are many groups and individuals working to protect water across Minnesota.