



Carlos Township Newsletter

May 2023

Board Members

Rodney Meyers, Chairman
320-491-5163

Bill Krivanek, Supervisor
320-846-0668

Dwayne Waldorf, Supervisor
320-852-7827

Rebecca Anderson, Clerk
320-846-0373

Tammy Schwegel, Treasurer
320-852-7454

Meeting Dates

The Carlos Town Board meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month, except for November and December, when they meet only on the second Thursday of the month.

Meeting are held at the Carlos Town Hall, which start at 7:00 pm.

The public is always welcome to attend.

If you have an item you would like placed on the Agenda, please contact Rebecca Anderson at least one week prior to the meeting.

Township Website:
[www:carlostownship.org](http://www.carlostownship.org)

Road Issues

The Carlos Board has voted to pave Interlachen Drive/Shady Lane this summer.

Also, a section of Miltona Carlos Road from the Long Prairie River to just north of the North Riverview intersection will also be paved.

The board conducted the annual road inspection on April 29th and will be reviewing which roads, right of ways, etc. need attention from our maintainer.

Fiber Optic Installation

Spectrum/Charter Communications will be installing fiber optic this summer. Areas in Carlos Township include CO Rd 13, State Hwy 29; Co Rd 42, North and South Riverview, Short Street, Short Lane, River Place, and Miltona Carlos Roads. From our understanding, residents in these areas have been notified. However, if you have not, or have a question to confirm if your residence or business location is in this area, please contact the township clerk at 320 846 0373 and she will verify your address along with whether you are interested in receiving this service.

Property Market Evaluations

The town board recently conducted the annual Board of Equalization Hearing. At the hearing, the county assessor indicated the following: Total valuation for Carlos Township stands at \$867,835,700 with Residential/Single Unit category at \$415,504,000; Seasonal Recreational Resident at \$252,895,000 and Agriculture at \$49,415,400.

Sales: On Water” Increased 36% on Lake Le Homme Dieu to \$5,200/foot; 23% on Lake Carlos to \$4,700/foot and 20% on Lake Miltona to \$4,200/foot.

Sales “Off Water” Valuations increased 10% for residential property.

Mailbox Policy

The town board approved a policy back in 2019 that states that if a resident has a swing a way mailbox and it is damaged by the road maintainer, it will be replaced. If not, the resident will be responsible for replacing the post/box. The reason for this is that the swing a way post moves when the snow plow is removing snow, where the fixed mailbox does not. This year with the heavy snow/slush, a few mailboxes were knocked over. Swing a way posts are available at Hilltop Lumber. Contact your local post office for instructions on height/location placement.

**CARLOS TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE NO. 2011-1A
DOG AND CAT ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE**

CARLOS TOWNSHIP – AMENDED

SUBDIVISION 1. LIMITATIONS IN OWNERSHIP

No family, group of person or business entity, residing in Carlos Township, or conducting business in Carlos Township shall have in custody, at any one time, more than three dogs over the age of six months and three cats over the age of six months on the premises where said family group of persons or business entity reside and or conduct business.

SUBDIVISION 2. RUNNING AT LARGE AND IMPOUNDING

- 2.1 **RUNNING AT LARGE:** It shall be unlawful for any person who is the owner or custodian of a dog or cat to permit such animal to run at large, provided, that such animal shall not be deemed to be running at large if it is on a leash or under physical and/or voice control of an accompanying person or if it is upon the property of the owner or custodian.
- 2.2 **IMPOUNDING OF ANIMAL:** It shall be the duty of the Carlos Township Board along with the Douglas County Sheriff's Department to impound any dog running at large. The township will not impound cats.
- 2.3 **HOLDING OF IMPOUNDED ANIMALS:** Every dog will be impounded at the Lakes Area Humane Society and will be held under the policy of that entity.
- 2.4 **RELEASE FROM ANIMAL POUND:** Animals shall be released to their owners upon payment of all fees, impounding or otherwise, incurred for the period of which the animal was impounded.
- 2.5 **UNCLAIMED ANIMALS:** If unclaimed, an impounded animal may be disposed of or humanely destroyed, pursuant to Minnesota Statute, Section 35.71., or the animal may be adopted according the same adoption practice as the local humane society.

SUBDIVISION 3. NUISANCE DOGS AND CATS

- 3.1 The owner or custodian of any dog or cat shall prevent the animal from committing in the township any act which constitutes a nuisance. Failure of the owner or custodian of the animal to prevent the animal from committing such nuisance is a violation of the ordinance.
- 3.2 **NOISE:** It is a nuisance for any dog or cat to habitually or frequently bark or cry so as to unreasonably disturb the comfort and repose of persons in the vicinity of said animal.
- 3.3 **DAMAGE OR TRESPASS:** It is a nuisance for any dog or cat to damage any lawn, garden or other property or to trespass on the property of someone other than the owner or custodian of said animal.
- 3.4 **LITTER:** The owner of any dog or cat or person having custody of said animal shall be responsible for cleaning up any feces of the animal and disposing of the feces in a sanitary manner. It is a nuisance for any owner or person in control of a dog or cat to fail to clean any feces of the animal.
- 3.5 **INJURY OR ATTACKS:** It is a nuisance for any dog or cat at any time to attach or bite a person or another animal.
- 3.6 **VICIOUS HABITS:** It is a nuisance for any dog or cat to be vicious, show vicious habits, molest pedestrians or interfere with vehicles on public streets.

SUBDIVISION 4. ENFORCEMENT DUTIES

The Douglas County Sheriff's Department shall enforce the provisions of this ordinance.

SUBDIVISION 5. PENALTIES

- 5.1 Violation of this Ordinance shall be a petty misdemeanor and shall be punishable by payment of a fine to the Carlos Township Clerk in addition to the payment of impounding fees along with any fines imposed by the court.
- 5.2 The Township Clerk will keep a schedule of fines, which may be adjusted from time to time.
- 5.3 Applicable fines set at the time of the adoption of this ordinance are the following:
First offense within a period of 12 consecutive months will be given a written notification:
All Subsequent offenses within a period of 12 consecutive months will be responsible for all fines imposed by the Court of Douglas County, along with a \$300 fee payable to the township.

Adopted by the Carlos Township Board of Supervisors on this 26th day of January, 2012.

This ordinance becomes effective upon publication and supersedes any previous animal control ordinance and amendments.

Chloride Application

The town board will be looking to have Calcium Chloride applied to township gravel roads within the next month or so.

Dog Issues

The board has received many complaints of barking and dogs off leash in the Hidden Oaks, Carlos Timbers and Birchwood areas. Printed in the adjacent column is the township's Animal Ordinance.

Township Policies

With summer ahead, residents will begin to build new structures. Please check out the township's website at www.carlostownship.org to view the Township's policies before you start clearing or begin construction.

Severe Weather

The Defense Siren is located by CR 11 and Circle Drive. See comments from Commissioner Rapp for information on how to prepare for stormy weather.

Wells in Carlos Township

It is estimate that more than 23 million households rely on private wells for drinking water in the United States. Of that, 1.2 million Minnesotans get their drinking water from a private well. In Carlos Township there are over 800 private drinking wells and 17 irrigation wells identified by the State (the MN Department of Health estimates for every known well there as at least one unknown well if not more).

Well owners are responsible for their maintaining the safety of their well(s). This means keeping wells covered and sealing unused wells and testing the water if used for drinking.

A well that is properly located, constructed, maintained, and tested can provide a reliable and safe drinking water source and serve many domestic, agricultural, and commercial purposes. A safe well helps keep your household healthy and protects Minnesota's groundwater.

Both natural sources and human activities can contaminate wells and cause short- or long-term health effects. You cannot taste, see, or smell most contaminants. MDH recommends using an accredited laboratory to test your water. Testing kits are available at the Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). These kits are free to take, however there is a fee for each test to be completed. Samples are sent to a lab for analysis and results are sent back in about one week. Once a year Douglas SWCD holds a free well water nitrate testing clinic where we will test well water for nitrate levels. The test takes about 2 minutes to complete and is done with you present. Watch Douglas SWCD's Facebook page and the Echo for when the next clinic will be held.

Protect your health!

Test your well water for:



Testing is even more important if young children drink the water.

If test results show that bacteria is in your well it needs to be disinfected. It is recommended to use a chlorine solution to achieve this. Step by step instructions can be found online.

High nitrates in drinking water (over 10.0 mg/L) can cause blue baby syndrome (methemoglobinemia – blood disorder that affects how red blood cells deliver oxygen throughout your body). Babies under 6 months or people with health problems are at a higher risk of developing the disorder. If unsafe nitrate levels are detected you need to 1) set your drinking water from a safe alternative source, such as bottled water. This is especially important if there are any babies under six months old drinking the water or formula made with water. Boiled water is not a safe alternative if there is nitrate in your water; boiling water will make nitrate more concentrated 2) Have a licensed well contractor inspect your well for damage 3) Find and remove potential sources of nitrate contamination on your property. A home water treatment system may be an option if you meet these three criteria 1) you have taken steps to reduce or eliminate potential sources of nitrate on your property 2) a licensed well contractor inspected your well and determined it is working properly; and 3) no babies under six months old drink the water (this is a safety precaution in the event the water treatment fails).

Testing for arsenic and lead need to be done at least once. If either are detected refer to the MN Department of Health for guidance on how to proceed <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/index.html>

Proper well management leads to safe farm (or home) sites and healthy families. Do your part to protect our aquifers and drinking water. Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District is available to answer questions and provide additional resources and potential cost-share for well sealing (320-763-3191 ext. 3).

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Comments from Douglas County Commissioner Jerry Rapp

Douglas County Emergency Management hopes all residents will increase their preparedness now that severe weather season is upon us. As your commissioner, I want to make sure you all have determined where you'll go in a tornado warning or severe thunderstorm warning. If you don't have a basement, an interior room with no windows is the best option. Bathrooms are one example. Make sure you have your cell phone, a charger, your purse or wallet, and a flashlight. The best way to make sure you're not looking for these items at the last minute is to get organized during a tornado or severe thunderstorm watch. The National Weather Service issues a watch to let everyone know conditions are favorable for very nasty weather. Warnings are issued when the threat is expected to happen in the near future. The county will sound the outdoor warning sirens in a tornado warning and may sound them if a severe thunderstorm has very high winds. The National Weather Service will also send alerts to your cell phone and, if you've signed up for Code Red, will send them to your landline as well. Also make sure you have a weather app on your phone to get details about a storm, and have a battery operated radio and or a television on with local news. The storms last May impacted Carlos Township and so many additional areas of our county. Following those storms, we were reminded how important it is to document items in your home with photos and to review your homeowners insurance policy to know what exactly will and will not be covered if your property is damaged. Now is the time to do that. Please don't wait. If you have any questions, you can call our emergency manager, Julie Anderson at 320-304-7115.

Carlos Township
420 Hidden Oaks Dr NW
Alexandria, MN 56308