

LC Communicator

LAKES COUNTRY
Service Cooperative
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Regional News, Views, and Information

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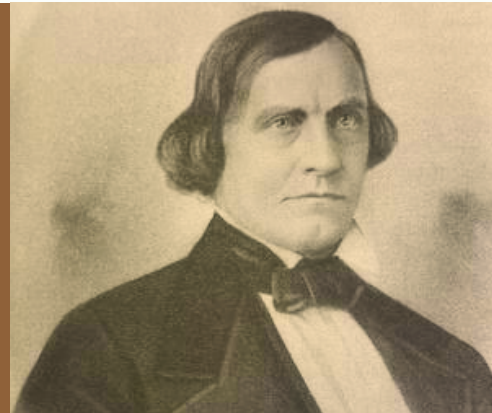


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BROWNS VALLEY



Joseph Renshaw Brown
Founder of Browns Valley

awarded grants

from the Minnesota Historical Society

Browns Valley is a charming small town situated in the heart of western Minnesota with a population of just under 550. It is known for its close-knit community and peaceful atmosphere. The city is surrounded by beautiful rolling hills, lush greenery, and serene lakes, making it a haven for nature lovers. According to Jodi Hook-Hansen, Browns Valley's city administrator, the town is an ideal tourist destination because it connects Traverse and Big Stone Lake as a land bridge. Traverse Lake and Big Stone Lake only being a mile each from Browns Valley.

As you drive down Main Street, you will feel as if you have been transported back in time. Some of the historic buildings, which were constructed in the 1800s, still stand tall. "The local community members are working together to make their surroundings more beautiful, clean up the main street area, and collaborate on grant proposals. We have some ambitious visions and goals for Browns Valley that we are determined to achieve," Hook-Hansen stated.

continued on next page

Source: Jodi Hook, Browns Valley City Clerk; Browns Valley Historical Society; Carnegie Corporation of New York Website – Andrew Carnegie's Story; Bobinski, George S. (1969). Carnegie Libraries: Their History and Impact on American Public Library Development. Chicago: American Library

Author: Mary Phillipe, LCSC's Communications Generalist

Hook-Hansen shared the exciting news that the city was awarded two grants from the Minnesota Historical Society to restore the Carnegie Library and the Sam Brown Cabin.

The Carnegie Library, located in Browns Valley, has a rich history dating back to 1915. It was one of the many public libraries constructed in the US with a generous donation from Andrew Carnegie, the famous philanthropist. In 1915, the initial cost of building the library was \$5,500, and since its establishment, it has served as a vital community hub for education, learning, and social gatherings. During the flu epidemic of 1918, the library played a crucial role in accommodating the overflow of patients. Today, while the facility is not open to the public, it houses a collection of city, school, and family history managed by the local Historical Society.

Of the 65 Carnegie public libraries built in Minnesota, 22 still operate as libraries, while many serve as art galleries, public and private office spaces, and several retail locations. Twenty-one of 65 libraries in Minnesota are either vacant or have been demolished.



Jodi Hook-Hansen
Browns Valley
City Clerk



“It was from my own early experience that I decided there was no use to which money could be applied so productive... as the founding of a public library.”

Andrew Carnegie

The goal of restoring the Browns Valley Carnegie Library is to provide a location for the Historical Society and a public museum to preserve its history for future generations.

The Sam Brown Log Cabin is also an important piece of local history. To help preserve this historic structure, the Minnesota Historical Society awarded a \$10,000 grant for a conditions assessment. This assessment will provide valuable information to the City of Browns Valley, enabling them to seek out professionals familiar with historic architecture to complete necessary repairs with historical integrity in mind. The resulting scope of work and construction documents will ensure that the Sam Brown Log Cabin is preserved for future generations to learn from and enjoy.

The Sam Brown Log Cabin was built in 1861 near Fort Wadsworth, now known as Fort Sisseton, about 40 miles west of Browns Valley. The log structure was initially constructed as the fort's agency and scout headquarters.

continued on next page



The building was built under the direction and command of Major Joseph Renshaw Brown, Browns Valley's Founder. The building served in a military capacity from 1861 to 1866. In 1866, the building was purchased by Major J.R. Brown and moved 37 miles to Browns Valley, where it stood near present-day Broadway Avenue and 6th Street. It served as a family home, post office, trading station, stage stop, and hotel during this time. In 1871, it was again dismantled and moved to its present location by Samuel Brown.

While the Minnesota Historical Society grants are a great beginning to two significant improvements in the community, more funding will be needed to complete the restorations. Recently, the City of Browns Valley updated its website and provided a landing page that will soon have a donation link for the Historical Society. This will aid in raising additional funds for the complete restoration of the buildings.

Hook-Hansen believes that when the local community residents start noticing positive changes, it motivates others to contribute. She sees a significant opportunity for the tourist industry by filling up the empty buildings on Main Street.

To support this initiative, a grant proposal has been submitted to West Central Initiative for their Main Street Economic Revitalization Grant that can be utilized to redevelop commercial spaces.

Hook-Hansen shared great news that the Snirt Stopper Garage Door Seal business will soon open in their community. This company specializes in developing garage door sealers that keeps out rain, snow, dirt, leaves, rodents, insects and helps prevent garage door freeze-down while saving energy by sealing out the cold, creating an air-tight seal that traps heat inside where it belongs for a warmer, safer work area and home. The addition of this business will benefit the community.

The restoration of the Carnegie Library and Sam Brown Log Cabin is a significant improvement for the community of Browns Valley and a step towards preserving the town's history. The grants from the Minnesota Historical Society are a great start, and the community's efforts to raise additional funds will ensure the complete restoration of these two iconic buildings. The City of Browns Valley has ambitious visions and goals, and they can achieve them with the community members' determination and collaboration. Browns Valley may be a small town, but it has a rich history and natural beauty that attracts tourists and new residents. As the city continues to improve and grow, it will undoubtedly attract even more people to experience its charm and serenity for themselves.

Do you want to learn more about the City of Browns Valley and its Economic Development initiatives? Visit their new website at <https://brownsvalleymn.com/>

From the **Executive Director**

"We Advocate for Strong Communities
through Service and Leadership."



Jeremy Kovash
Executive Director



Recent events in my life have given me the opportunity to reflect. In the past five years, I have lost both my parents, seen my boys graduate, experienced some adventurous travel, and accomplished some awesome things with our Lakes Country team.

However, these "events" should not define us. A year ago, I lost a dear friend, Elston Howard Kangas. As I reflect upon his life and share great stories about Howie with mutual friends, I think he left me with at least one more lesson.

His life was not simply defined by "events." Calling him only a husband, father, coach, official, or teacher does not tell the story of Howie. Rather than wins, losses, births, deaths, or other accomplishments, our lives are more defined by how we live each day... by who we are. How we love, laugh, empathize, learn, grow, share, and treat others is how we are defined. I hope you enjoy this issue of the Communicator and have a blessed 2024.

Effective Energy Audits and Dollars Saved

TODAY'S BUILDINGS ACCOUNT FOR ROUGHLY 40% OF THE WORLD'S ENERGY CONSUMPTION

Maintaining healthy and efficient facilities requires routine energy audits. ICS can help you complete an in-depth analysis that will include identifying the breakdown of utility use by function and recognize opportunities for energy savings.

For more information, reach out to Karen Klein, Cooperative Accounts Manager, at karen.klein@ics-builds.com or 651-728-1880.



**EFFECTIVE ENERGY AUDITS
AND DOLLARS SAVED WITH**



LCSC's MEMBERS CityConnect



2024
LCSC
CITY NETWORKING
Luncheon

16 FEBRUARY
11:30AM - 1PM

**Share ideas, best practices
and gain new perspectives that
may help you as a leader!**

**DISCUSSIONS
AND INSIGHTS**

REGISTRATION

Contact Mary Phillippe
218-739-3273 Ext. 549

1001 E Mount Faith Fergus Falls, MN 56537

You are cordially invited to a networking luncheon on Friday, February 16, 2024, from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Lakes Country Service Cooperative. You will have the opportunity to network and discuss current and relevant topics with fellow City Clerks, Deputy Clerks, City Administrators, and City Managers working in Lakes Country Service Cooperatives' nine-county region.

Do you have items/topics you would like the group to discuss during this session? Let us know what you are interested in discussing, and we will do our best to get your topic on the agenda.

You can attend in person or virtually.

REGISTER

<https://reg.lcsc.org/#/view-event/416>

We look forward to seeing you at Lakes Country Service Cooperative!
Together We Achieve...



Lakes Country Service Cooperative Presents:

Improving Your Organization

Topic :
Strategic Planning

This full-day session will identify planning processes that can help participants set goals and determine strategies to move their organizations forward.

REGISTRATION FEE
NO COST TO ATTEND - LIMITED
REGISTRATION - SIGN UP TODAY!

DATES
22 February, 2024

TIME
8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

LOCATION
1001 E MOUNT FAITH
FERGUS FALLS, MN 56537

FACILITATOR
Dave Bartholomay

Register Now

www.lcsc.org

SCAN ME

IMPROVING YOUR ORGANIZATION THROUGH STRATEGIC PLANNING

This full-day session will identify planning processes that can help participants set goals and determine strategies to move their organizations forward.

This training is generously funded by the Blandin Foundation and brought to you in collaboration with United Way of Otter Tail & Wadena Counties.



DEED Awards Grant Dollars to MAHUBE-OTWA for Local Workforce Development Program

The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) recently announced the awarding of nearly \$4 million in grants to 16 community and nonprofit organizations, the latest in the agency's broader effort to help grow Minnesota's workforce.

Many Minnesotans have experienced the frustration of hearing only the silence of a dead battery when turning a key to start a vehicle in the brutal cold. If small children have already been strapped into their seatbelts or time is tight to get to work or an appointment, the frustration can turn to panic. In an urban area, someone with jumper cables might be within shouting distance, but in rural areas and small towns, help might be further away.

In 2021, funded with private resources, MAHUBE-OTWA piloted a winter car prep program for families working on employment goals and enrolled in Head Start. Thirty program participants brought their cars to partnering garages and received new tires, batteries, wipers, and lights if needed. The partnering garage also did a safety check and educated the parents on routine maintenance and upcoming big-ticket items to prepare for. The average cost per vehicle was \$700, and none of the participants lost work due to transportation issues. No participants needed to use their tax return to buy a used car to replace one that conked out on them. With funding from DEED, this program will be expanded to serve more clients and include a summer oil change and fluid level check. In addition to the work the mechanics do, MAHUBE-OTWA family coaches also confirm that the drivers are insured and licensed or support them to meet those goals if they are not. Parents learn to protect a valuable asset, families are kept safe on the road, and everyone can make it to school, work, or child care on time.

Source/Author: Liz Kuoppala, MAHUBE-OTWA Executive Director



MAHUBE-OTWA
Community Action Partnership, Inc.

HELPING PEOPLE, CHANGING LIVES!

The Legal Table

Let's talk!

Sit down and join us for a virtual conversation on legal aid and resources in the community to help!

Presented by:

**Legal Services of
Northwest Minnesota**

CUSTODY IN MINNESOTA



Renee Charon
LSNM Attorney



Amy Riccio
Moorhead Public Schools



Mary Rea
Legal Services
State Support

Join us: FEB 20TH FROM 12PM- 1PM

Register for the live event on the link above or go to:

<https://lsnmlaw.org/event/the-legal-table/2024-02-20/>



Please join Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota for our monthly virtual legal series, "The Legal Table."

Source/Author: Crystal Jamerson
Community Engagement & Outreach Coordinator, LSNM

On the third Tuesday of every month, we will explore a new topic. In February, we explore Minnesota's third-party custody laws. Third-party custody refers to a legal arrangement in which someone who is not a biological parent of a child is granted custody or guardianship over that child. This informative session, led by our experienced legal aid attorney, Renee Charon, and community panelists, will examine the complexities surrounding third-party custody cases.

Participants can expect to gain valuable insights into various types of third-party custody agreements and hear from community organizations that provide resources for families. Whether you are a legal professional, a concerned relative, or simply interested in understanding more about third-party custody, this presentation promises to be an enlightening exploration of a topic that profoundly impacts the lives of children and families.

Please join us for a discussion at the "Legal Table" on February 20th at 12 pm.
Register online at:
<https://lsnmlaw.org/event/the-legal-table/2024-02-20/>



COOPERATIVE
Purchasing
CONNECTION

Safety & Security Contracts

Safety and Security solutions often have hefty price tags, and because of the way our procurement laws are set up, solutions with a high price tag typically have a lengthier and more involved procurement process.

CPC assists by being involved in the procurement process from the beginning. This ensures that when you decide to proceed with a CPC vendor for a solution, you can make progress towards implementing the safety and security solutions you require while remaining compliant with state procurement laws and best practices.

CPC has contracts with eight vendors for safety and security solutions. The vendors listed below are grouped by the type of solution they offer.



TECHNOLOGY-BASED SAFETY AND SECURITY SOLUTIONS

- Affinitech
- All State Communications (including fire)
- Marco

X-RAY SCANNERS, METAL DETECTORS, NARCOTICS DETECTION

- Autoclear

STAFF CRISIS NOTIFICATION

- Centegix

STUDENT MONITORING AND REPORTING

- Gaggle
- STOPit

STUDENT CONTENT FILTER

- Deledao

Visit Purchasingconnection.org for more information.

for Comprehensive Suicide Prevention Efforts

Author/Source: Shannon Terry, Otter Tail County Public Information Officer

Otter Tail County Public Health was recently awarded a four-year Comprehensive Suicide Prevention Grant from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). The grant will focus on coordinating and evaluating a comprehensive community approach to suicide prevention. Over the next four years, Otter Tail County Public Health, in collaboration with community members and partners, will plan and implement suicide prevention efforts throughout the county.

During the fall of 2021, a workgroup was formed to gather information on community mental health needs.

As a part of the Suicide Prevention Grant, a local coalition facilitated by Otter Tail County Public Health will build on previous efforts by developing an action plan and implementation strategies for maximum mental health promotion and suicide prevention impact. Lake Region Healthcare is partnering with Otter Tail County in prevention efforts to implement the Zero Suicide framework. Chief Nursing Officer Roberta Young stated, “This important collaboration will improve suicide prevention efforts in our communities and help us better equip our staff to best care for people at risk of suicide and self-harm.”

With the training and technical assistance from MDH, this organizational framework will be used to increase suicide care management, access to mental health services, and follow-up care for individuals identified as at-risk for suicide.

“

Otter Tail County is dedicated to improving the lives of all residents and visitors,” said Reese Ellison, Otter Tail County Public Health Educator. “The goal of the next four years is to implement a plan that meets the needs of our entire community and improve mental health for all.

”

If you want to participate in the coalition, contact Otter Tail County Public Health Department’s Heath Educator, Reese Ellison, at rellison@ottertailcounty.gov.

If you or someone you know needs free and confidential support, call the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline or text the Crisis Text Line at 741741. In addition, the local Mobile Mental Health Crisis Response Team is available to respond to your needs 24/7.

Call the center’s toll-free number at 800-223-4512.



2024 LCSC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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