



## ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, March 10

7:00 PM - Linwood Senior Center

Voters will be asked to approve a \$1.5 million levy  
for 2016.

### **Why are Annual Township Meetings necessary?**

Written By: Phil Osterhus, Chair, Linwood Township

It was the original form of local government in Minnesota, even before we became a state. It was established by the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 when Minnesota became a territory. There are almost 1800 townships in our state approximately 36 square miles in size. Many are larger and some are smaller because of annexations and mergers. We are an “**Urban township**”, which functions much like a small city. (Seven county metro area, over 1000 population)

Linwood Township is governed by a board of 5 supervisors, elected on a staggered biannual schedule. The township business is directed by the board of supervisors, who are joined by the town clerk and treasurer, also elected by the residents on a biannual schedule, and audited by an independent auditor. Linwood residents are an important part of this. Not only do they vote on the people governing the township, but on how much they are willing to be taxed to support the functions of local government. (i.e. The Levy). In Linwood, the residents have not increased the levy (at the supervisor’s direction) for 6 years.

The main function of township government is public safety, (fire and police), debt service, roads and parks. Linwood also has a senior center. Townships are responsible for almost half the streets and roads in Minnesota, (more in Linwood) and get very little of the revenue generated by the gas tax and none of auto/truck license fees so it falls on the townships to provide for these at our own expense.

The Linwood Board of Supervisors, along with the various committees, have been very frugal with spending funds over the last 7 years. This has resulted in a steady levy of \$1,500,000 along with the additional funds from other income streams.

This is why it is so very important for residents show up at the annual meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in March (March 10, 2015, this year) to set the levy. In an effort to save money and eliminate waste, only an overview of the budget will be provided along with the agenda at the annual meeting. A detailed copy of the budget will be available by request in the Township Office prior to the annual meeting.

Ten years ago a handful of committed residents (less than 20) attended the Annual Meeting and requested spending resulting in a levy increase of about 90%. Don’t let that happen again. Since then the annual meeting has had between 70 and 240 tax payers in attendance.



## What are the policies of Linwood Township when it snows?

In a word, when it snows, we plow.

This does not mean we have a “Clear Streets Policy” as does the State of Minnesota and Anoka County. Linwood has a written policy of a snow emergency at 4”. However, as long as I have been in charge for the last 9 years, the plows are called out when we have 2 ½” to 3” on the ground or in the forecast. When the plows are called out, I am usually out there with the plows in my personal truck the entire time they are clearing snow.

We have a full range of snowfalls here in Linwood. Last year, Minneapolis received a nine inch snowfall, Linwood received 22 inches. We had crews out until we had at least cleared a track on (almost) all roads. Some roads that were cleared during the early part of the snowfall had filled in by the end. Early residents who had 4” of snow removed, by the time we finished the roads, were convinced we had not plowed their street.

During the November 10-11, 2014 snow event, the public school superintendent living 15-20 miles south of Linwood received a minimal amount of snow and did not close our schools, while we got 9” to 13” with a wind.

Confession: I take full responsibility for this failure. This snowfall was not forecast so I had allowed our ONE experienced plow driver to go out of town on personal time off, (where they got NO snow and he was out of cell phone range). In his absence, we had two of our regular drivers unavailable, (one died, one resigned), I had a total knee replacement and was in the hospital. Because I did not expect a major snow event, I had not brought my backup township supervisor and the new drivers up to speed on what routes to plow first and the operation of our available removal equipment. Supervisor Kramer did a commendable job with the tools I had left him and he was able to line up backup operators to assist, but because I had not laid out the plow routes for snow removal, some streets were slow in getting plowed and some were missed altogether. Forgive me.

Written By: Phil Osterhus, Supervisor for Road and Bridge

Linwood has ordered a new plow truck, (the last new one was purchased in 1994) and delivery is expected in early to mid-February. This will be more user friendly and useful than the one we purchased used from Anoka County 5 years ago. This unit has broken down with almost every snow event for several years and will be retired. With Supervisor Kramer’s assistance, we now have several back-up drivers to assist so our (now experienced) drivers will not be working longer than the 12 hour shift the state allows. Supervisor Kramer and R & B committee chair, Bob Beckman, have driven over our proposed plow routes for timing and direction for when the next snow comes upon us.

We have four township trucks doing our roads, cul-de-sacs and parking lots. Normally we can do the job in 12 to 14 hours. We need to plow the fire department lot so they can respond to any emergency. This is usually handled by members of the volunteer fire department after one of our large trucks makes 2 or 3 passes with the front plow and wing, creating a 12 to 15 foot swath each time. The township/senior center lot will usually be plowed last.

The starting place for plowing is now altered every other snow so the time your road is plowed will vary. (You won’t always be first or last).

Bear with us as we get better at clearing the roads. Call the township, or me personally, (cell 612-839-6789) if your road is missed on the first day.

**Very important, it is illegal to plow snow from your driveway across the street as this does cause a hazard for plow trucks and other drivers who have to drive across it.**



# Way To Go Linwood!

Written By: Ed Kramer, Township Supervisor

I would like to start out by saying thank you to the residents of Linwood Township for all their efforts around recycling. We have recycled the following over the last six months:

- 267 Tires
- 144 Bikes
- 592 Florescent Lights
- 237 TVs
- 120 Appliances
- 95 Mattresses
- 238 Electronics
- 52 Couches and Chairs
- 12,850 lbs Scrap Iron
- 920 Gallons Used Oil
- 7,400 lbs Cardboard



In addition to the above, residents brought in slips from turning scrap metal into cash; this amounted to 22,064 lbs of recycled scrap metal. Linwood also gets credits from residents' curbside recycling through ACE and SRC waste management companies.

It is too early to determine if the goal, set by the county, of 488 tons for recycling in 2014 has been met. As of the first half of the year Linwood had reported 178.25 tons.

Don't forget, we now take yard waste (grass, leaves, small branches, garden waste) at the recycling center. Recycling is on the fourth Saturday each month from 8:00am to 12:00pm (noon).

Continue to watch the recycling page on the Linwood Township website [www.linwoodtownship.org](http://www.linwoodtownship.org) for updated pricing information and new items that can be recycled.

Any questions about recycling can be directed to Ed Kramer at 651-462-4979.

## ***NEED HELP? CALL CARE CREW NORTH!***

A new organization called "Care Crew North" has been established through Wyoming United Methodist Church. Its goals are to serve those in the community who are either physically or financially unable to take care of their needs. More specifically, the organization will help homeowners with small projects, give rides to those in need of transportation, and refer them to reputable businesses or other organizations that can meet their needs. This service is available to residents of Wyoming, Linwood, Stacy and Columbus.



If you are in need of assistance, would like to volunteer to help, or just have questions about "Care Crew North", simply call the message line at 651-462-4890. Leave a message and a volunteer will get back to you with assistance or information in a timely manner.





# Proven to Save Lives



Written By: Jim Stockinger, Assistant Chief

Minnesota law requires every residence to be equipped with both carbon monoxide and smoke detectors. These laws have been put in place for one reason: They have proven to save lives.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless and toxic gas. At low levels, CO will cause mild effects that are often mistaken for the flu; symptoms include headaches, dizziness, disorientation, nausea and fatigue. These symptoms typically make a victim want to lie down and rest. This is why CO is known as the “silent killer”; an unaware victim will simply fall asleep and never wake up. The effects of CO exposure can vary greatly from person to person depending on age, overall health and the concentration and length of exposure.

CO is the product of incomplete combustion of fossil fuels. In Minnesota, all homes have sources of CO. These sources include: gas stoves, furnaces, barbecues, portable heaters, gas powered water heaters, solid fuel stoves, boilers and vehicle exhaust. If an area is not properly ventilated, such as blocked chimneys or flues or areas having inadequate fresh air flow, CO levels can quickly reach fatal levels. It is for these reasons Minnesota State Statute 299F.51 requires that “Every single family dwelling and every dwelling unit in a multifamily dwelling must have an approved and operational carbon monoxide alarm installed within ten feet of each room lawfully used for sleeping purposes.”

CO detectors are relatively inexpensive, \$20.00 up to \$100.00, depending on the model and features. They can be battery powered, plug-in or hard-wired. Some have digital displays of CO levels and others are made in combination with a smoke detector. No matter which one you choose, make sure it is made to meet UL Standard 2034. The Linwood Fire Department recommends a CO detector that is either hard-wired or is a plug-in model. Also selecting a model that has a digital reading is valuable for monitoring CO levels and diagnosing potential false alarms due to low battery voltage.

Smoke detectors are another mandatory safety feature every home is required to have (Minnesota State Statute 299F.362). It is unlawful for an occupant to willfully disable a smoke detector, or cause it to be nonfunctioning, if such an action results in damage or injury to persons or property.

Many times smoke detectors are disabled because of “nuisance” alarms caused commonly by cooking. There are many documented instances where this has cost people their lives. It is estimated that 20 percent of homes have detectors that do not work or are missing batteries, and two-thirds of reported residential fire deaths occur in homes without working smoke detectors, or with no smoke alarms at all. Most “nuisance” alarms can be avoided with the proper selection and placement of a smoke detector.

The NFPA recommends a smoke detector in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of your home (smoke rises, so install them high on the walls). There are two common types of smoke detector on the market today; Ionization and Photoelectric. The technology used in each of these detectors is different, and this affects how each one responds to a variety of smoke conditions. Ionization smoke detectors are typically less expensive, \$10-\$50, and therefore are generally more common. The ionization technology works best with the detection of smoke from a flaming fire, which is the smoke present with those cooking mishaps. Photoelectric smoke detectors cost \$25-\$100 and are more responsive to smoke from a smoldering type fire.

Since it is impossible to predict which type of fire could break out in your home, the best protection is offered by having both technologies in your home. Using photoelectric smoke detector in the area near the kitchen will also cut down on the possibility of those types of “nuisance” alarms.

CO and smoke detectors have proven to save lives, however, they will not protect you if they are not working properly. All detectors do require some maintenance; alarms should be tested monthly, vacuumed/dusted regularly, and the batteries need to be replaced at least annually. Also, all detectors have a life span; the sensor in a CO detector will last typically 5 to 7 years; therefore a homeowner should replace them at least every 7 years. It is recommended that smoke detectors be replaced at least every 10 years.

The Linwood Fire Department stands ready to respond and serve the emergency needs of Linwood Township. If you have questions regarding purchasing or installing CO and / or smoke detectors in your home, you can contact me at [jim.stockinger@linwoodtownship.org](mailto:jim.stockinger@linwoodtownship.org), and a representative from Linwood Fire Department can provide additional advice. If you have questions regarding the fire department, feel free to contact Darryl Ballman, Fire Chief ([darryl.ballman@linwoodtownship.org](mailto:darryl.ballman@linwoodtownship.org)), or Phil Osterhus, Linwood Township Chair and Fire Liaison ([phil.osterhus@linwoodtownship.org](mailto:phil.osterhus@linwoodtownship.org)).

# Keeping Our Lakes Healthy During Winter

Written By: Robert Millerbernd, Town Board Supervisor

As Linwood Township has the honor and privilege to have so many lakes in our community, we also have the responsibility to keep our lakes healthy. We often think of caring for our waterways in the summer months by eliminating fertilizer usage and reducing litter. But what can we do to keep our lakes healthy through the winter?



While we enjoy the splendors of winter sports on our local lakes, we need to remain diligent in keeping them clean. While ice fishing, do not leave trash on the lake. Take your cans, fishing line, and wrappers with you when you leave. Trash left behind will only fall into the lakes during our spring thaw. Refrain from dumping live, excess minnows in the lake when you are done fishing. These minnows may grow up to be suckers, carp, or other invasive species in our lakes.

Snowmobiling on our lakes is a joyful and scenic experience.

Please remember to be respectful of others while enjoying your sport. Respect people's space and remain a safe distance from ice houses, individual's fishing, or lake shore owner's property.

We have been blessed with beautiful lakes in our community. Let's do our part to keep them healthy for future generations to enjoy.

## MEDALLION HUNT 2015

This year's Medallion Hunt was the shortest in history. Only one clue was given on January 16th. Shannon Shurb and Kristi Immel found it the same day.

Shannon and Kristi have won the Forest Lake Medallion Hunt twice over the last three years. On Friday, the 16th they decided to go looking for the Medallion in our School Forest. They spent two hours walking the trails looking in holes of trees and for things out of place. They passed by the hiding place two or three times before they found it.

Congratulations Ladies on finding the Medallion!

### Senior Center Happenings!

Please check out our web page on the Linwood Township website. We have revamped and added a "Senior Center Activity Calendar". Here you will get up-to-date information on what is happening here at the Senior Center. We also have a Facebook page "Linwood Senior Center".

### Volunteer's Needed

Do you have time to take and lend a helping hand to bring someone to the doctor, grocery shopping or an appointment? Also, if you are interested in driving the Linwood Traveler contact the Senior Center and give us your name and phone number. 651-462-5565  
If you have a hobby or a skill you would like to share with the Seniors please call the Senior Center

### Upcoming Events

Annual Corned Beef Dinner  
St. Patrick's Day-March 17th  
5:00pm to 7:00pm

Beverages and Dessert

\*\*There is a cost \$3.00 (ages 6-12)  
\$7.00 per Adult



Easter Egg Hunt-April 4th from 10-11:30, looking for volunteers

## Building Department Update-

Written By: Mike Jungbauer,  
Building Official

There were a total of 192 permits issued in 2014

There were 13 new home permits issued in 2014.

October was the busiest month for permits, we issued 30 permits for remodeling, updating windows, water heaters, furnaces and accessory buildings.

Residents have done a wonderful job helping us comply with the state laws on pumping septic tanks, we have been busy logging all the information and sending our reports to the state. A big thanks to everyone for making my job easier!

We hope to be announcing funds available this spring for those that need new septic systems but have had trouble finding the money. There will be low interest loans and I believe a number of other "creative financing" options.

We are excited to be going "electronic" with all of our records soon and will be starting to scan the files by the end of January. Bigger scans like blueprints will be done after the small things are scanned. If you had a new construction home built, we will be allowing you to pick up your blueprints, if we have them in your property file, for houses over 2 years old.

I have had a lot of calls from residents in the thinking stage of a project. I like that sort of call as I can answer questions and solve problems in advance of issuing a permit.

Brand new building codes go into effect January 24th, and new plumbing and mechanical codes start on February 14th. (Not feeling a lot of Valentine Love from the state of Minnesota.)



## *Big Changes on Linwood Website*

Written By: Carol Searing, Township Supervisor

Our website has been revamped and got a beautiful makeover. The one major change occurring is the weekly update. You will be given information on weekly events, news, a township monthly calendar, Building Department information and permit forms, Township ordinances, a separate Senior Center calendar, Parks, Public Hearings, Animal Control, Linwood Cemetery information and applications, our staff and department hours. The website has links to many different sites that are important to our Township and County. You can also leave feedback regarding the website or the Township. All feedback forms will be answered. Please check it out and continue to visit the site.  
[www.linwoodtownship.org](http://www.linwoodtownship.org)

## Township Officers

**-Town Board-**

**(2nd & 4th Tuesday 6pm)**

**\*Philip Osterhus**, Chair

HR, Safety/Fire/Police Dept. Rd  
& Bdg

Home 763-434-8888

**\*Michael Halliday**, Vice Chair

Park & Rec, Insurance, Senior Center,  
HR.

Cell 763-486-3034

**\*Robert Millerbernd**

SRWMO, LFFD, School Forest, Bldg,  
Maint., Building Study Comm.

Home 651-408-8678

**\*Carol Searing**

Newsletter/Website/Cable

Home 651-462-9012

**\*Ed Kramer**

P&Z, Recycling, back-up Fire Dept., Rd  
& Bdg

Home 651-462-4979

**\*Judy Hanna**, Clerk

Home 651-462-5600

Work 651-462-2812

**\*Carrie Luedtke**, Treasurer

Cell 651-270-4068

**-Office Staff-**

**\*Dawn Cash**, Sr. Coord.

651-462-5565

**\*Pam Olson**, Accounting/  
Secretary

651-462-2812

**\*Linda Anderson**, Secretary

651-462-2812

**\*Mike Jungbauer**, Building  
Official, P&Z Admin.

651-462-0501

**\*Kelly Kramer**, Newsletter/  
Website/Channel 10

**(Office Hrs. M-F 8am-4:30pm)**

**For more information on  
Committees please visit:  
[linwoodtownship.org](http://linwoodtownship.org)**

Website: [www.linwoodtownship.org](http://www.linwoodtownship.org)

# Upcoming Events

Please visit [www.linwoodtownship.org](http://www.linwoodtownship.org) for a more up-to-date print friendly calendar.

March 2015						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 <a href="#">5pm School Forest Mtg</a>	3 <a href="#">7pm Road and Bridge Mtg</a>	4 <a href="#">7pm Fire Dept Mtg</a>	5	6	7
8 <a href="#">Daylight Savings Begins</a>	9	10 <a href="#">6pm Town Board Mtg</a> <hr/> <a href="#">7pm Annual Meeting</a>	11	12	13	14
15	16 <a href="#">8:30am Sr. Center Comm. Meeting</a>	17 <a href="#">St. Patrick's Day</a> <hr/> <a href="#">7pm Planning &amp; Zoning Mtg</a>	18	19	20 <a href="#">Spring Begins</a>	21
22	23 <a href="#">6pm Park and Rec Mtg</a>	24 <a href="#">6pm Town Board Mtg</a>	25	26	27	28 <a href="#">8am Recycling Center Open</a>
29 <a href="#">Palm Sunday</a>	30	31	1 <a href="#">7pm Fire Dept Mtg</a>	2	3 <a href="#">Good Friday</a> <hr/> <a href="#">Office Closes @ 12pm (NOON)</a>	4

April 2015						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 <a href="#">Palm Sunday</a>	30	31	1 <a href="#">7pm Fire Dept Mtg</a>	2	3 <a href="#">Good Friday</a> <hr/> <a href="#">Office Closes @ 12pm (NOON)</a>	4
5 <a href="#">Easter</a>	6 <a href="#">5pm School Forest Mtg</a> <hr/> <a href="#">6pm Linwood Family Fun Day Mtg.</a>	7 <a href="#">7pm Road and Bridge Mtg</a>	8	9	10	11
12	13 <a href="#">8:30am Sr. Center Comm. Meeting</a>	14 <a href="#">6pm Town Board Mtg</a>	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 <a href="#">7pm Planning &amp; Zoning Mtg</a>	22 <a href="#">Earth Day</a>	23	24	25 <a href="#">8am Recycling Center Open</a>
26	27 <a href="#">6pm Park and Rec Mtg</a>	28 <a href="#">5:30pm Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting</a> <hr/> <a href="#">6pm Town Board Mtg</a>	29	30	1	2

# Upcoming Events

Please visit [www.linwoodtownship.org](http://www.linwoodtownship.org) for a more up-to-date print friendly calendar.

May 2015						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27 <a href="#">6pm Park and Rec Mtg</a>	28 <a href="#">5:30pm Board of Appeal and Equalization Meeting</a> <hr/> <a href="#">6pm Town Board Mtg</a>	29	30	1	2
3	4 <a href="#">5pm School Forest Mtg</a> <hr/> <a href="#">6pm Linwood Family Fun Day Mtg.</a>	5 <a href="#">7pm Road and Bridge Mtg</a>	6 <a href="#">7pm Fire Dept Mtg</a>	7	8	9
10 <a href="#">Mother's Day</a>	11	12 <a href="#">6pm Town Board Mtg</a>	13	14	15	16
17	18 <a href="#">8:30am Sr. Center Comm. Meeting</a>	19 <a href="#">7pm Planning &amp; Zoning Mtg</a>	20	21	22	23 <a href="#">8am Recycling Center Open</a>
24	25 <a href="#">Memorial Day</a> <hr/> <a href="#">Office Closed</a>	26 <a href="#">6pm Town Board Mtg</a>	27	28	29	30
31	1 <a href="#">6pm Linwood Family Fun Day Mtg.</a>	2 <a href="#">7pm Road and Bridge Mtg</a>	3 <a href="#">7pm Fire Dept Mtg</a>	4	5	6

June 2015						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1 <a href="#">6pm Linwood Family Fun Day Mtg.</a>	2 <a href="#">7pm Road and Bridge Mtg</a>	3 <a href="#">7pm Fire Dept Mtg</a>	4	5	6
7	8	9 <a href="#">6pm Town Board Mtg</a>	10	11	12	13
14 <a href="#">Flag Day</a>	15 <a href="#">8:30am Sr. Center Comm. Meeting</a>	16 <a href="#">7pm Planning &amp; Zoning Mtg</a>	17	18	19	20
21 <a href="#">Father's Day</a> <hr/> <a href="#">Summer Begins</a>	22 <a href="#">6pm Park and Rec Mtg</a>	23 <a href="#">6pm Town Board Mtg</a>	24	25	26	27 <a href="#">8am Recycling Center Open</a>
28	29	30	1 <a href="#">7pm Fire Dept Mtg</a>	2	3	4 <a href="#">Independence Day</a>

Linwood Township  
22817 Typo Creek Drive  
Stacy, MN 55079

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### **COMMUNICATIONS INFORMATION**

We are able to email the newsletter and any other mailing to you. If you wish to be added to this list, please email **linwoodnewsletter@gmail.com**. In the subject put "Newsletter". In the body of your message please give your Name, Address and Email address. The reason for the name and address is so we can take you off the paper mailing. Your information will not be shared.

**\*\*Please send any feed back about our newsletter to:  
linwoodnewsletter@gmail.com**

Please remember to visit our website for up-to-date information of events, happenings and Township information at [www.linwoodtownship.org](http://www.linwoodtownship.org)

**\*\*If you are interested in getting the Forest Lake Times, please pick one up at any of these locations:  
Town Hall, Dolphy's Automotive or the Country Store (no cost)\*\***