

# Bridgewater Township Newsletter

September 2020

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## **VOTING IN THE GENERAL ELECTION**

Absentee voting for the November General Election will start in Rice County on September 18, 2020.

If you wish to vote by absentee ballot, online applications are available at <https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/ABRegistration/ABRegistrationStep1.aspx> Once the ballot application is received, Rice County will mail a ballot. The mailing of ballots will begin on September 18<sup>th</sup>, but due to high volumes, please allow two weeks to receive. Completed absentee ballots can be dropped off at the Rice County Government Services Building until November 2<sup>nd</sup>, Northfield City Hall until October 26<sup>th</sup>, or mailed in via U.S. postal service. Rice County recommends that those ballots not dropped off in-person, be mailed no later than October 23, 2020.

In person absentee voting is available beginning September 18, 2020, at the Rice County Government Services Building or Northfield City Hall. The Rice County Government Services building in Faribault will be open for voting from 8:00 am until 4:30 pm Monday through Friday between September 18<sup>th</sup> and October 30<sup>th</sup>. Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, will have voting hours of 10:00 am to 3:00 pm and Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, will have voting hours of 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. In person absentee voting at Northfield City Hall is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:15 pm.

For voters who choose to absentee vote in person at the Rice County Government Services Building or Northfield City Hall, we ask that you bring your own pen and face mask and limit non-essential visitors accompanying you, including children, if at all possible. Due to social distancing challenges to in-person absentee voting, longer voting times may result.

Absentee Voting in Minnesota is safe and secure. Precautions are in place to ensure that every ballot is accounted for and only sent to voters that are properly registered. There are also safeguards to prevent voters from double voting by mailing in a ballot and voting in person. Any voter that attempts to vote both by absentee ballot and in-person, will be forwarded to the County Attorney's office for prosecution.

Absentee ballots cannot be dropped off at the Bridgewater Town Hall.

The General Election will be held on November 3, 2020, with polls open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm at the Bridgewater Town Hall, 500 Railway Street, Dundas. Precautions to prevent the spread of viruses are being taken. Voters will be asked to enter through the garage door on the south end of the Town Hall.

For general voting questions, please contact the Rice County Elections Office at 507-332-6104 or [rcelections@co.rice.mn.us](mailto:rcelections@co.rice.mn.us)

## **Snow Removal and Mailboxes**

We would like to remind Bridgewater Township residents that snow removal/sanding trucks will be out as soon as possible following a 2" snow event. The Township is not responsible for any damage resulting from snow thrown in the road right-of-way. Mailboxes damaged during snow removal operations will be evaluated on a case by case basis. Only those mailboxes located and installed in compliance with MN State Statute 160.072 and MN Rule 8818.0100, and damaged by direct contact with township equipment will be repaired at the Township's expense.

## **Township Zoning Administrator**

Jim Braun has resigned as the Zoning Administrator for Bridgewater Township.

He was instrumental in the development and implementation of Zoning and Planning in the Township. From 2007, when we took over Planning and Zoning from Rice County, to now, Jim Braun has supported and guided the Township as we have grown. With the support of Carolyn Braun, his wife, as our Planning Consultant, the Township was able to lay the groundwork for continued future expansion. The Township is grateful for all of their expertise and work over the last 13 years.

The Township has engaged Cindy Nash, Collaborative Planning LLC, as our Zoning Administrator. She will be working with the Planning Commission to ensure the future success of the Township.

## **Meetings**

The Bridgewater Township Board of Supervisors meets on the second Wednesday monthly at 7:00 pm in the Bridgewater Town Hall at 500 Railway Street, Dundas. The Bridgewater Planning and Zoning Commission meets on the last Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Bridgewater Town Hall. These meetings are open to the public. Any additional meetings will be posted on the bulletin board at the town hall.

## **Bridgewater Township Board – Contact Information**

Glen Castore – Board Chair

Kathleen Kopseng – Supervisor

Thomas Hart – Supervisor

Tracy Jonkman – Supervisor

Andy Ebling - Supervisor

Email: [board@bridgewatertp.org](mailto:board@bridgewatertp.org)

Debbie Salaba – Treasurer

Email: [treasurer@bridgewatertp.org](mailto:treasurer@bridgewatertp.org)

Frances Boehning – Clerk

Phone: 507-645-1656

Email: [clerk@bridgewatertp.org](mailto:clerk@bridgewatertp.org)

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 8:00 am to noon.

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