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Crow Wing County Employees Honored for Excellence

Crow Wing County employees celebrated their 5th year of excellence awards, to recognize staff who are delivering excellence in their performance throughout Crow Wing County. There were 89 Crow Wing County employees nominated for Excellence Awards for their extraordinary contributions in 2018.

The nominees were voted on by their peers with 22 employees being honored as winners in 4 categories of Individual Performance, Group performance, Innovation, and Customer Service. The 2018 Crow Wing County Excellence Award Winners are:

Tom Strack-Land Services-Innovation: Tom created a custom GIS Collector app that tracks various natural resource related items in the field. One of Tom's duties is taking inventory of culverts, gates and signs on county managed lands. In the past it meant using a GPS unit and a notebook to describe conditions. Due to Tom's innovative thinking, he realized that the current way of collecting information in the field could be improved and made available to our partners. Tom took advantage of technology to improve how Land Services staff do their jobs.

Ann Marie Foy-Community Services-Customer Service: Anne Marie is recognized for her commitment to quality customer service for clients. The MnChoices team was alerted that someone was entering an assisted living facility without the proper assessment. The team rallied and Anne Marie jumped on it and was able to see the client that afternoon. Ann Marie's willingness to go out and get the assessment done helped the family avoid being charged for the cost of the placement which may have even disrupted or lost the placement if there was no means to pay. Ann takes on new challenges, identifies a process improvement and supports her coworkers and clients.

Jory Danielson-Highway Department-Customer Service: Jory is recognized for his dedication to public communication during snow plowing events. Jory uses social media to proactively inform residents when our snow and ice operations are scheduled. His dedication to this critical function helps ensure the proper decision is made to determine when to deploy county forces and how to best combat the snow and ice conditions. During the winter weather events Jory has usually posted to social media before many of us are awake. Jory provides valuable information to increase the public's awareness of the presence of snow plows, storm damage and maintenance projects.

Joey Froelich-Administrative Services-Customer Service: Joey consistently goes above and beyond to extend superb customer service to help regulate our county HVAC system and keep residents and employees as comfortable as possible with heating and cooling needs. Joey maintains the climate in all of our facilities. Joey has also embraced utilizing technology to make his work more efficient and effective which helps him respond faster to the needs of the customer.

Our Vision: Being Minnesota's favorite place.

Our Mission: Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.

Our Values: Be responsible. Treat people right. Build a better future.

Adam Kronstedt-Sheriff's Office-Individual Performance: Adam is recognized for his bravery and self-sacrifice for his life saving efforts to save a drowning victim on Gilbert Lake in June. Shortly after arriving on the scene he grabbed a life jacket and rope and entered the water without hesitation. Adam was honored with the Medal of Valor by the MN Sheriff's Association for his courageous act and for risking his own life in an attempt to save another.

Artise Torrence-Sheriff's Office-Jail-Individual Performance: Artise is recognized for his work at a Veteran's Job Fair. With his military background, Artise was able to connect uniquely with veteran job seekers. He was able to offer hope to others transitioning from military to civilian career. Artise made connections with veterans by sharing his own experience about his transition to a career as a correctional officer while showcasing our vision of making Crow Wing County Minnesota's favorite place.

Ann Moen-Community Services-Individual Performance: Ann is recognized for helping an elderly and terminally ill client move into an assisted living facility in August. Ann worked with a gentleman for 2 years who had no family or friends who could help him relocate. After learning about an opening at a facility her client ended up in the hospital where he learned he had cancer and was given a prognosis of 1-2 months. Ann negotiated with the assisted living facility to hold his room due to his health. When he was ready, Ann helped him move and enlisted the help of the Pillager football team. Ann connects with her clients to give them needed support to live their lives to the fullest.

Highway Engineering-Group Performance: This team coordinated the county's first ever night paving road construction project on CSAH 3 from the Mississippi river in Brainerd to Merrifield. The project lasted 8 weeks during the peak of summer traffic. The team was flexible and willing to ensure there were no issues to minimally impact the traveling public. The team consists of:

Mark Melby, Steve Stroschein, Jordan Larson, Ted Dillum, Wayne Dosh, Ann Dosh, Brian Winkowski, and Jamie Johnson.

Elections Staff-Group Performance: This team is recognized for hard work during the 2018 elections. The team administered a special school election in April, including the rollout of new voting equipment. They tackled the largest midterm election in CWC history with over 13,000 voters in the August primary and 31,000 voters in the November general election. They also took care of over 4,000 absentee ballots in the primary and 9,000 in the general election resulting in about 25% of those voting early before election day.

The team consists of:

Kathy Toensing, Lisa Kotchikian, Korie Bedard, Amy Getty, Jason Rausch, Alaina Bundy, and Terri Tepley.

The Excellence awards reinforce the mission of Crow Wing County to Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.

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