A Brief Look at Chisago County History

Chisago County was established in 1851, seven years before Minnesota became a state. The county seat, first at Taylors Falls, moved to Chisago City in 1865 and to Center City in 1875. The wood-frame courthouse built at Center City in 1876 stood at the site of the new Government Center until 1990 when it was moved to Taylors Falls.

The St. Croix River which forms the county’s eastern boundary brought the earliest settlers to the area. The Dakota and Ojibway were largely gone when the first white settlers appeared. Europeans arrived from the north as early as 1680. French fur traders following the same route southward from Lake Superior established trading posts along the river as far south as Taylors Falls in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. In the late 1880s the first sawmills were built along the St. Croix. The logging industry boomed into the twentieth century.

Among the first permanent settlers was a party of Swedes who traveled upriver from Illinois in 1851 and established a colony at Center City. This colony was made famous by Swedish writer Vilhelm Moberg in his novels the Emigrants, Unto a Good Land and The Last Letter Home.

Farming, begun in the 1850s, was a focus until the 1890s when vacationers discovered the county’s bountiful lakes and rivers. Today it is the beauty of the Dalles of the St. Croix, its park system and abundant recreational areas that bring visitors to the county.

By Lloyd Hackel
DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY

Administration ........................................... Chase Burnham ................................. 651-213-8830
Board of Commissioners ............................... 651-213-8830
Assessor ...................................................... John Keefe ................................. 651-213-8550
Attorney ......................................................... Janet Reiter ................................. 651-213-8400
Auditor-Treasurer .......................................... Dennis Freed ................................. 651-213-8500
Court Administration .................................... Kathleen Kamowski .......................... 651-213-8650
Emergency Management ............................. Scott Sellman ................................. 651-775-9973 or 651-213-6313
Extension Services ........................................ 651-277-0151
Heartland Express ........................................ Paul Smith ................................. 763-689-8130
Transit Director ........................................... 763-689-8130
Human Resources .......................................... Renee Kirchner ................................. 651-213-8866
HHS - Human Services ................................... Monica Long ................................. 651-213-5600
Household Hazardous Waste Facility, North Branch ................................. 651-237-0912
Parks Services ............................................. Joseph Tart ................................. 651-674-2345
Probation ...................................................... Amy Chavez ................................. 651-213-8350
Public Health/Nursing ................................. Courtney Wehrenberg .......................... 651-213-5200
Public Works/Highway .................................. Joe Triplett ................................. 651-213-8700
Recorder ....................................................... Janet Converse ................................. 651-213-8580
Sheriff ......................................................... Brandon Thyen ................................. 651-257-4100
Veterans Services ........................................ Bryan Brown ................................. 651-213-5600
Zoning/Environmental ................................. Kurt Schneider ................................. 651-213-8370
HRA-EDA Executive Director ........................... Nancy Hoffman ................................. 651-674-5664
Located in North Branch ................................. 651-674-5664

City Offices

Center City ................................................. 651-257-5284
Box 245, 300 N. Center Avenue, Center City, MN 55012
Chisago City ................................................. 651-257-4162
Box 611, 10625 Railroad Ave, Chisago City, MN 55013
Harris .......................................................... 651-674-7546
Box 111, 43970 Ginger Avenue, Harris, MN 55032
Lindstrom .................................................... 651-257-0620
13292 Sylvan Ave, Lindstrom, MN 55045
North Branch ................................................. 651-674-8113
Box 910, 6408 Elm St, North Branch, MN 55056
Rush City ...................................................... 320-358-4743
Box 556, 325 S. Eliot, Rush City, MN 55069
Shafer ........................................................... 651-257-4726
17656 303rd Street, Shafer, MN 55074
Stacy .............................................................. 651-462-4486
30955 Forest Blvd, Stacy, MN 55079
Taylors Falls ............................................... 651-465-5133
637 First Street, Taylors Falls, MN 55084
Wyoming ....................................................... 651-462-0575
Box 188, 26855 Forest Blvd, Wyoming, MN 55092

Township Offices

Amador ....................................................... 651-583-3108
37475 Park Trail, Almelund, MN 55012
Chisago Lake ............................................... 651-257-6906
Box 649, 12400 316th St, Lindstrom, MN 55045
Fish Lake ..................................................... 651-674-7709
2170 Brunswick Road, Harris, MN 55032
Franconia ..................................................... 651-257-5855
Box 175, 25156 St. Croix Trl N, Shafer, MN 55074
Lent ............................................................. 651-462-3009
33155 Hemingway Ave., Stacy, MN 55079
Nessel .......................................................... 320-396-2702
49205 Acacia Trail, Stanchfield, MN 55080
Rushseba ...................................................... 320-358-3543
51445 Forest Blvd., Rush City, MN 55069
Mailing Address: Box 481, Rush City, MN 55069
Shafer ........................................................... 651-583-2168
18259 St Croix Trail, Shafer, MN 55074
Sunrise .......................................................... 651-674-6046
Box 933, 41259 Oak St, North Branch, MN 55056

CHISAGO COUNTY

COMMISSIONER DISTRICTS

District #1 (213-8831) Chris DuBose
313 North Main St
Center City, MN 55012
651-208-6054

District #2 (213-8832) Rick Greene, Chair
37655 Oriole Avenue
North Branch, MN 55056
651-583-2513

District #3 (213-8833) George McMahon
27720 Woodland Drive
Chisago City, MN 55013
651-257-2701

District #4 (213-8834) Ben Montzka, Vice
P. O. Box 307
Wyoming, MN 55092
651-464-8515

District #5 (213-8835) Mike Robinson
P. O. Box 23
Rush City, MN 55069
320-358-3223