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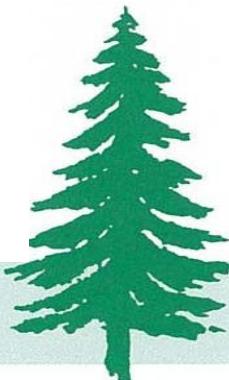
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CROW WING COUNTY
BRAINERD, MINNESOTA 56401

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Land Services currently in the process of physically reviewing 20% of county for property tax purposes

Each year, the county is required by state statute to perform its “quintile” work. This means physically viewing 20% of the parcels in the county every year, or approximately 8,200 parcels out of over 41,000 existing improved parcels county-wide. Assessors will be out verifying information on properties to ensure the assessment records are accurate and complete. Some of the information confirmed during the review is size, quality, and condition of improvements to the property. The assessor also verifies the homestead status of the property and answers any questions a property owner may have. “For a lot of our customers we are the only contact they have with the county and we need to ensure we are delivering excellent customer service when we are at their door,” Griffin noted. The assessors leave business cards with customers or in the door if no one is around. If the assessor requires more interior data on the property and no one is there they will follow up the review with a letter to the owner requesting them to contact them. They also have county ID badges and magnets that say Crow Wing County on their vehicles to quickly identify themselves as they arrive on the property. “Physically viewing property is very important to fulfilling our responsibility to value property accurately and uniformly,” Griffin also noted. Land Services is conducting a random follow up survey with property owners on the level of service provided.

The quintile work will be reflected in the County’s 2012 assessment, which establishes assessed market value of all properties as of January 2, 2012. Property valuations are determined primarily by analyzing the sales of similar properties in the county, which for the 2012 assessment includes sales that occurred from October 2010 through September 2011. Property notices of valuation and classification are mailed to property owners in March or early April each year. This serves as the official notice that explains what has happened with your assessment since last year.

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