



Land Services Department  
Property Valuation and Classification  
Land Services Building  
326 Laurel Street, Suite 15  
Brainerd, MN 56401

**CROW WING COUNTY**  
BRAINERD, MINNESOTA 56401

## NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **2012 Construction permits up in Crow Wing County**

The Crow Wing County Land Services Department has seen a dramatic increase in permits in 2012. There have been 22 new homes permitted so far in 2012 compared to 11 at this same time in 2011, a 100% increase. A total of 99 permits have been issued in 2012 compared to 47 at this point last year, a 111% increase. A total of 2,775 phone calls have been received by staff in 2012 compared to 1,522 last year.

“It is encouraging to see the number of new homes being permitted this year,” stated Land Services Supervisor for Environmental Services Chris Pence. “This sure seems to be good sign about the economy.”

Overall the total number of construction permits issued in Crow Wing County declined in 2011. There were 2,027 permits issued in 2010 compared to 1,535 permits in 2011, a 24% decline. The data comes from the Crow Wing County Land Services Department which is required under state law to annually assess the value of all new construction in the county for property tax valuation purposes. Properties are physically viewed by a county property assessor to determine the effect on the market value of the property for the following year assessment.

“Most of the permits are for projects such as remodels, additions or decks,” stated Gary Griffin, Land Services Supervisor for Property Valuation and Classification. “204 permits were for new houses.”

In addition to following up on construction permits each year, the county is required by state statute to perform its “quintile” work, which 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. “Physically viewing property is very important to fulfilling our responsibility to value property fairly,” Griffin noted.

Both the permit follow up and the quintile work are 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 value assessments were mailed to property owners in late March.

Griffin noted that taxpayers are encouraged to contact the Land Services Department with any questions they may have about construction permits or their property valuation and classification. “We are committed to providing excellent customer service and responding to all inquiries in an efficient, courteous and professional manner,” he said. The office is located in Brainerd on the main floor of the Land Services Building, 322 Laurel Street. The main phone number is 218/824-1010 and the email address is [assessor@co.crow-wing.mn.us](mailto:assessor@co.crow-wing.mn.us). Or, visit the website at [www.co.crow-wing.mn.us](http://www.co.crow-wing.mn.us).

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