

Sheriff Welk Updates Rotary on Cass County Policing

Sheriff Bryan Welk was the guest speaker at Rotary's luncheon on Tuesday June 9. Sheriff Welk grew up in Remer and joined the Cass County Sheriff's Department in 1997 as a dispatcher. Over the years, he's held many positions, most recently serving as Chief Deputy before his election as Sheriff in 2022.

The Mission of the Cass County Sheriff's Office is to partner with the community to proactively prevent crime, enforce the law fairly and enhance the public's trust through Integrity, Compassion, Accountability, and Transparency.

Cass County is the 6th largest county in Minnesota, measuring 114 miles north to south and 65 miles east to west. The County is served by 46 licensed deputies and 11 dispatchers. The Sheriff's Department also includes those who work in the Detention Center, Records Department, and in the Sentenced to Serve Program.

The Cass County Sheriff's Department has 71 vehicles, including 7 ATV/RZR/Rangers and 12 watercraft. One of the more unique vehicles is the SHERP. This remarkable vehicle is similar to an ATV, but with very large tires which enable it to navigate swamps and lakes. It actually floats! This type of vehicle is a must in a county with 560 lakes and numerous wetlands. The SHERP also contains an enhanced radar system and a smaller remote operated vehicle to aid in search and rescues.

The number of fraud and scam complaints have increased in Cass County and fentanyl abuse continues to be a problem. On a more positive note, burglaries and thefts are down in Cass County.

Future policing issues include completing the transition to Next Gen 911. The new system will replace the existing 911 system based on land lines by 2029. As more people opt for cell only phone service, the 911 system must be updated to deal with the new technology.

To learn more about the Cass County Sheriff's Department, go to: www.casscountymn.gov and click on Sheriff's Office under Departments.

Cass County Sheriff Bryan Welk

