



Saint Louis County

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NEWS RELEASE

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Restructuring of services announced in Ely

Two big changes are coming to the St. Louis County Service Center in Ely. As of June 28, 2013, St. Louis County will no longer provide drivers licensing services in the city of Ely. These services had been available through an arrangement with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, but the County has chosen to transition that contract to another provider in the area. This will allow a restructure of job duties for Ginny Anderson, Administrative Secretary, who has been serving as the drivers licensing agent in the office of Fourth District County Commissioner Mike Forsman since 1998.

St. Louis County notified the state in April of its decision to discontinue providing the service, with the goal of allowing enough time for a seamless transition, with no disruption of licensing services to our citizens. The state's Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) Division, by statute, must offer the opportunity to take over these duties first to the City of Ely, which has declined the offer. The DVS will begin advertising for a private contractor to provide the service with a public notice running in the Ely Echo starting Saturday, June 8 through Friday, June 21, 2013.

The second big change at the Ely Service Center will be the retirement of longtime County Veterans Service Office employee, Louise Kainz, at the end of June. Through this restructuring, Anderson will now provide support services to the Veterans Service Office in addition to her role with the Commissioner's office. She will take appointments for personal meetings for veterans with a new Veterans Service Officer who will work out of the Service Center at least two days per week.

Explaining the changes, Commissioner Forsman said, "We're grateful that the State as well as the County understands the importance of having a drivers licensing service in the City of Ely. The restructure of responsibilities will ensure drivers license services for our residents and secures continued services for veterans in the Ely area."

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