



# Veteran's Advocate

September 2011

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## Olmsted County Veterans Service Office Update.

Olmsted County Veterans,

Our office has went through several changes over the past few months, which was the reason for the temporary discontinuation of the newsletter. I am please to inform you that our office has finally resumed normal operations.

For those of you that were not aware of the changes, Brad Lindsay was offered and accepted a position with the State Department of Veterans Affairs as the Senior Director of Programs and Services.

Neil Doyle was appointed as the Veterans Services Supervisor upon Brad's resignation and he recently hired Nathan Pike, formally the Fillmore County Veteran Service Officer.

Nathan Pike is an Army Veteran of both the Afghanistan Conflict and the Kosovo Conflict and was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge and Bronze Star Medal for his service in Afghanistan as an Infantry Squad Leader. He also recently retired from the Army National Guard after 20+ years of service.

We wish Brad farewell in his future leadership role in advocating for veterans in Minnesota and welcome Nathan aboard in Olmsted County.

Nathan is looking forward to serving veterans in Olmsted County.

## DEER HUNTING OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE CONNECTED VETERANS NOVEMBER 19 – 27, 2011 OLMSTED COUNTY'S CHESTER WOODS PARK

Olmsted County Parks, in collaboration with the Olmsted County Veterans Service Office and other Veterans Groups is offering a first-time opportunity for a limited number of service connected, disabled veterans to deer hunt within the boundaries of Chester Woods Park during the 2011 firearms deer season.

For a lottery application and more details, contact: **OLMSTED COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE 507-328-6358.**

**THE DEADLINE FOR COMPLETED APPLICATIONS IS: October 14, 2011**

**SPONSORED BY:**  
Olmsted County Parks/Public Works  
Olmsted County Veterans Service Office  
Disabled American Veterans Chapter 28



**OLMSTED ENERGY ASSISTANCE**  
2117 Campus Dr SE  
Suite 100  
ROCHESTER, MN 55904-4825



**(507)-328-6508**

or

[www.co.olmsted.mn.us](http://www.co.olmsted.mn.us)

**and Search for Energy Assistance**

## **NEW GUIDELINES**

**Your three month gross household income  
(by household size) must be below:**

- 1 - \$ 5,596 (1,865/mo)
- 2 - \$ 7,318 (2,439/mo)
- 3 - \$ 9,040 (3,013/mo)
- 4 - \$10,762 (3,587/mo)
- 5 - \$12,484 (4,161/mo)
- 6 - \$14,206 (4,206/mo)

**Help with heating/energy bills is for wage earners, self-employed, seniors & other income eligible people.**

**Home owners, renters & those with heat in rent may apply.**

## **MINNESOTA • REVENUE**

**MN Revenue Expands the Homestead Market Value Exclusion for Surviving Spouses.**

This law expands eligibility for the market value exclusion for disabled Veterans by allowing the surviving spouse of a disabled Veteran to continue to receive the benefit for five full years after a disabled Veteran's death.

Under current law the surviving spouse continues to receive the benefit for only two years. The surviving spouse of a service member who dies of service-connected causes while serving honorably in active military (as defined by Minn. Stat. 190.05) service is allowed to receive the exclusion for the same five-year period as the surviving spouse of a disabled Veteran that dies. A disabled Veteran's primary family caregiver, if one exists, is allowed to receive the market value exclusion if the Veteran has no homestead of her or his own (Congress recently enacted the "Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010," establishing a program of assistance to the approved family caregiver of a service member who is being medically discharged from the military, or a Veteran, having a serious injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty since 9/11/2001, if the VA determines that it is in the best interest of the Veteran to do so).

The section also provides that the market value exclusion terminates in the year after a surviving spouse remarries. The application date for the first category of recipients (surviving spouses of qualifying disabled Veterans) is extended from July 1 to August 15 for 2011 only to allow recipients to receive the benefit for taxes payable in 2012. The de facto effective date for the other two categories of recipients is taxes payable in 2013 because it is past the application deadline for taxes payable in 2012.