

Renville County HRA/EDA Office of Economic Development 2024 Year In Review

Sale of Hospital's On Call House

The Renville County HRA/EDA helped facilitate the sale of the Hospital's "On Call House". A public hearing was held at our January, 2024 HRA/EDA Board Meeting, and the transaction closed on March 5, 2024.

West Central CEO

Staff continues to participate in the West Central Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities (WCCEO) program – a collaboration of RCW, Prinsburg, MACCRAY & KMS Schools. This is a 4-day per week class students can take for credits, where students tour businesses, meet with entrepreneurs, start class and personal businesses and learn entrepreneurship and life skills. Staff serve on the WCCEO board, and often present to and coach students on entrepreneurship and related topics.

Photo right: Staff work with the West Central CEO students on their "Elevator Pitches" and business plans on Friday, February 9, 2024.



Housing Marketing:



Staff attend home shows in Sioux Falls, SD, Fargo, ND, and Des Moines, IA in February, 2024 in an effort to market Renville County and attract housing developers. We continue to market Renville County with the database we created from attending these events.

Home & Outdoor Expo

The Renville County HRA/EDA partnered with the County Parks Department to have a booth at the KWLM Home & Outdoor Expo on Friday & Saturday, April 5th and 6th in Willmar. This was a good opportunity to market the County and our programs.

Photo right: Renville County HRA/EDA & Parks' booth at the KWLM Home and Outdoor Expo on April 5th and 6th in Willmar.



Hable – Renville County Childcare Licensing.

Childcare Provider Appreciation

The Renville County HRA/EDA, along with the Mid-Minnesota Development Commission and Renville County Childcare Licensing delivered appreciation gifts to childcare providers on Wednesday, May 1st. A special thanks to Sheila Robinson for arranging / scheduling this event!

Photo left: Childcare provider appreciation deliveries on May 1st. L to R: Nate Reuss – MMDC, Mike Nicholas – MMDC, Shane Wohlman – City of Renville, Wanda Knapper – Childcare Provider, Sheila Robinson – Renville County EDA, and Sheree

Lunch & Learn:

The Renville County HRA/EDA continues to hold our monthly Lunch & Learn event online on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 12:00 PM Noon. Every month it's a different topic and different speaker, generally relating to business or housing.

Photo right: Our November 2024 Renville County HRA/EDA Lunch & Learn.

JOIN US FOR A


LUNCH & LEARN

Presented by the Renville County EDA

Special Family Child Care

SPEAKERS:


SHANDRA BAVIER,
Renville County
Human Services


STEFANIE RYAN,
Renville County
Administration

The Lunch and Learn is FREE to attend!

WHEN:
Wednesday,
November 13, 2024
Noon - 1:00pm

WHERE:
The Lunch & Learn will be held **VIRTUALLY!**

Please join from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/492780253>

Or dial in using your phone:
571-317-3122
Access Code: 492-780-253





Barnstorming Visits

The Renville County HRA/EDA made spring & fall rounds of “Barnstorming” visits – quick, unannounced visits to the banks, credit unions and city halls in Renville County to promote our economic development programs and services. Spring was held on March 5th, and fall was on October 30th. Joining us were representatives from the Southwest Initiative

Foundation, the Small Business Development Center and the Mid Minnesota Development Commission and Central MN Jobs & Training Services.

Photo above L to R: Trista Rademacher – City of Franklin, Selina Berning – Southwest Initiative Foundation, Nate Reuss – Mid Minnesota Development Commission, Christine Fischer – Small Business Development Center, and Sheila Robinson – Renville County HRA/EDA.



Revolving Loan Fund

Renville County HRA/EDA small Business Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) is providing financing for the Sweet Spot Bake Shop / Lolo’s Hot Dogs project in Fairfax, in partnership with the Southwest Initiative Foundation and the Mid-Minnesota Development Commission. Our loan was closed on Wednesday, July 17th.

Photo right: Closing on the Sweet Spot Bake Shop / Lolo’s Hot Dogs project. L to R: County Commissioner John Robinson, owner Tina Castillo & husband Juan.

Renville County Highway #21 Project

Staff, along with the Mid Minnesota Development Commission submitted an application to the Federal EDA to apply for approximately \$2 million in funding to assist with upgrades to a three-mile stretch of Renville County Highway #21 north of US Highway 212 and south of Renville County Highway 11. Mile-for-mile, this section of roadway has the largest tax base in the County with the Southern MN Beet Sugar Cooperative, TranSystems, Christensen Farms and Forsman Farms. This application was not funded, but we've been invited to reapply this spring. Will keep you posted.



Childcare Recruitment:

Renville County, along with the UCAP, First Children's Finance and the Southwest Initiative Foundation held a childcare provider recruiting event on the evening of Tuesday, April 30th at Max's Grille in Olivia. The goal was to expand the number of childcare providers in Renville County. Three potential providers attended.

Photo left: Mark Thiesse, Chair of the Renville County

HRA/EDA gives the welcome at our Renville County Childcare Recruiting Event on April 30th at Max's in Olivia

Childcare Development:

Scott Marquardt, President of the Southwest Initiative Foundation, provided Tammy Wickstrom, Director of the State of MN / Dept. of Employment & Economic Development's office of Childcare Community Partnerships a tour of southwest MN on Thursday, May 2nd, and made a stop in Buffalo Lake where they toured Little Stangs childcare center and met with members of the Rural Child Care Innovation Program (RCCIP).



Photo Right: L to R: Nate Reuss – Mid Minnesota Development Commission, Kelly Lutgen – Fairfax, Stefanie Ryan – Renville County, Tammy Wickstrom – DEED, Lisa Herges – Renville County Administrator, Scott Marquardt – Southwest Initiative Foundation and Joel Harmoning – Franklin.



Senator Klobuchar Visit

Staff assisted the staff of US Senator Amy Klobuchar setting up a tour of K&M Manufacturing in Renville. Senator Klobuchar is said to want to visit each county every year. She was in the area for FarmFest on August 7th, so she visited Renville County that afternoon.

Photo left: US Senator Amy Klobuchar visits with Mayor Janette Wertish (l) and City Administrator Shane Wohlman (r) as she tours K&M Manufacturing in Renville on August 7th.



Meadows on Main

The Renville County HRA/EDA is working on an opportunity to lease, and perhaps purchase a wing of Meadows on Main in Renville. Approximately 4 apartments would be rented as Special Family Day Care Homes at a reduced rate, and the remainder of apartments would be rented for housing. The HRA/EDA has budgeted for this project and have applied for grants to help make this project happen.

Photo above right: the Meadows on Main property in Renville.

Ag Shows

Staff attended FarmFest, the Farm Progress Show in Boone, IA on August 28th and Big Iron in West Fargo, ND on September 11th. We met lots of businesses, swapped business cards and talked about Renville County and encouraged them to do business here. Will use the cards to build a business database for marketing purposes.

Photos Left: Top: Loftness Manufacturing of Hector's equipment at the Farm Progress Show in Boone, IA. Bottom: Big Iron Ag Show in West Fargo, ND.



Manufacturing Month

October is “Manufacturing Month” – a time to recognize our local manufacturing businesses. The manufacturing sector is the largest employer in Renville County, and on average manufacturing jobs pay significantly above average wages. We visited the manufacturing businesses in October and delivered cookies & bottled water, along with thank you notes for the employees.

Photo right: Manufacturing Week deliveries at K&S Millwrights in Buffalo Lake on Thursday, October 10th.



Childcare Provider Appreciation Event



The Renville County HRA/EDA hosted a holiday appreciation event for family childcare providers and childcare center staff on Tuesday, December 17th at Max’s Grille in Olivia. There were approximately 40 attendees. The event was sponsored in part by the Southwest Initiative Foundation.

Photo right: Attendees at the Childcare Provider appreciation event on December 17th in Olivia.

2024 Business Innovation Grant Awards:

Business	Project	Total Project Cost	Grant Amount	
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Amsden Lawn & Tree Service	Purchase of SD52 Steelgreen	\$ 15,515.00	\$ 1,000.00	Olivia
Antique Junction	Signage	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 500.00	Renville
Beaver Creek Boarding	Dog Grooming	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 750.00	Olivia
Carol Rothmeier Daycare	New Freezer	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 750.00	Olivia
CM Cougar Cub Daycare	Classroom upgrades	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	Franklin
Prairie PROducer	Further processing & promoting Bast Fiber	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 1,500.00	Olivia
Teton Oasis LLC	New HVAC system at Bayberry Apts	\$ 10,600.00	\$ 1,600.00	Olivia
Theresa Andrews Daycare	Furnace & Air Conditioning	\$ 6,244.45	\$ 2,000.00	Renville
Tinsmith Heating	Building upkeep & lighting	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	Buffalo Lake
Best Contracting LLC	Right of way spraying & promotion of existing lawn care	\$ 6,232.00	\$ 1,200.00	Hector
Blue House Veterinary LLC	heated hangar purchase (contingent on Renv Co Location)	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 1,200.00	Buffalo Lake
Cabin Plus Café LLC	kitchen exhaust & make-up air systems	\$ 8,725.00	\$ 900.00	Morton
Custom Creations	equipment upgrades	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 900.00	Franklin
Edwards on Main LLC	Store Front renovations	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 700.00	Hector
Larkin Tree Care & Landscaping LLC	Q Connect tree injection	\$ 1,803.90	\$ 500.00	Renville
Main Street Café & Catering	Removal of wood cupboards	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	Danube
Sweet Spot Bake Shop LLC	Relocation of existing bakery	\$ 19,900.00	\$ 1,500.00	Fairfax
Tacos Arizmendi	Purchase of food trailer	\$ 40,088.64	\$ 1,200.00	Renville
The Learning Funhouse	Playground revitalization	\$ 3,648.12	\$ 900.00	Bird Island
AG Tax	Capital Improvement/Roof	\$ 29,800.00	\$ 2,000.00	Fairfax
Enchanted Arts & Crafts	Updating systems to initiate online growth	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 1,250.00	Olivia
Health Enhancement	Interferential Therapy machine	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 1,000.00	Bird Island
Hoffman Lawn Services	Lawn Mower Purchase	\$ 9,084.38	\$ 1,500.00	Danube
Island's Edge Salon & Spa	Relocation, addition & renovation	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 750.00	Bird Island
Linneman Destruction & Construction LLC	Tinning & Insulating of shop ceiling	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 1,500.00	Renville
Olivia Floral Gift & Garden Center	Outdoor Landscaping	\$ 5,650.00	\$ 750.00	Olivia
Olivia Golf Club	Dishwasher Purchase	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 1,250.00	Olivia
Hendricks Home Services	Flat bed trailer	\$ 6,700.00	\$ 2,750.00	Buffalo Lake
J&K Enterprises Northland Lumber	Capital improvement/lot development	\$ 21,600.00	\$ 1,500.00	Fairfax
Predator Sales & Mfg Inc	Roof enhancement	\$ 7,800.00	\$ 1,625.00	Hector
Reactor Panel Saddle Company	Pommel Arch saddle design & construction	\$ 2,900.00	\$ 500.00	Fairfax
AGRIBUSINESS GRANT Cellucomp	Preliminary Engineering Study	\$ 48,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	Renville
Hendricks Home Services	Flat bed trailer	\$ 6,700.00	\$ 2,750.00	Buffalo Lake
J&K Enterprises Northland Lumber	Capital improvement/lot development	\$ 21,600.00	\$ 1,500.00	Fairfax
Predator Sales & Mfg Inc	Roof enhancement	\$ 7,800.00	\$ 1,625.00	Hector
Reactor Panel Saddle Company	Pommel Arch saddle design & construction	\$ 2,900.00	\$ 500.00	Fairfax