

Renville County EDA 2022 Year in Review

CHILDCARE



Childcare Provider Appreciation

The week of May 2-6 was Childcare Provider Appreciation Week. On Thursday, May 5th and Friday, May 6th staff, along with staff from the Mid Minnesota Regional Development Commission delivered care packages provided by the Renville County HRA/EDA and the Southwest Initiative Foundation to childcare providers.

Photo above: Nate Reuss (red shirt) and Michelle Martotzke (blue shirt) – both with the Mid-Minnesota Development Commission join EDA staff in delivering care packages to Renville County Childcare Providers.

Childcare Appreciation Event

The Renville County HRA/EDA, in partnership with the Southwest Initiative Foundation and the Renville County Rural Child Care Innovation Program (RCCIP), held a holiday appreciation event for Renville County childcare providers on the evening of Tuesday, December 6th at Max's in Olivia. Mark Thiesse, HRA/EDA Vice-Chair and RCCIP committee member, gave the welcome at this event.

Photo right: Mark Thiesse gives the welcome at our Childcare Provider Appreciation Event on December 6th.



Childcare Capacity Building Forgivable Loan Program

The Renville County HRA/EDA closed on three Childcare Capacity Building Forgivable Loans in 2022 - the first to Little Lambs in Danube, the second to Tessa Kurth / TLC Acres Childcare in rural Stewart, and the third to Jill Zieske in rural Olivia.



Photo Left: Closing for Little Lambs in Danube. L to R: Greg Snow – Renville County Commissioner, Heidi Nelson – Manager of Little Lambs Learning Center and Jeremy Hebrink – President of Little Lambs.

Photo Right: Closing for Tessa Kurth / TLC Acres Childcare. L to R: Randy Kramer – Renville County Commissioner, and Tessa Kurth – TLC Acres Childcare.



Photo Left: Jill Zieske, recipient of a forgivable loan from our Childcare Capacity Building Forgivable Loan Program.

BARNSTORMING

Each spring and fall, Renville County EDA staff, and often with community / economic development partners, make “Barnstorming” visits (quick, unannounced drop-ins) at the county’s banks, credit unions, and city halls to promote economic development programs and assistance available.



Staff from the Mid-Minnesota Development Commission joined us in making some visits to promote their Small Business Revolving Loan Fund in our spring round of Barnstorming visits, and for the fall round we were joined by friends from the Southwest Initiative Foundation, the Small Business Development Center and the Mid-Minnesota Development Commission.

Photo left: A “Barnstorming” visit to the Sacred Heart City Hall on March 30th. L to R: Stefanie Ryan – Renville County HRA/EDA, and Amy Hubbard – Sacred Heart City Administrator.

Photo right: The “Barnstorming” tour stops at Citizens Alliance Bank in Sacred Heart. L to R: Franz Lubenow – Citizens Alliance Bank, Scott Marquardt – Southwest Initiative Foundation, Christine Fischer – Small Business Development Center and Michelle Marotzke – Mid-Minnesota Development Commission.



Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)

Our small business Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) has had a busy year. Four new loans were approved to date: David Jr. and Anna Van Hove purchased the former Bart's Place restaurant in Renville. Blanca and Adam Ferguson (BREAD LLC) started a new business in Olivia. Prairie PROducers expanded their industrial hemp processing business in Olivia. Taylor Wertish purchased Prairie Rose Floral in Renville and merged her existing business into it. Staff also wrote a successful grant to USDA Rural Development for a \$121,499 grant to expand our small business loan programs.



Photo Left: Anna and David Van Hove, Jr. at their March 31st loan closing for Dave's Place restaurant in Renville.



Photo Right: The Renville County HRA/EDA loan closing for BREAD LLC on June 8th. L to R: Owners Adam Ferguson and Blanca Ferguson.



Photo left: the August 23rd loan closing at Prairie PROducers in Olivia. L to R: County Commissioner Greg Snow and Tim Seehusen – Prairie PROducers.



Photo Right: the August 17th loan closing at Magnolia Market in Renville. L to R: Taylor Wertish – Owner, and County Commissioner David Hamre.

Familiarization Tours

The Renville County HRA/EDA facilitated a familiarization tour for area influencers to all ten of our cities on July 22nd. Participating were Lisa Hughes with the State of MN Dept. of Employment & Economic Development (DEED), Scott Marquardt – Southwest Initiative Foundation (SWIF), Michelle Marotzke with the Mid-Minnesota Development Commission (MMDC) & Nate Reuss with the MMDC.

Photo Right: Our July 22nd familiarization tour of Renville County stops in Buffalo Lake. L to R: Josh Wilson - Buffalo Lake City Administrator, Lisa Hughes - MN DEED, Scott Marquardt - SWIF, Michelle Marotzke - MMDC & Nate Reuss - MMDC



Housing Familiarization Tour

The Renville County HRA/EDA facilitated a familiarization tour for housing developer Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership to all ten of our cities on August 24th.

Photo Left: Our August 24th Housing Familiarization Tour of Renville County stops in Sacred Heart. L to

R: Chad Adams – Southwest MN Housing Partnership, Amy Hubbard – Sacred Heart City Administrator, Jen Theneman – Southwest MN Housing Partnership, and Jasmine Frias – Southwest MN Housing Partnership.

Marketing / Recruiting



Spring Home & Outdoor Living Expo

The Renville County HRA/EDA teamed up with the Parks Department on promoting Renville County at Lakeland Broadcasting's Spring Home & Outdoor Living Expo April 1 & 2 in Willmar. Like last year, we'll did a selfie station, and gave away the "props" as a marketing tool.

Photo left: attendees at the Renville County HRA/EDA & Park's booth at the Lakeland Broadcasting Home & Outdoor Living Expo.

NOCO Hemp Conference

Staff participated in the NOCO Hemp Conference in Denver on March 24 & 25 to market Renville County, make connections and learn more about the industry. Following the event, staff provided connections made to local industrial hemp entrepreneurs, as well as started email marketing to exhibitors and attendees.

Photo right: Speakers at the investor portion of the NoCo Hemp event in Denver



Farm Fest

The Renville County HRA/EDA partnered with the Renville County Parks Department to have a booth at FarmFest on August 2-3-4. Staff from Parks and EDA worked the booth as well as visited exhibitors to introduce ourselves and talk about opportunities in Renville County for business expansion. A database of contacts was developed and marketing to these exhibitors has already begun.

Photo left: The Renville County HRA/EDA and Parks' booth at FarmFest 2022.

Renville County Fair

The Renville County HRA/EDA had their booth at the Renville County Fair, as part of the greater Renville County booth on August 10-12. *Photo right: The Renville County HRA/EDA booth at the Renville County Fair, August 10-12 at the Fairgrounds in Bird Island.*



DakotaFest – Mitchell, SD

The Renville County HRA/EDA attended DakotaFest, a large ag trade show, in Mitchell, SD on Thursday, August 18th to market Renville County to ag industry businesses. Following up, we created an electronic database of contacts, and have been making connections for future growth. *Photo left: staff attended DakotaFest in Mitchell, SD on August 18th, to market Renville County to ag related businesses.*



Manufacturing Week

Upon the proclamation of Renville County Manufacturing week at our September board meeting, staff and partners delivered approximately 1,150 care packages of cookies from the Sweet Spot Bake Shop in Fairfax, and bottles of water, to our manufacturing businesses for their employees on Thursday, October 20. These care packages were very, very well received!



Photo Left: Delivering Manufacturing Week care packages at Altimate Medical in Morton.



Photo Right: Delivering Manufacturing Week care packages at the Southern MN Beet Sugar Coop in Renville.



Photo Left: Delivering Manufacturing Week care packages at US 212 Beef in Buffalo Lake.

Photo Right: Delivering Manufacturing Week care packages at Prairie Meats in Olivia.



Photo left: Delivering Manufacturing Week care packages at Pete's Repair in Bird Island.



Hiring Event



The Renville County HRA/EDA held a hiring event on Thursday, June 2 at the CCT bus parking lot on US Highway 212 in Olivia. Approximately 15 Renville County businesses and nonprofits participated, and there were approximately five job seekers.

We are currently working with Redwood and Kandiyohi Counties to hold an online hiring event in early 2023.

Photo right: participating businesses and nonprofits, as well as job-seekers, at our Renville County Hiring Event on June 2nd in Olivia.

West Central Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities (WCCEO) Program

The Renville County HRA/EDA is a sponsor of the West Central Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities (WCCEO) program, which includes the Renville County West School District, as well as MACCRAY, KMS, and Prinsburg.

Staff serve on the WCCEO Board and continue to actively assist the WCCEO Program and occasionally teach and provide coaching to the students.

Photo right: Staff work on business plans with the WCCEO students.



Housing

Staff attended the Home & Remodeling Show on Friday, February 4 at US Bank Stadium in Minneapolis, and the Sioux Empire Home Show in Sioux Falls, SD, on Friday, February 25 to chat with builders and developers and distribute information on Renville County properties for housing development and resources available to assist.



Photo left: Staff attend the Home & Remodeling Show on Friday, February 4 at US Bank Stadium in Minneapolis

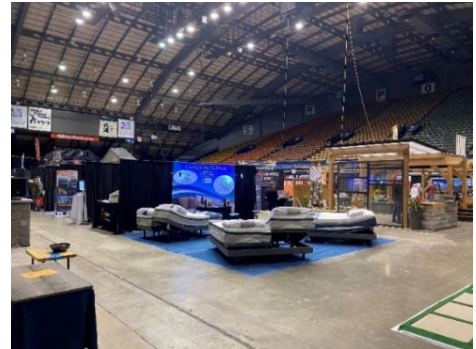


Photo right: Staff attend the Sioux Empire Home Show in Sioux Falls, SD on Friday, February 25.

Photo center right: Southwest MN Housing Partnership staff visit with the City of Bird Island on resources to assist with housing development.

Photo lower Left: Chad Adams, CEO of the Southwest MN Housing Partnership meets with Amy Hubbard – Sacred Heart City Administrator, as well as the Sacred Heart City Council & EDA, and RCW School Board Members & Superintendent Froke on reuse of the former Sacred Heart School Property.

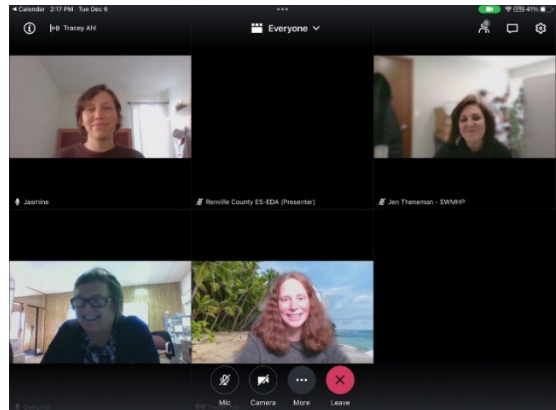
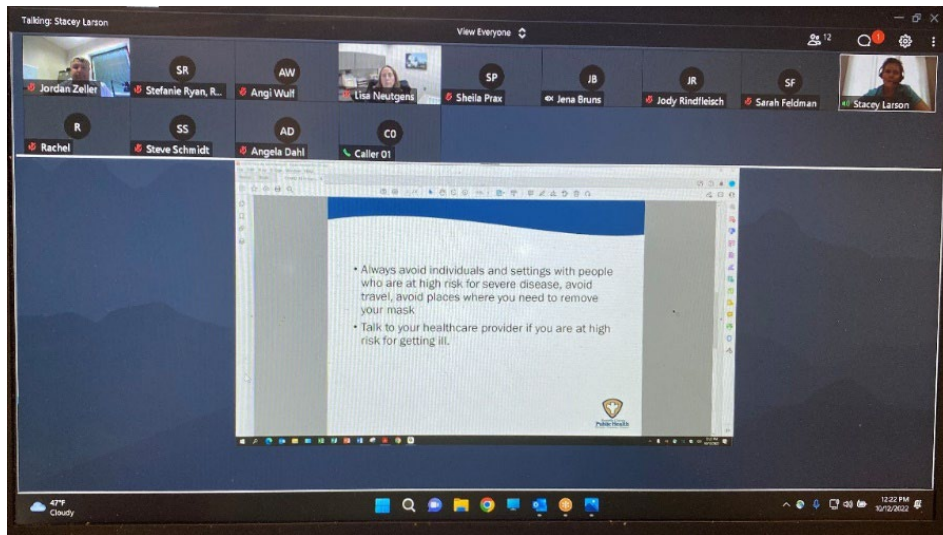


Photo below right: Speakers and attendees at the Central MN Housing Summit on December 7 at Grand Casino Mille Lacs.



Lunch & Learns



The Renville County HRA/EDA continues to host our monthly “Lunch & Learn” events for businesses and nonprofits in an online format. Some of the topics covered include marketing, services provided by the Small Business Development Center, social media, workforce, COVID and the Workplace and others. Meetings are

held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Noon.

Buffalo Lake Ethanol Plant

Staff have been working with the City of Buffalo Lake and Renville County Auditor Treasurer on cleanup and reuse opportunities for the former ethanol plant site in Buffalo Lake. The property is currently owned by the State of MN, and Renville County is the custodian of it. Former Auditor/Treasurer Iverson and staff tag-teamed on preparing a grant application to the MN Pollution Control Agency to conduct a Phase II environmental assessment, and we were notified on October 19 that this grant application was approved. Will keep you posted as this moves along.



Photo above right: the former ethanol plant site located on US Highway 212 in Buffalo Lake.

Advisory Committee Meeting

Our Renville County HRA/EDA Advisory Committee meets quarterly. Our Advisory Committee is composed of elected officials and staff from our ten cities, as well as County & HRA/EDA leadership. We typically have a community / economic development subject matter speak at these events, as well as a Renville County Department Head, amongst other speakers.

Photo right: Attendees at our July 12 Renville County HRA/EDA Advisory Committee Meeting held at Birch Coulee County Park.



GFW Schools Tour

Renville County EDA Staff & Jeff Filipek our SHIP Coordinator were invited to tour GFW schools, focusing on their career / technical education departments. We brainstormed on ways to partner and grant opportunities, etc. After this meeting GFW Schools applied for a Launch Your Future Today (LYFT) grant to purchase materials for the construction class students to construct a pole barn storage shed that would be used to store materials. Renville County EDA staff will mentor the students as needed if they receive this grant. This class is interested in

building a sleeper cabin for one of Renville County's parks. Park/EDA staff are in conversation with Kandiyohi County on their sleeper cabin program to learn more. We will keep you advised as this moves along.

Photo right: Instructors show Jeff Filipek – SHIP Coordinator, and Stefanie Ryan with the Renville County HRA/EDA the virtuality reality career training technology on October 4.



Parks Enhancement Project

The Renville County EDA and Park Department, along with SHIP, continue to work on the multi-year parks enhancement project. This year trail signage was completed at Vicksburg and Skalbekken County parks. Kiosks will be created and installed in 2023, along with starting trail signage at Mack Lake. Trail improvements were made at Birch Coulee by placing rock files on the trails and benches are being built over the winter to be placed in all the parks. SHIP provided \$3,000 in grant funding this year.

Community Impact Fund Grants

2022 was the first year in memory we were able to get all ten cities to apply for a Community Impact Fund grant. Some projects are completed, and others have been given extensions to complete their projects in spring, 2023.

Recipient	Project Name	CIF Award
City of Bird Island	Splash Island Adventure Park Trees	\$ 1,000
Fairfax HRA/EDA	Fairfax Daycare Planning Project	\$ 1,000
City of Hector	Bleachers at the softball field/city park	\$ 1,000
City of Olivia	Self Guided Tours	\$ 1,000
City of Franklin	Lions Park Equip improvements	\$ 1,000
City of Renville	Fight Dirty, keep our parks clean	\$ 1,000
City of Sacred Heart	City Park Benches	\$ 800
City of Morton	Revitalizing Park	\$ 1,000
City of Danube	Landscaping City Park	\$ 1,000
Buffalo Lake EDA	Fitness Center	\$ 1,000

Business Innovation Grants

Renville County HRA/EDA's Business Innovation Grant Program approved grants to 21 businesses (one later decided against accepting it) for a grant total of \$35,000 - \$30,000 in 2022 funds, and \$5,000 carryover from previous years.

Recipient	Project Name	BIG Award
Balderston Automotive Repair & Tire	2 Post Hoist	\$1,450
Elite Ag Systems, Inc.	Fab Shop	\$1,500
JT Controls Inc.	Shop Equipment	\$1,500
Max's Grill	Kitchen Steamer	\$1,500
Olivia Ambulance Service, Inc.	Site Prep	\$1,350
Tricia's Tavern Inc.	Backwall Repairs & Updates	\$1,300
Twin Cities & Western Railroad Company	Morton, MN Shop Camera Upgrade	\$1,400
Amplify Fitness	Amplify Fitness LLC	\$1,000
Dave's Place LLC	Equipment Upgrades and Employee Training	\$1,500
KKH LLC, DBA Neisens of Fairfax	Cooler and Air Conditioning Unit Upgrade	\$1,500
Prairie Meats Inc.	Equipment Purchase	\$1,000
Rachel Marie - Professional Photographer	Studio up to code	\$500
The Broaster	Kitchen Remodel	\$1,000
The Learning Funhouse	Updating Safety Measures	\$1,000
Prairie PROducers LLC	Renovation of building/Electrical updates	\$2,500
Tees by T Co	Purchase new computer & register/renovation of building	\$2,500
212 Station Inc	Purchase & renovate Athmanns Inn	\$2,500
BMB Co dba Main Street Bar & Grill	Refinishing exterior of building	\$1,475
Olivia Chamber of Commerce	Business & Community Connection IT upgrades	\$525
Prairie Meats	Expand in Danube, Purch new equip, train new employees	\$2,900
Saunders Mertens Schmitz	Purchase Computers	\$2,600

Blight Removal Grants

The Renville County HRA/EDA approved 6 blight removal grants in 2022 for a total of \$35,000 – composed of 2022 budgeted funds, 2021 carryover, and additional funds from reserves.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church	Removal of blighted school / parsonage	\$5,000
Chris & Mandi Fischer	Removal of blighted home on farm site	\$5,000
James Jacobs	Removal of blighted home and shed in BI	\$5,000
City of Renville	Removal of blighted residential property	\$5,000
City of Bird Island	Removal of blighted commercial property	\$10,000
City of Fairfax	Removal of blighted residential property	\$5,000