

# Renville

## COUNTY MESSENGER

*Connecting you with your County Government*

Volume 9

Summer 2010

Issue 2



*Erika Nelson and Chuck Ackman, (Sen. Klobuchar Staff) discussing the conference with Tim Penny (President/CEO and Presenter of the Southern MN Initiative Foundation).*



*Ted LaFrance (E. D. A. City of Luverne) and Sherry Ristau (President/CEO and Presenter of Southwest Initiative Foundation)*

## Acting Regionally to Compete Globally - Southern Minnesota

There is a movement afoot in the southern region of Minnesota which is made up of 38 counties with a population of one million people. This movement is the Southern Minnesota Regional Competitiveness Project (SMRCP). The SMRCP is a partnership of organizations, businesses and government agencies working together to create an economic development strategy for Southern Minnesota. Research indicates that as markets for goods and services integrate around the world, regions are where the greatest impact is felt. In an effort to develop a regional strategy for southern Minnesota, a project partnership team was formed in the summer of 2008. This early team assembled regional data sets to analyze the current economic status and trends in Southern Minnesota.

In September and October of 2008, ten roundtable discussions were held at various sites around the 38 counties. The roundtable participants represented a broad cross-section of leaders including the private sector, K-12 and post-secondary education, elected officials, health care and the workforce. The participants were presented with information regarding the economic trends in the Southern Minnesota Region. The roundtable discussions resulted in identifying several critical trends. The most discussed trend was demographic in nature and pointed to population loss, particularly of youth and talent; an aging population; and an influx of new residents. Some of the other trends cited were the importance of location as it relates to higher transportation costs, rising health care costs, an increasing demand for renewable energy, an aging infrastructure including roads, bridges and rails, and the economic

downturn. The initial roundtable discussions were followed by 3 roundtable discussions in November of 2008 with over 300 leaders from the private and public sectors in attendance. The attendees at the regional roundtables were presented with an in-depth view of the Southern Region's strengths and how to take advantage of these opportunities. Six strategic options holding the greatest promise for the Southern Region were presented to the group.

### Manufacturing

Southern Minnesota has a strong industrial base. One in five workers in the region is employed by a manufacturing firm, which is a much higher proportion than the nation. The manufacturing activity runs from food to manufacturing to specialized high technology products.

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# Acting Regionally to Complete Globally - Southern Minnesota

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## Food and Agriculture

The Southern Region is an agricultural powerhouse producing a dominant share of the state's corn, soybean, turkey, sugar beet, swine and dairy output. Agriculture production serves as a means for several value added activities from all manner of foods from ethanol to animal feed.

## Health Care

The health care sector has a large and recognized impact on Southern Minnesota. It employs 100,000 workers in the region, nearly 30,000 more than would be if the regional economy looked like that of the nation.

## Renewable Energy

The Southern Region of Minnesota has many identifiable strengths in the renewable energy arena. Early on, the region participated in corn ethanol production with 15 plants. The most recent addition has been the introduction of wind turbines that are quickly being installed across the prairie.

## Bioscience

The potential to tap bioscience is in the beginning stage in the Southern Region. Leaders agree the region has impressive assets to power future growth. Economic synergies are being realized through a convergence in research in human health, animal health and plant science.

## High Technology

The region has a strong cluster of information technology businesses, many of which are involved in the manufacture of precision products. The region has nearly 38,000 jobs in high technology.

A Futures Summit was held in March of 2009 at Minnesota State University, Mankato. Mark

Drabenstott of the Rural Policy Research Institute took the audience through the current economic situation in southern Minnesota, and then reviewed the full range of economic development options developed over the past six months in regional roundtables. From there the group identified priorities for moving forward in key areas: agriculture and food, health care, manufacturing, high technology, bioscience and renewable energy.

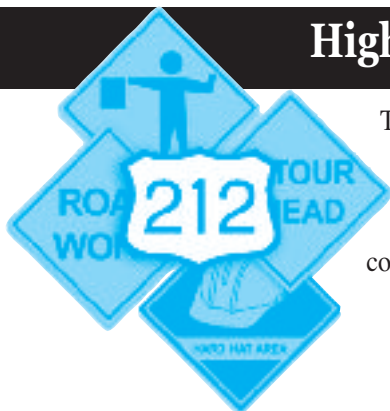
In May of 2009, a Southern Minnesota Strategy Summit was held with the theme, "The Power of the Possible: Southern Minnesota's Future." The Strategy Summit was the last meeting of the first phase of the project with a call to put into action everything learned so far for Southern Minnesota Regional Competitiveness Project. Three key items were introduced: Mark Drabenstott of the Rural Policy Research Institute laid out a road map for developing the region's economic potential; The Center for Rural Policy and Development was introduced as the administrator; and the Southern Minnesota Opportunity Roundtable was presented as the primary hub for bringing people together to build connections and concrete results.

On June 21, 2010 the Partnership for Regional Competitiveness held a "One Year Later" event to discuss what has happened, what is happening and what needs to happen next with the project. Brad Finstad, discussed the importance of focus, funding, networking, and entrepreneurship. A panel made of representatives from three manufacturing firms highlighted the new joint business model they were utilizing. Under the guidance of Southern Minnesota Manufacturing Alliance, three competitors from the manufacturing sector, Metal Services of Blooming Prairie, CAB Construction of Mankato and ProManufacturing of Albert Lea have formed a collaborative

partnership. The three companies work jointly to bid out and complete projects that their companies couldn't have done alone. Jon Monson of AgStar Financial Services discussed capital investment initiatives and how the Southern Region is working to build equity and a start-up capital network for the future. The day wrapped up with a presentation on "The Road Ahead" by Tim Penny, President/CEO of the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation and Sherry Ristau, President/CEO of the Southwest Initiative Foundation. They emphasized that leaders need to change their way of thinking from local to regional. Business leaders need to consider partnering with others, private and public sectors need to come together. By bringing business leaders together more peer to peer networks have developed, advocacy around regulations is forming, and there has been more education around the convergence of agriculture and bioscience.

Down the road, projects in the region aligned with the SMRCP's efforts will include: working with the youth in the region through the Youth Energy Summit, two communities will be working to become a Bio-Business community and investment capital will be available due to the Angel Tax Credit. Tim Penny suggested, "the Southern Region needs good management to create a pool of business leaders who have been successful to help the SMRCP advance a business plan for the future of the Southern Region of Minnesota. The project is working to build a critical mass in the region to become globally competitive with Agriculture and Food, Manufacturing, Healthcare, Bioscience, Renewable Energy, and High Technology." If you would like to learn more about the project you can check out the website [www.ruralmn.org](http://www.ruralmn.org) or contact the Center for Rural Policy and Development by phone at 507-934-7700.

## Highway 212 Resurfacing Project Planned for Summer 2011



The Minnesota Department of Transportation is planning a 28.3 mile Highway 212 resurfacing road project for next summer. The project will begin on Highway 212 near Renville County Road 16 west of Hector and will run to the start of the 4-lane west of Glencoe. The project will be detoured in three stages and will consist of pavement resurfacing, the addition of turn lane construction and culvert liners. The total cost of the project will be \$16.3 million and is planned to reduce future maintenance costs, improve pavement strength, improve the ride for motorists and provide spot safety improvements by constructing new turn lanes. For more information go the Minnesota Department of Transportation's website at:

[www.dot.state.mn.us/d8/projects/hwy212hectorglencoe/](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d8/projects/hwy212hectorglencoe/)



# 2010 Election Law Changes - NEW Primary Date Set

The 2010 Minnesota State Legislature passed significant changes to the state's elections laws that affect the candidate filing period, the date of the state primary, and the absentee ballot process. The candidate filing period for the 2010 state and local offices was moved from early July to May 18, through June 1, 2010. The State Executive offices on the ballot this year include the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, State Auditor, Attorney General, State Senators, State Representatives, and State Judiciary. Local county races include three County Commissioners, County Attorney, County Auditor-Treasurer, County Recorder and County Sheriff.

The legislators decided to give the citizens more time to evaluate the candidates running for election between the primary and the general elections. This was accomplished by moving the State's **primary election date up to Tuesday, August 10, 2010. The general election will be held on Tuesday, November 2, 2010.**

According to Larry Jacobs, Renville County's Auditor-Treasurer and Chief Election Official, "An early State primary election forces all other election activity to move up dramatically." **Absentee ballots must be prepared and available to send overseas 42 days before the elections for eligible voters** under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). Military personnel and civilians who are temporarily or permanently overseas, military personnel who are stationed in the U.S. but away from their hometown and their spouses and dependents, are eligible to vote in Minnesota by absentee ballot under UOCAVA. The Secretary of State's website addresses the Military and Overseas absentee voting process and can be found at [www.sos.state.mn.us](http://www.sos.state.mn.us).

The legislature voted to reform the absentee ballot process by creating County Absentee Ballot Boards. In Renville County the Absentee Ballot Board has been designated to be employees of the Renville County Auditor-Treasurer's Department who are trained to receive, accept or reject, reissue and count all Absentee Ballots for the county.

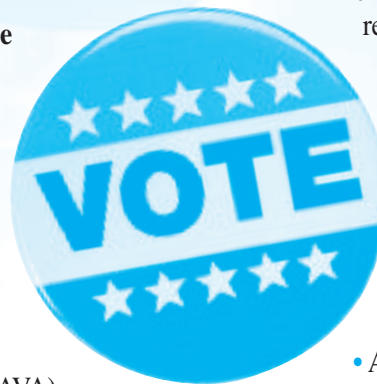
**Before you can vote in Minnesota you must register. You may register 20 days before Election Day,** so your name will appear on

the polling place roster or you can register on Election Day at your polling place. Your registration will remain current until you move, change your name or you do not vote for four consecutive years. You may update your registration information by completing another Voter Registration Application that can be obtained locally from the Renville County Auditor-Treasurer's department, located on the second floor of the Courthouse. To be eligible to vote you:

- Will be at least 18 years old on the next Election Day
- Are a citizen of the United States
- Will have resided in Minnesota for 20 days immediately preceding the Election Day
- Have any felony conviction record discharged, expired or completed
  - Are not under court-ordered guardianship where a court has revoked your voting rights
  - Have not been ruled legally incompetent by a court of law

If you need to register at your polling place on Election Day or update your registration information you are required to provide proof of residence with one of following that has your current name and address in the precinct to verify your residence:

- A valid Minnesota driver's license, learner's permit, Minnesota ID card, or receipt for any of these
- A valid student ID card including your photo, if your college has provided a student housing list to election officials
- A Tribal ID card that contains your picture and signature
- A valid registration in the same precinct under a different name or address
- A notice of late registration sent to you by your County Election Official
- A voter registered in the same precinct as you who can confirm your address with a signed oath
- An employee of the residential facility where you can live who can confirm your address with a signed oath



## COUNTY PHONE NUMBERS

Administrator	320-523-3710	Heartland Express	800-450-7964	Sheriff	320-523-1161
Assessor	320-523-3645	Heartland Community	320-523-1842	Veterans Service	320-523-3763
Attorney	320-523-2661	Action Agency Inc.	877-523-1842	Water Planning & HHW	320-523-3706
Auditor/Treasurer	320-523-2071	Hospital	320-523-1261		
Court Services/Probation	320-523-3663	HRA/EDA	320-523-3656		
Court Administration	320-523-3680	Human Services	320-523-2202		
Environment & Community		Landfill/Solid Waste	320-523-1505		
Development	320-523-3768	License	320-523-3612		
Extension	320-523-3713	Public Health Nursing	320-523-2570		
Hawk Creek	320-523-3666	Public Works	320-523-3759		
Heartland Express	320-523-3589	Recorder/Abstractor	320-523-3669		
				County Commissioners:	
				Ralph Novotny, District #1	320-848-6392
				Bob Fox, District #2	507-557-8265
				Paul Setzepfandt, District #3	320-365-3270
				John Stahl, District #4	320-523-1283
				Gale Dahlager, District #5	320-765-2781



*With the help of the LANA program, Landen Best, (top photo), Jaden Zuhlsdorf, and Connor Peterson (lower photo) from the Learning Funhouse Childcare Center prepared themselves a healthy snack, "Bagel Smile," with a variety of yummy vegetables.*



Cottonwood-Jackson-Redwood-Renville (CJRR) Community Health Services Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) is pleased to announce the selection of two SHIP implementation sites in Renville County. The two sites that have been selected to implement SHIP priorities: reducing obesity and tobacco use is Renville County who will be implementing comprehensive employee wellness policies and The Learning Funhouse in Bird Island who will implement improved nutrition policies. These two very different implementation sites will have a large impact on the health and wellbeing of their employees, families and community.

Blue Cross/Blue Shield of MN Center for Prevention will support the CJRR SHIP efforts at Renville County by working closely with a Worksite Wellness Team to assess current policies and practices for the health and well-being of its employees. Next they will help to implement comprehensive worksite wellness policies that "provides health assessment with follow-up coaching; ongoing health education, and has policies and environment supports that promote healthy weight and healthy behaviors" for the employees. This comprehensive employee wellness initiative is a thoughtful approach to ensuring that the work environment, policies, and programs support positive lifestyle behaviors such as physical activity, healthy eating, no tobacco exposure, and low stress.

The Learning Funhouse will be working hard to implement the "Learning about Nutrition through Activities" (LANA) curriculum. Through implementing this curriculum the children and their families will be introduced to a variety of healthy fruits and vegetables that they might not have tried before.

The LANA curriculum is centered on environmental change to promote fruit and vegetable consumption, with support from classroom activities and the home environment. Children and their families will be able to make healthier nutrition choices through menu and mealtime activities, tasting and cooking activities, and family involvement to give them information about the program and activities to do at home.

Another area that children and their families can improve their health is through physical activity. The Learning Funhouse has communicated an interest to increase the physical activity of the children through a curriculum called "I Am Moving, I Am Learning."

*The overarching goals of I Am Moving, I Am Learning are to:*

- ~ Increase the quantity of time spent in moderate to vigorous physical activity*
- ~ Improve the quality of structured movement experiences intentionally facilitated by teachers and adults*
- ~ Improve healthy nutrition choices for children every day*

It is a very exciting opportunity for the citizens of Renville County to embark on this new adventure with **SHIP** and reap all the benefits of reducing obesity and tobacco use! If you would like to read about more news on **SHIP** or gain more information on **SHIP** efforts, please go to <http://www.co.renville.mn.us> and look at the "Public Health" page for "**SHIP**."

**You may also call Michelle Breidenbach at 320-523-3784 or email: [michelle\\_b@co.renville.mn.us](mailto:michelle_b@co.renville.mn.us).**

**Renville  
County**

500 E. DePue Ave.  
Olivia, MN 56277

Phone: 320-523-3710

Email: [admin@co.renville.mn.us](mailto:admin@co.renville.mn.us)

Web site: [www.co.renville.mn.us](http://www.co.renville.mn.us)

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# HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWS

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Volume 9

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Issue 2

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### BECHYN

*August 8 / Czech Heritage Festival*

### BIRD ISLAND

*August 18-20 / Renville County Fair  
August 20-22, August 27-29 &  
September 3-6 Amateur Baseball  
Tournament*

### FRANKLIN

*July 23-25 / Catfish Derby Days  
August 14 / KMS Memorial Ride*

### HECTOR

*July 23 / Farm City Breakfast,  
Schweiss Stables*

### MORTON

*September 10-12 / Scarecrow Festival*

### OLIVIA

*July 28-August 1 / Corn Capital Days  
August 9 / Chamber Golf Classic*

### RENVILLE

*September 11 / Renville Museum Day*

## HRA/EDA Reviews Year's Activities

June 30th marks the end of the Renville County HRA/EDA's fiscal year. Despite the fact that a good share of the agency's funding comes from the local HRA/EDA levy, its fiscal year is set by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which funds its rental assistance programs. The following is a re-cap of the agency's major accomplishments during its past fiscal year. The HRA/EDA thanks the members of the Agriculture and Renewable Energy Committee for their work on those agriculture and energy-related activities listed below.

- Was awarded a USDA grant allowing over \$200,000 for a Revolving Loan Fund to assist businesses with low interest loans for growth, expansion and development. Businesses interested in learning more about this opportunity may contact Chris Hettig at 320-523-3656.
- Funded consulting services for businesses through Triple Crown Business Solutions.
- Provided seed money to area businesses for research and development of bio mass energy product development.
- Provided eight Economic Leveraging Fund grants totaling \$20,609 for improvements to store fronts, downtowns, recreational facilities and community events.
- Promoted the 4-\$40 Shop Locally Campaign which encourages residents to shop locally first. Pledge forms are available at a number of area businesses and at [www.renville.com](http://www.renville.com).
- Assisted the University of Minnesota Center for Changing Landscapes in its trail planning efforts.
- Provided Birch Coulee, Lake Allie, Skalbekken and Vicksburg parks with display cases featuring information about county parks, local communities and tourism.
- Funded FFA chapters to host farm field trips for elementary and high school student.
- Provided signs for the five area Farmers' Markets.
- Disbursed \$282,673 in federally funded Section 8 rental assistance payments for households renting from private landlords. These funds assisted an average of 77.5 households per month with an average annual income of \$6,061.
- Made \$69,650 in federally funded building improvements to the 25 housing units in its Public Housing program. Funding included \$42,105 in federal Stimulus Funds. Projects included replacement of roofs on 8 homes, replacement of driveways and sidewalks on 5 homes, replacement of all kitchen appliances, and replacement of the fire alarm system in Centennial Apartments in Franklin.
- Funded 10 home improvement loans and 2 down payment loans totaling \$39,121. Since it began in 2003, the Homeownership Program has made a total of 84 loans totaling \$237,659 to assist in 68 home improvement projects and 16 home purchases.
- Funded \$38,000 in administrative costs for management of Renville County's \$349,550 Small Cities Development Grant by Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership and Heartland Community Action. The grant will provide funding for improvements to 20 housing units in Renville County.



# Around the County...

## BIRD ISLAND

The Renville County Fair will be held in Bird Island August 18-20. The State Amateur Baseball Tournament will be held at Lion's Memorial Park Aug. 20-22, Aug. 27-29, and Sept. 3-6 with appearances by Tony Oliva and Barry Wohler. Commercial construction projects in the works: Rural Computer Consultants is completing a major renovation project; Island Construction, a new shop building; and Kibble Equipment is building a new sales & service center on the west end of town. Please come and support our local businesses!

## DANUBE

The Danube Lions installed new park playground equipment. Danube Area Donations, Danube Legion, City of Danube, and others contributed towards the purchase of the equipment. Washed sand was donated by Homer Haug.

## FAIRFAX

The First National Bank of Fairfax's new bank building opened in May. The old bank building will become the Fairfax Library. Farmers' Market is every Tuesday from 4-6 pm on First Street SE just off Hwy 19; vendor cost is \$5 per time. Expert Auto now occupies the garage connected to Mike's Auto Parts on Highway 19. 2B Truck & Auto moved to the former Cherrington building on West Lincoln Ave. The former Weir Hotel on First St. SE is scheduled for demolition. Squirrel's Bar & Grill (former Fairfax Legion Club) is open on Thurs-Sunday (various hours) and is taking

bookings for weddings and other special events.

## HECTOR

Thank you to all who helped make Hector's Corn Chaff Days a huge success. The Farmers' Market has moved to the corner of Highway 212 & 4 Co. Rd. Hours are 3-6 p.m. Wednesdays. The Hector Library celebrated its 25th anniversary in May. Jill Schwiderski has been the only librarian for those years. Thank you, Jill!

## MORTON

The City Council has had several public hearings during the past months to gather input on the need for a Senior Housing unit to be built in Morton. At the June 8 meeting, the Council approved proceeding with the next step of determining its feasibility. Morton will hold its Scarecrow Festival on September 11th.

## OLIVIA

Plan to be at Olivia's Corn Capital Days July 28-Aug. 1! Check out the ice cream socials, pork chops, root beer floats, hot turkey

sandwiches, Sunday breakfast at the airport and the famous Sweet Corn and Bean Feed on Saturday. Take in the library book sale, crazy days sales, kid's fair and pedal pull, collector car show, tractor pull, arts in the park, volleyball/softball tourneys and the Kiddie and Grand parades. Sign up for the family triathlon, health run, World Championship Corn Toss, cornlympics, or Sunday's Remillard Memorial Golf Tournament. For more info, go to [oliviachamber.org](http://oliviachamber.org), pick up a brochure or call Nancy at 523-1350.

## STAFF MEMBERS

Christina Hettig, Executive Director  
Linda Larsen, Housing Coordinator  
Susie Lang, Development Assistant  
Peter Kienzle, Program Development Assistant  
Ron Louisiana, Maintenance

## HRA/EDA BOARD

Chair, Mark Glesener, District 3  
Vice-Chair, Blair Anderson,  
Secretary- Treasurer,  
Mark Thiesse, District 4  
Vacant, District 2  
Gale Dahlager, District 5  
Barbara Hoyhtya, District 1  
Donald Wolling, At-Large  
Ex Officio, Ralph Novotny

## RENVILLE COUNTY HRA/EDA

HELPING PEOPLE PURSUE THEIR BUSINESS AND HOUSING GOALS



### Buffalo Lake Farm & Flea Market

Saturdays 8:30-11:30am  
July 24th through the Fall  
Buffalo Lake City Park Hwy 212  
Call Ken for more information 320-833-5545

### Fairfax Farmers' Market

Tuesdays afternoons July - September  
1st Street S.E. off Hwy 19 Fairfax  
Call 307-426-7851 for more information

### Hector Farmers' Market

Wednesdays 3-6pm June 9 through the Fall  
Highway 212 & Cty Rd 4  
(South Central Gain & Energy C-Store)  
Call Sherry for more information  
320-833-6845

### Olivia Farmers' Market

Thursdays 2-6pm: July 15- October 21  
Highways 212 & 71 on the west edge of Olivia (Alco Parking Lot)  
Call Nancy for more information  
320-523-1350

### Renville Farmers' Market

Fridays 3-6pm  
June 10 through the Fall  
Water Tower Park in Renville  
Call 320-523-3656 for more information

### Cindy's Country Garden

Located 9 miles North of Hector  
Canning tomatoes & chemical free vegetables  
Call Cindy Grams to order 320-894-5103

### Ron Hanson

Chemical free onions & potatoes  
Late Summer through Winter  
Cacti (all sizes) and Jade Plants  
Call 320-765-2379

### K & C Gardens

8 miles north of Olivia  
Variety of veggies, pickles, jams & jellies  
Canning cucumbers & tomatoes  
Call to Ken or Cathy to order 320-523-2162

### Le Roy Lothert

Natural and chemical free  
vegetables in season  
111 N. Park Drive, Morton  
Call 507-697-6478

### Lundstrum Vegetables

Rural Bird Island  
Wide variety of vegetables, jams,  
jellies & Free range chickens.  
Call 320-365-4174

### Mages Gardens II

Located 8 miles north of Olivia.  
Garden vegetables, canned pickles,  
tomato products, canned items & jams  
Call 320-579-5815 or 320-579-0415

### Wertish Farm

Drug & hormone free  
chickens and turkeys  
Call 320-826-2451

Get to know where your food came  
from and the people who grew it!  
National Farmers Market Week  
August 1 - 7, 2010



## THE 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL RENVILLE COUNTY FARM CITY BREAKFAST FRIDAY JULY 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2010 7:30AM-11AM



SCHWEISS MAGISTER EQUITUM STABLES  
72121 470TH STREET  
HECTOR, MN 55342

MENU: "CHRIS CAKES PANCAKES",  
SAUSAGE, CHEESE, MILK, JUICE & COFFEE  
\$4 PER PERSON. KIDS 12 & UNDER EAT FREE  
\$3 DOLLARS FROM EACH TICKET SOLD WILL BE  
DONATED TO THE RENVILLE COUNTY FOOD SHELF

HORSE JUMPING DEMONSTRATIONS &  
SCHWEISS FACILITY TOURS

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!



Sponsored by The Renville County Farm Bureau,  
Renville County Corn/Soybean Growers,  
Renville County HRA/EDA &  
Agriculture/Renewable Energy Committee,  
and ProAg of Renville County.

## Partner Sites: Healthy People in Healthy Places

### Schools

- ◆ Jackson County Central
- ◆ Windom Area Schools
- ◆ Westbrook-Walnut Grove Schools
- ◆ Redwood Area Schools

### Communities

- ◆ Redwood Falls
- ◆ Jackson

### Worksites

- ◆ Renville County
- ◆ Heron Lake BioEnergy

### Health Care

- ◆ RC Hospital & Clinics
- ◆ Windom Area Hospital
- ◆ Sanford Windom Clinic
- ◆ United Medical Avera Windom

### Childcare

- ◆ Little Huskies, Jackson
- ◆ Learning Fun House, Bird Island

This initiative is  
led by a  
community leadership  
team made up of  
residents

from the four counties,  
public health staff,  
community stakeholders,  
SHIP Staff,

Blue Cross Blue Shield of MN-  
Center of Prevention, Fourth  
Sector Consulting, U of MN  
Extension, Southwest Regional  
Development Commission, and  
Wilder Research.

### **To Contact SHIP:**

**Bonnie Frederickson, PHN**  
SHIP Coordinator  
Cottonwood-Jackson Community Health  
507-831-1987

**Michelle Breidenbach**  
Health Educator  
Redwood-Renville Public Health  
Services  
320-523-3784

**SHIP Website:**  
<http://www.health.state.mn.us/healthreform/ship/index.html>



**COTTONWOOD, JACKSON,  
REDWOOD & RENVILLE  
COUNTIES**

# SHIP is...

The Statewide Health Improvement Program, a component of the overall health care reform initiative passed by the 2008 MN State Legislature.

The public health component of health reform, which seeks to improve the health of the population; improve the patient/consumer experience; and improve the affordability of health care.

Designed to help Minnesotans live longer, healthier lives by preventing risk factors that lead to chronic disease.

Focused on obesity (through physical activity and unhealthy eating) and tobacco as key risk factors. By focusing on these risk factors, SHIP addresses the top three preventable causes of illness and death in the United States.



## How will SHIP reduce obesity and tobacco use?

By implementing evidenced-based strategies to make policy, systems and environmental changes in five settings:

**School**  
**Community**  
**Worksite**  
**Health Care**  
**Child Care**

**Policy Change:** A change in laws or regulations, such as creating tobacco free public places or providing time off during work hours for physical activity.

**Systems Change:** A change in organizations, such as school districts offering healthy snacks or health providers addressing tobacco use and obesity issues at every visit.

**Environmental Change:** A change in decisions about land use, zoning, and community design to ensure neighborhood access to healthy foods and sufficient opportunities for activities such as walking and biking.

## Five Initiatives... Implementing policies and practices that promote:

### **Initiative 1 - School Setting**

- ♦ healthy breakfast, lunch, snacks, celebrations and incentives
- ♦ healthy fundraising, concessions, and vending
- ♦ school gardens and
- ♦ Farm-to-School.

### **Initiative 2 - Community Setting**

- ♦ active communities, and
- ♦ access to community recreation facilities.

### **Initiative 3 - Worksite Setting**

- ♦ comprehensive employee wellness.

### **Initiative 4 - Health Care Setting**

- ♦ development and implementation of an active referral system between community resources and health care providers.

### **Initiative 5 - Child Care Setting**

- ♦ implement higher nutrition standards which promote positive, healthy eating habits in children.





Summer 2010

## Annual Coalition Report June 2010

### VISION STATEMENT

It is the vision of the RAPAD coalition to positively influence attitudes, beliefs, and knowledge for all Renville County residents about alcohol, tobacco, and other drug prevention and to create a high quality of life free from the impact of substance abuse.

### MISSION STATEMENT

The RAPAD mission is to transform Renville County into responsible communities concerning underage alcohol, tobacco, and other drug prevention.

### ESTABLISHMENT

The RAPAD Coalition was established to focus on preventing underage drinking in Renville County. The coalition is made up of concerned individuals addressing best practices for prevention of underage alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use in Renville County. Funding is provided by the Minnesota Department of Human Services, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division and PACT 4 Families Collaborative.

### RAPAD PREVENTION INITIATIVES/ACTIVITIES

- Support alcohol prevention curriculum in our schools
- Implement Positive Community Norms Project
- Create community awareness surrounding underage alcohol use through Town Hall meetings
- Provide resources to reduce underage drinking by implementing strategies that impact norms, regulation and access to alcohol
- Conduct Responsible Beverage Server Training for establishments who sell or serve alcohol
- Develop policy and law to further protect youth from underage alcohol access



### The People Behind the Coalition's Success

The RAPAD Coalition expresses sincere gratitude to all of the parents, young people, and community members who have volunteered their time and dedicated their expertise and resources to this important mission.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The RAPAD Coalition and its community partners have accomplished a great deal in 2010. Following are the highlights:

### Schools Contribute to the RAPAD work:

Teachers at RCW, BOLD, St. Mary's and GFW continue the implementation of Project Northland, evidence-based prevention curriculum, for 6th – 10th grade students. Cedar Mountain will be joining the prevention effort by teaching this curriculum in the 2010 school year.

**Youth Groups:** TADA (Teens Against Drugs and Alcohol) - RCW; DAFY- (Drug and Alcohol Free Youth) – Morton; SADD - (Students Against Destructive Decisions) BOLD & GFW; and STARS- Cedar Mountain are branches of the coalition in the school districts around the county who create awareness about underage alcohol and drug use. These youth groups, with the help of a school advisor, sponsor alcohol-free events, conduct Town Hall Meetings, present to city and county boards and develop environmental projects that impact their schools and communities. Youth also attend an annual state-wide leadership academy.

**Responsible Beverage Server Training:** Education for owners, managers and servers of alcohol is provided in the county to help prevent illegal sales of alcohol to youth and over sales to intoxicated patrons.

**Positive Community Norms (PCN):** The goal of the PCN project is to share positive community facts and norms surrounding underage alcohol use and to correct misperceptions that exist about underage drinking. "MOST RCW students DON'T drink and drive or ride with someone who has been drinking alcohol."

**Diversion Program- CHANGE DIRECTION began in May:** Change Direction is an alcohol and other drug education program offered to first time violators of alcohol offenses. Rather than paying fines, serving probation or jail time, youth can participate in this program. Change Direction educates youth to make better choices regarding use of substances.

**Collaboration with Local Law Enforcement:** Local law enforcement supports efforts that reduce underage alcohol use and access.

## FUTURE PLANS

- Engage community partners to enhance Renville County policies that prevent underage alcohol use and access.
- Initiate county-wide campaign to get the word out about underage drinking laws- Zero Adult Providers.
- Support youth leadership in promoting environmental, community wide approaches to prevent underage alcohol, tobacco and other drug use and access.
- Help communities offer alcohol free activities where teens can gather.
- Coordinate Special Events Trainings in communities who serve alcohol for their summer celebrations



### Drug Prevention websites for parents and community members

[www.drugfree.org/parent](http://www.drugfree.org/parent)

Partnership for a Drug Free America

[www.theantidrug.com](http://www.theantidrug.com)

Parents: The Anti Drug

[www.abovetheinfluence.com](http://www.abovetheinfluence.com)

National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign

[www.freevibe.com](http://www.freevibe.com)

National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign

Coalition meetings occur monthly. Contact RAPAD Coordinator Annie Tepfer, for more information. • 320-523-3845 • [annie\\_t@co.renville.mn.us](mailto:annie_t@co.renville.mn.us)

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