



# Renville

## COUNTY MESSENGER

CONNECTING YOU WITH YOUR COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Volume 10

Summer 2011

Issue 2



*Bert gives her farewell.*

## A PARTY FOR BERT

Local veterans, county commissioners, co-workers, family, and friends celebrated Bert Waiserski's retirement as Renville County's Veteran's Service Officer on Friday June 10th, 2011. The event was held at the American Legion Hall in Olivia with an evening filled with music, food, and a program of guests commemorating Bert's twenty-one year career with Renville County.



*Bert and Bob Fox, Renville County Commissioner, sharing a laugh.*



*Denny Anderson, retired Chippewa County Veterans Service Officer and currently serving as Chippewa County Commissioner, recalling the great work Bert did for local veterans.*



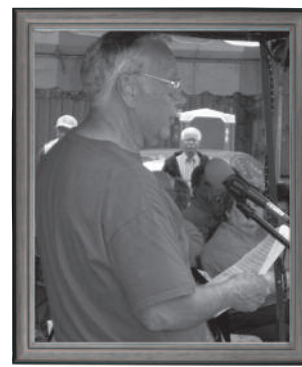
*Paul Setzepfandt uses his naval call whistle to say goodbye to Bert.*



*Shelila Jackson, Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office – Fort Snelling, remembered fondly first meeting Bert when Bert was her first sergeant.*



*Lloyd Schultz playing his guitar and singing a song he wrote just for Bert.*



*Harry Hawkinson, Renville County Veterans Service Office Administrative Assistant, recalls competing with Bert for recruits in the early years and now working with Bert for Renville County Veterans.*



*Karen Davis, Renville County Veterans Service Technician, reminiscing about working with Bert as a family of coworkers..*





Cottonwood, Jackson, Redwood and Renville Counties

# SHIP

Now is the time for good health!

Working together with schools, municipalities, employers, child care centers and health care providers will continue to help us move closer to making Minnesota a better place to live, learn, work & play.

## 4 SCHOOLS

3,687 potential students impacted

Implementing policies and practices in schools that provide better nutrition through: Farm to School | Healthy Snacks and Concessions | Breakfast & Lunch Menu Improvement

## 4 COMMUNITIES

14,719 potential citizens impacted

Implementing policies and practices in schools that create healthy and active communities through: Signage | Bike Racks | Walking Maps & Planning | Events | Safe Routes to School | School Travel Plan Development

## 2 WORKSITES

273 potential employees impacted

Implementing policies and practices that reduce tobacco use, improve nutrition, and physical activity at worksites through: Tobacco Use Policy | Healthy Vending | Worksite Wellness Initiatives | Walking Maps

## 6 HEALTH CARE

33,504 potential patients impacted

Promoting active referral of patients to local physical activity, healthy eating and tobacco cessation resources through: Community Resource Database and Directory | Minnesota Tobacco Fax Referral System

## 2 CHILD CARE

126 potential children impacted

Implementing policies and practices in daycare centers that provide better nutrition and physical activity through: I Am Moving I Am Learning Curriculum | Learning About Nutrition through Activities Curriculum

## Renville County Highlights

### Spotlight: Worksite Wellness

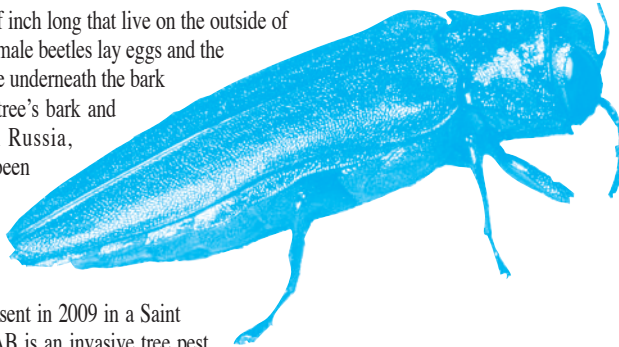
Renville County has joined SHIP to create a healthier workplace. They formed a wellness team and a vision, "Creating a worksite environment where the healthy choice is the easy choice for employees and their families." They are working towards healthy changes through activities, policies changes and events. Some of the changes that have taken place include creating indoor and outdoor walking maps that employees can use to be active during breaks. Employee groups have organized workout sessions before and after work. A monthly e-newsletter is distributed to employees with information on local healthy resources.

### Learning Funhouse

The Learning Funhouse in Bird Island has implemented the Learning About Nutrition Through Activities curriculum (LANA). The LANA curriculum is centered around environmental change to promote fruit and vegetable consumption, with support from classroom activities and home environment. The program has become very popular with the kids and staff over the past year. Children are excited about making LANA snacks such as bagel faces. A mother who saw this activity was very impressed to see a room full of children willing to eat broccoli, tomatoes and snap peas with no fuss at all. Good nutrition will help students with healthy growth and development.

# RENVILLE COUNTY ADOPTS FIREWOOD RESTRICTIONS

Emerald ash borer (EAB) is an insect that attacks and then kills ash trees. The adults are small, iridescent green beetles about one-half inch long that live on the outside of ash trees during the summer months. The female beetles lay eggs and the hatched larvae are grub or worm-like and live underneath the bark of ash trees. The larvae burrow under the tree's bark and kill the trees. EAB is native to eastern Russia, northern China, Japan and Korea, and has been discovered in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Ontario and Quebec. EAB was confirmed to be present in 2009 in a Saint Anthony Park neighborhood in St Paul. EAB is an invasive tree pest and therefore quarantine has been placed in Ramsey, Hennepin, and Houston Counties to help slow the spread of EAB.



When a tree has been attacked by EAB, the canopy of infested trees begins to thin above infested portions of the trunk and major branches because the borer destroys the water and nutrient conducting tissues under the bark. Heavily infested trees exhibit canopy die-back usually starting at the top of the tree. One-third to one-half of the branches may die in one year. Most of the canopy will be dead within two years of the first observed symptoms. Sometimes ash trees push out sprouts from the trunk after the upper portions of the tree dies.

EAB has been spread in ash firewood, nursery stock and possibly other ash materials. EAB has killed millions of ash trees in infested areas. Minnesota has one of the highest volumes of ash on forestland in the U.S. with an estimated 867 million forestland ash trees. The potential economic and environmental impact of losing these trees is substantial. The cost of removing and replacing a single tree can range from hundreds to thousands of dollars.

On May 10, 2011, in an effort to stop EAB in Renville County parks, the Renville County Commissioners amended the Renville County Park Ordinance. The amendment sets restrictions on the use of firewood in the park system in an attempt to help protect our parkland from unwanted pests including emerald ash borer.

Unless you are a resident of Renville County bringing in firewood from a source in Renville County, no firewood shall be transported into, possessed, or burned in any Renville County park unless it bears evidence that it is from a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources approved source and/or a certified firewood vendor. Deadfall (downed trees and limbs) gathered in the park system may be used for small recreational fires in fireplaces or fire rings.

## Frequently Asked Questions:

- If I live in Renville County can I bring in wood that is non-certified?  
*Yes, proper identification is required if asked for by the park officer.*
- If I live outside of Renville County and I have a relative/friend that lives in Renville County, can I bring in wood from them?  
*No, non-residents must have purchased firewood from a certified firewood vendor.*
- Can I bring in scrap lumber to burn?  
*Yes, you can; however, it cannot be treated, painted, stained or varnished and must be free of nails and any metal.*
- Can I burn deadfall found in the park?  
*Yes, you can; any downed trees or limbs may be used for recreational fires.*
- What happens if I violate the firewood restriction?  
*You will be asked to leave the park.*

If you have any questions, please call Barry Huisman, Park Supervisor at 320-523-3793.

## RENVILLE COUNTY JAIL IS LOOKING FOR DONATIONS AND VOLUNTEERS.

If you are interested in volunteering in the following areas, please let us know:

Computer • Lifeskills Classes  
College Courses • Art Classes  
Mentorship

If you have an interest in applying to become a volunteer you must complete a volunteer application, have a background check, and complete orientation.

### Donations Needed (in good working condition):

Exercise Bicycle • Treadmills  
Elliptical Machines • Basketballs  
Board Games • Puzzles  
Unused greeting cards

If you would like to assist please  
contact Nicole Krippner  
at 320-523-3791.

## The 2011 Renville County Senior Expo “Finding the Missing Pieces”

will be held on September 27th  
at Bird Island Ballroom in Bird Island  
9:00 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
Trooper Kathy Pederson

**Seminar Speakers**  
Attorney Jon Saunders, Bird Island  
Joanie Robinson, Telephone TED program

**ENTERTAINMENT**  
by Lyndon Peterson

**Lots of fun!**  
Vendors, Door Prizes, Early Bird (Cash Drawing)

## 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.    | or 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    |                               |              |
|                          |              |                       |                 | <b>County Commissioners:</b>  |              |
|                          |              |                       |                 | 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 |
|                          |              |                       |                 | LaMont Jacobson, District #5  | 320-765-2578 |



# RECORDER'S OFFICE ADDS PASSPORT PHOTO CAPABILITY

The Renville County Recorder's Office has purchased a passport camera system and is now a one-stop shop for passport applications. The office will now be able to take passport photos at the same time an applicant is completing a passport application. The fee for a passport photo is \$10.00 per person. When applying for a U.S. Passport book or card an individual needs to complete a passport application, must prove U.S. citizenship (usually with a certified birth certificate), have a valid photo-id such as a driver's license, and a passport photo. In addition to taking passport photos the office stocks all of the forms necessary to obtain a new or to renew a passport book and or passport card. As a local office under the Minnesota Department of Health, staff can issue certified copies of Minnesota birth certificates needed to complete a passport application. The Renville County Recorder's office has been serving as a passport acceptance facility under the U.S. Department of State since 1990.

All passport applicants must appear in person and complete a new application when it is their first passport application. If under age 16 both parents must appear with the applicant when applying for a passport book and or card. If ages 16 to 17 one parent should appear with the applicant. If an applicant is renewing a passport within the requirements specified by the U. S. Department of State an application can be obtained from the Recorder's Office.

**To accommodate passport applicants it will be best to make an appointment to process a passport application by calling the Renville County Recorder's office at 320-523-3669.**

Currently the average time to receive a passport is up to six weeks. For expedited service the average time to receive a passport is up to 2 1/2 weeks. If expediting and overnight express mailing the application to the Passport Agency the average time to receive a passport is 7 - 10 days. For current processing times check the US Department of States website, listed below. Passports for adults are valid for 10 years and child passports are valid for five years. Each fee is paid with two separate checks one payable to US Department of State and one to the Renville County Recorder.

You may pay by CHECK or MONEY ORDER only to US Department of State and with cash or check or money order for the execution fee to the Renville County Recorder.

\*An expedited passport is processed in three business days once it is received at a Federal Passport Agency.

**For further passport and renewal information, or to download a passport application form, refer to the U.S. State Department's Passport Services site at [http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport\\_1738.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html)**

|                                | APPLICATION<br>FEE | EXECUTION<br>FEE | TOTAL | EXPEDITE<br>FEE |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------|-----------------|
| Passport Book (Age 16 & Older) | \$110              | \$25             | \$135 | \$60            |
| Passport Book (Under Age 16)   | \$80               | \$25             | \$105 | \$60            |
| Passport Card (Age 16 & Older) | \$30               | \$25             | \$55  | \$60            |
| Passport Card (Under Age 16)   | \$15               | \$25             | \$40  | \$60            |

**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 & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWS

500 E Depue • Olivia, MN 56277 • (320) 523-3656 • [www.renville.com](http://www.renville.com)

Summer 2011

Issue 2

Volume 10

## TRAINING RENVILLE COUNTY'S FUTURE LEADERS

An initiative that started with Renville Mayor Janette Wertish has prompted Blandin Foundation to make a \$100,000 commitment to training the next generation of leaders throughout Renville County. Mayor Wertish, a former Blandin Community Leadership Program (BCLP) participant, believes that Blandin Program's training empowers community leaders to increase their personal leadership skills, ultimately benefitting their community.

The Foundation is making three sessions of BCLP available for groups from the different regions of Renville County. The training begins with a five day retreat designed to increase personal leadership skills and to foster healthy relationships among participants, allowing them to work together effectively when they return to their

communities. The retreat is followed by 2 one and two day workshops.

Applications for BCLP for participants from Danube, Renville and Sacred Heart will be available starting September 2011. Additional meetings and information will be announced in local newspapers at that time.

**INCREASE  
PERSONAL  
LEADERSHIP &  
FOSTER HEALTHY  
RELATIONSHIPS**

**AMONG  
PARTICIPANTS.**

The southern communities in the county are considering applying for training sessions available in 2013.

Interested community members are asked to contact Becky Adams, Leadership Recruitment Coordinator with Blandin, at 218-326-0523; Renville

Mayor Janette Wertish at 320-329-8366; Morton City Administrator Shirley Dove at 507-697-6912; or Chris Hettig at 320-523-3811. More information about BCLP is available at <http://bclp.blandinfoundation.org/program/>.

## HRA/EDA DEVELOPS NEW VISION & MISSION STATEMENTS

Consultant Andrea Fox Jensen facilitated strategic planning sessions with the HRA/EDA staff and board in early 2011 that resulted in the following vision and mission statement.

### ~ VISION ~

Renville County will be one of the first counties that people think of when they want to live, work or grow a business in rural Minnesota.

### ~ MISSION ~

Provide a powerful platform of economic resources that Renville County residents, communities and businesses can build on to reach their full potential.

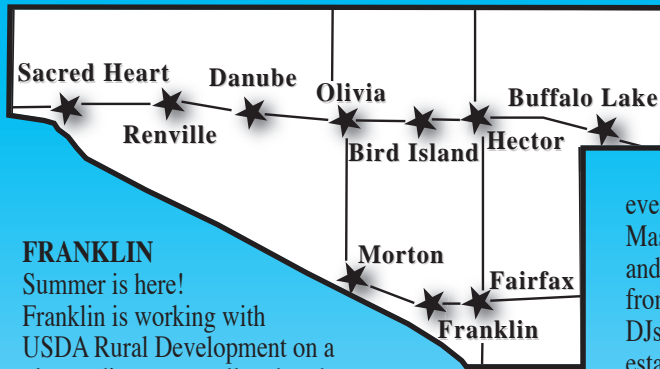
- *Work to understand the current and future needs of residents, communities and businesses.*
- *Find and administer funding to address those needs, including leveraging local tax dollars to secure substantial sources of outside investment.*
- *Provide or recommend technical assistance to help constituents capitalize on specific resources.*
- *Ensure citizens, entrepreneurs and officials are aware of what we offer.*
- *Promote the county's economic assets within and beyond its borders.*

### 2011 Renville County Community Events

|              |                                   |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| July 22-24   | Catfish Derby Days, Franklin      |
| July 27-31   | Corn Capital Days, Olivia         |
| August 14    | Czech Heritage Festival, Bechyn   |
| August 17-20 | Renville County Fair, Bird Island |
| September 10 | Scarecrow Festival, Morton        |



## NEWS FROM OUR NEIGHBORS



### FRANKLIN

Summer is here! Franklin is working with USDA Rural Development on a plan to dig a new well and to do some water, wastewater, and storm water improvements. The cities of Franklin and Morton have provided a joint Summer Recreation/Swimming Lessons program. Thank you to the Renville County Heartland Express for assisting with the transportation. We hope to see everyone for the 36th Annual Catfish Derby Days, July 22-24. For more information, visit: [http://home.mchsi.com/~franklin/catfish\\_days.htm](http://home.mchsi.com/~franklin/catfish_days.htm) On August 13th, the KMS Memorial Ride begins and ends in Franklin. Please join us in showing your support in honoring our area heroes; for more information visit: <http://kmsride.com>

### FAIRFAX

A new Fairfax Library is in the planning stages at the former Weir Hotel location on First Street SE. Casey's Store on West Lincoln Ave has been remodeled and had a successful Grand Opening. Park Street North from Highway 19 to the north edge of Fairfax is under construction with new utilities being installed. Farmer's Market is on 1st St SE on Tuesdays from 4-6 pm.

### HECTOR

Hector recognized the oldest family owned business at Corn Chaff Days, being Lange's Machine Shop. Steve Kropp State Farm Insurance Agency purchased and remodeled a building on Main street. Check out residential lots available in Sampson's Addition, \$100 plus Assessments. Call 320-848-2122 for more information.

### OLIVIA

Corn Capital Days will be held July 27-31st. Get active at Wednesday and Sunday's golf tournaments, Thursday's family triathlon, Friday's Children's Pedal

Pull, Saturday's Corn Capital Run and soft ball tournament, or Sunday's Corn Lympics. Feeling cultural? Saturday events include an art show at Master's from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and arts and crafts in the park from 9 to 4. Live music and DJs will be featured at local establishments Thursday through Saturday evenings.

The Grand Parade is Saturday at 3. Opportunities to chow down abound throughout the event. For more information go to [oliviachamber.org](http://oliviachamber.org).

### STAFF MEMBERS

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

### HRA/EDA BOARD

Chair, Mark Glesener, District 3  
Vice-Chair, Blair Anderson, At-Large  
Secretary- Treasurer,  
Mark Thiesse, District 4  
Joel Harmoning, District 2  
Chad Kingstrom, District 5  
Barbara Hoyhtya, District 1  
Vacant, At-Large  
Ex Officio, Ralph Novotny

## Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund

*The Business Revolving Loan Fund is a unique and flexible source of supplemental financing for businesses that have a positive economic impact on Renville County.*

- Building & plant renovations
- Start-up
- Permanently retaining existing jobs
- Creating new permanent jobs
- Working capital loans

For more information regarding this funding opportunity contact Chris Hettig at the Renville County HRA/EDA at 320-523-3656 or by e-mail at [chris@mail.renville.com](mailto:chris@mail.renville.com)

*Funds made available by the Renville County Housing & Economic Development Authority, The American Recovery & Reinvestment Act, & a grant from the USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grants (RBEG) Program.*

## Centennial Apartments

161 2nd Avenue East • Franklin, MN



**One Bedroom Units Available**

**Rent Based on Income**

*No age restrictions*

| Family Size | Income Limits |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1           | \$33,150      |
| 2           | \$37,900      |



**Amenities Include:**

Noon Senior Dining On-Site  
Quiet Atmosphere  
Community Room  
On-Site Laundry  
Elevator  
Smoke-Free Building



Call Linda at (320) 523-3745 or 888-665-3745 for more information.

Visit our website at [www.renville.com](http://www.renville.com)

## Renville County Farmers' Markets



### Buffalo Lake Area Farm & Flea Market

Saturdays 8:30-11:30am: May 7th through the fall  
Buffalo Lake City Park Hwy 212  
Call Ken at 320-833-5545 for more information

### Fairfax Farmers' Market

Tuesday afternoons: July - September  
1st Street S.E. Downtown Fairfax off Hwy 19  
Call Sara at 507-426-7222 for more information

### Morton Farmers' Market

Fridays 9am-3pm: mid June through the fall  
City Parking Lot (Downtown Morton on highway 19)  
Call Shirley for more information at 507-697-6912

### Hector Farmers' Market

Wednesdays 3-6pm: July through the fall  
Highway 212 & Co RD 4 (South Central Grain & Energy C-Store)  
Call LaVonne for more information at 320-848-2195

### Olivia Farmers' Market

Thursdays 2-6pm: July 14th through the fall  
City parking lot 9th St. & Fairview (south of F&M Bank)  
Call Cathy for more information 320-522-1043

*Additional vendors welcomed at all markets, contact the market coordinator for more information!*

**Your source for locally grown farm fresh vegetables & fruits!**

*Locations of the Buffalo Lake and Hector markets may change due to road construction projects, please watch for signs or call the coordinators.*



## Annual Coalition Report June 2011

### 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 in 2006 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 for Families Collaborative.

### NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The RAPAD Coalition is the proud recipient of a Drug Free Communities grant from the Office of National Drug Control Policy that began on October 1, 2010. It is possible the grant will carry on for up to 10 years to continue spreading alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention information to residents of Renville County.

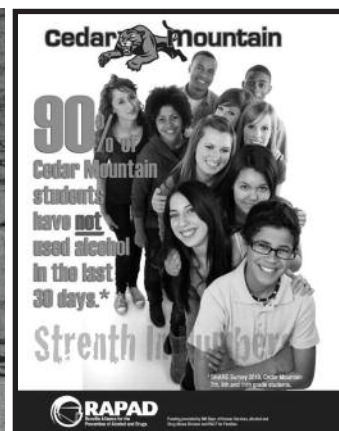
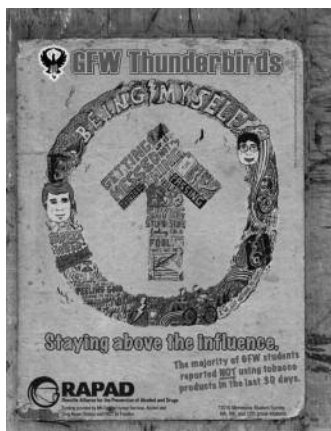


### RAPAD PREVENTION INITIATIVES/ACTIVIZES

- Support alcohol prevention curriculum in our schools
- Implement a 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 policies and laws 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:

### Reduced Underage Drinking

Between 2007 and 2010 past 30-day alcohol use decreased by over 32% among RCW students, while it only decreased by 15% for the State as a whole\*!!!

Between 2007 and 2010 past 2-week binge drinking decreased over 25% among RCW students, while it only decreased by 19% of the State as a whole\*\*!!!

\*As measured by the MN Student Survey, combined results for 6th, 9th & 12th grade students.

\*\*As measured by the MN Student Survey, combined results for 9th & 12th grade students.

### GREAT JOB RENVILLE COUNTY!!!

### Schools Contribute to the RAPAD work:

Teachers at RCW, BOLD, St. Mary's, GFW and Cedar Mountain continue the implementation of Project Northland, evidence-based prevention curriculum, for 6th – 10th grade students.

**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 statewide 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. Alcohol compliance checks have been increasingly more successful since they were first completed due to the valuable partnership between RAPAD and local law enforcement.

**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, for example: "MOST RCW students DON'T drink and drive or ride with someone who has been drinking alcohol."

**Diversion Program- CHANGE DIRECTION began in May 2010:** 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.

**Social Host Ordinance:** A county-wide Social Host Ordinance was passed in Renville County in February, 2011. A Social Host Ordinance increases protection for our youth by identifying adults who provide alcohol to youth and holding them accountable for doing so. A Social Host Ordinance was also passed in Olivia in April, 2010, and Fairfax has passed one a few years ago. It is RAPAD's hope that every community in Renville County will have passed a Social Host Ordinance before the end of 2011.

**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 a county-wide campaign to get the word out about underage drinking laws and 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.

*2011 Annual Coalition Report prepared by DHS State Coordinator, Renee Brandt.*

### Drug Prevention websites for parents, youth 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)

FUNDING IS PROVIDED BY THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE DIVISION, THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY – DRUG FREE COMMUNITIES GRANT, AND PACT FOR FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE.



## **“What exactly do you mean by responsible?”**

### **Holding Hosts Responsible**

Through social host liability laws, people can be held responsible for underage drinking parties, regardless of who furnished the alcohol.

### **Renville County Social Host Ordinance**

Section 1. The Renville County Board of Commissioners desires to protect the health, safety and welfare of all persons living in and visiting the County. The use of alcohol by persons under the age of twenty-one (21) is prohibited by State statute. This ordinance prohibits, and establishes penalties for any person hosting an event or gathering where alcohol is present and being possessed or consumed by persons under twenty-one (21) years of age. This ordinance is enacted pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 145A.05, subdivision 1. Section 4. Prohibited Acts.

(a) It is unlawful for any person(s) to:

- (1) host or allow an event or gathering;
- (2) at any residence, premises, or on any other private or public property;
- (3) where alcohol or alcoholic beverages are present;
- (4) when the person knows or reasonably should know that an underage person will or does

- (a) consume any alcohol or alcoholic beverage; or
- (b) possess any alcohol or alcoholic beverage with the intent to consume it; and
- (5) the person fails to take reasonable steps to prevent possession or consumption by the underage person(s).

Section 6. Enforcement. This ordinance can be enforced by any police officer, sheriff's deputy, or certified peace officer in the county.

Section 8. Penalty. Violation of Section 4 of this ordinance is a misdemeanor. Punishable by a maximum of 90 days jail and/or a \$1,000 fine.

**People Who Host,  
Lose The Most:**

**Don't be a party to  
teenage drinking.**

**It's against the law.**

*Drug Free Action Alliance*

# **Social Host Ordinance**

**Renville County**

***What you need to know  
before you host a  
party for anyone  
under the age of 21.***



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# SOCIAL HOST YOUR ROLE IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE...

**Please Be Responsible**

**Keep alcohol out of the hands of youth**

**Only one half the amount of alcohol is needed to damage the brain in adolescence vs. adulthood**

## **It's the Law for a Reason.**

The earlier drinking starts, the more danger it poses. People reporting first time use of alcohol before age 15 were five times more likely to have alcohol dependence or abuse compared with people who first used alcohol at the age of 21 or older.

Research shows that a teen who gets through age 21 without smoking, abusing alcohol or using illegal drugs is almost certain never to do so.

## **Consequences of Teenage Drinking**

- Alcohol poisonings
- Brain damage
- Chronic alcohol addiction
- Traffic crashes
- Property damage
- Community disturbance
- Risky sexual behavior and sexual assault
- Suspension from school sports or other activities

**In other words, if it's your property, it's your problem.**

### **Definition of a Social Host Ordinance**

A social host ordinance holds adults responsible for hosting, or in other words, knowingly providing a place for underage drinking to occur. Social host ordinances give communities a practical tool for holding adults accountable. It's often difficult for law enforcement to determine who provided the alcohol at teen parties. With social host liability, the focus is on where the drinking takes place, rather than who provided the alcohol.

**Why does this ordinance target parties that occur on private residences and premises?** Parties and gatherings on private property have repeatedly been identified as the primary source by which youth obtain alcohol. Kids obtain alcohol at parties through friends, older siblings or adults.

**We've heard the excuses: "If they are going to drink, they might as well drink at home, where I know they are safe."** Not necessarily. The data shows there is an increase in youth violence, sexual assaults, teen pregnancy, and in some cases alcohol poisoning and death when underage youth are allowed to drink at someone's home.

**Alcohol kills more kids than all illegal drugs combined.**

Source: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

**...IN PREVENTING UNDERAGE DRINKING.**