



Renville

COUNTY MESSENGER

CONNECTING YOU WITH YOUR COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Volume 11

Fall 2012

Issue 3

Renville and Redwood Counties Receive Grant \$'s for Joint County Project



Example of recycling equipment that could be used in the new Material Recovery Facility.

Governor, Mark Dayton, announced in September that a Capital Projects Grant of \$1,898,750 was awarded to Renville and Redwood Counties to assist with the funding and construction of a Joint Materials Recovery Facility. The new facility will be utilized to sort, process and market recyclable materials from both counties and allow for future expansion of both programs. The State Capital Grants were administered through the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). A total of \$47.5 million in bonding money will be used through Capital Project Grants to fund nine economic development municipal projects throughout Minnesota. The grant applications went through a comprehensive application process and were rated on five criteria: project readiness, job creation, investment and leverage, regional impact, and public benefit. The projects were categorized by three regions to realize a geographic balance, including: south, north, and metro. 90 applications were submitted and the Renville/Redwood project ranked 5th overall.

The vision for a Joint Material Recovery Facility had been in the planning phase for a few years prior to the award of the grant. In January 2012, Renville and Redwood County Boards decided to form the Redwood/ Renville Regional Solid Waste Board (RRRSWB) to address the counties' recycling needs. The seven member board includes Renville County Commissioners Bob Fox and Paul Setzepfandt, Redwood County Commissioners, Lon Walling and John Schueller, Renville County citizen member, Harlan Hultgren, Redwood County citizen member, Bill Lightfoot, and an at-large member, Dr. Steven Medrud.

The RRRSWB applied for a Minnesota Business Development Capitol Project grant with the goal to build, staff, and operate a Joint Regional Material Recovery Facility. The facility will provide the infrastructure necessary to collect, process, and market recyclables for both counties initially, with plans to expand to accommodate the recycling needs of surrounding counties in the region. The current Redwood County facility is operating at full capacity and is in need of several major structural repairs. Renville County does not have a recycling facility, but has focused more on recycling as a potential means to extend the life of their landfill. Building one modern facility with the required equipment for the two counties will meet both counties' needs while saving money by avoiding duplication. The facility will be designed in a manner to accommodate further expansion for additional recycling activities. The two counties are seeking to improve their recycling needs by creating a system that will be more efficient in the collection and processing of recyclable materials as well as creating economies of scale. The joint effort should improve marketability of recyclables, create and maintain jobs locally and improve job safety. The building phase of the project will result in the employment of approximately 20 construction jobs. The plan

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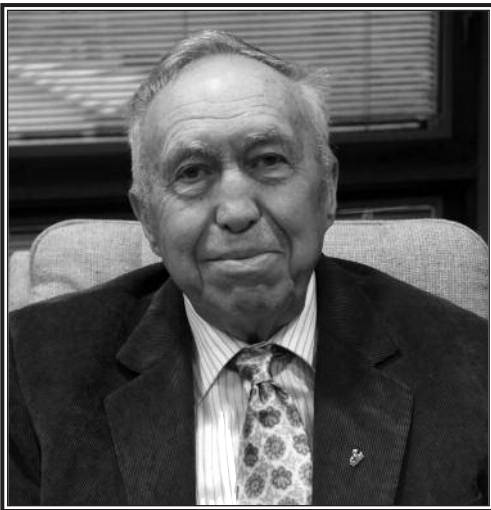
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calls for the creation of an additional 8 full time employment positions to be added to the current Redwood County recycling workforce of 16 employees. Preliminary work will need to be completed in the next few months, with the ground breaking anticipated to take place in 2013. It is hoped the facility will be fully operational sometime in 2014 or early 2015.

The grant proposal was coordinated by Marlin Larson, Renville County Solid Waste Administrator, Jon Mitchell, Redwood County Environmental Services Director, and spearheaded by Brian Sams, Redwood County Recycling Coordinator. Sams has been working full time with recycling in Redwood County for the past twenty-two years. He has been assessing and planning for this project for the past few years and said, "the award of this project is a real shot in the arm for the joint venture and we hope the energy will continue through the completion of the project." Redwood County is recognized as a leader in the field of recycling in the State and hopes that the partnership with Renville County will raise not only awareness in Renville County, but raise the recycling rate as well. Sams attributes Redwood County's high rate of recycling to the fact that no landfill exists in the county, and that innovative waste reduction programs continue to be offered to residents and businesses. Redwood County keeps recycling in the forefront for its citizens through education and by building a want

for people to recycle more. Sams has seen drastic recycling changes over the years. Recycling processing in Redwood County began at about 10 to 11 tons per month and has grown over the years to an average of 125 tons per month. The types of materials that can be recycled have also increased over the years. For example, recyclable plastics has changed from the acceptance of #1 and #2 narrow neck to # 1 through #5 plastics including margarine tubs. The ultimate goal of the RRRSWB is to engage its citizens in recycling and therefore utilize the new Redwood Renville Joint Material Recovery Facility to its fullest capacity. The shift to increasing the recycling rate will ultimately result in less garbage being thrown away in landfills which will extend the life of county landfills.

A special acknowledgment and appreciation goes out to Governor Mark Dayton, Senators Lyle Koenen and Gary Dahms, State Representatives, Chris Swedzinski and Paul Torkelson, and Redwood and Renville County Commissioners for their support of the project.



Commissioner Ralph Novotny served 12 years.

Ralph Novotny, District 1, Renville County Commissioner Retires

Ralph Novotny was first elected to serve as a Renville County Commissioner for District Number 1 in 2000. Novotny is wrapping up his 3rd term currently representing the Townships of Osceola, Brookfield, Boon Lake, Hector, Preston Lake, and Martinsburg and the cities of Hector and Buffalo Lake. Commissioner Novotny has represented Renville County as a commissioner on several committees over the last twelve years including: the Health Service Committee, the Lake Allie Environmental Service District, the Renville County Watershed Managers,

the County Building Committee, the County Water Planning Committee, the County Extension Committee, County Housing and Economic Development Authority, Heartland Community Action Agency, Central MN Jobs and Training Services, CROW River Organizational Water Board, and Joint Powers Water Board.

In addition to serving as county commissioner, Novotny has been engaged in farming in Osceola Township for 50 plus years, has served on additional boards including the Renville County Health Services Foundation, Buffalo Creek Watershed, MN Soybean Council, Renville County Historical Board, and Renville County Farm Bureau Board.

Renville County Commissioners and employees thank Ralph for his service to Renville County for the past twelve years and wish him well!

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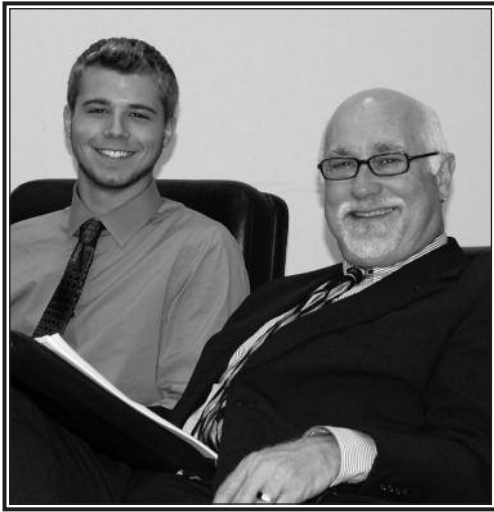
*Have you been thinking
about joining
weight watchers!*

**Renville County Employees have formed a
Weight Watchers At Work Program.
Community Members are
Welcome to Join.**

*Meetings are held on Thursdays with
Weigh-In at 4:30 p.m., Meeting starts at
5:00 p.m. in the Renville County Government
Services Center (Room 121B), in Olivia*

**Take advantage of the convenience and value
of the Weight Watchers Monthly Pass now
available in At Work meetings for just \$39.95
per month, plus free etools.**

**For more information:
Contact Karen Muetzel at
(507) 627-6979**



Jack Bryan, TADA Youth Group Leader and Al Fredrickson, of MN Dept of Health and Human Services

Jack Bryan Featured Speaker at STATE CAPITAL

RCW Senior, Jack Bryan, Youth Group Leader of Teens Against Drugs and Alcohol (TADA), spoke at the Minnesota State Capitol in September about the prevention efforts in Renville County with the RAPAD Coalition. The event was a public discussion to celebrate Recovery Month. Each September, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAHMSA) within the US Dept of Health and Human Services (HHS) sponsors this nationwide celebration now in its 23rd year. This year's theme, "Join the Voices for Recovery: It's

Worth It," emphasized that while the road to recovery may be difficult, the benefits of preventing and treating mental illness and substance abuse are tangible, significant, and valuable. Every day, people in recovery achieve and maintain healthy lifestyles and make a positive contribution to their communities.

Jack spoke about some of the TADA (Teens Against Drugs and Alcohol) Youth group activities that have helped reduce substance use in his school and communities of RCW. Some of these include annual Town Hall Meetings highlighting the new trends around substance use, a Positive Community Norms campaign with posters, radio ads and billboards to correct the misperception that all teens are using when in reality a small percentage of teens regularly drink, county and city board presentations that have helped pass a county wide social Host Ordinance and city ordinances in Danube and Renville, and the Youth Leadership Academy. He also let the audience hear about the RAPAD Coalition's other activities throughout Renville County which include providing evidence-based prevention curriculum to schools and training for the teachers, initiate a Diversion Program for first time minor offender of an alcohol or drug charge which includes a 3 hour class, a Medication Disposal Program with the Sheriff's Office and supporting other youth groups county wide to name a few.

Speakers that day included representatives from the College St Scholastica, Chicanos Latinos Unidos en Servicio, (C.L.U.E.S.) William Mitchell College of Law, Augsburg College, Native American Section of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (HHS), Regional Prevention Coordinator and Lead Prevention Specialist of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division of HHS.

To quote Jack from his speech at the capitol, "I've stayed involved with TADA because it keeps me doing positive things with other students who also want to do positive things and make changes."

COUNTY PARKS OPEN FOR WINTER RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Citizens are welcome to enter any of the seven county parks by foot to enjoy hiking, cross country skiing, bird watching, and fishing as well as any other winter recreational activity.

*Skalbekken and Vicksburg parks have designated winter parking areas located inside the parks. Lake Allie Park has a driveway for access onto the lake. All other county parks will be closed to all motorized vehicles from **November 1, 2012, through April 15, 2013.***

Snowmobiling is allowed on signed trails specifically designated for such use within each park. Services such as restrooms and trash pick up will not be available during these months, and remember

***"NO HUNTING"** in any county park at any time of the year. If you have any questions regarding use of the parks during the winter and early spring, please contact:*

**Renville County
Division of Environment &
Community Development
320-523-3768**

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	<i>County Commissioners:</i>	
Court Administration	320-523-3680	Human Services	320-523-2202	Ralph Novotny, District #1	320-848-6392
Environment & Community		Landfill/Solid Waste	320-523-1505	Bob Fox, District #2	507-557-8265
Development	320-523-3768	License	320-523-3612	Paul Setzepfandt, District #3	320-365-3270
Extension	320-523-3713	Public Health Nursing	320-523-2570	John Stahl, District #4	320-523-1283
Hawk Creek	320-523-3666	Public Works	320-523-3759	LaMont Jacobson, District #5	320-765-2578
Heartland Express	320-523-3589	Recorder/Abstractor	320-523-3669		

PERTUSSIS (WHOOPIING COUGH) EPIDEMIC UPDATE

A pertussis epidemic continues to occur in Minnesota and other states, particularly Washington and Wisconsin. Minnesota is on track to exceed 4,700 cases for this year, the highest number of cases since the 1940s.

Pertussis, or whooping cough, is a disease that affects the lungs. Pertussis bacteria are spread from person to person through the air. A person with pertussis develops a severe cough that usually lasts four to six weeks or longer. Pertussis can be very serious, especially to infants.

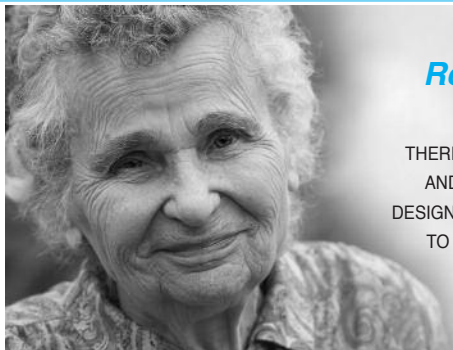
The first symptoms of pertussis are similar to a cold: sneezing, a runny nose, possibly a low-grade fever, and a cough. After one or two weeks, the cough becomes severe as noted by the following:

- The cough occurs in sudden, uncontrollable bursts where one cough follows the next without a break for breath.
- Many children will make a high-pitched whooping sound when breathing in after a coughing episode. Whooping is less common in infants and adults.
- During a coughing spell, the person may vomit.
- The person's face or lips may look blue from lack of oxygen.
- The cough is often worse at night.
- Between coughing spells, the person seems well, but the illness is exhausting over time.
- Coughing episodes gradually become less frequent, but may continue for several weeks or months until the lungs heal.

Anyone of any age can get pertussis. Teenagers and adults account for more than half of reported cases. Cases in school-age children continue to increase, especially in ages 9-12 years. Older children and adults usually have less severe illness, but they can still spread the disease to infants and young children.

Vaccination is the best prevention. There are two pertussis vaccines: DTaP and Tdap. Both vaccines are given in combination with tetanus and diphtheria. Your age determines which vaccine you receive. DTaP is given to infants and children under age 7. After age 7, Tdap is given. The new recommendation is to give a Tdap booster at age 10 and not wait for the pre-teen checkup at age 12. Teens, adults, pregnant women and grandparents should receive a single dose of Tdap, regardless of when their last traditional tetanus booster was given. This is especially important if they will be in contact with infants younger than 1 year of age. Ask your health care provider about Tdap at your next visit.

Pertussis can be treated with antibiotics, but treatment may not cure the symptoms. However, antibiotics will reduce the spread of disease to others. Pertussis bacteria die off naturally after three weeks of coughing. If antibiotics are not started within that time, they are no longer recommended. Antibiotics can also be given to close contacts of persons with pertussis to prevent or lessen the symptoms.



~ CHORE PROVIDERS NEEDED ~

Renville County is currently serving 21 elderly or disabled people that need help with lawn care and/or snow removal.

THERE IS A GREATER NEED FOR ADDITIONAL CHORE PROVIDERS IN THE BUFFALO LAKE, SACRED HEART, DANUBE, FAIRFAX, AND MORTON AREAS. CHORE PROVIDERS ARE CONTRACTED, DO NOT NEED TO BE PROFESSIONALS, AND ARE ABLE TO DESIGNATE WHICH COMMUNITIES THEY ARE WILLING TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO AS WELL AS THE SERVICES THEY ARE WILLING TO PROVIDE. ANYONE IN THE COMMUNITY THAT IS WILLING TO BE A CHORE PROVIDER FOR LAWN CARE AND/OR SNOW

REMOVAL IS ENCOURAGED TO CONTACT:

Liz at Renville County Human Services at (320)523-2202 to request an application.

**Renville
County**

500 E. DePue Ave.
Olivia, MN 56277

Phone: 320-523-3710

Email: admin@co.renville.mn.us

Web site: www.co.renville.mn.us

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FARM to School Program Implemented at BLHS and Cedar Mountain Schools

Food Service Directors and staff at BLHS and Cedar Mountain Schools are excited and enthused to learn more about how to improve the nutrition in the school cafeteria with local, fresh produce from gardeners and farmers. Cindy Kopishke and Amy Koupal with Cedar Mountain Schools and Lisa Swanson at BLHS will be connected with local gardeners with the help of Renville County Public Health for fresh produce, grains, cheeses and meats for the Farm to School program.

The USDA has mandated in 2012, that schools across the country serve more fruits, vegetables and whole grains and less carbohydrates and fats. BLHS and Cedar Mountain through the Farm to School program will be getting extra help and guidance do to just that, through a grant from RC Hospital Foundation awarded to Renville County Public Health (RCPH). This grant will allow Michelle Breidenbach, Health Educator at RCPH to assist schools to implement the Farm to School program. Farm to School connects schools (K-12) and local farms with the objectives of serving healthy meals in school cafeterias, improving student nutrition, providing agriculture, health and nutrition education opportunities, and supporting local and regional farmers.

All three of these components can be met with the help of school staff, community members and volunteers that are interested in

helping their local school become a healthier school. In addition to the benefits of choosing from a variety of locally grown foods, students will eat more fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables and learn about where their food comes from, all while supporting local farmers. By connecting farms and schools, children, schools and farmers all benefit.

Combined with nutrition education and a reinforcement of healthful eating habits, the program emphasizes the long-term goals of positively influencing children's life-long eating habits and combating childhood obesity. From 1980 to 2000 obesity rates for children tripled in the U.S.

Farm to School programs have been shown to increase the number of fruits and vegetables kids eat by one daily serving, and they carry these habits home to their families.

Students are being offered more choices for fruits and vegetables with the new program that BLHS and Cedar Mountain Schools Food Service staff will be implementing. At Cedar Mountain Schools their first crop of locally grown fruit was apples from Holmberg Orchard in Vesta, MN.

Breidenbach developed a newsletter for the school to share with students and families, explaining where the apples came from, a recipe for using apples, nutritional facts about apples and a few trivia notes about apples. BLHS High School's first Farm to School produce was acorn squash from a local producer. Swanson will have squash on the menu twice during the month along with sharing a newsletter similar to the apple newsletter for the school and community.

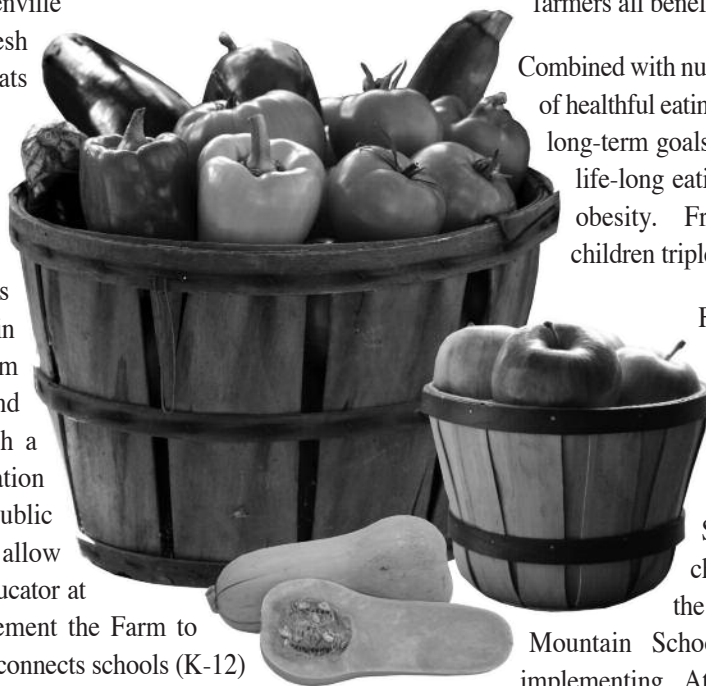
Farm to School has three components, often referred to as the three C's:
CAFETERIA, CURRICULUM AND COMMUNITY

FREEZING FOR FOOD!

Please plan to contribute to the **DONATION DRIVE** for The Renville County Food Shelf
December 5th, 6th and 7th
at B & D's Grocery Store in Olivia, MN.

You may donate cash or food!

If you would like to volunteer to help the food service staff and teachers with these programs or would be willing to learn how you could contribute, please contact Michelle Breidenbach, Renville County Public Health at 320-523-3784.



THE FOOD SHELF HOURS:

**Mondays 1pm to 3 pm, Wednesdays 10 am to 3 pm,
Thursdays 5 pm to 7pm and Fridays 1 pm to 3 pm.**

Fire Does Not Stop Renville County Food Shelf!

The Renville County Food Shelf was up and running just 10 days after a fire destroyed the building space that housed the food shelf and all of the contents including food, freezers, refrigerators, and shelving on Sunday, September 9th. The new location for the Food Shelf can be found in Olivia, in the Dirk's Home Theater building owned by Steve Dirks on south 9th street (main street). The Food Shelf Board President, Ardis Wertish, and all of the volunteers are so grateful for all of the donations received to get the Food Shelf up and running again. Donations have been made in the form of food, money, shelving, grocery carts, two freezers and volunteer workers. The donations have come from food drives conducted by local school children, local churches, local grocery stores, and local citizens. Out of the area businesses have also made generous donations. One unexpected donation was made by a metro area school led by the school's football coaches and team members who held a food drive that resulted in a donation of 1,000 pounds contributed to the Renville County food shelf.

Mary Schroeppfer, Food Shelf Board Treasurer, was amazed at how quickly local citizens reached out to help, "people were calling Food Shelf Board Members to assist with the food shelf's needs while the fire was still burning! The day after the fire the Food Shelf Board members met and decided to start over in the new space on main street in Olivia." Not only did the County Food Shelf volunteers need to find a new space to house the food, but they also cleaned up the mess created by the fire in the old building.

The food shelf board is amazed and very grateful for the outpouring of support from local community members and businesses. If you would like to assist the Food Shelf please contact Ardis Wertish by phone 320-523-1515.



(Left to Right) Mary Schroeppfer, Food Shelf Treasurer, Mary Ann Lewis Food Shelf Manager, and Esther Wittenberg, Food Shelf Volunteer, with the help of volunteers setup food in the new Olivia Food Shelf Location.



Esther Wittenberg, Food Shelf Volunteer of Olivia, showing squash and pumpkins that were donated by a local gardener.

REACH OUT FOR WARMTH PROGRAM

Fall is upon us and the Energy Assistance Office is seeking donations for our Reach Out for Warmth Program. The Reach Out for Warmth Program is a community based fuel program. Its success is dependent upon the support of our communities. All the funds that are raised through the Renville County Energy Assistance Program are used in Renville County to help people with heating emergencies. Examples of the emergencies are a household in need of a delivery of fuel oil or propane or to help a household avoid a disconnection of a connected utility. These emergencies often are caused by a death in the family, loss of a job or a



disruption in the household's living arrangement.

The guidelines for the Reach Out for Warmth Program are higher than the

Energy Assistance Program so with these funds we can help households that would otherwise "fall through the cracks".

DONATIONS CAN BE SENT TO:

Renville County Energy Assistance Program
105 South 5th Street, Suite 203H
Olivia, MN 56277

Please specify ROFW on the check.

If you have questions regarding ROFW please contact the Energy Assistance Program staff at 320-523-5522.



HOUSING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWS

500 E Depue • Olivia, MN 56277 • (320) 523-3656 • www.renville.com

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Blandin Community Leadership Program BIRD ISLAND, HECTOR, BUFFALO LAKE

Blandin Community Leadership Program (BCLP) moves forward with the Eastern Renville County communities of Bird Island, Hector, and Buffalo Lake in the recruitment phase of seeking applicants. If you are connected to eastern Renville County and would like to apply, we encourage you to do so. You can obtain a form on line www.blandinfoundation.org or call the HRA/EDA office 320.523.3656 to learn more about the benefits, process, or to obtain an application. In the HRA/EDA office both Chris Hettig and Susie Lang are (BCLP) graduates and can help you learn more about the program.

Earlier this year individuals from the communities of Sacred Heart, Renville, Danube and Olivia were trained and have returned to the western communities working on projects such as youth leadership, Corn Capital Days and the Sacred Heart School Project. The Tatanka Bluffs Project www.tatankabluffs.com is a spin off by several BCLP graduates of both Renville and Redwood Counties. The communities of Morton, Lower Sioux, Franklin, and Fairfax have made an application to the Blandin Foundation and hope to receive approval in the spring.

The goal of the Blandin Community Leadership Program is to develop and train a broad base of local leaders to build healthy communities. Topics covered during the retreat include: identifying and describing community issues and opportunities, effective interpersonal communication, building social capital, appreciating personality differences, managing interpersonal conflict, understanding community power, mobilizing community resources and goal setting.

The BCLP training programs are supported entirely by the Grand Rapids based Blandin Foundation whose mission is to strengthen rural Minnesota communities through grants, leadership development programs and public policy initiatives. The program is FREE of charge to participants because of an \$89,800 Blandin expenditure that covers all costs for food, lodging, and tuition at the retreat and workshops.

For additional details contact the Renville County HRA/EDA 320.523.3656 or Becky Adams at 877.882.2257

Area Students Experienced Farm Life During Harvest



Left Photo ~ Sugar Beets being lifted as the school bus follows along at Keith McNamara's farm in rural Bird Island.



Right Photo ~ 5th Graders from BOLD and St. Mary's learn about corn harvesting from Brad Nere in rural Danube.

The second Renville County Harvest Field Trip was held in October with over three hundred seventy five 5th and 6th grade students from area districts Buffalo Lake, Hector & Stewart (BLHS), BOLD, St. Mary's, Renville County West, Yellow Medicine East, Cedar Mountain and Redwood Valley participating along with their FFA Leaders. The students experienced hands-on harvest and livestock tours featuring Corn Harvesting, Sheep Farming, Dairy Farming, Sugar Beet Harvesting and a bus tour at the Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Co-Op in Renville.

Area ag-experts were on each tour bus to help facilitate the tour, encourage a better understanding of farming, harvest and livestock and to answer participants' questions.

The field trip was made possible through the efforts of ProAg of Renville County and the Ag/R.E. Committee and their desire to educate area students about farms and livestock. The focus of the field trip was to increase the understanding of daily farm operations, to expand the knowledge of where food comes from and to promote Ag leadership in area youth.

BLANDIN COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Renville County is working towards a better tomorrow with the help of its residents and leadership program (BCLP). Applications are currently being accepted for the communities of Bird Island, Buffalo Lake & Hector.

Please go to www.bclp.blandinfoundation.org to learn more and submit your application.

APPLICATION DEADLINE is NOVEMBER 19th

Contact Becky Adams at Blandin for more information (218) 327-8736

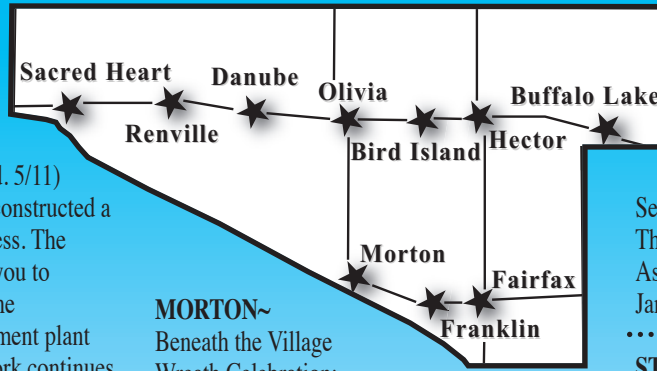
NEWS FROM OUR NEIGHBORS

FRANKLIN ~

Thank you to everyone that was involved in Catfish Days and the KMS Memorial Ride. 2012 was another successful year! The Franklin bridge renovations (Co. Rd. 5/11) are complete. Darris Dehncke has constructed a new building for his trucking business. The CSAH 29 project went well, thank you to everyone for their patience during the construction. The city's water treatment plant will be undergoing renovations. Work continues on the Xcel Energy substation on Hwy. 19.

HECTOR~

The City of Hector will be celebrating its 135th Anniversary in 2013. A committee is meeting to plan events starting with the Corn Chaff Celebration in 2013 and running for a year with events planned for each month. BLHS will also be having an all school reunion July 13, 2013. Watch for more details to come. If you are interested in helping, call city hall at 320-848-2122. Hector EDA has lots for sale at \$100 a lot plus assessments. Call City hall with questions 320-848-2122.



MORTON~

Beneath the Village Wreath Celebration: November 16-18
Mistletoe Madness Thursday, December 6
Vendors for events - call city 507.697.6912

FAIRFAX~

Fairfax Santa Day is Friday, Dec. 7 beginning with free bingo at 3 pm at the Fairfax Auditorium. Visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus will be from 5-7 pm along with refreshments, crafters, fire truck rides and free kid's crafts. The skyline of Fairfax now includes a new water tower located next to the Fairfax Power Plant in south Fairfax.

Residents are enjoying the completed street projects. Patrons are now able to use Park Street businesses' front doors again. The new Fairfax Library celebrated its Grand Opening with flag raising by the Fairfax Honor Guard and ribbon cutting on

September 8.

The annual Fairfax Civic and Commerce Association banquet is being planned for later January, 2013.

STAFF MEMBERS

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

HRA/EDA BOARD

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



Housing Program Proposes Priority for Elderly and Disabled Applicants

The Renville County HRA/EDA has submitted a proposal to HUD to change the order of admission of applicants to the

Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rental assistance program. The HCV program provides assistance to low income households to rent houses and apartments from private landlords. The tenant pays at least 30% of their income for rent and utilities and the HCV program pays the remainder of their costs up to a reasonable maximum cost based on unit size. We only receive funding to assist up to 84 households at any given time, so there is always a waiting list with a wait that can range as high as 18 months.

Our current procedures give priority for admission to households who live or work in Renville County. We have proposed to HUD that local applicants with a head of household who is elderly or disabled receive a higher priority for admission than other applicants. If HUD approves this change we expect it to go into effect on or after January 1, 2013.

Due to a larger than normal number of departures from the program in recent months, the waiting list is currently shorter than normal. To apply, residents should call 320-523-3656 or stop by our office on the lower level of the courthouse in Olivia. Maximum income to apply ranges from \$21,000 for a household of one person of \$39,600 for a household of eight. Applicants must undergo a background check and income verification. For a list of apartment complexes in the county and information regarding which ones offer rental assistance see our web site at www.renville.com or call 320-523-3656 or 888-665-3745.

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.

INTEREST RATES AS LOW AS 2 %!

Building & Plant Renovations
Energy Efficiency Upgrades
Permanently Retaining Existing Jobs
Creating New Permanent Jobs
Working Capital Loans
Start-up

For more info contact, **Chris Hettig**,
Renville County HRA/EDA.

Phone: (320) 523-3656 or E-Mail:
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 (RBE) Program.

Holiday Events in Renville County

November 10	Holiday Happenings, Hector
November 16-18	Beneath the Village Wreath, Morton
November 29-December 1	Holiday Happenings, Olivia
December 6	Mistletoe Madness, Morton
December 6	Unforgettable Christmas, Hector



Water Protection and Management

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MAKE A SPLASH!

Upgrades Can Increase Profits while Saving Water and Energy

For a limited time, Minnesota businesses and organizations have the opportunity to dramatically cut their water and energy use with simple, inexpensive upgrades. The Water Saving Bulk Buy Program is being sponsored by Minnesota Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) and Niagara Conservation. The purpose of the program is to encourage businesses, schools, churches, community centers, restaurants, and anyone else using a pre-rinse spray valve to upgrade to a more efficient spray valve. Pre-rinse spray valves are used to remove food before dirty dishes are placed in the dishwasher or sanitizer. Upgrading to the latest models of valves can cut water and energy use by 57% by decreasing the amount of water needed to achieve fast and

When to Upgrade? Pre-Rinse Spray Test

Determine if you should upgrade your commercial kitchen pre-rinse spray valve by testing the flow rate of your current spray valve. To measure your spray valve flow rate, spray water into a graduated bucket for 15 seconds and multiply the amount of water collected by 4. You should upgrade your valve if it uses more than 2 gallons per minute.

easy cleaning; the results - saving hundreds of dollars a year on water and energy bills!

The Water Saving Bulk Buy Program is also offering faucet aerators, an even less expensive and easier upgrade. Faucet aerators screw on to the end of a faucet to regulate the flow of water.

The average Minnesota can save 21,000 gallons and \$180 per year for each aerator replaced. By purchasing valves and aerators through the CERTs' Water Saving Bulk Buy Program, businesses and organizations can take advantage of the special bulk rate discounts being offered through Niagara Conservation. This includes 60% off the cost of spray valves (now \$28; typically \$68) and 75% off faucet aerators (now \$0.50; typically \$2). To learn more about the MN Water Saving Bulk Buy Program or to place an order, visit <http://splash.mncerts.org>.

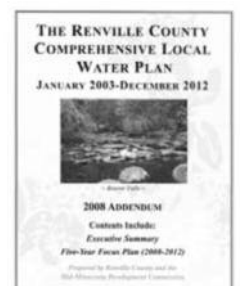


Upgrading to a more efficient pre-rinse spray valve can decrease the amount of water needed to rinse dishes.

Source: Minnesota Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs)

Update in Progress for Water Management Plan

The concept for a locally driven Water Management Plan came as a result of concerns raised during the 1977 drought, which eventually led the Minnesota Legislature to create the Comprehensive Local Water Planning and Management Act of 1985. The goal of the Act was to develop and implement water management activities at the county level that would protect and improve surface water, ground water, and related land resources. Under the direction of the Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR), Renville County adopted its first Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan in 1991. Since then, the Plan has been amended several times to incorporate updated information, new research, and revised implementation activities. Base grant funding was provided from BWSR through the Natural Resource Block Grant program to assist with local implementation of the Water Management Plan. Renville County is once again in the process of updating the Water Management Plan. A public survey was conducted in May 2012 to begin the



"Water Management Plan" continued on back.

"Water Management Plan" continued from front.

process of identifying current water resource issues. Comments received from the public, other local governmental units, and state and federal agencies will be incorporated into the updated Water Management Plan. The Renville County Water Management Task Force will guide the goals and direction of activities proposed for the revised Plan. Once a draft of the Plan is completed a public hearing will be scheduled to present the Plan and to receive additional comments from the public.

To view the current Renville County Water Management Plan, please visit www.co.renville.mn.us and search "water plan". For more information regarding the Water Management program, please contact Renville County Water and HHW Management at (320) 523-3706.



Preparing for winter? Don't Forget to Read The Label!

Winter is approaching. As you prepare for cold temperatures, remember to properly store paint cans, driveway sealants, and countless other household chemicals. Each year numerous products are ruined simply because they were exposed to freezing temperatures. Proper storage maximizes the useable life of a product and reduces the amount of household hazardous waste (HHW) needing to be disposed of. Read the labels for proper storage. Remember to store these items in a cool, dry place out of the reach of children and pets. If you cannot use up hazardous products, please call the Renville County Landfill and HHW Facility at (320) 523-1144 for free disposal options.

storm drains is not treated or cleaned before it drains directly to surface waters. Leaves, soil, pet waste, and other runoff from yards can also negatively affect water resources.

Girl Scout troops from the BOLD service unit recently completed a Centennial Day of Service project in the City of Bird Island to raise awareness about water quality. Scouts and their families placed curb decals near storm drains on city streets to educate residents about storm sewers. The decals indicate, "No Dumping: Drains to River" reminding people of the connection from storm drains, to drainage systems and creeks, and finally the Minnesota River. Similar decals have been used in other communities in Renville County, but this is the first time curb markers have been placed in Bird Island.



Girl Scouts recently placed decals near storm drains in the City of Bird Island.

The Girl Scouts efforts to improve water quality also involved raking and bagging leaves and grass from the storm drains and distributing door hangers in neighborhoods to raise awareness. Several area organizations sponsored the Service Project including the Hawk Creek Watershed Project and Renville County Water & HHW Management.



WATER MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE

The Renville County Water Management Task Force will utilize public and agency comments to guide the update of the Renville County Water Management Plan. Water Management Task Force members and affiliates include:

Ralph Novotny	Commissioner – District 1
Paul Setzepfandt	Commissioner – District 3
Lamont Jacobson	Commissioner – District 5 (Alternate)
Liz Lanning	Sacred Heart
Jon Wogen	Olivia
Brad Aaseth	Bird Island
Gerald Fluck	Buffalo Lake
Jim Schafer	Renville Soil & Water Conservation District
Charles Kubesh	Buffalo Creek Watershed District
Diane Sander	Crow River Organization of Water
Heidi Rauenhurst	Hawk Creek Watershed Project
Brady Swanson	High Island Creek Watershed Project
Jill Bruns	Renville County Public Health
Garry Bennett	MN DNR, Area Hydrologist
Tom Fischer	MN Board of Water and Soil Resources
Tara Latozke	Renville Soil & Water Conservation District
Diane Mitchell	Renville County HHW & Water Management
(Coordinator)	

Local Girl Scouts Take Action to Raise Water Quality Awareness

Many people mistakenly believe that water entering a city storm drain is treated at a local wastewater treatment plant before it discharges to a local drainage ditch, creek, or river. This belief may lead to the improper handling or disposal of chemicals down storm drains from such items as motor oil, fertilizers, or other hazardous products. Water entering



Girl Scouts from the BOLD service unit recently completed the Centennial Day of Service: 2012 Take Action Project by improving local water quality.