



JEFF MARLOWE

New County Public Works Director's Vision for the Future

Jeff Marlowe is the new Renville County Public Works Director and County Highway Engineer. Jeff began his new position with Renville County this past October. The Public Works Division includes the Renville County Highway Department and the Renville County Landfill and Recycling.

Marlowe's vision for the Highway Department is "Maintain and improve the quality and safety of Renville County roads."

ROADS AND BRIDGES

In an effort to achieve improved ride quality, Marlowe is utilizing techniques to rehabilitate roads that are more efficient and cost savings. Currently, the cost to reconstruct one mile of road is approaching \$1,000,000. As the availability of aggregates used for road construction decreases, a more economic method is to recycle the inplace materials. Marlowe explains, "This process uses the inplace materials to their full potential. The materials are still good, they just need some attention. The economic advantages are found through purchasing fewer new materials, less travel distance as the work is completed on site, and lower fuel costs."

Marlowe says, "The ride quality of Renville County roads constitutes more than the roads, it is also includes 218 bridges located on CSAH (County State Aid Highway), County and Township roads." County bridge construction dates back to the 1910's, with the majority built during the 1950's and 60's. Most of the early bridges were constructed using concrete and steel. They are sturdy structures but were not built to handle some of today's loads. The bridges constructed in the 1950's and 60's were mainly timber bridges. Since 2002, the Renville County Highway Department has replaced 45 bridges. The new bridges are being constructed utilizing the latest

technology. This technology includes GPS survey systems, computerized concrete mixing, precast structures, and lab testing data. Marlowe says, "For small to medium channels, precast concrete box culverts are replacing the majority of the timber bridges and steel culverts. For larger channels, cast in-place concrete bridges are the only choice. Concrete is the prime material choice for new bridge construction due to its availability, durability, and cost." Marlowe's goal is to continue to replace 4-5 bridges every year. He has bridge designs complete so when money becomes available from outside sources, projects are ready to go. Marlowe pointed out another important contributing factor for the road ride quality and safety is the work of the highway maintenance crew. Much of their time and effort is spent on road maintenance. The crew maintains close to 700 miles of CSAH and County roads. In the summer, some of the operations include crack sealing, patching, seal coating, graveling, and blading gravel roads. In the winter, the crew works mainly with snow and ice control. Each maintenance unit maintains roughly 40 centerline miles of road with 11 trucks and 7 motor graders.

LANDFILL AND RECYCLING

Marlowe's vision for the Landfill and Recycling is "Ensure the demolition component of the landfill is available several years into the future and to provide an efficient municipal waste and recycling process for the County and its citizens." Marlowe explains, "To address future landfill and recycling needs, Renville and Redwood Counties have partnered to form the Redwood/Renville Regional Solid Waste Board (RRRSWB). The RRRSWB received a Minnesota Business Development Capitol Project grant to build, staff, and operate a joint regional material recovery facility. Early 2015 is the planned completion date for the facility with recycling to begin soon after. The facility will be located along Highway 19 west of Redwood Falls, a central location for both counties." The Renville County landfill should be able to hold another 5 years of municipal solid waste and 20 years of demolition materials. The transfer station will then be utilized for municipal solid waste and recycling for both

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CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

counties. Renville County will continue to provide curbside recycling and drop boxes in all 10 communities, and at the landfill. Marlowe is planning to have members of the maintenance crew and landfill staff work with the Household Hazardous Waste office to hold another County Wide Cleanup at the County Landfill on June 3rd and 4th, 2014. Last year's Cleanup brought in 3450 tires, 452 appliances, 618 T.V.'s and electronic devices, and 511 computers, for a total of 106.62 tons that were transported to the recycling facility in St Martin, MN.

GOALS AND FUTURE CHALLENGES

Marlowe's goals for the future include: decreasing the number of deficient bridges by continuing to have an aggressive bridge program; increase the number of miles of 10-Ton per axle County roads by creating a stronger pavement structure; increase recycling rates; and incorporate new methods with old methods by using science, data, and technology to drive decisions for public works projects. As Marlowe reflects on future challenges he says, "I will need to balance budget constraints with projects that need to be completed, with an eye on changing maintenance and construction techniques. Long range planning will need to be considered as we move ahead."

Jeff grew up in Renville County in the City of Fairfax and attended GFW schools. He went on to obtain a 2 year degree in drafting and design from St Cloud Technical College. Marlowe started working in the Public Works Division in 2002. After working for the county, he liked the work and decided to pursue an engineering degree. He then went on to earn a Bachelors of Science in Civil Engineering Degree from Minnesota State University, Mankato and has a Professional Engineering License. Marlin Larson, the previous County Highway Engineer, was Marlowe's mentor. To earn his license Marlowe was required to work under a Professional Engineer for 4 years after completing his education, and pass a written test. Marlowe reflects, "civil engineering is a great and growing field". Marlowe says, "He looks forward to the future as the employees in our department care about their work and want to see a job well done. From the assistant engineers to the maintenance and construction crew, they all take pride in their work. Whether we are working on building a new

bridge, paving, mowing, patching or moving snow we want to see a good

Renville County Accepts Credit Card and E-Check Payments

end product."

services and even real estate taxes. Renville County selected the company Point & Pay, a wholly owned subsidiary of North American Bancard, so individuals may use credit cards, debit cards, and electronic checks online, by phone, or in-person to make payments. In addition to the county fees, an individual paying by one of these methods will be charged a convenience fee. Acceptable credit cards include Discover, MasterCard, Visa, and American Express. See convenience fees below. The Renville County License Bureau has been accepting credit card and debit cards since 2011 for services through the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) vendor U.S. Bank at no cost to the county. A 2.45% convenience fee is added to the transaction when a credit card is used in the license bureau. The accepted cards include Discover, MasterCard, and Visa. *Note: American Express is not an available

The county is starting to accept these payment methods in selected departments including the Auditor/Treasurer, Environment and Community Development, Landfill, Recorder, and Sheriff for the following services:

Auditor/Treasurer

- · Real Estate Taxes
- Election Filing Fees
- Licenses (Auctioneer, Hawker/Peddler, Liquor)

option with the license bureau.

• Plat Books

Environment & Community Development

- Application/Permit Penalty
- Conditional Use Permit
- Feedlot Permit
- Interim Use Permit
- Lake Allie RV Camping
- Land Use Permit
- Miscellaneous
- Park Fees
- Parks-Woodcutting Permit
- SSTS Application
- Variance Application

Landfil

- MSW (Household Garbage)
- Demolition Material
- Appliances, Ballasts, Batteries, Tires, etc

License (Through DPS)

- Driver's Licenses, New & Renewals
- Identification Cards, New & Renewals
- Instruction Permits
- Game and Fish Licenses
- Motor Vehicle Transactions
- Watercraft, Snowmobile, & ATV Licenses

Recorder

- Abstracting Fees
- Birth & Death Certificates

Renville County is embarking on another payment method the public can use to pay for county provided

- Document Recording Fees
- Marriage Licenses
- Miscellaneous
- Passport Acceptance Fee
- Passport Pictures
- UCC Filings

Sheriff

- · Booking Fees
- · Civil Process
- · Drug Testing Fees
- Jail Pay to Stay Fees
- Huber/Work Release Fees
- Permits to Carry Firearms

Watch for updates as additional departments accept credit card payments.

Convenience Fees:

Real Estate Taxes Only:

Credit Cards:

2.5% of Tax Paid with a minimum fee of \$1.50 **E-Checks:**

Flat fee of \$1.50 up to \$10,000.00 Flat fee of \$10 for anything over \$10,000

License Bureau

Credit Cards:

2.45% of Transaction

All other County Departments

Credit Cards:

0-\$50 - Fee \$1.50 \$50.01-\$100 - Fee \$3.00

Each additional \$50 - Additional Fee \$1.50

E-Checks:

Flat fee of \$1.50 up to \$10,000.00 Flat fee of \$10 for anything over \$10,000

Renville County Commissioners and Administration Appreciates

the work of all county employees and recognizes employees who have reached their 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, and 40 years of service in 2013.

years

Larry Breitkreutz, Veterans Van Driver
Al Eischens, Transit Bus Driver
Ryan Jensen, Dispatcher/Jailer
Susie Lang, HRA/EDA Development Assistant
Bonnie Lund, Social Worker
Peggy Markgraf, EAP Specialist
Larissa Maurice, Admin Assistant-Extension
Melanie Netland, PHN
Jolene Panitzke, PHN
Jeremy Pharr, Dispatcher/Jailer
Judy Revier, Dispatcher/Jailer
Melissa Swyter, Dispatcher/Jailer
John Thompson II, Appraiser I
Ned Wohlman, Jail Program Director

1 Cyears

Tom Hendrichs, Deputy Sheriff/Investigator Deb Kramer, Deputy Auditor/Treasurer Sue Lindquist, Home Health Aide Jill Oslund, CST/Family Based Service Provider Lora Waibel, Child Support Supervisor Renea Weigel, Social Worker

15 years

Rita Berg, Case Aide
Mark Erickson, Director of ECD
Stacie Haney, Social Worker
Brad Klinghagen, Mechanic
Carol Loftness, LPN
Diane Mitchell, Water Quality/HHW Coordinator
Larry Posl, Highway Maintenance Worker II
Julie Sander, Dispatcher/Jailer

2Cyears

Cindy Grosklags, Social Services Supervisor Sandy Robideau, Case Aide Tom Robinson, Highway Maintenance Worker II Marykay Sinner, PHN Supervisor

25years

Cindy Firme, PHN Supervisor
Randy Johnson, Highway Maintenance Worker
Doug Pomplun, Deputy Sheriff
Shar Widmer, Social Worker

3Cyears

Bob Schenjken, Highway Maintenance Worker II

35years

Lynn Harrier, Social Worker Sharon Lidbeck, Legal Assistant Ellen Smith, Abstracter Larry Zupke, Ditch/Ag Inspector

4Cyears

Linda Goblirsch, Deputy Registrar



SEASONAL RV CAMPING Lake Allie Park

Daily RV Camping Rate ~ \$24.00 per Night or Monthly - \$410.00 Summer Season RV Camping Rate ~ \$1,110.00 (June 1st - August 31st) Fall Season RV Camping Rate ~ \$1,800.00 (May 1st - October 31st) Includes water, electricity & use of the dump station

To make your reservation call the Division of Environment and Community Development at **320-523-3768**



Smoking Remains Our Number One Health Risk

Smoking tobacco remains the greatest cause of preventable death and disease in Minnesota. In addition to being addictive, smoking increases the risks of heart disease, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, and many types of cancer. Babies born to mothers who smoke are at an increased risk of low birth weight and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). Environmental tobacco smoke, also called secondhand smoke, has health consequences for those who are exposed.

While the proportion of Minnesotans who smoke cigarettes decreased steadily in the past decade, it still is a major public health issue. Currently about 16% of adults smoke in Renville County. Despite a decline in smoking among younger students, a surprisingly large percentage (42%) of Renville County 12th graders reported smoking cigarettes in the last 30 days (2011 Student Survey). There is a striking decrease in smoking prevalence with increasing years of education. In 2012, 33% of people who did not graduate from high school were current smokers, compared to 25% of high school graduates, 20% of people who completed some college, and only 8% of college graduates. The prevalence of smoking also decreases across household income levels. In 2012, 30% of adults who lived in a household with an annual income of less than \$25,000 were current smokers. In households with an income of \$75,000 or more, the prevalence of smoking was 10%.

EMERGING ISSUES

Electronic cigarettes, especially use among youth, are a significant public health concern. Use of electronic cigarettes, also known as e-cigarettes, is rapidly increasing among middle and high school students. According to the Center for Disease Control, the number of students who use electronic cigarettes more than doubled from 2011 to 2012. Unlike conventional cigarettes, these electronic versions do not burn tobacco. Instead, users inhale vaporized liquids containing nicotine and other chemicals.

The medical community does not yet fully understand how e-cigarettes impact the health of users and those exposed to vapors. E-cigarettes are also unregulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and their use is not defined as "smoking" in the Freedom to Breathe Act. However, studies show that vapors from some e-cigarettes contain harmful chemicals known to cause cancer, and nicotine, which may be highly addictive and negatively impact adolescent growth and brain development. Until more is known about the long-term health effects of e-cigarettes, it cannot be assumed they are safe for their intended use.

Legalizing marijuana is being considered in many parts of the nation. Marijuana smoke contains significantly higher levels of toxic compounds than tobacco smoke. It only goes to reason that research finds that marijuana smoke is linked to many of the same kinds of health problems as tobacco smoke.

OUITTING

Benefits to smoking cessation may even be realized within just minutes of quitting:

- Within 20 minutes, heart rate and blood pressure drop.
- Within 12 hours, the carbon monoxide level in the blood drops to normal.
- Within 2-12 weeks, circulation improves and lung function increases.
- After 1-9 months, coughing and shortness of breath decrease.
- After 1 year, the risk of coronary heart disease is about half that of a smoker's.
- After 5 years, stroke risk is reduced to that of a nonsmoker 5 to 15 years after quitting.
- After 10 years, the risk of lung cancer falls to about half that of a smoker and the risk of cancer of the mouth, throat, esophagus, bladder, cervix, and pancreas decreases.
- After 15 years, the risk of coronary heart disease is that of a nonsmoker's.

For more information about smoking cessation resources, contact *Renville County Public Health at 320-523-2570 or public health@co.renville.mn.us.*

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

ECRWSS

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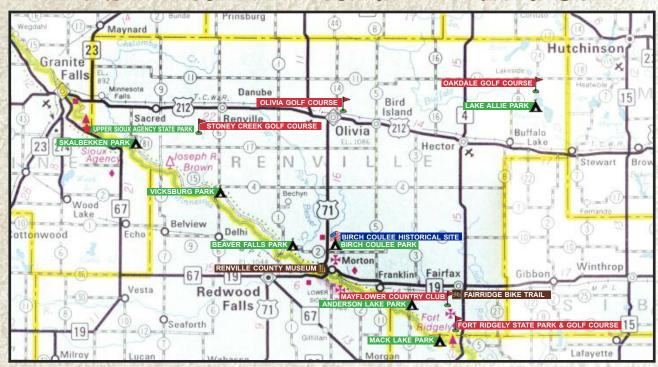








ENJOY OUR GREAT TRAILS WITH



Experience the natural beauty of Renville County by visiting our more than 1,300 acres of parkland featuring primitive stands of trees, wildflowers, native prairies, and wildlife. See unique bedrock outcroppings that were formed 3.6 billion years ago along the banks of the Minnesota River. Extend your visit by camping in one of our rustic or RV sites. Group camping and park shelter reservations are available. Call Environment and Community Development at 320-523-3768 for more information. Check out the local county museum in Morton to learn about the county's rich history. Take a bike ride on the FairRidge Trail between Fairfax and Fort Ridgely. Golf on one or all five of the local golf courses.

Enjoy all that Renville County has to Of

RENVILLE **COUNTY PARKS**

- Skallbekken
- Vicksburg
- Beaver Falls
- Birch Coulee
- Anderson Lake
- Mack Lake
- Lake Allie

STATE PARKS & HISTORICAL SITE GOLF COURSES

- Birch Coulee Historical Site
- Fort Ridgely State Park
- Upper Sioux Agency State Park

MUSEUM

Renville County Museum Call: (507) 697-6147 www.renvillecountyhistory.com

BIKE TRAIL

FairRidge Bike Trail Call: 800-535-3160 www.cityoffairfax-mn.gov

- Fort Ridgely Golf Course Fairfax, MN (507) 426-7840
- Mavflower Country Club Fairfax, MN (507) 426-9964
- Oakdale Country Club Buffalo Lake, MN (320) 587-0525
- Olivia Golf Course Olivia, MN (320) 523-2313
- Stoney Creek Golf Course Renville, MN (320) 329-8400

ADDITIONAL REC. OPPORTUNITIES:

- Tatanka Bluff Website www.tatankabluffs.com
- Minnesota River Valley Website www.mnrivervalley.com





RENVILLE COUNTY CLEAN-UP

Renville County Landfill & HHW Facility

32877 County Road 4, Olivia

Tuesday, June 3rd Wednesday, June 4th 7:00 am - 6:00 pm

Collections WILL NOT be held at other sites.

Reduced Collection Fees for Renville County Residents Only!

~ ITEMS TO BE COLLECTED AND FEES ~

(FEES ARE PER ITEM)

Business/

Resident Non-Resident

TIRES: Including tires with rims

Car \$1 Car \$5
Truck \$4 Truck \$10
Tractor front \$4
Tractor rear \$10
Tractor rear \$25

APPLIANCES: \$4 \$6

Including refrigerators, stoves, dishwashers, water heaters, washers, dryers, dehumidifiers, air conditioners, freezers,

microwaves, etc.

ELECTRONICS/ COMPUTERS:

3

Including televisions, printers, monitors, hard drives (CPUs), fax machines, VCRs, stereos, etc. Fees are per item.

FLUORESCENT BULBS: Free 50¢ per bulb*

Please box large quantities.

BALLASTS: Free \$4

RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES:

Free Free

Including Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cd), Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH), Lithium Ion (Li-ion),

and Small Sealed Lead (Pb).

CELL PHONES: Free Free

*Free bulb disposal for Renville County businesses. Please box large quantiies

LANDFILL & HHW Facility

CAN ACCEPT:

- General household garbage for a fee.
- Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) from RESIDENTS ONLY. HHW includes paint, stains, pesticides, aerosols, mercury thermometers, and cleaners. There is no-cost for residents to dispose of HHW. Businesses should contact the HHW Facility for information on disposal options.
- Recycling items including glass, paper/newspapers, cans, plastic containers, and flattened cardboard.

ITEMS THAT **WILL NOT** BE ACCEPTED:

- Clothes left in washers or dryers and food left in refrigerators or freezers.
- Wastes the HHW Facility cannot accept such as explosives, radioactive wastes, unknown chemicals, or hazardous waste from businesses.



2014 Renville County Recycling Schedule

- Olivia
- Bird Island / Danube
- 🚖 Holiday NO SERVICE
- Renville / Sacred Heart
- Morton / Franklin / Fairfax / Buffalo Lake
- Hector

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ΜΕΣΣ CEUCAYΓ

Good Neighbor's You've Come To Trust 1-800-246-7630 • www.wcsanitation.com

SEPARATE YOUR RECYCLE INTO TWO CATEGORIES:

Please **NO PLASTIC BAGS** of any type.

NEWSPAPER, MISC. PAPER & FLATTENED CARDBOARD:

Recyclable Paper: Newspapers, misc. paper, magazines, catalogs, direct mail advertisements, envelopes of all types, books, file folders, notebooks, paper of all colors, fax sheets, onion skin paper, clean paper bags, cereal, cake, chips, cracker boxes, pop boxes, flattened corrugated cardboard, phone books.

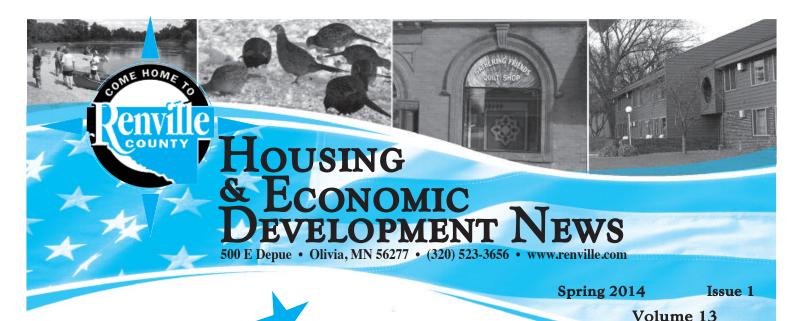
Non Recyclable Paper: String, twine, cotton ball, paper towels, napkins, cups, coffee filters, tea bags, waxed paper, candy & gum wrappers, cellophane, foil, plastic wrap, carbon paper, wallpaper, bathroom waste paper, photos, slide transparencies.

METALS/GLASS/PLASTICS:

Recyclable Metal/Glass/Plastics: Metal food cans, aluminum beverage cans, glass bottles and jars (All Colors), All plastic containers, including lids. Please rinse all listed items.

Non Recyclable Metal/Glass/Plastics:

Aerosol cans, paint cans, light bulbs, pens, window panes, mirrors, pottery, ceramics, disposable razors, needles, toys, dishes, glasses, medicine containers, plastic cups, silverware, trays, plastic wrap, foam cups, foam packaging, cardboard milk containers.



2013 HIGHLIGHTS

RENVILLE COUNTY HRA/EDA

- **★**Disbursed \$320,000 in federally funded Section 8 rental assistance payments for households renting from private landlords. These funds assisted an average of 73 households per month with an average annual income of \$12,400.
- **★***Made* \$31,000 in federally funded building improvements to the 25 housing units in its Public Housing program. Projects included bathtub replacement, flooring replacement and laundry equipment.
- ★Funded 15 home improvement loans totaling \$45,255. Since it began in 2003, the Homeownership Program has made a total of 111 loans totaling \$279,980 to assist in 94 home improvement projects and 17 home purchases.
- ★Provided \$4,500 in scholarships to high school seniors
- *Provided 14 Economic Leveraging Fund (ELF) grants totaling \$25,360 for improvements to storefront remodels, additions and equipment and supply purchases.
- ★ Provided funding and staff support for recreation and tourism promotion, including the 7 Renville County Parks and National Minnesota River Valley Scenic Byway.
- ★ Provided staff support for local, county and state trail initiatives including the National Blueways Designation Application.
- **★**Provided promotion for community activities, celebrations and Farmers' Markets.
- ★ Provided a grant to the Minnesota Valley History Learning Center's summer youth program.
- **★Promoted Farmers' Markets** in Buffalo Lake, Fairfax, Hector, Morton, Olivia and Renville
- ★ Provided Mack Lake and Anderson Lake County parks with outdoor display kiosks featuring information about county parks, local communities and tourism.
- ★ Sponsored the Fall Harvest Field Trip for area 6th grade students via the Agriculture and Renewable Energy Committee and ProAg of Renville County.

New Renville County Maps!

The new official county highway maps are hot off the press! They feature both colorful maps of the county highway system in our townships across the county and also individual

city maps of Hector, Morton, Buffalo Lake, Franklin, Fairfax, Olivia, Sacred Heart, Renville, Danube and Bird Island. Included in the map is a directory of Government Offices, colorful photos of several attractions in the county, and a list of golf courses. The beautiful Renville County Parks are prominently featured as well as several historic and recreational attractions in and near the Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byway. For your free copy please stop in the Public Works/Highway Department on 3rd Floor of the Renville County Office Building or the Renville County HRA/EDA office on 1st Floor of the Renville County Courthouse in Olivia. Maps will also be available at the City Halls in the County this spring. You may also visit the Renville County website: www.co.renville.mn.us and follow a link to a digital copy of the new map. So many new places to explore and old favorites to revisit!

Rental Assistance Waiting List, **RE-OPENS**

After a year of waiting, Renville County households struggling to pay rent and utilities are once again able to sign up for the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher waiting list. The waiting list re-opened April 1, 2014 after being closed since April 1, 2013. The closure was due to the length of the list and the fact that funding did not allow issuance of any new vouchers in the county during 2013.

MAXIMUM INCOMES ARE:

PEOPLE	INCOME	PEOPLE	INCOME
1	\$21,250	5	\$32,800
2	\$24,300	6	\$35,250
3	\$27,350	7	\$37,650
4	\$30,350	8	\$40,100

The waiting list is open on a limited basis, with enrollment by the following households accepted:

- Currently live, are employed or attend school in Renville County.
- One of the heads of household is 62 years of age or older.
- One of the heads of household is disabled.

While the waiting list has re-opened, households can expect a substantial wait before reaching the top of the list. Once households reach the top of the list they must complete a full application, including income verification and background check, before being approved for assistance. Rental properties must undergo inspection and rent reasonableness determination before assistance begins.



NEWS FROM OUR NEIGHBORS

FAIRFAX ~ Lisa Schweiss was honored as the Fairfax Volunteer of the Year at the Fairfax Civic and Commerce Association Banquet. Also recognized were 2013 New Business Owners Dan Blaalid of Jimmy's Pizza and owner/publishers Denise Peterson and Dave Bonsack of the Standard-Gazette & Messenger.

MORTON ~ The Morton Pub and Eatery plans to reopen this spring under new ownership. On Monday, April 28th, there will be a Morton on the Move meeting featuring guest speakers and upcoming developments at the Morton City Hall from 6:30-8pm.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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 Efficency 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 (RBEG) Program.

Would Your house like a little TLC?



Maximum incomes

1 person \$41,450 2 people \$47,350

3 people \$53,300

4 people \$59,200 5 people \$63,950

6 people \$68,650

7 people \$73,400 8 people \$78,150

Do you need a new furnace, or maybe some insulation or windows? Those are just some of the eligible improvements under the Renville County Homeownership Program. Homeowners in Renville County may qualify for a no-interest loan of up to \$5,000 for half the cost of their home improvement project. Downpayment assistance also available to first time homebuvers. For more information call Renville County HRA/EDA at 320-523-3656.

