



# Renville

## COUNTY MESSENGER

CONNECTING YOU WITH YOUR COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Volume 13

Fall 2014

Issue 3

## Meet Renville County's Emergency Management Manager *Mike Hennen*

All Minnesota Counties are required to have an Emergency Management Manager. Mike Hennen was hired in 2002 as a private contractor to fill this role for Renville County. Previous to this position with the county, Mike had been with the U.S. Army where he served 30+ years. While discussing his approach to emergency management for the county Mike explained, "I have used my military experience as a model to get Renville County on track with the State of Minnesota's Emergency Management requirements." Mike began in this position working 10 hours per week but the job now requires more of his time and is due to weaknesses identified in the 9/11 Commission Report. Much of the work Hennen does in this area has evolved from the former Civil Defense program to Emergency Management.



*Mike Hennen working on a Emergency Plan.*

Hennen's emergency management responsibilities consist of the development and maintenance of an **Emergency Operations Plan(EOP)**, overseeing the warning system, coordinating emergency services, assisting other county departments and organizations, administering an Emergency Operations Center, acting as the liaison between local, state and federal agencies, creating and conducting emergency training plans and keeping the public informed. In addition to the EOP, Hennen works with **MITIGATION** before or after an emergency. An example of mitigation before an emergency is the inclusion of a "Safe Room" in the new Renville County Hospital and Clinics building. The safe room will be utilized to keep patients and staff safe during an emergency situation, such as a tornado. A large percent of Hennen's time is spent in **PREPARATION** for an emergency event. To prepare for an event, Mike identifies the worst sort of event that could happen and how to respond it. Then Mike

CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

conducts training drills throughout the county to prepare county and city staff, emergency responders, law enforcement, councils, and elected officials to deal with a catastrophic event. Mike has recently conducted training drills with the BOLD



*In 2011, Mike received the "Preparedness Award" from the Association of MN Emergency Managers.*

School District and the Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative. These simulated emergency event drills not only included participation by the staff at the school and the beet plant but also included local members of law enforcement, medical responders, and fire departments. Hennen's work doesn't stop when the training drill is over. He spends time evaluating the training after the drill and if something didn't work well he makes adjustments to plans and future training drills. In regard to planning and preparing Mike said, "when planning for an event I plan to get the right people for the people who need help".

Hennen has to be ready at all times to be in **RESPONSE** mode for any type of an emergency event. Responding to this type of an event involves working the plans that he has developed. When there is an emergency event in the county Hennen is responsible for the interoperability communications for 10 government agencies including Law Enforcement, Fire Services, Emergency Medical Services, Healthcare Agencies (county hospital and nursing homes), Public Health Services, Public Works, handling of Hazard Materials, Government Administrations (including the County and cities boards and

councils), Emergency Management and the Public Safety Communications (warning systems). Hennen is the System Administrator for Renville County's ARMER (Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response) system and utilizes it to communicate with these government agencies when there is a natural or manmade disaster. ARMER is an 800 MHz system that operates on a statewide backbone that utilizes Minnesota Department of Transportation towers. Hennen has assembled a mobile command center by utilizing a former Heartland Express bus to aid in responding to emergency events. The mobile command center can be used as a mini dispatch center for communications when such an event occurs. The command center aids leaders in a unified response and brings in members of law enforcement, emergency management services, local fire departments, and dispatch.

After an event has occurred, Hennen is involved in **RECOVERY** for short and long term needs. He is involved in recoveries such as restoring utilities and helping a community recover its members' basic needs such as finding a place for individuals to stay. He strives to help people and their communities get back to normal or even an improved state. In addition to recovery work Hennen is involved in damage assessments after disasters. When the assessments reach a monetary threshold, he presents the county commissioners with a request to declare a state of emergency. The request is then sent to the State Homeland Security Department. It is reviewed and then forwarded to the Governor and then may be forwarded to the President. Hennen has worked with 4 Presidential Disaster Declarations in the past 5 years. The 2010 and 2011 spring floods that caused county and township road damage, and county drainage system damage. The July 1, 2011 small tornadoes and strong winds storm that caused \$30,000,000 in damage. And most recently the 2014 heavy rains that again caused damage to county and township roads and to the county drainage system. When there is a Presidential Disaster Declaration, Hennen works with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the State Homeland Security representatives to document the damage. FEMA's mission is to work with damage caused by disasters to uninsured government infrastructure including roads, ditches and rivers.

Mike philosophized about his work, *"I train for big events and assist with small events. I plan for the worst and hope for the best. If you think it won't happen, it will. You cannot prepare for anything if you don't believe it will happen."*

## FREEZING FOR FOOD!

Please plan to contribute to the **DONATION DRIVE** for The Renville County Food Shelf  
**December 3rd, 4th and 5th**  
at B & D's Grocery Store in Olivia, MN.

*You may donate cash or food!*

# Energy Assistance Guide

The rising heating costs for the upcoming heating season is a concern for all of us. The Energy Assistance Program assists households with some of the costs of heating their homes. The program can also use 30% of the assistance to pay toward the electric bill. Energy Assistance Program Staff are encouraging households to set up a monthly payment plan with their heating company.

The Energy Assistance Program is taking applications for the upcoming heating season. If you own your home, the program may pay for emergency home furnace repairs or replacements. The program may also pay up to \$500 in emergency benefits. The program is based on how much it costs to heat your home, the number of people in your home and the amount of gross income all household members received in the previous three months from the month you apply. For an application, please call Renville County Energy Assistance at 320-523-5522 or 320-523-2202.

La cuesta de caliente esta ascendiendo por la estacion de invierno afectan todos. La programa de energia ayuda casas con parte de la cuesta de caliente para su casa. Podemos usar 30 porcentaje de asistencia a pagar la cuenta de eléctrica. Nosotros estamos promover todas casas pagan cada mes con una planea de pagos entre su compania de caliente.

El Programa de la Ayuda de la Energía toma las aplicaciones para la temporada que calienta.. La programa puede pagar \$500 en beneficios emergencias. Si usted posee su hogar, la programa puede pagar para las reparaciones de horno de hogar de emergencia o reemplazos. El programa se basa en cuánto cuesta para calentar su hogar, el número de gente en su hogar y la cantidad de los ingresos que todos recibieron en los previos tres meses del mes que usted aplica. Para una aplicación, por favor llamada Renville County Energy Assistance en 320-523-5522 o 320-523-2202.

## Income Guidelines/Guias de Ingresos

Household Size/Miembros de Hogar	Maximum 3 Month Income/Maximo ingresos de 3 meses
1	\$5,838
2	\$7,635
3	\$9,431
4	\$11,228
5	\$13,024
6	\$14,821

## 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 has driveway access onto the lake. **All other county parks will be closed to motorized vehicles from November 1, 2014 through April 15, 2015.** Snowmobiling is allowed on signed trails specifically designated for such use within each park. Services such as

restrooms and trash pickup will not be available during these months. **Archery deer hunting is allowed this year by permit only** in Skalbekken, Vicksburg, Beaver Falls, Mack Lake, and Anderson Lake County Parks from **November 2nd – December 31st**. 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**



# Understanding Car Seats for Children



*MN State Law requires all children under age 8 (unless 4'9" tall) to be riding in a car seat.*

Renville County Public Health

provides a free monthly car seat class to all Renville County residents. This class teaches the importance of car seats, how to correctly install, and actual placement in your vehicle correctly. Low income families, including PrimeWest members, can receive a free car seat after attending the class.

Car Seat education for fostercare and daycare is provided as a joint effort between Renville County Public Health and Kandiyohi County Health & Human Services. This class is approved to meet the required car seat training for licensing. The class is offered six times a year alternating in Olivia and Willmar with a \$25 per person fee. To sign up for the class: Call 320-523-2570 and request a CARS brochure, then fill out and mail to the appropriate site.

## *Upcoming class:*

\* December 3 5:45-8:45pm Renville County Government Center- Olivia

*84% of car seats and 41% of booster seats are not used correctly. Get educated!*

## STEPS TO SECURE A CHILD:

- Shoulder Strap placement
- At or below shoulders (rear-facing position)
- At or above shoulders (forward-facing position)
- Pinch Test: Straps need to be tight
- Should not be able to pinch any slack at shoulders
- Retainer clip at armpit level
- Crotch strap
- Close to crotch but not sitting on it
- Infant Seats only: read manual for correct handle bar placement when transporting
- Booster seats: lap belt on hip bones, shoulder belt across chest

*The primary role of a seat belt is to keep the occupant in the vehicle. If ejected, children are 25x more likely to be killed. If ejected, adults are 4x more likely to be killed.*

Even though MN law requires a booster until age 8, many children are not tall enough to safely go without one. Children need to be 4' 9" tall before they anatomically fit a car's normal seatbelt. When is it safe to use the seat belt alone?

- 1) Does the child sit all the way back against the vehicle seat?

- 2) Does the child's knees bend comfortably over the edge of the vehicle seat?
- 3) Does the seat belt cross the shoulder between the neck and the arm?
- 4) Does the lap belt ride on the hip bones next to the thighs as opposed to the abdomen?
- 5) Does the child's feet touch the floor of the vehicle?
- 6) Can the child stay seated like this for the entire ride?

Answering "No" to any of these questions means the child still needs a booster seat with the lap/shoulder safety belt.

*Motor Vehicle Crashes are the #1 cause of death for children under the age of 14.*

Visit the following websites for more information on car seat safety:

\* *Car Seats Made Simple*

<http://www.carseatsmadesimple.org/>

\* *National Highway Transportation Safety Association (NHTSA)*

<http://www.safercar.gov/parents/Car-Seat-Safety.htm>

\* *Mayo Clinic*

<http://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-living/infant-and-toddler-health/in-depth/car-seat-safety/art-20043939>

## 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)

ECRWSS

## Postal Customer

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EDDM RETAIL



# HOUSING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWS

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

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## Linda Larsen Retiring from Renville County HRA/EDA



*Commissioner Bob Fox presenting Linda with a county service award.*

Linda Larsen, Housing Coordinator/Economic Development Assistant has announced her retirement at the end of the year. She will be missed not only by county employees but also by the long list of clients she has served in the housing field since 1976. Linda worked for the Minneapolis Community Development Agency (MCDA) and received the Greater Minneapolis Metropolitan Housing Corporation's annual award for her outstanding contribution to the development of affordable housing. She worked for MCDA for nearly 20 years, then moved to rural Sacred Heart and was employed by Granite Falls Clarkfield Advocate Tribune and became the News Editor and was also a freelance writer for the Canby News.

It was our good fortune in 2002 that Linda accepted the position with the Renville County HRA/EDA to manage the Section 8 Rental Assistance Program, Public Housing Program and assist with the development of a comprehensive Housing Study for Renville County. Under Linda's leadership, the Housing Revolving Loan Fund Program was developed and has provided 126 Renville county homeowners with nearly \$326,000

to purchase or rehab homes. Larsen also developed the Cultural Diversity Grant Program and the Economic Leveraging Fund (ELF). Linda received the 2004 Outstanding Achievement Award from the Minnesota National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials as a result of her experience, wisdom, and creativity in developing new tools to assist housing and community development.

Linda's spontaneous laughter, wit, and kindness will be missed by all here in the county. And no one would be surprised to see her finding new ways to help others when she retires. Above all, we know she touched thousands of clients throughout her career, offering gentle but firm guidance working with people that needed a place to call HOME.

## Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services, Inc. (CMJTS) and the Minnesota WorkForce Center

Are you a business or jobseeker in Renville County? Are you looking for new employees or are you searching for a job? If so, you will want to connect with Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services, Inc. (CMJTS) and the Minnesota WorkForce Center.

Minnesota WorkForce Centers help jobseekers find employment, businesses grow and find workers, and anyone at any stage explore and plan careers. The WorkForce Centers closest to Renville County are located in Willmar, Litchfield, Hutchinson, and New Ulm. You can find a complete list of WorkForce Centers services and locations at [www.mn.gov/deed](http://www.mn.gov/deed). Perhaps you'd like to learn about available jobs close to your home or across the state. Or, as a business, you are looking for new employees. From any Internet location, go to

[www.MinnesstoasWorks.net](http://www.MinnesstoasWorks.net) to find job listings or to post your job opening. Both are free services.



CMJTS' business services also focus on providing a pool of qualified workers for today's jobs. Businesses and jobseekers benefit from CMJTS' on-the-job training (OJT) program. OJT provides reimbursement to the employer for extraordinary costs associated with training an eligible new employee and provides support services to the new employee who may need assistance to successfully start the job. OJT is a win-win for both the business and the jobseeker. CMJTS can also connect you to other business resources to start and or grow your business.

For more information about CMJTS' services, contact:

Cathy Baumgartner at [cbaumgartner@cmjts.org](mailto:cbaumgartner@cmjts.org) or go to [www.cmjts.org](http://www.cmjts.org).



## NEWS FROM OUR NEIGHBORS

### BIRD ISLAND ~

**December 5th** - Old Fashioned Christmas

### BUFFALO LAKE ~

**November 15th** Lions Belgian Waffle Breakfast 10:00-1:00 at Community Center

**November 20th** - 18 Wheelers Relay for Life holiday with wine tasting at Community Center from 7:00 - 9:00pm.

**December 6th** - Santa's Breakfast 11:00 - 1:00 at the Fire Hall

**February 11th - 22nd** WinterFest

**FRANKLIN** ~ Several areas of the city have been improved with the removal of blighted houses, clean up continues at the former ConAgra plant, and improvements are being made at the Xcel substation. The infrastructure projects have been completed and the streets are again all drivable. The city's emergency services has added 7 new firefighters completing Firefighter 1 & 2 training, added a new EMT, and law enforcement is being contracted with the city of Morgan. Thank you to everyone that attended Catfish Derby Days and the KMS Memorial ride. Next year we will celebrate the 40th year of Catfish Derby Days, mark your calendar for **July 24th - 26th, 2015** and plan to join us for a memorable weekend!

**FAIRFAX** ~ Fairfax EDA is sponsoring a "Shop Local" campaign through December where individuals can win \$50 in Fairfax Dollars by spending \$50 in a participating Fairfax business. Latest winners include Agnes Mathiowetz and Ashlee Haugan.

-BNJ Auto Repair, owned by Joel Carlson, has opened on Highway 19 in the shop connected to Mike's Auto Parts.

-Tattoo artist Kelly Crooks is the proud owner of Sojourner Tattoo and Piercing, located on Park Street in the downtown area next to Fairfax Agency.

-November 20th will be "Shop Fairfax" where the businesses will be open late for your shopping convenience.

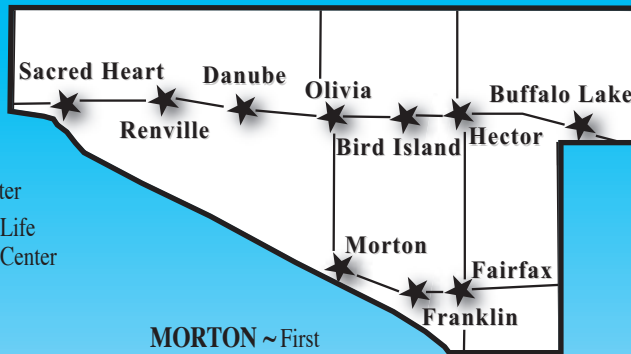
-Say hello to Santa on Friday, **December 5th** at the Fairfax Lions Den on Park Street.

**HECTOR** ~ **November 15th** - Holiday Happenings **November 28th**, Come to Prairie View for Marathon Community Bingo starting at 10 a.m. ending at 3:30 pm. A light lunch will be provided to our guests.

**December 3rd**, Come join Prairie View at Pete's Grill for monthly blood pressure checks

**December 4th** - Unforgettable Christmas

**December 11th-14th** - Bring a canned food item and vote for your favorite decorated Christmas tree at Prairie View.



### MORTON ~ First

dollar certificates presented to: River Valley Arms & Ammo, Green Lighthouse Photography, Morton Pub. We also welcome Step Saver and Morton Metal Works!

**November 21st - 23rd** - Beneath the Wreath Event

**December 4th** - Mistletoe Madness

**OLIVIA** ~ The Olivia Economic Development Authority is now offering new build-ready residential lots for sale along Fairview Avenue West. Please contact Susie Lothert at 320-523-2361 or slothert@olivia.mn.us for more details and sales information. Builder/developer inquiries welcome.

**December 4th - 6th** Holiday Happenings

**SACRED HEART** ~ A lot has been happening in Sacred Heart the last few months. On October 2nd, the Sacred Heart Historical Society held a celebration placing the Sacred Heart School on the National Register.

Sacred Heart also acquired a new business in town - Yourlabus.com offering genetic testing for a wide variety of diseases that have been highly associated with specific genetic mutations. Using the DNA gathered from a simple swab sample from inside the cheek, they are able to screen your DNA to determine whether or not you carry a mutation. This information empowers you to take proactive healthcare measures.

### Upcoming events include:

On **November 20th**, the Lions will be hosting Bingo in the Community Center starting at 7:00 p.m. The Legion will have a pancake feed the same evening starting at 5:00 p.m.

On **December 13th**, the Sacred Heart Santa Day will be held (Tentative plans include activities at the Sacred Heart School from 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.) Free Refreshments, Lunch, Jaycee's Drawing 10:00 a.m., Santa, Candy bags for Kids, Live Christmas Music, Kid's Crafts and Games, and a Scavenger Hunt. Also, at the Museum on the same day, from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., there will be free refreshments, kid's crafts, and a Scavenger Hunt.

## 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.

## Would your house like a little TLC?



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 homebuyers. For more information call Renville County HRA/EDA at 320-523-3656.

### 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



## Centennial Apartments

161 2nd Avenue East • Franklin, MN



### One Bedroom Apartments Rent Based on Income

Family Size	Income Limits
1	\$34,000
2	\$38,850



Amenities Include:  
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)

# WINTER SURVIVAL IN YOUR CAR

## ❄️ SURVIVAL TIPS

Everyone should be cautious about traveling in extreme winter weather. Cold, snow and ice are demanding on cars, drivers and passengers. Cold affects metal, rubber and other materials in your car. It can reduce the effectiveness of your vehicle's battery by at least 50 percent. It can freeze tires and keep them flat on the bottom for at least the first half-mile of travel. It can thicken your car's lubricants, making the engine work too hard.

Most importantly, extreme winter weather can threaten your life. Follow these tips to stay safe as you drive in Minnesota.

### Plan Before You Travel

Simple planning can save you trouble and even save your life.

### Prepare Your Vehicle

Be sure your vehicle is in good winter driving condition. Take along the emergency equipment referred to in this handout and keep it accessible.

Keep your gas tank at least one-half full.

### Be Aware of the Weather

Listen to forecasts, road reports and storm warnings. Dress appropriately. Pack extra scarves and mittens. Allow extra time for trips in severe weather.

### Make Yourself Easy to Find

Tell someone where you are going and the route you will take. Report your safe arrival. If you stall or get stuck, tie a colored banner (from your winter survival kit) to your antenna or hang it out a window. At night, remove the cover from your dome light and turn the light on. Road crews or rescue units can see a small glow at a considerable distance. To reduce battery drain, use emergency flashers only if you hear approaching vehicles. Keep one person on watch; don't let everyone rest at the same time.

### Stay in Your Vehicle

Walking in a storm can be very dangerous. You might lose your way or become exhausted, collapse and risk your life. Your vehicle is a good shelter.

### Avoid Overexertion

Shoveling snow or repositioning your car by pushing it takes a lot of effort in storm conditions. You could risk heart attack or injury. Take it easy!



### Keep Cool — Two Ways

1. Calm down and think. The storm will end and you will be found.
2. Don't work enough to get hot and sweaty. Wet clothing loses insulation value, making you susceptible to hypothermia.

### Keep Fresh Air in Your Vehicle

It's much better to be cold and awake than comfortably warm and sleepy. Wet or wind-driven snow can plug your vehicle's exhaust system and cause deadly carbon monoxide gas to enter your vehicle. Don't run the engine unless you are sure the exhaust pipe is free of snow. Keep snow off the radiator to prevent the engine from overheating.

### Stay Warm Without Fuel

Keep your blood circulating freely by loosening tight clothing, changing positions frequently and moving your arms and legs. Huddle close to one another. Rub your hands together or put them in your armpits or between your legs. Remove your shoes occasionally and rub your feet.

### Don't Expect to Be Comfortable

The challenge is to survive until you're found.

## ❄️ WINTER DRIVING TIPS

### Be Able to See and Be Seen

Clean frost and snow off all windows, mirrors, lights and reflectors. Equip your car with good wiper blades and keep an ample supply of windshield washer fluid. If visibility is poor, use headlamps.

### Get a Feel for the Road

When you first start out, accelerate carefully to test wheel-spin and brake gently to test skidding.









## Low-Interest Loan Program for Wells

Financing is available for low-interest loans to repair or replace damaged, noncompliant, or contaminated wells located in Renville County. Funding is provided through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Best Management Practices (BMP) loan program to provide financial assistance to landowners who have problems with their existing wells.

Examples of eligible well concerns include:

- Contamination from bacteria or excessive nitrates.
- Chemical contamination from sources such as pesticides, gasoline, or solvents.
- A well too close to a septic system.
- A cracked or collapsed well casing.
- Contamination due to flooding.

Loans cannot be issued to refinance a previously installed well, install a well for a new home, to resolve low-yield issues, or to eliminate naturally occurring minerals in the water such as iron, magnesium, manganese, or arsenic. Loan terms are for 10 years with an interest rate of 3%. The loan amount will be added to property taxes as a special assessment. The construction or repair of a well must be completed by a licensed well contractor. Properly constructed wells ensure a clean, safe water supply and also help to protect groundwater quality.

For more information, please contact Renville County Water & HHW Management at (320) 523-3706.

## Cleaning Out the Garage or Basement? FREE Disposal Available for Paints, Stains, Pesticides, Fluorescent Bulbs....and More!

Household hazardous wastes (HHW) are household chemicals or products that are often labeled: caution, warning, danger, poisonous, or "Do Not Throw in Trash." Common hazardous waste includes paints, stains, solvents, cleaners, pesticides, fluorescent bulbs, rechargeable batteries, aerosols, and mercury thermometers. These products can pose a threat to people or the environment if not disposed of properly.

**So What Can Be Thrown Away?** Small amounts of latex paint can be dried in the can and then disposed of in the trash with the lid off. Once latex paint is dry, it is no longer considered hazardous. Alkaline batteries and incandescent (regular) light bulbs can also be disposed of in the garbage.

**Free Disposal?** HHW can be disposed of for no charge at the Renville County Landfill & HHW Facility.

For more information including directions or drop-off hours, please call (320) 523-1144 or visit [www.co.renville.mn.us](http://www.co.renville.mn.us). Renville County residents can also dispose of HHW for no charge at the Kandiyohi County Regional HHW Facility located in Willmar. Please call (320) 231-3587 for more information.

**Fluorescent Bulb Disposal.** The Renville County Landfill & HHW Facility also collects used fluorescent bulbs year-round from Renville County residents and businesses at no charge. Large quantities of bulbs need to be boxed for transportation purposes. If you do not have boxes available, please contact the facility for free box and/or drum supplies.

**119,735**

The number of fluorescent light bulbs collected by the Renville County Landfill & HHW Facility from 2003-2013. All shapes and sizes of fluorescent bulbs are accepted at the facility. The entire bulb is then recycled including the glass, metal, and, most importantly, the mercury.



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

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 usable life of a product and reduces the amount of household hazardous waste (HHW) needing to be disposed of. Read the labels for proper storage. For free disposal options, please call the Renville County Landfill and HHW Facility at (320) 523-1144.

## What to Do With Wet Farmland?

Do you have drowned-out spots in your field? Drain tile is not your only option. Pattern tiling is effective at improving crop yields, but the additional water added to our ditches and streams can create problems for downstream neighbors. The Renville County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) administers a variety of programs that offer alternatives to agricultural

*"Wet Farmland" continued on back*



Don't know what to do with those old or no longer working string of holiday lights? Renville County, along with sponsoring drop sites, will once again participate in the *Recycle Your Holidays* program this holiday season.

*Recycle Your Holidays* is a statewide light string recycling program that was created in Minnesota. The program coordinates recycling efforts with Minnesota-based vocational centers to provide jobs and training opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Every part of the light string is recycled with local recycling companies. The program also accepts electrical cords, such as extension cords or cords from appliances. For more information:

(320) 523-1144 or (320) 523-3706  
[www.recycleminnesota.org](http://www.recycleminnesota.org)



**Recycle your old holiday light strings and electrical cords through January 31<sup>st</sup> at the following collection sites:**

**Maynard's Food Center**  
 304 North Main Street, Renville

**Beckler's Hardware Hank\***  
 245 South Main Street, Bird Island

**Danube Upholstery**  
 315 North Main Street, Danube

**Farm Mercantile**  
 110 1<sup>st</sup> Street SE, Fairfax

**Olivia Hardware\***  
 124 South 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Olivia

**Hill's Unique Gift Shop\***  
 Highway 212 East, Hector

**K & S Millwrights**  
 217 East Hall Avenue, Buffalo Lake

**City of Morton – City Office\***  
 221 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Morton

**Franklin State Bank**  
 278 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue East, Franklin

**City of Sacred Heart – City Office**  
 309 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Sacred Heart

**Cenex C-Store**  
 100 Highway Avenue South, Hector

**Renville County Landfill & HHW Facility\***  
 32877 County Road 4, Olivia

*\*Locations offering year-round collection*

**Consider replacing holiday lights with energy-efficient LED light strings.**

### *“Wet Farmland” continued from front*

drainage. Our most popular programs set-aside or “retire” marginal farmland in either the form of a 10-15 year Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) rental contract and/or a perpetual conservation easement such as the Reinvest in MN (RIM), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), and Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). These options can be very lucrative for landowners, while providing desperately needed water quality improvements and wildlife habitat. Payments generally match current land values, yet the land remains in private ownership. This option provides income for farmers to reinvest in more productive farmland.

Funding for government conservation programs can be inconsistent. If you don't want to wait for a program like RIM/CREP, you can take matters into your own hands.

Options exist for landowners to restore wetlands on their property without government assistance to create a “wetland bank.” You can then sell “credits” or acres from your wetland bank to another farmer who wants to convert a wetland to productive farmland. Wetland restorations can be as simple as removing existing drainage features and reseeding a depression with native wetland plants. Once the credits are sold, the wetland bank must be permanently protected. Payments for restored wetland credits vary, and prices are negotiated between landowners. This option can be equally as competitive as the previously mentioned conservation programs.

If you are tired of trying to farm those drowned-out spots, please contact Ryan Clark at Renville SWCD by phone at 320-523-1559, email [Ryan.Clark@mn.nacdn.net](mailto:Ryan.Clark@mn.nacdn.net), or stop by our office in Olivia to discuss alternatives to tile drainage.



Above: A field located in Renville County with an area of “drowned-out” crops.