



# Renville

## COUNTY MESSENGER

CONNECTING YOU WITH YOUR COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Volume 14

Spring 2015

Issue 1



## Central Community *TRANSIT*

As of January 1, 2015 Renville County's Heartland Express Transit system merged with the Kandiyohi Area Transit system. The merged transit system will be known as Central Community Transit (CCT) and will be under the direction of a Joint Powers Agreement and Board. Local Renville County riders should notice no difference in the current transit services provided by CCT. Riders will see new logos on the buses as they receive the same great service from the same dedicated drivers. Renville County has operated a public transit system since 1996. The county's transit system has grown over the last 19 years from one part-time dispatcher, one bus driver, one bus and one volunteer driver to 10 full and part-time employees who work as the coordinator, dispatchers, and bus drivers operating with 6 buses and 10 volunteer drivers. Ridership has increased significantly over time from a total of 10,140 trips provided by buses and volunteers in 1997 to 44,480 trips in 2010 to a projected 46,000 trips in 2015.

The development of the county's transit system was a direct result of a transportation needs study conducted by the Mid-Minnesota Development Commission for Renville, Meeker, McLeod and Kandiyohi counties in 1992. It was concluded in the study that Renville County had the greatest need for a public transit system. A county-wide transit planning task force was formed and then County Commissioners Mary Page and Ray Knudson asked Jerry Brustuen, Human Services Director to head up the transit project. The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MN DOT) contributed 80% of the capital needs and 85% of the operational costs to start the Renville County's Heartland Express transportation system. The first riders were transported to shop at local business and to medical appointments. As the system grew more and more county residents began to ride the buses. Riders now include school age children going to daycare before and after school; riding to and from Summer Recreation programs; adults going out for coffee, shopping and medical appointments; and

CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE



*Renville County CCT Employees Front(L-R) Jackie Garberich, Robin Schwer, Back(L-R) Phil Standfuss, Glen Rodel, Al Eischens, Greg Erickson, Rachel Schneiderman, and Jane Schroeder. (Not pictured Amber Ball and Amanda Zupke)*

package pickup and delivery for individuals and businesses.

Renville County's transit system is one of 76 similar systems in greater Minnesota with the majority of the funding provided by MN DOT. MN DOT has recently completed The Greater Minnesota Transit Plan 2010-2030 establishing a 20-year strategic plan setting the direction for the future of public transportation. MN DOT's vision for the State's transportation

is: "To provide alternatives to driving alone and allow people to reduce energy consumption, live independently and participate fully in Minnesota's communities and economy. " In an effort to continue the success of public transit systems in greater Minnesota, the plan urges counties to cooperate, collaborate, and consolidate with neighboring counties. The primary objectives for consolidating transit systems are to reduce redundancies, regionalize the service delivery design, and improve efficiency. The merging of county transit systems will eliminate the redundancies of administrative tasks such as Safety and Security policy development and maintenance, Civil Rights adherence, route development, employee background checks, and drug and alcohol testing.

In an effort to continue planning for the future, MN DOT has hired the consulting firm, Nelson Nygaard, to study the transportation needs of Meeker County in conjunction with the newly formed CCT over the next nine months. The study will involve input through an advisory committee made up of local leaders from Willmar, Kandiyohi, Renville, and Meeker counties. The study will focus on transit services, efficiencies, fare structure and the exploration of other regional transportation needs. The study will include the collection of data on local operations, statistics, performance, capital resources, funding, and financial planning. Nelson Nygaard has worked extensively in the U.S. and abroad in the transportation realm and will deliver a final report and recommendations later this fall for the CCT and Meeker Transit systems.

## Visit Renville County's New Website

The county's website has a fresh new look with several enhancements. The home page is updated to reflect the latest news and current county events. From the home page County Commissioners' meeting agendas and minutes can be accessed, along with departmental directories, GIS data, county maps, public transportation information, and much more. The website includes online features to pay county real estate taxes, access recorded real estate documents with a prepaid subscription, and an interactive app to access GIS data. Several departments offer online credit card payments for the services they provide. For example the Environment and Community Development division accepts credit cards for Conditional Use Permit Applications, Feedlot Permits, Camping Fees, etc. for a complete list see the website. The new website also offers fillable online forms. Public Health Services offers online fillable forms for specific applications such as tobacco licensing, event food stands, schools, and more. The County Recorder Department offers online fillable forms to apply for a marriage license, a birth certificate and a death certificate. Human

Services has fillable forms and links for Social Services provided for children and adults, Child Support, Public Assistance and Energy Assistance. The Public Works Division provides information on bid lettings, county road and bridge maps, the landfill and recycling, and Ag and drainage systems. Each county department has a section devoted to information and links for the services they provide. The website also offers an extensive section on frequently asked questions.

**Check out the website at: [www.co.renville.mn.us](http://www.co.renville.mn.us).**





# Renville County Commissioners and Administration Appreciate

*the work of all county employees and wish to recognize employees who have reached their 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 years of service and those employees who retired in 2014.*

## 5 years

*Jayson Firle*, Highway Maintenance Worker II  
*Sara Folsted*, County Administrator  
*Jeremy Mettling*, Highway Maintenance Worker I  
*Jane Schroeder*, Transit Dispatcher  
*Thomas Swyter*, Deputy Sheriff  
*Rebecca Wulf*, Dispatcher/Jailer

## 15 years

*Doug Bruns*, Deputy Assessor  
*Nathan Johnson*, Assistant Ditch/Ag. Inspector  
*David Torgelson*, County Attorney

## 25 years

*Jerry Brustuen*, Human Services Director  
*Rita Felton*, Public Health Nurse  
*Elaine McDowell*, Public Health Nurse  
*Gail Miller*, County Recorder  
*Jan Steffel*, IT Specialist  
*Dawn Walkow*, Legal Assistant

## 10 years

*Karla Koplin*, Deputy Sheriff  
*Scott Refsland*, Environmental Officer  
*Zachary Robideau*, Human Resource Coordinator  
*Kyle Schlomann*, IT Coordinator  
*Phillip Standfuss*, Transit Bus Driver

## 20 years

*Amy Agre*, Public Health Office Manager  
*Karrie Jansen*, Finance Officer  
*Judy Posl*, Administrative Assistant  
*Wendee VanderVoort*, Administrative Assistant  
*Nellie Wersal*, Landfill Facility Supervisor  
*Melissa Williams*, Child Support Officer

## 30 years

*Jill Bruns*, Public Health Services Director  
*Kevin Iverson*, Dispatcher/Jailer  
*Connie Peterson*, WIC Clerk

## Retirees:

*Dave Binnebose*, Financial Assistance Supervisor; *Susan Eiler*, Eligibility Worker; *Patti Hemingsen*, Social Worker; *Larry Jacobs*, County Auditor-Treasurer; and *Linda Larsen*, Housing Coordinator.

*Thank  
You*

## COUNTY PHONE NUMBERS

Administrator	320-523-3710	Central Community Transit	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	County Commissioners:	
Court Administration	320-523-3680	Human Services	320-523-2202	Randy Kramer, District #1	320-365-3094
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
Central Community Transit	320-523-3589	Recorder/Abstractor	320-523-3669		



Kandiyohi-Renville  
Community Health Board  
**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

# Top Ten Health Issues

Kandiyohi-Renville Public Health recently completed a process for identifying our top ten health issues. The Public Health Advisory Committee and staff along with community members and organizations were involved in this process. For more information, check the local health data section under Public Health at <http://www.co.renville.mn.us/> We will feature the *Top Five Health Issues* in this issue. Watch for the next five of the *Top Ten Health Issues* in the July issue of the *Renville County Messenger*.

## ADOLESCENT SEXUAL ACTIVITY

Sexual activity among teens continues to be a concern. There is an increasing number of youth engaging in sexual activity with decreased use of preventive behaviors, leading to sexually transmitted infections. The teen birth rate has consistently remained above the state average in Kandiyohi and Renville Counties. Teen mothers are less likely to receive prenatal care or graduate, and are more likely to live in poverty, have large families, and remain on government assistance.

## AGING POPULATION/ CHRONIC DISEASES

By 2035, the projected over 60 year old population in Kandiyohi County is expected to be 32% of the total population while for Renville County, the projection is over 40%. This shift in demographics will slow the work force growth and increase the demand for government and other support services. Even though aging brings with it cumulative effects of chronic diseases, there are also prevention opportunities to improve or maintain health in this population.

## ALCOHOL, TOBACCO & OTHER DRUGS

While the rates for binge drinking in teenagers has shown a decline, there is still concern about teenage alcohol use and adult abuse. Smoking remains the leading cause of death in the nation and state, thus efforts need to continue to reduce smoking rates across all populations. Marijuana use and prescription drug abuse are emerging issues.

## LACK OF PHYSICAL EXERCISE

People of all ages from early childhood to elders are less active than recommended for optimal physical and mental health. When less physically active, individuals are more likely to develop heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and increased risk of a stroke. A unique barrier for residents are our extended winters. Regular physical activity can produce long term health benefits including adequate sleep, more energy, stronger muscles and bones, and less depression.

## MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS

Both Kandiyohi and Renville Counties have a higher rate of adults and children receiving mental health services than the state as a whole. Mental and emotional health struggles can place significant strains on relationships, affect the ability to learn, work and be physically active, and can lead to self-harm. There remains some stigma associated with these diagnoses.



**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**

PSRT STD  
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U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
EDDM RETAIL







## 2015 Renville County Community Events



<p>April 18th May 1st - 2nd June 10th - 14th June 17th - 21st June 10th June 26th - 27th July 1st July 4th July 3rd - 5th July 6th - 12th July 8th - 12th July 13th - 19th July 17th - 19th July 22nd - 26th July 24th - 26th August 7th August 8th August 9th August 19th - 21st September 12th September 20th November 14th November 20th - 22nd December 3rd December 3rd - 5th December 4th</p>	<p><b>Spring Garden Party, Morton</b> <b>MN River Valley Scenic Byway Garage Sale</b> <b>Sugar Beet Days, Renville</b> <b>Island Days, Bird Island</b> <b>Chamber Golf Classic Tournament, Olivia Golf Club</b> <b>Fairfax Days of Thunder, Fairfax</b> <b>4-H Golf Tournament, Olivia Golf Course</b> <b>Independence Day Celebration, Morton</b> <b>Polka Fest Days, Bird Island</b> <b>Corn Chaff Days, Hector</b> <b>Danube Fun Days, Danube</b> <b>Buffalo Lake Days, Buffalo Lake</b> <b>Summerfest, Sacred Heart</b> <b>Corn Capital Days, Olivia</b> <b>Catfish Derby Days, Franklin</b> <b>Renville County Relay for Life, Olivia</b> <b>KMS Memorial Ride, Franklin</b> <b>Czech Heritage Festival, Bechyn</b> <b>Renville County Fair, Bird Island</b> <b>Scarecrow Festival, Morton</b> <b>Hector Fly-In, Hector Municipal Airport</b> <b>Holiday Happenings, Hector</b> <b>Beneath the Village Wreath, Morton</b> <b>Unforgettable Christmas, Hector</b> <b>Holiday Happenings, Olivia</b> <b>Old Fashioned Christmas, Bird Island</b></p>
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For more information regarding these events visit [www.renville.com](http://www.renville.com) or call the Renville County HRA/EDA office at (320) 523-3656







**Renville County  
Parks**

# COME VISIT Renville County's Best Kept Secret...

## LAKE ALLIE COUNTY PARK:

Visit Lake Allie County Park this summer as construction of a new park shelter and playground equipment begins. RV sites are still available and can be booked by the night, month, or season. Call us today!

## DISCOVER THE PARKS:

Print ads can be seen in the Explore Minnesota travel guide and on their website. A Parks Department Facebook page has been created, where you can find a community calendar of events, as well as promotions including 2-for-1 camping coupons. Send us your e-mail address and we will sign you up for updates on community events, park happenings, park closure information, and promotions. Visit us in August at the Renville County Fair. Brochures, pictures, and trivia will be available. Register for drawings and your chance to win prizes!

EXPLORE

*Minnesota*

## THE HUNT IS ON:

The Parks Department held its first Archery Deer Hunt in selected parks during November 2 through December 31. Applicants were drawn at random to fill 34 spots. A survey indicated that hunters enjoyed the opportunity to hunt in the park system and considered the hunt successful, even if they did not tag a deer. Watch for the upcoming 2015 Archery Hunt Application in August!

**new**



## RATES FOR RV CAMPING AT LAKE ALLIE COUNTY PARK

Full Season (May 1-October 31)	\$1,800.00
Summer Season (May 23-September 7)	\$1,300.00
Month-to-Month (June, July, & August)	\$410.00
Month-to-Month (May, September, & October)	\$300.00
Weekend Nights (Thursday-Saturday)	\$24.00
Weekday Nights (Sunday-Wednesday)	\$20.00

\*Sites include water, electricity, & use of the dump station  
To make a reservation call the Environment & Community Development Department at 320-523-3768



Like us on Facebook / Join our mailing list & Contact [PARKSDEPT@CO.RENVILLE.MN.US](mailto:PARKSDEPT@CO.RENVILLE.MN.US)



SAVE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE! ~ SAVE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE!

# RENVILLE COUNTY CLEAN-UP

**Renville County Highway Shop, Sacred Heart**

Monday, June 8, 2015 • Time: 12:00 noon - 5:30 pm

**Renville County Highway Shop, Buffalo Lake\***

Tuesday, June 9, 2015 • Time: 12:00 noon - 5:30 pm

*\*Enter from Borden Avenue ONLY. No entrance  
from Highway 212. Watch for signs.*

**Renville County Highway Shop, Fairfax**

Wednesday, June 10, 2015 • Time: 12:00 noon - 5:30 pm

**Renville County Landfill & HHW Facility**

Monday, June 8 thru Wednesday, June 10, 2015

Time: 7:30 am - 5:30 pm

**Notice:** The 2016 Clean-Up will be held at the Landfill & HHW Facility ONLY.  
Collections WILL NOT be held at other sites



## ~ ITEMS TO BE COLLECTED AND FEES ~ (FEES ARE PER ITEM)

### County Resident

### Business/ Non-Resident

#### **TIRES:** Including tires with rims

Car \$1

Truck \$5

Tractor front \$5

Tractor rear \$10

Heavy equip. \$20

(Tracks, Wide Tractor, etc.)

Car \$5

Truck \$10

Tractor front \$10

Tractor rear \$25

Heavy equip. \$50

#### **APPLIANCES:** \$4

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

\$6

#### **ELECTRONICS/ COMPUTERS:**

\$3

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

\$6

#### **FLUORESCENT BULBS:** Free

Please box large quantities.

50¢ per bulb\*

#### **BALLASTS:** Free

\$4

#### **RECHARGEABLE** Free

#### **BATTERIES/**

#### **CELL PHONES:**

Including Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cd), Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH), Lithium Ion (Li-ion), and Small Sealed Lead (Pb).

Free

## • NOT ACCEPTED • AT COLLECTION SITES

- Automotive and alkaline batteries. Alkaline batteries can be disposed of in the garbage.
- General household garbage such as bicycles, lawn chairs, grills, coffee pots, fixtures, furniture, etc.
- Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) including paint, stains, pesticides, thermometers, cleaners, fuels, oil, oil filters, etc. These items can be brought to the Renville County Landfill & HHW Facility.
- Recycling items including glass, newspapers, cans, etc. These items can be brought to the Renville County Landfill & HHW Facility or to a community drop site.
- Incandescent (regular) light bulbs. Incandescent bulbs can be disposed of in the garbage.
- Clothes in washers or dryers. Food in refrigerators or freezers.

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE RENVILLE COUNTY LANDFILL & HHW FACILITY AT (320) 523-1144 OR  
RENVILLE COUNTY WATER & HHW MANAGEMENT AT (320) 523-3706 OR VISIT [WWW.CO.RENVILLE.MN.US](http://WWW.CO.RENVILLE.MN.US)



# 2015 Renville County Recycling Schedule

- ▼ Olivia
- Bird Island / Danube
- ★ Holiday - NO SERVICE
- ♥ Renville / Sacred Heart
- ◆ Morton / Franklin / Fairfax / Buffalo Lake
- Hector/Lake Allie

JANUARY						
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31						

JUNE						
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NOVEMBER						
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DECEMBER						
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27	28	29	30	31		



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

## SEPARATE YOUR RECYCLE INTO TWO CATEGORIES:

Place items in recycling bin or paper bags.  
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.





# HOUSING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWS

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

Spring 2015

Issue 1

Volume 14

## Renville County HRA/EDA Changes



*Housing Staff (L-R) Amanda Hillmer and Pat Dingels*

The Renville County Housing and Redevelopment Authority and the Economic Development Authority (HRA/EDA) are undergoing staffing and programming changes in 2015. Chris Hettig, the Executive Director will be retiring at the end of May after serving in this capacity since 2001. On December 31, 2014 longtime Housing Coordinator, Linda Larsen, retired. On January 1, 2015 the HRA/EDA entered into a contract with the Redwood Area Development Corporation (RADCO) for the administration of Renville County's Housing Choice Vouchers (also known as Section 8) and Public Housing programs. The office of the RADCO is located at 200 Mill Street, in Redwood Falls. Amanda Hillmer and Pat Dingels are the staff providing Renville County housing clients with these services.

The Housing Choice Voucher Program allows housing clients to

rent from a private landlord with assistance in paying a portion of their rent. Families can expect to pay about 30% of their gross monthly income with the remainder paid by the program. Allowable rental housing can be either in Renville County cities or in the rural area. All units must pass a quality housing inspection and the rent charged by the landlord must fall within the Fair Market Rent Guidelines. At this time the Housing Choice Voucher Program waiting list is open on a limited basis and accepting applications from those with a preference point. For the program application and for more information on this program check out the Renville County Housing website link at: [http://www.renville.com/housing\\_info/index.php](http://www.renville.com/housing_info/index.php).

Renville County's Public Housing consists of the 17 unit Centennial Apartment building located in Franklin housing elderly, disabled, and single non-disabled tenants. In addition to the apartment building the HRA has two and three bedroom single family homes located in Morton, Sacred Heart, and Franklin. Public Housing is income-qualified. Applicants are placed on a waiting list until a unit becomes available. Currently there are a few vacancies at the Centennial Apartments in Franklin.

For more housing information email Amanda at [amanda@redwoodfalls.org](mailto:amanda@redwoodfalls.org) or Pat at [pat@redwoodfalls.org](mailto:pat@redwoodfalls.org) or call 507-637-4004.

*\*The Renville County HRA does not offer any type of emergency assistance.*



## NEWS FROM OUR NEIGHBORS

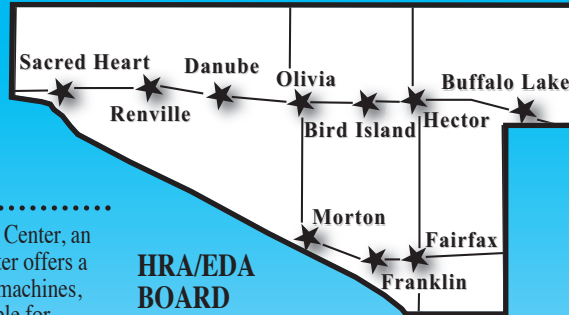
**BUFFALO LAKE** ~ The Lions Fish Fry will be held on April 10th at the Fire Hall. A Bloodmobile is planned for June 10th from 1:00-7:00pm at the Buffalo Lake Community Center. Plan to join us for Buffalo Lake Days from July 13-19.

**FRANKLIN** ~ The Franklin Wellness Center, an exercise facility, is now open! The Center offers a variety of strength and cardio work out machines, spin bikes, with 24/7 access and is eligible for fitness incentives. The Southwest Transfer Company is under construction and will be processing baking soda with transportation via rail. The Franklin Depot has new owners, Michele Forsyth and John Gustafson, who have been busy cleaning and updating it. Preparations are underway for the 40th Annual Catfish Derby Days, July 24-26. Mark your calendars and join us for a great weekend!

**RENVILLE** ~ This year Sugar Beet Days will take place from June 10-14. We are excited that Farmers Co-op Oil Company is building a new Convenience Store with a 2-bay car wash. Ground breaking is planned to take place sometime in May

### STAFF MEMBERS

Christina Hettig, Executive Director  
Susie Lang, Development Assistant  
Ron Louisiana, Maintenance  
Housing Contacts: Amanda Hillmer, Pat Dingels



### HRA/EDA BOARD

Joel Harmoning, Chair, District 2  
Deb Lingl, Vice-Chair, District 3  
Mark Thiesse, Secretary-Treasurer, District 4  
Sandy Housman, District 1  
Janette Wertish, District 5  
Blair Anderson, Board at-Large  
Wendy Schwint, Board At-Large  
Randy Kramer, Ex Officio

### Welcome Janette Wertish to the board!

*Janette Wertish of Renville joins the HRA/EDA board to represent District 5. Janette is a lifelong resident of Renville County, with a vast knowledge of business and city government. She was the owner and operator of the Renville Handi-Stop for 33 years and involved in city government for 15 years. Janette is currently the Mayor of Renville. Thank you for your commitment to Renville County Janette!*

## 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 (RBEG) Program.

## Renville County FARMERS' MARKETS

### Buffalo Lake Area Farm & Flea Market

Saturdays 8:00am-12:00pm  
June 6th through the fall  
Buffalo Lake City Park Hwy 212  
For more info: Doug 320-389-1006

### Fairfax Farmer's Market

Tuesdays 4-6pm Mid July - September  
1st Street S.E. off Hwy 19 Fairfax  
For more info: Sara 507-426-7222

### Hector Farmer's Market

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

### Olivia Farmer's Market

Thursdays 1:30-5:30pm  
July 9th through October  
City Parking Lot, 9th Street & Fairview  
(2 blocks south of the stoplight, South of F & M Bank)  
For more info: Cathy 320-523-1043

### Morton Farmer's Market

Fridays 9am-3pm  
Mid June through the fall  
City Hall Parking Lot (Downtown Morton on HWY 19)  
For more info: Shirley 507-697-6912

\*\*\*\*An assortment of items available includes a variety of Minnesota Grown garden fresh produce from the rich black soil of Renville County. A large assortment of fresh breads, baked goods, canned & pickled items, homemade mittens, crafts, jams, jellies, flowers and lots of vegetables.

## 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 Susie or email: [susie@mail.renville.com](mailto:susie@mail.renville.com)

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







# Renville 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ~ 2016

CONNECTING YOU WITH YOUR COUNTY GOVERNMENT

*Renville County will celebrate its 150th anniversary (Sesquicentennial) in 2016. This publication will include a special insert in the next six issues to commemorate this historic event.*



***Renville County was established on February 20, 1855*** and officially organized by the Minnesota State Legislature on March 1, 1866. The legislature's declaration included establishing the county's boundary lines, determining that the county seat would be in Beavers Falls, and confirming and ratifying the last election of the county's officers.

## *County Name - Renville*

The County was named for Joseph Renville Jr. The Renville family had immigrated from France to the Quebec area circa 1655. Joseph Renville Sr. was part of a Canadian brigade that canoed from the St. Lawrence River through the great lakes to the upper branches of the Mississippi River and then downstream to the Indian Village, Kaposia. The village was located south of St Paul at the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers. Joseph Renville Jr. was born in 1779 to Joseph Renville (Rainville) Senior and a Dakota woman of the Kaposia band at the Trempealeau Mountain on the Mississippi

River. Renville Jr. was raised in the Indian village until the age of ten. Renville Sr. then traveled with Renville Jr. to the French Canadian Territory where he was placed in the care of a Catholic priest to receive an education. Renville Jr. returned to the Dakota area about 6 years later after his father died.

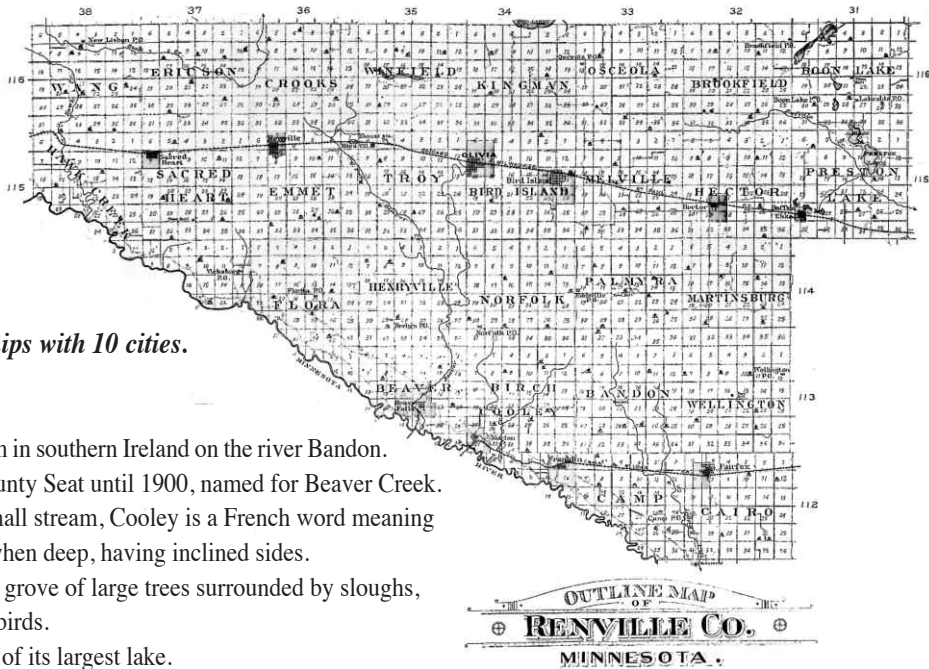
Renville Jr. was very much in demand as an interpreter, voyageur, and was hired by a British officer to be a fur trader. He was identified as a brave by the Dakota people and he purchased a wife of the royal Sioux family of Little Crow. During the war of 1812, he enlisted and became an officer of the British army and led members of the Sioux tribe. In 1822, after the defeat of the British, Renville pursued fur trading and established the Columbia Fur Company. The company was later sold to the American Fur Company of New York. The director, John Astor, of the American Fur Company retained Renville as the "coureur des bois" defined as a woodsman, fur trader, and one who learned the trades and practices of the native people. This new opportunity led Renville and his family to Lac qui Parle, "the Lake that Speaks", where he established a trading post built inside a stockade on the lower east end of the lake. The stockade became known as Fort Renville. The Congressional Act of 1816 regulated trade with American Indians and required that traders had to be U.S. citizens, so Renville became a citizen.

Fort Renville included living quarters for Renville and his family along with housing for people known as Renville's soldiers. The enclosed area was also home to sheep, a herd of cattle and several horses. He introduced farming practices to the local residents such as the planting of small grains and the cultivation of corn which kept them from starving. In 1835, Renville met Rev. T.S. Williamson who was looking for a spot to begin a mission. Williamson accepted an offer from Renville that resulted in the founding of the Lac qui Parle Sioux Mission. This relationship led to the translation of portions of the bible and hymns from French to the Sioux language, which in turn was used at the Mission for weekly services. Joseph Renville Jr. died in 1846 after becoming ill with influenza. Renville is remembered for his many contributions as a community leader, family man, business leader, fur trader, translator, and his hospitality for Minnesota and especially Southwestern Minnesota citizens.



# Renville 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ~ 2016

CONNECTING YOU WITH YOUR COUNTY GOVERNMENT



## Townships and Cities

Currently Renville County is divided into 27 townships with 10 cities.

### The Townships Include

- Bandon** ~ established 1869, named for a town in southern Ireland on the river Bandon.
- Beaver Falls** ~ established 1867, was the first County Seat until 1900, named for Beaver Creek.
- Birch Cooley** ~ established 1867, named for its small stream, Cooley is a French word meaning the bed of a stream, even if dry, when deep, having inclined sides.
- Bird Island** ~ settled 1872, name derived from a grove of large trees surrounded by sloughs, like an island plentiful with wild birds.
- Boon Lake** ~ organized 1870, bearing the name of its largest lake.
- Brookfield** ~ settled 1871, name also used in Missouri.
- Cairo** ~ organized 1868, first called Mud Lake, from the capital of Egypt.
- Camp** ~ organized 1867, first named Renville, later changed to Camp.
- Crooks** ~ organized 1884, named in honor of H.S. Crooks, settler and homestead farmer.
- Emmet** ~ settled 1869, named in honor of Robert Emmet, an Irish patriot.
- Ericson** ~ settled 1871, named in honor of Eric Ericson, he served as County Auditor.
- Flora** ~ settled 1865, named after Francis Shoemaker's horse.
- Hawk Creek** ~ organized 1867, named for its creek, translated from Sioux name, Chetambe.
- Hector** ~ settled 1873, was first called Milford, renamed for a town in New York State.
- Henryville** ~ settled 1866, named for pioneer farmer, Peter Henry.
- Kingman** ~ settled 1877, named in honor of W.H. Kingman, he purchased a large amount of land.
- Martinsburg** ~ settled 1873, named for Martin Grummons, whose father lived in the township.
- Melville** ~ settled 1873, named for the Melville Railroad station located in the township.
- Norfolk** ~ settled 1868, first named Houlton then Marschner, finally Norfolk for a county in England.
- Osceola** ~ settled 1875, named for the village in Wisconsin.
- Palmyra** ~ organized 1872, named by settlers who arrived from S.E. Wisconsin, for "City of Palms".
- Preston Lake** ~ settled 1866, named for the largest lake in the township.
- Sacred Heart** ~ organized 1869, named for an early trader who wore a bearskin hat and the bear was sacred to the Sioux nation, he was known as "Sacred Hat", which later became Sacred Heart.
- Troy** ~ settled 1871, named after an ancient city in Asia Minor, known as the scene of the "Trojan War".
- Wang** ~ settled 1867, named for a group of farms in Norway.
- Wellington** ~ settled 1868, named for the Duke of Wellington, victor over Napoleon at Waterloo 1815.
- Winfield** ~ settled 1872, named for General Winfield Scott, chief commander of the Mexican War.

### The Cities Include:

- Bird Island** ~ railway village incorporated in 1881, same name as Bird Island Township.
- Buffalo Lake** ~ railway village incorporated in 1891, named for the picturesque lake north of the town.
- Danube** ~ railway village incorporated in 1901, first named Miles, changed to Danube for river in Europe.
- Fairfax** ~ railway village incorporated in 1888, named by Eben Ryder for his home county in Virginia.
- Franklin** ~ railway village incorporated in 1888, named in honor of Benjamin Franklin.
- Hector** ~ railway village incorporated in 1881, same name as Hector Township.
- Morton** ~ railway village incorporated in 1887, along the Minnesota river, named by Railroad officers.
- Olivia** ~ railway village incorporated in 1881, named for Olive, the first station agent in Ortonville by A.B. Rogers, civil engineer who located the railway.
- Renville** ~ railway village incorporated in 1881, named for Joseph Renville Jr.
- Sacred Heart** ~ railway village incorporated in 1883, same name as Sacred Heart Township.