



# Renville

## COUNTY MESSENGER

CONNECTING YOU WITH YOUR COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Volume 16

Summer 2017

Issue 2

## Everyone has a role in Distracted Driving

Many Distracted Driving surveys have been conducted nationally, by state organizations, and now right here in Renville County by the County's Toward Zero Deaths Safe Roads Coalition. The study was conducted this past spring with 258 8th and 9th grade students participating from the county's four school districts. The students were asked, *"In the last 3 months, when you have been riding in a car, have you seen your parents or guardian send or read a text message, snap chat or Instagram or otherwise access the internet while they were driving?"*

### Survey Results by School

#### BOLD School 96 Students

Yes = 72% No = 28%

#### BLHS School 69 Students

Yes = 57% No = 43%

#### Cedar Mountain School 75 Students

Yes = 48% No = 52%

#### RCW School 55 Students

Yes = 58% No = 42%

### 60% of the local students replied "yes"

and 40% stated "no". The number of yes responses is quite alarming when compared to a 2015 survey conducted by the Minnesota State's organization Towards Zero Deaths, which found the overall state rate to be 29.13%.

It is believed that Distracted Driving is more dangerous than Drunk Driving. The impairments associated with drunk driving and texting while driving are similar, according to the National Highway and Transportation Administration. Both cause distraction and impaired driving that can result in following too closely, not being able to brake on time or weaving into oncoming traffic. Drivers who are texting while behind the wheel have a

23% higher chance of causing a crash. It is believed that distracted driving is equivalent to downing 4 beers and then getting behind the wheel!

According to national statistics, state laws lowering the threshold of illegal driving to .08 blood alcohol content, has resulted in a 25% decrease in drunk driving fatalities.

While this type of fatality has been decreasing, deadly accidents due to distracted driving are on the rise.



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In 2002, the number of fatal accidents due to distracted driving was 2,600 and in 2014 it was 3,179 lives lost. 1 of every 4 car accidents in the U.S. are caused by texting while driving, it is considered to be the leading cause of distracted driving. 8th and 9th grade students will soon be future drivers on our streets and roads.

### What can we do to assist them as the generation of NON-Distracted Drivers?

**\*Give your young drivers simple**, clear instructions not to use their wireless devices while driving. Before new drivers get their licenses, discuss first the fact that taking their eyes off the road – even for a few seconds – could cost someone an injury or even death.

**\*No one should text and drive.** Be an example for others and if you need to text or talk on the phone, pull over to a safe place. Set rules for yourself and your household regarding distracted driving.

**\*Tell family, friends, and organizations** that you belong to, about the importance of driving without distractions.

**\*Remember, it is illegal in Minnesota for drivers** to read, compose or send texts and e-mails, or go online while the vehicle is in motion or a part of traffic. This includes sitting at a stoplight, stop sign or while stopped in traffic. It also is illegal for drivers with a permit or provisional driver's license to use a cellphone while driving, except for emergencies to call 911. Violators get a \$50 fine, plus court fees, for the first offense. They'll pay an additional \$225 fine (for a total of \$275), plus court fees, for second and subsequent violations.

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If you would like to know more or be a part of the **Renville County Safe Roads Coalition** contact **Jill Bruns (Public Health)** at (320) 523-3723 or **Jeff Marlowe (Public Works)** at (320) 523-3591.



**Renville**  
COUNTY  
Service • Stewardship • Shared Responsibility

## Renville County has a **NEW** logo!

You may have seen the new Renville County logo. It is the shape of the County with the Courthouse in the upper left corner and the Minnesota River defining the Southern boundary. Included in the logo is an abbreviated version of the county's value statement, **"Service • Stewardship • Shared Responsibility"**. Watch for the new logo on the county's website and future communications.

## REMINDER

**from Renville County** ➤  
**Public Works**

If you cut grass and make hay bales in County Road Ditches you must remove the bales within 72 hours of baling. Hay bales left behind in road ditches are a safety concern for motorists.



## Summer Road Construction UPDATE

The County Road 11 reconstruction project between County Roads 5 and 16 is near completion.

The County Road 4 reconstruction project is currently underway between US Highway 71 and County Road 5. This stretch of road is expected to be open to traffic around September 1st. The road will be a gravel surface until September 2018.







## Renville County children need families to Love and Care for THEM!

When children can no longer live safely with their families, another family gives them love and care through foster care and adoption. Foster and adoptive parents provide the stability children need. Day after day, foster and adoptive parents' dedication, commitment and efforts make a profound difference in the lives of children and their families.

### All Children Need a Permanent Family

Many children in out-of-home care have been abused and neglected. They have been traumatized. Some are coping well, given the circumstances, and others are in great emotional pain and may show that through their behavior. Some of these children have physical, mental, or emotional disabilities. These special needs may keep them from making friends, coping with their emotions, feeling successful in school and feeling like a member of a new family. All children have one thing in common – they want to be part of a permanent family.

### Children need ordinary people to do extraordinary things

In the past, adoption and foster care agencies clearly defined families as either foster parents or adoptive parents. These roles are constantly changing to meet children's needs. In the past, foster families were told they could not adopt, now foster parents are encouraged to adopt. Families care for children as Permanent Resource Families, Foster Families, or Adoptive Families.

Permanent Resource Families are foster families who provide immediate care, love

and nurturing for children. They actively work towards reunifying children with their families while committing to the possibility of adoption if reunification cannot take place. It is traumatic for children to move from family to family so they need resource families to provide their care. Without permanent resource families, children will continue to move from one family to another.

Foster Families are families who commit to caring for, loving, and nurturing children for a short time. Foster Families provide emergency care to children who must be removed from their homes immediately for their safety. Foster families provide temporary care until children can be safely reunited with their parents, or until a permanent plan is put into action. Foster Families also provide respite care to give children's parents or caregivers a brief break from their daily parenting routines.

Adoptive Families are permanent families who love, nurture, and care for children for a lifetime. They legally and emotionally bring into their families children not born to them. Children will have adoptive families' names and the same legal rights as their new families' birth children. After a court approves an adoption, adoptive parents will receive an official decree and birth certificate with their names listed as parents.

### All kinds of families can care for children

Foster and adoptive parents come from backgrounds as diverse as the children

they care for in their families. Some are married, others are single; some own a home, others rent; some are grandparents, others are parents with children of their own; and some hope to eventually adopt children. A diverse group of foster and adoptive parents are needed to reflect the diversity of children who need care. The characteristics these parents have in common are a love for children, an ability to commit to challenges, and a desire to make a difference in children's lives.

### A support system is critical

Foster and adoptive families are provided with training and support to help meet the unique needs of children in their care. This begins with orientation and continues with ongoing training and professional support. Types of supports available to foster and adoptive families include health coverage, financial assistance, and other social services. Families experience significant changes as they open their homes to other children. It requires time and energy to learn and understand the complexity of parenting these children. Families work with a team to care for the children. The team could include social workers, therapists, court representatives, family members, social professionals, and others.

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### Will you care for the children?

If you are interested in more information about caring for children as a **permanent resource family, foster family or adoptive family, call Renville County Human Services at (320) 523-2202.**

# Vaccinations Protect the Public's Health

by Jill Bruns, Public Health Director

The best way to improve overall public health is to keep people from getting sick in the first place. Immunizations do a great job of preventing epidemics of diseases such as measles, mumps, whooping cough and polio that used to regularly sweep through communities.

We're all in this together — your children and grandchildren, the rest of your family and all of the other people you see every day. You may not realize how much you rely on the good judgment of other parents to keep your kids and others safe. Children who are not immunized put not only themselves at risk, but also increase the danger for others. When we work together, we protect ourselves and one another from serious illness, and make these diseases increasingly rare.

## Safety in Numbers Isn't Good Enough

Some people mistakenly believe that you don't need to vaccinate your baby because so many other people have had their immunizations. It's called relying on "herd immunity," and is only effective when nearly all of the other community members are immune. But vulnerable people don't have full immunity because they cannot receive certain vaccinations (including young babies who are not yet fully vaccinated, people undergoing

chemotherapy, HIV patients, and children on steroids for asthma).

Don't be lulled into a false sense of security just because no one you know has become sick from a vaccine-preventable disease. The bacteria and viruses that cause these diseases still exist, and it is only by working together that they are kept at bay.



Classic  
Measles Face

## Outbreaks Happen

It is important to remember that in our increasingly mobile society, diseases are just a plane ride away. When people lose their commitment to universal vaccinations, regions can experience resurgences of preventable diseases.

The recent measles outbreak in Minnesota is a prime example, close to home. Almost all measles cases were related to unvaccinated young children. Claims have been made over the years

regarding the safety of some routine childhood vaccines suggesting that they are the cause of disorders such as autism. Top researchers from around the world have investigated each of these claims and concluded that vaccines do not cause autism or any other chronic disorders.

## Vaccinated Yet Vulnerable

While vaccines are very effective at preventing disease, no medication is 100 percent effective. Fortunately, most people who get vaccinated do get full protection from disease. However, a small percentage of people who are vaccinated may not get full immunity from the disease and may still be vulnerable if exposed.

Just as you count on others not to knowingly expose you to dangerous illnesses, they rely on you. We must each do our part to limit everyone's exposure, and that means getting vaccinated on time, every time.

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*For more information on immunizations, visit the Minnesota Department of Health website at:*  
<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/depc/immunize/basics.html>



**Renville**  
COUNTY

Service • Stewardship • Shared Responsibility

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# HOUSING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWS

105 South 5th Street, Suite 318

Olivia, MN 56277

(320) 523-3656 • [www.renville.com](http://www.renville.com)

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## We are Moving!

Scheduled for the fall of **2017**, the **Economic Development Authority** office will be moving across the hall from their current location. The **Economic Development Authority (EDA)** will be co-locating with Environmental Services in Suite 311, located on the north side of the third floor in the County Government Services Center at 105 South 5th Street in Olivia. This move

will allow the EDA and Environmental Services to make efficient use of office equipment and space, while utilizing staff and cross training efforts which is critical to smaller departments within the county. We appreciate your patience with the construction and shifting of offices and we look forward to serving you this fall at our new location. The **Renville County Housing Redevelopment Authority (HRA)** continues to be located at 200 South Mill Street in Redwood Falls and staffed by Amanda and Pat, who can be reached by calling (507) 637.4004. The HRA staff is available to schedule meetings in Renville County with potential and current housing clients.



## Advertising Area Events

Whenever able, the EDA is more than willing to include your **COMMUNITY EVENT** information in the monthly e-newsletter, Facebook page, on the EDA website and/or in this publication. Please contact the EDA to assist in advertising your community events at [EDA@RenvilleCountyMN.com](mailto:EDA@RenvilleCountyMN.com) or by calling (320) 523.3656. Another great source for area event information is on the **Tatanka Bluffs website** at [www.TatankaBluffs.com](http://www.TatankaBluffs.com)

## Business Recycling

### *Want to reduce your garbage fees?*

Please contact the Redwood/Renville Regional Solid Waste Authority (RRRSA) for your own **95 Gallon "BUSINESS" Recycling Cart**. Your **FIRST CART IS FREE** and will be picked up on the same day as your community residential collection at **NO COST**. The rural recycling sites (located in each city) are for rural residents only, so please call us today (320) 523-8002 for your free cart. If you generate large volumes of recyclable, cardboard, etc (more than a 95 gallon cart every two weeks), contact us for a free assessment of your recycling collection needs and possible options for your business.



## See you at the...



The Housing Redevelopment Authority and Economic Development Authority will have a booth at the **Renville County Fair August 9-11**. Be sure to stop by the **HRA/EDA booth** to learn more about the variety of programs available and the resources staff can connect you and or your business to.

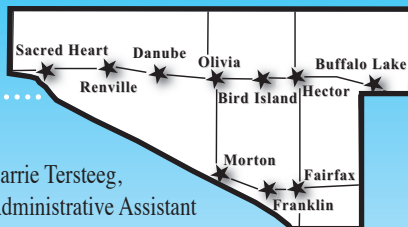


## NEWS FROM OUR NEIGHBORS

**FRANKLIN** ~ The Cedar Mountain Cougar Cub Child Care Center and City of Franklin Community Center are up and running. The Child Care Center accepts children ages 6 weeks to pre-k, call (507) 276-1805 for more information. The Community Center is available for rentals, call (507) 557-2259 to make a reservation. The Franklin Depot added the "Caboose" which is available to rent by calling (507) 557-2227. Minnesota Valley Telephone is installing fiber to rural Franklin residents. The project is currently running north of town and will eventually include access for all farms in the Franklin service area. Plan to attend the 42nd annual Catfish Derby Days, July 21-23!

### HRA/EDA STAFF MEMBERS

Susie Lang, Econmic Development Coordinator



Carrie Tersteeg,  
Administrative Assistant  
Ron Louisiana, Maintenance  
Housing Contacts: Amanda Hillmer, Pat Dingels

### HRA/EDA BOARD

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

## What's Happening

### August 4

~Renville County Relay for Life, **Olivia**

### August 9-11

~Renville County Fair, **Bird Island**

### August 12

~KMS Memorial Ride, **Franklin**

### August 13

~Czech Heritage Festival, **Bechyn**

### September 9

~RCHS Annual Patriotic Pancake  
Breakfast, **Morton**

### September 17

~Hector Fly-In, **Hector Municipal Airport**

### October 28

~Halloween Spooktacular, **Renville**

## WANTED: Child Care Providers



Anyone in Renville County who is considering becoming a Family Child Care provider should contact Sue Thomes with United Community Action Agency. Thomes is the Child Care Aware Coordinator working to recruit and assist new Family Child Care providers. Limited funds are available to help new providers with the costs associated with training and licensing.

For additional information please call 320.235.0850 ext. 616 or  
by e-mail at [suet@heartlandcaa.org](mailto:suet@heartlandcaa.org)



## Renville County FARMERS' MARKETS

### Buffalo Lake Area Farm & Flea Market

Saturdays 8:00am-12:00pm  
June 10th through the fall  
Buffalo Lake City Park Hwy 212  
For more info: Doug 320-389-1006

### Fairfax Farmer's Market

Tuesdays 4-6pm Mid June - September  
1st Street S.E. off Hwy 19 Fairfax  
For more info: Craig 507-426-7281

### 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 13th through October  
City Parking Lot, 9th Street & Fairview  
(2 blocks south of the stoplight, South of F & M Bank)  
For more info: Cathy 320-522-1043

### Morton Farmer's Market

Days & Times will Vary, Please Call for Schedule  
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.



## Stretch Your Home Improvement Dollars!

Do you need a new furnace, or maybe some insulation or windows? Those are just some of the eligible improvements under the Renville County Home Ownership & Rehab 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.

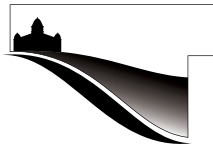
### Maximum incomes

1 person	\$59,606
2 people	\$68,131
3 people	\$76,656
4 people	\$85,113
5 people	\$91,919
6 people	\$98,794
7 people	\$105,600
8 people	\$112,406



Contact Susie:

[SusieL@renvillecountymn.com](mailto:SusieL@renvillecountymn.com) or (320) 523-3837



## RENVILLE COUNTY GOVERNMENT SERVICES 2016 Facts

### *2010 Federal Census Data for Renville County*

Total Population 15,730 people • 7,948 Males and 7,782 Females

3,656 are Under Age 18 • 9,029 are Age 18 to 64

3,045 are Over Age 65



### Public Health Services

203 parents of infants and children received 1,669 family home visits for parenting support  
88 restaurants, hotel, pools and campgrounds were inspected for health and safety  
SHIP worked with 52 partners to increase access to healthy foods and increase physical activity  
2,195 home health care visits & 1,611 case management visits provided for elderly & disabled citizens  
602 seasonal flu vaccinations administered primarily at school-located clinics



### Human Services

517 Households Received Over \$250,000 in Fuel Assistance  
299 Child Protection Reports were acted on  
31 Homes Licensed for Day Care Services  
3,400+ Children and Adults Received Assistance to Pay Medical Bills  
\$2,062,505 in Child Support Collected and Distributed



### Veterans Services

1,680 Renville County and Surrounding Area Registered Veterans Served  
\$13,095,595 in State and Federal Veterans Benefits received for Renville County Veterans  
464 Local Veterans Served in Veterans Clinics and Hospitals



### License Bureau

2,566 New & Renewal of Driver's License-Instruction Permits & Identification Cards Processed  
14,544 Motor Vehicle Transactions Processed (New & New to State Vehicles - Transfers & Registration Renewals)  
183 Game and Fish Transactions Processed  
892 DNR Transactions Processed



### Emergency Management

\$412,000 in State Disaster Assistance Funds Received following the August 2016 flooding that assisted  
7 Townships, 4 Cities, and 3 County Government Entities



### Public Works

2 Township Bridges Replaced (Crooks & Hector Townships)  
13.4 Miles Full Depth Reclaim & Bituminous Paving Completed (CSAH 10, 13, & 16)  
6.5 Miles Reconstruction (CSAH 11 between CSAH 5 & CSAH 16)  
Built Maintenance Shop in Sacred Heart



### County Attorney

57 Child Support files, 27 CHIPS files, 16 Civil files, 487 Criminal files, and 31 Forfeiture Files opened along with 10 Commitments and 18 Guardianship/Conservatorship files opened



### Environmental Services

80 Zoning Permits Issued  
45 Septic System Permits Issued  
87 Feedlot Inspections Performed



### Recorder

3,460 Real Estate Documents Recorded  
1,960 Birth and Death Records Issued  
Installed Land Fraud Notification Software



### Assessor

14,189 Real Estate Parcels Maintained for 611,665 Deeded Acres (Not including city properties)  
\$4,807,691,500 Estimated Market Value  
\$3,907,326,200 Tillable Value for 529,634 Tillable Acres



### Auditor-Treasurer

Tax Collections Assisted in Funding: 27 Townships, 10 Cities, 9 School Districts, 2 Watershed Districts, 8 Rural Service Districts, Olivia HRA/EDA, County HRA/EDA, Mid-Minnesota, State of Minnesota General Tax, and 91 Ditch Systems



### Sheriff Office

7,057 Cases Handled by Renville County Sheriff Office - 19.33 Events/Day  
4 Cities - Morton, Bird Island, Sacred Heart & Franklin Provided with Contracting Services  
5,072 911 Calls Answered by Dispatch = 4,362 Cell Phones (86%) & 710 Land Lines (14%)  
24,533 Inmate Days in Renville County Jail with Average Daily population of 66.9 Inmates (Boarded Inmates for Redwood, McLeod and other neighboring counties, MN Dept of Corrections and Federal Bureau of Prisons)  
419 Pounds of Medication Collected from drop-off locations in Olivia, Fairfax, Renville, Morton, and Bird Island (1,620 pounds collected since program began)



### Redwood Renville Regional Solid Waste Authority

\$305,000 in Recycling sales  
3,120 Tons Processed. This Tonnage Compares to the weight of 21 BNSF Rail Cars Full of Coal.  
4,125 Number of Bales of Recyclables Produced. Laid "end to end" would equal a distance of 3.9 miles. 126 Semi loads sold  
Renville County Increased Recycling by 14% in 2016, by moving from Three (3) Sort Containers to 95 Gallon Single Stream Carts.



### Water and Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

18 Low-Interest Septic Loans Processed for a Total of \$193,471  
12 Low-Interest Well Loans Processed for a Total of \$192,525  
1,090 Gallons of Paint Properly Disposed of  
7,258 Fluorescent Bulbs Properly Disposed of

