



Renville

COUNTY MESSENGER

CONNECTING YOU WITH YOUR COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Volume 17

Spring 2018

Issue 1

Veteran's Outreach Service in Renville County

Lee Stock, Renville County Veteran's Service Officer (CVSO), is reaching out to veterans by holding outreach hours at local city offices throughout the county. Stock's goals are to eliminate travel time for veterans, their widows and dependents and assist them directly in their communities with their VA benefits. He takes his laptop and printer to the remote sites and works with veterans' claims and benefits. Stock said, "I can do anything on the road at the remote sites that can be done at my office in Olivia." Appointments for the remote sites are greatly appreciated, but walk-ins are welcome. When veterans make an appointment ahead of time for a remote site, Stock can bring their file to the appointment. All other days of the week the County Veterans Service Officer and Staff will be at the Olivia Office located on the second floor of the County Government Services Center.

THE REMOTE SCHEDULES TO MEET WITH STOCK ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- **1st Tuesday** of the Month at the Hector Community Center from 9:00 to 4:00
- **2nd Tuesday** of the Month at the Morton City Hall 9:00 to 4:00

CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE



Veteran Dan Knight, Sheriff Scott Hable and Renville County Veterans Service Officer Lee Stock with new Flag Disposal Container

Proper Flag Disposal

It all began when Lee Stock, Renville County Veteran's Service Officer, received an email from Jon Mitchell, Director of the Redwood Renville Recycling and Solid Waste Authority (RRSWA). Jon and the RRSWA staff were seeing a number of U.S. Flags being disposed of with the recycled newspapers, glass, cans and plastic and knew something needed to be done. So, Jon emailed Lee Stock and asked would should be done with the flags that were being disposed of among recycled materials. Stock said, "The flags are not being treated with the proper respect and this situation needs to be addressed." Stock decided to reach out for assistance with the flags.

Initially, the Renville County Sheriff's department purchased and placed a flag disposal bin in the entryway of the Renville County Government Services Center building located in Olivia. Stock approached the Olivia VFW members for a solution to properly dispose of unwanted flags throughout the various Renville County communities. Flag disposal containers have been built by Dan Knight, a Vietnam Veteran, from Olivia with donations of the containers by veteran Rick Julson of Olivia, and hardware for the containers donated by veteran Dan Beckler of Bird Island.

The flag disposal containers will be distributed to each city office in Renville County so local citizens can now properly dispose of U.S. flags.

- **3rd Tuesday** of the Month at the Renville City Hall 9:00 to 4:00
- **4th Tuesday** of the Month at the Fairfax City Hall 9:00 to 4:00

Appointments to meet with Stock and staff can be made by calling the Renville County Veterans Service Office at 320-523-3763.

Stock and Karen Davis, Veteran's Technician, assist about 1,400 county veterans, veteran's widows and dependents with the submission of claims for disability compensation, pensions, widows' pensions, health benefits, educational benefits and burial benefits. Stock is an accredited CVSO which gives him the ability to access Veteran's Administration records. The access is real-time and allows him to check on the status of a veteran's claim which can be a timesaver. Access doesn't necessarily speed up the claim process, but it does help the veteran know where a claim is in the process without having to go

through phone calls and wait times with the veteran's administration staff.

The county's Veterans Service Office works with a Veteran's counselor from the Brooklyn Park Veterans Center. The counselor comes to Olivia the 2nd Wednesday of the month usually from noon to 4 pm for individual appointments. If a veteran would like an appointment with the counselor contact Karen Davis at 320-523-3763. The counselor also meets later that day with a group of Vietnam veterans from 4:30 to 6:30. If you are a Vietnam veteran and would like to join this group for the first time contact Karen Davis at the above number.

Stock has partnered with F & M Bank and Dirks Blem Funeral Home to develop a Survivor's Packet for veterans and their families. The packet includes an inventory form that helps veterans document important information about themselves, their property and assets, insurance, and military

service. The packet includes valuable contact information specific to veterans and their survivors. Information on End of Life Decisions and funeral planning is included in the packet along with information about a medication disposal program available for all county residents.

The Renville County Veteran's Service Office staff members include Lee Stock, CVSO, Karen Davis, Veteran's Technician, Mike Harmon, Veteran's Van Driver and Administration Assistant, Bob Wittman and Ron Kopacek, on call Veteran's Drivers and Harry Hawkinson on call Administration Assistant.

The County's Veteran's staff assistance with veteran's medical benefits, pensions, compensation and disability benefits brings \$6,000,000 annually to the county's veterans.



Scott Refsland, Environmental Services Director

Environmental Services Changes

The Environment and Community Development department has been reorganized, has a new name and just moved to remodeled office space. The department is now the Environmental Services Department headed by Scott Refsland, Director. The department work space is still housed on the third floor of the Renville County Government Services Center but in newly remodeled work space. The Renville County Economic Development Authority is now colocated

with Environmental Services. The two departments will again be sharing administration staff.

The new department director, Scott Refsland, has been leading the department since December of 2017. He has been with Renville County for the past 13 ½ years in the Environmental Services department first as the Zoning & Environmental Officer and now as the director. Before coming to Renville County, Refsland worked for 20 years in the swine industry in Renville County as a Nursery Finisher Production Manager then as an Environmental Officer.

Refsland's vision for the Environmental Services department is to be a resource for growth in Renville County. Refsland said, "We are always open to new business ideas and concepts. Sometimes an idea may work with our current county ordinances or may not comply, but that doesn't mean the doors are shut. We may need to look at changing the ordinances for new business concepts." Refsland sees the department as a resource to educate citizens on the county programs offered by the department. Refsland commented, "We want to work with and make people aware of our programs and guidelines, for services such as

septic systems, setbacks, permits, new construction and feedlots. We don't want people to spend money and go too far with a process before discussing their project with us to ensure it will comply with our county's ordinances. We want zoning that works for our citizens and protects them and our environment."

In addition to permitting and administering the county's ordinances the department is also responsible for feedlot inspections. The Renville County Soil and Water District is currently conducting the inspections that are required by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. 25% of the 350 registered feedlots are inspected every year. It is planned that starting in 2019 the feedlot inspections will be conducted by staff of the Environmental Services department. According to Refsland, "the program is going well and our staff looks forward to working with the producers."

The Water Planning function will remain with Environmental Services under the direction of Diane Mitchell, Environmental Services Assistant Director. As a part of this function Mitchell will continue to coordinate Septic loans through a program funded by the MPCA and local watershed districts. In addition to Refsland and Mitchell, the department is staffed by Julie Kohout, Administrative Assistant II, and Matt Steele, Environmental Services Technician.

As Scott thought about the future, he said "As society and technology advances we are trying to stay ahead of the curve with our ordinances. We want to be ready to accept new technological advances and uses as they arrive. We hope always looking ahead to what can be will bring young families back to the county to help it prosper and grow."

For more information about services and programs offered by the Environmental Services Department go to the County's website at www.renvillecountymn.com or call staff at 320-523-3768.

BUFFER LAW IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

For Renville County



The Renville County Drainage Authority Staff and Soil and Water Conservation District(SWCD) Staff will be holding meetings on Buffer Implementation:

- **March 28, 2018 at 7:00 pm**
- OR**
- **April 4, 2018 at 10 :00 am**

Room 117 - Renville County Government Services Center, Olivia, Minnesota

Drill Rental for Planting Buffers:

The Renville County SWCD has a 10' No-Till Great Plains drill for rent. The drill can be used to plant native seeds.



➤ TO RENT THE PLANTER Contact SWCD (320) 523-1550

The goal of the Minnesota statutes regarding Buffers and Soil Loss is to improve water quality. In addition to the Minnesota legislation requiring buffers, the Federal Clean Water Act requires states to designate beneficial uses for all waters and

develop quality standards to protect each use. Minnesota designated the state's beneficial uses to be for drinkability and for recreational purposes to include swimming and fishing. The majority of the lakes, rivers, ditch systems and streams in Renville County are listed as impaired for recreation and for the consumption of fish by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. The requirement for buffers along public waters and ditches is designed to help prevent nutrients that cause impairments from reaching these waters.

All public drainage systems must have a 16.5' perennial buffer seeded by November 1, 2018. All public water were to have a buffer seeded by November 1, 2017. The buffer law affects 5,500 of Renville County's 15,000 tax parcels. A buffer map is available on the state's DNR website to see if your property is impacted by the law at: www.dnr.state.mn.us/buffers.

Buffer Cost-Share programs are available to help cover the cost of installing the required buffers. Contact SWCD to learn more about what programs are available and how to apply by calling 320-523-1550.

The Renville County Commissioners passed a County Buffer Ordinance on November 28, 2017. The Renville County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) will be monitoring all parcels impacted by the buffer law and the county's buffer ordinance for compliance. The compliance process will be as follows:



- 1) SWCD determines a parcel to be out of compliance and informs the Renville County Drainage Authority
- 2) The Drainage Authority provides the owner with a corrective action and a timeline to comply
- 3) If still out of compliance after 11 months, the Drainage Authority will issue an Administrative Penalty Order and a fine of \$50.00/month
- 4) If still out of compliance after 6 more months, the penalty will increase to \$200/month
- 5) Repeated violations may result in a violation of \$200/day per parcel
- 6) All or part of the penalty maybe forgiven if the parcel is compliant

Renville County Ditch Benefits Redetermination Update

In 2013, the Renville County Commissioners acting as the drainage authority for the county's 151 Judicial and County ditch systems made a commitment to begin the process of "Redetermination of Ditch Benefits" for five ditch systems every year. So far, 14 redeterminations have been completed and 55 redeterminations have been ordered. The Renville County Ditch Authority is working to have most of the 55 redeterminations completed by the end of 2018. After a redetermination is complete, an easement will be purchased for the 16.5' buffer at current land values. The land values will be based on recent land sales by the drainage system. If you have questions on redetermination of ditch benefits or the status of your drainage system, contact Seth Sparks at Renville County by calling 320-523-3746 or email seths@renvillecountymn.com.



Minnesota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (MN CREP) Overview

MN CREP is a voluntary, federal-state funded natural resource conservation program that targets environmentally sensitive land. This is a \$500 million program that will protect 60,000 acres across 54 counties, including Renville County. Landowners enroll in the federally-funded Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) for 14-15 years. The same land will also be enrolled into a state-funded perpetual conservation easement through the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve program. Private ownership continues and the land is permanently restored and enhanced for conservation benefits. MN CREP focuses on four main areas including: grass filter strips (CP21), wetland restorations (floodplain and non-floodplain) (CP23 and CP23A), and wellhead protection areas (CP2). For land located in Renville County, payment rates range between \$6,100 and \$7,700 per acre. **The signup deadline is April 15th.** More batching periods to follow. If you would like more information or need assistance please call the Renville SWCD at 320-523-1550 ext.3.



Renville 2018 EVENTS

Service • Stewardship • Shared Responsibility

March 31st	Easter Egg Hunt at Prairie View, Hector	August 3rd	Renville County Walk for Life, Olivia
April 21st	Spring Garden Party, Morton	August 8th - 10th	Renville County Fair, Bird Island
April 26th	Arts of the Cemetery, Morton	August 11th	Ride to Remember, Franklin
June 7th - 10th	Sugar Beet Days, Renville	August 12th	Czech Heritage Festival, Bechyn
June 13th - 17th	Island Days, Bird Island	September 16th	Hector Fly-In, Hector Municipal Airport
June 21st	Walt Whitman at the Museum, Morton	October 27th	Halloween Spooktacular, Renville
June 21st - 24th	Days of Thunder, Fairfax	November 10th	Holiday Happenings, Hector
June 29th - July 1st	Polka Fest Days, Bird Island	November 17th	Beneath the Village Wreath, Morton
July 4th	Independence Day Celebration, Morton	November 18th	RGHS Pancake Fundraiser
July 8th - 15th	Corn Chaff Days, Hector	December 6th	Unforgettable Christmas, Hector
July 11th - 15th	Danube Fun Days, Danube	December 6th	Holiday Happenings, Olivia
July 14th	Hector 140th All School Reunion, Hector	December 7th	Old Fashioned Christmas, Bird Island
July 18th - 22nd	Summerfest, Sacred Heart		
July 16th - 21st	Buffalo Lake Days, Buffalo Lake		
July 27th - 29th	Catfish Derby Days, Franklin		
July 23rd - 29th	Corn Capital Days, Olivia		
July 28th	Jon Wogen Memorial Family Fishing Adventure, Pond Park Olivia		

For more information regarding these events visit www.renville.com or call the Renville County HRA/EDA office at (320) 523-3656



A fishing trip may last a day,
but **zebra mussels** can live
in a lake forever.



© Engbretson Underwater Photography

**Do your part to protect Minnesota's waters
by following the state aquatic invasive species laws**

You must...

- **Clean** visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels and other prohibited species from watercraft, trailers, and equipment before transporting from any water access.
- **Drain** water from bilge, livewell, motor, ballast tanks, and portable bait containers before leaving water accesses or shoreline property.
- **Keep** drain plug out and water-draining devices open while transporting watercraft.



mndnr.gov

You may not...

- **Transport** aquatic plants, water, or prohibited invasive species such as zebra mussels or Eurasian watermilfoil.
- **Dump** live bait into state waters, on shore, or on the ground.
- **Launch**, or attempt to place, watercraft, trailers or equipment with aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or prohibited invasive species into any state waters.



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**

Additional recommended precautions, not required by law ...

Spraying with high-pressure water, **rinsing** with very hot water, and/or **drying** boats and water-related equipment for at least five days is advised to remove or kill hard-to-see aquatic invasive species before moving to other water bodies. **Dispose** of unwanted bait in trash.

www.mndnr.gov/invasives

EWB_100_12_B

RATES FOR RV CAMPING IN LAKE ALLIE COUNTY PARK*

Fall 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



RUSTIC CAMPING AVAILABLE AT COUNTY PARKS:

Beaver Falls, Mack Lake, \$15.00/Night
Skalbekken, Vicksburg



ELECTRIC CAMPING AVAILABLE AT COUNTY PARK:

Birch Coulee Park \$20.00/Night

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

Renville County Recycling

Curbside Recycling Schedule January - December 2018

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

JANUARY						
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OCTOBER						
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28	29	30	31			

NOVEMBER						
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DECEMBER						
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30	31					



Curbside Recycling Guidelines



Two hands, two containers, one decision. For the most part, it's really that simple when it comes to disposing of unwanted items.

Either they go in the trash or in the recycling cart, but they should never be mixed together! You don't have to sort your recyclables into several categories anymore, just rinse the food containers out and follow the simple instructions printed on the lid of the cart. Keep garbage separate from recycling. If you live in town, utilize your curbside cart and not the recycling dumpsters provided for rural residents.



Identity theft can be a real problem, but the Redwood/Renville Regional Material Recovery Facility may have a solution for you. *If you are a resident and have documents that you want shredded, you can bring those documents to the Facility office for proper disposal.* A locked cart will be available for your documents from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Businesses will also have access to this document destruction service for a small fee and specialized carts are available for use at your site on a limited basis.



Check the schedule for pick-up days and remember to place the cart with the handle away from the street, allowing at least three (3) feet between carts or other obstructions. The RRRSWA Facility is located at 907 West Bridge Street, Redwood Falls, MN. Our web address is:

www.renvillecountymn.com/services/RRMRF/index.php

If you have questions please contact RRRSWA staff by phone at (320) 523-8002 or (507) 637-1800

Single stream recycling... **NO SORTING REQUIRED!**

2018 Electronic and Appliance Collections

For Renville County Residents

Collections provided by S.W. Recycling and Sponsored by Renville County

APRIL - OCTOBER

2nd Wednesday of Each Month

2:00 PM - 6:00 PM
RENVILLE COUNTY FAIR
GROUNDS, BIRD ISLAND
Located at the Northeast Corner
of the Fairgrounds

APRIL 11TH, 2018

MAY 9TH, 2018

JUNE 13TH, 2018

JULY 11TH, 2018

AUGUST No Collection Due to County Fair

SEPTEMBER 12TH, 2018

OCTOBER 10TH, 2018

ELECTRONICS:

FREE: CPUs/Hard Drives, Computer Mouse, Cell Phones, Keyboards, Speakers, iPods, Cameras, GPS Units, CD Players, MP3 Players, Laptops

****COST: \$20.00:** TVs and Computer Monitors

\$10.00: Scanners, Printers, Copiers, Fax Machines, VCRs, DVD Players, Stereos

APPLIANCES:

FREE: Washers, Dryers, Dehumidifiers, Grills, Water Heaters, Vacuum Cleaners, Water Softeners, Household Refrigerators, Stoves/Ovens, Microwaves

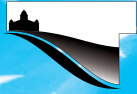
****COST: \$75.00:** RV Refrigerators

The following items will **NOT** be accepted: general household garbage, Household Hazardous Waste (HHW), recyclable materials, fluorescent bulbs, batteries, or tires.



**** PRICES MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: S.W. Recycling at 1-800-366-8665
WEBSITE: www.swrecycling.com



Renville
COUNTY
Service • Stewardship • Shared Responsibility

HOUSING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWS

105 South 5th Street, Suite 311

Olivia, MN 56277

(320) 523-3656 • www.renville.com

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Affordable Housing

The Renville County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) is committed to providing residents with safe and affordable housing.

Assistance with the cost of rent is available to families and individuals with low or

moderate income through two programs: Public Housing and Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers. The Section 8 Voucher program can be used throughout the County at most privately owned rental properties. All Section 8 units must pass a housing quality inspection and fall within the Fair Market Rent Guidelines. A family can expect to pay about 30% of their gross monthly income for rent and utilities. The actual amount depends on the family's income. The portion of rent not paid by the family is paid by the program as a direct payment to the landlord. The approximate wait time before receiving a voucher can be anywhere from six months to one year or longer. The wait time is dependent on funding and availability. The Public Housing program in Renville County offers housing tenants homes and apartments that are owned and operated by the Renville County HRA/EDA. Centennial Apartments in Franklin offer one-bedroom apartments to income-eligible tenants. Two and three bedroom family homes are located in the communities of Franklin, Morton and Sacred Heart. More information including a waiting list application can be obtained at www.renville.com under Housing Information. The HRA office is located in Redwood Falls however, appointments can be made to meet with staff in Renville County by calling (507) 637-4004 EXT 102.

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 or by calling (320) 523.3656. Another great source for area event information is on the **Tatanka Bluffs website** at www.TatankaBluffs.com

Rental Rehab Program

The Renville County Housing Redevelopment Authority and



Economic Development Authority have created a new loan program that is now available in 2018. It is designed to assist in the rehabilitation of residential rental properties. This interest free loan will match the project funds of the property owner dollar for dollar on permanent repairs to your home up to \$5,000. Repair and upgrades for windows, roofs, siding, foundations, electrical systems, heating units, and plumbing work are examples of eligible projects. Loans are repayable in equal monthly installments, for 3 years. *Additional details about this new funding option for residential rental rehabilitation is available by calling the EDA at (320) 523.3656.*



EDA Now in a New Location!

We have moved across the hall into a larger office and are co-located with the **Environmental Services Department** at 105 South 5th Street, Suite 311 in **Olivia** (In the County Government Services Center across the street from the Courthouse).

RS Fiber is Expanding

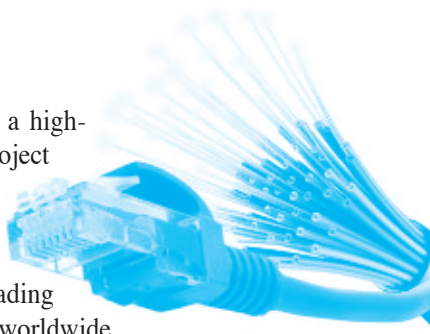
RS Fiber is a community driven effort to bring a high-speed fiber-optic connection to everyone in the project area and provide low-cost, reliable high-speed Internet, crystal clear Video, and Phone services. It is now being installed in Buffalo Lake.

Fiber-To-The-Home (FTTH) has become the leading technology for next-generation communications worldwide.

The RS Fiber Cooperative will be owned and democratically controlled by its members. By becoming an RS Fiber customer you will be a part owner of the network. Over 6,200 potential customers will have an opportunity to be connected to the Internet and each other with a fiber-optic line. A fiber optic line will be built to every home, business, and government office that subscribes to the service in the following cities and townships: Buffalo Lake, and Bandon, Cairo, Camp and Wellington Townships and cities and townships in Sibley County.

The RS Fiber Cooperative is financed from multiple sources. The 10 cities and 17 townships that voted to join the project have formed a Joint Powers Agreement to collectively sell a \$13.7 million Generally Obligated (G.O.) Tax Abatement Bond and make an economic development loan to the RS Fiber Cooperative. The cooperative will make the bond payments on behalf of the cities and townships. The cooperative will borrow another \$42 million from various bank sources to construct and operate the network.

The RS Fiber Cooperative project is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make a permanent, lasting and positive investment in our future. For rural residents it represents an opportunity to bring technology to their homes that will never happen again. The phone companies have already said rural residents must settle for wireless or slow DSL technology and cable companies are not interested in serving them. For more information contact the RS Fiber Cooperative at 1-800-628-1754.



Centennial Apartment Updates

Centennial Apartments in Franklin has been undergoing several updates over the years. One of the largest projects to date has been the modernization of the building's elevator. The Renville County HRA was fortunate to be awarded a POHP (Publicly Owned Housing Program) funds project through Minnesota Housing and Finance Agency to receive a new elevator. Other updates to Centennial Apartments included replacement of carpet with vinyl plank flooring.

To inquire about available apartments contact the Renville County HRA at (507) 637-4004 or email amanda@radc.org



Renville County FARMERS' MARKETS

Buffalo Lake Area Farm & Flea Market
Saturdays 8:00am-12:00pm
June 9th 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 12th 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	\$61,875
2 people	\$70,744
3 people	\$79,613
4 people	\$88,413
5 people	\$95,494
6 people	\$102,575
7 people	\$109,656



Contact Susie:
SusieL@renvillecountymn.com or (320) 523-3837

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, 30, 35, and 40 years of service and those employees who retired in 2017.*

5 years

Jill Bashins, Eligibility Worker
Barbara Billmeier, Public Health Nurse
Lucas Jacques, Patrol Deputy
Stacy Knot, Public Health Nurse
Robert Knutson, Lead Parks Worker
Bill Leach, Maintenance Worker
Jeff Morris, Investigator
Zach Pierce, Dispatcher/Jailer
Christine Rath, Social Worker
Janet Wallert, Eligibility Worker
Robert Wittman, Veterans Van Driver

15 years

Doug Best, Patrol Sergeant
Samantha Best, Sheriff Admin Assistant
Marc Iverson, County Auditor/Treasurer
Glen Jacobsen, Assistant County Attorney
Dan Lippert, Assistant Finance Officer
Ron Louisiana, HRA Maintenance
Jeff Marlowe, Public Works Director/Engineer
Randy Mertz, Deputy County Assessor
Joe Nachreiner, Maintenance Worker
Sam Olson, Patrol Sergeant

30 years

Rhonda Buboltz, Home Health Aide
Steve Chandler, Road & Bridge Inspector
Deb Folkerts, License Super/Assist Deputy Registrar
Patti Heyl, Social Worker
Norm Shubert, Facilities Engineer
Dave Wohnoutka, Maintenance Worker
Wendy Wulkan, Social Service Supervisor

35 years

Karen Davis, Veterans Service Tech
Dale Prahl, Maintenance Worker

10 years

Tom Olinger, Maintenance Worker
Jane Riederer, Account Tech/Support Aide
Josh Schjenken, Maintenance Worker
Annmari Suess, Public Health Nurse
Cindy Terrones, Support Specialist

25 years

Dale Kiecker, Maintenance Worker
Robert Seidl Jr., Maintenance Worker

40 years

Janece Kern, Sheriff Admin Assistant

Retirees:

Mark Erickson, Director Environmental Services
Doug Pomplun, Chief Deputy Sheriff
Lynn Harrier, Social Worker
Sue Klinghagen, Claims Specialist/Finance Assistant

Judy Revier, Corrections Officer,
Louise Stenberg, Public Health Nurse
Sandy Zens, Recording Technician/Deputy
Wendy Wulkan, Social Service Supervisor

*Thank
you*

COUNTY PHONE NUMBERS

Administrator	320-523-3710	United Community	320-523-1842	Sheriff	320-523-1161
Assessor	320-523-3645	Action Partnership	or 800-992-1710	Veterans Service	320-523-3763
Attorney	320-523-2661	Hospital	320-523-1261	Water Planning	320-523-3768
Auditor/Treasurer	320-523-2071	HRA/EDA	320-523-3812	<i>County Commissioners:</i>	
Court Services/Probation	320-523-3663	Human Services	320-523-2202	Randy Kramer, District #1	320-365-3094
Court Administration	320-523-3680	Landfill	320-523-1505	Bob Fox, District #2	507-557-8265
Environmental Services	320-523-3768	License	320-523-3612	Doug Erickson, District #3	320-365-4836
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	Rick Schmidt, District #5	320-329-3263
Central Community Transit	320-523-3589	Recorder/Abstractor	320-523-3669		
Central Community Transit	800-450-7964	RRRSWA/Recycle/Solid Waste/HHW	320-523-8002		



Postive Out Comes

Renville Alliance for the Prevention of Alcohol and Drugs (RAPAD) is beginning its eighth year in Renville County with staggering and encouraging outcomes. Renville County had an 85% change in reported 9th grade alcohol use in the past 30 days from 2007 to 2016.

“Challenging misconceptions and talking about what teens are doing right can result in real reductions in teen alcohol and tobacco use” says Annie Tepfer, RAPAD Coordinator. Beginning 12 years ago, Renville County received a state grant to address youth underage alcohol use. Renville County at that time was higher than the state average, with 35% of students reporting use of alcohol in the past 30 days. Today, 5.2% of Renville County 9th graders reported using any alcohol in the past 30 days. “We began with a Positive Community Norms campaign”, reports Tepfer. “The approach is based on national research that has found that teens over-estimate alcohol, tobacco and drug use among their peers, making it seem normal or even attractive. So rather than focusing on what youth are doing wrong, Positive Community Norms emphasizes what the teens are doing right.”

For example, at RCW School District, rather than focusing on the 13 percent of youth who drank at least monthly, Positive Community Norms presents the positive side, that “87 percent of RCW students don’t drink alcohol in a typical month.” Teens want to be “normal” and this provides a marker for what most of the students are doing.

A federal Drug Free Communities grant was received in 2010 to continue the work on alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. Renville County is in its 8th year of a 10

year grant cycle. The RAPAD Coalition, made up of a variety of community sectors was formed. RAPAD Coalition members meet monthly to discuss strategies to change community norms and recommend policies.

Some of the strategies and policies implemented to achieve the good outcomes include:

- Responsible Beverage Server trainings for all establishments serving or selling alcohol
- Project Northland Substance use prevention curriculum taught in school districts
- Social Host Ordinance passed at county level and nine cities
- Youth Groups, formed in school districts create awareness about underage substance use
- Youth Leadership Training
- Tobacco Free Parks policies
- Community Awareness at various events
- Prevention messages on radio and newspapers
- Full Assembly school prevention speakers
- Town Hall meetings to provide facts to parents, students, and key leaders
- Alcohol and tobacco compliance checks
- Educate and Congratulate compliance checks

Renville County Tobacco Ordinance

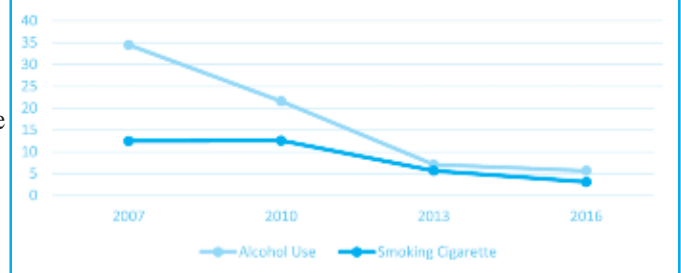
- 1000 feet proximity to youth-oriented facilities
- Annual education requirements for all employees of tobacco licensee
- Increased Administrative penalties for failing compliance check

- Minimum price per cigar at \$2.10 in packages of less than seven
- No vaping/sampling of tobacco products indoors
- Sales prohibited by Pharmacies

Whether young people drink and how much young people drink depends to a large extent on community norms and expectations about drinking. “Ten years ago, teens and their parents believed that it was accepted, and even expected, that they would drink,” stated Jill Bruns, Public Health Director. With emerging research about explosive brain development in the teenage years, parents and communities began to understand the lifelong impact of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs altering the brain development during these crucial periods.

Whether teens would admit it or not, parents and communities influence their decisions. In fact, research has shown that kids who have conversations with their parents and learn a lot about the dangers of alcohol and drug use are 50% less likely to use alcohol and drugs than those that don’t have such conversations. Helping parents talk to their children and communities that support kids is an important part of what we do.

% 9th Grade Renville County Students Reporting any Use of Alcohol or Tobacco in Past 30 Days 2007-2016



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