



2019 | Issue 1 | Spring



Photo Credit: Jill Bruns

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GREG SNOW

New District 4 Commissioner



Greg Snow, District 4 Commissioner

budgets and decisions. Being elected as a new Commissioner can carry both of these issues. It's a tough balance that Commissioner Greg Snow now finds himself in the thick of.

"Moving to Olivia really changed my perspective on life in general. Being part of a small community was really eye opening and refreshing from the big city life that I had known for 25 years of my life. Getting involved felt like the norm rather than the exception, and I really wanted to get involved," Snow told of his decision to run for office in District 4.

Being a new employee, it can be tough to adjust while figuring out your job. Being a new manager can be more difficult because you have to manage people,

The 4th Commission District covers the cities of Olivia and Danube, along with the Township of Troy at large. While it is the smallest district in geographic area, by covering Olivia, Commissioner Snow has the tall task of representing the County Seat and Renville County's largest community, by population. The district had been represented by John Stahl for four consecutive terms and taking over for a commissioner sitting on the County Board for 16 years is not lost on Greg.

"I have never heard one disparaging word about John. He served our community well and was very involved," commented Snow. When asked if he feels he has big shoes to fill, Snow responded. *"Yes - big shoes is the correct term."* Reflecting on his election last November, he remembers one particular thought, *"I kept thinking nothing really changes if we don't win so it's okay and then when we won, everything changed."*

GREG SNOW

New District 4 Commissioner

Born in the Arrowhead region of Minnesota, in Two Harbors, Commissioner Snow grew up in Silver Bay and moved just north of the Twin Cities for high school and college in St. Francis. Graduating from Pillsbury Baptist Bible College with a History major and Sport Coaching minor, Greg initially moved to Olivia to be the Head Golf Professional of the Olivia Golf Club in 2011. He is also a coach at BOLD and RCW High Schools. With so much community involvement Snow shared, *"I guess you could say it just happened. The ability to say 'NO' has always been a challenge for me, and once I get involved I fall in love with the project or the people I am involved with."*

His hobbies, as you might expect, include golf (shocker!) and attending his kids' sporting events. The new commissioner also opened up about an unusual habit of his. *"I cry at the dumbest things,"* Snow commented. *"For example, the movie 'The Mighty Ducks' when one player gave another player his jersey. I lose it every time!"* Being Minnesota is the State of Hockey, Greg is probably not alone with his weakness for the "The Mighty Ducks."

Walking into the County Board, or any of his other duties, Commissioner Snow draws his motivation from a simple source - a drive to make people smile. As for what he feels he brings to the table as a Commissioner, *"I hope to bring zest and positive energy and maybe a new perspective on things. I am still heavily in the learning process, and it's been great watching these four interact. The questions that they ask, and the insight they have, will hopefully help me grow as a commissioner. And for those who know me, I try to bring some humor as well."*

Snow gives a lot of credit to the other four commissioners for helping him through the learning curve of this new role and accepting him into the fold that has made for a smooth transition. He is standing by his campaign statement by not having an agenda and being part of the decisions that are going well for the county is what he is looking forward to. *"I want to help make the best decisions possible for the citizens of Renville County. I did not run trying to change the world."* Snow stated.

As the interview wraps up, how does Commissioner Snow feel about working for his local government? *"It's as great as I thought it would be. Overwhelming at times, because we new commissioners are drinking from a firehose at this point in our careers! Overall it's been great!"* Snow concluded.

Commissioner Snow's Favorite Quote:
"Control the Controllables." – Author Unknown

LAURIE ABRAHAMSON

Renville County Recorder



Laurie Abrahamson,
County Recorder

Last November, voters of Renville County did something that has not been done in 39 years - they voted in a new County Recorder. With the retirement of Gail Miller, Laurie Abrahamson won the election and now has the tall task of taking over. *"You have the birth, death and marriage certificates, of course, but there is so much more than I ever thought,"* Abrahamson commented. *"You never know until you are sitting behind the desk!"*

Abrahamson was encouraged by several friends and family members to put her name on the ballot and, in the end, her husband's help and reassurance got her to launch into a successful campaign. Just three months into her term as Recorder, Laurie enjoys coming into the office without knowing where the day will take her. *"You never know what's going to come through the door and each day is different. It is never boring!"* she exclaimed.

Born and raised in Olivia, Abrahamson still lives in, and raised her own family in, the Renville County seat. An avid baker, she also enjoys shopping, watching her grandchildren's sporting events (they are in everything!) and is gearing up to start her annual flower garden with her husband.

Working previously in banking for an entire career, she spent 35 years at Citizens State Bank. Abrahamson got into banking straight out of high school and learned the trade "on the job" and through trainings. Sound familiar? Being County Recorder places her in the same position, and Abrahamson is up to the challenge. Currently being assisted by the other two staff members of the Records office, she has embraced the "learn as you go" motto.

She will oversee technology updates in the Recorder's office, moving from using Ithaca printers to doing things electronically. Having great coworkers and having a good day by solving people's problems are the things that she finds most rewarding. The opportunity to go to a recorder's conference and continuing to attend these types of events has been the highlight of the job for her so far.

Being able to come into work each day and ask, "What is today going to bring," is something that Abrahamson is looking forward to.

When all is said and done Abrahamson commented, *"I am so happy to serve the public that comes to this office. Call it Renville County pride; it's great to work here for the people."*

LISA NEUTGENS

Human Resource Coordinator



Lisa Neutgens, Human Resource Coordinator

Sometimes, when a new position is being filled, there can be a screeching halt to 'normal business' until the new person can catch up. However, when Lisa Neutgens took over the position of Human Resource Coordinator, she found she was able to hit the ground running.

"I found it a very well organized position. The only thing I had to do was start to gain the knowledge the previous coordinator had after 14 years of working here. I have some big shoes to fill," Neutgens commented.

Neutgens' job deals mainly with assisting county employees with benefits, communications and interviewing potential candidates for open positions. Each day, Lisa walks into the office ready for the diversity and flexibility that the job brings her. Positions can open at the county after 15, 20 or 30+ years under the same person. Lisa is ready to find the right people to fill these jobs for the county.

Not unfamiliar with working in the county offices, Lisa had previously worked for the U of M Renville County Extension office. Originally from Sacred Heart, Neutgens got her degree in Agriculture Education at the U of M and her Master's in Education at the U of M – Duluth.

She made the jump to human resources to spend more time at home with her two daughters, ages 5 and 2. "Does chasing my kids around count as a hobby?" she asked. When she does get a free moment, she is most likely to pick up a good book or start planning her next travel adventure. "I think that throughout all my positions the service part, the helping people, has been what I am most proud of," Neutgens commented on her best achievement to date.

While she may be behind the scenes, that doesn't mean the public won't hear from her. "I want to get the word out about the large variety of positions here at the county, each with different education level requirements. Anyone can apply to be part of Renville County," she explained.

It is especially important to Lisa that she gives credit to her coworkers for making her job so rewarding. Solving even the smallest problems is her favorite part of the job. When she is able to help an employee, it makes it a great day for her. As the interview concludes, Neutgens can't help but make one more pitch for Renville County, "There are opportunities for everyone and any position is fair game. Come be a part of a fun, rewarding and, yes, busy environment. There is always something to do!"

Lisa's favorite quote is very fitting for what she accomplishes each day at the county: "People may forget what you say, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

– Author Unknown



The 2020 Census is very important to our community for funding allocation and elected representation. On February 12, 2019 the Renville County Board authorized the creation of a 2020 Complete Count Committee (CCC) and Partnership. In March, a Census representative was on-site to provide an overview of the 2020 Census process to fifteen interested members of the community. We are currently in the process of scheduling training for those interested in being part of the Complete Count Committee; the committee's primary goals are to create awareness across the community to ensure that everyone is counted.

Some of the specific tasks that may be completed by the CCC include:

- Holding CCC kickoff meetings with media briefings.
- Participating in Census rallies or parades.
- Coordinating Census unity youth forums.
- Hosting interfaith breakfasts and weekend events.
- Encouraging the use of Statistics in Schools classroom resources.
- Incorporating census information in newsletters, social media posts, podcasts, mailings, and websites.
- Helping recruit census workers when jobs become available.

United States
**Census
2020**

If interested in participating or just learning more, please contact Renville County Administrator Lisa Herges at lisah@renvillecountymn.com or 320-523-3754.

Got GIS?

Renville County Does!

Did you know that you have access to public GIS data? Well you can't say 'no' any longer. Geographic Information Science (GIS) is the practice of putting information and data into spatial form. This creates a representation of the real world on a map with information behind such as; an address point with a mailing address, a street with its name or a parcel with a parcel number.

Renville County's GIS Specialist, Alex Lange, is responsible for maintaining this GIS data, or data layers, and assisting county offices making maps for specific uses or public release.

By visiting the Renville County website at www.renvillecountymn.com, clicking on 'GIS/ Maps' and then the GIS Homepage picture link you will reach the GIS Portal. You will see several custom built web maps, or apps, from the county and the county's GIS vendor, Pro West, including:

- **Road Closures Map:** view current county road closures
- **Tax Parcel Viewer:** view parcel layers
- **Historic Imagery Viewer:** view imagery from 1927 and 2014 side by side
- **Ditch Mapping Application:** view county ditch and tile lines

Most of the county's GIS data is on the '**LINK**' and '**Mobile LINK**' apps. These hold data such as roads, parcels, lakes/ rivers, water access, golf courses, address points and county aerial imagery from 2009, 2014 and 2018.

All data (except aerial imagery) can be downloaded on the 'Open Data' site, located on the portal. Renville County is continually updating current data and looking to get more data out there for public use, so check back to see what new data, apps, and features the county is working to bring you.



If you have questions about Renville County GIS, please contact Alex Lange, GIS Specialist at 320-523-3811 or alexl@renvillecountymn.com.

All county data is a "best representation" of real world data. It is subject to change and is not survey grade.

Minnesota Licenses and ID Cards



License sample provided by dps.mn.gov

Minnesota has a few identification options for residents to choose from.

- Standard driver's license or ID card.
- Enhanced driver's license or ID card (EDL/EID).
- REAL ID-compliant driver's license or ID card.

Determining which type of license or ID card works best depends on what a person needs to use the card for.

Standard Driver's License or ID Card

- A standard license or ID card can be used for federal purposes, including boarding domestic flights, until Oct. 1, 2020.
- After October 2020, these won't be acceptable forms of identification for domestic air travel or federal use.
- Valid for identification purposes.
- Valid for lawful driving privileges.

Enhanced Driver's License or ID Card

- Can be used for domestic air travel and to access federal facilities now and will continue to be acceptable forms of identification for federal purposes even after October 2020.
- Can be used as U.S. border crossing documents.
- Only issued to U.S. citizens.
- Valid for identification purposes.
- Valid for lawful driving privileges.

REAL ID Compliant Driver's Licenses or ID Card

- REAL ID driver's licenses or ID cards can be used for domestic air travel and to access federal facilities such as military bases and nuclear power plants.
- Issued to both U.S. and non-U.S. citizens.
- Cannot be used as border crossing documents.
- Valid for identification purposes.
- Valid for lawful driving privileges.

What is REAL ID?

Passed by Congress in 2005, the REAL ID Act establishes minimum security standards for state-issued driver's licenses and ID cards. The Act refers to federal anti-terrorism laws and regulations that control access to the following:

- Federally regulated commercial aircraft.
- Federal facilities requiring identification to enter, such as military bases or nuclear power facilities.

The Act prohibits federal agencies like the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) from accepting cards for official purposes from states that do not meet minimum security standards.

Additional information comparing these identification options, and a list of the required documents and fees, can be found on Minnesota's REAL ID website or by calling the Renville County License Department at 320-523-3612.

Renville County Restorative Justice



Andrew Peltz, Restorative Justice Coordinator

Restorative Justice is a fundamental change in approach when working to repair the damages caused from crimes or wrongdoings within a community. This philosophy sees crimes as a violation of both the law and the relationships that were impacted by the incident.

"Through the Restorative Justice program, we seek to hold people accountable in rebuilding these relationships and repairing the harm that was caused by their actions," shared Andrew Peltz, Restorative Justice Coordinator. *"There are many processes that are considered to be restorative models, including conferencing, victim offender dialogue, family group conferencing, and circle. Circle will be the restorative process utilized in Renville County."* Continued Peltz.

A Circle is a structured process based upon Native American and Aboriginal traditions used for organizing effective group communication, building relationships, accountability, problem solving, and healthy decision making. People come together and meet in a literal circle where everyone is given an opportunity to share their perspective and work together in finding solutions.

As a group, the circle works with the family or individual to determine what they can do to repair the harm they have caused by the offenses or circumstances that brought

them to circle. This can include, but is not limited to things such as community service, restitution, apology letters and meeting in circle with the victim to have a restorative dialog regarding what happened. Generally, circle will be held every other week and last about two hours.



Relationships are crucial to the program's success on multiple levels. This first starts with creating a positive working relationship with different departments such as; Human Services, Probation, County Attorney's Office, local Law Enforcement, and area schools. However, without support and relationships created within the community this program would not be possible. Furthermore, establishing relationships within the groups prior to addressing the issues and developing a plan will be vital in achieving success for all involved.

Andrew Peltz has accepted the position of Restorative Justice Coordinator. He is tasked with getting the program up and running in Renville County. Peltz graduated from Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology, a Bachelor of Science degree in Justice Administration and a minor in Psychology.

If you are interested in volunteering to support individuals and families in your community, or have questions, please call Andrew Peltz at 320-522-1573 or email andrewp@renvillecountymn.com.



Update on the Minnesota Buffer Law in Renville County

The Minnesota buffer law requires vegetative buffers along waterways to protect water quality. Public ditches require a 16.5 foot buffer and public waters require a 50 foot buffer. Renville County landowners have made significant progress in buffer compliance, overcoming unfavorable weather and other difficulties.

Renville County Compliance (as of 3-11-19)

Required Size	Yes	Yes (Based on Preliminary Data)	Needs Review	No
16.5'	47%	45%	1%	7%
16.5' & 50'	88%	16%	0%	6%
50'	98%	2%	0%	0%

Renville County Cost-Share

To assist landowners with the installation of buffers, the Renville County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has Cost-Share funds available to install vegetative buffers to meet the Minnesota buffer law requirements. Seed mixes must be pre-approved by the SWCD before purchase to qualify. Cost-share rates are \$225 per acre for introduced mixes and \$300 per acre for native mixes.

To sign up or request more information, contact Mike Sandager at the Renville SWCD at 320-523-1550 ext. 101 or Michael.Sandager@mn.nacdn.net.



SETH SPARKS

Drainage Systems Manager



Seth Sparks, Drainage Systems Manager

Redetermination, buffer, maintenance and open ditch to tile line improvements. That's the world that new Ditch Systems Manager, Seth Sparks has dived into. With the retirement of Larry Zupke, Sparks has taken over the Ditch Department of Public Works. Drainage Systems Manager is not the typical county position, as a lot of the work comes down to requests from the public to set the work that needs to be done. But, according to

Seth, helping the public by fulfilling those requests is what motivates him when he gets into the office. The satisfaction of completing a project is what he finds most rewarding when he leaves.

Sparks, originally from "all the way" in Clara City, got his degree in Environmental Sciences from South Dakota State (Go Jackrabbits!). He made his way to Renville County after working for his uncle's construction company, and a CO-OP, where he obtained experience in the agricultural field.

In December 2015, Sparks started working for Renville County. He credits his prior employment for getting him to where he is now. *"The job was a good mix of construction and drainage work that I had done at both my previous positions."* he explained. But, when asked what his best accomplishment was, he turned to the personal side of his life and pointed to his wife and his 1 year old son. The family currently resides in Belview, where he and his family enjoy the typical outdoor activities. Going Elk hunting in Montana is a particular favorite of his.

Getting back to the job, Seth points to washouts, tile line and explaining the process for improvements as typical requests he gets from the public when they stop by the county offices. *"I think that sometimes people don't know a lot about the online resources we have out there. Between GIS web maps and paper scanned maps, there is a lot*

of information available for the public." Seth responded when asked what he thinks the public might not know about. Wrapping up the interview, Seth also wanted to give credit to the great crew that works in the Public Works department. His coworkers make it a great job to come into every day.

Drainage Department Organizational Changes

In addition to Sparks' acceptance of the Drainage Systems Manager position, there have been many other drainage-related organizational changes that have taken place over the last six months:

- The duties of agricultural inspection, previously the responsibility of the Drainage Department, are now provided by contract with the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).
- Diane Mitchell, Environmental Services Assistant Director, worked with the MN Department of Agriculture so Renville County can utilize AgBMP funds for ditch buffer strip finance (the first Minnesota County to do so!).
- Josh VanderVoort was hired into a newly added Deputy Auditor-Treasurer position to focus on drainage system finances and drainage authority secretary duties.
- Larry Zupke came back on a temporary, part-time basis to assist with the 60 drainage system redeterminations that are currently underway.
- Alex Lange, GIS Specialist, has been assisting the Drainage Department with updating their GIS map. This is increasing the accuracy of the interactive map and laying a foundation for additional layers that will be added this year.

For more information or questions about the Drainage Department, please call 320-523-3759 or email seths@renvillecountymn.com.

FREE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

National Weather Service's WEATHER SPOTTER COURSE

May 9, 2019 | 6:30PM - 9:00PM

Renville County Office Building
105 S. 5th Street, Olivia, MN

All are welcome to attend, but please CALL TO REGISTER.
Renville County Emergency Management 320-523-3838



SPACE IS LIMITED!



ATTENTION: Renville County Property Owners

The Assessor's Office will be continuing its annual property inspections this summer. The Assessor's Office maintains records on the physical characteristics of each property in the county and is required by state law to physically review each property to record any changes.

Renville County's policy is to view each parcel every year. This review ensures the accuracy of data and assists in estimating fair and equitable values for property tax purposes.

Appraisers will be out verifying classification of properties, homestead status, and characteristics and condition of houses and buildings. The properties

that are viewed this year are for 2020 values for taxes payable in 2021. Property values are determined from the property information gathered and analyzing sales data.

There are currently four appraisers in the Renville County Assessor's Office and two local appraisers that cover 27 townships and 10 towns. Appraisers will be out viewing beginning in May and will continue viewing properties through winter. Business cards are left at the property letting homeowners know an appraiser stopped by.

Property owners are encouraged to contact the Assessor's Office at 320-523-3645 with any questions.

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

Central Community Transit is currently looking for volunteer drivers. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, contact the CCT at 320-523-3589.

- Volunteers set their own schedule.
- Many drivers provide an average of 4-6 rides per week.
- Week day and weekend travel is available to both local and long-distance locations across the state.
- Volunteers are reimbursed for their mileage at the current Federal rate.



CENTRAL COMMUNITY TRANSIT

www.cctbus.org

Reminder: Please Complete the Healthy Communities Survey



TAKE THE SURVEY ►

The Southwest Minnesota Healthy Communities Survey was sent to 1,600 random households in Renville County in April. This survey is for adults over 18. This health survey is done every five years and compliments the MN Student Survey done in schools. The data is used to develop strategies to address community health needs and identified issues.

If you received a mailed survey, please complete and return it. If you have misplaced your survey, call Leah at 320-523-3784.

Your input is vital! By completing the survey, your household will make a valuable contribution to improving the health of people living in Renville County.



Low Interest Loan Programs for Well and Septic Improvements

Renville County administers several low-interest loan programs to assist property owners with upgrading or replacing a failing septic system or for repairing or replacing a damaged, noncompliant or contaminated well.

Loan terms are for 10 years with an interest rate of 3%. This loan amount is added to property taxes as a special assessment with payment due twice a year along with property taxes. Loans for new building sites or already completed repairs or installations are not eligible.

The application process is simple, and the loan can be paid in full at any time. **For more information on low-interest septic or well loans, please contact Renville County Environmental Services at 320-523-3768 or email dianem@renvillecountymn.com.**



May is Mental Health Month



Mental health is essential to everyone's overall health and well-being, and mental illnesses are common and treatable. So much of what we do physically impacts us mentally – it's important to pay attention to both your physical health and mental health, which can help you

achieve overall wellness and set you on a path to recovery. This year marks the 70th year celebrating Mental Health Month!

A healthy lifestyle can help to prevent the onset or worsening of mental health conditions, as well as chronic conditions like heart disease, diabetes, and obesity. It can also help people recover from these conditions. For those dealing with a chronic health condition, and the people who care for them, it can be especially important to focus on mental health.

There are things you can do that may help. Finding a reason to laugh, going for a walk with a friend, meditating, playing with a pet, or working from home once a week can go a long way in making you both physically and mentally healthy.

Renville County wants everyone to know that mental illnesses are real, and recovery is always the goal. Living a healthy lifestyle may not be easy but can be achieved by making small changes and building on those successes. Finding the balance between work and play, the ups and downs of life, physical health and mental health, can help you on the path towards focusing both #4Mind4Body.

To learn more about mental health services, contact Renville County Human Services at 320-523-2202 and ask for Adult or Children's Mental Health.

How can you help support mental health education, research, awareness and wellness for everyone?

Go **Lime Green** for the month!

Support your local MH organizations.

Talk about your experiences with others.

Promote a healthy mind as well as body.

Speak up against the stigma and educate.

Share MH info with your friends on social media.

Support those who are living with a Mental Health Disorder.



Introducing eWIC

Renville County Public Health Services offers WIC to eligible pregnant and new mothers, babies, and children up to age 5. WIC is a USDA nutrition and breastfeeding program that provides nutrition education, breastfeeding support, nutritious foods, and referrals to health and other social services. Approved WIC foods include milk, cheese, eggs, juice, fruits and vegetables, cereal, whole grain breads and pasta, beans, peanut butter, and infant food.

Approximately 400 women and children are served each month in Renville County. WIC is provided three days a week at Renville County Government Center. The clinic is staffed by nurses and a WIC clerk.

New in April 2019, is eWIC. In the past, each WIC participant received separate paper vouchers which listed all the prescribed food they could purchase. The eWIC system will provide household benefits on one card. Participants no longer have to buy all of the WIC foods at one time. In some stores, it will not be necessary to separate WIC foods from other groceries. Food benefits on the card will expire after 30 days and unused items do not roll over.

WIC participants create a specific PIN to allow them to check their account for the balance of remaining foods, use Food Finder features, find WIC stores, and view shopping tips.

To learn more about WIC, contact Renville County Public Health WIC at 320-523-3762.



April was Child Abuse Prevention Month

If you suspect that a child is undergoing abuse, it is critical to report it — and to continue reporting each separate incidence if it continues to occur. Each report you make is a snapshot of what's going on in the family. The more information you can provide, the better the chance of the child getting the help they deserve.

To report suspected abuse or neglect of children, please call Renville County Child Protection at 320-523-2202 and ask to speak with the intake worker.



Renville County Students Attend County Government Day

Students from BOLD, BLH and RCW school districts had the opportunity to attend Renville County's "County Government Day" on April 9th. The day began with registration and breakfast in the Government Services Center. The students recited the Pledge of Allegiance and then toured the large courtroom and spoke with the Court Services Department.

Next, the students split into four groups and received a virtual tour of the Renville County Jail, met with the Public Health Department, and toured the Sheriff's Office. Each group also participated in a questionnaire scavenger hunt that brought them to a mix of departments within the county. The questionnaire was designed to assist students in learning what each county department is responsible for.

Once tours were complete, the students had an opportunity to meet with the Renville County Commissioners to present issues and ask questions.

After speaking with the Commissioners, students headed downstairs for lunch, and then wrapped up the day with a tour of the Renville County Hospital.



County Government Day is hosted by the Renville County Veterans Association. Local Veterans volunteer to help coordinate, assemble information packets for students and assist with lining up breakfast and lunch. Veterans also participate during the actual event as volunteers touring with the students.

To learn more about County Government Day or Veterans Services available in Renville County, please contact the Veterans Services Office at 320-523-3763.

.....➔ ATTENTION BUSINESSES

Business Innovation Grants are available to RENVILLE COUNTY BUSINESSES



This program has been designed to assist businesses in Renville County with business development and growth opportunities. The maximum grant amount is \$3,000. A minimum of a 1:1 contribution match from the business and/or other funds is required.

Questions?

Call the EDA office at
320-523-3656 or email
EDA@renvillecountymn.com

This is a competitive application process where future projects will be scored based on need and potential economic impact.

If your business is looking at doing a project, please consider submitting an application for one of the following deadlines:

July 10th or October 10th

Applications and a full list of guidelines and criteria can be found at www.renville.com and submitted any time during the grant cycle prior to the deadline.

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Meet the New Renville County Messenger Team

A new team, consisting of Alex Lange, GIS Specialist and Stefanie Ryan, Administrative Assistant/ Communications Coordinator, has been assembled to oversee production of the Renville County Messenger.

If you have ideas or suggestions on information you would like to see in future issues, please email Stefanie at stefanier@renvillecountymn.com with a subject line of 'Renville County Messenger.' We look forward to hearing from you!



Alex Lange,
GIS Specialist



Stefanie Ryan,
Administrative Assistant and
Communications Coordinator

Renville County EDA Approves Contract with Economic Developer



Jordan Zeller,
Economic Developer

Jordan Zeller has been contracted as the new Economic Developer for the Renville County EDA. Zeller has 15 years of economic development experience working with businesses in greater Minnesota.

His background includes time as a city administrator, an economic developer for a multi-county regional economic development organization, and as a senior economic development loan officer at the State of Minnesota's Department of Employment & Economic Development (DEED).

He specializes in connecting entrepreneurs, would-be entrepreneurs and existing businesses to free or low-cost technical assistance and financial resources to help their business grow and thrive.

Zeller is a native of Clara City, MN. In his spare time he enjoys collecting and restoring antique farm tractors and implements, hunting and fishing, as well as helping out with several non-profit organizations.

Contact Jordan at jordanz@renvillecountymn.com or 320-523-3837 to discuss your project and get things started.

2019 Renville COUNTY Farmer's Markets



Renville County Farmer's Markets include a variety of Minnesota Grown and garden-fresh produce from the rich black soil of Renville County. The assortment of items include fresh breads, baked goods, canned/pickled items, homemade mittens, crafts, jams, jellies, flowers and lots of vegetables.

Buffalo Lake Area Farm and Flea Market

Saturdays 8am - Noon
June 1st through Fall
Buffalo Lake City Park, Hwy 212
Coordinator: Juan (320) 582-2070

Hector Farmer's Market

Wednesdays 3pm - 5pm
July through Fall
Hwy 212 and Co. Rd. 4
(C-Store Parking Lot)
Coordinator: LaVonne
(320) 848-2195

Fairfax Farmer's Market

Tuesdays starting at 4pm
Mid-June through September
1st Street SE,
Downtown off Hwy 19
Coordinator: Craig (507) 426-7281

Morton Farmer's Market

Dates and Times Will Vary
Mid-June through Fall
City Parking Lot
(Downtown Hwy 19)
Coordinator: Morton City Hall
(507) 697-6912

Olivia Farmer's Markets

Olivia Farmer's Market

Thursdays 1:30pm - 5:30pm
2nd Thursday in July through October
F&M Bank Parking Lot
Coordinator: Cathy (320) 522-1043

United Acres Farmer's Market

Mondays and Thursdays
12:30pm - 5:30pm
Mid-June through October
Memorial Park (Near the Giant Corn Gazebo)
Coordinator: Pat (320) 522-0699



Stretch Your Home Improvement Dollars!

If you are a first time home-buyer or want to fix up your current home, the Renville County EDA may be able to help. The Homeownership Down Payment and Rehab Program offers matching loans of up to \$5,000 at 0% interest to qualified applicants.

Income Guidelines:

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
8 people.....	\$116,738

Learn more at www.renville.com
Questions? Contact the EDA Office:
EDA@renvillecountymn.com
320-523-3656



Centennial Apartments

Centennial Apartments, located in Franklin, is a 17-Unit building with (1) Two-Bedroom and (16) One-Bedroom apartments. Centennial houses elderly, disabled, and single non-disabled tenants.

For more information or to place your name on the waiting list, call Pat or Raven with the Renville County HRA at 507-637-4004.

Recognizing County Employees with Grateful Appreciation

The Renville County Commissioners and Administration appreciate the dedication and service of employees who have reached their 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 years of service and those employees who retired in 2018. Thank you!



5 years

Stefan Bombeck, Maintenance Worker
Bruce Brakemeier, Maintenance Worker
Robert Haney, RRRSWA Mechanic/Fabricator
Teresa Johnson, Social Worker
Rachel Johnson, Social Worker
Zachary Johnson, Building Maintenance Specialist
Dale Kennedy, Jailer/Corrections Officer
Jennifer Knight, Social Worker
Brady Nesburg, Patrol Deputy
Jill Pelzel, Financial Assistance Supervisor
Chris Randleman, Network Specialist
Thomas Rau, Jailer/Corrections Officer
Dustin Stahnke, Maintenance Worker

10 years

Larry Breitkreutz, Veterans Van Driver
Scott Froehlich, Patrol Deputy
Ryan Jensen, Landfill Operator/RRRSWA Truck Driver
Susie Lang, Economic Development Coordinator
Bonnie Lund, Social Worker
Peg Markgraf, Energy Assistance Program Specialist
Larissa Maurice, Administrative Assistant
Jeffrey Nelson, Investigator - Patrol Deputy
Melanie Netland, Public Health Nurse
Melissa Swyter, Assistant Jail Administrator
John Thompson II, Appraiser I
Ned Wohlman, Jail Administrator

15 years

Tom Hendrichs, Investigator - Patrol Deputy
Deb Kramer, Deputy Auditor/Treasurer
Nicole Krippner, Jailer/Corrections Officer
Sue Lindquist, Home Health Aide
Jill Oslund, Community Support Technician
Lora Waibel, Child Support Supervisor
Renea Weigel, Social Service Supervisor

20 years

Rita Berg, Case Aide
Stacie Haney, Social Worker
Brad Klinghagen, Mechanic
Carol Loftness, LPN
Diane Mitchell, Environmental Services Assistant Director
Julie Sander, Lead Dispatcher

25 years

Cindy Grosklags, Human Services Director
Sandra Robideau, Case Aide
Tom Robinson, Maintenance Worker

30 years

Cindy Firme, Public Health Supervisor
Randy Johnson, Maintenance Worker
Mary Kay Sinner, Public Health Nurse Supervisor
Sharlyn Widmer, Social Worker

35 years

Robert Schjenken,
Highway Maintenance Worker

40 years

Ellen Smith, Abstractor

Retirees

Jerry Brustuen, Human Services Director
Donald Huiras, Maintenance Worker
Janece Kern, Sheriff's Office Administrative Assistant
Peg Markgraf, Energy Assistance Program Specialist
Gail Miller, County Recorder
Larry Posl, Maintenance Worker
Dale Prah, Maintenance Worker
Larry Zupke, Ag/Drainage Inspector

****Employee Years of Service Recognized as of December 31, 2018**

County Directory:	Phone:
Administration	320-523-3710
Assessor	320-523-3645
Attorney	320-523-2661
Auditor/Treasurer	320-523-2071
Court Administrator	320-523-3680
Court Services/Probation	320-523-3663
Economic Development Authority	320-523-3656
Emergency Management	320-523-3838
Environmental Services	320-523-3768
Extension	320-523-3713
Water Management	320-523-3706
HRA (Housing Programs)	507-637-4004
Human Services	320-523-2202 or 800-363-2533
Landfill/Solid Waste	320-523-1144
License	320-523-3612
Parks and Recreation	320-523-3747
Public Health Services	320-523-2570
Public Works	320-523-3759
Recorder	320-523-3669
RRRSWA / Solid Waste / Household Hazardous Waste	320-523-8002 or 507-637-1800
Restorative Justice	320-523-3871
Sheriff	320-523-1161
Veterans Services	320-523-3763

Renville County Board of Commissioners:



Back (L to R): **Bob Fox**, District 2, **Greg Snow**, District 4, **Rick Schmidt**, District 5
Front (L to R): **Doug Erickson**, District 3, **Randy Kramer**, District 1



You're invited to
discover the *unexpected*
in Renville County

Explore the outdoors in Renville County for abundant wildlife, breathtaking river views, rustic and historic parks, memorable sunsets, incredible rock formations, excellent fishing, scenic Minnesota River, friendly people and more.

Unexpected adventures await you!

Lake Allie Camping Rates (All sites have water and electric)

- Daily \$27
- Weekly \$175
- Monthly \$550
- Seasonal (Memorial Day – Labor Day) \$1,630

Birch Coulee Camping Rates

New! 5 sites will have upgraded electric and water this year

- Daily \$25
- Weekly \$160

Rustic Camping

Available at the following parks for \$20 per night:

- Beaver Falls
- Birch Coulee
- Mack Lake
- Skalbekken
- Vicksburg

Shelter Rental

- \$50 per day

Renville
COUNTY
PARKS

To make your reservation, call the Parks Department at
320-523-3747 or email ParksDept@renvillecountymn.com

- 12 -

Courthouse
500 East DePue
Olivia, MN 56277

Government Services Center
105 South 5th Street
Olivia, MN 56277

Hospital
100 Healthy Way
Olivia, MN 56277

Landfill
32877 Co Rd 4
Olivia, MN 56277

RRRSWA
921 West Bridge Street
Redwood Falls, MN 56283



Renville
COUNTY

Service · Stewardship · Shared Responsibility

105 South 5th Street
Olivia, MN 56277

Phone: 320-523-3710

Email: lisah@renvillecountymn.com

Web: www.renvillecountymn.com

**Local
Postal Customer**

PRST STD
ECRWSS
US POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM



Holiday - No Service
*(Remainder of the week
will be a day later)*

Franklin - Morton



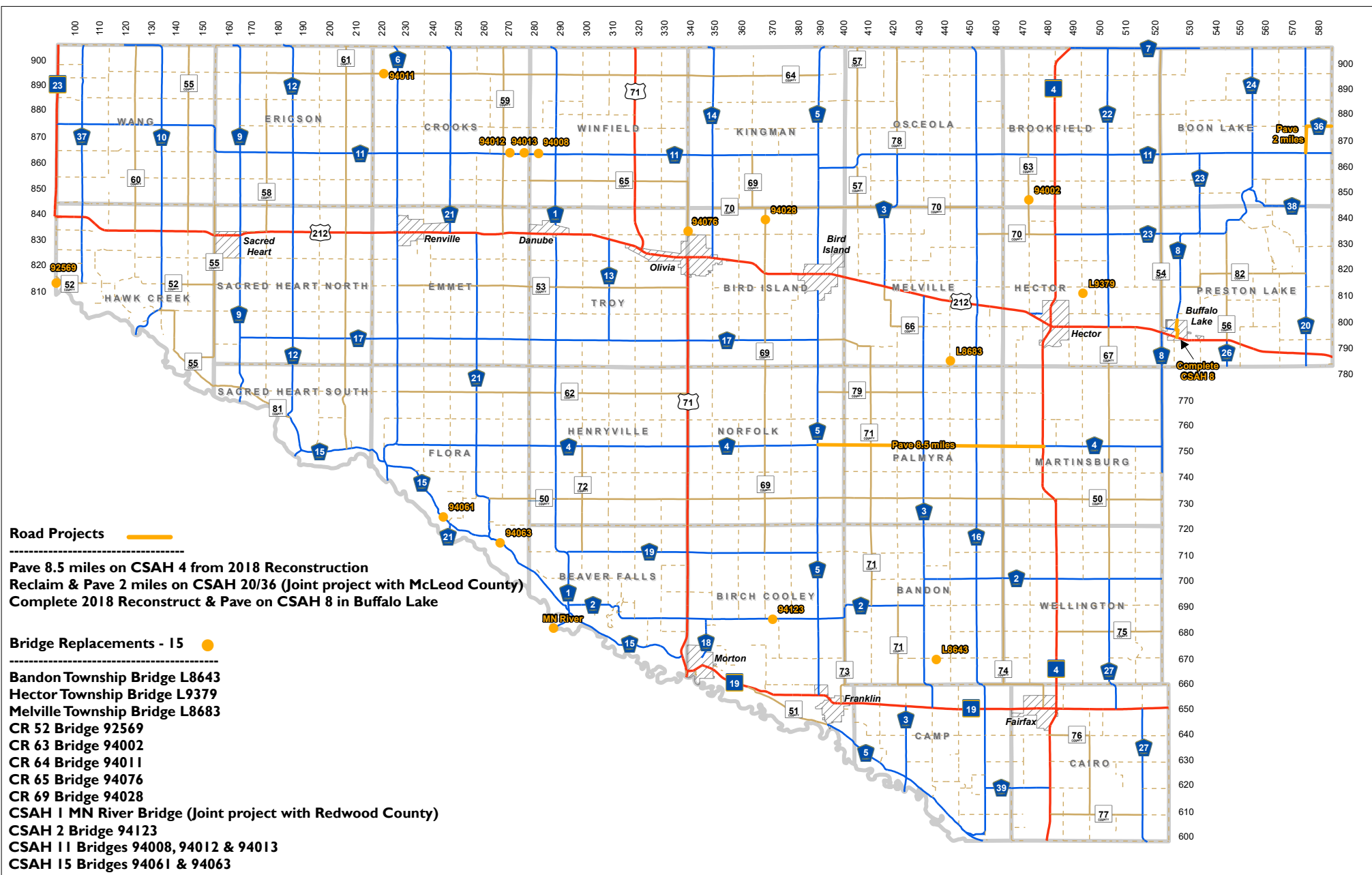
www.wcsanitation.com

October 9, 2019

A map of Renville County, Minnesota, showing the location of Bird Island and the fairgrounds area. The map includes major roads such as 300th St, 400th St, 500th Ave, and 810th Ave. A yellow star marks the location of the fairgrounds, and a yellow arrow points to it. The text "Renville County Fairgrounds" is prominently displayed in the bottom right corner. The map also shows the location of Bird Island and the fairgrounds area.

***PRICES MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

Renville County 2019 Road and Bridge Construction





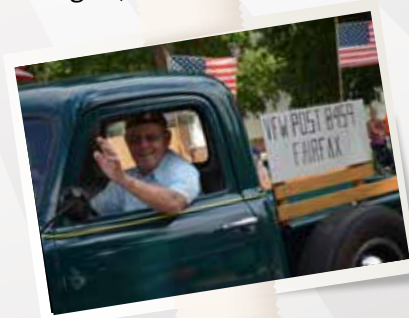
Renville

COUNTY

Service · Stewardship · Shared Responsibility

2019 EVENTS

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| April 13th | Easter Egg Hunt, Olivia | July 27th | Jon Wogen Memorial Family Fishing Adventure, Pond Park, Olivia |
| April 20th | Easter Egg Hunt, Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center, Franklin | July 28th | Lions Fly-In Breakfast, Olivia |
| April 20th | Easter Egg Hunt, Prairie View, Hector | August 2nd | Renville County Walk for Life, Olivia |
| April 20th | Easter Egg Hunt, City Park, Morton | August 6th | Fairfax National Night Out, Fairfax |
| May 3rd | 2019 Raising Hope Event, House of Hope, Olivia | August 6th | Renville National Night Out, Renville |
| May 4th | Spring Garden Party, Morton | August 7th - 9th | Renville County Fair, Bird Island |
| June 5th - 9th | Sugar Beet Days, Renville | August 9th - 11th | Follow the Yellowstone Trail |
| June 5th | Thompson Golf Classic, RC Hospital & Clinics, Olivia | August 10th | Ride to Remember |
| June 8th | Flag Day Golf Tournament, Sons of the American Legion, Olivia | August 11th | Czech Heritage Festival, Bechyn |
| June 12th - 16th | Island Days, Bird Island | September 7th | RGHS Patriotic Pancake Breakfast, Morton |
| June 14th | Flag Disposal, American Legion, Olivia | September 14th | Fireman's Rib Cook Off, American Legion, Olivia |
| June 20th - 23rd | Dayz of Thunder, Fairfax | September 15th | Hector Fly-In, Municipal Airport, Hector |
| July 5th - 7th | Polka Fest Days, Bird Island | November 9th | Holiday Happenings, Hector |
| July 4th | Independence Day Celebration, Morton | November 22nd | Steak Feed, Fire Department, Morton |
| July 7th - 14th | Corn Chaff Days, Hector | November 23rd | Beneath the Village Wreath, Morton |
| July 15th - 21st | Buffalo Lake Days, Buffalo Lake | November 24th | RGHS Pancake Fundraiser |
| July 10th - 14th | Danube Fun Days, Danube | December 4th | Taste of Bechyn, American Legion, Olivia |
| July 17th | Pork Chop/Steak Feed, Renville | December 5th | Unforgettable Christmas, Hector |
| July 17th - 21st | Summerfest, Sacred Heart | December 5th | Holiday Happenings, Olivia |
| July 18th | RGHS Picnic at the Museum, Morton (5-7pm) | December 6th | Old Fashioned Christmas, Bird Island |
| July 26th - 28th | Catfish Derby Days, Franklin | January 31, 2020 | Winter Warm Up, Sons of the American Legion, Olivia |
| July 22nd - 28th | Corn Capital Days, Olivia | | |



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