



2020 | Issue 1 | Winter



Photo Credit: Taylor Wertish

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### It's Almost Census Time. Fill Out Your Form. It Matters!

The season of the 2020 Census is upon us, and we only have two months until April 1 - Census Day. But it's even closer than you think! Renville County residents, as well as the entire country, will start to receive mailers from the Census Bureau in mid-March. The census itself will collect basic information about the people living in your home, counting every person that lives there on **April 1, 2020.**

This really does mean something to you because of what this information determines and how much funding is tied to the Census. It will determine where \$675 billion+ is going. Minnesota received approximately \$15 billion in 2016, through 55 federal spending programs guided by data derived from the 2010 Census.

As if you need more reason to fill out the Census form, here are two very

important facts for you. **First, the Census will be ONLINE for the first time ever!**

United States  
**Census  
2020**

In 2020, it will be easier than ever to respond to the Census. A small percentage of people will still get sent the original form to fill in and mail back, but online will be the Census Bureau's main form of response. You can also respond by phone, if need be, as the ultimate goal is to count everyone once and only once.

#### WHAT INFORMATION WILL NOT BE REQUESTED

The Census Bureau will never ask for:

- Social Security numbers.
- Bank or credit card account numbers.
- Money or donations.
- Anything on behalf of a political party.

## It's Almost Census Time. Fill Out Your Form. It Matters!

**Second, Minnesota could LOSE its 8th Congressional Seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Minnesota needs a great turnout to hold its eight seats.** Should we lose this representation, we will have to conduct redistricting with seven seats. Census forms the basis for redistricting and, for 2020, Minnesota wants to do this with the eight districts we have had since 1960. Remember, this information will affect us and the entire country for 10 years. That's 120 months, 520 weeks or 3,650 days!

### Why We Ask

#### The 2020 Census is easy. The questions are simple.

Responses to census questions provide a snapshot of the nation. Census results affect your voice in government, how much funding your community receives, and how your community plans for the future.

#### When you fill out the census, you help:



Determine how many seats your state gets in Congress.



Inform how more than \$675 billion in federal funding is distributed to states and communities each year.



Create jobs, provide housing, prepare for emergencies, and build schools, roads and hospitals.

**More good information for Renville County is that the Census Bureau does not deliver mailers to PO boxes.** If that's you, you can expect a visit from a Census Worker to drop that off to you. These Census Workers are locally hired people that take a lifetime oath to protect personal information. Security is not only a number one priority, it is the law that census information is protected. Should you not fill out your form between the end of March and the first of April, the Census Bureau will send a reminder postcard. They will then follow up with a letter and a paper questionnaire, and then another postcard towards the end of April. By the beginning of May, if you have NOT filled in your form, a Census worker will be knocking on your door.

No matter what you care about - schools, school programs, roads/infrastructure, hospitals, medical insurance, housing, private business, or child care - all of these and more will be affected by the Census. The \$675 billion is divided out among these many federally funded programs.

Renville County has already taken steps to make sure our county is accurately counted. To that end, we have been posting information and statistics about the Census since last fall.

To see this information, go to Facebook and search '@RenvilleCountyCensus' to find these great posts from our Renville County Census Complete Count Committee (R5C).

## Presidential Nomination Primary

# VOTE 2020

***In March 2020, Minnesota will hold a presidential nomination primary to vote for each major party's nominee for President.***

- \* The Presidential Nomination Primary will take place on Tuesday, March 3, 2020.
- \* Check your polling place's hours! Most Townships are 10:00AM-8:00PM and Cities are 7:00AM-8:00PM.
- \* You will need to declare what major political party you align with when you sign the roster at the polling place or when you request an absentee ballot.
- \* Your ballot will only list the nominees for President for the party you requested.
- \* A record of which party's ballot you selected will be made available to the major political parties.
- \* The presidential nomination primary results will determine Minnesota's delegate for each major party.
- \* Early voting began January 17, 2020.
- \* 2020 Precinct Caucuses will still be held on Tuesday, February 25.
- \* The State Primary Election will be held August 11, 2020, for offices other than President. You do not need to declare your party affiliation at the regular State Primary Election.

### Questions?

- \* Visit [www.mnvotes.org](http://www.mnvotes.org) for more information on voting and elections.
- \* Contact the Renville County Auditor Treasurer's Office at (320) 523-2071 or visit the elections area of the County Auditor Treasurer's webpage: [www.renvillecountymn.com](http://www.renvillecountymn.com)
- \* Contact the MN Secretary of State Office: (651) 215-1440 or email [elections.dept@state.mn.us](mailto:elections.dept@state.mn.us)

## Environmental Assessment Dollars: How Are They Used?

- \$ To Provide a Countywide Recycling Program;** employing fulltime county workers and private establishments for the collection and transportation of over 3,500 tons of recyclable materials each year.
- \$ To Operate a Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Transfer Facility;** transporting an estimated 13,000 tons of county produced garbage each year to the Lyon County Landfill.
- \$ To Operate Two Household Hazardous Waste Facilities;** facilities located at the Renville County Landfill and in Redwood Falls provide county residents with convenient locations to properly dispose of all types of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW), including paints, stains, aerosols, poisons, flammable liquids, cleaning products, and pesticides, at no additional cost. A "product exchange" is also available for residents to take home useable household products.
- \$ To Operate a Demolition Landfill;** located at the Renville County Landfill. The Demolition Landfill accepts construction and building materials that are not mixed with garbage, such as concrete, construction lumber, and shingles.



### Additional Programs and Services:

- Confidential Document Destruction Services for Residents (*Small Fee for Businesses*)
- Proper Flag Disposal Collection
- Holiday Light String/Electrical Cord Recycling (*Drop sites throughout county*)
- Self-Haul Garbage Collection
- Scrap Metal Recycling
- Mattress and Box Spring Recycling (*Reduced fee for clean, gently used*)
- Car Seat Recycling
- Electronics and Appliance Collections (*April to October*)
- Compost Bins and Rain Barrels Available for Purchase
- Pop Bottle Recycling Bins at Gas Stations
- Special Event Recycling for Community Celebrations and Sporting Events (*Trailers and bins available*)
- County Parks Recycling Program
- Recycling and Solid Waste Educational Programs for Residents, Schools, Haulers, and Contractors
- Collaborate with Pesticide Container Collection Program (*Baling and shipping of containers*)

### Solid Waste Administration Services:

- Contact for Cities, Townships, and Residents with Solid Waste Questions and Concerns
- Oversee 26 Rural Recycling Sites within Redwood and Renville Counties
- Conduct Residential and Commercial Demolition Inspections
- Local Contact for MPCA Permit-by-Rule Applications (*Provide paperwork, guidance and site inspections*)
- Tax-Forfeited Parcel Review and Inspections
- County Blighted Property Program (*Inspection, disposal, and site coordination*)
- Coordinate Electronics and Appliance Collections (*April to October*)
- Asbestos Liaison
- Educational Programs and Services
- Complaint Review and Response
- Oversee Household Hazardous Waste Program, Recycling Programs, Demolition Landfill Services, and Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Transfer Facility

**Questions? Contact the Redwood-Renville Regional Solid Waste Authority (RRRSWA) at (320) 523-8002 or [jonm@rrrswa.com](mailto:jonm@rrrswa.com)**



### ATTENTION: Renville County Property Owners

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 verify 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. Property owners are mailed valuation notices in March.

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.

**Questions? Contact the Assessor's Office at 320-523-3645.**

# Renville County GIS: Upgrading and Updating!

Notice a big change to your experience on county GIS? We hope so! Through our vendor, Pro-West & Associates, Renville County was able to update Pro-West's LINK application. This is the "one-stop shop" that holds all of our public GIS data and can be found under Mobile Mapping on the county GIS Hub. This application has been available on the website for some time and has now taken its place as the public option for GIS in Renville County. We think you will find the new version very user-friendly and just as functional.

To access this, simply go to the county's Hub page at <https://hub-rentvilleco.hub.arcgis.com/> or go to the Renville County website, click 'GIS/Maps' on the Home Page, and then select the image.

Along with serving Renville County residents, the county GIS Department also works with various government departments and city officials. Making maps, internal applications, and creating new data are just a few of the ways GIS helps create better tools for county employees and the public alike. Remember to use our current apps like the Tax Parcel Viewer, Ditch System Viewer, and Address Requester as well.

The goal for Renville County GIS is to provide citizens with as much spatial information as possible. Behind the scenes, we are working to continually add data and create new applications. We are in position for a lot of great updates and new content in 2020 and LINK is just the start! Feedback is always welcome.



If you have questions about Renville County GIS, please contact Alex Lange, GIS Specialist at 320-523-3811 or [alexl@rentvillecountymn.com](mailto:alexl@rentvillecountymn.com).

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

# Renville County is ACCEPTING Glass for Recycling



\*Please place clear, green, and brown bottles and jars in your recycling bin. Labels do not need to be removed, but bottles must be empty and clean.



Questions?  
Call 320-523-8002

## New Renville County Demolition Landfill Hours (As of January 1, 2020)

### December 1 to March 31:

Mondays.....8:00am - 4:00pm

### April 1 to November 30:

Mondays.....8:00am - 4:00pm

Thursdays.....8:00am - 4:00pm

First Saturday of each month.....8:00am to Noon

\*Open hours exclude holidays and extremely windy days\*

### Acceptable Items:

**Demolition Waste (Clean Loads):** Concrete, Construction Wood Products, Shingles, Toilets, Bathtubs. (Not an Exhaustive List)

**Household Hazardous Waste (HHW):** Paint, Stain, Pesticide, Household Cleaners, Fluorescent and LED Light Bulbs.

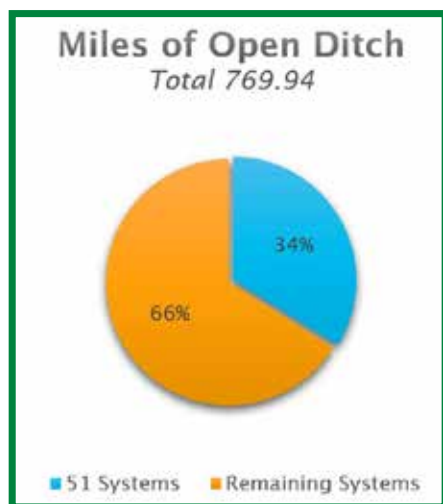
**Scrap Metal:** Bicycles, Lawn Mowers, Grills, etc.

**Recyclables:** Glass, Paper, Aluminum, Cardboard, Plastic. (NO Film Plastic)

**Tires:** Car, Truck, and Tractor.

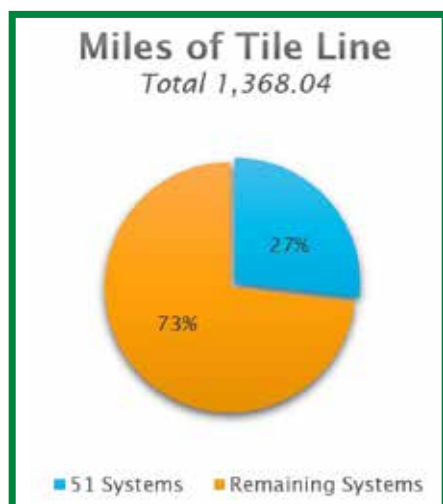
Learn more by visiting [www.rentvillecountymn.com](http://www.rentvillecountymn.com).  
Click on "Departments" and then select "RRRSWA/  
Solid Waste Landfill" or call 320-523-1144 or 320-523-8002.

## Renville County Ditch Systems: Redetermination of Drainage Benefits



Renville County has other distinct features, but it's agriculture that is front and center. With 987 square miles of land to manage, the Renville County Drainage Department has quite the task of providing administration and maintenance for 769.74 miles of open ditch lines

and 1,368.04 miles of drain tile. The main focus of the department, recently, can be summed up in one word - 'redeterminations.'



You have probably read/heard about the process or, if you're a landowner, you may have already attended hearings regarding your local ditch system. **Formally, Redetermination of Benefits involves 'viewers' (qualified individuals hired by the Drainage Authority) determining the benefits and**

**damages for affected parcels and properties of a drainage system and the total value of benefits for the system.**

Renville County currently has 151 Judicial and County Ditch Systems, though this number may decrease by combining systems during the redetermination process. In those 151 systems, the total cost of 'original' construction of all systems was around \$10.7 million. With just 51 systems being redetermined in the last 25 years, 34 of those coming last year in 2019, there is a big need and effort to redetermine the remaining systems.

**Why is it important to perform a redetermination on a ditch system?** First, sometimes benefit lands have not been updated for decades or even a century. When ditch systems are redetermined, the benefit numbers are signed into law, meaning those

numbers do not change until another redetermination is made. There are no inflation changes and the cost of a potential repair cannot exceed the total value of benefits on record. To emphasize the differences, for the current 51 systems that have been redetermined, the original construction cost was \$2.6 million. The current benefitted total, after redetermination, is around \$382 million.

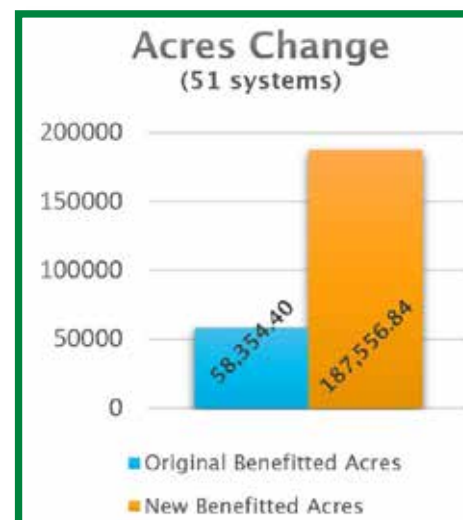
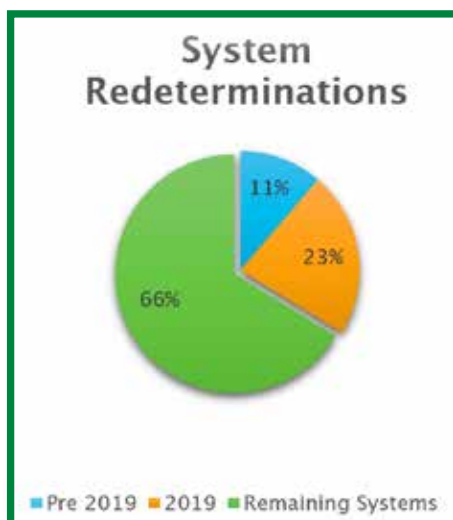
### Another aspect of redeterminations is buffer easements.

Minnesota buffer law requires public ditches to have a 16.5 foot vegetative buffer along waterways to protect water quality. The process involves purchasing buffer easements from each individual system and assessing them back to the benefitted landowners of that system over the next five years. As of December 2019, there have been 198.97 acres of buffer easements purchased at a cost of approximately \$1.2 million from the 51 completed systems. An additional 802.30 acres of land needs to be purchased from those 51 systems, pending roughly \$6.4 million dollars in state funding to do so.

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 mixed and \$300 per acre for native mixes.

With buffers as just a piece of the overall puzzle, redeterminations continue for Renville County into this year and beyond. The Drainage Department has plans for updates to their inspection process, access to benefit information, and publishing more public data after redeterminations. Additionally the department is scheduled to redetermine 53 more systems in 2020 and 2021, so stay tuned!

**Questions? Contact Seth Sparks, Drainage Systems Manager, at 320-523-3746 or [seths@renvillecountymn.com](mailto:seths@renvillecountymn.com).**



## Private Well Water:

### Testing Your Well is Up to You!

**P**ublic water systems are tested regularly for a variety of contaminants; but if you have a private well, regular testing is up to you.

Contaminated drinking water can look, smell, and taste fine, which is why the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) recommends that private wells be tested annually for total coliform bacteria and every other year for nitrate, or before giving the water to an infant. High levels of nitrate can affect how blood carries oxygen and can cause blue baby syndrome (methemoglobinemia) in infants, which can result in serious illness or death.

Testing your well is a relatively simple and inexpensive process. Water samples should be analyzed by a laboratory that has been accredited by MDH. Renville County Public Health can provide a sample kit, which includes the bottles to collect the sample, instructions for taking a proper water sample, and mailing information for sending the sample to an accredited lab. A fee for the analysis must be sent along with the water sample(s).

People with questions about well water contaminants, accredited testing labs, or other well related issues can contact the MDH Well Management Section by email at [health.wells@state.mn.us](mailto:health.wells@state.mn.us) or by phone at (651) 201-4600 or (800) 383-9808.

If you would like to pick up water sampling bottles, please stop at Renville County Public Health located in the Lower Level of the Government Services Center or call (320) 523-2570 for more information.

Source: Minnesota Department of Health

## Websites for Well Information

- **MN Department of Health (MDH)** – Well Management (Water Quality/Well Testing/Well Disclosure/Well Sealing): [www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/wells/waterquality](http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/wells/waterquality)
- **MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR)** – Ground Water: [www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/groundwater\\_section/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/groundwater_section/index.html)
- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency** – Private Drinking Water Wells: [www.epa.gov/privatewells](http://www.epa.gov/privatewells)
- **Wellowner.org** – Consumer Well Information: [www.wellowner.org](http://www.wellowner.org)



**Protect your health!**  
Test your well water for:



- ☒ **Coliform Bacteria**  
(Every year)
- ☒ **Nitrate**  
(Every other year)
- ☒ **Arsenic**  
(At least once)
- ☒ **Lead**  
(At least once)
- ☒ **Manganese**  
(Before a baby drinks the water)

Testing is even more important if young children drink the water.



## Low-Interest Loan Programs for Well and Septic Improvements

Renville County administers 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 [ES@renvillecountymn.com](mailto:ES@renvillecountymn.com).**



## One Watershed, One Plan 'Story Map'

The Hawk Creek – Middle Minnesota Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan partners (Chippewa, Kandiyohi, and Renville Counties and Soil and Water Conservation Districts) are in the process of developing a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP) for the Hawk Creek watershed and portions of the Middle Minnesota watershed.



One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) is a process established by the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to assist in developing a CWMP. The new Plan intends to increase efficiencies in both planning and resources by establishing one plan based on watershed boundaries, rather than several smaller plans based on county boundaries, such as our current Local Comprehensive Water Plans. The goal of the Plan is to establish priorities to protect and improve both surface water and ground water resources.

Developing the CWMP is a 'bottom up' approach to water management. Input from citizens and stakeholders is an important part of the development of the Plan. A project 'Story Map' was recently developed to create a graphic overview of the landscape and resources of the planning area. The Story Map will evolve with the CWMP planning process. **To view the Story Map, visit <https://bit.ly/3aNExUE> (Open in Chrome). For more information, visit the website or email [OneWatershed.OnePlan@kcmn.us](mailto:OneWatershed.OnePlan@kcmn.us).**



## USDA Conservation Reserve Program

By Holly Hatlewick, Renville SWCD District Administrator

Are you tired of experiencing wet fields year after year?

How about battling those dry hilltops? **The USDA**

**Conservation Reserve**

**Program (CRP) provides an opportunity for private landowners to enroll their land in this voluntary, 10-15 year long conservation program and receive annual rental payments from the Federal Government.** In exchange for a yearly rental payment, farmers have agreed to take environmentally sensitive land out of production and plant species that will improve environmental health and quality. Since 1985, when President Ronald Reagan signed this into law, CRP has improved water quality, reduced soil erosion, and increased habitat for endangered and threatened species. Practices like CP-21 FilterStrip, CP-23A Wetland Restoration, and CP-38 State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement are common practices that landowners can enroll their land into.



Another beneficial CRP practice is the CP-42 Native Habitat Development for Pollinators. This practice offers a unique opportunity to provide pollinators (butterflies, bees, beetles, etc.) a place where they can find a good source of food, shelter, and nesting areas. Planting a variety of wildflowers, grasses, and/or blooming shrubs can provide these resources.

**For more information on the CRP program or land eligibility questions, please contact the USDA Service Center located at 1008 W Lincoln Ave, Olivia, MN 56277, or by calling 320-523-1550, Extension 3.**



## Renville County Meets National Weather Service "StormReady" Criteria

No community is storm proof, but StormReady can help communities save lives. The program encourages communities to take a new, proactive approach to improving hazardous weather operations by providing emergency managers with clear-cut guidelines on how to improve their hazardous weather operations.

### To be officially StormReady, a community must:

- Establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center.
- Have more than one way to receive severe weather warnings and forecasts and to alert the public.
- Create a system that monitors weather conditions locally.
- Promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars.
- Develop a formal hazardous weather plan, which includes training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.

**Questions? Contact Emergency Management at 320-523-3838 or [mikehe@renvillecountymn.com](mailto:mikehe@renvillecountymn.com).**



**FUN FACT:** Did you know that more than 1/3 of all plants and plant products consumed by humans are dependent on pollinators? Minnesota-grown crop plants like apples, berries, squash, and cucumbers cannot produce seed without the help of insect pollinators.

# Volunteers Needed for Restorative Justice Program

Submitted by Renville County Restorative Justice



**Andrew Peltz, Restorative Justice Coordinator**

**W**hat is Restorative Justice? It is a fundamental change in approach when working to repair damages caused from crimes or wrongdoings within a community. This philosophy sees these misconducts as a violation of both the law and the relationships that were impacted by the incident and works to repair the relationships harmed in these situations.

**What is a Circle?** A circle is an intentional way of gathering people for organizing effective group communication, building relationships, establishing accountability, 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 to find solutions. As a group, circle members work with the family or individual to determine what they can do to repair the harm they have caused by the offenses that brought them to circle.

**What does a Circle look like?** There are four to five volunteers within each circle, a facilitator, and the participants. Currently, there are a total of four groups being facilitated within Renville County, with a majority of groups starting at noon and 5:30pm on Mondays and Tuesdays, meeting every other week for two hours each. Each group begins with a small meal, prior to sitting in circle. Andrew Peltz, Restorative Justice Coordinator, shared, *"When in circle, we begin the night by checking in on how everyone is doing. Each circle can look very different; but in general terms, we discuss what's going well, what isn't going so good, and what thing could potentially be done to take another step in the right direction. By sharing our own life experiences and by telling our stories, participants begin to open up to the group which establishes trust; and through these relationships that are formed, healthy changes begin to unfold."*

## What have participants said?

"I know there's always a place for mental health testing and different things; but at the end of the day, there is a great need for human connection and more relationships."  
- Youth Participant

"I appreciate everything. This is why I wanted this for you kids to see it from others' eyes. We are getting things done as a group now. That's what this circle has done. Help us move forward as a unit and not individuals. Being here three times has changed us three times over. As a family, we used to take three steps forward and four backwards. I needed this group. A lot of stuff has changed for the better in two months. This is a big thing for us that has really paid off."

- Parent Participant

## What have community volunteers said?

- "Being part of this group rekindled in me a faith in the people of our community that believe we can have, and are willing to work for a better world. With Restorative Justice Circles, there is hope for a better world." - Volunteer

## Potential referrals from Human Services, Probation, County Attorney's Office, and Public Health

From the words seen above by both volunteers and community members, there is a great need for community connection, support, and accountability within our small towns in Renville County. In conversation with staff and supervisors from all of the department names above, if the program had more volunteers, and had the capacity to hold more circles, there are at least 30 potential referrals that could be approached to see if the families would consider trying out the program. The reality here is that the number of youth, young adults, and families in crisis that are in need of support is certainly not declining.

## Volunteers are needed

With the high need and want to get more families and youth involved in the program, more volunteers are needed in order to make this happen. **If you are interested in volunteering to support individuals and families in your community or have questions, please contact Andrew Peltz at 320-522-1573 or email [andrewp@renvillecountymn.com](mailto:andrewp@renvillecountymn.com).**

## .....➔ ATTENTION BUSINESSES

**Business Innovation Grants  
are available to  
RENVILLE COUNTY BUSINESSES**



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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](mailto:EDA@renvillecountymn.com)

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**If your business is looking  
at doing a project, please  
consider submitting an  
application for the April, July,  
or October rounds of funding.**

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

**Applications and a full list of guidelines and criteria can be found at [www.renville.com](http://www.renville.com) and submitted any time during the grant cycle prior to the deadline. To be eligible, applications must be received BEFORE a project is completed.**

## Syphilis Rates Increasing in Minnesota and the Nation

Submitted by Renville County Public Health

**S**yphilis rates are increasing in Minnesota and the nation, particularly among women of reproductive age and their babies. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), along with local and tribal public health partners, is responding to regional increases and monitoring changing trends in syphilis statewide.



As part of Public Health's ongoing efforts, MDH posts syphilis case counts by county to the website: [www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/syphilis](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/syphilis)

Syphilis is a serious sexually transmitted disease caused by a bacteria. Once syphilis enters the body, it can damage organs and the nervous system. Syphilis can be cured with antibiotics. Syphilis is called "the great imitator" because so many signs and symptoms are similar to other diseases. A person can have syphilis and not know it.

### Symptoms of syphilis in adults can be divided into stages:

#### \* **Primary Syphilis:**

- Symptoms begin 1-12 weeks after exposure:
- A painless, open sore(s) on the mouth, genitals, or anus
- Sore(s) can be "hidden" in the vagina or rectum
- Sore(s) last 1-5 weeks
- Sore(s) goes away, but syphilis is still in the blood

\*

#### **Secondary Syphilis:**

- Symptoms show up 6 weeks to 6 months after sore appears
- A rash anywhere on the body
- Flu-like symptoms
- Whitish-grey patches on mouth/lips, wart-like lesions around genitals, and/or hair loss can occur but are less common

#### \* **Latent and late stages**

- No sores or rashes, but syphilis is still in the blood and can affect the heart, brain, and other organs over time (tertiary syphilis)

This disease occurs worldwide. The number of cases is rising fastest in women, men who have sex with men, young adults ages 15 to 25, people who exchange sex for drugs or money, and American Indians and African Americans. Your risk of syphilis increases if you have unprotected sex (do not use condoms or do not use them correctly), have multiple sex partners, have a sex partner who has syphilis, or have sex with a partner who has multiple sex partners.

*"Disturbing is the recent sharp increase in the number of babies born with syphilis in the United States and Minnesota," says Jill Bruns, Public Health Director. "Protect your baby from congenital syphilis by getting tested for syphilis during your pregnancy." A mother with syphilis passes the infection on to her baby during pregnancy. This can have major and lasting health impacts on your baby. Up to 40% of babies born to women with untreated syphilis may be stillborn or die from the infection as a newborn. Others can have lasting bone, organ, and brain issues.*

**As one way to reduce sexually transmitted diseases, Renville County Public Health provides free condoms at the Olivia office. No questions asked. For more information, contact 320-523-2570.**



## Open Your Heart. Open Your Home.

Foster parents are as diverse as the children they care for. A foster parent may be single or married, have children or not have children, rent or own their home, work full-time or not full-time. What they share is a concern for children and a commitment to help them through tough times. They provide critical temporary care and nurturing to children in crisis. **If you are interested in learning more about becoming a foster parent, contact Renville County Human Services at 320-523-3523 or [rachelj@renvillecountymn.com](mailto:rachelj@renvillecountymn.com).**

## Foster Parents Needed Today!

# RC HOSPITAL & CLINICS IS **AFFILIATING**

with HealthPartners® to bring you the best care and service.

We all want the best possible care, close to home. So we have looked at every option for expansion and continued improvement. And you can be assured we are making the right decision for you and this community by teaming up with HealthPartners®

**Want to learn more about our affiliation with HealthPartners® ?**

JOIN US FOR CONVERSATION, ALL ARE WELCOME!

**FEBRUARY 5, 5:30 PM**  
RENVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

**MARCH 10, 6:00 PM**  
MORTON CITY HALL

**FEBRUARY 12, 5:30 PM**  
SACRED HEART COMMUNITY CENTER

**MARCH 11, 6:00 PM**  
FRANKLIN COMMUNITY CENTER

**FEBRUARY 26, 5:30 PM**  
HECTOR COMMUNITY CENTER

**MARCH 18, 6:00 PM**  
BIRD ISLAND CITY HALL

**MARCH 4, 6:00 PM**  
RC HOSPITAL & CLINICS

**MARCH 25, 5:30 PM**  
DANUBE COMMUNITY CENTER

## THE TOP THREE REASONS WE ARE AFFILIATING



### 1. AFFORDABILITY.

We will pool our strengths with HealthPartners® to bargain for the best pricing and get better access to more affordable healthcare.



### 2. EXPANDING OUR TEAM AND CAPABILITIES.

We will continue to deliver the care you deserve with our amazing employees we have today and look forward to expanding our team as we work with HealthPartners®



### 3. SERVICES.

We will begin to offer care in a new way. We will go beyond the walls of our hospital and clinics to offer more to our patients, employees, and community.

## WE WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE CARE OF YOU, JUST LIKE WE ALWAYS HAVE.

We live here too, and we will continue to provide the very best levels of care in this community. We're positioned well teaming with HealthPartners® and look forward to improving our services for the community.

**TO LEARN MORE, GIVE US A CALL.**  
**1-800-916-1836**

## Recognizing County Employees with Grateful Appreciation

The Renville County Commissioners and Administration appreciate the dedication and service of employees who have reached their service milestones in 2019 and those employees who retired in 2019. Thank you for your service!



### 5 years

Steven Daak, Corrections Officer  
Chandra Ebbers, County Agency Social Worker  
Dennis Fiebelkorn, Patrol Deputy  
Marion Harmon, Corrections Officer  
Amy Hubbard, Eligibility Worker  
Melissa Koford, Lead Eligibility Worker  
Jason Krumheuer, On-Call Patrol Deputy  
Jeremy LeBlanc, Assistant Highway Engineer I  
Leah Schueler, Community Health Strategist  
Robyn Stryker, Social Worker Team Leader

### 20 years

Doug Bruns, County Assessor  
Nathan Johnson, Drainage Technician

### 25 years

Amy Agre, Medical Accounting Technician  
Karrie Jansen, Finance Officer  
Judy Posl, Administrative Assistant  
Melissa Williams, Child Support Officer

### 30 years

Rita Felton, Public Health Nurse  
Jan Elaine Steffel, IT Specialist  
Dawn Walkow, Paralegal

### 10 years

Jayson Firle, Public Works Maintenance Worker  
Jeremy Mettling, Public Works Maintenance Worker  
Thomas Swyter, Patrol Deputy  
Rebecca Wulf, Corrections Officer

### 35 years

Jill Bruns, Director of Public Health/CHS Administrator  
Kevin Iverson, Dispatcher

### 15 years

Karla Koplin, Patrol Deputy  
Scott Refsland, Director of Environmental Services  
Kyle Schlomann, IT Coordinator

### Retirees

Donald Bendinelli, Patrol Deputy  
Judy Kaufenberg, Office Support Specialist  
Susan Lindquist, Home Health Aide  
Vicki Lippert, County Agency Social Worker  
Connie Peterson, WIC Clerk/Medical Secretary

## Renville County Sheriff's Office Offers FREE Prescription Drug Take Back Program



The Prescription Drug Take Back Program aims to safely collect and destroy expired or unused medications with a goal of reducing drug crimes/addiction and keeping children safe by reducing the chances of accidental overdoses. This program is free to Renville County residents. Simply remove or black out your name on the container labels, bring your medications to one of the collections sites, and place them into the tamper-proof container! Medications collected are destroyed at an approved incinerator. **Questions? Contact the Sheriff's Office at 320-523-1161.**

### What Kinds of Medication Can I Dispose of?

**YES:** Prescription Medications, Prescription Patches, Prescription Ointments, Over-the-Counter Medications, Vitamins, Medication Samples, Veterinary Drugs

**NO:** Needles, Inhalers, Aerosol Cans, Thermometers, Hydrogen Peroxide, Lotions, Medication from Businesses (*Medical or Dental Clinics*)

### Where are the Collection Sites Located?

- Renville County Government Services Building
- Bird Island City Hall
- Fairfax City Hall
- Morton City Hall
- Renville City Hall



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
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 Row) **Bob Fox**, District 2, **Greg Snow**, District 4, **Rick Schmidt**, District 5  
(Front Row) **Doug Erickson**, District 3, **Randy Kramer**, District 1

# More Than Expected.

One County. Seven Parks. 1,300 Acres.

**Parks Open for Winter Recreational Activities!**

In the Renville County Parks, simplicity and spontaneity are part of the fun!

Camping and outdoor adventure trips are filled with simple pleasures and timeless wonders; sleeping under the stars, waking to the sounds of nature, hiking, biking, fishing, horseback riding, canoeing, snowmobiling, and more.

*Join Us. You'll Find More Than Expected!*

Online camping reservation system set to launch this spring, making it easier than ever for residents and visitors to plan their camping adventures in Renville County Parks!

**Renville**  
COUNTY  
**PARKS**



Like "Renville County Parks" on Facebook!

www.renvillecountymn.com  
320-523-3747

ParksDept@renvillecountymn.com

- 12 -

**Courthouse**  
500 East DePue  
Olivia, MN 56277

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

**Landfill**  
32877 Co Rd 4  
Olivia, MN 56277

**RRRSWA**  
907 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](mailto:lisah@renvillecountymn.com)

Web: [www.renvillecountymn.com](http://www.renvillecountymn.com)

**Local  
Postal Customer**

PRST STD  
ECRWSS  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM



# Renville County Recycling

## Curbside Schedule

### January - December 2020

**Bird Island - Renville - Sacred Heart**

**Danube - Olivia**

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

**Buffalo Lake - Fairfax - Hector**

**Franklin - Morton (RF Zone 1)**

**Remember to have your carts to the curb no later than 6:30am**



### Glass

Clear, green, and brown bottles and jars (food and beverage containers only.)

- No light bulbs, mirrors, ceramics, or dishes.
- Must be empty and clean. Do not remove labels.

**(BEGINNING 01/01/2020)**

Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4	1	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8 9 10 11	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14 15 16 17 18	9 10 11 12 13 14 15	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	12 13 14 15 16 17 18
19 20 21 22 23 24 25	16 17 18 19 20 21 22	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	19 20 21 22 23 24 25
26 27 28 29 30 31	23 24 25 26 27 28 29	29 30 31	26 27 28 29 30
May 2020	Jun 2020	Jul 2020	Aug 2020
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2	1	1 2 3 4	1
3 4 5 6 7 8 9	2 3 4 5 6	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	2 3 4 5 6 7 8
10 11 12 13 14 15 16	7 8 9 10 11 12 13	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	9 10 11 12 13 14 15
17 18 19 20 21 22 23	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	16 17 18 19 20 21 22
24 25 26 27 28 29 30	21 22 23 24 25 26 27	26 27 28 29 30 31	23 24 25 26 27 28 29
31	28 29 30		30 31
Sep 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2020
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10 11 12	4 5 6 7 8 9 10	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	6 7 8 9 10 11 12
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	11 12 13 14 15 16 17	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	13 14 15 16 17 18 19
20 21 22 23 24 25 26	18 19 20 21 22 23 24	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	20 21 22 23 24 25 26
27 28 29 30	25 26 27 28 29 30 31	29 30	27 28 29 30 31

### Plastic Containers

#1 thru #5 (excluding caps)

No larger than 5 quarts.

- Must be removed from bags
- No Styrofoam
- No bags
- No toys
- No pools
- No siding
- No PVC pipe, etc.

### Steel and Aluminum

Food and beverage cans, aluminum foil, pie pans, and aerosol cans (must be empty).

- No food remaining (empty and clean)
- No need to remove labels on food cans

### Paper

Newspaper, junk mail, paperbacks, catalogs, phone books, envelopes (including windowed) and paper egg cartons.

- Do not bundle or tie (place in cart loosely)

### Cardboard

Cardboard (folded flat), paper bags and boxboard (e.g. cereal, cracker, pasta, and shoe boxes), paper egg cartons

- No frozen food or refrigerated food boxes
- No beer or pop boxes (6 packs, 12 packs or cases)
- No packing foam
- No waxed cardboard

### Do NOT Recycle:

**Plastic Bags/Film Plastic:** Please purchase and utilize reusable grocery bags, ask for paper, or have your groceries loaded loosely into your cart. Do NOT place bags or other film plastic into your recycling container.

**Shredded Paper:** Please utilize our shredding service, which is FREE for personal papers and a nominal fee for businesses. If you shred your own paper, please bag it and bring it to the office located at the RRRMRF in Redwood Falls.

**PLEASE KEEP AND POST**

**WEST CENTRAL SANITATION**

Good Neighbors You've Come To Trust

4089 Abbott Drive | P.O. Box 796

Willmar, MN 56201

Phone: 1-800-246-7630

Fax: 320-235-5715

www.wcsanitation.com

# October 14, 2020

A map of Renville County, Minnesota, showing the location of the fairgrounds. The fairgrounds are marked with a yellow star and a yellow arrow pointing to it from the text "Renville County Fairgrounds". The map includes major roads: 380TH ST, 300TH ST, 200TH ST, 100TH ST, and 800TH AVE running north-south; and 5TH ST and 400TH ST running east-west. A red line indicates the location of the fairgrounds, which is situated south of 100TH ST and east of 5TH ST. The map also shows the location of Bird Island and the Renville County Fairgrounds.

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



# Renville

COUNTY

Service • Stewardship • Shared Responsibility

## 2020 EVENTS

- March 21<sup>st</sup>** Fireman's Prime Rib Supper, Buffalo Lake
- April 3<sup>rd</sup>** Lions Fish Fry and Business Expo, Buffalo Lake
- April 4<sup>th</sup>** TOMF Jam the Gym, Bird Island
- April 11<sup>th</sup>** Easter Egg Hunt, (CCOC) Olivia
- May 2<sup>nd</sup>** Spring Garden Party, Morton
- June 3<sup>rd</sup>** Thompson Golf Classic, (RCH Foundation) Olivia
- June 10<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>** Sugar Beet Days, Renville
- June 13<sup>th</sup>** Flag Day Golf Tournament, Sons of the American Legion, Olivia
- June 13<sup>th</sup>** Flag Disposal, American Legion, Olivia
- June 17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>** Island Days, Bird Island
- June 25<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>** Dayz of Thunder, Fairfax
- July 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>** Polka Fest Days, Bird Island
- July 4<sup>th</sup>** Independence Day Celebration, Morton
- July 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>** Corn Chaff Days, Hector
- July 8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>** Danube Fun Days, Danube
- July 13<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>** Buffalo Lake Days, Buffalo Lake
- July 15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>st</sup>** Summerfest, Sacred Heart
- July 20<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>** Corn Capital Days, Olivia
- July 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>** Catfish Derby Days, Franklin

- July 25<sup>th</sup>** Jon Wogen Memorial Fishing Contest, Pond Park, Olivia
- July 26<sup>th</sup>** Lions Fly-In Breakfast, Olivia
- August 4<sup>th</sup>** Fairfax National Night Out, Fairfax
- August 4<sup>th</sup>** Renville National Night Out, Renville
- August 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>** Renville County Fair, Bird Island
- August 7<sup>th</sup>** Renville County Walk in the Park, Olivia
- August 8<sup>th</sup>** Ride to Remember
- September 12<sup>th</sup>** Renville County Fireman's Rib Cook Off, American Legion, Olivia
- September 20<sup>th</sup>** Hector Fly-In, Municipal Airport, Hector
- October 1<sup>st</sup>** Octoberfest German Meal, American Legion, Olivia
- November 14<sup>th</sup>** Holiday Happenings, Hector
- November 21<sup>st</sup>** Beneath the Village Wreath, Morton
- November 25<sup>th</sup>** Fall Craft and Vendor Show, Olivia
- December 2<sup>nd</sup>** Taste of Bechyn, American Legion, Olivia
- December 3<sup>rd</sup>** Unforgettable Christmas, Hector
- December 3<sup>rd</sup>** Holiday Happenings, Olivia
- December 4<sup>th</sup>** Old Fashioned Christmas, Bird Island
- December 12<sup>th</sup>** Fireman's Pancake Breakfast, Renville

Visit [www.renville.com](http://www.renville.com) for the most up-to-date listing of community events.

**PLEASE KEEP AND POST**



# Renville County 2020 Road and Bridge Construction

