



2025 | Issue 3 | Fall



West Wing

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## Renville County Purchases 11-Unit Apartment Complex to Expand Child Care and Workforce Housing Opportunities

Renville County and the Renville County Housing and Redevelopment Authority/Economic Development Authority (HRA/EDA) are pleased to announce the recent purchase of an 11-unit apartment complex, now named The West Wing Child Care and Rentals or "West Wing," located in the City of Renville. *(This is the west wing of the Meadows on Main apartment complex, for those familiar with this building.)* **This strategic acquisition supports ongoing efforts to address both the child care shortage and the demand for quality workforce housing in the region.**



Photo: One of two new playgrounds added to enhance outdoor play for children at West Wing. Fences coming soon!

As part of this initiative, four of the apartment units will be dedicated to licensed family child care providers, allowing them to operate their businesses outside of their personal homes. These specially designated "Special Family Child Care" (SFCC) units are designed to meet the unique needs of child care operations and will provide a safe, welcoming environment for children and families.

This portion of the project is funded through a State of Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development Child Care Economic Development Grant award of \$345,000 to increase child care slots by 40. **As of October 13, all four SFCC units have been applied for and filled, pending final child care licensure by Renville County Human Services.** *(Continued on Page 2).*



## West Wing Continued...

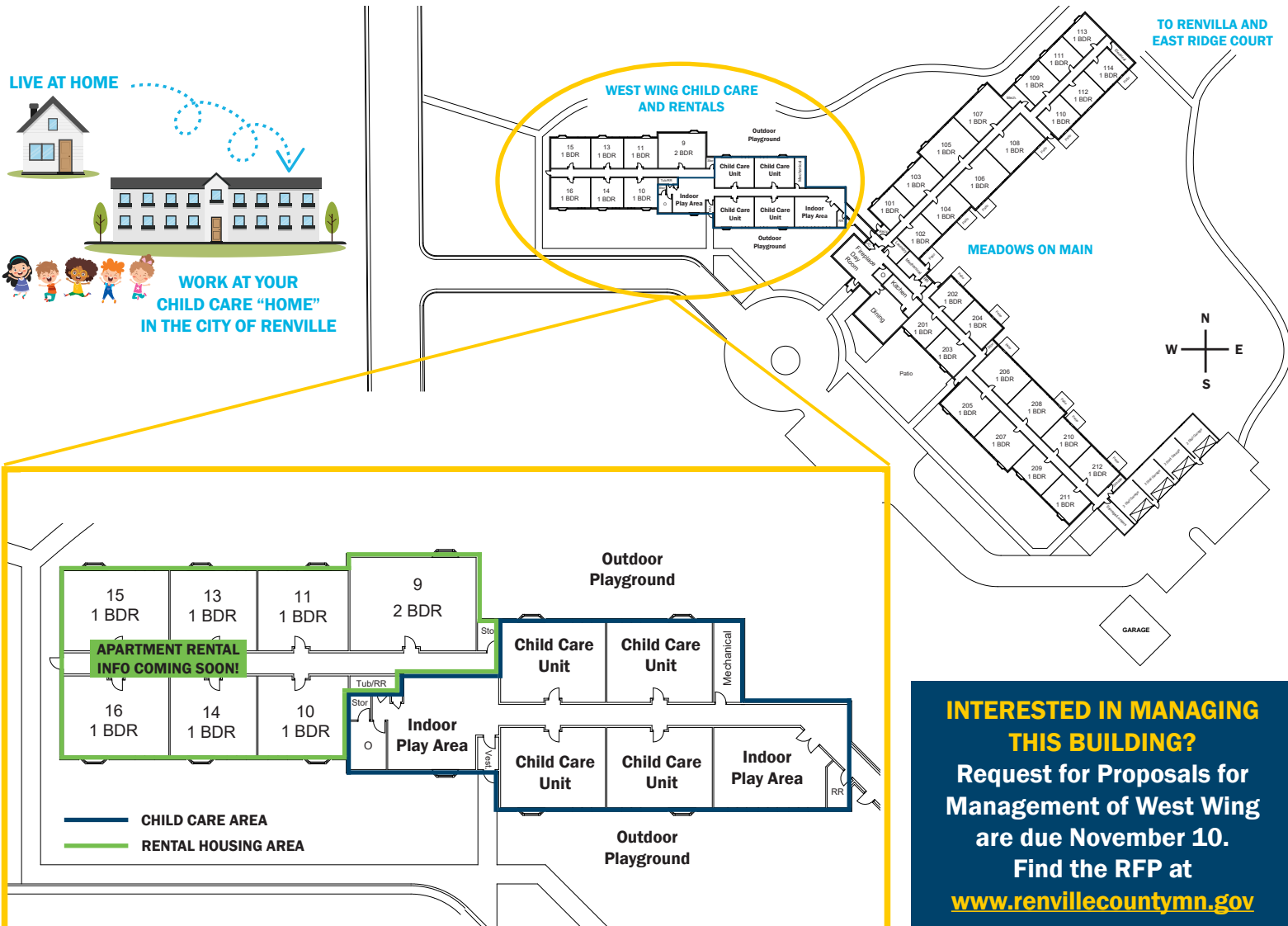


The remaining seven units will be used to support workforce housing, providing affordable, accessible living options for individuals and families employed in the area. This is a key step toward ensuring Renville County remains a vibrant place to live and work by supporting local employers and enhancing quality of life for residents.

*"This project addresses two major needs in our communities - child care and housing," shared HRA/EDA Board Chair, Mark Thiesse. "By investing in the West Wing, we are not only expanding access to child care but also making it easier for residents to find housing close to their jobs. It's a win-win for families, employers, and the entire County."*

The HRA/EDA is currently working on necessary building renovations to separate the child care and housing areas

and expects to open the building late fall/early winter. **Interested child care providers and individuals seeking housing are encouraged to monitor the County website at [www.renvillecountymn.gov](http://www.renvillecountymn.gov) for upcoming application opportunities or contact Stefanie Ryan, Renville County Communications and Grants Coordinator, to be added to the project communications update list at [stefanie.ryan@renvillecountymn.gov](mailto:stefanie.ryan@renvillecountymn.gov) or 320-523-3592.**



## Honoring the Retirement of Renville County Veterans Service Officer, Lee Stock



Lee Stock

After more than four decades of dedicated public service - spanning military, county, and community roles, Lee Stock, Renville County's Veterans Services Officer, is retiring on October 31. His career reflects a lifelong commitment to serving others, from his early years on a Minnesota farm to his leadership in the military and his advocacy for veterans across the state and country.

### A Life Rooted in Service

Originally from a family farm in Moyer Township, north of Appleton, Minnesota, Lee graduated from Appleton High School in 1984 and attended Staples Vo-Tech for Heavy Equipment Operation and Maintenance. His service journey began early. He joined the Minnesota Army National Guard in 1983 and began full-time duty at the Olivia Armory in 1986. Over the next two decades, he served in a variety of leadership roles, including as Range Control Officer at Camp Ripley. His military career included two deployments: to Baghdad, Iraq (2004–2006) and Kuwait (2009–2010). He retired as a First Sergeant (E8) after 26 years of full-time service.

Beyond his military service, Lee has been deeply involved in his community. He served 10 years with the Olivia Fire Department and, since 2011, has led Renville County's Veterans Services Office - helping countless veterans and their families access the benefits they earned through their service.

### Career Highlights and Challenges

When asked about his proudest accomplishments, Lee points first to his family - his wife, Jackie, and their daughters, Kayla and Kalley. Professionally, he takes pride in helping veterans not just in Renville County but across Minnesota and beyond. **"Word got around from satisfied customers,"** he said. **"I started helping veterans all over our state and the country."**

His most difficult challenge came during his first deployment to Iraq, when his children were young and he lost three soldiers under his command to a roadside bomb.

**"Those were my darkest days, and I will never forget them,"** he shared. His advice to others facing hardship: **"Persevere. Trust in yourself, hold on to your faith, and trust in those you love."**

### Reflections on Work and Leadership

Throughout his career, Lee valued working with people who showed a positive attitude, empathy, and loyalty. The leaders he admired most were those who demonstrated honesty, transparency, and genuine support for their teams.

Reflecting on how the workplace has evolved, he noted that technology and social media have changed the way people connect. **"The pandemic changed the social fabric of our world. Social media and automation have created an attitude of instant gratification, which government isn't built to deliver."**

### Looking Ahead

As he steps into retirement, Lee plans to take what he calls an "operational pause" to reflect, rest, and chart his next course. **"I just ran out of time - my health has taken its toll from my years as a soldier. I want to enjoy the golden years,"** he said. He and Jackie plan to travel, including a visit to Germany where their daughter Kayla is stationed with the U.S. Army. A part-time job might also be on the horizon after some well-deserved downtime.

### A Farewell Message

In parting, Lee extends heartfelt gratitude to the Renville County Commissioners, administrative staff, department heads, and the local veterans community. **"Thank you for the great opportunity to work with and for you over the past 14 years,"** he said. His advice is simple but timeless: **"Do good things for good people. Treat people the way you want to be treated. And remember, 'The only thing that is fair in life is where you show your pig in the summertime.'"**

As for his favorite movie lines, two stand out - both fitting reflections on a life of service and steady purpose:

**"Best job I ever had."** - Fury

**"I'm tired. I think I'm going to go home now."** - Forrest Gump

Renville County extends its deepest thanks to Lee for his unwavering service, leadership, and compassion. We wish him all the best in his next chapter!



## JOIN OPERATION GREEN LIGHT FOR VETERANS

Show support for veterans by lighting your home or business **green** from November 4 - 11. By shining a green light, we aim to let Veterans know that they are seen, appreciated, and supported!

#OperationGreenLight for Veterans | [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org)



**Renville**  
COUNTY  
Service. Stewardship. Shared Responsibility.

## YOU Can Make a Difference: Become a Restorative Justice Volunteer Today!



**R**estorative Justice is a fundamental change in approach when working to repair damages caused from crimes or wrongdoings within a community. This is not only a restorative philosophy but a way of life that emphasizes the need to restore the relationships harmed in these situations.

**What is a Circle?** The Circle process is an intentional way of gathering and organizing effective group communication, building relationships, establishing accountability, problem solving, and healthy decision-making. As a group, members work with the family or individual to determine what they can do to repair the harm they have caused by the circumstances that brought them to Circle. While in Circle, participants and volunteers discuss what is going well, any current concerns or worries, and potential next steps to restore the situation that brings them there.

This is a great way to get involved with people in your community or the one down the road. **The need for connection, support, and mentoring continues to grow as evidenced by the times we are in.** With that comes the reality that the number of youth and families in need

*"It is so worth your time volunteering with Restorative Justice! We work as a team creating a safe circle of adults that they (the participants) can be responsible to and receive support from. One caring adult can make a big difference in a child's life, which is really what it's all about."*

- Restorative Justice Volunteer

of extra support is certainly not declining. Your time and willingness to listen to someone's life story and share the lessons learned from your own can make a difference that neither one of you would have ever imagined possible.

**Do you have two hours every other week to spare to participate in conversations and mentoring of folks that are awaiting your support?** If this sparks something within you, please don't be afraid to reach out and ask more questions or visit the Restorative Justice Department page at [www.renvillecountymn.gov](http://www.renvillecountymn.gov).

**If you are interested in volunteering to support families in your community, please contact Andrew Peltz, Restorative Justice Coordinator, at 320-522-1573 or [andrew.peltz@renvillecountymn.gov](mailto:andrew.peltz@renvillecountymn.gov) for more information.**

## 2026 Renville County Budget Proposed at \$53,869,533

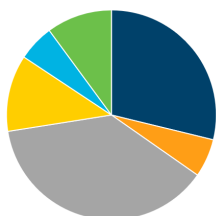
**2026 Preliminary Levy: \$20,309,240**  
(10% increase from 2025)

**HRA/EDA Preliminary Levy: \$320,364**  
(0% increase from 2025)

The Housing and Redevelopment Authority and Economic Development Authority has a separate levy.

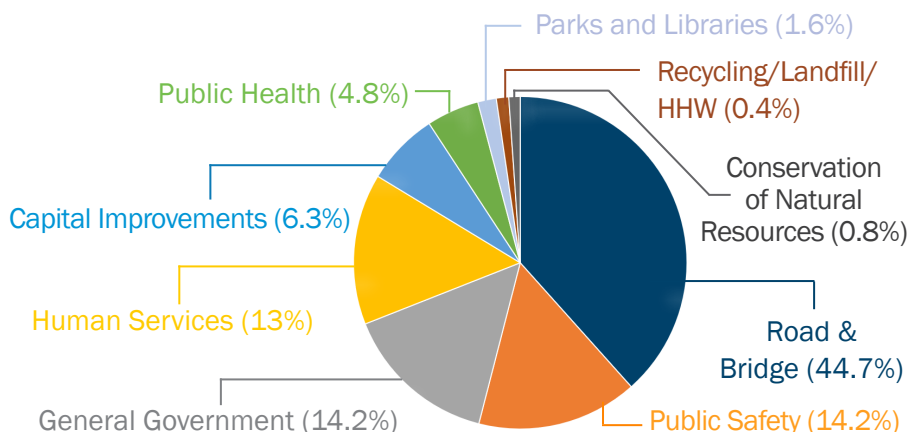
## 2025 Revenue Sources

Renville County's funding comes from a variety of federal, state, and local revenues and service fees.



Agricultural Property Taxes (22.1%)  
Non-Agricultural Property Taxes (16.2%)  
State Aid (32.7%)  
Federal Grants (11%)  
Fees (5.7%)  
Miscellaneous (12.3%)

## THE \$53.8 MILLION BREAKDOWN:



## Renville County Board of Commissioners BUDGET MEETING



**Thursday, December 11, at 6:00 p.m.**



**In-Person:** Renville County Government Services Center  
105 - 5th Street South, Suite 313, Olivia, Minnesota



**Virtual:** [www.renvillecountymn.gov](http://www.renvillecountymn.gov)  
(Find meeting link on the homepage under the Government tab at Agendas and Minutes)



# Renville County Receives Opioid Settlement Funds – Community Input Needed

Renville County has received funding through the national opioid settlement with opioid manufacturers and distributors. In order to create positive, sustainable change for our communities, we are seeking input from a variety of partners! We are forming an advisory group called SCOPE – Sustainable Change for Opioid Prevention Efforts Renville Co. – to help guide how these funds are allocated in meaningful and effective ways across Renville County.

### What is SCOPE Renville Co.?

SCOPE Renville Co. will be a diverse group of community partners, each bringing their unique perspectives to discussions on how best to use the opioid settlement funds. The group will consist of 15 to 20 members, representing sectors such as:

- Youth
- City representatives
- Human services
- Primary care
- Education
- Veterans
- Addiction medicine
- Legal professionals
- Corrections
- Law enforcement
- Recovery advocates
- Individuals with lived experience

### Guiding Principles

SCOPE Renville Co. will be guided by the Johns Hopkins Principles for spending opioid settlement funds:

1. Spend money to save lives.
2. Use evidence to guide spending.
3. Invest in youth prevention.
4. Focus on racial equity.
5. Develop a fair and transparent process for allocating funds.

### Focus Areas for Funding

The opioid settlement funds are intended to support initiatives in four key areas:

1. Prevention
2. Harm Reduction
3. Law Enforcement
4. Treatment and Recovery

The goal is to use these dollars to strengthen existing programs and invest in sustainable projects that will have a long-lasting impact in Renville County.

### Get Involved

If you would like to get updates about SCOPE Renville Co. and the work being done with the opioid settlement dollars, please sign up using the QR code or visit [bit.ly/48XI1Eu](https://bit.ly/48XI1Eu). If you are interested in joining SCOPE Renville Co. as a member, you can mark that using this same QR code/link. You will then be sent an application to fill out. Membership will be decided after all applications are received and reviewed. **Applications are due by Sunday, November 30, 2025.**



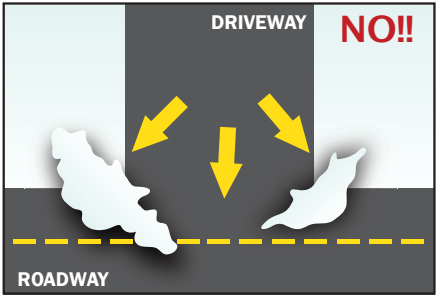
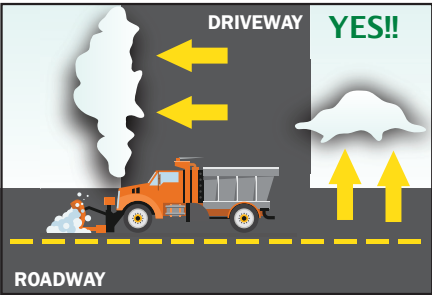
**Questions?** Email Jess Johnson, Renville County Community Health Educator & Prevention Specialist: [jess.johnson@renvillecountymn.gov](mailto:jess.johnson@renvillecountymn.gov).

## Snow on Road Notice

The Renville County Public Works Department would like to remind County residents that it is unlawful to deposit or push snow or ice, in any fashion, onto a public roadway or across the road right-of-way.

**Minnesota Statutes 160.2715 and 169.42 prohibit the plowing, blowing, shoveling, and placing of snow from sidewalks, driveways, and parking lots onto public roadways.**

This can include the ditch and right-of-way area. Violations of these statutes are a misdemeanor. Piles of snow left on or near the road can freeze into a solid mass creating a hazardous situation for vehicles and snowplows. Accidents and damages caused by snow placed in the roadway may result in liability to the property owner.



## New Franklin Meal Prep Business Already Expanding

- Submitted by Southwest Initiative Foundation

**W**hat started as a simple idea to improve their own health quickly grew into a business plan for Shay and Raven All Runner. **Their new meal prep company Well Made offers individual, premade meals that can be ordered online and then delivered to the customer's home or a drop-off location.**

Well Made started in May 2023 in a shared kitchen space with Shay as the only employee. Shay and Raven quickly realized that they needed their own space and purchased a food trailer with a commercial kitchen in October 2023. A year later, after Raven joined the team as an official, full-time employee, they acquired Franklin Wellness with help from Southwest Initiative Foundation's (SWIF) loan programs. Franklin Wellness has a small fitness center in the front of the building, and the All Runners are expanding Well Made in the back of the building with a brand-new commercial kitchen. Loan funds from SWIF are helping make the kitchen expansion possible so that Shay and Raven can continue to serve their growing clientele.



Photo: Raven and Shay All Runner pose in front of their new building

***"Supporting Shay and Raven's business is an investment in healthier communities. The All Runners are providing a vital service to southwest Minnesota, and we are proud to be a part of their story,"*** said SWIF President Scott Marquardt.

Learn more about Well Made at [wellmademealprep.com](https://wellmademealprep.com).

### Creating Economic Mobility Through Lending

Loans have been a key function of SWIF since the beginning, supporting communities and businesses throughout southwest Minnesota. In 2001, microlending was added to existing programs as a tool to support small businesses and entrepreneurs.

In partnership with banks and credit unions, economic development organizations, nonprofit lenders and private investors, we create and retain quality jobs, foster entrepreneurship and help our communities – large and small – compete in a global marketplace.



**SOUTHWEST INITIATIVE  
FOUNDATION**

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

**R**enville County administers low-interest loan programs to assist property owners with upgrading or replacing a failing septic system and/or for repairing or replacing a damaged or contaminated well. Loan terms are seven years for septs and 10 years for wells 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.

### Income-Based Septic System Grants

The County also administers an income-based grant program that is available to property owners in Renville County that have an existing, noncompliant septic system. Funds are intended to fix septic systems that are currently failing codes or functionality.

#### Minimum Grant Qualifications:

- Funding must be for a homesteaded single-family home with an existing, failing subsurface sewage treatment system (SSTS) in Renville County
- The applicant must be the owner of the property
- Taxes must be current
- Income guidelines must be met

**A full listing of guidelines is available at [www.renvillecountymn.gov](http://www.renvillecountymn.gov) or by contacting Environmental Services at 320-523-3768 or [ES@renvillecountymn.gov](mailto:ES@renvillecountymn.gov).**

**IS YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM  
NON-COMPLIANT?**

**Income-Based Septic System  
Grant Funds Available!**





## Soil Health: For People and Profit

- Submitted by Renville County Soil & Water Conservation District



On September 13, the Renville County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), in partnership with the Hawk Creek Watershed Project and the Minnesota Soil Health Coalition, hosted a family-friendly field day at the farm of SWCD board member Phil and Robin Smith. **This unique event explored the “why” behind regenerative soil health practices, including cover crops, diverse crop rotation, integrated pest management, and no-till, which improve soil health with increased soil biology, water infiltration, and crop production.** The Smiths shared how they have increased the soil health on their farm by implementing these types of principles.



Presenters included Jolene Carlson, Holistic Health & Fitness Director for MN National Guard; Heather Bigler; Phil Smith, local farmer; and David Kleinschmidt of Progressive Agronomy Consulting. Jolene Carlson connected the six soil health principles to aspects of human health and spoke about the importance of good human gut health. Heather Bigler discussed how adapting diet to fit an individual's specific health needs made a big difference for her family. Renville SWCD staff ran a rainfall simulation demonstration, showing how different land covers and management practices affect water runoff, soil erosion, and water infiltration in real-time. Phil Smith and David Kleinschmidt related everything back to regenerative agriculture and soil health practices, showing that in 2022, the same snap peas and tomatoes that were grown in conventional soil and regenerative soil, when tested, showed that the plants grown in regenerative soil had a higher nutritional value than their conventional soil counterparts.



The event ended with a delicious farm-to-table supper from all regenerative sources and many great conversations between the 150 attendees. **Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this event a success and to all those who attended!**

*Photo: Holly Hatlewick, Renville County Soil & Water Conservation District Administrator, assists a group of kids with counting worms in healthy soil and comparing to the lack of worms in unhealthy soil.*

Interested in attending events like this one? Use the QR code to sign up for Renville County SWCD text alerts to receive updates for future meetings and events or visit [www.renvilleswcd.com/events](http://www.renvilleswcd.com/events).



## Happy Halloween

from Renville County

Please join us for an open house with  
**Halloween Fun** and **Trick-or-Treating**  
at the Renville County Government Services Center  
and Renville County Courthouse

**October 31 from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm**

Bring the little ghosts and goblins in for a spooktacular time!

Government Services Center | 105 South 5th Street, Olivia  
Courthouse | 500 East DePue Avenue, Olivia



**Participating offices will have a pumpkin picture by their office door!**



**Renville**  
COUNTY  
Service · Stewardship · Shared Responsibility



# we're hiring

**Counties employ 3.6 million people and serve 330 million residents in the United States.**

 **Renville** COUNTY  
Service · Stewardship · Shared Responsibility

Consider a career with Renville County where your work impacts residents every day.

**Questions?** Contact Andee Unruh, Employee Relations Specialist  
320-523-3710 | [employment@renvillecountymn.gov](mailto:employment@renvillecountymn.gov)

## 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Renville County RibFest a Huge Success!

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Renville County RibFest was another huge success! The event was held at the American Legion in Olivia on September 13, with funds raised benefiting our County fire departments. Fire Departments and the County Sheriff's Office competed for top prize in three categories, including People's Choice, Veterans Choice, and Best Booth. Congratulations to the winning teams! The Fire Departments and Sheriff's Office would like to thank all who attended and supported this event. You are invited to save the date for next year's event, which is tentatively scheduled to take place on Saturday, September 12 at the American Legion in Olivia. **Volunteers are needed for all fire departments and ambulance services in Renville County. Contact your city to learn how YOU can join!**



### BIRD ISLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT PARTICIPANTS

Row 1 (L to R Kneeling): Chad Christenson, Cole Christenson, Tom Elfering; Row 2 (L to R): Joe Trebesch, Ty Erickson, Connor McNamara, Brandon Baumgartner, Justin Vogt, Josh Jungers, Dan Elfering; Row 3 (L to R): Jared Krause, Ryan Johnson, John Thompson, Dustin Lynch, and Ben Bohlin

### PEOPLE'S CHOICE:

1ST: BIRD ISLAND | 2ND: OLIVIA | 3RD: MORTON

### VETERANS CHOICE:

1ST: BIRD ISLAND | 2ND: SACRED HEART | 3RD: HECTOR

### BEST BOOTH:

RENVILLE COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

### SHERIFF'S OFFICE PARTICIPANTS

Row 1 (L to R): Ally Hendriks, Braydon Ortloff, Stephanie Malvin, Jessica Plumley, Brady Nesburg.  
Row 2 (L to R): Nic Hendriks, Jordan Ramler, Jeff Nelson, Jason Mathwig, Scott Hable, Michael Farrell



## WELCOME TO THE SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA SBDC

### START & GROW YOUR BUSINESS

The Southwest Small Business Development Center (SBDC) provides one-on-one, confidential professional business consulting services at no cost to you.

#### We can help:

- Develop and refine business plans
- Identify sources of capital
- Analyze financial records
- Create marketing strategies
- General business assistance

#### HOW DO I EMPOWER MY BUSINESS?

- Sign up for services
- Meet with a consultant
- Attend trainings
- Plan and set goals
- Start on your path to success

#### CONTACT US:

SBDC@SMSU.EDU

WWW.SBDCASSISTANCE.COM

507-537-7386



## Join Us In Wishing County Recorder Well On Her Upcoming Retirement!

Laurie Abrahamson, a lifelong resident of Olivia, dedicated 37 years to the banking industry before successfully running for office and serving nearly two full terms as the Renville County Recorder.

Throughout her tenure, one of the greatest challenges faced was navigating the impacts of COVID-19 in an office unable to work remotely, all while caring for her ill husband. Through it all, she remained steadfast in her commitment to the community. Her advice to others is simple yet powerful: **"Ask for help and stick with it."**

Under Laurie's leadership, the Recorder's Office has seen significant modernization. Most records are now available in digital format, and the number of electronic recordings continues to grow. As she looks ahead to retirement, Laurie is excited to travel, spend more time with her grandchildren watching their sports, try new recipes, sleep in on Monday mornings, and enjoy time outdoors riding side-by-sides and snowmobiles.

In parting, Laurie shared a message for her colleagues and community: **"It's been great meeting and working with you. Take one day at a time because you never know what tomorrow will bring."** Laurie's last day will be Wednesday, December 17, 2025. Please join us in thanking her for her years of dedicated service and wishing her the very best in retirement.



## Coming Soon to a Smart Phone Near You – RRRSWA Text Alert Notifications!

**D**o you love it when your doctor, dentist, hairdresser, or massage therapist sends you a text reminder for your upcoming appointment? Well, we have great news! Soon, residents of Renville and Redwood Counties will have the ability to receive text notifications about matters related to garbage, recycling, landfill, household hazardous waste, and other solid waste topics.

Starting January 2026, the Redwood/Renville Regional Solid Waste Authority (RRRSWA) will begin utilizing TextMyGov to remind residents to put their carts out for their scheduled curbside collection. We will also use it to notify you of any delays or schedule changes for curbside recycling pickup such as weather delays, truck breakdowns, or changes to the collection schedule due to holidays or other events.

RRRSWA will have the ability to notify residents of special events like the appliance/electronics collections, tire collections, and even chemical jug collection events, so you never miss another opportunity! Even if you are not a curbside recycler, we will use this same platform to alert residents who use the rural drop sites of any changes that may take place.

Residents who need assistance signing up for this program can call the RRRSWA office at 507-637-1800 or 320-523-8002, and we will help you set it up on your phone.



Please keep an eye on the website - [www.renvillecountymn.gov/rrrswa](http://www.renvillecountymn.gov/rrrswa) - for more information. We look forward to improving our ability to immediately communicate with you or alert you when unforeseen changes occur.

TextMyGov

X

**Text us to find information or report issues!**

Get answers to questions or sign up for alerts.

[Learn more](#)

## Coat **DRIVE**

RENVILLE COUNTY COAT COLLECTION FOR KIDS

**HELP KEEP KIDS WARM THIS WINTER!**

We're accepting new and gently used winter outerwear for ages 0-18.

**DONATE**  
**NOW - OCTOBER 31<sup>ST</sup>**  
cash donations also accepted

### DROP OFF LOCATIONS

#### BIRD ISLAND

Our Saviors Lutheran Church  
St. Mary's Catholic Church

#### BUFFALO LAKE

CenBank Buffalo Lake

#### DANUBE

MinnWest Bank

#### FAIRFAX

Frandsen Bank & Trust

#### FRANKLIN

Wanda State Bank

#### HECTOR

Olivia Hospital & Clinic

#### OLIVIA

Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church  
FM Bank  
Grace Community Church  
HomeTown Bank  
Olivia Hospital & Clinic  
St. Aloysius Catholic Church

#### RENVILLE

First Security Bank  
Holy Redeemer Catholic Church  
Olivia Hospital & Clinic



1635 W LINCOLN AVE | OLIVIA  
(320) 523-1842 | (507) 829-5853

## Coat **HANDOUT**

RENVILLE COUNTY COMMUNITIES

DO YOU NEED A WINTER COAT OR WARM WINTER GEAR?

**UCAP MAY BE ABLE TO HELP!**

- Children's coat sizes available
- Limited adult sizes may be offered
- Supplies & sizes are limited
- Seasonal coats provided year-round

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call: (320) 523-1842

Email: [assistancerequest@unitedcapmn.org](mailto:assistancerequest@unitedcapmn.org)

OR

### Visit us at the UCAP Office!

1635 W Lincoln Ave, Suite 3 • Olivia  
Monday & Wednesday • 8:30 AM-4:00 PM  
or by appointment



## Rural Recycling Sites See Upgrades

**W**ind! It's often said that *"the best time to plant a tree was five years ago,"* reminding us of the importance of starting sooner rather than later. Living in Southwest Minnesota, there are very few days when we have any reprieve from the wind.

Overseeing the County recycling program, the Redwood-Renville Regional Solid Waste Authority (RRRSA) understands what a nuisance the wind can be. Often times our largest number of trash-related complaints come on windy days. Unfortunately, it seems like the windiest days are the days when West Central Sanitation Inc., is collecting and dumping recyclables into their trucks, recycling from either Renville County's in-town or rural township recycling sites (located in most towns).

To help reduce the amount of "trash blowing" related complaints at the rural recycling sites, RRRSWA partnered with the Chippewa County Soil & Water Conservation District to assist in establishing tree plantings or a "living windbreak" schedule. With their help, our hope is to reduce the number of trash-related issues derived from winds coming from the Southwest and Northwest sides of the township recycling site locations.



*Photo: A newly planted "living windbreak" at the Redwood County Underwood Township Rural Recycling Site.*

If you are interested in additional information on re-establishing your grove or simply establishing a living windbreak in 2026, we encourage you to contact either the Renville County Soil & Water Conservation District at 320-523-1559, or Zach Bothun, District Manager, or Tom Sletta, District Technician, at the Chippewa County Soil & Water Conservation District at 320-269-2693 to get you started and set up your individual plan. The best time to do this is between December and February and to finalize your tree order with the SWCD of your choice before March 15, 2026.



*Photo (L to R): Chippewa County Soil & Water Conservation District staff Tom Sletta, District Technician, and Zach Bothun, District Manager, pose by a newly planted "living windbreak."*

The Hector Township rural recycling site, soon to be re-located behind the Hector Fire Hall, is the first site in Renville County to receive such an upgrade. It was chosen for its lack of wind protection at both its current and future location. The living windbreak (trees) will provide a natural screening from Highway 212, as well as reduce the possible number of trash complaints it received on wind-related days throughout the year.

RRRSA intends to annually review and evaluate each of its rural recycling sites for future improvements. Our goal is to eventually upgrade each site with a living windbreak (if possible), thus reducing residential complaints, building partnerships with our city/township site hosts, and, more importantly, keeping the recycling where it belongs - in the collection truck - not on surrounding properties.

## Renville County Human Services and Passport Service Changes



Effective November 3, 2025, Renville County Human Services lobby hours will change to 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Monday through Friday).

The office can be reached via phone from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Monday through Friday) at 320-523-2202.

The Drop Box will remain available 24/7.

Reminder that you may also apply online for programs and submit documents securely at [mnbenefits.mn.gov](https://mnbenefits.mn.gov).



Effective December 1, 2025, passport services will move from the Renville County Recorder's Office to the Renville County Human Services Office. (Birth and death certificates will continue to be available from the Recorder's Office.)

Applications and photos will be processed from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Appointments preferred but walk-ins accepted. (There may be a wait for walk-ins pending other office needs.)

To schedule or inquire call 320-523-2202.



# Renville County Recycling

## Curbside Schedule

January - December 2026



## Bird Island - Renville - Sacred Heart

**Buffalo Lake - Fairfax - Hector**

**Danube - Olivia**

Franklin - Morton (RF Zone 1)

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

**RRRSWA:**  
**(507) 637-1800**  
**(320) 523-8002**



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

## Glass

**Single use clear, green, and brown bottles and jars (food and beverage containers only).**

- No canning jars, light bulbs, mirrors, ceramics, or dishes.
- Must be empty and clean. No need to remove labels.

## Plastic Containers

## #1, #2, #5

## Leave caps on bottles

- Must be removed from bags
- No Styrofoam
- No bags
- No toys
- No pools
- No siding
- No PVC pipe
- No pesticide containers
- No herbicide containers

## 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 office paper.**

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

## Cardboard

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

- No packing foam
- No waxed cardboard
- No furnace filters
- No egg cartons of any kind

## 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, bag it and bring it to the RRRSWA transfer station, located at 907 West Bridge Street in Redwood Falls.



### Good Neighbors You've Come To Trust

4089 Abbott Drive | P.O. Box 796

Willmar, MN 56201

Phone: 1-800-246-7630

www.wcsanitation.com

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	320-400-0711
Economic Development Authority	320-523-3656
Emergency Management	320-523-3838
Environmental Services	320-523-3768
Extension (4-H)	320-523-3713
Driver and Vehicle Services	320-523-3612
HRA (Housing Programs)	507-637-4004
Human Services	320-523-2202 or 800-363-2533
Landfill/Solid Waste	320-523-1144
Parks	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



Back (L to R): **David Hamre**, District 5;  
**John Robinson**, District 2; **Greg Mertens**, District 3;  
Front (L to R): **Craig Carlson**, District 1; **Greg Snow**, District 4

**Fall is in full color! Take a drive or a stroll through the Renville County Park system and soak in the brilliant reds, golds, and oranges before they're gone!**



# REMINDER

Archery Hunt runs from  
October 6 - December 31

If visiting parks during this time, wear bright colored clothing, do not block park road with vehicle, and be aware of hunters.

**REMINDER: The 2025 hunter lottery is complete. All hunters have been drawn and assigned their zone. If you are interested in hunting the parks next year, watch for information.**



## THANK YOU COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

Renville County extends its sincere appreciation to all the volunteers who dedicate their time, talents, and energy to making our communities stronger, safer, and more connected.

Whether you serve on a local board, coach youth sports, support a community event, assist neighbors in need, or lend a helping hand during emergencies, your efforts make a lasting difference. Volunteers embody the spirit of service that keeps our towns thriving and ensure Renville County remains a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family.

**On behalf of the County Board of Commissioners and staff, thank you for the countless ways you give back.** Your generosity, compassion, and commitment truly make Renville County a better place for everyone.

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

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

**Landfill**  
32877 County Road 4  
Olivia, MN 56277

**RRRSWA**  
907 West Bridge Street  
Redwood Falls, MN 56283

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**Renville**  
COUNTY  
Service · Stewardship · Shared Responsibility

105 - 5th Street South  
Olivia, MN 56277

Phone: 320-523-3710

Email: [lisa.herges@renvillecountymn.gov](mailto:lisa.herges@renvillecountymn.gov)

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

\*Mailing list generated from Renville County Property Records.

**Local  
Postal Customer**

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