



Beaver Falls County Park

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Renville County Updating Comprehensive Plan

Renville County is in the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan, which is a long-range document that guides the decision making, growth, and development of our County.

This plan will provide a vision for the future of our communities over the next 10 to 20 years, along with steps needed to achieve that vision. Your voice will help guide, inform, and ensure the most useful and relevant plan possible. **You can view the current plan at bit.ly/4cpymF4.**

How can you participate?

- Scan the QR Code below or visit the link to take the survey online.



www.surveymonkey.com/r/RenvilleCounty



- Call 320-523-3768 to request a paper copy be mailed to you.
- Visit the Government Services Center at 105 - 5th Street South, Suite 311 (*Environmental Services/ Economic Development Office*) in Olivia to fill out a paper copy.
- Visit the Renville County booth at the Renville County Fair in Bird Island on August 7, 8, or 9 to fill out the survey.
- *Para realizar la encuesta en español, visite bit.ly/3Rtsz9l o llame al 320-523-3624 para solicitar una copia en papel.*

Meet Your New Renville County Auditor-Treasurer



Heather Weis, Renville County Auditor-Treasurer

Heather Weis began as the Renville County Auditor-Treasurer in May of 2024. She is originally from Bird Island and graduated from BOLD High School. After attending college in Fargo, Heather moved back to the area, where she now resides with her family.

Heather loves to get up early in the morning, when the rest of her household is still sleeping, and read a book while she has coffee. She enjoys a quiet start to her day before the day's activities and priorities take over.

When asked what the most enjoyable part of her job is, Heather shared, ***“Interacting with the public. The Auditor-Treasurer’s office has the opportunity to assist and engage with people. Elections, property taxes, and licensing allow me to interact and provide support to our community members on a daily basis.”***

Three words that Heather uses to describe her role as the County Auditor-Treasurer are engaging, collaborative, and supportive. The best career lesson she has learned so far is that everything is fixable. ***“It’s important to embrace failure as a stepping stone to success. Always keep learning and adapting,”*** stated Heather.

Heather shared that the most rewarding part of her job is the relationships she has built over the years. *(Fun Fact: Heather worked in both the Renville County Office of Driver and Vehicle Services and the Auditor-Treasurer’s Office for many years before becoming the County Auditor-Treasurer.)*

“The Auditor-Treasurer’s office works closely with many different departments within the County as well as the public and other government entities. Through interactions, meetings, and career opportunities, I have been lucky enough to grow a great network of supportive and knowledgeable individuals,” she concluded.

Heather embraces the motto *“In adversity, find grace; in challenges, find strength; and in setbacks, find the opportunity to grow.”* To quote her favorite line from the movie Gone with the Wind, *“After all, tomorrow is another day.”*

Renville County Parks Outdoor Education Day

The Renville County Parks Department, along with an Education Day Planning Committee, hosted the third annual Renville County Parks Outdoor Education Day on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at Birch Coulee County Park.

The goal of this event is to expose students to the County parks and outdoor activities available locally, while educating them on a variety of environmental and safety topics in a fun setting. Like the volunteer t-shirts said, not all classrooms have four walls!

It worked for three schools to join this year. There were approximately 140 students, teachers, and chaperones in attendance from Buffalo Lake - Hector - Stewart (BLHS), Gibbon - Fairfax - Winthrop (GFW), and Renville County West (RCW).

Students were divided into nine groups and rotated through the educational booths, learning about a variety of topics. Students enjoyed lunch and time exploring the park before they headed

back to school.

The Committee would like to thank those who donated their time and resources to make this event possible.

Thank you to Revier Cattle Company for use of their grill, to the Sheriff’s Office for use of their enclosed trailer, to AgCountry Farm Credit Services for plates and napkins, and to SHIP for providing fresh fruits and vegetables for lunch. The Committee is planning to host this event again next year, with



Above: Students learn about the real cost of vaping from Renville Alliance for the Prevention of Alcohol & Drugs (RAPAD) team members Jessica Johnson and Jeremy Radtke.

the goal of having all Renville County school districts participate, if they are able.

THIS YEAR’S TOPICS AND PRESENTERS INCLUDED:

- **Geocaching**, Renville County Public Health/Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP)
- **Emergency Management and Preparedness**, Renville County Public Health/Emergency Management
- **Boating/ATV Safety and Aquatic Invasive Species**, Renville County Sheriff’s Office/Environmental Services
- **Renville County Wildlife/Animal Furs**, Renville County Soil and Water Conservation District
- **Stream Table**, Hawk Creek Watershed Project
- **The Real Cost of Vaping**, RAPAD Coalition
- **Composting**, Renville County Master Gardeners
- **Recycling**, Redwood-Renville Regional Solid Waste Authority (RRRSWA)



Stay Ahead of the Apocalypse with CodeRED: The Only Emergency Notification System You'll Ever Need!



Are you tired of missing out on the latest weather calamities and unexpected zombie apocalypses? Fear not, dear reader! The CodeRED

Emergency Notification System is here to ensure you're the first to know when the world is ending (hypothetically). Sign up today and embrace the chaos with a smile (and maybe an emergency kit)!

BE THE EARLY BIRD WHO CATCHES THE TORNADO

While your neighbors are blissfully unaware of the tornado barreling toward their homes, you'll be safely sipping coffee and calmly waiting for the storm to pass. CodeRED ensures you get the heads-up faster than a caffeinated meteorologist on a storm-chasing spree. Who needs adrenaline when you have real-time alerts?

ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE? NO PROBLEM!

In the unlikely event of a zombie apocalypse (because, let's face it, anything is possible in 2024), imagine you're comfortably binge-watching your favorite show when your phone buzzes with a CodeRED alert. "Zombie outbreak in progress. Avoid downtown." As your unregistered friends are frantically trying to find Wi-Fi to check social media, you've already boarded up the windows and grabbed your trusty baseball bat. With CodeRED, you're always one step ahead of the undead!

WEATHER WOES NO MORE

Whether it's a tornado, blizzard, flood, or heatwave, CodeRED ensures you're not caught in your flip-flops during a snowstorm. With local weather alerts, you can dress appropriately and smugly say, "I knew this was coming," as you step out in your perfectly coordinated storm gear.

IMPRESS FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Nothing says "I've got it together" like being the first to inform your loved ones about impending doom. CodeRED gives you the inside scoop, so you can send out texts that start with, "Just got a CodeRED alert—better take cover!" Your friends and family will marvel at your foresight, and you'll bask in the glory of being the neighborhood hero.

ENDLESS CONVERSATION STARTERS

Tired of awkward silences at social gatherings? With CodeRED, you'll always have the latest disaster gossip. "Did you hear about the giant hailstorm predicted for next week?" is a surefire way to spark engaging conversations. Who knew emergency alerts could make you the life of the party?

CONCLUSION: SIGN UP OR MISS OUT

Don't be the last one to know when calamity strikes. Embrace the chaos with CodeRED and turn every disaster into an opportunity for preparedness. Remember, it's not just an emergency notification system; it's your ticket to becoming the most informed person in the room. Sign-up today - because when the world ends (hypothetically), you'll want to be the first to know!



NO, BUT REALLY... Signing up for CodeRED is seriously a great way to keep yourself, and your loved ones, safe from many things that can hurt you.

SIGN-UP VIA ONE OF THE FOLLOWING METHODS

1. Visit www.renvillecountymn.gov/sheriff. Click on the CodeRED Community Notification tab in the lower right of the website to enroll using your home and cell phone numbers, text, and email addresses.
2. Text the word "RENVILLE" to 99411 from your smartphone. A sign-up link will immediately be sent to you.
3. Call the Renville County Sheriff's Office at 320-523-1161, and someone will assist you in getting enrolled.

Youth Connections Magazine



The first issue of the Youth Connections Magazine is being distributed at various locations throughout our community. Inside you'll find professionally written articles affecting today's youth and local content. This magazine is brought to you by PACT for Families with

support from the Kandiyohi-Renville ACES Coalition, local Drug-Free Coalitions, and SHIP (Statewide Health Improvement Partnership). Please make sure to take the survey at the end of the magazine to provide feedback for potential future editions!

To view the magazine electronically, use this link:
<https://bit.ly/3KxWBoH>

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



Restorative 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

"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

reality that the number of youth and families in need 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.

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

You are Invited to a Restorative Justice Informational Presentation

You are invited to join a Restorative Justice informational presentation, followed by circle discussions.

LOCATION:

Government Service Center
105 - 5th Street South, Olivia

EVENT DATES/ROOMS:

Wednesday, July 17 | 5:30-7:30 PM
Room 116 (Lower Level)
OR

Wednesday, July 24 | 5:30-7:30 PM
Room 117 (Lower Level)

Food will be provided for those who RSVP. To RSVP, text or call 320-522-1573 and provide your name and the date you will attend. Questions? Contact Andrew at 320-522-1573.



2024 RENVILLE COUNTY FARMER'S MARKETS

Buy Fresh! Buy Local!

Bird Island • Wednesday 4pm-7pm
Bird Island Cultural Centre
Coordinators: Rosemary 320-365-1011 & Leta 320-579-1412

Buffalo Lake • Saturday 8am-12pm
Hwy 212 Wayside Rest in City Park
Coordinator: Tracle 320-296-6292

Fairfax • Tuesday 4pm
1st Street SE (Downtown off Hwy 19)
Coordinator: Lori 507-276-5044

Olivia • Thursday 1:30pm-5:30pm
City Parking Lot (9th St. So & Fairview Ave.)
Coordinator: Terry Wallert 320-522-3017

Supported & Promoted by

Sandwich - Renville County
SHIP
Renville
AGRICULTURE
HRA/EDA

Car Seat Safety: Protect Your Child on Every Trip

Did you know that Renville County Public Health staff can check your car seat to make sure it is installed properly in your vehicle? They can also answer any car seat-related questions you may have. Public Health has programs with Prime West and Blue Plus insurances, and car seats may be available to certain members at no cost.

Effective August 1, 2024, Minnesota State Law requires:

- A child who is younger than 2 years of age must be properly restrained in a rear-facing seat with an internal harness, until the child reaches the weight or height limit of the child passenger restraint system;
- A child who is at least 2 years of age and exceeds the rear-facing weight or height limit of the car seat must be properly restrained in a forward-facing child passenger restraint system with an internal harness, until they reach the weight or height limit of the seat;
- A child who is at least 4 years old and exceeds the weight or height limit of the forward-facing child passenger restraint system must be properly restrained in a booster seat and secured with a safety belt;
- A child who is at least 9 years of age or exceeds the weight and height limit of the child passenger restraint system or booster seat must be secured with a safety belt adjusted and fastened to fit their body correctly (*do a 5-step check for correct fit*); and
- A child who is younger than 13 years old must be transported in the rear seat of a motor vehicle and restrained in a child passenger restraint system or booster seat or secured with a safety belt.
- Every driver who transports a child, or children, under the age of 18 years in a motor vehicle is required to have the child or children restrained in a child safety seat or seat belt. Any motor vehicle operator who violates this is guilty of a petty misdemeanor and may be sentenced to pay a fine.

The primary role of a seat belt is to keep the occupant in the vehicle. If ejected, children are 25x more likely to be killed, whereas adults are 4x more likely to be killed. 84% of car seats and 41% of booster seats are critically misused, and motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of death for children under the age of 14.



Car seat straps should be placed:

- At or below shoulders (*rear-facing seat*)
- At or above shoulders (*forward-facing seat*)
- Car seat straps need to be tight. If you do the pinch test, you should not be able to pinch any slack at the shoulders.

The 5-step test demonstrates how the seat belt fits correctly:

1. The child sits all the way back against the vehicle seat.
2. The child's knees bend over the edge of the vehicle seat.
3. The lap belt fits snugly across the hips near the top of the child's thighs, not the child's abdomen.
4. The shoulder belt snugly crosses the center of the child's chest and shoulder, not the child's neck.
5. The child sits correctly, without slouching, for the duration of the ride.

For infant seats only, read the manual for correct handle bar placement when transporting. Booster seats should have the lap belt on hip bones and the shoulder belt across chest.

Call Public Health at 320-523-2570 to inquire about a car seat check or to see if you qualify for a free seat through your insurance.

Renville County – Now Hiring!

Why is a Pension a Great Benefit of Working for County Government?

As a public employee working in local government, or for a public school, you have access to a valuable retirement benefit: a pension. **For Renville County employees, this is known as the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) pension.** A pension is a retirement savings plan that you contribute to during your working years, which then provides you with a lifetime monthly income after retirement. That's right, it's a lifetime benefit. Once you start receiving your pension, you'll receive payments every month for the rest of your life. Because it is a defined benefit pension, your monthly payment is not subject to market fluctuations.

Here's how it works: a percentage of your monthly salary is automatically deducted and deposited into your PERA account. Additionally, your employer contributes an even higher percentage to this account. The amount of your pension depends on several factors: your years of public service, your average salary (calculated using your highest 60 consecutive months of PERA-eligible salary), and your age at retirement. Generally, the longer you work in public service, the higher your pension benefit will be.

Learn more about current career opportunities and benefits with Renville County online at www.governmentjobs.com/careers/renvillecountymn



Southwest Initiative Foundation: Olivia Floral, Gift, and Garden Center Set To Grow In New Ways

- Submitted by the Southwest Initiative Foundation

Nicole Johnson is expanding her business, Olivia Floral, Gift, and Garden Center, with help from Southwest Initiative Foundation's (SWIF) Microenterprise Loan Program. Olivia Floral is a full-service floral and gift shop that creates custom flower, gift and garden arrangements and offers quality products for special occasions, seasonal projects and everyday events.

Nicole grew up in Olivia and after high school earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural sciences. Her parents and grandfather have been business owners in the town for more than 50 years, so entrepreneurship runs in the family.

Olivia Floral was established in 1954, and Nicole purchased the business in June 2021. It was a leap of faith, but she leaned in to her local connections, and her personal and professional knowledge in both business and gardening.

"When I was in the process of buying this business, I talked to banks, the EDA, and so many other local business mentors. I talked to my family. I job shadowed. I watched and learned new things online. I created a business plan. I took action, despite the fact that I was scared out of my mind where this journey would take me," Nicole said.

Three years later, Nicole manages the store with two part-time employees plus three employees who are on-call for holidays, weddings and funerals. And she's ready to grow the business in new ways. *"I've got a vision and I'm seeing the pieces of the puzzle be put together. My goals are to grow and to create a legacy, to build freedom, to reconnect with nature, and to inspire others,"* she said.

Loan proceeds from SWIF helped Nicole purchase inventory to expand. Loan programs have been a key function of SWIF since its inception to support communities and businesses throughout southwest Minnesota. In 2001, microlending was added to existing programs as a tool to support small businesses and people looking for self-employment opportunities.

Microloan clients also receive free technical assistance from SWIF staff to improve their business management skills. Areas of support include business planning and financials analysis, QuickBooks training, marketing assistance, and other training opportunities for the life of the loan.

"We're always excited to see a small business grow, and we're happy to be able to support Nicole in her vision for what Olivia Floral can become," said Jackie Turner, SWIF Economic Development Officer.

This microloan program receives funding assistance from the U.S. Small Business Administration and U.S. Department of Agriculture. **For more information, contact SWIF at 800-594-9480, 320-587-4848 or loans@swifoundation.org.**



About Southwest Initiative Foundation

Southwest Initiative Foundation (SWIF) is a nonprofit community foundation connecting people, investing in ideas and building communities to create a southwest Minnesota where all people thrive. Since its founding in 1986, SWIF has distributed more than \$115 million through its grantmaking and business finance programs. Learn more at swifoundation.org.



CENTRAL COMMUNITY TRANSIT

CCT's mission is to provide safe, reliable, cost-effective transportation to all residents of Kandiyohi, Renville, and Meeker Counties.

Learn More: 320-523-3589 or www.cctbus.org

CENTRAL COMMUNITY TRANSIT SERVICES INCLUDE:

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

- Demand Response Rides (*Dial-a-Ride*)
- Fixed Flexible Route
- Same Day Service
- Saturday and Sunday Service

VOLUNTEER TRANSPORTATION

- Senior Volunteer Program
- Non Emergency Medical Transportation

CCT CARRIAGE TRANSPORTATION

- Transporting groups from long-term care facilities, senior living residences, group homes, etc.

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 and/or for repairing or replacing a damaged or contaminated well. Loan terms are seven years for septic systems 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 or by contacting Environmental Services at 320-523-3768 or ES@renvillecountymn.gov

IS YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM NON-COMPLIANT?

Income-Based Septic System Grant Funds Available!



SW MN SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

WHAT WE DO

Helping you work on your business, not just in your business.

- Business and strategic plan development
- Access to capital and loan packaging assistance
- Financial analysis and assessment
- Accounting systems and financial literacy
- Feasibility analysis and start-up assistance

Confidential, no-cost consulting from business experts and affordable training in:

- Technology and Innovation
- Human Resources
- Operations
- Business Model Development
- Loan Packaging
- Expansion
- Financial Analysis
- Exporting
- Franchising
- Strategic Planning
- Marketing Plan
- Leadership Development
- Government Contracting



HOW WE HELP Improve ...

- competitiveness
- business skills
- sales and pro tips
- Minnesota's economy

HOW DO I EMPOWER MY BUSINESS?

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



www.sbdassistance.com
sbdc@smsu.edu 507-537-7386



Littering: What Are The Consequences?

- Submitted by the Redwood-Renville Regional Solid Waste Authority

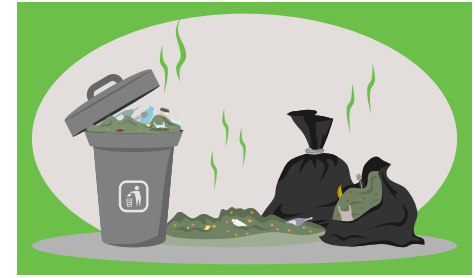
Littering is the careless disposal of waste affecting public spaces. It is an issue that has plagued communities and rural areas for decades. **From city streets to our County and township roads, litter harms the beauty of our rural surroundings and poses significant environmental, economic, and social consequences.** Despite efforts to reduce this problem, littering continues to be seen every day, highlighting the need for residential awareness and action.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS: The most obvious consequence of littering is the negative impact it has on the environment. Littering not only defaces our communities but also poses serious threats to wildlife. Discarded plastic bags, bottles, fast food paper/containers, and other debris often find their way into back yards, fields, wetlands, tile lines, drainage ditches, creeks, and rivers, which endangers waterfowl, fish, and animals. These discarded items are often mistaken for food, leading to ingestion and entanglement, which can result in injury or death.

Littering contributes to pollution, as discarded items can release harmful chemicals such as toxins from inks, dyes, glues, waxes, and other chemicals that seep into the environment. Plastics, in particular, pose an environmental hazard due to their non-biodegradable nature. Plastic pollution has become a global crisis, with microplastics infiltrating water supplies, waterways, and contaminating soils, posing risks to human health.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS: Littering imposes substantial economic costs on communities. City and county governments, along with civic groups, bear the burden of coordinating litter cleanup and segregated waste management, diverting valuable resources (dollars and worker time) from other essential services. The cost associated with litter collection, disposal, and remediation can be substantial.

More importantly, littering detracts from the visual appeal that our beautiful rural landscape, county parks, and communities offer, as travelers visit or pass through. These travelers are less likely to visit our rural amenities, or relocate to an area, if it is marred by litter. This can lead to lost revenue for our communities and businesses reliant on people and/or tourism (parks), which undermines economic development and prosperity.



SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS: It is documented that littering also has social implications, eroding community pride and cohesion. The presence of unsightly litter in our communities can convey an image of neglect and laziness by its residents, contributing to a pattern of dis-investment in our communities. Littering exhibits a sign of disrespect and normalizes irresponsible behavior, if not addressed. The message conveyed to the community should be one of individual responsibility, community engagement, environmental concern, and civic pride.

ACTION PLAN:

Education:

- Encourage individuals to dispose of waste responsibly by utilizing their garbage collection service. If garbage falls or blows out of containers, promptly pick it up.
- Recycle all items that you can (not your garbage).
- Utilize gas stations, grocery stores, big box stores, car washes, and other businesses that offer a garbage canister for your vehicle trash.

Enforcement:

- Encourage your local law enforcement to write a ticket for people caught littering and/or for improper garbage disposal.

Community Engagement:

- Individuals, communities, and governments need to hold homeowners, residents, and people accountable.
- Support the fight against littering and improper garbage disposal, to encourage and embrace community pride, sustainability, and stewardship.



If you have questions about garbage disposal or recycling, contact the Redwood - Renville Regional Solid Waste Authority (RRRSA) at 320-523-8002 or visit www.renvillecountymn.gov and click on the RRRSWA/Solid Waste link under the

Departments tab, or scan the QR code to the left.

Stretch Your Home Improvement Dollars!

If you are a first-time homebuyer or want to fix up your current home, the Renville County HRA/EDA may be able to help. **The Homeownership Down Payment and Rehab Program offers matching loans of up to \$6,000 at 0% interest to qualified applicants.**



Learn more at www.renvillecountymn.gov
 Questions? Contact Raven, HRA Executive Director, at 507-637-4004 or admin@radc.org

Income Guidelines:

(115% of Renville County's Median Income)

1 person.....	\$71,300
2 people.....	\$81,434
3 people.....	\$91,641
4 people.....	\$101,775
5 people.....	\$109,969
6 people.....	\$118,091
7 people.....	\$126,213
8 people.....	\$134,406

Renville County Soil and Water Conservation District Welcomes New Staff Members

- Submitted by Renville County Soil and Water Conservation District

The Renville County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is happy to announce the hiring of two new staff members: Ana Dawn (Administrative Assistant) and Sean Newberg (Conservation Technician). These additions to the SWCD staff will increase our office's ability to aid local landowners and citizens with their conservation needs.

Ana Dawn was hired in January of 2024 as an Administrative Assistant. She aids in the daily tasks of the SWCD, like paying bills, tracking and reporting grants, and organizing files. Ana also helps plan the SWCD's outreach and educational events, which are a truly great way to learn about how conservation can be implemented locally and effectively. While she doesn't have a background in conservation or agriculture, she loves to learn about how conservation practices improve the County's natural resources – and she always brings a set of fresh eyes to any scenario!

Ana originally hails from Mansfield, South Dakota, and Blue Earth, Minnesota, but she considers Olivia, Minnesota to be her new hometown and has lived there for the last seven years with her husband. In her downtime, she loves to cook, bake, and spend time relaxing in her backyard.

Sean Newberg was hired in May of 2024 as a Conservation Technician. Sean oversees the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Program and works on other programs like the Minnesota Buffer Law and the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA).



Ana Dawn, SWCD
Administrative Assistant



Sean Newberg, SWCD
Conservation Technician

Having formerly worked at Lincoln County Conservation District in South Dakota, Sean brings his experience and conservation knowledge to the Renville SWCD team. Sean always has time to help local landowners with any questions they may have and provides friendly and valuable service to anyone interested in conservation. His goal at the SWCD is to assist landowners and land users in achieving their conservation goals on their properties. Sean brings his love of conservation to his new role and hopes to aid and inspire others in their conservation journeys.

Originally from Raymond, Minnesota, Sean is happy to once again reside in the area after several years away. He is an avid archery hunter and has attained Deer Steward Level 1 Certification from the National Deer Association. Sean also enjoys hiking, camping, and fishing in his free time.

To learn more about the Renville SWCD, visit www.renvilleswcd.com.

Renville County Elevator Upgrades

Renville County is pleased to announce plans for upgrades to the elevators serving the Courthouse and the Government Services Center.

The upgrade schedule is tentatively set as follows:

- **Courthouse:** Monday, June 24 - Thursday, July 11
- **Government Services Center:** Monday, July 15 - Wednesday, July 31

During this period, individuals with mobility challenges (if you cannot safely go up or down stairs) who need to conduct County transactions in offices not located on the main floor of the buildings are encouraged to contact the respective offices beforehand to confirm service availability. A County directory can be found at www.renvillecountymn.gov/departments.

For those who confirm service availability, accessible entrances have been designated:

- **Courthouse:** Enter Door A located on the North side of the building
- **Government Services Center:** Enter Door 14 located on the East side of the building

Upon entering through the designated accessible doors, a phone and service directory will be provided for individuals to contact the office they need. Office representatives will then meet them on the main floor to assist with needs.



A Message from Your Public Health AmeriCorps Members

AmeriCorps is an agency of the United States government that engages



people through stipended volunteer work programs to serve and improve lives in their communities. Public Health AmeriCorps launched in 2021 and came to Minnesota in August 2022 with the goal of increasing capacity to deliver equitable public health services while supporting the recruitment, training, and development of the next generation of public health leaders.

Renville County Public Health started working with our first AmeriCorps member in the fall of 2022 and has had two members since starting. These members have increased capacity within our department, and have served us, and the community, in a variety of ways.



"I was given the opportunity through AmeriCorps to partner with Renville County Public Health as a Project Coordinator. I learned about local government and was able to participate in various committees. I was able to use my passion for education and science in ways I

couldn't have imagined. I felt like I was able to give back to the County that has given me so much. I highly recommend participating in Public Health AmeriCorps!"

– Mary Remer, Public Health AmeriCorps Member



"My AmeriCorps experience with Renville County has been overwhelmingly positive. I came into it not knowing exactly what to expect but confident that this was a place where I could really learn and grow. I was not disappointed. Over my service term, I have grown my skillset to include survey design, quantitative

and qualitative data analysis, social media campaigns, focus group facilitation, educational research and resource creation, and stakeholder relationship building. I was involved in many projects including education and community engagement on the opioid settlement, a chlamydia prevention social media campaign, assessing and addressing community health needs for those on medical assistance, understanding vaccination behavior post-pandemic, improving our Community Health Assessment, and helping found the Kandiyohi-Renville Suicide and Mental Health Action Coalition. I'm grateful to have served with such a talented, supportive Public Health team who have helped me build capacity in many new areas."

– Joy Gerdes, Public Health AmeriCorps Member

To learn more about AmeriCorps and to find out where you could serve, visit <https://www.ampact.us/serve>.



Renville
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PESTICIDE CONTAINER COLLECTION

Location

Renville County Landfill
32877 County Road 4
Olivia, MN 56277

Date/Time

Tuesday,
September 10, 2024
3:00 PM to 4:30 PM

Renville County will only accept 250 jugs or less without an appointment. Call 320-523-3759.

CHEMICAL CONTAINERS CAN, AND SHOULD, BE RETURNED TO RETAILERS FOR RECYCLING. (CONTACT YOUR RETAILER)

Follow these guidelines before bringing us your jugs:

Containers: Only rigid high-density polyethylene (HDPE) are accepted

Size: Small up to 55-gallon drums accepted

Clean: Triple rinse the jugs to remove all residue and allow to dry

Twine/Bags: (Optional) Jugs can be tied together with twine or bagged

Stains: Certain products discolor plastic and will be accepted provided no material can be smeared with a plastic glove

Label: Labels and booklets must be removed

Caps: Caps and foil seals must be removed

Unacceptable: Containers that do not meet these guidelines will be rejected

ACCEPTABLE



Container, thread, and lip are clean



Handle and neck stained but clean



Inside stained but rinsed clean



Inside is clean and dry

UNACCEPTABLE



Dried formulation on container



Dried formulation on thread

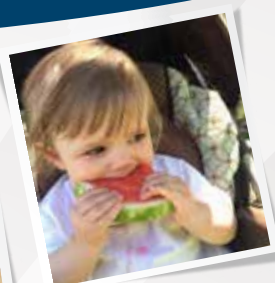


Bottom is caked with dried residue



Liquid residue in container

Questions? Call 320-523-3759.



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2024 EVENTS

June - September

Buffalo Lake Farmer's Market,
Buffalo Lake (Saturdays 8:00 a.m. - Noon)

Mid June - September

Fairfax Farmer's Market,
Fairfax (Tuesdays 4:00 p.m.)

June 6 - 9

Sugar Beet Days, Renville (Parade: 6/8 at 3 pm)

June 12 - 16

Island Days, Bird Island (Parade: 6/15 at 2 pm)

June 14

Flag Day, Fly Your Flag

June 14

Flag Disposal, American Legion, Olivia

June 20 - 23

Dayz of Thunder, Fairfax (Parade: 6/23 at 1 pm)

June 26

Classic Car Roll In, American Legion, Olivia

June 29

Page's Community Golf Classic, Olivia Golf Club

July - October

Olivia Farmer's Market,
Olivia (Thursdays 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.)

July 4

Independence Day Celebration, Morton (Parade: TBD)

July 8 - 14

Corn Chaff Days, Hector (Parade: 7/13 at Noon)

July 10 - 14

Danube Fun Days, Danube (Parade: 7/13 at 2 pm)

July 15 - 21

Buffalo Lake Days, Buffalo Lake (Parade: 7/20 at 1 pm)

July 17 - 21

Summerfest, Sacred Heart (Parade: 7/19 at 6 pm)

July 26 - 28

Catfish Derby Days, Franklin (Parade: 7/28 at 1:30 pm)

July 26 - 28

Corn Capital Days, Olivia (Parade: 7/27 at 3 pm)

August 2

Renville County Walk in the Park, Olivia

August 6

Fairfax National Night Out, Fairfax

August 6

Renville National Night Out, Renville

August 7 - 9

Renville County Fair, Bird Island

August 10

Ride to Remember

August 11

Bechyn Czech Festival, Bechyn

August 28

Classic Car Roll In, American Legion, Olivia

September 14

Renville County Fireman's Rib Cook Off,
American Legion, Olivia

September 14

Mexican Independence Day Festival, Renville

September 15

Hector Lion's Fly-In Pancake Breakfast,
Municipal Airport, Hector

September 16 - 22

HOBO Days, Olivia

October 26

Spooktacular, Renville

October 27

Trunk or Treat, Our Saviors Lutheran Church,
Sacred Heart (4:00 pm - 5:00 pm)

October 31

Community Spirit Trunk or Treat, Hector

November 3

Turkey BINGO, American Legion, Olivia

November 8

Veterans Day Program, BOLD School, Olivia

November 11

SH Legion Veterans Program, Sacred Heart

November 15

Fire Department Steak Fry, Morton

November 30

Sacred Heart Winterfest, Sacred Heart

November 30

Small Business Saturday, Bird Island

December 5

Unforgettable Christmas, Hector

December 6

Old Fashioned Christmas, Bird Island

December 7

Miracle on Main, Renville

December 7

Fire Department Santa Days, Buffalo Lake

December 19

Christmas Caroling, American Legion, Olivia



Known events as of
06.07.2024

Visit www.renville.com for the most up-to-date listing of community events.

Event dates are subject to change and events may be canceled.

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

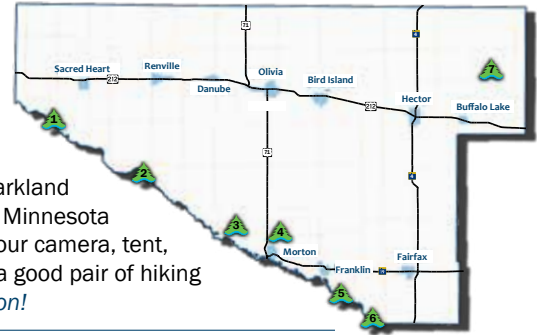


RENVILLE COUNTY Learn more: www.renvillecountymn.gov

MORE THAN EXPECTED!

Whether you choose to visit for a day or stay for a lifetime, you will discover **"More Than Expected"** in Renville County!

Visit 1,300 acres of County parkland located along the banks of the Minnesota River. You may want to bring your camera, tent, canoe, binoculars, horse, and a good pair of hiking shoes. *We hope to see you soon!*



320-523-3747

ParksDept@renvillecountymn.gov



320-523-3656

EDA@renvillecountymn.gov

PARK LEGEND:

- 1 - Skalbekken
- 2 - Vicksburg
- 3 - Beaver Falls
- 4 - Birch Coulee
- 5 - Anderson Lake
- 6 - Mack Lake
- 7 - Lake Allie

Renville County Board of Commissioners



Back (L to R): **David Hamre**, District 5; **Doug Erickson**, District 3;
Randy Kramer, District 1
Front (L to R): **John Robinson**, District 2; **Greg Snow**, District 4

Renville County HRA/EDA: Childcare Forgivable Loan Program

Do you know someone interested in starting a home childcare or childcare center in Renville County?

Direct them to www.renville.com to learn more about the HRA/EDA's Childcare Forgivable Loan Program. Forgivable loans of \$7,500 for home based and \$15,000 for childcare centers are now available!



Attend the Renville County Fair
August 7 - 9, 2024

Learn more at renvillecountyfair.org/

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 - 5th Street South
Olivia, MN 56277

Phone: 320-523-3710
Email: lisa.herges@renvillecountymn.gov
Web: www.renvillecountymn.gov

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