



Renville

COUNTY MESSENGER

CONNECTING YOU WITH YOUR COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Volume 11

Summer 2012

Issue 2

Let's Ride...Minnesota

Renville County will be the location for the first ever **"Let's Ride... Minnesota"** event to be held on Saturday, August 18, 2012. The event is sponsored by the Tim Orth Memorial Foundation and is a joint venture with the Renville County Veterans' Associations.

Money raised from the event will be distributed to four charitable organizations: the Tim Orth Memorial Foundation and three Minnesota Veteran's organizations including Disabled American Veterans of Minnesota, Minnesotans' Military Appreciation Fund and the Fisher House.

The day will start with Registration from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Chatter Box Café and American Legion Post #186 on the west edge of Olivia. Pre-registrations can also be made online at www.letsridemn.org. The ride is scheduled to depart Olivia at 11:30 a.m. and will be led by two NBA Basketball mascots on motorcycles, the Jazz Bear from the Utah Jazz and Crunch of the Minnesota Timberwolves. The ride will tour across Southwest Minnesota and will make several stops along the way, ending at the Renville County Fairgrounds at 5:00 p.m. with a meal served.

The remainder of the evening hosted at the fairgrounds will include a special ceremony at 7 p.m. to honor fallen soldiers, veterans and

children of the Tim Orth Memorial Foundation. The ceremony will acknowledge veterans attending the event specifically all Renville County Veterans and will include a flyover by a vintage World War II fighter aircraft from the Fagen Fighters World War II Museum in Granite Falls. Admission to this event will be a free will offering. Raffle drawings including several items donated by local area businesses will be held after the ceremony. The evening will culminate with a concert at the fair grandstands featuring the Canyon Cowboys with Clint Lecy Jr. and ThundHerStruck, an all-girl AC/DC tribute band from California.

In addition to the Let's Ride events planned for August 18th, fair attendees should plan to visit displays from active duty organizations including the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and the Minnesota National Guard. Planning for the Let's Ride event has been provided by numerous volunteers from the TOMF, Renville County Veterans Service Office and Associations, and the Renville County Fair Board.

CONTINUE'S ON NEXT PAGE

**Hope to see you on August 18th at
Let's Ride... Minnesota honoring our
Veterans and the Children of TOMF!**

*For complete details, check out the website for
the event at www.letsridemn.org.*

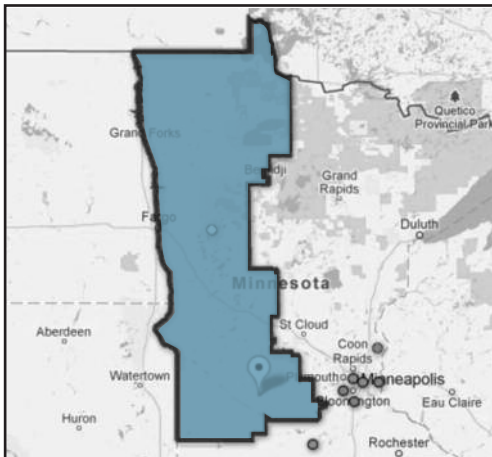


Let's Ride...Minnesota

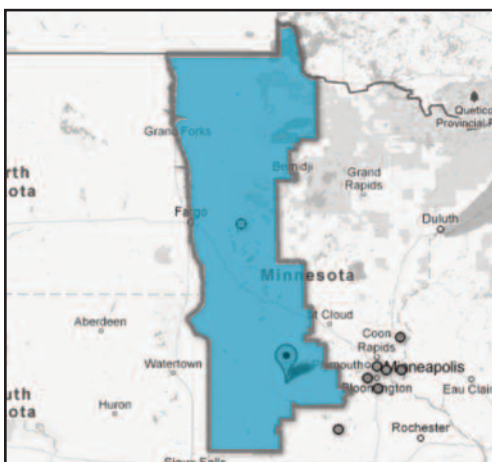
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The **Tim Orth Memorial Foundation's** (TOMF) mission is to assist financially or otherwise children in the West Central Minnesota area who are facing substantial medical expenses incurred as a result of serious accident or illness. Recipients of the TOMF have experienced health issues due to cancer, brain injuries, premature birth and automobile accidents. The **Disabled American Veterans** (DAV) of Minnesota organization is made up exclusively of men and women disabled in our nation's defense and are dedicated to build better lives for Minnesota disabled veterans and their families. The mission of DAV is to provide free assistance to veterans and their families in obtaining benefits and services earned through military service provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs and other agencies of government. The **Minnesotans' Military Appreciation Fund** (MMAF) is a statewide initiative created to say thanks to Minnesota military personnel and their families. According to its website, MMAF

has provided over \$8 million in grants to more than 14,000 recipients. The organization will assist any state resident who is eligible and served in a designated combat zone and received hostile fire pay after September 11, 2001. The **Fisher House** program is a unique private-public partnership that supports America's military in their time of need. A Fisher House is a home away from home for families of patients receiving medical care at a major military and VA medical center. The homes are usually located within walking distance of the treatment facilities, and families do not pay to stay at the houses. There are 57 Fisher Houses located throughout the United States and Germany, which have been donated to the U.S. Government as gifts. The Minnesota Fisher house was built in 1995 adjacent to the Minneapolis VA Medical Center.



2002 U.S. House of Representative District 7

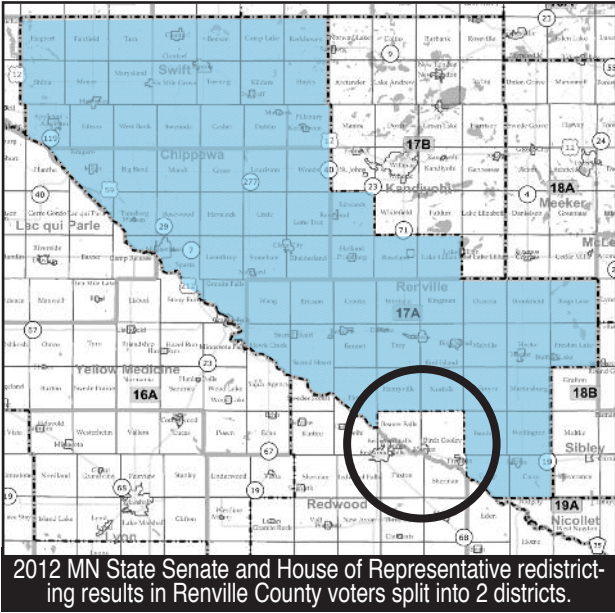


New 2012 U. S. House of Representative District 7 now includes counties south of Renville County.

2012 Federal, State & Renville County Redistricting

Every ten years, following the completion of the United States Census, the seats of the U.S. House of Representatives are reapportioned among the states according to their respective populations. The reapportionment process is traced back to the Constitutional Convention of 1787, that stated that the "U.S. House of Representatives was to represent the people as individuals, and on a basis of complete equality for each voter." The 2010 census population for Minnesota is 5,303,925 and entitles it to retain eight congressional seats as apportioned in the 1960 census. The ideal population for a Minnesota congressional district after the 2010 census is 662,991. After the 2010 census, the seventh congressional district was under populated by 37,479 people. Therefore the court redistricting panel, appointed to decide on Minnesota congressional district boundaries expanded the seventh district approximately 25 miles southward adding Pipestone, Murray and part of Cottonwood counties. After redistricting, Renville County remains in U.S. House of Representatives District 7.

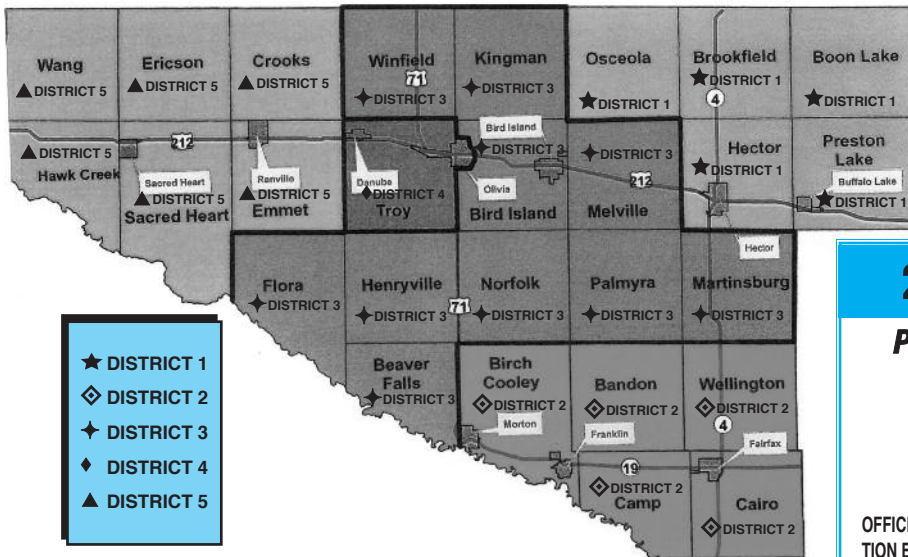
2012 Federal, State & Renville County Redistricting



As a result of the recent census not only does redistricting occur for the U.S. House of Representatives, the State of Minnesota also considers the population makeup of the State Senate and House of Representative Districts. Due to population shifts measured in the 2010 census, new State Senate and House district lines have been drawn and the new district for much of Renville County also includes all of Swift, all of Chippewa and 4 townships in Kandiyohi Counties. The new state redistricting plan has placed Beaver Falls and Birch Cooley Townships, and the cities of Morton and Franklin in a State Senate and House District that is part of the Redwood County district.

Renville County also experienced shifts in population from the 2000 census to the 2010 census that resulted in district lines for County

RENVILLE COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICTS



Commissioner Districts 1 and 3 to be altered. To be in compliance with Minnesota State Statute Chapter 375, Renville County Commissioners decided to move Martinsburg Township from Commissioner District 1 to Commissioner District 3. Renville County Commissioner Districts 1, 3, and 5 will be up for election this fall.

Renville County Commissioner Districts changes as a result of 2012 census.

2012 MN ELECTION DATES

Primary Election ~ Tuesday, August 14, 2012 ~

The earlier primary date will assist our citizens serving in the Military or working overseas to participate in the voting process.

General Election

~Tuesday, November 6, 2012 ~

OFFICES ON GENERAL ELECTION BALLOTS STATEWIDE:

- U.S. President & Vice President
- U.S. Senator
- U.S. Representative
- State Senator
- State Representative

LOCAL OFFICES ON GENERAL ELECTION BALLOTS STATEWIDE:

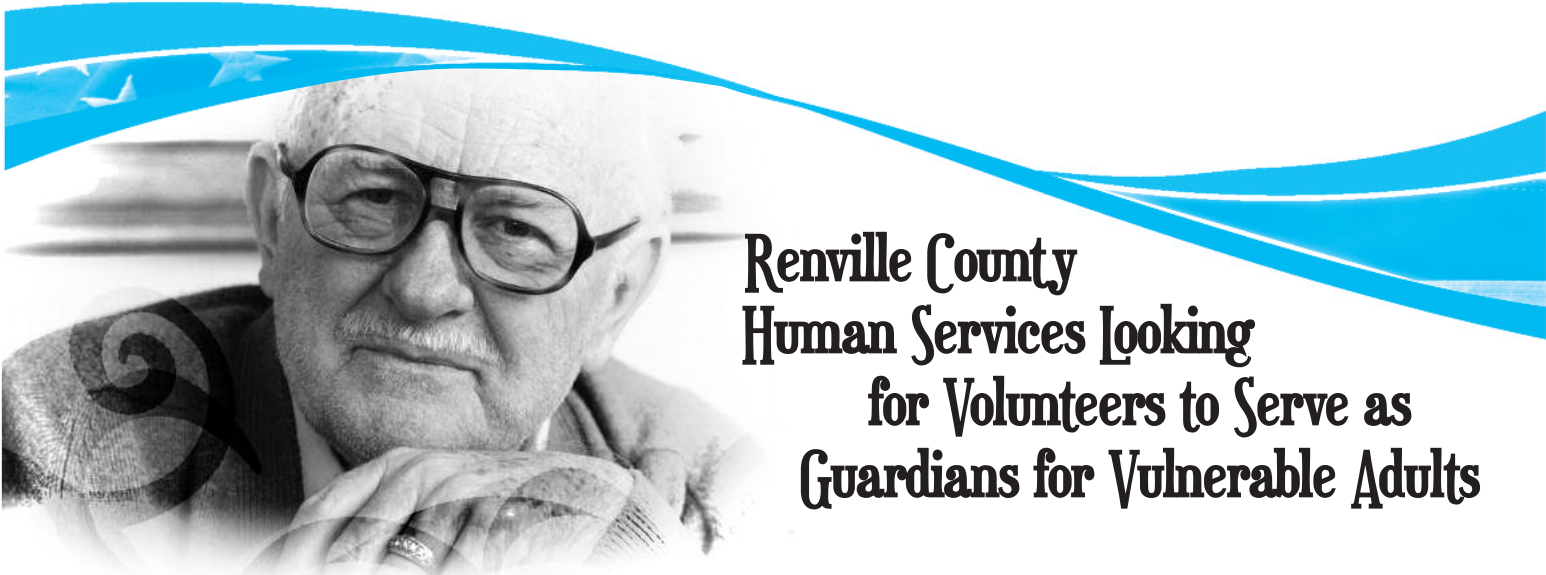
- County Commissioner
- City Officers
- School Board/Referendum
- Constitutional Amendments

If you need to register to vote or have questions, please contact the Renville County Auditor-Treasurer's office at 320-523-2071.



COUNTY PHONE NUMBERS

Administrator	320-523-3710	Heartland Express	800-450-7964	Sheriff	320-523-1161
Assessor	320-523-3645	Heartland Community	320-523-1842	Veterans Service	320-523-3763
Attorney	320-523-2661	Action Agency Inc.	or 877-523-1842	Water Planning & HHW	320-523-3706
Auditor/Treasurer	320-523-2071	Hospital	320-523-1261		
Court Services/Probation	320-523-3663	HRA/EDA	320-523-3656	<i>County Commissioners:</i>	
Court Administration	320-523-3680	Human Services	320-523-2202	Ralph Novotny, District #1	320-848-6392
Environment & Community		Landfill/Solid Waste	320-523-1505	Bob Fox, District #2	507-557-8265
Development	320-523-3768	License	320-523-3612	Paul Setzepfandt, District #3	320-365-3270
Extension	320-523-3713	Public Health Nursing	320-523-2570	John Stahl, District #4	320-523-1283
Hawk Creek	320-523-3666	Public Works	320-523-3759	LaMont Jacobson, District #5	320-765-2578
Heartland Express	320-523-3589	Recorder/Abstractor	320-523-3669		



Renville County Human Services Looking for Volunteers to Serve as Guardians for Vulnerable Adults

Renville County Human Services is looking for people willing to volunteer to serve as guardians for adults who need assistance in making decisions due to developmental delays, mental illness or other conditions such as dementia. Guardians are people who are Court appointed to make decisions on behalf of people who, due to their mental status, are not able to make those decisions on their own behalf. For example, in conjunction with the person's treatment team, a Guardian will determine the appropriate residence (such as a group home or nursing home) for the individual who is no longer able to live independently. A guardian is not required to actually take the person into their home and provide care for them, although some guardians (especially parents of adult children) choose to do just that. The volunteer guardians that Renville County is seeking will not be expected to provide direct care.

Serving as a Guardian is not necessarily time consuming. The Guardian's two major responsibilities are: authorizing placement and services for the individual and attending an annual meeting/care conference with the individual and the treatment team at the primary residence of the individual. Serving as a Guardian does not have to interfere much at all with your work or family obligations. Guardians are also responsible for preparing a short annual report for the Court each year on how the person they have guardianship over is doing. Assistance with this may be available if needed.

Family members, relatives or sometimes friends typically serve as Guardians for people. However, there are several individuals who currently do not have these resources due to age, distance or other circumstances and urgently need a Guardian.

~ Volunteering as a Guardian is a wonderful way to make a big difference in someone's life! ~

If you would like more information about becoming a Guardian, please call Renville County Human Services at 320-523-2202. Please ask to speak with Rita and she will make sure that the appropriate person returns your call.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REVOLVING LOAN FUND

The business revolving Loan fund is a unique and flexible source of supplemental financing for businesses that have a positive economic impact on Renville County.

INTEREST RATES AS LOW AS 2 %!

- Building & Plant Renovations
- Energy Efficiency Upgrades
- Permanently Retaining Existing Jobs
- Creating New Permanent Jobs
- Working Capital Loans
- Start-up

For more info contact, **Chris Hettig**, Renville County HRA/EDA.
Phone: (320) 523-3656 or E-Mail: chris@mail.renville.com

Funds made available by the Renville County Housing & Economic Development Authority, The American Recovery & Reinvestment Act, & a grant from the USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grants (RBEG) Program.



Consider a Memorial Donation to Heartland Express

Doug Ketcham, a local community and business leader passed away on April 22, 2012.

A memorial gift was given to Renville County Heartland Express in his memory. If you would like to give memorials to Heartland Express to honor your loved ones, contact:

(320) 523-3589 or 1-800-450-7964

Renville County

500 E. DePue Ave.
Olivia, MN 56277

Phone: 320-523-3710

Email: admin@co.renville.mn.us

Web site: www.co.renville.mn.us

ECRWSS

Postal Customer

PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

2012

BRIDGE REPLACEMENT IN RENVILLE COUNTY



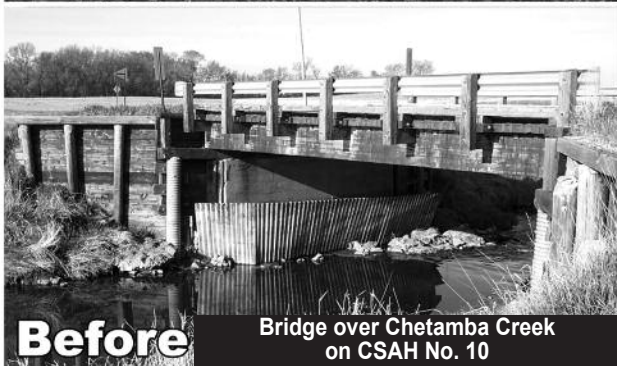
Before

Bridge on County Road 53



Now

Bridge on County Road 53



Before

Bridge over Chetamba Creek on CSAH No. 10



Now

Bridge over Chetamba Creek on CSAH No. 10

Summer in Minnesota is often equated with road construction. This summer the Renville County Public Works department is replacing 9 structurally deficient and functionally obsolete bridges. The bridges that are being replaced include:

- 2 County State Aid Highways (CSAH) bridges on Highways Number 5 and Number 17.
- 5 County Roads (non State-Aid) bridges are being replaced on County Roads Number 53, 55, 57(2 Bridges), and 62
- 2 on Township Roads located in Erickson and Cairo Townships

TRADITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES FOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENTS ARE:

- State Aid Accounts (Renville County's share of gas tax, motor vehicle sales tax, etc used for County State Aid Highways)
- County Road and Bridge Tax Levy used for non-state aid county roads
- Township Bridge Account (also part of gas tax) used for Township bridge replacements only
- Other funding sources
 - ~ State Bridge Bonds for county and township bridges
 - ~ Unallocated Town Bridge account (Town bridge dollars not being used by other counties)
 - ~ County Bond Funds
 - ~ Federal Aid

This year's Renville County bridge replacement projects are funded in part by traditional sources equaling \$648,000 and other sources equaling \$1,560,000 for a total of \$2,218,000.

RENVILLE COUNTY BRIDGE REPLACEMENT FUNDING SOURCE BREAKDOWN:

Traditional

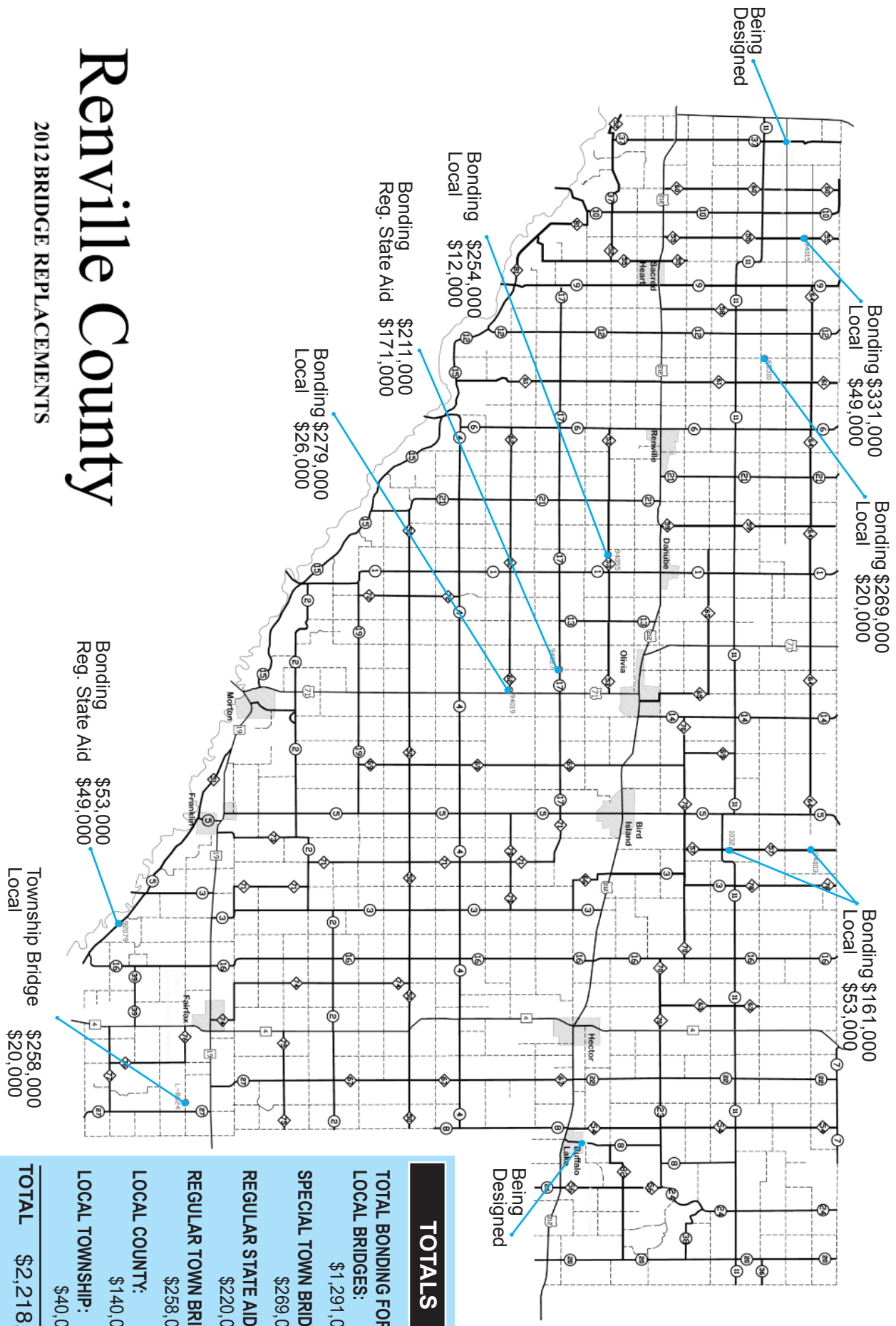
Local Township Match	\$40,000
Local County Match	140,000
State Aid Highway Account	220,000
Town Bridge Account	258,000

Non-Traditional

Unallocated Town Bridge Account	269,000
State Bridge Bonds	1,291,000

Total Bridge Funding	\$2,218,000
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Currently, Renville County has 223 county bridges located on CSAH, county and township roads. The bridges that are being replaced date back to as early as 1910, with the majority built during the 1950's and 60's. County bridges are inspected on a regular basis by Renville County Public Works staff to determine the condition states and are rated on a sufficiency scale set by the Minnesota Department of Transportation. Wear and tear on the bridges is caused by salt, water and heavier loads. Since 2002, 50 county bridges have been replaced. Three additional bridges are on the drawing board to be replaced during the 2012 construction season. See map on reverse side for details on the replaced bridges.

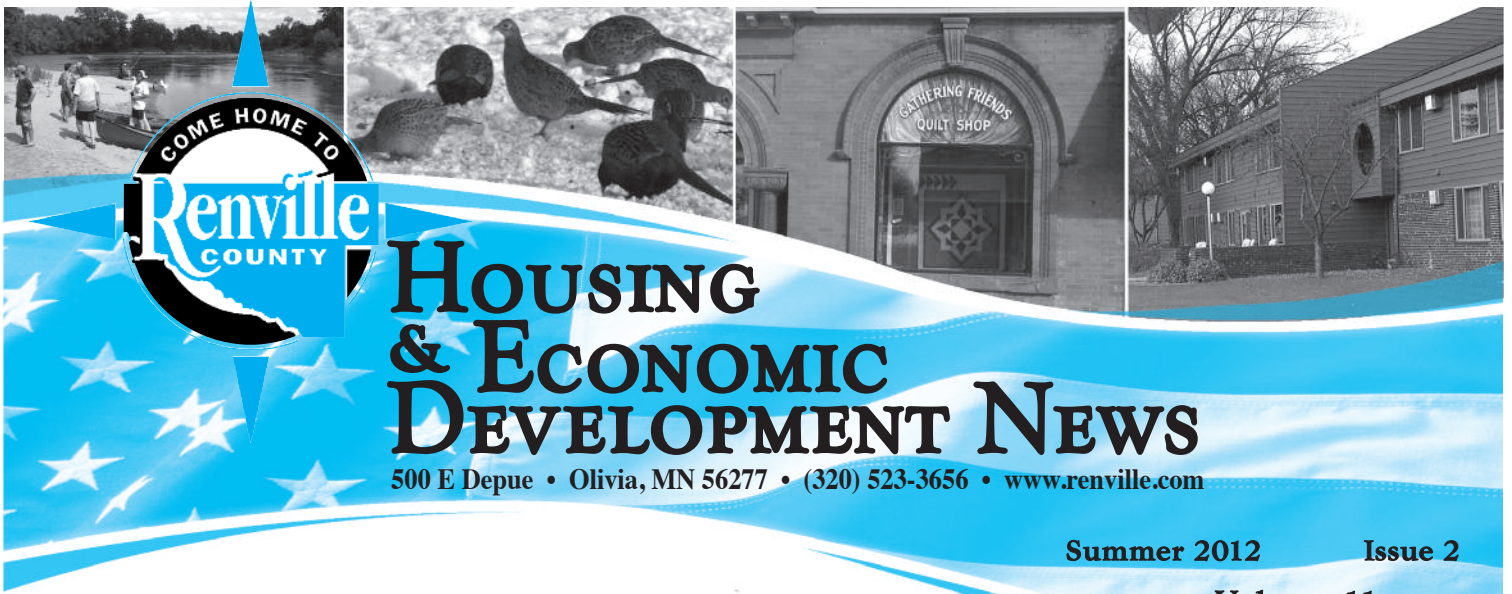


Renville County

2012 BRIDGE REPLACEMENTS

TOTALS

TOTAL BONDING FOR LOCAL BRIDGES:	\$1,291,000
SPECIAL TOWN BRIDGE:	\$269,000
REGULAR STATE AID:	\$220,000
REGULAR TOWN BRIDGE:	\$258,000
LOCAL COUNTY:	\$140,000
LOCAL TOWNSHIP:	\$40,000
TOTAL	\$2,218,000



HOUSING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWS

500 E Depue • Olivia, MN 56277 • (320) 523-3656 • www.renville.com

Summer 2012 Issue 2
Volume 11

Face Lift Continues for Renville County Parks ~ YEAR 2

Renville County applied for and received a Legacy grant that is being used in the Beaver Falls County Park. The improvement projects will be accomplished over a two year period. The grant projects include replacing /adding restrooms, building a shelter, landscaping, creating a hiking trail, and construction of a Council fire ring. Eventually, part of the park will be restored to native prairie and it is hoped that a learning center will be part of the park. The trail construction and landscaping is being conducted by a group of young adults from the Summer Youth Corps program along with Renville County Parks Department staff. The program is a part of the Minnesota Conservation Corps and its mission is to connect teenagers with the natural environment through hands-on conservation, and to empower young people to become active, engaged citizens.



Scenic view of the new hiking trail in Beaver Falls Park that will be ADA compliant.

There will be three separate summer youth corps groups this summer working to improve the Beaver Falls Park. The youth are between the ages of 13 to 17 and are mostly from the greater Twin Cities metro area. The youth corps members camped in Alexander Ramsey Park as part of their two week experience. The Conservation Corps also worked on a shelter, restroom and trail that were improved in Skalbekken Park last summer. The HRA/EDA recommends you spend a day in one of the beautiful Renville County Parks, you might be surprised at what you'll discover! This article brought to you by the Renville County HRA/EDA to promote tourism in Renville County.



Andy Lang, Renville County Parks Supervisor, with summer workers from the Summer Youth Corps program in Beaver Falls Park.

~ SUMMER EVENTS IN RENVILLE COUNTY ~

July 27-29 Catfish Derby Days, Franklin	August 12 Czech Hertiage Festival, Bechyn	August 31-Sept. 3 Birch Coulee Unity Days, Morton
July 25-29 Corn Capital Days, Olivia	August 11 KMS Memorial Ride, Franklin	September 8 Scarecrow Festival, Morton
August 2-5 State Legion Baseball Tournament, Sacred Heart	August 15-18 Renville County Fair, Bird Island	

NEWS FROM OUR NEIGHBORS

BIRD ISLAND ~

Wake, Bake & Brew opened its doors at 130 South Main Street on April 9th. Check out their lite breakfast and lunch menus. By the time this newsletter is published, Bird Island will have celebrated Wing Ding Days (June 13-17) and Polka Fest Days (June 29-July 1). Thanks to everyone who volunteered their time to make these events successful. The Renville County Fair will begin on August 15th and will culminate with the "Let's Ride Minnesota" event on August 18th. Check out the website at www.letsridemn.org for more details.

Have a great summer and see you at the Fair!

HECTOR ~

The Hector EDA is offering residential lots for sale at \$100 plus assessments. Call 320-848-2122 for more information.

Prairie View is a 34-Unit Living Facility located in Hector with on-site licensed staff, a memory care unit and a wide range of optional home care services located on the original Yellowstone Trail.

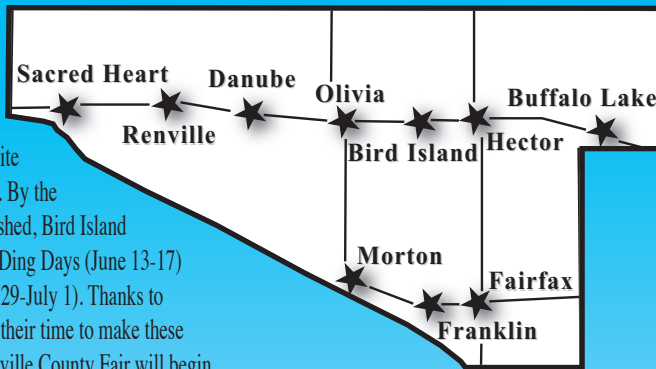
MORTON ~

FARMERS MARKET: Next to City Hall each Friday
UNITY DAY: September 1. Details coming soon! We are looking for cultural groups of our area to participate - contact city hall.

BUSINESSES: We have funds available to assist with relocation or start up. Contact City Hall for details e-Mail: mortoncityhall@mchsi.com or Phone: (507) 697-6912

FRANKLIN ~

The Longbranch Saloon is expanding and has built a new outdoor patio area and eventually will also include a new kitchen and bathroom. Raven's Day Care is a new day care provider in Franklin. The Franklin Court Park Shelter has recently been renovated. The former fertilizer plant property has been purchased and is being cleaned up and renovated. The MVRRA has been making improvements to the railroad and new crossings have been installed. We hope to see you in Franklin for the 37th Annual Catfish Derby Days, July 27-29, 2012, http://home.mchsi.com/~franklin/catfish_days.htm; and for the 5th Annual KMS Memorial Ride, August 11, 2012, <http://kmsride.com>



FAIRFAX ~

The new Fairfax Public Library is now open, and all are enjoying the larger, more modern building. Over \$300,000 was raised for the new brick structure located on First Street SE.

Park Street, and parts of First Street SE and Tenth Avenue South are under construction as part of a \$4.2 million project. The new water tower is also taking shape. Once the road construction is done, the remodeling done at Hauser-Hantge Funeral Chapel will be showcased. Farmer's Market is on Tuesdays in front of St. Andrew's Catholic Church on First Street SE from 4-6 pm. Recently opened Re-Cycle Cycles is a non-profit bike shop that also does repairs at 2B Truck and Auto on Highway 19.

All are invited to the Fort Ridgely Historical Site every Saturday for their 2 p.m. programs. Fairfax Depot Museum is open on Sundays through Labor Day from 2-4 p.m.

STAFF MEMBERS

Christina Hettig, Executive Director
 Linda Larsen, Housing Coordinator
 Susie Lang, Development Assistant
 Ron Louisiana, Maintenance

HRA/EDA BOARD

Chair, Joel Harmoning, District 2
 Vice-Chair, Blair Anderson, At-Large
 Secretary- Treasurer, Mark Thiesse, District 4
 Barbara Hoyhtya, District 1
 Mark Glesener, District 3
 Chad Kingstrom, District 5
 Wendy Schwint, At-Large
 Ex Officio, Ralph Novotny

Save the Date!

The ProAg Bus Tour of Renville County is scheduled for Thursday, August 23rd, 2012

Enjoy the day touring a number of impressive agricultural sites in the County.



For more information go to www.proagrc.org or call Brad Nere at 320-826-2299

THE 5TH ANNUAL RENVILLE COUNTY FARM CITY BREAKFAST

FRIDAY JULY 27TH, 2012
 7:00AM-11AM



DOW AGRI-SCIENCE
 1919 W LINCOLN AVENUE
 OLIVIA, MN 56277

FACILITY TOURS,
 AG DISPLAYS,
 DAIRY PRINCESSES & MORE

MENU: PANCAKES, SAUSAGE,
 CHEESE, MILK,
 JUICE & COFFEE

\$5 PER PERSON,
 KIDS 12 & UNDER EAT FREE

\$2 DONATION TO THE RENVILLE COUNTY FOOD SHELF FOR EACH TICKET SOLD

FREE BUS RIDES TO DOW AGRI-SCIENCE STARTING AT 7AM FROM THE F&M BANK MINNESOTA PARKING LOT IN OLIVIA

Sponsored by Renville County Farm Bureau,
 Renville County Corn & Soybean Growers,
 Agriculture/Renewable Energy Committee of The Renville County HRA/EDA and ProAg of Renville County.

Centennial Apartments

161 2nd Avenue East • Franklin, MN



One Bedroom Units Available
Rent Based on Income

No age restrictions

Family Size	Income Limits
1	\$33,600
2	\$38,400



Amenities Include:

Noon Senior Dining On-Site
 Quiet Atmosphere
 Community Room
 On-Site Laundry
 Elevator
 Smoke-Free Building

Call Linda at (320) 523-3745 or 888-665-3745 for more information.

Visit our website at www.renville.com

FRESH FROM THE FARM!



Hector Farmers' Market

Wednesdays 3-6 pm
 July - Fall
 HWY 212 & State HWY 4
 (South Central Grain & Energy C-Store)

Buffalo Lake Area Farm & Flea Market

Saturdays 8:00 am-noon
 Buffalo Lake
 City Park Hwy 212
 Open April 28th - Fall

Morton Farmer's Market

Mid June - Fall
 Fridays 9 am - 3 pm
 City Hall Parking Lot

Fairfax Farmers' Market

Tuesday afternoons
 July-September
 1st Street S.E. off
 Hwy 19 Fairfax

Olivia Farmers' Market

Thursday 2-6 pm
 July 12 - October
 City Parking lot
 9th St. S & Fairview
 (South of F&M Bank Minnesota)

Additional vendors welcomed at all Markets call 320-523-3656 for details.

In an effort to promote locally grown produce, this ad is provided free of charge to local farmers' markets by the Ag & Renewable Energy Committee of the Renville County HRA/EDA & the Farmers Market Promotion Program Grant (FMPP) from the USDA.
www.renville.com



RENVILLE COUNTY RECYCLING 2012 CALENDAR

January						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

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





Remember Curbside Recycling is Two Sort

1

#1 ~ CURB SORT

Newspapers, Misc. Paper and **FLATTENED** Cardboard



2

#2 ~ CURB SORT

Metal Cans, Aluminum Cans, Glass Bottles, Jars, and **ALL** plastic Containers with recycling symbols **INCLUDING** lids.



All #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, and #7 rigid plastics.

Look for the “chasing arrows” symbols on the bottom of your plastic items.

Plastic grocery and produce bags should not be placed in recycling containers. Please bring your plastic bags back to grocery stores for recycling.



Please use curbside if possible and save drop off sites for our rural residents.



Water Protection and Management

Volume 11

Summer 2012

Issue 2

New Loan Program for Wells

Renville County recently received funding through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture’s Best Management Practice (BMP) loan program to provide financial assistance to landowners who have problems with their existing wells. Financing is available for low-interest loans to repair or replace damaged, noncompliant, or contaminated wells located in Renville County. Examples of eligible well concerns include:

- Contamination from bacteria or excessive nitrates.
- Chemical contamination from sources such as pesticides, gasoline, or solvents.
- A well too close to a septic system.
- A cracked or collapsed well casing.
- Contamination due to flooding.



Loans cannot be issued to refinance a previously installed well, install a well for a new home, to resolve low-yield issues, or to eliminate naturally occurring minerals in the water such as iron, magnesium, manganese, or arsenic. Loan terms are for 10 years with an interest rate of 3%. The loan amount will be added to property taxes as a

“New Loan Program for Wells” continued on back.



Renville County Medication Disposal Program



Thanks to collaborative efforts between the Renville County Sheriff’s Department, Renville County Water & Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Management, and Renville County Public Health Services through the RAPAD Coalition, Renville



County now has a permanent medication disposal site. Renville County residents can safely dispose of unused or expired prescription drugs, over-the-counter drugs, animal drugs, and illegal drugs in the permanent medication drop box. The disposal box is located in the lobby of the main entrance of the Renville County Government Services Center in Olivia and is available 24 hours a day. Collection is free for Renville County residents. The medicine should be kept in the original container. Remove the person’s name and other personal information but leave the name of the drug and other content information on the bottle. If you need to dispose of sharps or used needles, please contact Renville County Public Health Services at (320) 523-2570.

MEDICATION DISPOSAL DROP BOX

Left to Right: Sheriff Scott Hable, Annie Tepfer, RAPAD Coalition Coordinator, and Diane Mitchell, Water & HHW Management Coordinator.

Medications that are dropped off will be destroyed through incineration, which is considered to be the only safe method for disposal of pharmaceuticals. Flushing pills down the toilet or disposing of unused medications in the trash is not recommended as the active ingredients are not removed during the wastewater treatment process and could contaminate water supplies. Keeping unused medications in the home can result in

accidental poisoning of children or could be stolen. If you have questions regarding the permanent medication disposal program, contact the Renville County Sheriff’s Department at (320) 523-1161.

"New Loan Program for Wells" continued from front.

special assessment. The construction or repair of a well must meet the requirements of state well regulations and rules (i.e., well code) and must be completed by a licensed well contractor. Properly designed and constructed wells ensure a clean, safe water supply and also help to protect ground water quality.

For more information on the low-interest loan program for wells, please contact Renville County Water & HHW Management at (320) 523-3706.

Websites for Well Information

- **MN Department of Health (MDH)** – Well Management:
www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/wells
- **MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR)** – Ground Water:
www.dnr.state.mn.us/groundwater/index.html
- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency** – Private Drinking Water Wells:
www.epa.gov/ogwdw000/privatewells
- **Wellowner.org** – Consumer Well Information:
www.wellowner.org

Cleaning Out the Garage or Basement? FREE Disposal Available for Fluorescent Bulbs, Paints, Stains...and More!



Household hazardous waste (HHW) is unusable or unwanted household chemicals or products that are considered hazardous when they pose a threat to people or the environment if disposed of improperly. Common household hazardous waste includes paints, stains, solvents, cleaners, pesticides, fluorescent bulbs, rechargeable batteries, aerosols, and mercury thermometers. Hazardous products are often labeled "caution," "warning," "danger," or "Do Not Throw in Trash." These items must be disposed of at an HHW facility.

So What Can Be Thrown Away? Small amounts of latex paint can be dried in the can and then disposed of in the trash with the lid off. Once latex paint is dry, it is no longer considered hazardous. Alkaline batteries and incandescent (regular) light bulbs can also be disposed of in the garbage.

Free Disposal? HHW can be disposed of for **no charge** at the Renville County Landfill & HHW Facility. For more information including directions or drop-off hours, please call (320) 523-1144 or visit www.co.renville.mn.us. Renville County residents can also dispose of HHW for **no charge** at the Kandiyohi County Regional HHW Facility located in Willmar. Please call (320) 231-3587 for more information.

Fluorescent Bulb Disposal. The Renville County Landfill & HHW Facility collects used fluorescent bulbs year-round from Renville County residents and businesses at **no charge**. Large quantities of bulbs need to be boxed for transportation purposes. If you do not have boxes available, please contact the facility for free box and/or drum supplies.

Private Well Water:

Testing Your Well is Up to You!

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

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) estimates that at any given time, as many as 25 percent of private wells in Minnesota have detectable levels of **total coliform bacteria**, an indication that surface contamination has entered the well or water system. Contaminated drinking water can look, smell, and taste fine, which is why MDH recommends that private wells be tested annually for total coliform bacteria and every two to three years for **nitrate**. Water should also be tested for nitrate before giving the water to an infant. High levels of nitrate can cause blue baby syndrome (methemoglobinemia), which is a potentially deadly condition.

Testing your well is a relatively simple and inexpensive process. Water samples should be analyzed by a laboratory that has been certified by MDH. Renville County Public Health Services 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 a certified lab. A fee for the analysis must be sent along with the water sample(s).

People with questions about well water contaminants, or other well-related issues, can contact the MDH Well Management Section at (651) 201-4600 or (800) 383-9808 or the MDH District Office in Marshall at (507) 537-7151.

If you would like to pick up water sampling bottles, please stop at Renville County Public Health Services or call (320) 523-2570.

Source: Minnesota Department of Health