



Skalbekken County Park

OPEN ENROLLMENT

Open enrollment deadline is November 23. [Visit our benefits site to enroll.](#)

Details and instructions available in an email from Lisa Neutgens dated 11/17/22.

SAVE THE DATES!

December
Holiday Door
Decorating Contest!
(Judging will take place
December 13.)

December 5: Blood Drive
(Details on page 16)

December 15
Employee Recognition
(Details and RSVP
link on page 5)

New Payroll and Timekeeping System to be Implemented

In an effort to streamline processes, reduce duplication, and reduce errors; we will be moving to a new payroll, timekeeping, and benefits system as of January 2023.



You'll see some of these changes already occurring in December and others will be rolled out over the first quarter of 2023. Our new system is UKG. It is currently being used by 16 Minnesota counties (many other non-county entities as well). Stayed tuned for more information to come!

Welcome,
come on in!

*

*

[Forgot your password?](#)



Powered by UKG

New Employees



Sabrina Block,

*Jail Administrative Assistant
Sheriff's Office*

Sabrina Block is our new Jail Administrative Assistant as part of the Sheriff's Office. She previously worked as a Universal Banker at MinnWest bank for 11+ years. Sabrina is married and has three kids (17, 15 and 12). In her free time, she likes to do puzzles, sing (karaoke), and do home improvement projects. Sabrina came to Renville County because of the benefits package and because she was looking for an opportunity to improve/better herself.



Darik Mertens,

*Highway Engineering Tech I
Public Works*

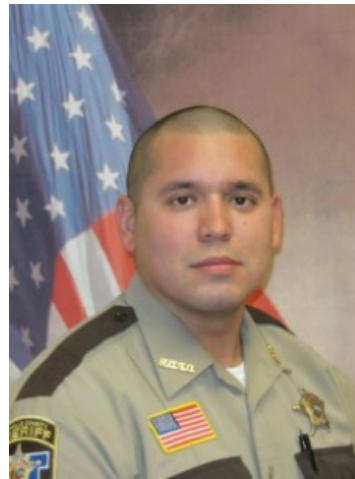
Darik Mertens is the new Highway Engineering Technician I in Public Works. He is married and has three kids (ages 6, 3, and 1). Prior to coming to Renville County, Darik worked for Everstrong Construction for 19+ years. In his free time, he likes to fish, hunt, do metal work, and help on the family farm. Darik joined Renville County because it was an opportunity to use his education, skills, and experiences in a new way.



Raelynn Reiten,

*Corrections Officer
Sheriff's Office*

Raelynn Reiten joined Renville County as a Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office. She said she applied on a whim as it is a completely different career and something she's never done before but has always been interested in what happens behind the scenes. Prior to coming to Renville County, Raelynn worked at the Sacred Heart Municipal Liquor Store, was in customer service, and worked at a hog farm. Raelynn enjoys activities with her husband including motorcycle riding, camping, fishing, and spending time with their dog.



Ivan Cornejo,

*Corrections Officer
Sheriff's Office*

Ivan Cornejo joined the Sheriff's Office team as a Corrections Officer on November 7. He grew up in Penitas, TX. Prior to moving to Minnesota, Ivan worked security at a regional hospital. When he moved to Minnesota he worked for a farmer in the region. Ivan applied for this position just because he thought it would be interesting and similar to security work. In his free time he likes to spend time with family (girlfriend and son (11 months)). Since he is new to Minnesota, he is looking forward to exploring the area and experiencing winter. Ivan says he is honored to work with Renville County.



Kendra Rigge,

*Public Health Nurse
Public Health*

Kendra Rigge joined the Public Health Team on November 16. Kendra is a Public Health Nurse and has gone to college a few times over the last years and obtained degrees as a certified medical assistant, LPN, RN, and then a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing. She worked in a clinic setting, group home, and Public Health for 4+years before coming to Renville County. Kendra is married and has three boys (10, 6, 16 months). In her free time, she likes to go camping, sporting events (SH Saints, Twins, Timberwolves), and anything with family. Kendra came to Renville County because she enjoys Public Health Nursing and convenience for family.



HALLOWEEN 2022

Thank you to all team members and guests who participated in Halloween 2022 at the Renville County Government Services Center and Courthouse! We hope you all had a Fab-BOO-lous time!



Human Services



Administration



Environmental Services/EDA



4TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY DOOR DECORATING CONTEST



Join in the fun! Decorate your department's office door!

County Commissioners will do the judging on December 13 and the winner will be announced December 15. Email door photos to: wellness@renvillecountymn.com



**LETS GET FESTIVE!
WEAR YOUR
FESTIVE
SWEATER ON
DECEMBER 15!**

Send photos to wellness@renvillecountymn.com

15-Minute Chair Massages with Mande Neubauer

Location: GSC 121B

Cost: \$20.00

Date: December 15



CLICK HERE to register for
your chair massage.

*This event **DOES NOT** qualify for
a Wellness Incentive.*

JOIN US FOR A

*Farewell
Celebration*

District 2

HONORING

Commissioner Bob Fox



**Tuesday,
December 27**

~
**Immediately Following
His Final Renville
County Board Meeting**
(approximately 10 a.m.)

**20 YEARS
OF SERVICE**

Please come for well wishes and refreshments

*Renville County Government Services Center • Board Room (Suite 313)
105 S 5th Street • Olivia, MN 56277*



Renville County

Winter Recognition & Training Event

Thursday, December 15

GSC Room 116/117



Attend One Presentation



A.M.
Presentation
10:00 - 11:30

Lunch
For
Everyone

P.M.
Presentation
1:00 - 2:30

Guest Speaker: Kimberly Madsen from K. Madsen Consulting

DOOR PRIZE GIVEAWAY

Sign up to win 1 of 5 Chair Massage Gift Certificates!

[CLICK HERE](#) to RSVP by 12/1/2022

DEPUTY SHERIFF OATH

Sheriff Scott Hable administers the Deputy Sheriff Oath to Renville County Sheriff's Office Deputy Braydon Ortloff at the Board of Commissioners meeting on Tuesday, October 25.



L to R: Sheriff Scott Hable and Deputy Braydon Ortloff



L to R: Chief Deputy Sheriff Jason Mathwig, Deputy Braydon Ortloff, and Sheriff Scott Hable

Winter Wonderland

Coat Drive

Drop-off Locations:

Olivia:
 St. Aloysius Catholic Church
 Grace Community Church
 Olivia Hospital & Clinics
 HomeTownBank
 FM Bank
 Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church

Danube:
 MinnWest Bank

Renville:
 First Security Bank
 Holy Redeemer Catholic Church

Fairfax:
 Frandsen Bank & Trust

Bird Island:
 St. Mary's Catholic Church

Please Donate

A New or gently used WARM Coat to help families in our community stay warm this winter!!

For more information:
 320-523-1842 or Email:
 jeand@unitedcapmn.org

Renville County Communities



EDE/AA/ADA

HOLIDAY SURVIVAL CLUB



The average American gains a few pounds between Thanksgiving & New Years. Join our Renville County Employees Holiday Survival Club to help keep that weight off!

All you have to do is maintain or lose weight during the contest dates. Those who achieve this goal will go into a drawing for a cash prize.

Entry fee is \$5 and the cash prize will be determined by the number of entries. For example; if 30 people sign-up one person would win \$150.

WEIGH IN BETWEEN NOVEMBER 14-23, 2022

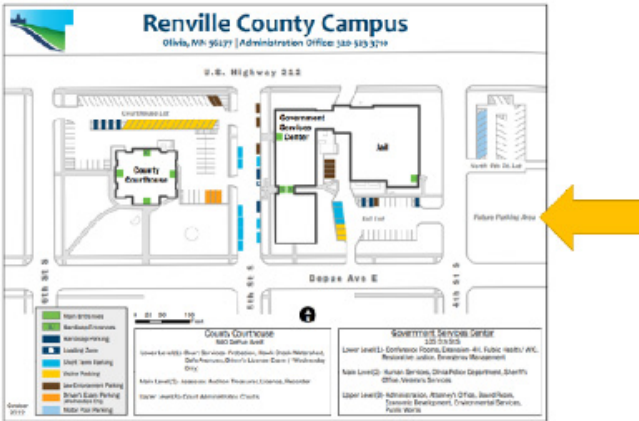
RE-WEIGH IN BETWEEN JANUARY 2-11, 2023

WEIGH-IN AT THE PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE
 ALL WEIGH-INS ARE CONFIDENTIAL



Campus Parking Lot Update

[CLICK HERE](#) for the campus map.



Our new parking lot is located on 4th Street, just south of the North 4th Street Lot / across from the jail (as indicated by the arrow above).

The lot will remain gravel for now, and you are welcome to park in the lot as of today.

Please park around the perimeter of lot.



Conference Room Scheduling and Set-Up Reminder

Did you know that if you [schedule Conference Rooms 116 / 117](#) for a meeting through the Outlook calendar, that the Facilities Department will arrange it as requested?



However, you **MUST ALSO** put in a [Maintenance Ticket](#) listing conference room number, meeting date and time, number of people attending, and a description of how you'd like the room arranged (classroom style, circle, individual tables, etc) so they can get it on their schedule. Thank you!



STAY TUNED!

TRAILS WILL BE GROOMED IN BEAVER FALLS AND SKALBEKKEN COUNTY PARKS FOR WINTER RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES ONCE SNOW FALLS! ALLOWS!



2022 Santa's Closet Express

It's that time of year! Santa's Closet white boxes are located on the 3rd floor of the Government Services Center on the bridge by the AED, and at the Courthouse in the 2nd floor rotunda. Boxes will be checked daily for donations.



If you would like to donate gifts to Santa's Closet, please put your unwrapped gifts in one of these boxes **by December 1**. (Request was made not to send white elephant items, for distribution reasons.)

GIFT ITEMS OF GREATEST NEED INCLUDE:

- Sleep pants (all sizes)
- Slipper socks with grippers
- Light to medium fleece blankets
- Legos / building sets
- Cars, tractors, farm toys (small/medium)
- Puzzles (all ages)
- Baby dolls
- Craft kits
- Crayola markers
- Children's books
- STEM activity sets
- Adult word find books
- Coloring books (all ages)

Thank you for your donations!

Questions? Call Jenny at 320-522-4689.

End of Year Reminders:

- The final paycheck of the year will be paid on 12/30 (for pay period 12/10 - 12/23).
- Vacation accruals will need to be down to 240 by 12/23. Anything above this will be lost or can be [donated to the Catastrophic Leave Bank](#). You can find the form to contribute to Catastrophic Leave on the staff page.
- Comp hours for Union and Non-Union/ Non-Exempt staff must be down to 40 by 12/23.
- Be sure to take into consideration any hours you will be earning that pay period when looking at your max accruals.
- You are highly encouraged to use your vacation before the 12/23 deadline. If staffing becomes an issue, your request for vacation may be denied and the time lost. Please plan ahead!



St. Catherine University Scholarship Opportunity

As a graduate of St. Catherine University, Stacie Haney (*Social Worker in our Human Services Department*) is able to refer a new incoming student and gain them a \$150 - \$600 scholarship to St. Catherine's. If you have a child who is interested in going there, please contact Stacie at 320-523-3584 or stacieh@renvillecountymn.com, and she will get you the form that needs to be filled out for monies to be applied to first-year tuition.



If you have information or items such as this that may have countywide interest and would like to share with your fellow co-workers, please submit to stefanier@renvillecountymn.com for consideration of being placed in a staff newsletter. Thank you!

Olivia Hospital & Clinic Foundation Online Auction

The Olivia Hospital & Clinic Foundation is excited to announce their online auction to fund our Areas of Greatest Need. The auction will be hosted online from November 8-28, giving everyone a chance to participate, find new treasures and enable us to keep providing quick and flexible support to our communities where it's needed most. Let the bidding begin! [CLICK HERE](#) for details.



Holiday RECIPE EXCHANGE

SHARE YOUR FAVORITE RECIPES!

EMAIL TO:
BETHP@RENVILLECOUNTYMN.COM

PLEASE SUBMIT RECIPES AS
WORD DOCS
OR TYPED OUT IN AN
EMAIL
*** NO PHOTOS PLEASE!

FRIDAY

2
DEC

.....
DEADLINE TO SUBMIT

RECIPES WILL BE
COMPILED AND
SHARED TO ALL
RENVILLE
COUNTY STAFF!



Renville
COUNTY
Service · Stewardship · Shared Responsibility

2022 EVENTS

- November 27 Sacred Heart Santa Day, Sacred Heart
- December 2 Old Fashioned Christmas, Bird Island
- December 3 Tree Lighting & Family Event, Renville
- December 7 Taste of Bechyn, American Legion, Olivia
- December 8 Holiday Happenings, Olivia
- December 10 Fireman's Pancake Breakfast, Renville



**American
Red Cross**



Thanks for always showing up!

Blood Drive
**Renville County Government
Services Center**

Room 116
105 S. 5th St
Olivia, MN 56277

Monday, December 5, 2022
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: RenvilleCGSC to schedule an appointment.

**Come to give blood Nov. 28-Dec. 15 for a \$10 Gift Card
by email, thanks to our partners at Amazon!**

[CLICK HERE](#) to Register

Schedule a blood donation appointment today:

Download the Blood Donor App | RedCrossBlood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

Employee Surveys

DEFERRED COMPENSATION SURVEY:

The Personnel Committee is directing the county to reduce the number of 457(b) vendors to two (2); (from the four (4) plans currently offered). Deferred compensation plans allow employees to place funds into a retirement account where it sits untaxed until you withdraw the funds later, essentially delaying receiving your compensation until it is paid at a later date. We are statutorily required to offer MSRS (Minnesota State Retirement System) as a provider. If the provider that you currently use is NOT chosen, your funds will continue to stay with them. You will have the option to move those to a new provider or just leave as-is (knowing that no additional funds will be contributed through payroll deductions). **Please [CLICK HERE](#) to complete the one question survey by November 23.**

EMPLOYEE INPUT SURVEY

The mission of the Renville County Labor Management Committee (LMC) is to sustain a partnership that works to address and resolve issues through open communication. The purpose of this committee is to promote respectful relations between labor and management in the complex world of county government.

Some items the committee has worked on recently include:

- Telecommuting policy
- Insurance
- Emergency volunteer service program
- Employee recognition awards
- Commissioner meetings
- Community service
- Sick time paid out for wellness
- Presence of LMC minutes on the staff webpage for transparency

The Labor Management Committee (LMC) is looking for employee feedback on topics, ideas, and concerns you would like the committee to address. **Please [CLICK HERE](#) to complete the survey Friday, December 16, 2022.**

DON'T FORGET YOUR PETS



Even with a natural fur coat,
winter can be deadly for your pets
unless proper care is given.



Keep them warm and dry,
and indoors whenever possible.



Provide plenty of food and water.
Dehydration is especially dangerous in winter.



When outside, keep them bundled up.
Limit outside time, and thoroughly clean
(including paws) when bringing them in



weather.gov



WEX Transition Continues

The following information has been provided by WEX:



- Additional medical office and pharmacy codes are being added to the WEX debit card to allow for more approvals and less after-sale paperwork verification. This process will be complete in approximately two weeks.
- Debit cards are being programmed to allow for non-pretax qualified insurance premiums to be paid. Examples include COBRA, outside medical insurance premiums, retiree coverage, Medicare.
- The customer service team is in place and your calls will be directed to them when you authenticate with your ID number and date of birth when calling in.
- If an account holder has more than one account type (HSA, VEBA, FSA) in some cases the payment ordering was not setup correctly due to incoming data from the prior carrier. WEX is in the process of auditing plan ordering to ensure that claims will be pulled from the correct account moving forward.
- If you have VEBA, it should have been frozen, please contact Payroll for the necessary form.
- VEBA claims incurred prior to 9/1/22 that are less than 18 months old are eligible for reimbursement when you use the date of 9/1/22 in filing the claim.
- HSA account holders need to login to the WEX online portal to set up an account and authenticate the HSA terms and conditions before their HSA can be used to pay eligible claims.
- WEX online portal: www.wexinc.com/login/benefits-login

The WEX customer service number is available 6:00am-9:00pm CST - (866) 451-3399 or email customerservice@wexhealth.com



TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR LIFE!

LEARN HOW TO DEFEAT YOUR PROBLEMS.

THE EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CAN HELP.

Connect with a counselor at **1.800.550.MCIT (6248)** or through *SandCreekEAP.com*.

The EAP can help you manage personal problems, whatever they are.

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| RELATIONSHIPS | DEPRESSION | SUBSTANCE ABUSE |
| CAREER CONCERNS | ANXIETY | OTHER PERSONAL CONCERNS |
| FAMILY ISSUES | FINANCIAL CONCERNS | |
| STRESS | LOSS OR GRIEF | |

YOUR EAP IS SIMPLE TO USE. IT IS CONFIDENTIAL. IT HELPS.

Employees, their spouse and dependents have access to counseling services statewide through their employment with an MCIT public entity member.





AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

WHAT IS IT?

The Affordable Connectivity Program is an FCC program that helps connect families and households struggling to afford internet service.

The benefit provides:

- Up to \$30/month discount for internet service;
- Up to \$75/month discount for households on qualifying Tribal lands; and
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet purchased through a participating provider.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

A household is eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program if the household income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or if a member of the household meets at least one of the criteria below:

- Participates in any of the following assistance programs: SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, Veterans Pension or Survivor Benefits, SSI, WIC, or Lifeline;
- Participates in any of the following Tribal specific programs: Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribal TANF, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, or Tribal Head Start (income based);
- Participates in the Free and Reduced-Price School Lunch Program or the School Breakfast Program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision;
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year; or
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating broadband provider's existing low-income internet program.

TWO STEPS TO ENROLL

1

Go to **AffordableConnectivity.gov** to submit an application or print a mail-in application

2

Contact your preferred participating provider to select an eligible plan and have the discount applied to your bill.

Some providers may have an alternative application that they will ask you to complete.

Eligible households must both apply for the program and contact a participating provider to select a service plan.

LEARN MORE



Call **877-384-2575**, or



Visit www.fcc.gov/acp

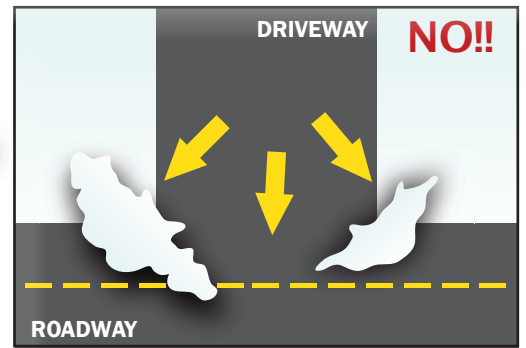
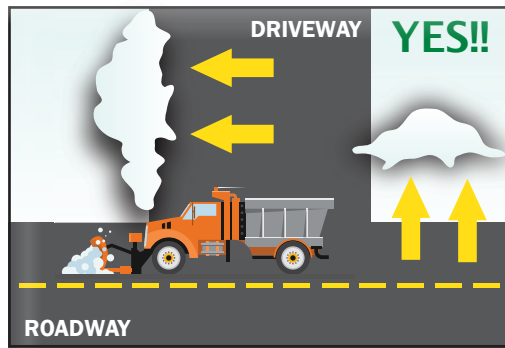


SNOW ON ROAD NOTICE

The Renville County Highway 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.



Join
Us
For

Lunch Time

TRIVIA



Thursday, Dec. 15

12:00 PM

GSC 116/117

During lunch at the Winter
Employee Recognition Event & Training!

Topic: The Grinch!

Bring your tablet or smart phone so you can play along!