

PUBLIC HEALTH TO MOVE BY FALL OF 2008

By Jill Bruns, Renville County Public Health Director



The groundbreaking ceremony held on Tuesday, April 17, 2007, initiated the Renville County Jail expansion and the Health and Human Services Building addition. Both the Jail expansion and the Health and Human Services Building addition projects are currently on schedule. The Health and Human Services Building is planned to be complete and ready for staff to move into the fall of 2008.

The Health and Human Services Building will have three floors and the Renville County Public Health Department will be moving into the lower level. The Public Health Services Department has been serving Renville County residents since 1916. Renville County established the first County Public Health Service in the state when Dorothy Motl, a public health nurse, was sent to Renville County free, as the result of the county selling the largest number of Easter Seals in the state. Motl made house calls and visited the county's 129+ rural schools twice a year.

The Public Health Services offices have been located at several sites in Renville County since Motl's early introduction of nursing services. In the past 25 years, Public Health Services offices were housed in a wing of the old Renville County Hospital and were co-located with Renville County Human Services. This was a great fit as Public Health Services and Human Services staffs have a close working relationship, as they sometimes serve the same clients. In 1988, space needs necessitated a move for the Public

Health Services offices to the Plaza West building located on the west edge of Olivia. At this time, the Veterans Service Office moved to the Plaza West building. Upon completion of the County Office Building in 1992, Public Health Services and Veterans Services moved again to new county office building space.

This newest move will involve the current Public Health Services staff of 29 employees including: the director, three supervisors, support staff, a bilingual home visitor, public health nurses, LPNs, home health aides and an environmental health specialist. The staff is planning to move into new office space. Half of their time is spent in the community delivering care services with the other half spent in the office completing charting and paper work. The new office space will provide Public

Health Services with many benefits:

- better space to conduct WIC clinics
- more enhanced security
- improved patient flow for clinic visits
- enhanced confidentiality for clients

In addition to the current home care services, school health services and restaurant inspections provided by public health, some new plans are in the works including evening hours 2 to 3 nights per month, more foot care, and fluoride varnish for children and adults. The Public Health Services staff will be moving to a new location and will continue to provide nursing services established by Dorothy Motl in 1916 with an expanded scope including health education and environmental health services.

SPECIAL NOTICE to All County Customers

During the construction phase of the Health and Human Service Building Addition, any person requiring assistance to enter the County Office Building should contact the department they are conducting business with in advance of their arrival. The departments with offices located in the County Office Building include Administration, County Commissioner Board Room, Driver's License Exam, Environmental and Community Development, Household Hazardous Waste, I.T. Minnesota Extension and 4-H, Public Health, Public Works, Sheriff and Jail, and Veteran Services Office. Reasonable accommodations will be made to deliver services so please call ahead, you will not be denied service. See the phone directory located on page 3 of this newsletter to locate department phone numbers.

**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

Postal Customer

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Renville COUNTY MESSENGER

Connecting you with your County Government

Volume 6

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Issue 2

HEALTH INSURANCE BY THE NUMBERS

Renville County Residents

10.4 % Uninsured

19.8 % Medicare
Coverage

12.3 % State Funded
Programs (M.A.,
GMAC or MN
Care)

57.5% Private Health
Insurance

(Information made available by
Minnesota Department of Health
as of 2001)

Renville County Launches Prescription Drug Discount Card That Can Be Used by All Residents

Renville County will be launching a discount card program to help consumers cope with the high price of prescription drugs. The county is making free prescription drug discount cards available under a program sponsored by the National Association of Counties (NACo) that offers average savings of 20 percent off the retail price of commonly prescribed drugs.

The cards may be used by all county residents, regardless of age, income, or existing health coverage, and are accepted at 67 percent of the county's pharmacies. A national network of more than 57,000 participating retail pharmacies also will honor the NACo prescription discount card.

"Renville County is proud to be one of the counties nationwide participating with NACo," said Bob Fox, Renville County Commissioner Board Chairman. "The NACo prescription discount card offers significant savings for the uninsured and underinsured residents of our county, and even those fortunate to have prescription coverage can use the card to save money on drugs that are not covered by their health plan. Residents do not have to be Medicare beneficiaries to be eligible for this program."

Best of all, there is no cost to county taxpayers for NACo and Renville

Renville County



Prescription Discount Card

RXBN:
PCN:
RXGRP:
ISSUER: (80840)
ID:

This plan is not insurance.

County to make these money saving cards available to our residents.

Cards will be available at the Renville County Fair, August 15-17, and in the next issue of the Renville County Messenger. County residents can call toll free 1-877-321-2652 or visit <https://naco.advancex.com> for assistance with the program.

"Using the NACo prescription discount card is easy," said Jill Bruns. "Simply present it at a participating pharmacy. There is no enrollment form, no membership fee and no restrictions or limits on frequency of use. Cardholders and their family members may use the card any time their prescriptions are not covered by insurance."

The discount card program is administered by Caremark Rx, Inc.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States. Founded in 1935, NACo provides essential services to the nation's 3,066 counties. NACo advances issues with a unified voice before the federal government, improves the public's understanding of county government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through education and research, and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. For more information about NACo, visit www.naco.org.

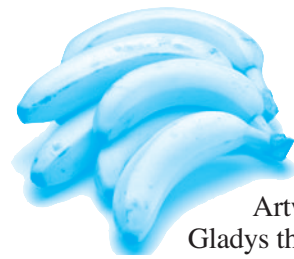
Park Fees Increased for 2007 Season

The Renville County Board of Commissioners set the 2007 park fees at it a regularly scheduled meeting. The approved changes in the park fee schedule are noted below:

~ Park Fee Schedule Breakdown ~

	2007 FEES
Rustic Camping Site	\$ 12.00 per night
Recreational Vehicle Camping Site	\$ 20.00 per night
Group Camping (By Reservation)	\$ 50.00 per night \$7.00/camping unit
Daily Recreational Use	No Charge - (Donations Accepted)
Monthly Camping Rate	\$ 340.00 per month
Shelter Reservations	\$ 50.00 per day
Vendors	\$ 25.00 per vendor per event
Dumping Station (non-camper)	\$ 10.00 per event
Woodcutting (per designated season)	\$ 50.00

If you have any questions regarding the park system or fee schedule, please call the Division of Environment and Community Development at 320-523-3768.



RENVILLE COUNTY LIBRARIES ARE INTO THE SWING OF SUMMER WITH THE READING PROGRAM

"Go Bananas At Your Library."

Artwork was done by Minnesota author/illustrator Derek Anderson. With Gladys the purple gorilla as inspiration, summers at the local library can be loads of fun.

It is never too late to visit your local library and find all the hidden treasures there.

All Renville County's Libraries are participating members of the Pioneerland Library System. Library cards are free to all Renville County residents. Visit your local library and enjoy the pleasure of getting lost in a good book.

"I cannot live without books." Thomas Jefferson

~ The Renville County Libraries' Hours Are ~

	BIRD ISLAND	FAIRFAX	HECTOR	OLIVIA	RENVILLE
Monday	6-8 p.m.	Closed	11-4:30 p.m.	12-8 p.m.	12:30-5:30 p.m.
Tuesday	10-5 p.m.	9-5 p.m.	11-4:30 p.m.	12-8 p.m.	10-4 p.m.
Wednesday	10-5 p.m.	1-5 p.m./6-8 p.m.	10-12 p.m./1-4:30 p.m.	12-8 p.m.	12:30-5:30 p.m.
Thursday	10-4 p.m./6-8 p.m.	Closed	11-4:30 p.m./6:30-8 p.m.	12-8 p.m.	12:30-5:30 p.m./6-8 p.m.
Friday	9-2 p.m.	9-5 p.m.	11-4:30 p.m.	10-5 p.m.	12:30-5:30 p.m.
Saturday	Closed	Closed	Closed	12-3 p.m.	Closed

Thank You!



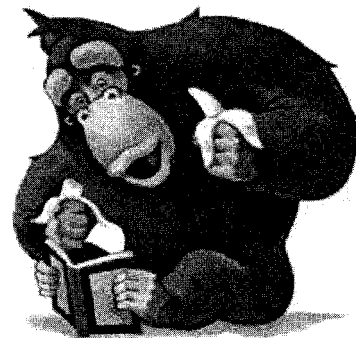
RENVILLE COUNTY HEARTLAND EXPRESS

wishes to say
Thank You to the Cities of:

- Bird Island
- Buffalo Lake
- Danube
- Fairfax
- Franklin
- Morton
- Olivia
- Renville
- Sacred Heart

for their financial support
of the transit system.

~~ Heartland Express ~~



New Public-Private Long-Term Care Financing Plan Approved

Submitted by Jerry Brustuen, Director Renville County Human Services



Minnesotans who purchase certain long-term care policies will be able to protect their assets under a new state plan that recently received federal approval.

Known as the Minnesota Long Term Care (LTC) Partnership, the plan is intended to give people greater control over how they finance their long-term care, while also addressing the demographic pressures that are expected to make the current long-term care financing system difficult to sustain in the future.

Currently, Minnesotans must deplete most of their assets before state Medical Assistance will pay for their long-term care, whether it is in a nursing facility or their own home. Recent changes in federal law have restricted the ability of individuals and families to use estate planning techniques to transfer assets and artificially impoverish themselves in order to qualify for state assistance for long-term care.

With the LTC Partnership, a person who buys a policy worth \$100,000, for example will be able to protect up to an additional \$100,000 of their assets if they later need to apply for Medical Assistance. For a healthy 55-year-old, such a policy might cost between \$60 and \$90 a month, once a state tax credit is factored in.

To offer the plan, Minnesota needed to receive approval from the federal government and is only the second state

to do so. Beginning this year, policies will be available from the approximately 25 long-term care insurers doing business in Minnesota.

"We hope that more individuals will purchase long-term care insurance to prepare to meet their future long-term care needs," said Cal Ludeman, commissioner of the Department of Human Services, the agency overseeing the LTC Partnership. "This is especially critical as the age wave begins to wash over Minnesota and the rest of the world. Over the next 25 years, the proportion of Minnesotans 65 and older will nearly double, from 12 percent to 20 percent."

In addition to encouraging people to purchase new LTC Partnership policies, the partnership will allow current policyholders to make their coverage "LTC Partnership-qualified" if they meet certain criteria. Policyholders whose coverage already meets these criteria will be notified by their insurer that their policy is being automatically converted, essentially doubling the policy's value. People who need to change their coverage in order to qualify may be notified by their insurer as to how they can do this.

About 180,000 people hold long-term care insurance policies in Minnesota. Their average age is about 56.

"Partnership plans are particularly aimed at people who aren't currently buying coverage, including younger

people of modest means who have some assets to protect and want more choices and control about how they will pay for their long-term care," said Glenn Wilson, commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Commerce, which is assisting DHS with the LTC Partnership.

By encouraging more Minnesotans to purchase private coverage, the state hopes to curb spending by reducing reliance on state-paid, long-term care services and be better able to preserve the long-term care safety net. A state study has conservatively estimated that the program will save Minnesota taxpayers \$120 million to \$154 million by 2030.

The concept of a public-private partnership for long-term care financing was first conceived in the 1980s and piloted in four states California, Connecticut, Indiana and New York beginning in the early 1990s. The 1992 Minnesota Legislature required a feasibility study of the plan. However, subsequent federal law changes made it difficult for new states to enact such plans until the 2006 Deficit Reduction Act removed such restrictions. Idaho is the only other state to receive federal approval ahead of Minnesota.

Additional information on the Minnesota Long Term Care Partnership is available at www.mnltcpartnership.org. This information is available on the DHS Web site: www.dhs.state.mn.us.

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	County Commissioners:	
Court Administration	320-523-3680	Human Services	320-523-2202	Ralph Novotny, District #1	320-848-6392
Environment & Community Development	320-523-3768	Landfill/Solid Waste	320-523-1505	Bob Fox, District #2	507-557-8265
Extension	320-523-3713	License	320-523-3612	Paul Setzepfandt, District #3	320-365-3270
Hawk Creek	320-523-3666	Public Health Nursing	320-523-2570	John Stahl, District #4	320-523-1283
Heartland Express	320-523-3589	Public Works	320-523-3759	Gale Dahlager, District #5	320-765-2781
		Recorder/Abstractor	320-523-3669		



HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWS

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Volume 6

Summer 2007

Issue 2

Fresh from the Farm!

- Renville County Farmers Markets**
Eat food that's locally grown!
It's good for your family & the local economy!
- Buffalo Lake Farm & Flea Market**
Saturdays 8-11am starting July 28th
Buffalo Lake City Park Hwy 212
- Fairfax Farmers Market**
Tuesdays 4-6pm; July - September
1st Street S.E. off Hwy 19 Fairfax
- Feldman's Market**
August - October
Corner of 212 & Main St. Renville
Call 320-522-0465
- Garden Market**
Vern & Anita Kardell
Vegetables
66918 Cty. Rd. 27 Fairfax
Call 507-426-8298
- Ron Hanson**
Chemical free onions available through Autumn & Winter
Call 320-765-2379
- K & C Gardens**
Ken & Cathy Balderston
8 miles north of Olivia
M-F 3-8pm; Sat. 1-8pm
Call to order 320-523-2162
Canning cucumbers/tomatoes by 1/2 bushel or bushel
- Lundstrum Vegetables**
Rural Bird Island
Wide variety of vegetables, jams, and jellies; Free range chickens.
Call 320-365-4174
- Morton Sidewalk Market**
Saturdays 9am-Noon
Downtown Morton by City Hall
- Olivia Farmers Market**
Thursdays 2-5:30pm; July - October
City parking lot 9th St. & Fairview
Call Nancy for more information
320-523-1350
- Renville Farmers Market**
Fridays 3-6pm
Water Tower Park in Renville
- Norm & Cindy Serbus**
Pumpkins, squash, & gourds (not available until late August)
Call 320-826-2165
- Wertish Farm**
Drug & hormone free chickens and turkeys
Call 320-826-2451



RENVILLE COUNTY "Get Broadband" UPDATE

More and more businesses, residents, politicians, and community leaders are saying that rural communities, often already at an economic disadvantage, need broadband to compete and participate in the knowledge-based society.

The "Get Broadband" Initiative helps each community partner to plan, implement, and achieve goals and activities. We hope you have read about some of our accomplishments in the local newspapers. Here is an update of what is happening in Renville County with "Get Broadband":

- *County wide Marketing Survey completed showing a need for Internet education.*
- *Libraries to host series of Internet/computer classes in Renville, Olivia, Bird Island and hopefully in Hector and Fairfax.*
- *Broadband demonstration at local Kiwanis using web cam and pod cast (we can come to your service organization for a demonstration).*
- *E-Commerce training this fall with David Nelson from the U of MN scheduled to instruct the class*

(we are able to add him to your city for training).

- *Digital camera available for schools and local businesses to produce video casts for their school and city websites.*
- *Support available to establish Internet Cafes or public computer access with wireless Internet signage -- \$500 grant application.*
- *Educational Broadband articles and events printed in newspapers.*
- *Renville County Fair Booth will demonstrate students' video casts.*
- *E-Bay classes coming this fall.*

Many communities have already begun participating in this exciting program. If you are not yet a partner in the "Get Broadband" Initiative, we invite you to please join this effort now.

The Renville County "Get Broadband" Initiative is a county wide opportunity which will help seize the economic development opportunity made possible by broadband - high speed telecommunications.

Please contact Annie Tepfer, Renville County "Get Broadband" Consultant, for more information call 320-212-0484 or e-mail granniet@tds.net.

Housing Opportunities Available through HRA/EDA

The HRA/EDA is currently accepting applications for the waiting list for one-bedroom apartments at Centennial Apartments in Franklin. Starting July 12th, services will include noon senior dining. The building has an elevator and a community room. Rent is based on income.

Beginning August 1, the HRA/EDA will re-open the waiting list for rental assistance under the Housing Choice Voucher Program.

The HRA/EDA still has some funds available for no-interest home improvement and down payment loans of up to \$3,000.

All programs are subject to income eligibility. For more information call Linda Larsen at 320-523-3745 or 888-665-3745.

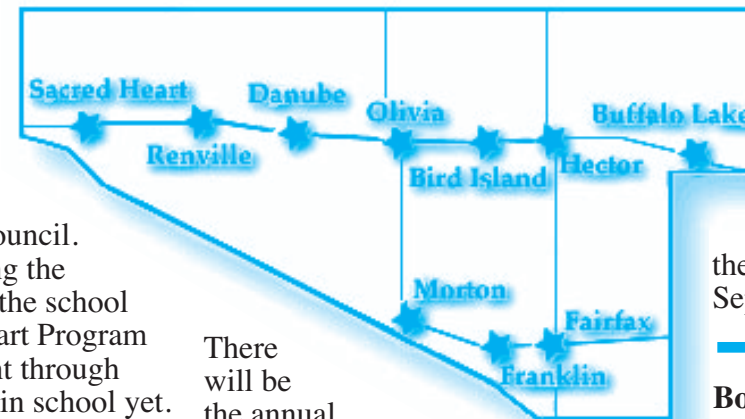
Around the county...

Danube

The City of Danube has purchased the school in Danube and has also entered into a lease agreement with Tri-Valley Opportunity Council. Tri-Valley will be using the elementary section of the school for a Migrant Head Start Program for children ages infant through five years that are not in school yet. The program is slated to run from June into August with a possible extension period. A representative from Tri-Valley stated that they are looking forward to being part of the Danube community and to many collaborations with area organizations.

Franklin

The 32nd Annual Catfish Derby Days is July 27, 28, and 29th.



There will be the annual fishing, softball, volleyball, chess, 3 on 3 basketball, firemen's water ball tournaments, street dance, Kiss the Catfish, variety show parade and some new items including a bean bag tournament, kids' pedal tractor pull, and kids' train rides after the parade. We hope to see you there!

The senior nutrition program will

be moving to their new site at the Centennial Apartments on July 12th. Call 557-2247 to make reservations for meals. The Franklin Development Corporation is sponsoring the "Yard of the Month" promotion through September.

Board/Staff Members:

- Shirley Dove, Morton
- Mark Glesener, Bird Island
- Deb Hinderks, Renville
- Matt Jaunich, Hector
- Mark Thiesse, Olivia
- Mary Ann Minkel, Olivia
- Scott Nissen, Franklin
- Gale Dahlager, Ex Officio
- Chris Hettig, Executive Director
- Linda Larsen, Housing Coordinator
- Stefanie Agre, Development Assistant
- Ron Louisiana, Maintenance

COMMUNITIES RECEIVE GRANTS FROM HRA/EDA

Funds from the HRA/EDA's 2007 levy are being used to support projects in Renville County communities. In May, the HRA/EDA Board approved 10 grants under the Economic Leveraging Fund. Grants of \$2,500 each will be used for a wide variety of activities which were identified as priorities by the communities in the county. They include assistance for the purchase and clearance of a trailer park in Morton; installation of a community sign in the city of Fairfax; expansion of a restaurant in Sacred Heart; expansion of a business loan/grant pool in Hector; implementation of a marketing plan for businesses in Buffalo Lake; purchase and renovation of a fast food restaurant in Olivia; installation of new equipment in a car wash in Bird Island; repair of the community swimming pool in Renville; support of Catfish Derby Days in Franklin; and a grant pool for business improvements in Danube. Funding under the program is distributed once a year and requires a minimum of a one-to-one matching financial contribution from the community or business involved.

The HRA/EDA has also approved several small \$300 Diversity Awareness Grants to support community projects. Diversity Grants funded this year include bi-lingual signage for a skate park in Sacred Heart, signage for MentorWorks Kinship Too in Renville, production of brochures for Heartland Express, and production of Spanish Language documents by Cedar Mountain Elementary in Franklin.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

July 27-29, 2007

Franklin, Catfish Days

July 26-29, 2007

Olivia, Corn Capital Days

August 15-17, 2007

Renville County Fair

August 19, 2007

Bechn, Czech Fest

September 8, 2007

Morton, Scarecrow Festival

September 16, 2007

Hector, Lions Fly-In Breakfast

November 16-19, 2007

Morton, Beneath the Wreath

December 6, 2007

Morton, Mistletoe Madness

New CRP Rental Rates Available August 1st

The USDA – Farm Service Agency (FSA) will be announcing new soil rental rates for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) by August 1, 2007. The updated rates will likely be significantly higher than the current rates. Anyone even remotely interested in enrolling land into CRP is encouraged to stop by the Renville County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) office in Olivia to see potential rental rates.

Above and beyond the normal CRP rental rate, there is a one-time \$100 per acre signing incentive payment for high priority practices such as buffer strips along drainage ditches, rivers, or wetlands and also small wetland restorations. Currently there are also additional one-time incentive bonuses of \$100 – \$250 per acre available for those who enroll buffer strips into CRP in the Buffalo Creek Watershed, the High Island Creek Watershed, and the Hawk Creek Watershed. These watersheds cover most of Renville County, excluding only the southeastern portion of the County.

The new soil rental rates are expected to be competitive with the average cash rent value in Renville County. Landowners may be surprised at how high the new rates will actually be. There is no cost to receive a quote from the Renville County SWCD, and you are under no obligation to enroll the land if you are not satisfied with the rate. For more information about enrolling land into CRP or special incentive payments available, please contact the Renville County SWCD at (320) 523-1559.



Storm Drain Reminder

Many residents who live in town falsely believe community wastewater treatment plants treat water that enters the neighborhood storm drain. Unfortunately, storm water directly entering a storm drain receives no treatment before entering a local drainage ditch, creek, river, or lake. This belief may lead to the improper handling or disposal of chemicals down storm drains from such items as motor oil, fertilizers, and other hazardous products. Leaves, soil, and other runoff from yards can also have a detrimental effect on water quality. Most communities in Renville County have curb markers placed near a drain inlet to help remind residents that the water that enters street drains can affect our water resources.

Ag Waste Chemicals and Containers

Farmers and agri-businesses with waste chemicals or empty chemical containers are reminded to contact the Renville County Landfill & HHW Facility at (320) 523-1144 for information on disposal options available.



Low-Interest Loan Funds Available for Tillage Equipment and More . . .

The Minnesota Department of Ag (MDA) provides counties with low-interest loan funds to purchase minimum tillage equipment, implement ag waste management practices, and upgrade failing septic systems. Loans are financed at 3% interest for five or 10 years. For more information, please contact Renville County Water and HHW Management at (320) 523-3706 or the Renville County SWCD office at (320) 523-1559.

How Much Paint is Needed?



Planning to paint this summer or fall? Buying the right amount of paint for the job not only saves you money, but it reduces the chance that you will have leftover or unusable paint. Paint is the most collected material at Minnesota's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facilities. In 2006, the Renville County HHW facility disposed of 954 gallons of unusable paint!

Buy the right amount. To determine the amount of paint you need for a project, calculate the area to be painted. Measure the height and width of the area to be painted and multiply these numbers to determine the total square feet. Continue until all areas to be painted have been measured and add the numbers together. One gallon of paint covers approximately 300 – 400 square feet. Test the paint to make sure you have the right color before having large amounts mixed.

Use it all up. Try to minimize the amount of paint needing to be stored. Continue painting your project until all of the paint is used or, if possible, use any leftover paint on another project. Donate leftover paint to someone who is able to use it such as a friend, neighbor, or a non-profit organization.

Store it properly. Proper storage can extend the life of your leftover paint. To preserve paint, cover the original paint can with plastic wrap and then cover the can securely with the original lid. Write on the lids the paint color and the project it was used for. Store paint away from extreme temperatures and where the can will not be exposed to freezing. Also, remember to store paint in a safe location out of the reach of children and pets.

Proper disposal. You can dry out very small amounts of latex paint and dispose of the can in the trash with the lid off. Once latex paint is dry, it is no longer considered hazardous. Oil-based paints, stains, larger amounts of latex paints, and other leftover or unusable hazardous household chemicals can be brought to the Renville County Landfill & HHW Facility or the Kandiyohi County Regional HHW Facility located in Willmar, Minnesota. There is **NO CHARGE** to Renville County residents to dispose of HHW at either of these facilities. For more information, please call (320) 523-1144 or (320) 523-3706.

Renville County Sixth Graders Take a WALK

The annual educational outing – Water, Air, Land Knowledge or WALK – took place in May. 195 sixth grade students from four school districts participated. WALK is an annual event coordinated by the Renville County SWCD in cooperation with NRCS, MN DNR, Renville County Water and HHW Management, and the Hawk Creek Watershed Project.

A tour of a MN DNR State Wildlife Management Area and a Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) site educates students of the importance of our natural environment. On the tour through the sites, students see restored wetlands and native prairie plantings which emphasize the importance of maintaining habitat for wildlife and water quality protection.

A fur demonstration teaches students what mammals existed in Renville County prior to settlement and how the changes in the environment have altered the current make-up of the mammals in the County. The demonstration illustrates the importance of how our land use choices affect habitat and wildlife.

The students are also provided a demonstration on a watershed model known as Enviroscope. The model illustrates how everyday activities can impact water quality in a watershed. Students assist in creating various types of pollution in both a rural and urban setting. Students can visually see the effects from contributions such as industrial discharge, runoff from lawns, sewage disposal, and agricultural drainage. The demonstration teaches students how our actions affect our water resources and offers solutions to prevent pollution contributions.



Top: Sixth grade students listen during the tour of a wildlife management area.



Left: Students participate in the interactive watershed model Enviroscope.



Update in Progress for Five-Year Focus Plan

Renville County adopted its first Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan in 1991. The Plan was established to protect and enhance surface water, ground water, and related land uses. The Renville County Board of Commissioners adopted a revised Plan in 2003 to continue to guide the protection of Renville County's water resources. The revised Plan included a broader 10-year plan and a more focused five-year priority plan to guide implementation activities. The current Five-Year Focus Plan is required by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to be updated by December 31, 2007. The Water Management Task Force, whose members are appointed by the Renville County Board of Commissioners, will guide the goals and direction of activities proposed for the updated Five-Year Focus Plan. A public hearing will be scheduled in the near future to present the draft Five-Year Focus Plan and to receive comments from the public.

The Water Management Task Force is comprised of the following members:

Members:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ralph Novotny | Commissioner – District 1 |
| Paul Setzepfandt | Commissioner – District 3 |
| Gale Dahlager (Alternate) | Commissioner – District 5 |
| Robert Lerohl | Sacred Heart |
| Jim Schafer | Hector |
| Jon Wogen | Olivia |
| Brad Aaseth | Bird Island |
| Alan Nelson | Renville |
| Rick Schmidt | Renville |
| George Schlagel | Buffalo Lake |
| Gerald Fluck | Buffalo Lake |

Staff:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Jill Bruns | Public Health |
| Tara Latozke | Soil and Water Conservation District |
| Diane Mitchell (Coordinator) | HHW & Water Management |

Affiliates:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Tom Fischer | Board of Water and Soil Resources |
| Robert Collett | DNR |
| Darrell Schindler | Hawk Creek Watershed Project |
| Diane Sander | Crow River Organization of Water |