

MORTON AREA NEWSLETTER

December, 2015

This institution is an equal opportunity
provider, and employer



Wreaths Across America

Wreath Laying Ceremony

Morton City Park

By the Veterans' Memorial

(NW Corner of Park)

Saturday, December 12 at 12:00 Noon

Help honor our Veterans this holiday season.

Pancake Feed Benefit



Sunday, December 13th

9:00am - 1:00pm

St. Johns Catholic Church, Morton, MN

All proceeds go to help with medical expenses for Tim Nesburg

*Have a safe and happy holiday
season and best wishes for a
happy & healthy new year!
~From the Morton City Council~*

Need a Job?

Low income,
unemployed, age
55 and over?

- ▶ Receive paid community service assignments at local public and nonprofit organizations
- ▶ Access needed services and assistance
- ▶ Update skills and obtain training
- ▶ Obtain job search assistance

Contact us

1-855-270-9660

www.experienceworks.org

Ruby's Pantry Food Distribution

The 3rd Tuesday of the month
at the National Guard Armory in Red-
wood Falls

Registration begins at 4:00

Distribution runs from 4:30-6:00

a \$20 cash donation gets you a share
bring 2 laundry baskets for your food

contact rubysredwoodfalls@gmail.com
for information especially those who
want to volunteer.

Want to start a business? Or expand a business?

Morton welcomes you!

*For assistance with financing, business plans,
available lots, building and zoning criteria*

Call Shirley at 507-697-6912

*We will work with you to build and develop your business in
Morton!*

Attention Veterans!

Lee Stock of

Renville County Veterans' Services

Will be at Morton City Hall

Tuesday, January 12

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. to assist you with any
of your veteran service needs.

Would your house like a little TLC?



Maximum incomes

1 person	\$41,450
2 people	\$47,350
3 people	\$53,300
4 people	\$59,200
5 people	\$63,950
6 people	\$68,650
7 people	\$73,400
8 people	\$78,150

Do you need a new furnace,
or maybe some
insulation or windows?
Those are just some
of the eligible
improvements
under the Renville County
Homeownership Program.
If you are a homeowner in
Renville County
you may qualify for a
0% interest matching loan of
up to \$5,000.
Down payment assistance is
also available to first time
homebuyers.
For more information call
Renville County
HRA/EDA
at 320-523-3656 or
888-665-3745.



Newsletter/Local Access

Information

If you have items you wish to have in the newsletter or posted on the access channel, please drop them off at city hall and we will be happy to include them!

Church Service Schedule

Zion Lutheran

9:00 a.m. Sundays

Bible Study & Sunday school following services

St. John's Catholic

Mass at 8:00 a.m. Sundays

Council Meetings

Next Regular City Council Meeting

Wednesday, January 13

starting at 6:30 p.m.

The official newspaper for the City of Morton is the Renville County Register. All notices and publications as required by law are printed in that paper and as an additional means of providing public information, such notices will be printed in this newsletter when possible. All other publications and postings are done as a courtesy and means of informing residents of activities.

CHURCH SERVICES ARE AIRED ON
MEDIACOM CUSTOMERS'
CHANNEL 8
CHECK THE CHANNEL FOR DAYS AND
TIMES

BONE BUILDERS

Our group is continuing to meet on Wednesday & Friday at 9:30 am at the Senior Center. Everyone has a great time, sharing news, joking & laughing. Be sure to listen to KLGR for cancellations and changes

Morton Chamber Meeting and Chamber Connection for December are cancelled.
Happy Holidays Everyone!

CENTRAL COMMUNITY TRANSIT

The Central Community Transit serves all of Renville County

Monday . Friday and all your Transportation needs.

For more information call:

Central Community Transit at:
320-523-3589 or 1-800-450-7964



Women, Infant & Children
Nutrition Program (WIC)

WIC is in Morton on the 3rd Wednesday every 4 months from 9:30am-11am at City Hall.

Next visit will be

JANUARY 20, 2016

Call 1-800-942-4030
for Information & Details

WIC provides nutrition tips and advice, support for breastfeeding, healthy foods such as milk, cheese, juice, cereals and infant formula, caring and supportive staff.

You may qualify if you are pregnant, nursing or have a child under age 5.

CIVIL DEFENSE SIREN TESTING

Civil Defense sirens are tested each month on the first Wednesday at 1:00 p.m.

If you are doing home projects and improvements, please check with city hall to be sure you are complying with local requirements.

Centennial Mini-Storage

10 x 15 and 10 x 20 Units

Clean and Dry, Your Lock & Key!

Call Wes for Availability

507-627-6282



North Star Plumbing & Heating would like to wish everyone to Have a **Very Merry Christmas and A Very Happy & Healthy "2016"**. We would like to thank everyone for their past business and if you have any Plumbing and Heating issues do not hesitate to give North Star Plumbing & Heating a call.

North Star Plumbing & Heating

507-697-6405

YEAR –AROUND RECYCLE HANDHELD
ELECTRONICS,
EXTENSION CORDS AND STRING LIGHTS
DROP OFF AT CITY HALL

UPCOMING CURBSIDE RECYCLING DATES:

Dec. 22nd



MORTON AREA
Community Foundation

An Affiliate of Southwest Initiative Foundation

Give where you live.

Our mission is to support community and business growth by building a permanent resource through the generosity of past, present and future residents.

Join us!

1-800-594-9480

www.swifoundation.org/donate



SOUTHWEST INITIATIVE
FOUNDATION

GARBAGE DAY IS

EACH TUESDAY MORNING

PLEASE HAVE CONTAINERS AT THE CURB NO LATER
THAN
7:00 A.M.

AND ALLOW FOR ADEQUATE ROOM FOR THE ARM
OF THE TRUCK TO ATTACH TO YOUR CONTAINER..
ALL GARBAGE MUST IN THE CONTAINER AND THE
CONTAINER MUST BE ACCESSIBLE.

**FRANKLIN WELLNESS CENTER WANTS TO WISH EVERY
ONE SPECIAL THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.**

HOPING EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU ARE TAKING TIME
OUT FOR YOUR SELF TO REFLECT ON ALL THE GOOD YOU
HAVE DONE IN THE PAST YEAR, AND TO BE THANKFUL FOR
WHAT WE HAVE!!!!!!AND NOT ON WHAT WE DO NOT
HAVE.



HOLIDAY BLESSING

JEFF AND CONNIE LUND

CARL ROBINSON MEMORIAL BLOOD DRIVE

Monday, January 18

2:30-8:00 p.m.

Cedar Mountain Elementary Gym in Franklin

Call Kelly Robinson @ 507-430-2446

Or Amy Kopel @ 507-276-9222

***THE Perfect Holiday Gift = the Gift of
Healthy Eating!***

For those who have everything they need
*Let your friends and family know you want a
Gift Certificate for Senior Dining.*

A single meal or up to multiple meals of
10! They don't expire and can be used
for congregate or meals on wheels at any
LSS location.

**Purchase at your local dining site or order
online, 24 hours a day,**

from our website: www.lssmn.org/nutrition.

Redwood/Renville Regional Solid Waste Authority – (RRRSWA) Guidelines

On January 1, 2016, Redwood and Renville Counties become Single Stream Recycling counties. Residents no longer have to sort recyclable materials such as glass bottles, plastic, paper, newspapers, cardboard and aluminum into separate bins, bags or bundles. All recyclables can now be mixed together in one convenient 95 gallon container.

SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING GUIDELINES PERMITTED RECYCLABLE ITEMS:

**ALL ITEMS MUST BE EMPTY, CLEAN
AND RINSED (CONTAINERS)**



Plastic containers - #1 thru #5 (excluding caps)
No larger than 5 Gallons. Must be removed from bags - No Styrofoam - No loose bags – No toys, pools, siding, PVC pipe, etc.



Glass - Clear, green and brown bottles and jars (food and beverage containers only.) No light bulbs, mirrors, ceramics or dishes. Must be empty and clean - Do Not remove labels.



Steel and Aluminum - Food and beverage cans aluminum foil and pie pans, aerosol cans.
No food remaining - empty and clean.
No need to remove labels on food cans.



Paper - Newspaper, junk mail, magazines, paperbacks, catalogs, phone books, envelopes (including windowed) paper egg cartons.
Do Not bundle or tie - place in cart loose.



Cardboard - (folded flat), paper bags, boxboard (e.g. cereal, cracker, pasta and shoe boxes.)
No frozen food or refrigerated food boxes.
No packing foam – No waxed cardboard.



ADDITIONAL NON-RECYCLABLE ITEMS: APPLIANCES, ELECTRONICS, SYRINGES, NEEDLES, YARD WASTE, MEDICAL WASTE, GARBAGE, BUILDING MATERIALS, KLEENEX, HAZARDOUS WASTE, ETC.

For more information log on to:

www.renvillecountymn.com or www.co.redwood.mn.us

And follow the Redwood/Renville Regional Solid Waste Authority (RRRSWA) Link

MORTON "The Oldest Story in North America"

221 West Second Street – P.O. Box 127 – Morton, MN 56270-0127 Phone: (507) 697-6912 Fax: (507) 697-6118
E-Mail: mortoncityhall@mchsi.com

This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer

TDD/TTY: 651-602-7830

Amendments to November 10, 2015 meeting: Minutes approved 12-09-15 with the following changes/corrections:

Assessment Notices: Gary Cornwell present. Gary inquired how the ordinance was enforced, what method of notification was used, and if the method was done in accordance with the ordinances. Letters were sent. AMENDMENT 12-09-15: Council asked that the deputy be contacted to determine how the notices were sent, if and when contact was made with the homeowners and any other information the deputy can provide regarding the process used for enforcement of the ordinance. Confirmation from the Deputy was that they were sent via regular mail, not certified. There was personal contact made at one point or another with the deputy and the homeowners. Motion by Jacobson to determine if the ordinance was followed regarding the delivery method and process and if not, the assessments for nuisance violations will be removed from the list to be certified. Second by Walker. Motion carried.

(Citizen Issues:) Review of the issues presented Amended 12-09-15 to correct the typo 101-27-15 10-27-15 and the responses given.

The following are the NOTES from the most recent council meeting (November 10).

These NOTES have not been approved by the council as of this publication. Any changes will be noted in the next newsletter.

December 9, 2015:

Regular meeting called to order in open session at 6:30 p.m. Jacobson absent. Others present: Gary Cornwell.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: 8F. Tax Forfeiture Property 13A(c) LGA Resolution.

CITIZEN ISSUES:

A. Truth in Taxation Hearing. As designated, posted and published, the Truth in Taxation Hearing was scheduled for this date at 6:30 p.m. Notices were given on the Proposed Tax Statements that were distributed by the County. The purpose of this hearing is to give tax payers the opportunity to address the council with comments, questions or concerns regarding the proposed budget for 2016 and the general operations of the city. This hearing is a requirement for cities with population of 500 or more people but it is recommended that smaller cities hold the hearing as well. Any residents having issues with the value of their property or the method used to determine the taxes they pay will have the opportunity to address these issues at the Board of Appeals and Equalization held in April with the County Assessor. The meeting is now open to receive input and will remain open until later in the meeting.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Gary Cornwell present to ask for correction to the proceedings from the November 10 meeting regarding discussion that took place regarding nuisance violations and the citations that were issued. Gary attended that meeting to discuss the citations that were issued and inquired if the citations were issued properly. There was no confirmation received while Gary was present at the meeting regarding the method used to issue the citations, nor was there input from the deputy regarding contact that was made with the residents. The council had asked that checking be done to determine how the notices were served and to collect any information the deputies may have on the process used to enforce the ordinance.

Typo error correction on citizen issues to correct the date to read 10-27-15. Motion by Walker and second by Hogy to approve the minutes of the November 10 meeting with the following amendments/corrections:

(1) AMENDMENT 12-09-15: Council asked that the deputy be contacted to determine how the notices were sent, if and when contact was made with the homeowners and any other information the deputy can provide regarding the process used for enforcement of the ordinance. Confirmation from the Deputy was that they were sent via regular mail, not certified. There was personal contact made at one point or another with the deputy and the homeowners.

(2) correct the typo: 101-27-15 10-27-15. Motion carried.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORT: Bob Fox not present. No report.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Tax and TIF Revenue was received and distributed as per the TIF agreement. Fire State Aid was received and remitted to the Relief Association as required. The expenses incurred with the canoe project will be reimbursed 100% with grant funds via a pay request after council approves bills for this month. There being no further input regarding the financial statement, a motion was made by Hogy and second by Walker to approve as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS & RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT:

CANOE ACCESS UPDATE: The cement pad is in and two trails are in. The construction of the shelter will be finished as weather allows. The project will be completed in early 2016.

MEDIACOM FRANCHISE AGREEMENT: Review of input received from the city attorney. It was his recommendation that the term of the agreement be reduced. Gary Cornwell added his input that with technology changing as it is, it may be in the city's better interest to not be locked in for a long period of time. Motion by Hogy and second by Walker to approve the franchise agreement with Mediacom for a five year period. Motion carried.

CHAMBER UPDATES: The events that are scheduled for 2016 are: Spring Garden Party (Third Saturday in April), Independence Day (July 4) and Beneath the Wreath (Weekend before Thanksgiving). With advertising for the upcoming year now underway, we will be continuing with these events as in the past and will need to continue to work on making them independent Chamber events.

WATERSHED UPDATES: John Seehausen requested that a meeting be set up with Renville County to discuss and determine who is responsible for water that dumps into the ditch running through town and what obligation that agency would have for communicating changes to the city. That meeting was set up for November 30. Due to a conflict, John could not attend that meeting so he was asked to provide a letter outlining what information he was looking for. The letter was received and forward to the Renville County Departments that were invited to the meeting. Since John was unable to attend the meeting and a letter outlining the information he was looking for was provided, it was decided to forward the letter to Renville County Soil and Water and the County Commissioner, cancel the meeting and receive their input via email and set up a meeting at a later date if needed. A response was received from Ryan Clark (Soil & Water) and Bob Fox (County Commissioner). The agencies that have been contacted regarding this project include:

1. Renville County Soil & Water
2. Renville County Ditch Drainage
3. MN DNR
4. MNDOT
5. US Corp of Engineers
6. League of MN Cities
7. Renville County Commissioner Bob Fox
8. State Representative Torkelson
9. Senator Dahms
10. Bollig Engineering (hired by the city)
11. City Attorney

Council agreed to have further discussion once all responses to the letter prepared by John Seehausen are received.

TAX FORFEITURE PROPERTY: Discussion on the Larry Prescott property and plans for demolition. Council agreed that prices for demolition should be obtained, with review at the next meeting and plans for the work to be completed by Spring.

COMMUNITY PRIDE:

Commissioner Report: Beneath the Wreath went well. Youth activities are still at a standstill.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES-MAINTENANCE:

WATER: The People Service report was included in the council packet for their review.

SEWER: No items

STREETS:

Insurance Loss Control Recommendations Response: The city's response to the recommendations to reduce liability is due to be submitted. Review of the responses with the council.

There are several recommendations that will be resolved with housekeeping and organization in the facilities. Other items – work in progress include: finding storage cabinets to store flammables, remove the wooden ladder at the shop, schedule repairs with the electrician, inspect the hoist, repair damaged bleacher, determine product to be added to the play area at the park, review/repair entrapment hazards, get estimates on replacing animal figures at the park. All items will be completed prior to spring.

New Recycling Containers: The new recycling containers have been delivered to residents. These will be used beginning January 1. Residents are encouraged to use the curbside pick up rather than the mobile site. The schedule for 2016 remains the same; every other Tuesday. The containers with the YELLOW cover are for recyclables only and the solid green containers continue to be used for garbage.

Park Bathroom Roof Replacement: Cost of materials is estimated at \$1685.00. Work will be completed by Jason. Motion by Balsley and second by Hogy to approve replacement of the park bathroom roof with material costs as presented. Motion carried.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

The Commissioner for these departments is Tom Jacobson. Due to some health issues, Tom is unable to be at this meeting. The backup Commissioner (Mammen) will step in until Tom is available again and able to resume his activities. Sandy agreed to assist as needed. Council sends well wishes to Tom for a speedy recovery.

POLICE:

Activity Report: The activity report was presented for council review. No issues of concern were presented.

FIRE:

Pancake Breakfast: The Fire Department is sponsoring a benefit with proceeds to go to Tim Nesburg who suffered a stroke recently. Details on the benefit are included in the council packet and will be included in the newsletter. Council is encouraged to attend. Council sends well wishes to Tim for a speedy recovery.

Firemen's Earnings: A breakdown of calls and meetings is not available at this time, but payment is done on the last day of year and a breakdown is provided to council at that time. Motion by Walker to authorize payment of firemen's earnings with the final payroll of 2015. Second by Hogy. Motion carried.

MANAGEMENT:

Budget 2016: Council received a spreadsheet of comparisons (provided for by the League of MN Cities) of our tax capacity, levy and rates as compared to other cities of similar size. The council also received a complete budget packet with the proposed levy that was submitted to the county in September, a proposed final budget with the levy at nearly the same rate as it was in 2015, with a 2% increase as recommended at the last meeting and a proposal that reduces the levy. Discussion on each option:

The draft budget submitted in September includes an approximate 10% increase in the levy which is felt to create excessive burden on the taxpayers.

The levy has been at the current rate since 2012. Keeping the levy at the same rate will eventually catch up to the council because fund balances will be reduced or eliminated and will then result in a larger increase all at one time.

The 2% increase in the levy allows for moving forward with some of the projects that the council outlined earlier in the year. It accommodates for some of the increased cost of operations.

Council agreed that even though there has been some input by the public to cut back, reducing the levy is not a feasible or advisable action to consider.

Motion by Hogy to approve the 2016 budget in the amount of \$1,065,890 with the levy being set at \$186,432 which includes a 2% salary increase for city employees. Second by Balsley. Motion carried.

LGA Resolution: Motion by Walker and second by Balsley to pass resolution #04-2015 in support of increasing local government aid in the 2016 Legislative Session. Motion carried.

Public Hearing: There being no further input regarding the 2016 Budget and the general operations of the city, the public hearing was closed at 7:30 p.m.

EDA Meeting: An EDA meeting will be held on Thursday, December 10 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss options and plans for the B.Original building recently acquired by the EDA. Council update to follow at the January meeting.

Ordinance Update: The packet of ordinances that the council adopted several years ago include all the ordinances recommended by the League of Cities. These ordinances are to be adopted and used as council determines necessary and appropriate. They are the tools the council can use to create a pleasant and safe environment for the residents. Council will need to work on updating these ordinances during 2016.

Pay Bills: Motion by Walker and second by Balsley to pay bills as presented and to include compensation to the council for meetings attended during 2015. Motion carried.

Adjourn: There being no further business, motion made, second and carried to adjourn at 7:45 p.m.

Renville County
Historical Museum



November was a busy month for RCHS. Give to the Max (our first year participating) on November 12th led to \$125 in donations. During the Beneath the Village Wreath event RCHS raised \$300 from the bake sale, had around 35 people making ornaments at the Main Museum and though attendance was low for the Holiday Sing-a-Long we still had fun. We are so happy to be chamber members and have to opportunities our membership provides. The garland looks great on the church railings. We are still seeking out donations for the Paint St. John's Church project. The project is estimated to cost \$3500 and so far the Museum has raised \$2031.68 so far. Send your donations to RCHS 441 N Park Dr, Morton, MN 56270 Attn Paint Project!

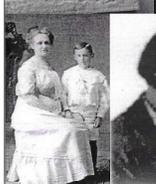
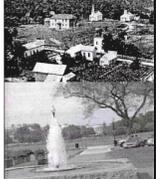
RCHS is open Monday – Friday 10 AM – 4 PM. Stop by and do a bit of family research to send off the perfect Christmas card. There is even a little gift store for unique gifts for family and friends. New in the gift store is the book, *A Living History of Southwest Minnesota: Victory Gardens and Long Handled Dippers* a book with 324 stories written by southwest Minnesota residents including nine Renville County residents. Limited copies available hardcover \$39.95 plus tax!

Our newsletter, *The News Winter 2015*, will be published next week. If you aren't a member of RCHS visit our website www.renvillecountyhistory.com to sign up today. Member benefits include FREE admission to the Museum, 4 quarterly newsletters, 10% off gift store purchases and 2 FREE Hours of assisted family research.

RCHS is planning programs starting in January 2016 so stay tuned to the Local Morton channel and our website and social media pages for up to the minute information. The Annual Meeting is being planned to be near the date the county became a county (March 1, 1866) but we will have more information on that event soon. Renville County is celebrating its sesquicentennial in 2016! The Museum will be seeking out stories from the county to be featured in our exhibits, newsletters, Courthouse exhibit and of course the County Fair in August! If you have a story you feel is important to the history of Renville County please stop by or call 697-6147 and ask for Nicole.

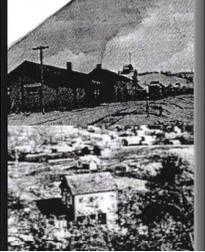
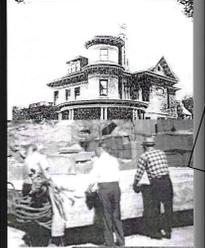
RCHS will also be updating its rotating exhibits in January so if you haven't seen the Beaver Falls or Morton exhibit stop by soon before the exhibits are replaced.

The Museum is looking for volunteers to continue the great job previous directors did clipping the news. If you get the *Redwood Gazette*, *Renville County Register* or any other Renville County newspapers please clip the people articles (obituaries, wedding and birth announcements and other articles about businesses and families. Adding to the current surname files takes a village. Stop by and talk with the director for other volunteer opportunities.



Researched Writings by
Rev. LeRoy H. Lothert
 Morton, Minnesota

"Profiles from the Past"
 Early Morton History
 Written for the Morton Monthly Newsletter
 January, 2011 – December 2012



LeRoy Lothert's
Profiles from the Past Book is
 still available
 \$6.00 plus tax (& shipping \$3.00)

A Living History of Southwest Minnesota

Victory Gardens and Long Handled Dippers



Tales from the Good Old Days
 in Southwest Minnesota

The snow has fallen....and disappeared. The lights have been strung. The trees have been decorated. Christmas time is upon us! For so many, Christmas is a time for joy; filled with family and friends and making memories to last a lifetime. For others, the holidays can be a time of sorrow. We live in a society of emotional turmoil. More and more the evidence is accumulating that our emotional health can have a profound effect on our physical health. Many doctors are recognizing the possibility that a number of diseases are caused by emotional problems that link back to infancy and childhood- and perhaps even to the womb. These emotional problems can compromise body systems and even genetic structuring. The idea that memories and traumas can be embedded in the brain is not new, but scientists are now saying that these brain imprints may extend throughout the body and affect body parts and systems.

Scientists have discovered that the limbic system of the brain plays a vital role in interpreting and channeling intense experiences, particularly memories of fear or trauma. Olfaction or smell is the sense that is physically the closest to the limbic system structures of the amygdala, which is involved in experiencing emotion and also in emotional memory, and the hippocampus, which encompasses memory. This gives you an idea of how closely linked the sense of smell is to emotion and memory.

Researchers have agreed that the amygdala plays a major role in storing and releasing emotional trauma and that aromas can help to release hidden and suppressed feelings and memories of emotional bondage. Fear and trauma can produce conditioned emotional responses that, unless released, will not only hamper our ability to live and enjoy life fully but can also limit the ability of some body systems to function properly, particularly the immune system. This can result in unexplained pain and illness as well as depression and other psychological "issues." Many of the biochemicals in essential oils can increase blood oxygen levels in the brain. The stimulation of both aroma and oxygenation seems to facilitate the release of stored emotional blocks.

Another way in which essential oils can assist in helping people to move beyond emotional blocks is through their relaxing effect. The chemical compounds in essential oils such as Lavender, Ruta or Frankincense are very calming and sedating and allow us to relax. We can also use essential oils to release these stored emotions and traumas. The process of emotional release using essential oils should not be dramatic, but gentle, occurring step-by-step over a period of time. Many essential oil blends such as, Harmony, Release, Forgiveness or Hope, have been created precisely for the purpose of helping to release emotional patterns. Our emotional health is a precious gift to our physical health and well-being.

If you would like more information about this or any other essential oil related information, please feel free to contact me at 507-829-8647 or email at oildrops4health@outlook.com. I also hold free classes throughout the month at the Morton City Hall at 7pm. Please join me on January 7th for a class on Oils and Meditation, January 11th for a Thieves product line class, or January 21st for an Introduction to Essential Oils.

I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a safe Holiday season!





Annie Tepfer, RAPAD Coalition Coordinator
Renville Alliance for the Prevention of Alcohol and Drugs
105 South 5th St. Suite 119H
Olivia, MN 56277
anniet@renvillecountymn.com



Heading out to hang with friends.

A perfect moment to talk about alcohol.

Alarming numbers of pre-teens are drinking alcohol—which makes it urgent to find every opportunity to talk to your kids about the dangers of underage drinking. For tips on how—and when—to begin the conversation, visit:

www.underagedrinking.samhsa.gov



RENVILLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Winter is officially here and we have to deal with the snow for awhile. Due to the holidays, there will be extra traffic on the road. Before traveling, check the road conditions on the Minnesota Department of Transportation website at <http://511.mn.org><<http://511.mn.org/>>.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation installed cameras along certain highways in Minnesota. These cameras show the current road / weather conditions. At this time, Renville County only has one camera. It is located on Highway 71 by Morton. If you have to travel outside of Renville County for the holidays, check out the cameras on the website prior to leaving to make sure the roads / weather is safe for traveling.

With Minnesota weather being unpredictable, make sure to have a winter emergency kit in your vehicle. Items in the kit should include blankets, water, snack food, extra hats and gloves, first aid kit, and a flashlight with extra batteries.

If the weather is bad and there are no travel advisories, please stay home where you are safe. As deputies, we are driving in the bad weather to locate vehicles that are stuck and to get the occupants to safety. Also, if there is an accident, the fire department, ambulance, and first responders are going to have to travel in the bad weather. Please use caution!

On behalf of the men and women of the Renville County Sheriff's Office, we would like to wish everyone a happy and safe Holiday Season!

GUN SHOW

221 WEST 2ND STREET MORTON, MN 56270

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23TH 9AM-5PM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24TH 9AM-3PM

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

Admission \$3

Children Under 12 FREE

(must be accompanied by an adult)

GUNS, KNIVES, ETC.

FOR RESERVATIONS CONTACT:

Heather Koffler

River Valley Arms & Ammo

701-388-8659

heather@rivervalleyarms.com



TABLES:

Tables \$10 Each

30 Tables (8ft) Available

No One-Day Rentals

All tables are reserved on a first come, first served basis.

BUILDING SECURED BY SPECTRUM SYSTEMS

Not responsible for theft, accident or injury. All federal & local firearms laws & regulations must be observed.

SET-UP TIMES:

Friday 12pm-8pm

Saturday 7am-9am

River Valley Arms & Ammo

Firearms | Ammunition | Accessories | Training

221 West 2nd Street Morton, MN 56270

507-829-2439 | rivervalleyarms.com

Thank you

A big thank you to everyone who supported us by shopping local this year! We had a great time kicking off the Christmas shopping season with our Big Holiday Sale, Black Friday Exclusives and Small Business Saturday Specials. We truly enjoy being a part of the Morton community!

Why Shop Small?

When locally-owned businesses thrive, the communities they are a part of benefit too. That's why River Valley Arms & Ammo is an advocate for shopping small. When you shop at local, small businesses you are making an investment in your community.

For every \$100 you spend at a local business, approximately \$68 stays in your local economy, whereas with a large business only \$43 stays in the local economy. Join us in shopping small this season, because shopping small makes a big difference!

Stocking Stuffer Ideas



22LR Ornament
\$6.99



Infant + Kids Shirts
\$11.99



RVAA Hats
\$20.00

Open Hours

WEDNESDAYS 11-4

THURSDAYS 10-8

FRIDAYS 10-8

SATURDAYS 10-5

SUNDAYS 11-4

JUST CHATTN'

Congratulations to Dorothea Paul, Citizens of the Year 2015.

Kittens! Now Skunks! Three of them at my backdoor! Auuuuuuudrey!

It is so much fun to go to the dump and watch the progress of the canoe landing. All the buckthorn is gone in the woods and you can walk *on a road* down to that favorite fishing spot under the trussel. A cement slab has been laid for the future shelter house. Stay tuned!

We've been watching the demolition of Tom Jones' home/lot which was purchased by the RC Historical Society. We now have a full view and appreciation of St. John's Episcopal Church. The church was built in 1891 in Beaver Falls, moved to Olivia in 1909 and to Morton in 1997. How do you move a church??

I hiked Beaver Falls Park on that beautiful November Sunday. I didn't take a plastic bag because who would litter Beaver Falls Park? I picked up: 1 Keystone Light, 3 Bud Lite, 2 Golden Light, 1 Coors Light, 2 Mountain Dew 2 Marlboro Rum Chata, a pkg of Swisha Sweets cigarillos, and a McDonald cup. Now bear In mind I am carrying this crap up that agonizing hill going out of the park (you know which one I mean) and there in the ditch lay a plastic bag! Now what are the odds!

Morton Reminder 1969.....The consolidation of the Morton School District with the Bishop Whipple School (Lower Sioux Agency)...Winners of the Sub-District Declam speech contest: Cathy Allison, Alice Colwell, Patti Caven, Alice Angermeyr, Julie Colwell,.....Editor of the Morton Reminder was given a dollar a week raise eliminating a paid vacation and the Christmas bonus....at the end of January we had a total of 40 inches of snow. Gene Caven is supposed to have a snow bank in his yard that is so big he can change his yard light without a ladder.....Jean Robinson was chosen Snowball queen at the Snow Ball at the school. Other candidates were Pat Caven, Judy Koerner, Patti Bryan, Kay Mahlum, Cathy Colwell and Debbie Ahrens.....Bacon was 49 cents a pound at J.T. Ryan Market.....Ed Adams leased his barber shop to Richard(Itchy) Goodthiunder after 50 years of barbering.....St. John's Catholic Church suffered \$ 100,000 damage by fire in the sacristy and altar area.....Dam construction possibilities: A dam at New Ulm would make it necessary to move the town of Morton and North Redwood. Water would cover the valley from New Ulm as far as Granite Falls.....the old Cozy Café building between the Morton Liquor Store and Adams Barber Shop was torn down last week. Mr and Mrs. Emil Mude of Morton announce the engagement of their daughter, Lois, to Richard Rebstock son of Mr. son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rebstock of Franklin.

From the Senior Center...Winners of the door prizes at our fundraiser: Carol Kojetin(Jackpot Hotel Room); Marvel Pryor (\$25BP), Ellie Poss(\$25BP), Linda Baek(\$25BP), Mike Simmons(\$25BP); Alice Goelz(Afgan); Sharon Mages (frog tape dispenser); John Simmons(picture); Ben Mammen (birdhouse); Pat Pendleton(snowglobe). Door prize Mary Lou Butzer(Christmas centerpiece and frog tape dispenser). Door prizes at Beneath The Village Wreath: Joyce Witte (ham)(Clarence Mages (ham)); Dick Roper(pillows); Dick Freitag (birdhouse and frog tape dispenser); Joanie Brown (23lb Hubbard squash). (Mary Lou said I could make 5 or 6 pies out of that squash. I never made a pie in my life why would I start now. I would have been happy with a frog tape dispenser!) We celebrated November birthdays (Ron Keller, Joyce Witte, Emil Huwe and December Marilyn Vogl and John Seehausen.....Beulah is gone to Texas along with her cookies and brownies. and don't forget to sit back on your chair,Beulah!(Bone Builders) Gordy - we devoured your pickles! Thank You. Thanks, Mary Lou,for all you do.

Our happy thoughts are with Dick Sindelir and Tim Nesburg on reports that they are better! Tim would like to thank Bob Schlicht and Bob Abrahamson for taking care of the snow in his yard.

At my age "getting lucky" means walking into a room and remembering what I came there for....I'm going to retire and live off my savings. Not sure what I'll do that second week....Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet....When I was a child I thought nap time was a punishment...now, it just feels like a vacation!.... We all get heavier as we got older because there's a lot more information in our heads. That's my story and I'm sticking to it!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Critical Illness Insurance

Help protect yourself from the unexpected costs of a serious illness.

If you have a heart attack or stroke, or are diagnosed with cancer, all of your expenses may not be covered by private health insurance or Medicare. Your share of the treatment costs—and everyday expenses—may quickly add up. Critical Benefit® from Bankers Life provides you a lump-sum cash benefit if you're diagnosed with a covered condition, so you and your family can focus more on your recovery, not your finances.

Key Policy Features

Critical Benefit provides several unique policy features.

- Pays a lump-sum cash benefit upon diagnosis of a covered illness including:
 - Cancer
 - Heart attack
 - Stroke
 - End-stage renal failure
- Benefit amount paid directly to you, not a hospital or doctor
- No restrictions on how you use your cash benefit
- Benefit paid regardless of any other type of private medical insurance or Medicare coverage you may have

Policy Options

There are three types of policies available.*

Cancer Coverage

Pays you the full lump-sum cash benefit if you are diagnosed with cancer.

Heart Attack, Stroke and End-Stage Renal Failure Coverage

Pays you the full lump-sum cash benefit when one critical illness is diagnosed, or a portion of the benefit should you need a coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) and/or an angioplasty.

Combination Coverage: Cancer, Heart Attack, Stroke and End-Stage Renal Failure

Pays you cash benefits if you have a heart attack or stroke, or are diagnosed with end-stage renal failure or cancer. You are eligible to receive the full lump-sum benefit once from each category of the covered illnesses as long as 180 days pass between diagnoses:

- **Category 1:** Pays the full lump-sum cash benefit if you are diagnosed with cancer.
- **Category 2:** Pays the full lump-sum cash benefit when heart attack, stroke or end-stage renal failure is diagnosed, and a portion of the lump-sum benefit for coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) and angioplasty.

*These policies provide limited benefits.



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2016 Lunch & Learn Series Schedule

May 5, 2016 – Prohibition Tour of Granite Falls

Presenter: Mary Gillespie

Location: Andrew J Volstead House, Granite Falls

Take a tour of downtown Granite Falls while learning about prohibition during the 1930s (making alcohol illegal to consume and sell) and the man behind the law.

July 9, 2016 – What? Cactus in Minnesota?

Presenter: Fred Harris

Location: Gneiss Outcrop SNA, Lunch at Grand View Winery, Belview, MN

Trekking around this tough, natural terrain and learning about the unique Minnesota Cacti will be followed by lunch at the Grandview Winery in Belview, MN.

September 2016 – Su ta ka Play (Dakota Language Presentation)

Presenter: Dakota Wicohan

Location: Morton City Park, Morton, MN

This program begins with a play presented in only the Dakota language and a guided discussion will follow regarding the significance and meaning of the presentation. The Dakota Wicohan will also discuss their efforts to share the language with the new generation.

Go to www.mvhlc.org to purchase your 2016 Lunch and Learn Membership

2016 Lunch & Learn Annual Memberships

Bronze Membership: \$60

Includes 1 pass per event

Silver Membership: \$110

Includes 2 passes per event

Gold Membership: \$250

Includes 2 passes per event and recognition for MVHLC Explorer Program sponsorship

Individual Ticket per event: \$25

Student Ticket per event: \$5

Students under 12 FREE w/ paid adult

Merry Christmas from the HAIRSTOP!

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Gift Sets

Money Card holders

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Lutheran Social Service

JANUARY 2016

Senior Nutrition Program

		<p>Call JOANIE at 507-697-6112 to reserve your meal Please call one day in advance</p>		<p>GIFT CERTIFICATES for meals available at your site or purchase on line at our website: www.lssmn.org/nutrition</p>			
<p>Monday, January 4</p> <p>4 oz. BBQ Pork Chop 1/2 c. Scalloped Potatoes 1/2 c. Corn Bread/Margarine 1/2 c. Applesauce 8 oz. Low Fat Milk</p>	<p>Tuesday, January 5</p> <p>6oz. Creamed Chicken/Biscuit 1/2 c. Green Beans 1/2 c. Lettuce/Dressing Margarine 1/2 c. Pudding 8 oz. Low Fat Milk</p>	<p>Wednesday, January 6</p> <p>3 oz. Italian Shredded Beef 1/2 c. Oven Brown Potatoes 1/2c. Cauliflower Broccoli Salad Bun/Margarine Cookie 8 oz. Low Fat Milk</p>	<p>Thursday, January 7</p> <p>\$2.00 Day!! 3 oz. Roast Turkey 1/2c. Mashed Potatoes/Gravy 1/2 c. Carrots Cranberry Sc. Garnish/Brd/Marg 2"x2" Pumpkin Dessert 8 oz. Low Fat Milk</p>	<p>Friday, January 8</p> <p>3 oz. Salisbury Steak 1/2c. Parised Whole Potatoes 1/2 c. Squash Bread/Margarine 1/2 c. Blushing Pears 8 oz. Low Fat Milk</p>	<p>Friday, January 1</p> <p>3 oz. Sloppy Joe 1/2 c. Potato Salad 1/2c. Country Blend Vegetables Bun/Margarine Fresh Oranges 8 oz. Low Fat Milk</p>		
<p>Monday, January 11</p> <p>8 oz. Creamy Vegetable Soup 2 1/2 oz. Turkey Sandwich 1/2 c. Fruit Cup Crackers/Margarine Cookie 8 oz. Low Fat Milk</p>	<p>Tuesday, January 12</p> <p>3 oz. Liver or Pepper Steak 1/2c. Buttered Boiled Potatoes 1/2 c. Seasoned Peas Bread/Margarine 2"x2" Fruit Crisp 8 oz. Low Fat Milk</p>	<p>Wednesday, January 13</p> <p>\$2.00 Day!! 3-oz. Roast Beef 1/2 c. Mashed Potatoes 1/2 c. Carrots Dinner Roll/Margarine 2"x2" Pudding Dessert 8 oz. Low Fat Milk</p>	<p>Thursday, January 14</p> <p>6 oz. Chicken Spinach Lasagna 1/2 c. Tropical Fruit 1/2 c. Lettuce/Drsg. Breadstick/Margarine 2"x2" Bar 8 oz. Low Fat Milk</p>	<p>Friday, January 15</p> <p>4 oz. Swedish Meatballs 1/2 c. Paprika Potatoes 1/2 c. Corn Bread/Margarine 1/2 c. Ice Cream 8 oz. Low Fat Milk</p>	<p>Friday, January 22</p> <p>8 oz. Meaty Beef Stew with Carrots & Potatoes 1/2 c. Cole Slaw Biscuit/Margarine 2"x2" Cheescake 8 oz. Low Fat Milk</p>		
<p>Monday, January 18</p> <p>6 oz. Cabbage Roll Casserole 1/2 c. Green Beans 1/2 c. Peaches Bread/Margarine 1/2 c. Scalloped Apples 8 oz. Low Fat Milk</p>	<p>Tuesday, January 19</p> <p>3 oz. Pork Steak 1/2 c. Sweet Potatoes 1/2 c. Winter Blend Veget. Bread/Margarine 2"x2" Cake 8 oz. Low Fat Milk</p>	<p>Wednesday, January 20</p> <p>4 oz. Meatloaf/Catsup 1/2 c. Whole Parslied Potatoes 1/2 c. Creamed Corn Bread/Margarine 1/2 c. Mandarin Oranges 8 oz. Low Fat Milk</p>	<p>Thursday, January 21</p> <p>\$2.00 Day!! 5 oz. Oven Crispy Chicken 1/2 c. Mashed Potatoes/Gravy 1/2 c. Carrots Bread/Margarine 2"x2" Poke Cake 8 oz. Low Fat Milk</p>	<p>Friday, January 22</p> <p>8 oz. Pub House Fish/Tartar Sc. 1/2 c. AuGratin Potatoes 1/2 c. Mixed Vegetables Bread/Margarine 1/8 slice Pie 8 oz. Low Fat Milk</p>	<p>Friday, January 29</p>		
<p>Monday, January 25</p> <p>3 oz. Swiss Steak 1/2 c. Mashed Potatoes 1/2 c. Seasoned Peas Bread/Margarine 1/2 c. Pineapple 8 oz. Low Fat Milk</p>	<p>Tuesday, January 26</p> <p>6oz. Honey Mustard Chicken Bst 1 medium Baked Potato/Sr. Crm 1/2 c. Green Beans Bread/Margarine 2"x2" Cake 8 oz. Low Fat Milk</p>	<p>Wednesday, January 27</p> <p>6 oz. Lasagna 1/2 c. California Blend Veg. 1/2 c. Peaches Garlic Bread/Margarine Cookie 8 oz. Low Fat Milk</p>	<p>Thursday, January 28</p> <p>3 oz. Pork Loin 1/2 c. Whole Potatoes 1/2 c. Buttered Cabbage Dinner Roll/Margarine 2"x2" Fruit Crisp 8 oz. Low Fat Milk</p>	<p>Friday, January 29</p>	<p>Friday, January 29</p>		

This service is funded in part by a contract from the Area Agency on Aging with funding from the Federal Older Americans Act through the Minnesota Board on Aging. Additional funds are provided by the State of Minnesota, United Ways, local communities, and other adult contributors. Approved by: Terri Weyer, RD, LD. Posted menu is regular diet. Diabetic, sodium, and fat restricted diets available upon request. **MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**

GERMAN CHOCOLATE MACAROONS

By: Maggie Ahrens (1st place cookie baking contest BVW 2015)

Ingredients:

- 5 cups shredded sweetened coconut
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar
- 6 Tablespoons flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
- 5 egg whites
- 1 cup finely chopped toasted pecans

Chocolate Topping

- Melt 4 ounces sweet chocolate
- 1 Tablespoon shortening

Caramel Topping:

- 6 ounces sweetened condensed milk (caramel flavored)

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
2. Line cookie sheet with parchment paper or grease and lightly flour the cookie sheet.
3. In a large mixing bowl combine coconut, sugar, flour and salt. Toss and mix well. Add egg whites and nuts and mix well.
4. Using a round tablespoon drop macaroons onto prepared cookie sheet.
5. Bake at 350 degrees F for 20 to 23 minutes or until golden brown on top. Place on cooling rack.
6. Melt chocolate with shortening in microwave in 30 second increments, stirring in between each increment until chocolate is melted. Drizzle chocolate over macaroons.
7. Then Drizzle sweetened condensed milk over the chocolate.

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