

## New – Electronic Recording Through Simplifile

Rice County now accepts some types of documents for electronic recording through Simplifile e-recording. Using Simplifile's secure, web-based service, customers such as title companies, banks, attorneys and lien filers, have the ability to scan or upload and submit documents directly to the Recorder's Office where they are reviewed, stamped, recorded and returned electronically in minutes. Recording fees and payments can also be processed securely through Simplifile. For more information, visit [www.co.rice.mn.us/departments/recorder](http://www.co.rice.mn.us/departments/recorder).

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[www.co.rice.mn.us](http://www.co.rice.mn.us)

- Dundas • Faribault
- Lonsdale • Morristown
- Nerstrand • Northfield
- Warsaw • Webster

## Developing a Plan for What We Want Rice County to be Like 20 Years From Now

"If you don't know where you are going," it is said, "any road will get you there."

Unfortunately, if you follow this practice where you end up very well could be somewhere you really don't want to be. That is why officials are working with community members – citizens, landowners, townships, cities, agencies – to create a new Comprehensive Plan for Rice County, a map for how to get from where we are to where we want to be in 20 years.

To launch this effort, county residents and landowners were invited to attend community forums hosted by Rice County Environmental Services in Faribault, Forest Township and Northfield in November and December. "The input of community members is a key component of our Comprehensive Plan process," said Environmental Services Director Julie Runkel, who is coordinating the activities of the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, comprised of the Rice County Board of Commissioners and the Rice County Planning Commission.

Additional opportunities for input will occur in surveys, focus groups, small group meetings, open houses, and other stakeholder and public meetings. Later in 2016, a draft of the resulting plan will be presented for public

response. A final version of the plan will be reviewed by the Planning Commission at a public hearing, after which it will be presented to the Rice County Board for formal adoption.

### Developing a Shared Vision of the Future

Why is it important to update the county's Comprehensive Plan? Because the only thing that is constant in life is change.

When completed in 2017, the Comprehensive Plan will serve as a guide to how the county will grow, and will provide direction in making decisions related to economic development, land use, agricultural/natural resource preservation, infrastructure and resource development, housing, recreational opportunities, cultural/historic preservation, and other issues of community development. It also will include implementation strategies in the form of goals and objectives to achieve the collaborative vision of the county's future.

Since the 2002 Comprehensive Plan update, Rice County has worked actively on a number of other planning documents, including: a major Zoning Ordinance update (2004); an

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## Deputies Trained, Equipped to Administer Antidote When Dealing With Possible Drug Overdoses

More than 100 people die every day in the United States from a drug overdose. In fact, overdose deaths have surpassed auto collisions as the leading cause of accidental death in the United States. Opiates such as heroin and opioids (synthetic forms of opium such as oxycodone) can slow or stop breathing. The chance of surviving an overdose, like that of surviving a heart attack, depends greatly on how quickly one receives medical assistance.

The odds of that were greatly improved with the passage in 2014 of "Steve's Law," which allows first responders, police officers and private citizens to carry and administer naloxone. Also known as Narcan, this is a drug

that counteracts the effects of an overdose by blocking opioid receptors in the brain and restoring normal breathing, often within seconds. Naloxone is not a controlled substance, has no abuse potential, and can be administered by ordinary citizens with little or no formal training. Prior to the passage of the law, it could only be administered by medical professionals and paramedics.

Rice County deputies were trained last spring on how to administer the antidote and have been carrying it in their squad cars since July. Deputies respond to most medical emergency

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## On The Web

### Rice County Launches Online Permitting System

County landowners and contractors working in the county now have the option to apply for building and zoning permits online. As of September 2015, a secure online permitting system is accessible anytime, anywhere via the Rice County website ([www.co.rice.mn.us](http://www.co.rice.mn.us)) or directly at <https://permits.co.rice.mn.us>.

Applicants need a working email address to access the system. Once a user has been established, any permit offered by Rice County Environmental Services can be applied for and paid online. All building permits (including new construction, remodeling, decks, garages, demolition and roofing, among others) are accessible on the system. Zoning permits for conditional uses, variances, waivers of plat, plats and other related zoning changes are available as well. Septic permits will be added to the online system starting in 2016.

“We are pleased to offer county landowners and contractors the ease and flexibility of applying for needed building and zoning permits online any time of the day,” said Environmental Services Director Julie Runkel. “For added convenience, this secure online system gives applicants the option of using a credit card to pay fees associated with each permit.”

All permits also may still be applied and paid for in person at the Rice County Government Services Building in Faribault.

For further information and FAQs (frequently asked questions) visit [www.co.rice.mn.us/special-projects/online-permitting](http://www.co.rice.mn.us/special-projects/online-permitting) or contact Rice County Environmental Services at 507-332-6113 or by email at [RCPlanningZoning@co.rice.mn.us](mailto:RCPlanningZoning@co.rice.mn.us).

## Comprehensive Plan for the Future

*continued from page 1*

improved Geographic Information System; a revised Solid Waste Ordinance (2005); adoption of the Transportation Plan (2006); updated Water Plans (2010 and 2015), a revised Feedlot Ordinance (2010); an All Hazard Mitigation Plan (2011); a Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan (2012); a Housing Study (2012); and a revised Floodplain Management Ordinance (2012).

While it is difficult to anticipate formative technological changes (who would have imagined in 2002, the last time the plan was updated, how significant wi-fi connections and cell towers would be in our lives today?), other factors, like demographic changes occurring in the state, are more easily predicted.

The Minnesota State Demographic Center has alerted the county to pay attention to three specific trends as it develops plans:

- **An aging population** – This decade and next will see unprecedented increases in Minnesota’s population of people aged 65 and older. While there will be declines in the 2030s, thought needs to be given in the interim to how the housing, health and other needs of an increasingly elderly population will be addressed. Because the ratio of retirees to workers has never come as close as it will during this period, we also need to consider ways to develop, retain and attract human capital in order to thrive economically.
- **A more diverse population** – Minnesota is becoming more ethnically diverse. Since 1990, the number of Asian and black residents in the state has tripled and the number of Hispanic residents has quadrupled. Fifteen percent of Rice County’s residents are currently persons of color. Further, while international immigration is not new to the state (in 1920, fully 20 percent of residents were foreign born), it has been increasing in recent decades. The largest groups by country of origin have come from (in order of magnitude) Mexico, Vietnam, Somalia, India, Laos and Thailand.
- **Population shifts** – Minnesota’s population is shifting in places as well as people. The greatest population growth in 2000–2010 occurred in counties that ring the Twin Cities’ metropolitan area. Neighboring Scott County experienced 45 percent growth, followed by Sherburne (37 percent) and Wright (39 percent). Rice County grew by 13 percent during the same period. The state demographic

center predicts that by 2040, Rice County will be in the top tier of projected growth; exceeding 30 percent change over 30 years (39 percent projected) and that its population will grow from about 64,100 residents to 89,200 (i.e., by 25,100 between 2010 and 2040).

### Getting Involved, Staying Informed

Aging, diversity and growth were not specifically front-of-the-mind topics for the two dozen residents who gathered in the Forest Town Hall in Millersburg for the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee’s December 8 public meeting. Asked what they love about living in Rice County, many attendees mentioned the area’s rural nature and abundant natural resources and its proximity to big city cultural and transportation resources, each of which they want to preserve and enhance. How did they envision doing that? Ideas ranged from bike paths and train transportation to the Twin Cities and Rochester to providing affordable, physically accessible housing for elders and the fostering of small businesses and entrepreneurs who would create jobs that would attract young families who would contribute to the tax base.

Other ideas generated by attendees at public meetings have included balancing land use for agricultural and business development, especially along the interstate; encouraging small-scale agriculture – organic farms and community-supported agriculture (CSAs) – as well as larger-scale operations; completing trail systems into downtown areas; paying attention to issues related to the county’s growing diversity, including the educational needs of English learners; and encouraging the development and use of green energy resources.

As noted above, there will be many more opportunities to contribute to the discussion of what Rice County should look like in 20 years. Information on the project will be posted regularly online and through social and traditional media outlets. To be alerted to activities and/or to provide input:

- Visit the Rice County Comprehensive Plan web page at [www.co.rice.mn.us/comprehensive-plan](http://www.co.rice.mn.us/comprehensive-plan).
- Like the department on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/RCCompPlan2016/](http://www.facebook.com/RCCompPlan2016/).
- Sign up for email updates. Send an email with your name to: [rcplanningzoning@co.rice.mn.us](mailto:rcplanningzoning@co.rice.mn.us).
- Call Rice County Environmental Services at 507-332-6113.

# Rice County Landfill, Recycling and Household Hazardous Waste Facilities

3800 145th Street E. • Dundas, MN 55019

507-332-6833 • [www.co.rice.mn.us/waste](http://www.co.rice.mn.us/waste) • [rcsolidwaste@co.rice.mn.us](mailto:rcsolidwaste@co.rice.mn.us)

## HOURS OF OPERATION

**Monday–Friday:** 7:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

**Saturday:** **April–October:** 7:30–11:30 a.m. (2nd and 4th Saturdays only)  
**November–March:** 7:30–11:30 a.m. (2nd Saturday only)

## 2016 Recycling Calendar/Schedule

Your single-sort recycling will be picked up on a schedule set by your garbage hauler (bi-weekly or weekly). Call your garbage hauler if you are not sure of your week (blue or white, indicated below).

**= Rice County Landfill, Recycling, Household Hazardous Waste Facilities are closed**

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## In The News

### Residents Take Advantage of Free Recycling Events

Rice County held appliance and electronics recycling collection events this past October for county residents. The events in Faribault, Lonsdale and Dundas provided opportunities for the public to properly recycle their unwanted electronics and appliances, and were free to all residents of the county.

- 50,998 lbs. of electronics were collected for recycling.
- 23,225 lbs. of appliances were collected for recycling.

### Did You Know?

Rice County now sends mattresses and box springs to Second Chance Recycling in Minneapolis for recycling. "The biggest benefit is the diversion of this waste stream from the landfill, as mattresses and box springs do not compress well in the landfill cell, even with a compactor driving over them," said Environmental Services Director Julie Runkel.

Mattresses can be dangerous to the environment when thrown in landfills. They create flammable air pockets and can absorb hazardous chemicals that are harmful to the earth. Also, mattresses are not biodegradable and take up a major amount of landfill area.

Second Chance Recycling ([www.secondchancerecycling.mn.com](http://www.secondchancerecycling.mn.com)) will repurpose and recycle many mattress and box spring materials. Mattress recycling benefits include the reduction of greenhouse gasses – 10,000 mattresses will equal approximately 125 tons of steel, 20 tons of wood and 15 tons of foam. Recycling this material saves 239 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, the equivalent of planting 373 trees or taking 40 cars off the road for a year.

## E-Waste Recycling and Holiday Waste Reduction

Many households will receive new electronic items as gifts over the holidays. These may be replacements for electronics you no longer need. Several options exist for the proper recycling of old and unwanted electronics items (e-waste). Several manufacturers and retailers offer free e-waste recycling options, including:

- **Apple:** [www.apple.com/recycling](http://www.apple.com/recycling)
- **Best Buy:** [www.bestbuy.com](http://www.bestbuy.com) (follow the Services link)
- **Canon:** [www.usa.canon.com](http://www.usa.canon.com) (follow the Sustainability link)
- **Dell:** [www.dell.com/learn/us/en/uscorp1/dell-environment-recycling?s=corp](http://www.dell.com/learn/us/en/uscorp1/dell-environment-recycling?s=corp)

The Rice County Recycling Center/Landfill also accepts all e-waste items for a small fee. If you have questions about properly recycling your unwanted appliances and electronics, contact the Rice County Recycling Center at [RCSolidWaste@co.rice.mn.us](mailto:RCSolidWaste@co.rice.mn.us) or 507-332-6833.

When taking down your holiday decorations, don't throw them away. Old and unwanted holiday lights will be accepted for recycling at the following locations through January 15, and are accepted at the Rice County Recycling Facility all year round.

### Holiday Light Recycling

When taking down your holiday decorations, don't throw them away. Old and unwanted holiday lights will be accepted for recycling at the following locations through January 15, and are accepted at the Rice County Recycling Facility all year round.

### ACE Hardware Stores

670 Water Street S, Northfield  
421 Second Avenue NW, Faribault

### Rice County Government Services Center

320 3rd Street NW, Faribault

## Look for the Recycle Number on Your Plastics!

Since 2012, Rice County residents have been able to recycle many plastic items in their single-sort recycling carts. The following is a reminder of the household plastic products

and packaging items now accepted (plastic items coded #1 through #7). Please be sure to rinse clean all plastic recyclables before placing them in the cart.



- All soft drink/water bottles (**leave the bottle caps ON the bottles**)
- Beverage and mouthwash bottles
- Plastic food jars/containers (**rinsed clean**)



- Yogurt containers
- Margarine tubs
- Some food containers, ketchup bottles (**rinsed clean**)



- Plastic bottles
- Plastic milk and water jugs
- Detergents, cleaners, shampoo bottles



- Small plastic flower pots (**maximum size of 8" and MUST be clean**)
- Plastic cups
- Some medicine bottles and some small plastic toys



- Household cleaning products (**must be empty**)
- Cooking oil bottles, salad dressing bottles and some shampoo bottles
- **NO PVC piping allowed at all!**



- Some miscellaneous small plastic containers/packaging



- Plastic bags (**all of the bags must be put inside one of the bags**)
- Small buckets (**maximum of 8" diameter**)
- Soap dispenser bottles
- Food storage containers, squeezable bottles (**NO food residue allowed**)

**NOTE: We cannot accept any oversize plastic items. Everything must fit inside the single-sort recycling cart.**

**Thank you for recycling!**

## Rice & Steele 911 Center – Citizen Alert Program

Rice and Steele counties upgraded their emergency alert system effective October 1, 2015. The system, Everbridge, allows the Rice & Steele 911 Center to notify citizens of emergent situations and time-sensitive incidents as they arise.

The counties have offered Everbridge since 2012. This upgrade will allow weather alerts to be disseminated directly from the National Weather Service. It allows citizens to set a window of time for notifications and to subscribe to specific notifications they would like to receive.

Citizens can choose to receive messages through home phone, work phone, cell phone,

email and SMS text messages. They can also choose to receive urgent notifications about events that may affect their home, workplace, family's schools and more.

Citizens who were previously enrolled in Everbridge are required to access their account to validate notification choices. After 30 days if you do not validate your account you will no longer receive notifications.

To access the Everbridge enrollment link, visit [www.co.rice.mn.us/departments/sheriff](http://www.co.rice.mn.us/departments/sheriff). For more information, contact Jill Bondhus at Rice & Steele 911 Center, 507-363-6464, or email [ricesteele911@rsc-psap.org](mailto:ricesteele911@rsc-psap.org).

## Conservation Tree Seedlings and Shrubs for Sale

The Rice Soil and Water Conservation District, 1810 NW 30th Street in Faribault, is currently taking orders for its annual tree sale. The district sells a wide variety of tree seedlings and shrubs (in quantities of 25, 50, etc.) to be used for conservation purposes only, such as windbreaks and wildlife plantings. **Tree orders will be taken until February 28,**

with trees arriving in April.

Native prairie plants for rain gardens and butterfly gardens may also be ordered now and picked up in May.

To receive a tree and/or native plant order form or get free help with plans, visit [www.riceswcd.org](http://www.riceswcd.org) or call the district office at 507-332-5408.

## Steve's Law and Antidote Assist Law Enforcement

*continued from page 1*

calls in the county and can sometimes be on the scene before medical units arrive. Northfield Hospital donated the doses to the Rice County Sheriff's Office, and the Rice County Chemical Health Coalition donated half of the cost of the training for the deputies.

Steve's Law has already helped to save a life in Rice County. In October, a deputy successfully used the kit in his car to treat someone experiencing an apparent overdose.

### "Don't Run; Call 911"

One key to counteracting a drug overdose is having the antidote ready on hand. In addition to authorizing its use by first responders, the law also allows people to get a prescription for the drug if they or a loved one may be at risk of overdosing. People who administer naloxone in the case of a drug overdose will be immune from any civil or criminal charges as long as they act in good faith.

The other key to reversing an overdose, of course, is knowing that the antidote is needed.

Witnesses to heart attacks rarely think twice about calling 911, but witnesses to an overdose often hesitate to call for help or, in many cases, simply don't make the call because they fear arrest. Steve's Law protects the person who experienced the overdose and gives him or her limited immunity from prosecution for being in possession of an illegal substance. It also provides "Good Samaritan" immunity for those who seek medical assistance for others, a provision that advocates are educating people about with the slogan "Don't run; call 911."

Health professionals say that calling 911 is vital even if the antidote is administered. Naloxone may help many people, but it doesn't last indefinitely after the first injection and should not be considered as a replacement for emergency help.

Steve's Law is named for Steve Rummler, a former Minnesotan who became addicted to opiates after hurting his back and overdosed on heroin in 2011. For more information about Steve's Law, visit [www.steveslaw.org](http://www.steveslaw.org).

## County Profile



### Eric Lundin

**Mental Health Professional – Outpatient Therapist, Social Services**

Eric Lundin has been a psychologist in Rice County since 1989, seeing patients (children, adolescents, families and adults) in the outpatient psychotherapy clinic. These patients are uninsured or are underinsured and would not otherwise be able to seek psychological services. Lundin also serves on the team that provides diagnostic assessments to those entering the Rice County Drug Court program. Additionally, he provides community outreach by speaking on the radio, doing health fairs and speaking to various organizations.

"Providing services to those in need and who would otherwise not have the privilege of psychological services, and the relationships I build with those clients, is very gratifying," says Lundin. "I also enjoy having a collaborative relationship with my co-workers in Children's and Adult Mental Health and Child and Family Services, where I can provide both consultation and services to their clients in need."

Lundin was born and raised in Escanaba in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. He earned his bachelor and master's degrees at Northern Michigan University. He and his wife, Cindy, have two grown children, Peter and Martha. In his free time, Lundin enjoys singing in his church choir, fly fishing, tennis, hunting, swimming and exercising regularly. He is also an assistant tennis coach at St. Olaf College.

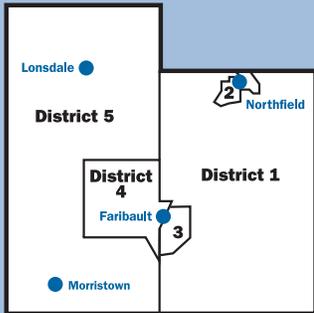


# Rice County Report

Rice County Government Services Building  
320 NW Third Street  
Faribault, MN 55021

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## Contacts



### Rice County Board of Commissioners (as of January 1, 2016)

**District 1**  
Jake Gillen  
507-334-5746  
jgillen@co.rice.mn.us

**District 2**  
Galen Malecha  
507-645-6041  
gmalecha@co.rice.mn.us

**District 3**  
David Miller  
507-334-4763  
dmiller@co.rice.mn.us

**District 4**  
Steve Bauer  
507-334-9700  
sbauer@co.rice.mn.us

**District 5**  
Jeff Docken  
952-652-2876  
jdocken@co.rice.mn.us

## Phone Numbers

General Information 507-332-6100  
**Toll-Free Numbers** (do not dial "1" or area code)  
From Northfield 645-9576  
From Lonsdale 744-5185

## Rice County Standing Meetings

### Board of Commissioners

Meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month as a Committee of the Whole/Work Session, 8:30 a.m., Commissioners' Room, Rice County Government Services Building.

Meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month as a Regular Board, 8:30 a.m., Commissioners' Room, Rice County Government Services Building.

### Board of Adjustment

Meets the first Thursday of the month; 7:00 p.m., Commissioners' Room, Rice County Government Services Building.

### Planning Commission

Meets the first Thursday of the month, immediately following the Board of Adjustment meeting, Commissioners' Room, Rice County Government Services Building.

### Community Corrections Advisory Board

Meets the third Thursday of March, June, September and December, 3:30 p.m., Rice County Government Services Building.

### Community Health Services Citizens' Advisory Committee

Meets the fourth Wednesday every other month (January, March, May, July, September, November), 6:30-8:00 p.m.; call 507-332-6111 for location.

### Rice County Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council

Meets quarterly, 7:00-9:00 p.m.; call 507-332-6119 for meeting date and location.

### Mental Health Advisory Council

Meets the fourth Wednesday of the month, 12:00 p.m. (noon), Friendship House, located at 212-B Central Avenue, Faribault.

## Rice County Departments

<b>Administrator</b>	Tony Murphy amurphy@co.rice.mn.us
<b>Assessor</b>	Paul Knutson pknutson@co.rice.mn.us
<b>Attorney</b>	John Fossum jfossum@co.rice.mn.us
<b>Auditor/Treasurer</b>	Fran Windschitl fwindschitl@co.rice.mn.us
<b>Community Corrections Director</b>	Christine Curtis ccurtis@co.rice.mn.us
<b>Court Administrator</b>	Hans Holland hans.holland@courts.state.mn.us
<b>Environmental Services Director</b>	Julie Runkel jrunkel@co.rice.mn.us
<b>Extension Regional Director</b>	LuAnn Hiniker luannah@umn.edu
<b>Highway Engineer</b>	Dennis Luebbe dluebbe@co.rice.mn.us
<b>Housing Director</b>	Joy Watson jwatson@co.rice.mn.us
<b>Human Resource Manager</b>	Laurie Jandro ljandro@co.rice.mn.us
<b>Information Technology Director</b>	Kevin Schmidt kschmidt@co.rice.mn.us
<b>Parks/Facilities Director</b>	Jake Rysavy jrysav@co.rice.mn.us
<b>Public Health &amp; CHS Director</b>	Deb Purfeerst dpurfeerst@co.rice.mn.us
<b>Recorder</b>	Judy VanErp jvanerp@co.rice.mn.us
<b>Sheriff</b>	Troy Dunn tdunn@co.rice.mn.us
<b>Social Services Director</b>	Mark Shaw mshaw@co.rice.mn.us
<b>Veterans' Services Officer</b>	Tracy McBroom trmcroom@co.rice.mn.us