



## Visit us at the Fair!

A number of Rice County departments will have booths at this year's fair. Be sure to stop by!

# INSIDE

- 2** Electronic Data Management System
- 3** Rice County Fair
- 4** McCullough Park Comprehensive Plan
- 5** Mini-Grants Yard Waste/Compost County Profile
- 6** Rice County Standing Meetings How to Contact Your Rice County Officials

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

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

## Social Services Gearing Up to Help Residents Deal with Health Insurance Logistics

Do you have questions about the provision of the Affordable Care Act (ACA, also known as Obamacare) that requires all U.S. citizens and legal residents to obtain health insurance coverage by the beginning of 2014? You are not alone. So does Mark Shaw, director of Rice County Social Services. He and his staff are gearing up to help people who will be newly eligible for medical assistance to fill out the forms they'll need, as well as to handle additional requests people might make once they come to know more about social service resources in the county.

For many people, health insurance will be covered by their employer. Some will qualify for health programs. Others will need to purchase it themselves in an "exchange." States had the option under the provisions of the ACA to participate in a Federal Health Insurance Exchange or create one of their own. The state of Minnesota chose to create its own, known as MNsure ([www.mn.gov/hix/](http://www.mn.gov/hix/)). There, beginning October 1, 2013, individuals who are not covered under an employer's plan and small businesses with up to 50 employees can find health plans from multiple

insurers, compare options and costs side-by-side, search for plans with features that match particular health circumstances, select the one that is best for them, and enroll for coverage that begins January 1, 2014.

### Increased Coverage, Increased Caseloads

What does this mean for Rice County residents? Among other things, it means that they can no longer be turned down for health insurance because of a pre-existing condition or denied further assistance because they've reached a lifetime limit. In families that have been uninsured or underinsured, children will receive regular checkups, the immunizations they need and improved dental care.

How will all this affect Rice County Social Services? Many Minnesotans will receive financial assistance in obtaining health insurance – individual, employee, or business tax credits and cost-sharing assistance. Others will qualify for health programs like Medical Assistance, Minnesota's Medicaid program. The department will help them navigate the procedures involved. Because most, if not all,

[continued on page 2](#)

## Roberds Lake to be Cleaner Following Construction of Sewage Connection with Faribault's Treatment Plant

Bacteria, phosphorous, pathogens, parasites, viruses, chemical contaminants and excess nutrients – there will be a lot fewer of these in Roberds Lake, a 625-acre lake near Shieldsville, following construction of a sewage system that will tie lake residences into the wastewater treatment plant of the City of Faribault.

This is good news for area fish and wildlife, the people living and visiting there and for the lake itself. Failure to treat sewage properly can not only pose an increased risk of contracting diseases, but high levels of phosphorus can also promote algae and weed growth that makes swimming and boating unpleasant and depletes the water of oxygen, affecting fish and other animal populations.

Construction is slated to begin in 2013 with project completion in 2014. The system will be installed via directional drilling, which minimizes the surface impact to the area.

Due to the hard work of the Roberds Lake Subordinate District's advisory committee, as of June 1, approximately 195 residential properties, two resorts and a manufactured home park are committed to participate in the project. In doing so, they are able to take advantage of a Clean Water Legacy amendment grant that is covering half the total cost, up to \$2.1 million. Connecting now is also considerably less expensive than it will be later, noted Rice County Environmental Services Director Julie Runkel.

[continued on page 4](#)

## What's New

### Electronic Data Management System Streamlines Casework Processes

While the new software systems attached to the implementation of the Affordable Care Act will require financial workers in the Department of Social Services to undergo additional training, it will not replace the county's recently installed Electronic Data Management System (EDMS) but will work in tandem with it.

Moving from a paper records system to an electronic data management system has improved the way his department does business, says Director Mark Shaw. Having temporary workers scan documents by hand for four weeks and training staff to work with the new system took time, but Shaw indicated the change has helped reduce or eliminate case backlogs. Now a unique barcode identifier is attached to the documents of every person who fills out a form with Social Services, making the information easily accessible by computer. The barcode has made work for clerical staff but has "worked wonders," says Shaw, for lightening the workload of others. "No longer is a case worker printing the same information on several documents by hand."

## Social Services and Health Insurance Logistics

*continued from page 1*

of the information as well as the processes involved are web-based, one of the challenges in this area will be helping people access the computers they need to inform themselves and apply. Depending on demand, this could entail offering online resources at the department as well as directing people to the computer resources at public libraries.

Shaw told the Rice County Board of Commissioners in May that the Minnesota Department of Human Services has projected that Rice County will receive about 1,400 new Medical Assistance enrollees due to the expansion of eligibility requirements for that program. Since some of these enrollees will be families, he estimates that cases for his department could increase by 750 to 800.

In instances where there is a parent who does not reside in the home of a child, an automatic referral for child support services is made. This enables child support workers, as necessary, to assist the custodial parent in locating the absent parent and collecting child support and/or health insurance for the child. Shaw anticipated that more than 300 cases could be added to CSS caseloads because of this requirement.



Health insurance-related contact with county services may also lead people to request county aid, including food support, child care assistance and cash assistance, said Shaw. He had no projections yet on what those numbers might be.

The way people will be served will change as well, he noted. "Our workers will have to be trained in on new eligibility requirements and a new computer system in the coming months."

### Who Will Be Eligible?

Under the Affordable Care Act, beginning in 2014 many individuals and families will be eligible to receive subsidized coverage through MNsure if they are not eligible for Medicare, Medical Assistance, or the Children's Health Insurance Program and are not offered affordable coverage through their employer.

A health insurance premium estimator at the MNsure web site ([www.mn.gov/hix/calculators/main/IndividualCalculator.jsp](http://www.mn.gov/hix/calculators/main/IndividualCalculator.jsp)) provides estimated premiums for families and individuals eligible to purchase coverage through MNsure. (Actual premiums are not yet known.) Maximum contributions to premiums will be based on a person's modified adjusted gross income (MAGI), i.e., income before deductions for all individuals included on a tax return (the taxpayer, his or her spouse and dependents, if applicable). The calculator also indicates income eligibility for Medical Assistance.

### Timelines

#### August 2013

training begins for county financial workers

#### September 2013

MNsure call center begins operation

#### October 2013

enrollment period begins

#### January 2014

new eligibility guidelines go into effect

## Visit us at the 2013 Rice County Fair!

Want to know more about what is going on in county government? Visit this year's Rice County Fair, where these departments will have displays, handouts and giveaways.

- Rice County Public Health — The theme this year is "Fit Kids and Families." At the booth, staff will provide information on healthy eating and exercise to help

inspire modest changes in lifestyle that can have a big impact on health. Staff will be available to answer questions about Project Fits Kids and Families and other programs that Public Health has to offer.

- County Attorney's Office
- Environmental Services
- Sheriff's Department





## 2013 Rice County Fair – Entertainment Highlights

### Grandstand

Tues., July 16	Enduro Auto Races – 6 p.m.
Wed., July 17	Katie Armiger (with opening show: Katie Ray) – 8 p.m.
Thurs., July 18	Professional Bull Riding – 7:30 p.m.
Fri., July 19	Professional Bull Riding – 7:30 p.m.
Sat., July 20	NTPA National/Regional Truck & Tractor Pull – 6:30 p.m.
Sun., July 21	Championship Demolition Derby – 6 p.m.

### Beer Garden Entertainment (Music: 8 p.m.–midnight; no cover charge)

Wed., July 17	Captain May I
Thurs., July 18	Shalo Lee
Fri., July 19	Mister Peabody
Sat., July 20	The Devon Worley Band
Sun., July 21	Ray Sands and the Polka Dots – 2–5 p.m.

### KDHL Cannon Stage (Free Entertainment)

Tues., July 16	Good Vibrations – 6 p.m.
Wed., July 17	Dave Herzog's Island Time Steel Drum Band – 11:30 a.m. and 3 p.m.
Wed., July 17	Tim and the Boys Old Time Music – 5:30 p.m.
Thurs., July 18	Good Vibrations – 11 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.
Thurs., July 18	The Amazing Hoopsters – 1:30 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 9:15 p.m.
Thurs., July 18	Hypnotist Brian Imbus – 7:30 p.m.
Fri., July 19	Prairie Dog Fight Club – 3 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 9 p.m.
Fri., July 19	Dazzling Dave Yo-Yo Master – 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Sat., July 20	Good Vibrations – 11 a.m.
Sat., July 20	Karaoke Contest – 1 p.m. (finals at 5:30 p.m.)
Sun., July 21	Wood Carving Auction – 2 p.m.

### Bruce Sellner Memorial Midway Stage (Free Entertainment)

Tues., July 16	Russell from Minnesota – 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Tues., July 16	Rice County Fair Queen Coronation – 7 p.m.
Wed., July 17	Hypnotist Brian Imbus – 4 p.m. and 9 p.m.
Wed., July 17	Brad Boice Elvis Tribute Show – 6 p.m.
Thurs., July 18	Lyndon Peterson One Man Band – 11 a.m.
Thurs., July 18	The Whitesidewalls – 6 p.m.
Fri., July 19	Dan Perry & Ice Cream – 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.
Fri., July 19	Good for Gary – 7 p.m.
Sat., July 20	Bluegrass & Gospel Music Festival – 11 a.m.
Sun., July 21	Amateur Talent Contest – 12 p.m.

## Attend the 2013 Rice County Fair

It's time for the Rice County Fair – some of the most exciting days of the summer! Every year, members of the Fair Board work hard to bring different events and exhibits to the fair.

Admission to the Rice County Fair is free. Parking on the grounds costs \$5 per day, per visit.

You will be able to see more than 100 commercial exhibits, lots of animals and exciting entertainment all week long. This list is a preview of just some of the great entertainment on tap this year. Be sure to visit our web site and check the full schedule published just prior to the fair.

**Please remember: NO pets, roller skates, inline skates, skateboards or bikes are allowed on the fairgrounds.** (There are exceptions for service animals and pets allowed for exhibition, demonstration or show.) Please help ensure the safety of all our visitors. Enjoy the 2013 Fair!





## On the Web

### McCullough Park Offers Natural Wonders, Wifi and Online Reservations

Whether you are looking for a quick getaway or a week-long vacation, consider McCullough Park, Rice County's newly remodeled campground on Shields Lake.

Located 11 miles northwest of Faribault, McCullough offers visitors much to explore, including 750 feet of shoreline, scenic bluffs, beautiful overlooks, natural trails, and a six-acre island bird sanctuary that was once one of the largest rookeries in the Upper Midwest for the great blue heron and the American egret. Adjacent DNR boat access gets those who want to fish onto the 940-acre lake, where they can angle for black crappie, bluegill, bowfin, largemouth bass, northern pike, walleye and yellow perch.

The park has 20 campsites with electrical and water hook-up and 10 with no electricity or hook-up, all with picnic tables and fire rings. Three of the camping sites are accessible to campers with disabilities. Park amenities include modern toilet and shower facilities, an RV dump station and a picnic shelter, as well as wifi Internet access.

To make reservations, call 507-332-6113, email [RCCamping@co.rice.mn.us](mailto:RCCamping@co.rice.mn.us), or visit [www.webreserv.com/ricecountyenvironmental-servicesmn](http://www.webreserv.com/ricecountyenvironmental-servicesmn).



## Planning Ahead: County Gearing Up to Review and Revise Comprehensive Plan Adopted in 2002

Work has begun to undertake the review and update of the Rice County Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2002 and designed to assist in the decision making to guide growth and development for the next 20 years.

No plan can anticipate all the changes that will occur in two decades, of course, so the document must be periodically amended. A vital component of that process is the facilitation of active citizen participation. That is, in fact, the first of the 11 goals of the community-based planning program the process has followed in the past, i.e., citizen participation, cooperation, economic development, conservation, liveable community design, housing and population projections, transportation, land-use planning, public investments, public education and sustainable development.

During the process that created the 2002 plan, well over 300 people attended some 200 public meetings, providing excellent input

from a grass roots level to the policy makers from all levels of government. This time, input will also be collected by means of an online citizen survey as well as various public stakeholder meetings. To stay informed about ways to be involved, sign up for the Environmental Services General News mailing list at [www.co.rice.mn.us/mailling-list-sign](http://www.co.rice.mn.us/mailling-list-sign).

As its name suggests, the Comprehensive Plan touches on many aspects of life in Rice County. The 67-page document formulated in 2002 called, among many other things, for the creation of a new zoning ordinance for the county, establishment of a countywide economic development initiative to promote employment and expand the tax base in Rice County, and the preservation, protection and improvement of surface and underground waters in the county, including rivers, streams, lakes, groundwater and aquifer recharge areas.

## Roberds Lake Subordinate Sewer District

[continued from page 1](#)

A project three years in the making, the creation of the Roberds Lake Subordinate Sewer District has been driven by Wells Township residents living around the lake and was made possible by the cooperation of the City of Faribault and Rice County support.

For more information about the Roberds Lake project, visit [www.co.rice.mn.us/special-projects/rllssd](http://www.co.rice.mn.us/special-projects/rllssd).

For more on county water resource management in general, see [www.co.rice.mn.us/water-resource-management](http://www.co.rice.mn.us/water-resource-management).

## Put Unneeded Medicine Out of Harm's Way

Do you have unneeded prescriptions or over-the-counter medications? You should Take It To The Box!

The Faribault and Northfield Police Departments both provide medication disposal boxes in their lobbies as a safe, secure and anonymous way for community members to dispose of unwanted over-the-counter medications, prescription drugs and animal medications. (No sharps, please!)

Before depositing containers, cross out your name and other identifying information on them, but DO leave the name of the drug visible to aid with proper disposal.



### Disposal Box Locations

#### Faribault Police Department

25 4th Street NW, Faribault (Open 24/7)

#### Northfield Safety Center

300 5th Street W., Northfield (Open 24/7)

## Mini-Grants Available to Local Community Partners to Implement Conservation Practices

Rice County Environmental Services has been awarded Clean Waste Legacy grant funds to provide mini-grants to local community partners. These mini-grants are intended to engage the public in implementing structural and vegetative practices that reduce storm water runoff and retain water on the land to reduce the movement of sediment, nutrients and pollutants. Examples of these practices include, but are not limited to, wetland restoration, shoreland restoration, grass swales, rain gardens and vegetative buffers.



Eligible recipients include local community partners within Rice County, such as citizen/service groups, master gardeners, non-profit organizations, businesses, student groups, neighborhood/homeowner associations and faith-based organizations. Recipients that meet the funding requirements will be eligible for a grant of 75% of the cost of the project (up to \$5,000). The remaining 25% may be in-kind or cash match.

For more information and application materials, visit [www.co.rice.mn.us/planning](http://www.co.rice.mn.us/planning) under Water Resources, or contact Rice County Environmental Services by email at [rcplanningzoning@co.rice.mn.us](mailto:rcplanningzoning@co.rice.mn.us) or 507-332-6113.

### Pictured at Left

Community members work on planting during a shoreland restoration project at McCullough Park. The newly remodeled campground is located on Shields Lake, 11 miles northwest of Faribault. (See additional article about McCullough Park on page 4.)

## County Profile



### Lea Butterfield Administrative Specialist Public Health Nursing

Lea Butterfield has seen a lot of changes since she started working for Rice County in 1990, first in the County Attorney's Office and now in Public Health Nursing. As administrative specialist there, she is responsible for accounts payable and receivable, maintaining the PH-Doc health records system, preparing statistical reports for the agency and various clerical duties. She also serves as the IT liaison for the department. "I like the ongoing interaction with our county IT department and with our PH-Doc software vendor. Both of these agencies have knowledgeable employees who are constantly teaching me new things!"

The health records system has really evolved since she began. "When I started with Public Health, we were typing care notes on a typewriter and filing them in client charts. Now it's all done on the computer and saved in client electronic charts. We are moving toward being able to exchange data with other agencies through HIE (health information exchange) instead of faxing and mailing information."

Butterfield graduated from Medford High School and attended Rasmussen Business College in Mankato. She lives in Faribault with her children, Derek and Alyssa, and two dogs. She loves to attend her children's sporting events. "It seems that's about all I have time for at this stage of my life!" she says. "But I can't think of anything else I'd rather be doing."

## Yard Waste and Community Compost Sites

Minnesota law forbids the landfilling of yard waste such as leaves, grass clippings and brush. Minnesotans are encouraged to compost yard waste at home or bring yard waste to a community compost site.

Composting is a process that uses water, air and naturally occurring microbes to convert organic matter into a valuable resource. Added to gardens or placed at the base of trees and shrubs, compost contains essential nutrients for healthy plant growth, acts as a soil conditioner, helps the soil to hold moisture better and prevents erosion.

A backyard compost pile can be easily constructed and maintained. For information on backyard composting and options for building compost structures, visit [www.co.rice.mn.us/yard-waste-community-compost-sites](http://www.co.rice.mn.us/yard-waste-community-compost-sites) and click on the featured links.

### Rice County Solid Waste Facility Compost Site

Hours for the compost site are the same as the Solid Waste Facility (see below), located at 3800 E. 145th Street, Dundas. For other locations, please call:

- Faribault: 507-334-2222
- Lonsdale: 507-744-2327
- Morristown: 507-685-2302
- Northfield: 507-645-8833

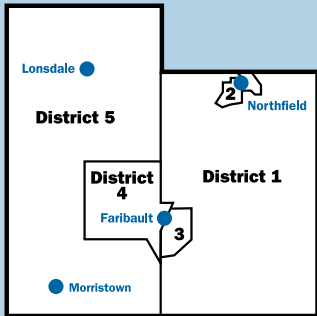
### Solid Waste Facility Hours of Operation

Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Saturday:

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

## Contacts



### Rice County Board of Commissioners (as of January 1, 2013)

**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 even-numbered months (February, April, June, August, October, 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.

**Emergency Medical Services Provider 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

**Administrator**  
507-332-6101  
Paul Knutson  
pknutson@co.rice.mn.us

**Assessor**  
507-332-6102  
Paul Beaumaster  
pbeaumaster@co.rice.mn.us

**Attorney**  
507-332-6103  
Paul Beaumaster  
pbeaumaster@co.rice.mn.us

**Auditor/Treasurer**  
507-332-6104  
Fran Windschitl  
fwindschitl@co.rice.mn.us

**Community Corrections Director**  
Christine Curtis  
507-332-6106  
ccurtis@co.rice.mn.us

**Court Administrator**  
507-332-6107  
Hans Holland  
hans.holland@courts.state.mn.us

**Economic Development Director**  
Deanna Kuennen  
507-332-6126  
dkuennen@co.rice.mn.us

**Environmental Services Director**  
507-332-6113  
Julie Runkel  
jrunkel@co.rice.mn.us

**Extension Educator**  
507-332-6109  
Michael Donnelly  
mdonnelly2@umn.edu

**Highway Engineer**  
507-332-6110  
Dennis Luebbe  
dluebbe@co.rice.mn.us

**Human Resource Manager**  
507-332-6123

**Information Technology Director**  
507-333-3777  
Kevin Schmidt  
kschmidt@co.rice.mn.us

**Parks/Facilities Director**  
507-332-6105  
Jake Rysavy  
jrysav@co.rice.mn.us

**Public Health & CHS Director**  
507-332-6111  
Deb Purfeerst  
dpurfeerst@co.rice.mn.us

**Recorder**  
507-332-6114  
Marsha DeGroot  
mdegroot@co.rice.mn.us

**Sheriff**  
507-332-6010  
Troy Dunn  
tdunn@co.rice.mn.us

**Social Services Director**  
507-332-6115  
Mark Shaw  
mshaw@co.rice.mn.us

**Veterans' Service Officer**  
507-332-6176  
Tracy McBroom  
trmcbbroom@co.rice.mn.us