

## VACCINATED?

Maximize your protection against COVID-19.



Everyone 16 and older should get a COVID-19 booster shot.

## One Year of COVID-19 Vaccination!

We have now marked over one year of COVID-19 vaccination efforts. Rice County Public Health is grateful for those who assisted with ongoing efforts, including local health care providers, pharmacies, community partners, and those behind the scenes helping ensure vaccination is accessible to everyone in our community. Vaccination effectively decreases hospitalization and serious illness related to COVID-19.

As of Dec. 31, 2021, Public Health had administered over 16,000 COVID-19 vaccines since first administering them on Dec. 30, 2020. Thank you, Rice County Public Health staff, for your ongoing efforts!

Public Health continues to host COVID-19 vaccination clinics throughout Rice County, both at the Government Services Building as well as various community locations, such as community centers and the county jail.

COVID-19 vaccines are available for those 5 years and older. Boosters are recom-

mended for those 16 years and older, and currently in process of being recommended for those 12 years and older. For those who are homebound and unable to get to a vaccination clinic, Rice County Public Health staff are available to make home visits for COVID-19 vaccination – just give us a call and we will make arrangements for this service.

Please check the Public Health website for information on upcoming clinic times, locations and vaccines available. Registration links to make an appointment can be found at [www.co.rice.mn.us/528/GET-VACCINATED-COVID-19](http://www.co.rice.mn.us/528/GET-VACCINATED-COVID-19). Pre-registration is recommended, but walk-ins are welcome. If you need help getting registered, please call 507-332-6111.

Over 72% of Minnesotans 5 years and older have received one dose of COVID-19 vaccine. In Rice County, that percentage is a bit lower at 66.8%. Now's the time, Rice County residents, to "roll up your sleeve" and get vaccinated if you haven't already done so.

## INSIDE

- 2** County Profile  
Support Healthy Families
- 3** Recycling Calendar/  
Schedule
- 4** Waste Wizard  
Highway Department
- 5** Drinking Water Info/  
Tests for Private Wells
- 6** Task Force  
Attorney's Office  
Conservation Trees
- 7** Sustainability  
County Profile
- 8** Rice County  
Standing Meetings  
How to Contact Your  
Rice County Officials

## Sheriff Dunn – A Final Message and Farewell

*On November 12, 2021, Troy Dunn retired with 13 months left in his third term as Rice County Sheriff.*

*A Rice County native, Dunn spent 33 years in law enforcement, almost all with Rice County. In that time, he moved up through the ranks, starting as a corrections officer at the county jail. He was elected sheriff in 2010, and earned a third term in 2018, elected without opposition, which he said would be his last.*

*However, his wife's out-of-state job opportunity led him to readjust priorities. Following the announcement of his retirement in September, Dunn explained that his family had long sacrificed to support his career and he felt it was his turn to support his wife.*



When I started as a correctional officer in 1989, I worked my way up through the Sheriff's Office in many roles. I've seen positive change in my 32 years here at Rice County. We've seen changes in technology as well as changes on how we all do our specific jobs. One of the many positive changes I've witnessed was be-

ing able to work together with the different departments. Instead of working in our own lanes, we've progressed to the point that we meet as groups of different departments and agencies. We've achieved common goals of providing great service to those we serve. This happens through passion and collaboration. This happens due to our willingness to listen to other thoughts and ideas. We then forge ahead together to accomplish what needs to be done.

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

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

## County Profile



### Mark Shaw

#### Social Services Director

Mark Shaw was named director of Social Services in 2003 and is now preparing for his next phase of life, retirement. He joined Rice County in 1993 as a social worker, then was promoted to Social Service supervisor in 2000.

As director, Shaw says, "I plan, manage and control the daily operations, personnel, and programs of the Social Services Department. I enjoy working with the great staff in all departments who work very hard to serve the people of Rice County. I am most proud of our efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic and how creative we have become in how we serve people."

He was born in Chippewa Falls, Wis., "but am certainly not a Packer fan!" he says. He grew up in Winona, attended Cotter High School, and graduated from Saint Mary's College with a degree in psychology and education. He then graduated from Control Data as a computer programmer.

He and his wife of 38 years, Patty, are parents to Katie of Bemidji and Jenn of Cloquet with grandchildren Noah, Linnea, and Caleb.

In retirement, Shaw plans "to spend as much time with grandchildren as I'm able and mix in a few rounds of golf and a few days drilling holes in the ice to fish. I expect I'll find a volunteer job or two or three to keep me active."

## Rice County Public Health – Family Home Visiting to Support Healthy Families

Meeting people where they are is integral to the work of public health. This includes home visits to support families with young children.

Rice County Public Health nurses are here to support expectant families, newly delivered families, and families with young children on their parenting journey. Visits are tailored to the unique needs of each family – whether that

means a one-time visit for support and education after the birth of a baby, or ongoing visits until their child is two or three years old.

The birth of a baby brings new routines, feelings, and experiences. Public Health nurses have a wealth of knowledge and answers to questions to help support new parents on their journey.

Public Health staff are available to meet with families in their homes to offer support and education about parenting and help connect families to resources. Frequency of visits and length of service is variable based on the goals of the family.

Evidence-based models of family home visiting have proven outcomes, including improved child health, improved parent-child interactions, increased parent understanding of developmental milestones, improved family socio-economic status, improved coordination of services and referrals, and reduced incidence of injuries and family violence. These models are rooted in the belief that early nurturing relationships are the foundation for life-long healthy development.

Rice County Public Health offers two evidence-based models of ongoing family home visiting – Heathy Families America and Maternal Early Childhood Sustained Home-Visiting (MECSH).

### Meet Lexy

Lexy is a first-time mom living in Rice County who has received family home visiting by a public health nurse for the past two years. She can attest to the difference family home visiting made in her life.

Prior to meeting her home visitor, Lexy struggled with depression, anxiety, and addiction throughout her teen years and dropped out of school during 11th grade. Her mom



*The Rice County Public Health Family Child Health Team*

passed away unexpectedly when she was 18 years old and her dad was not involved in her life.

Lexy met her public health nurse when she was 20 years old and 19 weeks pregnant. "My home visitor was one of my biggest supports during a time in my life when I felt so alone and unaware of what the future would hold. She changed my way of thinking about myself and guided me through the obstacles I thought were holding me back. She feels like family to me and my son, and we are so grateful for her."

Since Lexy's enrollment in family home visiting, she has maintained her sobriety, finished her GED and is currently working on her Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) certificate. Her plans for the future include going to college to achieve a degree in social work.

Heather, Lexy's Public Health nurse, shares, "Being a small part of her story and watching her mature in her self-confidence as not only a parent but as an individual, has been so fulfilling to witness firsthand. Her path in life hasn't been easy, but this amazing mom continued to persist and follow the dreams she has for her and her son."

### For More Information

This is just one story, which reflects the difference family home visiting can make in the lives of families in need of additional support in their parenting journey.

For more information about Public Health services or to make a referral, please contact Rice County Public Health at 507-332-6111 and ask to speak to a family child health nurse or visit our website at [www.co.rice.mn.us/278/Family-Child-Health-Services](http://www.co.rice.mn.us/278/Family-Child-Health-Services).

# Rice County Landfill, Recycling and Household Hazardous Waste Facilities

3800 145th Street E., Dundas, MN 55019

507-332-6833 • [www.co.rice.mn.us/207/Solid-Waste-Facility](http://www.co.rice.mn.us/207/Solid-Waste-Facility) • [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)

## 2022 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; your hauler may use different colors).

**[Grey Box] = Rice County Landfill, Recycling, Household Hazardous Waste Facilities are closed**

<p><b>JANUARY 2022</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						<p><b>FEBRUARY 2022</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28						<p><b>MARCH 2022</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			<p><b>APRIL 2022</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																																																																																												
						1																																																																																																																																																																												
2	3	4	5	6	7	8																																																																																																																																																																												
9	10	11	12	13	14	15																																																																																																																																																																												
16	17	18	19	20	21	22																																																																																																																																																																												
23	24	25	26	27	28	29																																																																																																																																																																												
30	31																																																																																																																																																																																	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																																																																																												
		1	2	3	4	5																																																																																																																																																																												
6	7	8	9	10	11	12																																																																																																																																																																												
13	14	15	16	17	18	19																																																																																																																																																																												
20	21	22	23	24	25	26																																																																																																																																																																												
27	28																																																																																																																																																																																	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																																																																																												
		1	2	3	4	5																																																																																																																																																																												
6	7	8	9	10	11	12																																																																																																																																																																												
13	14	15	16	17	18	19																																																																																																																																																																												
20	21	22	23	24	25	26																																																																																																																																																																												
27	28	29	30	31																																																																																																																																																																														
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																																																																																												
					1	2																																																																																																																																																																												
3	4	5	6	7	8	9																																																																																																																																																																												
10	11	12	13	14	15	16																																																																																																																																																																												
17	18	19	20	21	22	23																																																																																																																																																																												
24	25	26	27	28	29	30																																																																																																																																																																												
<p><b>MAY 2022</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					<p><b>JUNE 2022</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			<p><b>JULY 2022</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							<p><b>AUGUST 2022</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																																																																																												
1	2	3	4	5	6	7																																																																																																																																																																												
8	9	10	11	12	13	14																																																																																																																																																																												
15	16	17	18	19	20	21																																																																																																																																																																												
22	23	24	25	26	27	28																																																																																																																																																																												
29	30	31																																																																																																																																																																																
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																																																																																												
			1	2	3	4																																																																																																																																																																												
5	6	7	8	9	10	11																																																																																																																																																																												
12	13	14	15	16	17	18																																																																																																																																																																												
19	20	21	22	23	24	25																																																																																																																																																																												
26	27	28	29	30																																																																																																																																																																														
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																																																																																												
					1	2																																																																																																																																																																												
3	4	5	6	7	8	9																																																																																																																																																																												
10	11	12	13	14	15	16																																																																																																																																																																												
17	18	19	20	21	22	23																																																																																																																																																																												
24	25	26	27	28	29	30																																																																																																																																																																												
31																																																																																																																																																																																		
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																																																																																												
	1	2	3	4	5	6																																																																																																																																																																												
7	8	9	10	11	12	13																																																																																																																																																																												
14	15	16	17	18	19	20																																																																																																																																																																												
21	22	23	24	25	26	27																																																																																																																																																																												
28	29	30	31																																																																																																																																																																															
<p><b>SEPTEMBER 2022</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		<p><b>OCTOBER 2022</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						<p><b>NOVEMBER 2022</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				<p><b>DECEMBER 2022</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																																																																																												
			1	2	3																																																																																																																																																																													
4	5	6	7	8	9	10																																																																																																																																																																												
11	12	13	14	15	16	17																																																																																																																																																																												
18	19	20	21	22	23	24																																																																																																																																																																												
25	26	27	28	29	30																																																																																																																																																																													
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																																																																																												
						1																																																																																																																																																																												
2	3	4	5	6	7	8																																																																																																																																																																												
9	10	11	12	13	14	15																																																																																																																																																																												
16	17	18	19	20	21	22																																																																																																																																																																												
23	24	25	26	27	28	29																																																																																																																																																																												
30	31																																																																																																																																																																																	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																																																																																												
		1	2	3	4	5																																																																																																																																																																												
6	7	8	9	10	11	12																																																																																																																																																																												
13	14	15	16	17	18	19																																																																																																																																																																												
20	21	22	23	24	25	26																																																																																																																																																																												
27	28	29	30																																																																																																																																																																															
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																																																																																												
				1	2	3																																																																																																																																																																												
4	5	6	7	8	9	10																																																																																																																																																																												
11	12	13	14	15	16	17																																																																																																																																																																												
18	19	20	21	22	23	24																																																																																																																																																																												
25	26	27	28	29	30	31																																																																																																																																																																												

## Did You Know?

### Each Person Generates Approximately 4.9 Pounds of Garbage Per Day!

Rice County offers Waste Wizard to help determine how and where to dispose of or recycle your waste. If you live anywhere within Rice County, check Waste Wizard to find the proper place for your waste.



Visit [co.rice.mn.us/207/Solid-Waste-Facility](https://co.rice.mn.us/207/Solid-Waste-Facility) (or scan the QR code at the bottom left) and scroll down to the Waste Wizard icon. Search any item to find out where it goes.

### Prepay Online

County residents and property owners are encouraged to use the prepay system if they wish to self-haul items to the facility.

This online payment and appointment system reduces wait times at the facility while allowing contactless payment. It also allows self-haulers to remain in their vehicle except when actually disposing of their items into the appropriate container/area. To access the prepayment system:

- Visit the online payments page at <https://rice-county-environmental-services.square.site/> (or scan the QR code at the bottom right).
- Click on Book Now.
- Follow the instructions to select your services and schedule a date and time.
- You will receive an email or text confirmation.

**Only Rice County residents/property owners may dispose of waste at the Rice County Solid Waste Facility. No out-of-county waste will be accepted.**

If you need assistance with the online prepay system, need to use a different form of payment, or have questions, please email [rcsolidwaste@co.rice.mn.us](mailto:rcsolidwaste@co.rice.mn.us) or call 507-332-6833.



## Rice County Highway Department Rolls Into 2022

The project that was expected to be the largest in 2021 could get back in gear by early 2022, but first Rice County needs a district court judge to agree that repairs to 2.3 miles of Baseline Road are in the public's interest.

The work was set to begin in spring 2020, but even as bids came in, the county wasn't able to secure needed right of way from a handful of property owners. At the time, the courts were shut down due to COVID-19, so the Rice County Board of Commissioners rejected bids and hoped to start anew this year.

The county, which has since come to terms with all but two landowners, was in court Dec. 28 to ask the judge to allow the project to move forward. If the judge agrees, property negotiations can continue while construction proceeds.

The project will pave the gravel road from County Road 1 south to County Road 8 north of Faribault, widen and grade the roadway, improve drainage, and flatten a troublesome hill, according to County Engineer Dennis Luebbe. When complete, the road, designated in the county's 10-year plan as an east frontage road for Interstate 35, will support 10-ton vehicles.

The completion of this segment will provide a continuous paved frontage road from the I-35/County Road 1 interchange into Faribault's Industrial Park.

While it is as yet unclear when the judge might rule on the project, Luebbe hopes to hear by February. That would allow the county to maintain a typical timeline: advertise for bids in March with work beginning in May.

### Completed Projects

The county completed five bridge projects in 2021, four of them in Richland Township. A fifth bridge project was postponed until the Baseline Road project gets underway. The county Highway Department plans to use a box culvert salvaged from that project to complete work on a County Road 90 bridge.

In all, the county spent \$1.48 million on the bridges in 2021. About \$281,000 came from county sales tax; \$93,000 came from Town Bridge funds. Most of the balance – \$812,300 – came from state bridge bonding dollars awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

The county also spent \$475,000 on ditch/drainage work and another \$4.52 million on paving, including 8.8 miles of County Road 6

near Lonsdale and Veseli. Slightly less than half of the total came from the county's sales tax, approved in 2013 to help fund road and bridge projects. Another \$433,000 came from the wheelage tax, a \$20 fee assessed to every vehicle in the county.

### Roundabout Plans

Engineering staff spent a considerable amount of time in planning mode, preparing for an oversize roundabout at the I-35/Highway 19 interchange. The six-legged roundabout is scheduled for a 2022 groundbreaking, which Luebbe anticipates will be pushed back. That likely won't impact the completion date, he told the Rice County Board of Commissioners at its Dec. 21 meeting. "Construction is doable in one season," he said. Funding for the \$4.2 million project, much of which is coming from state grants, is secure, Luebbe assured the board.

The roundabout, to be located on the east side of the I-35/Highway 19 interchange, will improve traffic safety and keep traffic moving. Traffic in the area has increased significantly since the Flying J Travel Center remodeling project and with continued growth, particularly in Lonsdale.

### Remodeled Highway Department

The most significant change for Highway Department staff in 2021 was to their office space. The \$3.77 million addition/remodeling project was completed in December 2020, giving them a whole year to enjoy the new space. The 1975 shop, on 20th Street in Faribault, was almost completely remodeled. Not only was new office space added, an existing truck bay was expanded and warm storage was built for the county's fleet of snow plows.

Luebbe calls the changes "a great improvement," and says "I think we're well prepared from a facilities perspective for years and years to come."



# Drinking Water Information and Tests for Private Wells

While many private wells provide quality water that is safe for you, your family, and pets, you should regularly test your well because it may have one or more water quality problems. Some contaminants can be seen or tasted while others require testing to detect.

Private well owners are responsible for testing and maintaining their well. Unlike public water systems, private well owners are not required to regularly test their wells or correct water-quality problems. It is your choice to decide which tests to do and actions to take.

There are a few essential tests that should be performed routinely on every private well. Homeowners should routinely test their well. You may decide to test more often if your previous results were unsafe.

## Three Routine Tests for Every Well Owner

Everyone is potentially at risk from the three most common contaminants in Minnesota well water.

- **Bacteria** – Every well should be tested once a year, and when you notice a change in taste, color, or smell.
- **Nitrate** – Every well should be tested once a year, and before the well will be used by a woman who is or may become pregnant or if an infant under the age of 1 is in the household.
- **Arsenic** – Test for arsenic at least once. Arsenic occurs naturally in rocks and soil across Minnesota and can dissolve into groundwater. Arsenic levels can vary between wells, even within a small area. Visit the Minnesota Department of Health webpage for more information: [https://data/web.health.state.mn.us/web/mndata/arsenic\\_wells](https://data/web.health.state.mn.us/web/mndata/arsenic_wells)

## Additional Testing for Private Well Owners

You may consider additional testing to look for geologically occurring contaminants in the rock and soil that may enter your well and human-caused contaminants from land use, your plumbing materials, or other sources of pollution near your well.

### Geologic

- **Manganese.** Test once for manganese, especially if you have an infant in the

home or notice brown or black staining or black sediment in your water.

- **Fluoride.** Test for fluoride if you have an infant in the household or when you move into a home with a well. Your dentist and pediatrician will use this information to decide how much additional fluoride to recommend.

### Human

- **Lead and Copper.** Test once every five years or if the water will be used by a pregnant woman or infant. Lead and copper may be in your water from the plumbing materials used in your home.
- **Pesticides.** Consider this test if your home is within ¼ mile of agricultural fields or areas where pesticides are manufactured, stored, or mixed.
- **Volatile organic compounds (VOCs).** Testing is recommended for homes within ¼ mile of a landfill, industrial site, gas station or other underground tank, and especially if you smell chemical or fuel odors in the home.

### Human & Geologic

- **Chloride.** Test annually to monitor for noticeable increases above background levels (1-5mg/L across much of Minnesota). Higher levels of chloride indicate contamination by human activities, including potassium chloride fertilizer application

on crops, road salt application, water softener discharge, human or animal waste disposal, and leachate from landfills.

## Useful Links

- **Health Information:** <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/consumers.html>
- **Drinking Water Quality:** <https://data.web.health.state.mn.us/drinkingwater>
- **Private Well Location & Construction Data:** <https://mnwellindex.web.health.state.mn.us/>
- **How Groundwater Moves in SE Minnesota:** <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/segwresources>
- **Grants & Loans for Well Sealing, Repair, New Construction:** <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/wells/sealing/loans.html>

*This document is intended solely as guidance, and does not contain any mandatory requirements except where requirements found in statute or administrative rule are referenced.*

*This information has been provided through a cooperative effort of the Minnesota Well Owner's Organization, Olmsted County Public Health, and Olmsted Soil & Water Conservation District.*

## Tap In To Your Well-Being!

It's up to you to check the safety of your drinking water



To order a Certified Lab Tested Water Test Kit in SE Minnesota: Visit the **Southeastern Minnesota Water Analysis Laboratory (SEMWAL)** webpage to request a test kit: <https://webapp.co.olmsted.mn.us/shoppingcart/site/er/waterlab/>

- Coliform Bacteria**  
Every year
- Nitrate**  
Every other year
- Arsenic**  
At least once
- Lead**  
At least once
- Manganese**  
At least once

## Did You Know?

### Task Force Seizes Nearly \$200,000 in Drugs

The Rice County Sheriff's Office, Le Sueur County Sheriff's Office, and Northfield and Faribault Police departments make up the Cannon River Drug and Violent Offenders Task Force.

The task force includes peace officers from each department and is overseen by a commander who serves a three- to five-year term. Rice County Sheriff's Sgt. Paul LaRoche recently completed a nearly four-year term as commander. He's succeeded by Le Sueur County Sheriff Investigator Scott O'Brien.

In 2019, the task force was recognized as the Minnesota Narcotics Task Force of the Year.

Though 2021 was a quieter year, the task force made significant inroads in eliminating drugs in the region. Some statistics include:

- 11 – firearms seized
- 87 – search warrants executed
- 162 – number of arrests
- \$20,200 – amount of cash confiscated
- \$196,757 – street value of drugs seized

Methamphetamine was the most common drug seized by the task force in 2021, followed by marijuana. The value of meth seized was \$83,326; the value of marijuana (not including raw marijuana or marijuana wax) confiscated was \$54,452.

The largest seizure came in mid-June when task force agents executed a warrant in Northfield, and reportedly found nearly 18 pounds of marijuana edibles, 123 THC cartridges, 50 grams of hallucinogenic mushrooms, more than a half pound of marijuana, and a half gram of cocaine.

The task force also seized four vehicles allegedly used in the drug trade that were valued at \$65,027.

## Rice County Attorney's Office Continues to Address Backlog of Cases

The Rice County Attorney's Office will hire two new attorneys and a legal assistant to help reduce the considerable backlog of cases that has developed since the start of the pandemic in March 2020.

The additional staff will ensure the County Attorney's Office can keep pace with the Rice County court administrator's plan to draw-down the backlog. County prosecutors, said County Attorney John Fossum, typically have a caseload of 100 to 150 cases. Currently, it's about 300. "That's too much," he said. "We need to clear cases, but we need to spread out the workload."

The new staff will serve on a long-term temporary basis, though the need for the additional positions is anticipated to last through June 2023. Funding to pay for the additional staff will come from federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars allotted to the county.

The backlog of felony and gross misdemeanor cases sat at 369 in September 2021. It was at 283 in December.

The county's three judges will also get some assistance. Former Faribault attorney and Rice County judge John Cajacob, who retired from the bench in February 2020, will soon preside over first appearances, and bail and probation violation hearings. None of those will require him to write opinions, which can be time consuming.

Cajacob is expected to be back in court three days a week. A temporary court reporter will also be hired to assist in his courtroom. Both will be on the State of Minnesota's payroll.

The Sheriff's Office is also adjusting its staffing to meet the courts' needs. Three part-time deputies will move to full-time courthouse security staff until the backlog is cleared. It's

anticipated that the increase in wages will also be covered by federal ARPA funding.

The additional personnel are expected to help reduce the major criminal case backlog by 20% each quarter. In the last 12 weeks, the backlog has been cut by 64 cases, according to Rice County Court Administration figures. Those numbers reflect cases in which the defendant was exonerated or in which sentencing was pronounced. Cases in which the defendant is awaiting sentencing are not included in that number.

The backlog developed when the Minnesota Judicial System closed following the start of the pandemic. Hearings via Zoom didn't start until June 2020, and even then there were no jury trials in the county.

Courtrooms in the historic 1932 courthouse are too small to allow for social distancing when a jury is present, and it took time to convert vacant space in the newly renovated Government Services Building to an additional courtroom. The county used federal CARES Act funds to purchase new technology, and had a judge's bench and court reporter, clerk, and witness stands constructed, all which move to a fourth Rice County courtroom after the pandemic.

The lack of jury trials contributed to the backlog in less obvious ways as well. According to Fossum, his office had difficulty getting defendants to accept worthy plea deals. Without the threat of prison or a trial hanging over their heads, many defendants were content to bide their time.

While it won't be easy to eliminate the backlog by the end of June 2023, Fossum believes it can be done. "Being able to bring in extra lawyers will be helpful," he said.

## 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 such as windbreaks and wildlife plantings. **Order trees before February 26 for best selection.** Trees arrive in mid-April.

Native prairie plants for rain gardens and butterfly gardens may also be ordered now

and picked up in May.

To receive a tree or native plant order form or get free help with a windbreak plan or native garden plan, call the District office at 507-332-5408 or visit [www.riceswcd.org](http://www.riceswcd.org). Orders may also be placed online and paid by credit card at [www.riceswcd.onlinestore.com](http://www.riceswcd.onlinestore.com).



## Sustainability Improvements and Expansion

Rice County and its employees want to be good stewards of the environment and our county facilities and parks, and reduce costs in doing so whenever possible. From hybrid vehicles to using recycled products, the county continues to expand its eco-friendly practices.

Earlier in 2021, the county purchased its first hybrid van, a 2021 Toyota Sienna for the Veterans Services Department, which is used to pick up military veterans and transport them to medical appointments at the VA in Minneapolis on average four times a week. While the county hasn't yet compared gas usage of the Sienna with its predecessor, the van's drivers have seen a noticeable decrease in how frequently they need to fill up.

In a few weeks, the county will take delivery of three hybrid SUVs. One will go into the county's general fleet. The other two will be available for Social Services employees who transport children receiving services and those who serve clients in their homes.

Parks & Facilities Director Matt Verdick expects to order three additional hybrid SUVs this spring, further reducing the county's carbon footprint.

### Improvements in County Buildings

County buildings are also becoming more environmentally friendly. In late 2020, the

county switched all its paper products to those that contain recycled material, and its soaps, cleaners, and other chemicals to those that are Green Seal certified. Products are shipped in packaging made with recycled materials.

Installation of high-efficiency LED light fixtures is almost complete in the Government Services Building and finished in the Highway Department facility. The courthouse is next, with projected completion in 2022.

Because a remodel of the Law Enforcement Center/Community Corrections facility is planned soon, facilities staff are replacing burned-out bulbs with LEDs, but holding off on replacing fixtures until the interior is redone.

### Office Recycling

Recycling will soon be the norm in all Rice County buildings. While blue containers have been in areas of the buildings for a while, by the end of March 2022, each office will also have a recycling bin, ensuring that cans, plastic bottles, scrap paper, etc. stay out of the landfill.

### Green Energy

Green energy is also on the table. The Board of Commissioners Sustainability Subcommittee is exploring options for solar, considering where panels would be feasible and practical.

## Sheriff Dunn – A Final Message and Farewell

*continued from page 1*

I have received many questions on how the sheriff's position is filled, so I wanted to bring everyone up to speed. Upon announcing a vacancy for an elected position, statute states that if the term remaining is under two years, the County Board can appoint someone to the position. (A vacancy of more than two years would require a special election.)

In my retirement letter, I recommended that Chief Deputy Jesse Thomas be appointed to fill my term until the 2022 election. Jesse has 25 years of experience with the Sheriff's Office as a correctional officer, patrol deputy, investigator, sergeant, lieutenant, and for the last seven years, my chief deputy. The chief deputy is the second in command, and in the absence of the sheriff, is the leader. I felt that appointing him as interim sheriff would make for the easiest transition for our office and for the citizens of Rice County.

The Rice County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to appoint him as sheriff

for the remainder of 2021 and all of 2022. Next November, there will be an election for the office of sheriff, and Jesse intends on running for the 2023–26 term.

Prior to my end-of-service call on the radio at 1630 hours on Friday, November 12, Jesse was sworn in as Rice County Sheriff. Thus I am leaving Rice County in good hands with a sheriff of the people and for the people, consistent to what I've provided in my tenure.

Sheriff Thomas will now appoint someone as his chief deputy for the remainder of the term and delegate other duties to supervisors within our office. I don't want to give away any of his announcements here, but you and I are all very fortunate to have great staff to choose from on our team to keep this ship moving forward into 2022 and beyond.

Again, I thank you for all of your support and friendships during my time with all of you here at Rice County. Stay happy, healthy, and safe, everyone. God Bless!

— Troy Dunn

## County Profile



### Josh Schoen

Rice County Assessor

Josh Schoen was appointed as Rice County Assessor in June 2021, following the retirement of his long-time predecessor, Paul Knutson.

Schoen first began working at Rice County in 2005 as a GIS technician, later becoming the GIS & Property Tax reports supervisor, then assistant county assessor.

He says, "as county assessor I am responsible for the annual valuation and classification of over 30,000 parcels of real estate in Rice County. I oversee a staff of 11 people that includes assessment personnel and GIS.

"I enjoy interacting with taxpayers and having discussions about market value. I also enjoy analyzing the real estate market and the different influences that impact the market."

Schoen was raised on a dairy farm in Freeborn, Minn., where he attended United South Central High School in Wells. He earned his bachelor's degree in geography/earth science at the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse. During his high school and college years, he spent seven summers roofing houses.

He now lives in Warsaw Township where he enjoys fishing, hunting, running, boating, and watching Minnesota sports teams.

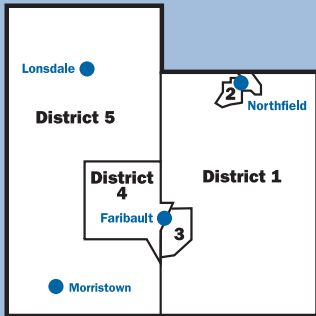


# Rice County Report

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

PRST STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
FARIBAULT, MN  
PERMIT NO. 21

## Contacts



### Rice County Board of Commissioners

(as of January 1, 2022)

**District 1**  
Jim Purfeerst  
507-323-5091  
jpurfeerst@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 Underdahl  
507-332-8222  
sunderdahl@co.rice.mn.us

**District 5**  
Jeff Docken  
507-339-9711  
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; 6:30 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.

**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 January, February, March, April, September and October, 12:00 p.m. (noon), Friendship House, located at 310 First Avenue NW, #1, Faribault.

## Rice County Departments

<b>Administrator</b>	Sara Folsted sfolsted@co.rice.mn.us
<b>Assessor</b>	Joshua Schoen jschoen@co.rice.mn.us
<b>Attorney</b>	John Fossum jfossum@co.rice.mn.us
<b>Chief Financial Officer</b>	Paula O'Connell poconnell@co.rice.mn.us
<b>Community Corrections Director</b>	Rick Gieseke rgieseke@co.rice.mn.us
<b>Court Administrator</b>	Lisa Kuhlman lisa.kuhlman@courts.state.mn.us
<b>Economic Development Coordinator</b>	Kathy Feldbrugge kfeldbrugge@co.rice.mn.us
<b>Environmental Services Director</b>	Julie Runkel jrunkel@co.rice.mn.us
<b>Extension Regional Director</b>	Lisa Dierks dierksl@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>	Carol Kritzer ckritzer@co.rice.mn.us
<b>Information Technology Manager</b>	Allan Klug aklug@co.rice.mn.us
<b>Parks/Facilities Director</b>	Matthew Verdick mverdick@co.rice.mn.us
<b>Property Tax &amp; Elections Director</b>	Denise Anderson danderson@co.rice.mn.us
<b>Public Health &amp; CHS Director</b>	Deb Purfeerst dpurfeerst@co.rice.mn.us
<b>County Recorder &amp; County Surveyor</b>	Mike Fangman mfangman@co.rice.mn.us
<b>Sheriff</b>	Jesse Thomas jthomas@co.rice.mn.us
<b>Social Services Director</b>	Mark Shaw mshaw@co.rice.mn.us
<b>Veterans' Services Officer</b>	Tracy McBroom trmcBroom@co.rice.mn.us