

STAY SAFE MN

Keep it up, Minnesota!

Continue to follow safe practices:

mn.gov/covid19

m MINNESOTA

Local Public Health COVID-19 Response

Public Health emergency response is one of the core responsibilities for local public health departments. Over the last six months, Rice County Public Health has been busy working with numerous partners to respond to and mitigate risks associated with COVID-19.

Widespread community transmission of COVID-19 has been occurring throughout Minnesota, including Rice County. As of the end of July, Rice County had the 8th highest incidence rate of COVID-19 in the state of Minnesota. In Rice County, we have seen a slight slowing of new cases over the last few weeks, but we must continue to be vigilant to ensure protection for those most vulnerable in our communities. As our state moves forward with reopening, it is important to be mindful that COVID-19 is still in our communities and we all have a part to play to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Ackman-Shaw, and Public Health Supervisor Sara Coulter, have been leading Rice County incident response, meeting daily with invaluable internal partners including Sheriff Troy Dunn, Emergency Manager Jennifer Hauer-Schmitz, Rice County Administrator Sara Folsted, and Rice County Social Services Director Mark Shaw. This allows for situational monitoring, coordinated operations, and organized planning. We work diligently together, in addition to working with dedicated local partners, to prepare for and respond to the impacts of this pandemic.

Public Health staff are facilitating meetings with multiple Rice County partners, including local healthcare, emergency management, law enforcement, long-term care, businesses, community groups, city officials, schools, and higher education to ensure accurate dissemination and sharing of information, response, and planning. We are fortunate in Rice County to have a large number of engaged and supportive partners, all committed to help ensure the health and safety of Rice County residents.

[continued on page 2](#)

What We're Doing

Local public health staff, including Public Health Director Deb Purfeerst, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Tracy

INSIDE

- 2** COVID-19 Situation Update
- 3** 2020 Census Followup Everbridge Citizen Alert
- 4** Assessor Property Reviews Sheriff's Office Updates
- 5** Lower Level Updates Master Gardeners
- 6** Addressing Adolescent Depression
- 7** Comprehensive Plan Solid Waste Facility
- 8** Rice County Standing Meetings
How to Contact Your Rice County Officials

Safety a Priority for Voters in November Election

Rice County, state, and local election officials have taken steps to ensure voter and election judge safety in all of our polling places for the November 3 general election. The uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 health conditions can present social distancing challenges to in-person voting, but protective protocols are now in place.

Face masks are required to be worn in the polling place. Voters are asked to adhere to social distancing guidelines while in the polling place and standing in line. All polling places will have hand sanitizer stations at each entrance and exit, and voters are encouraged to sanitize their hands upon arrival and again when exiting once they have finished voting. Election judges will provide additional guidance as needed, and will control the number of voters allowed in each building at one time.

Additional protective protocols in the polling places include plexiglass barriers at

poll pads and ballot stations, and continual cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces.

If not already registered, voters are encouraged to pre-register to reduce voting times. Visit <https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterRegistration/VoterRegistrationMain.aspx>.

Those with health conditions or who prefer not to vote in person are encouraged to apply for an absentee ballot. Applications are available at <https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/ABRegistration/ABRegistrationStep1.aspx>.

We have kept safety in mind when developing protocols and procedures, and voters who choose to vote at their polling place will have a safe environment to do so. We ask voters to have patience and recognize it may take a little more time to vote this year.

For questions, please contact the Rice County Elections Office at 507-332-6104 or rcelections@co.rice.mn.us, or visit www.co.rice.mn.us/232/Property-Tax-Elections.

www.co.rice.mn.us

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

Local Public Health COVID-19 Response

continued from page 1

Public Health staff field frequent media requests, respond to constituent questions, actively partner with the Southeast Regional Health Care Coalition, and participate in numerous calls with the Minnesota Department of Health and other state agencies to help direct response efforts. A local Rice County Public Health COVID-19 helpline connects the public with accurate information, resources, and support.

Staff have been busy working within our communities, to ensure EVERYONE receives the information and support they need to stay healthy, including neighbors and friends who may not speak English, may not have internet access, may be homeless, or may lack health care access. Public Health has long-standing relationships with community members, but during the pandemic we have reached out in different ways to support our community and help ensure understanding of disease processes, recommendations for testing, requirements for isolation and quarantine, and connections to local resources.

During a pandemic, epidemiological surveillance is another role for Public Health staff, including assistance with case investigation and contact tracing, assessing for hotspots, data analysis, and outreach to businesses to support them as they work hard to ensure the safety of their employees.

Local Public Health staff members also follow up with essential service requests for those needing to stay in isolation or quarantine to help prevent disease spread. This includes assistance with food or medication, delivery of supplies such as cloth masks and thermometers, lodging, or assistance with other needs, which will then assure that infected individuals can safely isolate and decrease community transmission.

As medical professionals, we have been watching and learning about COVID-19 since reports first emerged in late 2019 and early 2020, and we are anxiously awaiting the time when a vaccination will be available. Again, Public Health will respond and assist with vaccination campaigns and vaccine administration when that time comes, to help ensure ALL of our population is reached.

Going Forward

Amidst the pandemic, Rice County staff provide services to county residents in a modified fashion. At Rice County Public Health we have continued to provide essential home care services to our elderly and homebound, garbed in an array of PPE (personal protective equipment) to ensure safety for staff and clients, expanded use of telehealth for case management, health education, WIC nutritional services, and support for individuals, children, and families, and continued to vaccinate

those in need, by appointment. All necessary services to support Rice County residents and to help ensure health and safety for our more vulnerable populations.

Rice County Public Health is committed to doing the best job we can with frequently changing guidance and requests. Call us if needed, we are here to help! **The Rice County COVID-19 Helpline is 507-384-6459.**

Please remember that the healthcare system is available to help you. It is safe to go to clinics and hospitals – we **WANT** you to follow up with your healthcare needs.

We all look forward to life going back to “normal.” No doubt, there will be new ways of operation, but we **WILL** recover and move on. Please help us by following these recommendations to help reduce the spread of COVID-19:

- Wear a mask in public. Remember, I wear a mask to protect you. You wear a mask to protect me.
- Wash your hands.
- Observe physical distancing – stay at least six feet away from others.
- Stay home if you do not feel well.
- Self-isolate if you have been around someone who is sick or tested positive.
- Get tested if you have COVID-19 symptoms. Call your local healthcare provider to schedule a test or find a testing location at mn.gov/covid19/forminnesotans/if-sick/testing-locations/.

For more information, visit the Minnesota Department of Health or CDC websites. The Rice County Public Health website also has a wealth of information, including local resources: www.co.rice.mn.us/492/Coronavirus-disease-COVID-19-Current-Sit or follow the Rice County Public Health Facebook page: www.facebook.com/RiceCountyPublicHealth/.

PPE Donations

Rice County Emergency Manager Jennifer Hauer-Schmitz has established a local donation collection center for PPE (personal protective equipment) and supplies in order to assist the community with supply needs. Staff from Rice County Social Services have assisted in the dissemination of those donated items. Many thanks to those who have graciously donated! Additional donations are always needed. For details, visit www.co.rice.mn.us/499/PPE-Donation-Request.

Rice County COVID-19 Situation Update

(as of August 12, 2020, Rice County Public Health)

1,045

Total Positive Cases

38

*New Cases

8

Total Deaths



*New cases reflect increases since the previous Wednesday.

For more information: www.co.rice.mn.us/492/Coronavirus-disease-COVID-19-Current-Sit



Law enforcement pictured: Rice County Sheriff's Office; Northfield, Lonsdale, and Faribault Police Departments.

Driving Rice County Toward Zero Deaths

Rice County Law Enforcement and the Rice County Safe Roads Coalition are working together to reduce fatal and serious injury crashes on our roads. These efforts are grant funded through the Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) state program. TZD focuses on the application of four strategic areas to reduce crashes – the four E's: education, enforcement, engineering, and emergency medical/trauma response. In addition, we have added a fifth E – everyone else. That means you! We need EVERYONE to step up and pay attention when driving to eliminate traffic crashes and deaths on our roads.

Minnesota recently reached the one-year anniversary of the Hands-Free Minnesota Law (August 1). This law prohibits motorists from holding a cellphone or other wireless device while driving. It requires drivers to make calls, text, listen to music or podcasts, and get directions using only voice commands or single-touch activation. Visit HandsFreeMN.org for the latest FAQs and information. Remember, hands-free is not necessarily distraction-free, so keep those hands on the wheel and eyes on the road!

With reduced traffic during the last several months due to COVID-19, it would seem the risk on Minnesota roads would be reduced. Unfortunately, many drivers have chosen to use the open road as a license to speed and fatal crashes have increased over last year. Increased speed equals increased severity of injuries, and speed is the leading factor in fatal crashes. Fines start at \$120 for 10 mph over the speed limit.

To help put the brakes on speed-related deaths and to help educate motorists, law enforcement worked extra traffic enforcement shifts June 22–July 19. Other traffic enforcement dates scheduled this summer are:

- Distracted Driving: Aug. 1–8
- DWI: Aug. 14–Sept. 7
- Seat Belts & Child Restraints: Sept. 18–30

We work together to achieve a future where traffic fatalities and life-changing injuries are rare events. We care!

Rice County is part of the Southeast Minnesota 11-county Toward Zero Deaths efforts to reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries.

**PLEASE DRIVE SMART:
SLOW DOWN AND OBEY THE SPEED LIMIT**

2020 Census: Nonresponse Followup Begins

The 2020 Census counts every person living in the United States and five U.S. territories. It started in March and is now moving into the next phase, the Nonresponse Followup Operation. The U.S. Census Bureau has begun visiting every household that has not already responded to the 2020 Census to ensure a complete and accurate count.

Census takers are scheduled to visit each nonresponding household Aug. 11–Sept. 30, 2020, to ask a few questions and will enter the answers on their secure Census Bureau smart

phone. If a family member is not home when the census taker visits, they will leave a notice of their visit with information about how to respond online or by phone. If necessary, they will make additional visits to collect responses from the household.

Census takers will follow social distancing protocols and all applicable state and local requirements with regard to health and safety.

Households can continue to respond online or by phone until Sept. 30, 2020. **Go to 2020census.gov or call 844-330-2020.**

Emergencies

Everbridge Citizen Alert

Rice County Emergency Management utilizes the Everbridge Citizen Alert system as one way to notify residents of an emergency or an important community alert.

This system allows the Rice and Steele 911 Center to quickly provide you with critical information in a variety of situations, such as certain severe weather events, missing persons, or hazardous and dangerous incidents that may lead to evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods.

Once enrolled, you will receive time-sensitive messages how you specify, such as your home phone, cell phone, business phone, email, or text message. You can subscribe to the type of notifications you want, and can also set a window of time not to receive any notifications, if you choose.

You must be signed up in order to receive notifications and be alerted of an emergency that may affect you. All Rice County residents are encouraged to sign up for this free service. The information entered is protected and will not be used for any other purposes.

To initially sign up, or update your contact information, or change your alert settings, go to <https://member.everbridge.net/453003085612579/login>.

Direct links to the login page can also be accessed from several places on the Rice County website, including the Sheriff's Office and Public Health.

Any individuals who need assistance can register by calling Rice and Steele 911 Center at 507-444-0341.



Did You Know?

Assessor Property Reviews During COVID-19

The Rice County Assessor is responsible for keeping the information on all Rice County real estate parcels current and accurate. In fact, Minnesota statutes require the appraisers in the Assessor's Office to actually view all improvements and structures at maximum intervals of five years. Rice County has approximately 30,000 parcels – to comply with the statute, 6,000 parcels must be viewed and inspected annually.

With COVID-19 restrictions, our top priority is the safety of everyone. **In order to complete the required reviews, the Rice County property appraisers will be viewing property from a distance and they will not be knocking on doors.** The appraisers will have Rice County identification visible and wear high-visibility vests with Rice County, Minnesota, printed on the back. They will drive Rice County cars or their personal cars with Rice County magnetic signs on the doors. The appraisers will stop in front of each property and compare what they see with our current records and take an updated photo of the property.

Address any questions to the Rice County Assessor's Office at 507-332-6102 or RCassessors@co.rice.mn.us. Visit the Assessor's Office web page at www.co.rice.mn.us/149/Assessors-Office for jurisdictions that appraisers are viewing.



Sheriff's Office Updates From Sheriff Troy Dunn

It's hard to believe summer is more than half-way gone. I have to say that it's been a very different year for everybody, including the Sheriff's Office. We had COVID-19 rear its ugly head across the county, state, and the world. This has changed so many things for all us – the way we do our jobs, meetings, graduations, and our celebrations.

Speaking of celebrations and graduations, I am sorry that we had to change the way we celebrated with our high school and college graduates. We were honored to be able to assist with high school graduation parades and commencements throughout the county. I was impressed with everyone that came out to show their support for our 2020 graduates. My own son's graduation from college was a picture on a video with his name being announced along with his major, then he received his diploma in the mail. (We can call it five seconds of fame for four years of college.) We also assisted with other birthday and anniversary celebrations. I won't soon forget seeing those beaming smiles as we drove by with squad cars and fire trucks followed by friends and family. Congrats and best of luck to all graduates in your future endeavors. Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary if you couldn't hear us from the squad, cycle, or fire truck!

Other celebrations that didn't or won't happen are Morristown Dam Days, Faribault Heritage Days, Lonsdale Community Days, the Rice County Fair, and the Defeat of Jesse James Days. No Fourth of July festivities in North Morristown and Veseli. No fishing contest, no BBQ contest, no demo derbies. I have to tell you it was different not grilling burgers with the Fire & Rescue personnel in Morristown or at the BA and Pork Producers stand at the fair. It's really different not leading a parade every 2–3 weeks. I'm hoping and praying that we have this all figured out by next year so we can get back in the swing of things. But it's important to remember the true meaning of these celebrations and to be thankful for the freedoms we have.

In-person meetings have become few and far between. If you do attend a meeting, you are 6–10 feet apart and wearing masks, and Zoom and GoToMeetings are the norm. Some of my Zoom meetings are like watching the beginning of the Brady Bunch on steroids – 24 different windows and multiple people talking at the same time, forgetting to mute when they curse their dog for barking or ask their spouse or kids to get them something or to quiet down. In all seriousness though, we have found this to be very helpful, not only

in our day-to-day business-style meetings but also in the courts, holding hearings via ITV where witnesses and attorneys join via teleconference instead of in-person hearings. It has been very helpful for the Sheriff's Office to not have to transport someone for a hearing from sometimes 4–5 hours away, each way. It is our hope that even after COVID-19, we can continue to utilize this for some future hearings, even when we are no longer in a pandemic. This will save us time, money, and provide better security.

Our job of providing public safety to our communities has been modified somewhat as well. We utilize the phone to take some reports and complaints versus a deputy responding to a residence. We reduced our proactive enforcement in the areas of traffic, warrants, and some criminal investigations. Our undercover operations were minimal in an effort to keep our staff safe and healthy. We did see a reduction in some of our calls for service, though we continued to see our domestic abuse calls and mental health calls slightly increase for a time. We've also seen our serious traffic violations increase as well as alcohol-related traffic offenses. We never stopped doing traffic enforcement, but we have returned to proactive enforcement as a means of providing safe roads for all that travel on them. We've returned to drug investigations to ensure our neighborhoods are safe for all who live and visit there.

In closing, I want to remind everyone that we are here to serve and protect. It does not matter who you are, where you live, what your skin color is, what nationality you are, or what religion you follow. We are here for everyone. Always. Like many of you, I have been saddened, angered, and ashamed for the actions of a few who wear the uniform. But I feel these same emotions when I hear certain things such as "defund law enforcement" or see T-shirts that read "blue lives murder."

We all play a role in making our communities, state, nation, and world what they are. Violence and destruction of property are not considered a way of "peaceful protesting." Let cooler heads prevail, let peace prevail, and let's all work together to solve our problems. Know that the men and women of the Rice County Sheriff's Office are professional and caring and will work with you to keep our county a great place to raise a family.

Stay healthy, everyone, and thank you for your confidence and support of all public safety personnel in Rice County.

Government Services Building, Lower Level Updates

Although the Rice County Government Services Building is currently closed to the public due to the pandemic, construction continued on schedule and is now in the finishing stages. When the building fully opens again, the lower level will look much different – and much brighter, due to new LED lighting. The area now features an easier transition between departments for those who need assistance from Public Health, Housing, or Social Services with easy access to all from one level, especially for those with ambulation challenges.

The Public Health and WIC department currently serves clients in the building by scheduled appointment. The newly remodeled space allows staff to more effectively serve customers with a larger front desk reception area, an increased number of private

interview rooms, a larger clinic room area, and an expanded family waiting area. There is also now a public lactation room in the lower level of the building to better support breastfeeding women.

The Housing Office moved from upstairs and is now next to Public Health. It features a waiting room and an interview room.

Social Services has more space to help assure greater client privacy, plus additional interview rooms to reduce previous overcrowding and minimize wait times. Additional conference rooms are now available for staff meetings, along with a significant increase in storage space. There are four reception stations that can serve individuals directly in three languages – English, Spanish, and Somali.



Helping Others

Master Gardeners

University of Minnesota Extension works hard to give back to Rice County. Extension Master Gardeners serve our community by volunteering their time to provide research-based education and outreach to homeowners and gardeners in the county as well as care for community gardens. In 2019, 22 certified Extension Master Gardeners volunteered 1,199 hours to serve Rice County residents.

Typically, the Rice County Master Gardeners hold an annual plant sale in the spring to help fund some of their volunteer programming. Due to the pandemic, the 2020 plant sale was cancelled. However, some Master Gardeners had already started growing vegetable plants in preparation for the sale and did not let their efforts go to waste. Those who had planted vegetable seeds with the intention of selling them instead donated over 175 tomato and hot pepper plants to local organizations.

Kanko Akakpovi, Extension SNAP Ed educator for Rice County, helped connect these Master Gardeners with organizations which could distribute the plants to those in need. The plants were disseminated at the Community Action Center of Northfield and the Friendship House in Faribault.

The Master Gardeners were delighted to provide these plants to help feed members of the community as well as provide an opportunity for others to grow produce during this time of uncertainty.

To learn more about Rice County Master Gardeners, contact local program coordinator Barbara Montanye or Extension Educator Claire LaCanne at the Extension office, 507-332-6109, or email bmontany@umn.edu or lacanne@umn.edu to discuss local opportunities.

County Profile



Lyndsey Reece

**Child and Teen Checkups
Coordinator, Public Health**

Lyndsey Reece is the Child and Teen Checkups coordinator and a health educator for Rice County Public Health, who joined the department in April 2018. As the Child and Teen Checkups coordinator, she ensures the community is connected to the necessary resources, including medical and dental, to improve the overall health of Rice County. Her program focuses on youth under 21 who are on medical assistance, assisting them in making appointments and connecting to a primary care source.

In her role, Reece also educates and provides car seats to those in need. She has many additional responsibilities, but in current times, she also works as a case investigator and contact tracer to help our community track and understand COVID-19.

Born and raised in Minnesota, Reece has also lived in Texas and Nebraska. She has a doctorate in health care administration, focusing on community health, a master's degree in health care administration, and a bachelor's degree in allied health/cell and molecular biology.

Reece is a Reiki practitioner and an integrative health and wellness coach. She is married to a penguin zookeeper, has two children (10 and 7), and loves animals, nature, hikes, and a good book.

Rice County Public Health: Addressing Adolescent and Young Adult Depression in Primary Care

Staff from Rice County Public Health and the Minnesota Department of Health have been participating in a national Collaborative Innovative Improvement Network (CoIIN) quality improvement project, Addressing Adolescent and Young Adult Depression in Primary Care.

This virtual, multi-state, nine-month quality improvement project is run by the National Improvement Partnership Network and funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The goal of this project is to increase depression screening and follow-up care for youth ages 12–25 years.

Rice County Public Health recruited local medical clinics in the Rice County area to participate in this project. Focus areas for the project include: rural and tribal health, leadership initiatives, juvenile justice, partnerships with clinicians and clinical organizations, and youth engagement.

The Minnesota Adolescent and Young Adult Behavioral Health (AYABH) CoIIN team prioritized youth engagement as part of their work. One of the team's youth engagement endeavors centers around partnership with a local youth-led group, Moving In New DirectionS (M.I.N.D.S.).

M.I.N.D.S. consists of a team of 12 high school-aged youth from three schools in Rice County – Faribault High School, Discovery School, and the Faribault Alternative Learning Center. This student-led team is partnering with the Minnesota CoIIN team on tackling the following goals: 1) educating adolescent and young adults in self-advocacy efforts, 2) shining a light on mental health and breaking down stigma, and 3) communicating with the community on how to best support adolescents and young adults.

The M.I.N.D.S. team created their group name, a logo, and a work plan to “shine the

light on mental health” in Rice County. For the team, this means reducing stigma and normalizing mental health concerns. The team believes that raising awareness of mental health will help decrease barriers to mental health access and community support.

As part of their action plan, M.I.N.D.S. surveyed adolescent and young adult students from local high schools and middle schools regarding perceptions of and personal experiences with mental health encounters and screenings when seeing medical providers at clinic settings. The team is currently exploring options for advocacy skill building for use at primary medical care visits and a wellness event for school peers to help decrease stigma associated with mental health challenges.

Due to social distancing guidelines, Rice County Public Health staff and the M.I.N.D.S. team are currently meeting virtually. During each virtual convening, there is a “check-in” with each team member to ensure they are receiving the resources they need to support their well-being during the pandemic. After the check-in, M.I.N.D.S. members take the reins of the conversation and strategize on how to keep moving forward this important work. The team invited representatives from local community organizations to some of the virtual meetings as a way to begin partnership building. The M.I.N.D.S. team also hopes to connect with school and medical clinic leaders to provide expertise on how adults can be more supportive of youth.

Although the pandemic has created some barriers, the Minnesota AYABH CoIIN team and the M.I.N.D.S. team are making progress. More information about this project can be found at nahic.ucsf.edu/resource-center/ or by contacting Rice County Public Health Educator Lyndsey Reece at lreece@co.rice.mn.us.

Make a Plan Minnesota! Plan, Prepare, Share.

The Minnesota Department of Human Services recommends that parents and guardians plan for an emergency that could prevent you from caring for your children, especially right now, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Make a Plan Minnesota urges you to develop plans for alternate short-term care for your children in the event that you become seriously ill. By compiling critical information

like your children's medical or educational needs – as well as other information like their preferred routines and comfort items – you can ensure that any needed transition would be easier for you, for the person caring for your children, and your children.

For a guide on making a plan, visit mn.gov/covid19/for-minnesotans/get-help/make-a-plan.jsp.

Draft 2040 Rice County Comprehensive Plan Available For Input

The Comprehensive Plan is a document that provides direction in making land use, development, and other long-range planning decisions in the county. The 2040 Comprehensive Plan update began with a civic engagement process in which all community members were encouraged to participate in developing a shared vision of the county's future. This vision lays the groundwork for a plan with broad goals, policies, and action plans that will guide planning decisions in the future.

The Comprehensive Plan contains components relating to economic development; land use; agricultural and natural resource preservation; transportation; housing and livable community design; parks, recreation, and open space; and sustainability. It contains implementation strategies in the form of goals and objectives to achieve the collaborative

vision of the county's future, and serves as a guide for development decisions over the next 10 to 20 years.

After numerous meetings and methods of gathering input, a draft comprehensive plan document has been developed. The draft 2040 Rice County Comprehensive Plan is available on the county's website at www.co.rice.mn.us/197/Comprehensive-Plan. In addition, included on the webpage is a link to the Fundamental Inventory Guide, which contains extensive background data and information used in the development of the plan.

Rice County is seeking input on the draft 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Fundamental Inventory Guide over the next 60 days before refining the document for formal adoption.

We welcome your input. The future of Rice County depends on you!

Implementation of Contactless Appointment and Payment System for Rice County Solid Waste Facility

For the protection of all residents and to help slow the spread of COVID-19, the Rice County Solid Waste Facility has implemented a new online appointment and payment system. Rice County residents and property owners are asked to use this system if they wish to self-haul any items to the facility.

This online appointment and payment system reduces wait times at the facility while allowing a contactless payment method. It also allows self-haulers to remain in their vehicle except when actually disposing of their items into the appropriate container/area. An added benefit is there is no need to find a parking space to pull over to pay unless you have a dump or double-axle trailer.

To access this new appointment/payment system, visit www.co.rice.mn.us/501/Online-Payments and follow the instructions.

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. The gate attendant will ask for your ID and verify load with proof of payment. We ask that customers practice social distancing and wear masks at the unloading areas.

We continue to recommend contacting a licensed hauler for your waste disposal needs. There is a list of licensed haulers at www.co.rice.mn.us/207/Solid-Waste-Facility that service all areas of Rice County. Please contact them if you are in need of services.

If you need further assistance with making an appointment or have any questions, please send an email to SWAppts@co.rice.mn.us or call 507-332-6833.

The safety and health of our county residents, contractors, and employees is our primary concern. Thank you for your participation in our collective efforts to combat COVID-19 and protect public health.

County Profile



Allan Klug

Rice County IT Manager

Allan Klug was hired as the Rice County IT (information technology) manager in April 2019.

"As the IT manager, I am responsible for technology in use throughout the county, focusing on the computer network and phone system," Klug says. "I manage a team of professionals who work hard to ensure our systems are secure and available for county business."

When asked what he likes best about his job, Klug says, "Working in IT means there is always something new to learn and the job is always evolving."

Klug was raised in Faribault where he graduated from high school then earned an associate's degree from South Central College, followed by a BS in information technology security from Western Governors University. Prior to Rice County, he worked in IT at Steele County for a decade, after being in the private sector.

Klug lives in Owatonna with his wife, Christine, and two boys, Hadrian (14) and Silas (12). Their extended family includes two lab mixes (Olive and Shadow), a tortoise (Thomas), and a tank of fish. He says, "I enjoy weekend camping trips, hiking, and bicycling. Every year we take a family road trip to visit different regions. When not outdoors, I enjoy keeping up with the latest technology."

CLEAN.DRAIN.DRY.

BOATS, TRAILERS & GEAR STOP INVASIVE SPECIES

www.CleanDrainDry.org



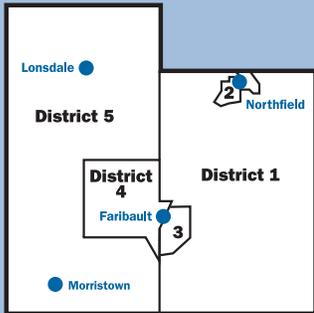


Rice County Report

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, 2020)

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 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; 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.

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

Administrator	Sara Folsted 507-332-6121 sfolsted@co.rice.mn.us
Assessor	Paul Knutson 507-332-6102 pknutson@co.rice.mn.us
Attorney	John Fossum 507-332-6103 jfossum@co.rice.mn.us
Chief Financial Officer	Paula O'Connell 507-332-6122 poconnell@co.rice.mn.us
Community Corrections Director	Rick Gieseke 507-332-6106 rgieseke@co.rice.mn.us
Court Administrator	Lisa Kuhlman 507-497-7148 lisa.kuhlman@courts.state.mn.us
Economic Development Coordinator	Kathy Feldbrugge 507-332-6091 kfeldbrugge@co.rice.mn.us
Environmental Services Director	Julie Runkel 507-332-6113 jrunkel@co.rice.mn.us
Extension Regional Director	Lisa Dierks 507-332-6109 dierksl@umn.edu
Highway Engineer	Dennis Luebbe 507-332-6110 dluebbe@co.rice.mn.us
Housing Director	Joy Watson 507-333-3787 jwatson@co.rice.mn.us
Human Resource Manager	Carol Kritzer 507-332-6100 ckritzer@co.rice.mn.us
Information Technology Manager	Allan Klug 507-333-3777 aklug@co.rice.mn.us
Parks/Facilities Director	Matthew Verdick 507-332-6105 mverdick@co.rice.mn.us
Property Tax & Elections Director	Denise Anderson 507-332-6133 danderson@co.rice.mn.us
Public Health & CHS Director	Deb Purfeerst 507-332-6111 dpurfeerst@co.rice.mn.us
Recorder	Judy VanErp 507-332-6114 jvanerp@co.rice.mn.us
Sheriff	Troy Dunn 507-332-6010 tdunn@co.rice.mn.us
Social Services Director	Mark Shaw 507-332-6115 mshaw@co.rice.mn.us
Veterans' Services Officer	Tracy McBroom 507-332-6117 trmcroom@co.rice.mn.us