



Visit us at the Fair!

Several Rice County departments will have booths at this year's fair. Be sure to stop by and visit with staff members from:

- Attorney's Office
- Extension Office
- Public Health
- Sheriff's Office
- Social Services

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How to Contact Your
Rice County Officials

www.co.rice.mn.us

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

Disposal Program Will Collect, Incinerate Unneeded Medications

A medication disposal program slated to begin operation in the fall of 2009 has the potential to improve the health of all the county's residents – including area wildlife.

"Take It to the Box," a program developed by Rice County's Chemical Health Coalition (CHC), will enable residents with outdated or unneeded over-the-counter, prescription and animal medications to deposit them in locked boxes located in public access areas of the Faribault and Northfield Police Departments. Later they will be transported to approved facilities and incinerated at high temperature, preventing them from being misused and from harming the environment.

"It's important for people to know how to safely use and store medications," notes Mary Ho, director of the Rice County Public Health Department and a member of the CHC. "They also need a safe and convenient way to dispose of them when they're no longer needed. That is what 'Take It to the Box' is designed to provide."

Getting rid of surplus medications reduces chances for accidents, notes Rice County

Sheriff Richard Cook. It also keeps "gateway drugs" out of the hands of anyone who might abuse them. Properly incinerating them puts them permanently out of reach, as well as keeping them out of the environment.

"We're not interested in who's depositing what or why," adds Cook. "If you have medicines you don't need in your home, the boxes will be secure places in which to dispose of them. If you find bags of plant material or pills you can't identify, you can deposit those, too, confidentially, no questions asked."

Pharmaceutical Proliferation, Pollution

Almost every household has medicine leftovers of some kind. The directions on the prescription said "take as needed" and your child only needed a few doses. You had an adverse reaction to a medication, your doctor told you to stop taking it immediately, and now you've got a month's supply that can't be used. You became the caregiver for an ailing relative and found drawers full of out-of-date pills and potions.

[See Medication Disposal Program, page 2](#)

BUCKLE UP:

Motorists, Passengers Not Wearing Seat Belts Can Now be Stopped, Ticketed by Law Enforcement Officers

Seat belts have long been mandatory in Minnesota, but law enforcement officers had not been allowed to stop a vehicle solely because of a suspected seatbelt violation. That changed on June 9 when Minnesota's primary seat belt law went into effect. Drivers and passengers in *all* seating positions must now be buckled up or in the correct child restraint or face the possibility of being stopped and ticketed.

The new law will increase belt-use compliance, preventing traffic deaths and injuries, says the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS). The law is also likely to reduce state health care costs, since unbelted

motorists injured in crashes have hospital charges 60 percent greater than those of motorists wearing belts. Michael Campion, DPS commissioner, says that while a majority of Minnesotans use their seat belts (87 percent), those that don't account for half of all motorist traffic deaths annually. Each year around 200 unbelted motorists are killed in Minnesota, and another 400 unbelted motorists suffer life-altering injuries.

When a vehicle is stopped, all unbelted motorists 15 years of age or older may receive a citation and fine. The fine for not wearing a seat belt is \$25, but with court fees reaches more than \$100.

On the Web

Apply For County Job Openings

Interested in working for Rice County? Openings are not frequent in the current economic climate, but you can arrange to be notified when there is one in your area of interest.

To view openings, go to <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/rice/default.cfm>

To request to be notified of job openings, go to: <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/rice/default.cfm?action=openjobrequest&EmployerID=1490>. Check the box next to each job category for which you would like to receive e-mail notifications (they range from accounting and finance, administration, administrative assistant and attorney to public works, safety and waste management). Fill out the "Job Interest Card" section, then click the "Submit Request" button. For 12 months, you will receive an e-mail each time a matching Rice County position opens.

You'll need an e-mail address in order to use this service. Since all applications are now completed online, you'll also need one to apply. You may sign up for a free one at many sites, including Yahoo (www.yahoo.com), Hotmail (www.hotmail.com) and Google (www.google.com/accounts/).

To apply using the online job application, you'll need to create an account by going to: https://www.governmentjobs.com/js_login.cfm?&TopHeader=rice&

After your account is established, begin by clicking on the "Build Job Application" link. This application can be saved and used to apply for more than one job opening. Online applications are stored on a secure site. Only authorized employees and hiring authorities have access to the information submitted.

Produced by Graffics Design and Ashmore Ink.

Medication Disposal Program

Continued from page 1

When you wanted to dispose of these medications responsibly, you were often told to flush them down the toilet, even though wastewater treatment plants are not capable of removing all these compounds. Waterways around the nation now routinely contain trace residues of everything from aspirin and antidepressants to cholesterol-lowering drugs and narcotics. Fish and other wildlife are developing antibiotic resistances and showing signs of endocrine (hormone) disruption and other problems.

To reduce environmental impact, in recent years the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy has advised people to throw unwanted medications in the trash after mixing them with an undesirable substance such as used kitty litter and sealing them in an impermeable container.

"Doing this undoubtedly limits the release of drugs into landfills," says Mary F. Nelson, a member of the Northfield Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol and Drug Use, the CHC action team which spearheaded development of the new program. "But we decided that there had to be an easier method, one that would spur greater participation."

They discovered that Washington State had a program that enabled residents to bring unwanted drugs to designated pharmacies. Unfortunately, the program couldn't collect substances like oxycodone and other drugs often misused and abused by young people – because federal law requires that controlled substances be handled by police officers or someone registered with the DEA.

The task force finally found the answer it was looking for close to home – in a Chisago County program that collected medicines at the Sheriff's Office in Center City, Minn. The CHC modeled the "Take It to the Box" program on the Chisago one and made it more convenient by implementing it in two cities, instead of just one.

Rice County guidelines are still being developed, notes Nelson. At the moment, however, the program plans to accept over-the-counter medications, herbal remedies and vitamins as well as prescription drugs for people, pets and farm animals. It will accept inhalers, ointments and liquids in leak-proof containers. It will not accept medications from businesses.

How should you package materials that you are depositing? You can put them in a paper bag, but leave medications in their original containers whenever possible, says the CHC. Remove personal information if



Rice County Medication Safety Program

you want (e.g., black out or cut out your name and address), but leave the name of the drug. This will aid sorting. (Controlled substances have to be transported and treated differently than other materials.)

What will happen to medicines that are deposited? The boxes will be emptied regularly by police officers and their contents placed under lock and key. Several times a year the medicines will be sorted and transported to approved incinerators, where they will be safely destroyed.

Learn More at the Fair

You can learn more about "Take It to the Box" at the Rice County Fair. A prototype of the box will be on display at the Rice County Sheriff's booth, and members of the CHC will hand out fact sheets and answer your questions. Another information session will be held Tuesday, August 4, during Minnesota Night to Unite activities in Faribault and Northfield.

The CHC is getting the word out in other ways, too. It is preparing information for use in area pharmacies, schools, youth organizations, churches, business groups, health care providers, environmental groups and county social services, as well as text that will be posted on the Rice County web site when the program is rolled out in mid-September.

For More Information

For more information about "Take It to the Box," phone 507-333-6813 (Faribault program) or 507-664-3524 (Northfield program).

For general information on medicine disposal, visit the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's web site (www.pca.state.mn.us/waste/hhw/pharmaceuticals.html).

For information about the presence and impact of pharmaceuticals in the environment, visit the U.S. Geological Survey (<http://toxics.usgs.gov/regional/emc/>) or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (www.epa.gov/ppcp/).

Clean Water Legacy Grant Underwrites Septic Inventory of Roberds Lake Watershed

Clean Water Legacy funds from the State of Minnesota enabled Rice County to begin last year to inventory area septic systems, with the aim of identifying those that pose threats to public health. The project began in the Roberds Lake Watershed, because in 2006 Roberds Lake was placed on the Clean Water Act's 303(d) list of waters impaired by nutrient runoff, algae blooms, poor water quality, and a dominance of rough fish and other poor qualities.

In all, the county inspected 333 parcels last year, of which 14.6% had systems deemed "imminent health threats," i.e., systems that cause "ground surface or surface water discharges or sewage backup into a

dwelling or other establishment." Bringing these into compliance will not only reduce hazards to human health but may also contribute to improvements in lake quality.

In May, staff began an inventory of the remaining 616 parcels (167 of them undeveloped) of the watershed. They plan to survey the remainder of Wells Township (1,200 parcels total) eventually and will apply for grant funds to inventory the rest of the county.

Further information on the project and on septic systems can be found at www.co.rice.mn.us/planning/rlwproject.php or by contacting the Rice County Environmental Health and Water Resource Management Division at 507-332-6113.

Applying for a Passport? Apply Early

The best advice when applying for a U.S. passport is **apply early!** During peak times, it can take 10 weeks or longer to process an application, but times vary. (Expedited service is available, but that can take 3–6 weeks plus additional fees.) You can find current application processing times at www.travel.state.gov, the U.S. Department of State web site.

The good news for Rice County residents is that there are two places to submit your application: the Recorder's Office in the Government Services Building in Faribault,

320 N.W. Third Street (open 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.), and a satellite office at Northfield City Hall, 801 Washington Street (open on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, 7:15–10:30 a.m.).

For application forms and information on applying for a passport or "passport card," which is a lower-cost, limited use (land and sea only) alternative designed for use by those living close to U.S. borders, visit www.co.rice.mn.us/recorder/passport.php or the U.S. Department of State web site noted above.

Attention, Veterans: Northfield Office Hours

The Rice County veterans' service officer is available in Conference Room C, Northfield City Hall, every Thursday morning for veterans who are unable to get to the Faribault

office. The office is open from 9 a.m. to noon. If you have any questions, contact Rice County Veterans' Service Officer Tracy McBroom at 507-645-9576 or 507-332-6176.

Visit Public Health at the Fair!

Rice County Public Health will be in the Gymnastics Building at the fair. This year's theme is "Summer Safety and Outdoor Fun!" They'll have their famous spin-the-wheel game, free giveaways and drawings for some great prizes.



Visit our booth at the Fair!
July 14–19, 2009

Licensed Providers: Please stop by our booth for a free token of our appreciation for your care of adults/children in Rice County.

For more information about becoming a licensed provider for child care or adult/child foster care, please call **507-332-6115** or visit our web site at www.co.rice.mn.us

County Profile



Tracy McBroom
Veterans' Service Officer

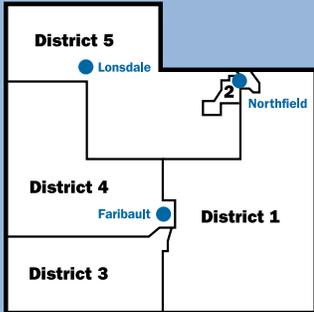
"I enjoy meeting and talking with our veterans," says Tracy McBroom. "They fought for the freedoms we have today, and it is an honor to hear their stories."

McBroom, who became the county's veterans' service officer on January 12, 2009, is responsible for assisting area veterans, their dependents and survivors – helping them apply for benefits provided by the State of Minnesota and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, arranging transportation to the Minneapolis VA Medical Center, and providing referrals to a variety of other public and private programs.

McBroom has some stories of her own to tell. Born and raised in Pemberton, Minn., after high school she joined the U.S. Air Force. There she earned a bachelor's degree in professional aeronautics from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and two associates degrees. Her 20 years as an air traffic controller included service in Berlin a year after the Berlin Wall fell and in Aviano, Italy, during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

After they retired from the Air Force in 2005, McBroom and her husband, Tom, moved to Minnesota. A special agent in the Office of Special Investigations, where he worked on counter intelligence and counter espionage cases, Tom is now a sergeant with the Rice County Sheriff's Department. They have four children: Dallas and Landry, 10, Grant, 7, and Troy, 5.

Contacts



Rice County Board of Commissioners (as of January 1, 2009)

District 1

Jake Gillen
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jgillen@co.rice.mn.us

District 2

Galen Malecha
507-645-6041
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District 3

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District 4

Steve Bauer
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District 5

Jeff Docken
952-652-2876
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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.

Planning Commission

Meets the first and third Thursdays of the month, 7:30 p.m., Commissioners' Room, Rice County Government Services Building.

Board of Adjustment

Meets the second and fourth Mondays of the month; 7:00 p.m., Commissioners' Room, Rice County Government Services Building.

Community Corrections Advisory Board

Meets the third Thursday of even-numbered months (February, April, June, August, October, December), 3:30 p.m., Rice County Government Services Building.

Community Health Services Citizens' Advisory Committee

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

Emergency Medical Services Provider Council

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

Mental Health Advisory Council

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

Rice County Departments

Administrator Gary Weiers
507-332-6101 gweiers@co.rice.mn.us

Assessor Paul Knutson
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Attorney Paul Beaumaster
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Auditor/Treasurer Fran Windschitl
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Community Corrections Director James Haas
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Court Administrator Robert Langer
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Economic Development Director Deanna Kuennen
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Information Technology Director Sherry Hiller
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Parks/Facilities Director Joe McGough
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Planning & Zoning Director Julie Runkel
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Public Health & CHS Director Mary Ho
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Recorder Marsha DeGroot
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Sheriff Richard Cook
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Social Services Director Mark Shaw
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Solid Waste Director Michael Cook
507-332-6833 mcook@co.rice.mn.us

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



2009 Rice County Fair Calendar

TUESDAY, JULY 14

Exhibits & Barns – All Day
 Midway Open – 5 p.m.
 Fair Queen Coronation – 7 p.m.
 Enduro Auto Races – 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

Exhibits & Barns – All Day
 Midway Open – 3 p.m.
 Kids' Pedal Tractor Pull – 6:30 p.m.
 Minnesota Horse Pulling – 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 16

Exhibits & Barns – All Day
 Magic Village – 11:30 a.m.
 Midway Open – 12 p.m.
 Truck & Tractor Pull – 6:30 p.m.
 Killer Hayseeds – 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 17

Exhibits & Barns – All Day
 Tricia & The Toonies – 11:30 a.m.
 Midway Open – 12 p.m.
 Extreme Bull Riding – 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 18

Exhibits & Barns – All Day
 Midway Open – 12 p.m.
 Bluegrass & Gospel Music Festival –
 12:45–10:45 p.m.
 Demolition Derby – 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 19

Midway Open – 1 p.m.
 Amateur Talent Contest – 12 p.m.
 Working Stock Dog Trial – 1 p.m.
 Demolition Derby – 6 p.m.

PLUS MUCH, MUCH MORE!

136th Annual Rice County Fair

Rice County Fairgrounds, Faribault, Minnesota

www.ricecountyfair.net

July 14–19, 2009

Special Attractions at the 2009 Rice County Fair

It's time for the Rice County Fair – some of the most exciting days of the summer! Every year, members of the Fair Board work hard to bring different events and exhibits to the fair. We've scheduled kids' activities at the log cabin, a coloring contest at the school, an old car show on the grounds plus weddings in the church on Saturday. Added this year is an exciting new category in the culinary arts division – a homemade wine contest. There are 11 different classes of flavors in which you can enter.

Admission to the Rice County Fair is free! You will be able to see more than 100 commercial exhibits, lots of animals, and exciting entertainment all week long. Here is a preview of just some of the free entertainment. Be sure to check the full schedule published just prior to the fair.

“**Kid**” **Davie** will perform three times daily from his own stage. A unique, multi-talented entertainer, he is a magician, fire

eater, juggler, stilt-walker and a comedian with many characters.

Also performing daily are the **Mitchell Marionettes**, whose family has delighted audiences for 40 years.

Don't miss Wednesday's new **Guitar Hero** competition on the Cannon Stage, with qualifiers starting at 11 a.m. and finals at 7:30 p.m.

Also on Wednesday is a **Minnesota Horse Pulling** contest at the grandstand at 7 p.m. This event has not been held in Rice County in over 30 years. The evening will feature two classes of large work horses pulling for the win, with over 15 teams of horses expected.

At 11:30 a.m. on Friday, **Tricia & The Toonies** perform a free grandstand show for the kids. A unique mixture of music, puppets, skits and laughter makes this one of the most talked about family stage shows in the Midwest. Between the light musical phrases, crazy antics and belly

laughs, you'll hear powerful messages of teamwork, respect, responsibility, acceptance, the importance of education and our environment and more.

On Saturday, listen to the **Bluegrass & Gospel Music Festival**. Six groups (Cedar Valley, Dick Kimmel & Co., Platte Valley Boys, Redhead Express, String Fever, Whistle Stop) will perform nine straight hours of bluegrass and gospel music on two stages: Midway Stage, 1–10:45 p.m., and Cannon Stage, 12:45–7:30 p.m. Bring along a chair if you plan to stay for the day.

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

Enjoy these events and so much more at the 2009 Rice County Fair!

2009 Entertainment Lineup

Bruce Sellner Memorial Midway Stage

Tues., July 14	Bridgewater Ramblers
Wed., July 15	Rockin' Hollywoods
Thurs., July 16	Peter and Paul and the Wendinger Band
Fri., July 17	Sherwin Linton and The Cotton Kings
Sat., July 18	Bluegrass & Gospel Music Festival
Sun., July 19	Amateur Talent Contest

KDHL – Cannon Stage

Tues., July 14	D.C. and Hawk
Wed., July 15	Guitar Hero Competition
Thurs.–Fri., July 16–17	Lyndon Peterson's One-Man Band
Sat., July 18	Bluegrass & Gospel Music Festival
Sun., July 19	Jeff Thompson Music

Grandstand

Tues., July 14	Enduro Auto Races – 7 p.m.
Wed., July 15	Minnesota Horse Pulling – 7 p.m.
Thurs., July 16	Magic Village – 11:30 a.m.
Thurs., July 16	N.T.P.A. Truck & Tractor Pull – 6:30 p.m.
Fri., July 17	Tricia & The Toonies – 11:30 a.m.
Fri., July 17	Extreme Bull Riding – 7:30 p.m.
Sat., July 18	Demolition Derby – 7 p.m.
Sun., July 19	Demolition Derby – 6 p.m.

Beer Garden Entertainment — Music 8 p.m.–12 a.m.

Tues., July 14	Dweebs
Wed., July 15	Lamont Cranston
Thurs., July 16	Killer Hayseeds
Fri., July 17	Power House
Sat., July 18	Mister Peabody



Every Day – Free Events on the Fairgrounds

“Kid” Davie (3 shows daily)
 Reptile and Amphibian Discovery Zoo
 Kids’ Exotic Petting Zoo – Zoo Tran
 Magic Village
 Mitchell Marionettes
 ... and much more!

CASH DRAWINGS

EVERY DAY – 5 P.M. AND 10:15 P.M.

\$1,300 in cash
given away all week
plus Two Grand Prizes:

Win one of two weekend vacations to Treasure Island (Red Wing) and Grand Casino (Hinckley)

Drawings Held Every Day (Cannon Stage)

(must be present to win)

Stroll the Midway! Over 30 Thrilling Rides!

Ride Specials & Schedule

Tuesday, July 14 – Open 5 p.m.
 Power 96 Radio Night
 8 Rides for \$9.60

Wednesday, July 15 – Open 3 p.m.
 Thrill Day! – Reduced Prices

Thursday, July 16 – Open 12 noon
 Senior Day, Daycare Day
 Special Senior Citizen and Daycare Prices

Friday, July 17 – Open 12 noon
 Kids’ Day – 12–5 p.m.
 (Special Kids’ Arm Band Price = \$15)

Saturday, July 18 – Open 12 noon
 Family Day – 4–10 p.m.
 (Special Family Arm Band Price = \$20)

Sunday, July 19 – Open 1 p.m.
 Amateur Talent & Latino Day
 (Special Arm Band Price, 3–9 p.m. = \$20)

GOLD STAR AMUSEMENTS
Passport to Fun!
 Unlimited Rides for the Entire Fair

\$45⁰⁰

Advance Sale Only
 Sold at Nelson's and Hy-Vee