

2016 Rice County Comprehensive Plan Survey

Your input is needed! Rice County is currently in the process of gathering information for the 2016 Rice County Comprehensive Plan.

If you live or work in the county, please watch for your chance to take a survey focused on key land use issues facing the county. Stop by the Rice County Environmental Services booth at the Fair, July 19-24, for more information, or visit www.co.rice.mn.us/comprehensive-plan or our page on Facebook at www.facebook.com/rccompplan2016.

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Dundas • Faribault
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Warsaw • Webster

Resident Support Needed to Expand County Broadband Service

Access to high-speed Internet (broadband) service has become as vital to a community's infrastructure as roads and water. Unfortunately, many areas of Rice County have slow or no Internet, severely hampering their access to key government services as well as potential economic opportunities.

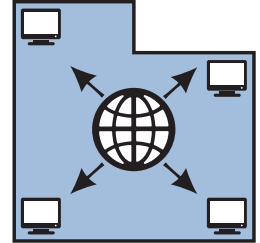
County leaders and staff have been discussing and researching the issue for more than a year, particularly the recent focus on bringing broadband access to those areas in the state that are presently unserved or underserved. The Rice County Board of Commissioners has long recognized the need for providing access to high-speed Internet service. State leaders have as well, and in the 2016 legislative session, provided an additional \$35 million for the Border-to-Border Broadband grant program administered by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED).

"Broadband Internet isn't just nice," Lt. Gov. Tina Smith said in a February 3, 2016, statement. "We need the bandwidth for Minnesota's regional centers and rural economies to support innovation and entrepreneurship. If we don't do this, 244,000 Minnesotans

and hundreds of communities will lack the basic infrastructure to connect to the 21st-century economy, and that's not fair."

Rice County is proactively addressing this need and is collaborating with two local broadband service providers, Jaguar Communications, Inc. and Lonsdale Telephone Company, in an effort to improve the county's chances for receiving a 2016 Broadband Development Grant. While it is exciting that \$35 million in additional broadband funding was approved, a report issued by the Governor's Task Force on Broadband estimated that it would cost \$900 million to \$3.2 billion to fully expand high-speed Internet statewide. Rice County is clearly in a highly competitive environment for grant funding.

The Rice County Board of Commissioners believes that broadband is an essential part of the community infrastructure. It is also in the best interest of the county, because having a



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2016 Sees First Graduate of Rice County Drug Court

On March 31, 2016, Andrea Lyman became the first-ever graduate of the Rice County Drug Court program. A true success story, Lyman stood in front of an audience in the Rice County Courthouse and received a certificate of completion from Judge Thomas Neville. She was 550 days sober and no longer in the grips of addiction.

Lyman was 14 years old when she took her first drink and 15 when she took her first hit of methamphetamine. She then spiraled into a life of drugs, causing the now-27-year-old Faribault resident to struggle ever since. Her addiction could not be stopped – not by her parents, school, jail or treatment. Even having a child at age 20 was not enough to overcome the addiction.

After failing to meet the requirements of parole, Lyman was taken into custody in September 2014. She faced a 58-month sentence for first-degree possession that had been suspended in 2007. Her choice was to take the prison time or enter Rice County Drug Court, which is a great alternative for offenders like Lyman. It is an 18-month to two-year program that includes long-term treatment, intensive monitoring from the court, strict community supervision and frequent chemical testing. At that time, drug court was a new program, and Lyman took the chance. The drug court team stepped in to help. Yvette Marthaler, her case manager who was the drug court coordinator

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Healthy News

SHIP: Making the Healthy Choice the Easy Choice

The Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) is about creating good health for parents, kids and the whole community by decreasing obesity and reducing the number of people who use tobacco or who are exposed to tobacco smoke.

Launched in 2008 as part of Minnesota's bipartisan health reform effort, SHIP works to help Minnesotans live longer, healthier lives while building healthy, vital communities. SHIP encourages healthy eating, active living and avoiding tobacco through its work with schools, communities, workplaces and healthcare facilities to make healthy choices easier.

The Rice County Community Health Board received an implementation grant from the Minnesota Department of Health, allowing Rice County Public Health to build on its existing health improvement work. These funds support community-wide efforts to improve health.

Some of the recent SHIP projects include:

- Bike share and physical activity promotion at KGP Companies.
- Workshop site at Northfield Retirement Community for "Living Well with Chronic Conditions" workshops.
- Increased participation in Bike Month activities throughout the county.
- Hydration station/worksites wellness improvements at Northfield Community Resource Center.

For more information about SHIP, to learn about recent projects or to download the monthly newsletter, visit www.co.rice.mn.us/statewide-health-improvement-program-ship.

Support Needed to Expand Broadband Service

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variety of broadband options is an expectation of current and future residents and businesses. Support from local residents and businesses is a crucial part of the grant application process.

How Residents Can Help

Are you directly impacted by the lack of high-speed Internet access in the county? If so, a letter of support explaining why broadband is important to you, your family and/or your business would help show DEED the impact

a grant award would have in Rice County. Please consider submitting a letter of support for Rice County, Jaguar Communications and Lonsdale Telephone Company's 2016 Minnesota Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant application.

Mail your letter by August 1, 2016, to:
Economic Development Department
Rice County
320 Third Street NW
Faribault, MN 55021
RCED@co.rice.mn.us

Success Happens in Rice County Drug Court

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at the time, told Lyman to listen and let the team tell her how to manage her life for a while.

Lyman went to treatment for 30 days and began to rediscover herself. She became determined to get through the program, and passed every challenge the team threw her way – the required daily phone calls, the weekly meetings, the bi-weekly court sessions. She listened and learned. Now she has a job and even got her driver's license back. She will remain on probation for the time being, but her life is back in order.

Seven other drug court participants attended the ceremony and witnessed Lyman's success. The Rice County team sees Lyman as just the first in what they hope to be a long line of graduates. They hope her success can serve as further inspiration for those still in the program to push through to the end. Coordinator Carolyn Mnichowicz said, "Lyman's graduation is affirmation that drug court works, and the hard work is all worthwhile."

"Not only is the first graduate a good sign for the program that's just over a year old, but with one graduate done and others well on their way, the future is bright for a program that brings light to the many who cannot escape the clutches of addiction," said Mnichowicz.

The program is working to help people get back on track. The Rice County Drug Court is an opportunity for people who have been charged with relatively small drug offenses to find the right path. And with more funding, the drug court could potentially expand to help others just like Lyman.

For an addict whose entire life has depended on and revolved around drug use, the program is a way to a better life, one without drugs and addiction.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Rice County Drug Court (RCDC) is to reduce the adverse impact of serious and repeat offenders on the citizens and criminal justice system of Rice County, and to create a system that is more effective for participants.

RCDC is a problem-solving court that focuses on non-violent offenders with a substance use disorder diagnosis. RCDC coordinates the efforts of the judge, prosecutor, defense attorney, law enforcement, probation, social services and treatment providers to accomplish this mission.

Program Overview

Rice County Drug Court is an 18-month to two-year program (based on individual progress) that includes long-term treatment, intensive monitoring from the court, strict community supervision and frequent chemical testing. Participants are linked with community services to enhance their progress in drug court.

Eligible drug-addicted persons may be sent to drug court in lieu of traditional justice system case processing. Drug courts keep individuals in treatment long enough for it to work, while supervising them closely.

There are three phases in the RCDC. During these phases, participants can earn incentives for meeting or exceeding program requirements or sanctions for not meeting program requirements.

For more information, visit www.co.rice.mn.us/departments/drug-court.



2016 Rice County Fair – Entertainment Highlights

Grandstand

Wed., July 20	Battle of the Bands – 6:30 p.m.
Thurs., July 21	Enduro Auto Races – 6 p.m.
Fri., July 22	Professional Bull Riding – 7 p.m.
Sat., July 23	NTPA Truck & Tractor Pull – 6:30 p.m.
Sun., July 24	Demolition Derby – 4 p.m. (new time!)



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

Thurs., July 21	Old Country Boys
Fri., July 22	Mister Peabody
Sat., July 23	Smokescreen

Cannon Stage (Free Entertainment)

Wed., July 20	Patty Anderson – Noon, 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.
	Brodini Family Comedy/Magic Show – 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.
	Tuey the Juggler – 5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Thurs., July 21	Patty Anderson – 11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 9 p.m.
	Tuey the Juggler – 2 p.m., 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.
	Brodini Family Comedy/Magic Show – 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Fri., July 22	Patty Anderson – Noon, 5:30 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.
	Tuey the Juggler – 3 p.m., 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.
	Brodini Family Comedy/Magic Show – 4 p.m.
Sat., July 23	Minnesota Zoo – Noon
	Brodini Family Comedy/Magic Show – 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.
	Karaoke Contest – 4–6 p.m. (Karaoke Finals – 7–8 p.m.)
	Tuey the Juggler – 8 p.m.
Sun., July 24	Patty Anderson – Noon
	Open Mike – Patty Anderson – 1 p.m.

Sellner Stage (Free Entertainment)

Tues., July 19	Larry Jindra, Boogieland Entertainment – 6 p.m.
	Rice County Fair Queen Coronation – 7 p.m.
Wed., July 20	Lyndon Peterson – 1–3 p.m. and 4–5 p.m.
	Jivin' Ivan & The Kings of Swing – 6:30 p.m.
Thurs., July 21	Herb Sellner Band – 9:30 a.m.
	Jolly P's – 2–5 p.m.
	Whitesidewalls – 6–10 p.m.
Fri., July 22	Czech Singers – 1 p.m. / Czech Dancers – 2 p.m. / Czech Concertina Club – 3–5 p.m.
	Brad Boice, Elvis Impersonator – 7–9 p.m.
Sat., July 23	Flemming Fold – 11:30 a.m.
	Zackaryz Band – 2–5 p.m.
	Sherwin Linton – 7 p.m.
Sun., July 24	Amateur Talent Contest with Larry Jindra, Boogieland Entertainment – Noon
	4-H Fashion Review – 3 p.m.
	4-H Talent Show – 4 p.m.

Attend the 2016 Rice County Fair

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

Admission to the Rice County Fair is free. Parking on the grounds costs \$5 per day or the full fair for \$20.

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

Please remember: Pets, skateboards, bikes, inline skates or roller skates are NOT allowed on the fairgrounds. (There are exceptions for service animals and pets allowed for exhibition, demonstration or show.) Please help ensure the safety of all our visitors. Enjoy the 2016 Rice County Fair!

Tobacco-Free Grounds

With the recent adoption of a tobacco-free grounds policy for the Rice County Government Services Building and Courthouse, the Rice County Fairgrounds has also implemented the tobacco-free policy at the fair.

There will be designated areas for tobacco use on the grounds, including the parking lot and beer garden. These areas will be noted in the Rice County Fair program.

On The Web

Free Wi-Fi, Online Reservations at McCullough Park

For a nearby getaway this summer, visit McCullough Park, Rice County's campground on Shields Lake.

Located on the north side of Shields Lake, 11 miles northwest of Faribault, McCullough Park offers visitors much to explore, including 750 feet of shoreline, scenic bluffs, beautiful overlooks, natural trails, and a six-acre island bird sanctuary. An adjacent DNR boat access gets those who want to fish onto the 940-acre lake.

The park features 30 campsites (20 with electrical and water; 10 with electrical, water and sewer), all with picnic tables and fire rings. Three of the camping sites are accessible to campers with disabilities. New this year – nine seasonal sites are available for \$2,000 per season (campers must be removed at the end of the season).

Amenities include modern toilet and shower facilities, an RV dump station, a picnic shelter, children's play area, free Wi-Fi access, and a dock with a new, additional 40' section.

Visit www.webreserv.com/ricecountyenvironmental servicesmn to make online reservations. For traditional reservations, call 507-332-6112 or email RCCamping@co.rice.mn.us.

For more information, visit www.co.rice.mn.us/departments/parks-facilities.

Save the Dates: Free Residential Electronics and Appliance Recycling Collection Events

Rice County Environmental Services has scheduled three free electronics and appliance recycling collection events. On these days, fees will be waived to allow residents to dispose of items in a responsible, cost-effective manner.

2016 Electronics Recycling Dates

- **Sat., October 1 (8 a.m.–12 p.m.)**
at Rice County Fairgrounds in Faribault (enter the Fairgrounds off of Hwy. 3)
- **Sat., October 15 (8 a.m.–12 p.m.)**
at Rice County Highway Shop in Lonsdale (110 5th Avenue NW, Lonsdale)
- **Sat., October 29 (8 a.m.–12 p.m.)**
at Rice County Highway Shop in Dundas (597 County Road 1, Dundas)

Restrictions

Only Rice County residents are eligible to bring in material. Proof of residency will be required (a current driver's license or

utility bill statements with I.D. verification). **No business electronics will be accepted.**

What Kinds of Things Will be Accepted?

Electronics – Television sets, computer monitors, computer towers and laptops, household printers, fax machines, small electronic video games and devices, and rechargeable devices such as cell phones and MP3 players/iPods.

Appliances – Refrigerators, freezers, washers and dryers, microwave ovens/stoves, dishwashers, garbage disposals, trash compactors, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, water heaters and heat pumps/furnaces.

What Will Not be Accepted?

Small devices such as fans, toasters, hair dryers, blenders, garbage or household hazardous waste will not be accepted. To dispose of these items properly, visit www.co.rice.mn.us/waste, where full information will be posted.

Visit us at the 2016 Rice County Fair!

Visit this year's Rice County Fair, where these departments will be on hand with displays.

- **Environmental Services** – This year's focus is on the 2016 Comprehensive Plan update and the environment. Visit the booth to take a survey on land use issues facing the county over the next 20 years. Also featured will be key environmental issues, including steps to avoid the spread of aquatic invasive species and tips for reducing your carbon footprint through the county's recycling programs.
- **Rice County Public Health** will have an educational booth and survey regard-

ing tobacco-free environments, including information about the health effects of tobacco and second-hand smoke with cessation resource materials available. Also featured is a lactation station area with educational materials promoting the health benefits of breastfeeding.

- **The Sheriff's Office** will be present in the usual location (across from the 4-H building near the parking lot) in their Mobile Command Bus. Staff will be available to answer any questions, and provide public safety and first aid to those in need at the fair.

A Reminder About Available Veterans' Services

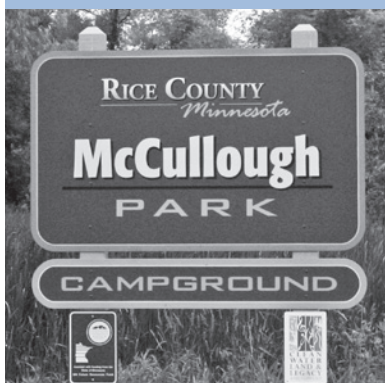
Rice County Veterans' Services is available to provide assistance and support to veterans and their dependents in obtaining veteran benefits through county, state and federal programs.

Services Provided Include:

- Assisting veterans in obtaining their military discharge documents (DD Form 214).
- Assisting veterans enrolling in the VA healthcare system.

- Filing claims for VA disability benefits.
- Filing claims for state disability benefits.
- Scheduling transportation for veterans to the Minneapolis VA Medical Centers.
- Assisting with burial benefits.

If you believe you are eligible for any of these benefits and live in Rice County, please contact Tracy McBroom at 507-332-6117 or RCVeteransService@co.rice.mn.us.



New Mountain Bike Trail at Caron Park

Caron Park is home to a new mountain bike trail. Constructed completely by CROCT (Cannon River Offroad Cycling and Trails) volunteers, the project was carried out with the approval of the Rice County Parks & Facilities department and the Rice County Board of Commissioners subcommittee for parks.

The beginner/intermediate-level trail segment is a new feature of Caron Park (6816 170th Street E., Faribault), a 60-acre park located north of County Road #88 (170th Street) and three miles from Nerstrand Woods State Park in the eastern part of the county. In June 2015, over 30 volunteers showed up to construct the first phase of the trail; in November 2015, an extension was added.

This mountain bike trail is similar to the mountain biking and hiking trails at River Bend Nature Center, which are designed to encourage and accommodate human activity in the midst of nature.

Unlike the pre-existing trails at Caron Park, the new CROCT trail was designed to be sustainable and erosion resistant, constructed with a slightly crowned tread on flat terrain or an outsloped tread on sloping terrain. Announcements are regularly made via social media regarding closure of the trail if it

gets too wet to walk or ride without damaging it. CROCT also uses social media to educate riders on the importance of not riding across or in streams to prevent erosion and sediment disruption, and informing of rules about co-existing with nature, wildlife and other users.

Rice County Parks & Facilities Director Jake Rysavy said, “The trail is a great addition to Caron Park. And an advantage of having more people in the park for a multi-use mountain bike trail is to discourage vandalism that occasionally happens at the park.”

For More Information

CROCT (Cannon River Offroad Cycling and Trails) is a mountain bicycling club operating in Rice County, Minnesota. Their mission is to advocate for, build, maintain and enjoy sustainable trails for offroad cycling and other recreational use in the Cannon River region. They are a chapter of the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA).

Visit www.croct.org for more information about the organization, to view photos of the Caron Park project, and to read the latest entries in their blog. To learn about all the parks in Rice County, visit www.co.rice.mn.us/departments/parks-facilities.

County Profile



Lisa Gillispie
Office Support Specialist/
IT Liaison
Social Services

Lisa Gillispie loves her job in Social Services. As a Rice County employee since 1990, she provides a variety of office support duties for the department. “Some of my duties include doing background checks, designing forms, brochures and newsletters, maintaining the retention schedule for the State of Minnesota, and troubleshooting IT problems and working closely with the IT department.” She says, “I am very thankful to work with an awesome group of co-workers and supervisors. The most rewarding part of my job is knowing that I’m there for staff and to help them with whatever they need.”

Gillispie was born in Sioux Falls, S.D., and raised in Montevideo, Minn., graduating from Montevideo High School. She attended the University of Minnesota with a major in music and a minor in history.

She has two daughters, Amber and Ashley, who both got married in 2015, and a significant other, Patrick. Gillispie loves to golf, garden, play piano for worship services and weddings, and spend time with her family. She says, “I am very thankful to have been raised by parents who really instilled in me to always be a blessing to others and to always have faith. They have inspired me to live my life this way every day.”

CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY. Leading the Fight Against Aquatic Invasive Species

Do you think the impact of aquatic invasive species (AIS) is limited to the lakes up north? Sadly, no. Ten lakes in Rice County have been listed for AIS by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Flowering rush and Eurasian watermilfoil infest our area lakes, harming the fish population, damaging the lakes’ natural habitats and impairing water quality.

So what can the recreational outdoor enthusiast do? Three words: **CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY.** When enjoying our lakes, be it boating, fishing, jet skiing or tubing, please be sure to **CLEAN** your equipment. **DRAIN** it of all lake or river water. **DRY** it off so these invasive species don’t spread, impacting other lakes and rivers in the region and, in turn, our ability to enjoy them.

Rice County Environmental Services is committed to working within the county to stop the spread of AIS. The following is a list of the AIS impacting lakes and rivers in Rice County and where they are found:

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES/ WATER BODY NAME	
Flowering Rush	Eurasian Watermilfoil
Cannon River (from Wells Lower Sakatah to the confluence with the Straight River), Cannon, Sprague, Wells	Cedar, Circle, Fox, French, Hunt, Mazaska, Shields
Source: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources List of Infested Waters – November 19, 2015	

If you suspect a new AIS infestation, please note the location, take a photo or keep a specimen and call a DNR AIS specialist at 651-259-5100. For further information on AIS, visit www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquatic/index.html, contact Rice County Environmental Services at 507-332-6113 or www.co.rice.mn.us/aquatic-invasive-species, or visit the Clean Drain Dry Initiative at www.wildlifeever.org/invasive-species.

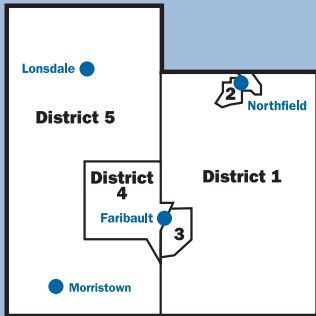


Rice County Report

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

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Contacts



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

District 1
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jgillen@co.rice.mn.us

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

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

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

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

Phone Numbers

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

Rice County Standing Meetings

Board of Commissioners

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

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

Board of Adjustment

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

Planning Commission

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

Community Corrections Advisory Board

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

Community Health Services Citizens' Advisory Committee

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

Rice County Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council

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

Mental Health Advisory Council

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

Rice County Departments

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
Auditor/Treasurer	Fran Windschitl 507-332-6104 fwindschitl@co.rice.mn.us
Community Corrections Director	Christine Curtis 507-332-6106 ccurtis@co.rice.mn.us
Court Administrator	Hans Holland 507-332-6107 hans.holland@courts.state.mn.us
Environmental Services Director	Julie Runkel 507-332-6113 jrunkel@co.rice.mn.us
Extension Regional Director	LuAnn Hiniker 507-332-6109 luannah@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	507-332-6123
Information Technology	Shelley Langevin 507-333-3777 slangevin@co.rice.mn.us
Parks/Facilities Director	Jake Rysavy 507-332-6105 jrysav@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 507-332-6176 trmcmbroom@co.rice.mn.us