

## Comprehensive Plan Survey

Rice County is in the process of updating the Rice County Comprehensive Plan and values your input on how the county should develop over the next 20 years.

A printed version of the survey is found inside this newsletter. An electronic version is also available and can be completed online at [www.co.rice.mn.us/special-projects/comprehensive-plan-2016-survey](http://www.co.rice.mn.us/special-projects/comprehensive-plan-2016-survey).

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey to the best of your ability. The information you provide will be beneficial in guiding the development of the Comprehensive Plan.

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Comprehensive Plan Survey

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

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

## Economic Development Department Committed to Capitalizing on Area Assets

It's not the only reason there is a lot of opportunity for economic development in Rice County, says Kathy Feldbrugge, but being strategically located along the I-35 corridor, with its quick, robust access to the Twin Cities, and having property available for industrial development, business parks, and small downtown office operations makes the job of attracting new business to the area less difficult. Other strong advantages include the availability here of a large skilled and diverse labor pool, first-class training programs, and county leaders who are committed to fostering an environment that welcomes development.

"Rice County has so many assets to offer employers who want to expand here or relocate from elsewhere," Feldbrugge noted. "A good part of the department's work is devoted to developing relationships that help us communicate that and deliver on it – working with local and county governments, private businesses, community groups, state and federal agencies, educational institutions, etc., to identify and coordinate initiatives that contribute to a business-friendly environment."

Feldbrugge, who became the county economic development coordinator in September after serving since June 2013 as the economic

development specialist, is charged with "[assisting] the county administrator in all activities associated with promoting and recruiting new, quality job opportunities and increasing the commercial/industrial tax base within the county." It is work that she enjoys greatly and has much experience with, having formerly served as executive director of the Northfield Area Chamber of Commerce, a position she held for 31 years.

Exactly what, though, does the Rice County Economic Development Department do?

A look at the department's year-end review for 2016 offers some answers. In addition to providing information to enterprises interested in locating or growing in Rice County, it maintained an inventory of available commercial and industrial buildings and sites in the area, delivered marketing material and activity information to interested parties, and generated economic development content for the county website ([www.co.rice.mn.us](http://www.co.rice.mn.us)). Other major department projects included:

- Reviewing and discussing language regarding the economic development component of the new Rice County Comprehensive Plan.

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## Sales Tax for Transportation Update

With a total of 428 miles of roadways to upgrade and maintain, finding stable, dedicated sources of revenue to fund the needed improvements is a top priority for Rice County. Sales tax for transportation generates approximately \$3 million per year, and is an extremely important revenue stream.

After months of discussions, planning and deliberation, and a public hearing held on September 9, 2013, the Rice County Board of Commissioners approved the collection of a 0.5 percent sales tax for transportation. This sales tax became effective on January 1, 2014, and is dedicated to directly fund or augment existing funding of highway and drainage projects identified and approved by the Board.

As part of the build up to the sales tax decision, the Rice County Highway Department was assigned by the Board to develop alternate scenarios for road and bridge work – with and without the sales tax. A 10-year capital improvement plan was presented to the Board that identified 23 projects that would receive sales tax funding.

Because no direct state funding is provided for the 149 miles of county roads, all improvements to these roads must be locally funded. Historically, this funding relied solely on the property tax levy. The 10-year capital improvement plan identified 13 county road

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## Healthy News

### You Can Still Get a Flu Vaccination

Even though it's January, it is not too late to get your flu vaccination. Influenza (flu) is a contagious respiratory infection that can be a serious, even life-threatening illness. **A flu vaccination is recommended for everyone 6 months of age and older, every year.**

It takes two weeks for the body to respond to the vaccine, so acting now means a person should reach full immunity before the peak of the flu season.

Flu vaccination is especially important for those at higher risk for serious flu-related complications, such as children, adults 65 and older, pregnant women, and people with asthma, diabetes or other chronic health conditions. It's also important to get vaccinated if you provide care for those at high risk, including babies younger than 6 months, since they are too young to get the vaccine. Although the vaccine will not prevent every case of the flu, getting an annual vaccination is the best way to reduce the risk of serious illness.

Flu vaccinations are offered at a variety of locations throughout Rice County, including your doctor's office and pharmacies. In addition, Rice County Public Health has flu vaccine available for those without a regular source of healthcare or for those who are uninsured. A donation of \$15 is suggested for those without insurance, however no one is denied due to inability to pay. Walk-in immunization clinics are held every Tuesday at the Rice County Public Health office, 1-4 p.m. No appointment is necessary.

For more information about the flu or how to obtain a vaccination, contact your healthcare provider, Rice County Public Health at 507-332-6111, or visit [www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/flu/basics](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/flu/basics).

## Rice County Economic Development Department

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- Meeting with county department heads and key city individuals regarding the Regional Economic Development Priorities.
- Coordinating months of communication and meetings in connection with a Minnesota Border-to-Border Broadband Development 2016 Grant application submitted in October, a joint effort of Rice County, Lonsdale Telephone Company and Jaguar Communications, Inc. The county is currently waiting to hear if its proposed Rural Rice County Broadband Project will receive funding.
- Coordinating meetings regarding transportation, specifically the I-35 North Corridor and Interchanges and transit service and hubs in Rice County.

Throughout the year, Feldbrugge made business retention and expansion visits to area businesses to learn about their business needs, concerns and future plans. The department also

assisted with four new business projects that resulted in the approval of two Rice County Revolving Loans and two other projects seeking Rice County Tax Abatement. Revolving loans of \$50,000 each were made to Imminent Brewing Company and Tanzenwald Brewing Company, both located in Northfield. Tax abatement was approved for Mill City Senior Living, a \$16.8-million project in Faribault, and for Technical Methods Inc., a Lakeville company that has moved to Lonsdale's business park, bringing with it high-paying jobs for 15+ employees who will work in a new 12,000-square-foot manufacturing facility.

As the county's marketing materials state, Feldbrugge notes, this is a vibrant area that offers many possibilities. It is exciting and rewarding, she says, to be a part of a region and an organization filled with people who are actively looking to the county's future and working to grow, attract and retain a wide variety of businesses and industries.

## Sales Tax for Transportation Update

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projects to be funded solely by sales tax, not property tax. This funding shift reduces the strain on the county levy. Prior to adopting the sales tax, funding for these 13 county road projects was not available.

Proceeds from the tax collected in 2014 were programmed into the 2015 budget and construction plan. Projects included the rehabilitation of 3.6 miles of CR 99, an important local road that provides access to Sakatah State Park in the southwest corner of the county, and 3.0 miles for the rehabilitation of CR 68, which provides access to the Roberds Lake and French Lake resorts and developments.

During 2016, sales tax revenues helped fund the 7-mile concrete resurfacing project

on CSAH 46, near the Faribault airport, north to the CSAH 1 roundabout. Other funded projects included drainage improvements on CSAH 8 and CSAH 23, and funding for the reconstruction of CSAH 28 (Woodley Street) in collaboration with the City of Northfield.

In 2017, planned sales tax-funded projects include a bridge replacement on CSAH 21 in Walcott Township, drainage improvements on CSAH 33, CSAH 19 and CR 81, pavement rehabilitations on CR 71, CSAH 8, CSAH 23, and improvements to CSAH 1, CSAH 8 and CSAH 20 within the Dundas city limits.

The 10-year capital improvement plan is updated annually. To view the current transportation improvement plan, visit [www.co.rice.mn.us/departments/highway](http://www.co.rice.mn.us/departments/highway).

## 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. **Tree orders should be placed by February 24,**

with trees arriving in 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, call the District office at 507-332-5408 or visit [www.riceswcd.org](http://www.riceswcd.org).

# Rice County Landfill, Recycling and Household Hazardous Waste Facilities

3800 145th Street E., Dundas, MN 55019 • 507-332-6833

www.co.rice.mn.us/departments/solid-waste-facility • 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)

## 2017 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).

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

JANUARY 2017							FEBRUARY 2017							MARCH 2017							APRIL 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4				1	2	3	4							1
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
29	30	31					26	27	28					26	27	28	29	30	31	23 30	24	25	26	27	28	29	

MAY 2017							JUNE 2017							JULY 2017							AUGUST 2017						
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	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3							1	30	31	1	2	3	4	5
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31			

SEPTEMBER 2017							OCTOBER 2017							NOVEMBER 2017							DECEMBER 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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REDUCE • REUSE • RECYCLE

— REMOVE AND SAVE —

REDUCE • REUSE • RECYCLE

## ReUSE Minnesota: Upcycle Your Life

Rice County residents and businesses wishing to support sustainable living and reduce waste now have a streamlined, localized resource: the new ReUSE Minnesota website, [www.reusemn.org](http://www.reusemn.org).

Easy to use, the site connects users to the ReUSE Minnesota business community's local, thrifty and eco-friendly goods

and services. Simply go to [www.reusemn.org](http://www.reusemn.org) and type in an item or location and choose what you want to do: sell, buy, rent, fix or donate.

In addition to serving as a business directory for consumers, the site allows businesses, individuals and organizations of any size to get listed and promote their

services. Membership in the non-profit trade organization is encouraged, but not required.

As 2017 begins, the 3 R's – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – are more important than ever. Help the environment. Go to [reusemn.org](http://reusemn.org) to get listed and promote your second-hand goods or rental and repair services.

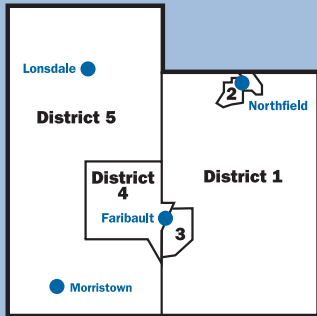


# Rice County Report

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, 2017)

**District 1**  
Jake Gillen  
507-334-5746  
jgillen@co.rice.mn.us

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

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

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

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

## Phone Numbers

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

## Rice County Standing Meetings

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

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

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

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

**Community Corrections Advisory Board**  
Meets the third Thursday of 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  
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**Economic Development Coordinator** Kathy Feldbrugge  
507-332-6091 kfeldbrugge@co.rice.mn.us  
**Environmental Services Director** Julie Runkel  
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**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** Carol Kritzer  
507-332-6124 ckritzer@co.rice.mn.us  
**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  
507-332-6117 trmcroom@co.rice.mn.us