

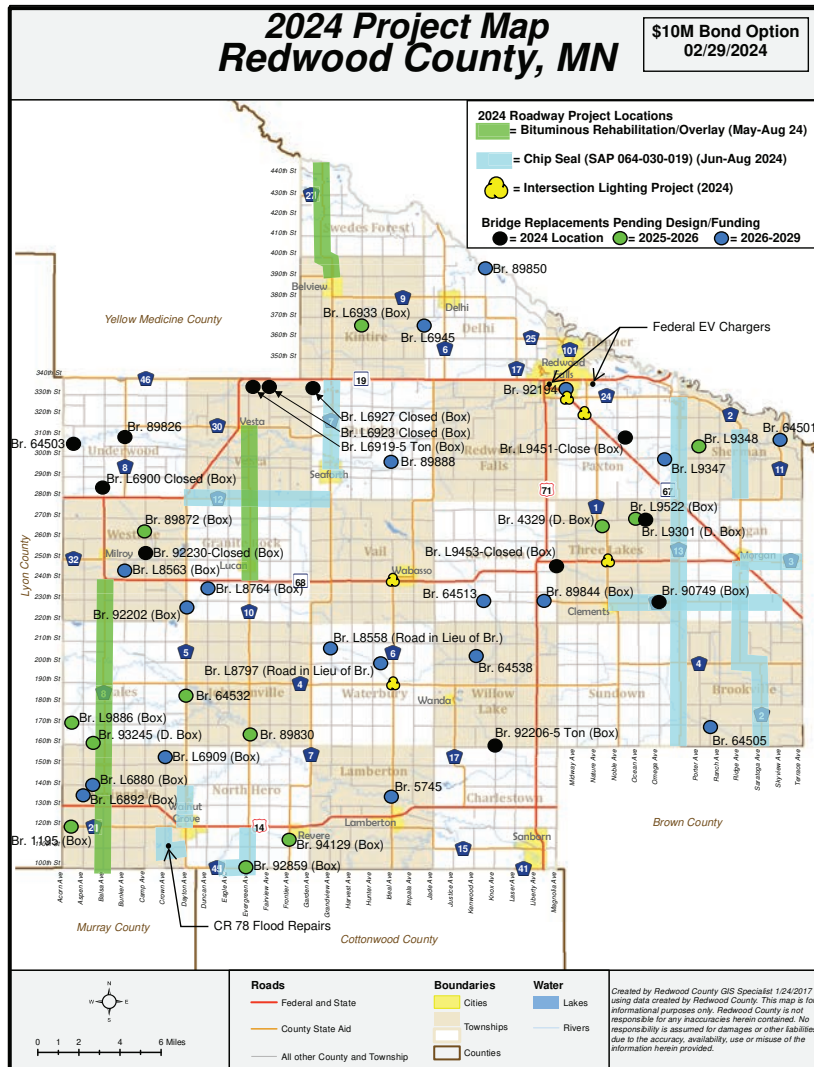


REDWOOD COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT PUBLISHES INFORMATIONAL VIDEO



February 27, 2024 (Redwood Falls) - Are you looking to better understand how the Redwood County Highway Department works? Are you curious how County Road and Bridge maintenance and construction is funded and what portions

your local property taxes pay for? Anthony Sellner, County Engineer, and Larry Hubert, Maintenance Foreman and Supervisor, walk through these aspects of the Redwood County Highway Department in this intriguing and informative video. Scan the QR code to watch the video or visit the Redwood County Highway Department website.



By the end of 2024, the Redwood County Hwy Dept will have completed 127 miles of pavement rehabilitation since 2019, accounting for 39% of all paved county roadways. Despite these efforts, there is still much more work to do in the next five years. There is an estimated 115 more miles of pavement rehabilitation or reconstruction needed. Of that 115 miles, 69 miles are still unfunded with an estimated value of \$26M.

There is also substantial bridge reconstruction occurring within Redwood County, funded largely by State and Federal bridge funds. The Highway Department has reconstructed 23 bridge structures between 2021 and 2023, and is looking to reconstruct another 48 structures between 2024 and 2029. These 71 structures represent 24% of all bridge structures in the County. Many of the bridges needing replacement were built around the same time period, and are all coming due to be replaced in a similar time frame. As of today, the Highway Department has secured over \$18M in bridge funding that will be completed over the next two years.

If you are interested in learning more, call the Redwood County Highway Department at 507-637-4056 or visit our website and view the video and Five Year Road and Bridge Plan at <https://redwoodcounty-mn.us/departments/highway-department/>.

For more information visit redwoodcounty-mn.us and follow Redwood County on Facebook.

SPRING MESSAGE

*By: Vicki Kletscher,
County Administrator*

Welcome! On behalf of the Redwood County Board of Commissioners, and all county employees, welcome to another edition of the Redwood County Connection newsletter. As of this writing, we are anticipating a chance of accumulating snow in the upcoming week. I hope by the time this newsletter reaches your home, we are warming up and spring will be here for certain!

As always, this newsletter is intended to help you connect with your county government by providing public information and announcements, informing you of county services, and reminding you that you can conduct a myriad of county business through the County’s website. You may also keep up to date by following the County’s social media platforms and subscribing to our email subscription service.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

County government is an arm of the state. Each year the State Legislature passes many laws that impact county finances, operations, and decision-making authority. In addition, state laws impacting the County will impact you as a county customer and county taxpayer. Thus, your County Board of Commissioners has been active in the legislative process this year.

The Legislative Session won’t conclude until late May, so stay tuned!

There is lots of good and interesting information about your county government inside this newsletter. Thank you to the many departments for their contributions.

Enjoy!

LOOK THROUGH THE ENTIRE NEWSLETTER

In this edition, you will find lots of good information including an opportunity for you to participate in the Redwood County Housing Study. You’ll want to check out other opportunities for you to become involved with and learn about some of the many programs and services provided by your county government.

INTERESTED IN STAYING UP TO DATE WITH REDWOOD COUNTY NEWS?

SIGN UP FOR EMAIL NOTICES

redwoodcounty-mn.us

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

“We are all longing to go home; to a place we have never been, a place half remembered and half envisioned that we can catch glimpses of from time to time. Community. Somewhere, there are people to whom we can speak with passion without having the words catch in our throats. Somewhere a circle of hands will open to receive us, eyes will light up as we enter the room, and voices will celebrate with us whenever we come into our own power. Community means strength that joins our strength, to do the work that

needs to be done. Arms to hold us when we falter. A circle of healing, a circle of friends. Someplace where we can be free.” (Howard Zehr)

Redwood County Restorative Justice is a response to wrongdoing within our community that prioritizes repairing the harm caused and recognizes that maintaining positive relationships with others is a core human need. It seeks to address the root causes of harmful actions taken on another person, community, and oneself. Restorative justice is a process to involve, to the extent possible, those who have a stake in a specific offense and to collectively identify and address harms, needs, and obligations in order to heal and put things as right as possible.

respectful and holistic way with all involved. The Circle Process is a storytelling process. Everyone has a story, and every story has a lesson. In this process, we connect with one another in a good way to work on the solutions we need to repair the harm and unite together to do better.

This is an invitation for you to join the number of Circles that we currently have - The Family & Community Circle, Circle Sentencing, and Oasis Circle. We welcome anyone who would like to support change, repair the harm caused, and celebrate the good achieved within our community. If you would like more information on the days and times of the Community Circles, what the intentions of the different Circles are, or if you need a space for support, you can reach Eric Johnson (Restorative Justice Coordinator) at 507-637-1139 or eric_j@co.redwood.mn.us, and I will discuss more about the Circle Process and answer any questions.

“A healthy social life is found only, when in the mirror of each soul the whole community finds its reflection, and when in the whole community the virtue of each one is living.”
Rudolf Steiner

REDWOOD COUNTY RESTORATIVE JUSTICE



Circles are used for team building, problem solving and celebration!

We are always seeking caring and passionate individuals to volunteer!
GIVE US A CALL! (507) 637-1139

In facilitating these conversations to address the harms caused, issues, and support needed in our community, we use the Circle Process - an indigenous way to communicate our concerns, goals, and solutions in a



MNCITLA DAY on the Hill Event, St. Paul

By: Paul Parsons, Technology Director

MNCITLA (Minnesota County IT Leadership Association) members traveled to Saint Paul to meet with legislators and advocate for MNCITLA legislative priorities. The group first met with MNIT (Minnesota Information Technology) Commissioner Tarek Tomes, MNIT CISO John Israel, and MNIT Government Relations Director Brandon Hirsch for a roundtable discussion of MNIT and MNCITLA priorities. The group then met with Representative Jim Nash and Representative Kristin Bahner. These were important information sharing discussions and the legislators—both having worked in cybersecurity and software development, respectively—were glad to have fellow technologists visit their offices. Legislators often turn to Representatives Nash and Bahner (and other members with technology experience) to advise them on major decisions about IT-related legislation. So, it was important that they hear from MNCITLA and know that we are paying attention to their work.

GARDENING SEASON ON ITS WAY!

Rain barrels will be available for \$90 each plus tax, and compost bins will be available for \$76 each at the Environmental Office. Each 45-gallon rain barrel has a spigot, an overflow hose, and a flat-back design for easy placement of a downspout. The 125-gallon compost bins have lockable lids and sliding doors. Both the rain barrels and compost bins are made from 100% recycled plastic materials.

DO I NEED A PERMIT?

If you are constructing, moving or altering any building or structure on your property in Redwood County and are outside city limits, the answer is

YES!

 Jeanette Pidde
Planning and Zoning Supervisor

 (507) 637-4023

 jeanette_p@co.redwood.mn.us

 redwoodcounty-mn.us/departments/environmental-office



Spring Marks the Start of Construction Season!

Before construction begins, make sure you contact the Environmental Office to secure the appropriate permits. This includes zoning permits and septic permits. Zoning permits cover buildings and other structures that are constructed or moved onto the property. We have recently updated several of our application forms. The new forms can be found on the website or in person at the Environmental Office counter. For those that qualify, there are septic grants and loans available each year to assist individuals with upgrading noncompliant or failing systems.

REDWOOD COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE

for sale!



RAIN BARREL

45 - GALLON CAPACITY
\$90 + SALES TAX

made from
100%
recycled
plastic



COMPOST BIN

125 - GALLON CAPACITY
\$76 + SALES TAX

REDWOOD COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
403 S. MILL STREET, REDWOOD FALLS

(507) 637-4023



Greetings from Plum Creek Park!

by Adam Kletscher, Park Ranger

The winter was quite a change from last year, but a welcome one. While the lack of snow and ice made it difficult for people to enjoy the normal, fun winter activities, many people were able to go out to hike and explore the park in such mild weather. The great weather also allowed us time to get much work accomplished at the park. We worked together with the road crew to do some mulching and trimming on our hiking trail around Lake Laura to make it more user friendly. The STS crew has been busy cutting down numerous dead pine trees around the park. It is great to be able to have several county agencies working together to help keep our park one of the best in the area.

As we jump into spring, we are looking forward to continuing great weather and the busyness that summer brings. We already have several softball and youth baseball games scheduled for the lower park. Reservations opened on January 9th and things are

already filling up, so if you haven't gotten your reservation, do so today! July will be a busy month with the 50th Anniversary of the Laura Ingalls Wilder TV show with many cast members coming to Walnut Grove for the celebration.

We are getting closer to starting our beach improvement project. Last year

we received an \$800,000 grant from the Greater Minnesota Parks and Trails Committee to update our beach and make it more user-friendly. We are excited for the changes to come. Hopefully, we will be able to start the project late this summer.

Whether you like to camp or are just looking for a day trip, head to Plum Creek Park in Walnut Grove and check out what we have to offer. It is a wonderful place to escape and spend some time in nature.

adventure awaits you at
PLUM CREEK PARK

CAMPER CABINS RV SITES LAKE LAURA PRIMITIVE SITES

there is something for everyone!

Walnut Grove, MN

plumcreekpark.com

Redwood County Housing Study

Help shape the future of housing in Redwood County.

Share your housing needs and perspectives to help identify issues, opportunities and priorities.

Learn more, sign up for updates and take our survey!

Scan the QR code to visit the project website or go to:

<https://arcg.is/f8jHz>



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES TO INVOKE CHANGE

REDWOOD COUNTY
EST. 1862

PRIORITIES TO INVOKE CHANGE

SUPPORT HOUSING INITIATIVES	IMPROVE BROADBAND	SUPPORT CHILDCARE
SUPPORT CAREER DEVELOPMENT	BUSINESS RETENTION, EXPANSION, & ATTRACTION	PROMOTE RECREATION & TOURISM

COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
BUILDING A BETTER COMMUNITY
[HTTPS://REDWOODCOUNTYEDA.COM/](https://redwoodcountyyeda.com/)

April Showers Brings Celebration of 4-H Volunteers

National Volunteer Week Begins April 21, 2024

We are thankful for our volunteers! 4-H volunteers are found throughout Redwood County! Volunteers are essential for our 4-H youth development program and the success our kids can find in Redwood County 4-H. Volunteers bring a sense of community and community involvement.

Nearly 100 screened volunteers in Redwood County 4-H help maintain our 4-H Safety of Minors goals by completing our screened volunteer program and can wear a variety of hats depending on their interest. In addition to our screened volunteers, we have many more adults who are helping in 4-H programs.

An example, in 2023 we filled 150+ youth and adult volunteer roles just to run the 4-H portion of the Redwood County Fair! We have people who help with





our animal science programs, showcase events, cooking/foods and nutrition programs, education workshops, family fun celebrations, community clubs, SWIM teams, and organizational efforts. Volunteer roles can range from an hour program help to managing a 4-H club to providing leadership for our county fair showcase event. We truly have something for everyone!!

360 youth members are currently participating in Redwood County 4-H. 4-H youth have an active role in the leadership of running our county and community based 4-H programs. Youth leaders may be a club officer, a county officer, a youth shooting sports coach, a junior superintendent, a SWIM coach, youth county fair coordinator, a state 4-H ambassador, or a county 4-H ambassador.

4-H is a youth led and adult guided program where youth and adults work together in our Redwood County Communities. Redwood County has



STAY UP TO DATE WITH REDWOOD COUNTY NEWS!

Follow us on social media!   



8 community clubs, 5 special interest groups, and several school-based 4-H programs.

Interested in learning more about Redwood County 4-H? Give us a call at 507-637-4025 or reach out to Stacy Johnson at skjohns@umn.edu.

DID YOU KNOW?
REDWOOD COUNTY OFFERS VETERANS TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

IF YOU ARE A REDWOOD COUNTY VETERAN AND NEED HELP GETTING TO VA MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS, THE REDWOOD COUNTY VETERANS TRANSPORTATION SERVICE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP!

APPOINTMENT TIMES SHOULD BE BETWEEN:
 9:00 A.M. AND 1:00 P.M.

- A FAMILY MEMBER OR FRIEND MAY ACCOMPANY YOU IF SPACE IS AVAILABLE.
- MUST BE ABLE TO GET IN/OUT OF VEHICLE YOURSELF.
- SERVICE DOG IS ALLOWED IF SPACE IS AVAILABLE
- IF BRINGING A SERVICE DOG, PLEASE LET IT BE KNOWN WHEN SCHEDULING THE RIDE.

VETERAN'S TRANSPORTATION SCHEDULE:

- MINNEAPOLIS VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER (VAMC): TUESDAY & THURSDAY ONLY.
- ST. CLOUD VAMC: MONDAYS ONLY

TO SCHEDULE A RIDE, CALL (507) 637-4034 AT LEAST FOUR DAYS PRIOR TO YOUR MINNEAPOLIS VAMC OR ST. CLOUD VAMC.

NOTE: THE REDWOOD COUNTY VETERANS VEHICLE IS NOT WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE. THE VEHICLE CANNOT TRANSPORT ANYONE WITH A SERIOUS OR ACUTE MEDICAL CONDITION, LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCY, OR REQUIRING CONTINUOUS USE OF AN OXYGEN TANK.

AMERICA'S SBDC MINNESOTA Wanted: DREAMERS & INNOVATORS & DOERS

START & GROW YOUR BUSINESS

The Southwest Small Business Development Center (SBDC) provides one-on-one, confidential business consulting services at no cost to you.

We can help:

- Develop and refine business plans
- Identify sources of capital
- Analyze financial records
- Create marketing strategies
- General business assistance

SBDC@SMSU.EDU
 WWW.SBDCASSISTANCE.COM
 507-537-7386

POWERED BY **SBA** U.S. Small Business Administration

WHY CONSIDER A CAREER IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT?

**Looking for a fulfilling career?
Consider local government!**

As a whole generation of baby boomers begins to retire, we in local government are searching for energetic learning-oriented first-time workers as well as talented experienced workers. Public service is a wonderfully fulfilling career for a number of reasons:

1. Meaningful, Challenging Work

Local government service is inherently meaningful because our work is related to building and improving communities. The Sheriff's Department keep us safe. Public works builds, rebuilds and maintains physical infrastructure. County planners help envision and shape future community growth. Recreation, arts and culture, and library professionals enhance community life. County management takes the aspirations of residents and the policy goals of the elected governing board and puts those aspirations and goals into action.

Public service at the local level is also fulfilling because employees see the fruits of their labors. On a daily basis, local government employees see infrastructure improvements; safety improvements; and happier, more fulfilled children, families, and senior residents.

Public service at the local level is also challenging work. The efforts of local government workers happens in the context of local government, where everyone gets to participate, and everyone has a say. Every day presents new challenges.

2. Financial Benefits

Local government service offers salaries that are competitive with the private sector and great benefits including a defined benefit public pension. Public agencies need employees with all kinds of talents, skills, and occupational interests.

3. Steady Demand for Services

Another reason to consider a career in local government is that the public needs, wants, and demands services. Residents typically do not ask their local government to reduce law enforcement services; public works; park and recreation; or other programs. While local government may have to cut programs from time-to-time because tax or other revenues decline, the demand for services remains steady.

4. Learning Abounds

Local governments operate in a very dynamic environment. Changing resident demands, new federal and state laws and regulations, technology advances, demographic changes, new value trends, and other societal forces often make technical skills obsolete. Consequently, local governments need agile learners who are eager to pick up new ways of doing business or delivering services. Simply put, we are looking for people new



to our workforce as well as experienced employees who provide “learn-how” as well as “know-how” to our public organizations.

5. Plenty of Opportunities

Consider local government if:

- You want meaningful and challenging work.
- You want to make a difference and build and improve communities.
- You want a competitive salary and good benefits.
- You are interested in learning.

What current employees say about working for Redwood County:

- *“I enjoy working for the citizens of Redwood County. As a Redwood County taxpayer myself, I take great pride in helping our county run efficiently.”*
- *“The county’s (defined public) pension plan is a great benefit for those looking for financial security in their retirement years.”*
- *“The Highway Department offers great flexibility and steady hours for folks who want to work full time and farm on the side.”*
- *“I’ve had a few jobs and careers in my past, but I have found the career that I would like to continue with until retirement. My position is more rewarding than I could have ever imagined. There’s not a single day that goes by that I am not learning something new.”*
- *“I love the co-workers and the stability the employment provides. So many people in the area are dependent on outside factors, such as weather, and supply/demand. The need for the essential services we provide creates an atmosphere of sustainable employment. Maybe not the most glamorous perk, but a valuable one.”*
- *“I appreciate the support and advice leadership willingly offers.”*
- *“I appreciate the help from co-workers and the dynamic teamwork it creates.”*
- *“The synergy of all the different departments makes it an amazing place to work and gives you a satisfied feeling of being part of the bigger picture with the ability of helping county residence.”*
- *“I have great co-workers.”*
- *“Love the county benefits.”*
- *“Love having all the holidays off.”*
- *“Wellness committee is always try to find new things for us to try.”*

**Learn more about Redwood County career openings at:
<https://redwoodcounty-mn.us/employment/>**

Article Source: ICMA, //icma.org/page/why-consider-career-local-government

MEET OUR 9 NEW MN LICENSE PLATES

A number of charitable foundations will benefit from these 9 new plates which span from professional sports teams, two nonprofits and MN's version of the blackout plate.

“Special plates are a great way to personalize your vehicle and display your interests or support for different organizations and causes, “says DVS Director Pong Xiong.

These new plates will cost \$15.50 and require their minimum annual contribution fee.



*\$30.00 annual contribution fee, money is dedicated to State of MN DVS Operating Fund
 *May be personalized (7 characters)
 *Passenger plates are available in office



*\$25.00 annual contribution fee, money will go to Gaagige-Mikwendaagoziwag Reward Account to assist in bringing attention to cases of missing and murdered Indigenous relatives
 *All plates are special order



*\$40.00 annual contribution fee, money benefits first responders and their families
 *May be personalized (6 characters)
 *All plates are special order



*\$30.00 annual contribution fee, helps benefits charitable foundations set up by each organization
 *May be personalized (6 characters)
 *All plates are special order



*\$30.00 annual contribution fee, helps benefits charitable foundations set up by each organization
 *May be personalized (6 characters)
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*\$30.00 annual contribution fee, helps benefits charitable foundations set up by each organization
 *May be personalized (6 characters)
 *All plates are special order



*\$25.00 first time contribution fee with an additional \$5.00 annual contribution fee with registration renewal, funds benefit Lions Club International.
 *All plates are special order

ARE YOU IN NEED OF A PASSPORT?

REDWOOD COUNTY IS YOUR LOCAL PASSPORT AGENT!



We can...

- Process new passport applications & mail them
- Provide you passport renewal paperwork & it review before you submit
- Take your passport picture

no appointment needed!



Redwood County Government Center Administration Office
 403 South Mill Street, Redwood Falls

(507) 637 - 4016



MONDAY - FRIDAY
 8 AM TO 4:30 PM

redwoodcounty-mn.us



Redwood County Recorder's Office
 Government Center
 403 South Mill Street, Redwood Falls



redwoodcounty-mn.us



Redwood County Connection
 Redwood County Government Center
 403 S Mill St
 PO Box 130
 Redwood Falls, MN 56283

PRST STD
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 US POSTAGE
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 PERMIT #20

Local Postal Customer

Contacts

Administration	637-4016
Assessor	637-4008
Attorney Office	637-4010
Auditor/Treasurer	637-4013
Court Administration	616-4018
Economic Dev.	637-1122
Emergency Mgmt.	637-4035
Environmental	637-4023
Extension	637-4025
Highway Dept.	637-4056
Human Services	637-4050
License Center	637-4029
Public Health	637-4041
Probation Office	637-4047
RRRSWA	637-1800
Recorder	637-4032
Restorative Justice	637-1139
Sheriff's Office	637-4036
Technology/IT	637-4016
Veteran's Office	637-4034



Commissioners

Rick Wakefield	859-2369
Jim Salfer	829-8029
Dennis Groebner	692-2235
Bob VanHee	616-1000
Dave Forkrud	430-1907

REDWOOD COUNTY

ELECTRONICS AND APPLIANCE RECYCLING!!

The first Wednesday every other month April - October:

2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Behind the Redwood County Museum

This collection is for Renville and Redwood County Residents ONLY

We reserve the right to refuse any load



April 3, 2024	June 5, 2024
August 7, 2024	October 2, 2024

**For more information, contact S.W. Recycling at
 1-800-366-8665 or www.swrecycling.com**

Electronics		Appliances	
<u>FREE</u>	<u>*COST</u>	<u>FREE</u>	<u>*COST</u>
CPU's/hard drives, computer mouse, cell phones, keyboards, speakers, iPods, cameras, GPS units, laptops, CD players, MP3 players, radios/boom boxes, etc.	\$25.00: TVs and computer monitors \$10.00: scanners, printers, copiers, fax machines, VCRs, DVD players and stereos	Washers, dryers, dehumidifiers, ovens, refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, microwaves, water softeners, etc. (Non-metal water heaters NOT accepted)	\$75.00: RV Refrigerators

Any item with a cord is considered an appliance or electronic device. If you don't see an item listed in the "cost" columns, it is probably accepted for disposal, but is most likely free of charge.

Non appliance or electronic items accepted: charcoal/gas grills, furnaces, A/C units, exercise equipment, satellite dishes, and yard maintenance equipment.

The following will **NOT** be accepted at this collection: Household Hazardous Waste (HHW), standard recyclable materials, fluorescent bulbs, batteries or tires.

***Prices may be subject to change. Cash or check only. No credit/debit cards accepted.**

Open to Renville & Redwood County Residents ONLY.