

LOCALNEWS

Ranier City Council hears about housing grant

Another forum on proposed land use ordinance scheduled

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Ranier City Council Monday heard about the status of a loan program awarded earlier to the city by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development. Dana Herschbach, director of housing, KOOTASCA Community Action Inc., provided information about the Small Cities Development Program that expires in December 2015. KOOTASCA administers the grant, of which about \$243,000 is available. Herschbach told the council seven applications have been accepted, with five projects completed. The grant has recently been expanded to cover the area of the “old Ranier, and three more applications from the newly expanded area were received,” reported city Administrator Sher-ril Gautreaux. The grant requires a property owner to live in the home for 10 years, after which the loan is forgiven or is pro-rated at number of years owning the home if sold prior to the 10 year period. The rehabilitation funds are a zero interest

loan of which the city of Ranier is the lienholder, noted Gautreaux. Interested homeowners must submit a completed application along with accurate mortgage documents, property title and current tax records. KOOTASCA staff review the application, after which an inspector visits the applicant’s home for approval and then bids can be sought for the project. Mortgage and title lien documents must be prepared. Following the initial process, it may be to 3-4 months before work is begun. After completion, a final inspection is completed. One applicant has been deemed eligible through an assessment/abatement portion of the grant, which extends from the Three-Points North Water project where income eligible property owners were awarded \$13,500 for abating the special assessment for water hook-up. KOOTASCA is working with two others applicants in that area to determine eligibility. If any funds remain from the assessment/abatement portion, the city may be able to

amend the grant to apply to public facilities. The council scheduled another public forum on the proposed land use for 6:30 p.m. Sept. 11 in the Community Building. The meeting is intended to provide a forum for resident input on the proposed ordinance. Residents are encouraged to review the document prior to the meeting and bring constructive comments to the table. Jeff McHarg asked when a quiet zone at the Canadian National Railway crossing in the city will be completed. Mayor Dennis Wagner said he has not received an estimated start or completion date from CN. Tara Nelson asked whether a bell will continuously ring while the crossing arms are lowered. Mayor Wagner advised that under the quiet zone designation, the bell will cease once the arms are lowered. The council appointed Gautreaux to serve as the city’s representative to the Destination Voyageurs National Park Board. Dianna Hoopingarner gave an update on a blasting issue and stated the Koochiching County Attorney’s office is reviewing the matter in order to determine how to proceed with the permitting process.



STAFF PHOTOS BY SPENSER BICKETT

Michael Bennett, FRA hazmat safety inspector, shows emergency staff how to interpret the hazmat symbols on a rail car.

Getting training on train safety

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

With trains coming and going every day through International Falls and across the Canadian border, local emergency response staff Thursday received training on what to do in a rail emergency. A variety of organizations gathered at the Falls Fire Department and nearby on the railway, including U.S. and Canadian Customs and Border Protection, Koochiching County Sheriffs, International Falls Police, International Falls Fire, Fort France Fire, and M D & W Railway. Falls Fire Chief Adam Mannausau said it’s rare for that many different emergency staff to be in one place at once, but the training the received was a special occasion. Federal Rail Administra-



Emergency staff climb up a rail car to get a closer look at what to look for when inspecting a rail car.

tion officials showed attendees the different markings on a rail car, and how to interpret them, as well as what to look for when inspecting a rail car.

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Public AUCTION
Thursday August 28, 2014 5:30 PM
Armory Building in International Falls, MN.

DIRECTIONS: From Highway 53 in International Falls turn West at intersection of 18th Street and go one block

Koochiching County, City of Int'l Falls, City of Littlefork.

Trucks
Red 1988 International S-1900 6x4, auto trans, B210F engine
2-Orange 1991 International 2000 series, tandem 6x4, L-10 Cummings, auto trans, 49,661 and 221,148 miles.
Orange 1982 Ford LT 9000, Detroit diesel, 13 speed, Road Ranger trans, 140,214 miles

Grounds / Outdoors
2007 Loftness front mount snow blower
1993 Toro 345 Grounds Master, front mount 72 in. mower
Toro Broom

Office Equipment / Maintenance
Fuller MC19 floor polisher
Tornado 8440 floor stripper
Desks, Shelving and File Cabinets
Uniden portable radios
Many folding chairs

Cars / Pickups / Ambulance
1991 White Ford Mustang 133,088 miles
1997 Black Chevrolet Z22 Cavalier Sport 183,485 miles
1998 Red Ford Ranger pickup regular cab, 4x4, auto trans, 92,445 miles
1999 Maroon Chevrolet pickup
1988 Blue Ford pickup 80,000 miles
1995 Chevrolet 4x4 Tahoe 188,000 miles, 3 flat tires
1993 Ford Diesel Ambulance

ATV's / Snowmobile
1994 Honda ATC 200 ME 3-wheeler
1990's White Polaris XCR 600 Snowmobile

Polaris Sportsman 400 4x4 4-wheeler
1997 Arctic Cat 500 Automatic, Tracks and tires, winch, 1,410 miles (Like New)

Restaurant / Commercial Kitchen
Commercial Kitchen Grade B10 Mixer w/ Stainless Steel bowl
Summit Beer Keg cooler w/ tappper
Gemini coffee makers
Assorted drink glasses

Miscellaneous Equipment
Falls 12ft. one way plow
Falls 12ft. wing
Falls Tail Gate Sander
8ft. front mount tractor broom
2000 gal. tank in tank, above ground fuel tank w/ sensors and dispenser
6 in. Gorman water pump (Needs Work)

Trailers
2004 White 16ft. K/Z Cargo Trailer, tandem axle w/ Craftsman storage cabinets, Empire LP space heater and ramp style back door. (Like New)
Traileze 23000 GVW 9 Ton tandem axle trailer
1944 25 ton low boy w/ ramps (Needs Repair)

Plus Much More
Auction Notes: Viewing available day of auction, condition of the equipment does vary, buyers have one week to remove their property from the Armory.

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