

# Group raises money for cancer patients

BY SPENSER BICKETT  
Staff Writer

Cancer treatments come with a high cost, and when patients have to drive long distances for treatments, costs can add up. Fortunately, one group is making it easier for locals diagnosed with cancer to travel for their treatments.

The Community Cancer Walk is 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 5, at Bronco Arena. The entry cost is \$5, and funds raised help local cancer patients by providing them with gas cards to help defray the costs of driving long distances for treatment.

This is the fifth year of the cancer walk, which is organized by a group of

eight women, Wendy Mayer said. The idea came up because a local breast cancer group, “The Young and the Breastless,” wanted to give back to the community after receiving support while dealing with their diagnoses, Betsy Loop said.

“They were amazed by the community support with travel, food, and moral support,” Loop said. “Through meetings, they figured everyone needs a gas card.”

When the event started, the initial amount on the cards was \$50. Over the years, with the rising cost of gas, the group has raised the amount to \$150, Loop said. The cards are given out once a year to anyone in

Koochiching County diagnosed with cancer, she said.

Every cancer treatment is different, Mayer said, which is why residents sometimes have to travel to Duluth, Hibbing, or the Twin Cities for treatment. There are people who do their chemotherapy treatment here, but there are also those who might travel all the way to Rochester for treatment, Loop said.

“We do have summer tourists who come to the area, and have to come here for their chemotherapy,” Loop said. “A lot of them will give back to the fund at the end of the year.”

The organization is aided by donations coming in throughout the year, and

not just during the cancer walk event, Loop said. People will mention donating to the group in their memorials, and businesses like Boise Inc. and other fundraising groups like Rally for a Cure also donate to the cause, she said.

“What stands out the most is it stays local,” she said. “The gas cards are bought at local stations, so they get some business back when they donate to the group.”

To make a donation, stop by the Community Education office at Falls High School, or mail donations to Community Cancer Walk, c/o Community Education, 1515 11th St., International Falls, MN.

## POWERLINE

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need and route permit applications to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and the presidential permit application to the United States Department of Energy for the 500 kV transmission line.

The final route will be approved by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission through the state application process and the Department of Energy will approve the project through the federal National Environmental Policy Act process.

“Using the feedback we received at the public meetings and through careful consideration of input provided by landowners, agencies, tribal representatives and stakeholders, along with environmental and engineering considerations, Minnesota Power is working to develop routes that will provide the best possible location to construct the new transmission line,” Jim Atkinson, supervisor, Environmental Lead, Minnesota Power, said in the company’s July newsletter.

Rutledge could not be reached in time for this edition to answer questions about how area residents and communities along the final route would benefit or be impacted.

Construction of Phase 1 is expected to begin in 2017, and be in service by June 1, 2020. Minnesota Power is now in the environmental and regulatory review stage of the project. Agencies, officials, tribes, and landowners with jurisdiction or

property within the Great Northern Transmission Line notice area received a notification letter in early August of the Certificate of Need, or CN, process. The CN is the first major step in the state regulatory process. The CN process determines if the project is necessary and determines project end points.

Minnesota Power will submit a CN application this month and anticipates the CN process to be completed by late-summer 2014.

A time frame has not been determined for when Minnesota Power will continue development of Phase 2. Minnesota Power will provide a schedule and routing process for Phase 2 as information becomes available.

According to Minnesota Power, several priorities are driving the need for the Great Northern Transmission Line including:

- Access to clean, affordable, reliable energy for Minnesota Power customers and the region.
- Increased industrial load growth on Minnesota’s Iron Range.
- Strengthen system reliability for Minnesota Power and the region.

Minnesota Power provides electric service within a 26,000-square-mile area in northeastern Minnesota for 143,000 customers, 16 municipalities and some of the largest industrial customers in the United States. More information can be found at [www.mnpower.com](http://www.mnpower.com).

Visit [www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com](http://www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com) for more information and a map of the Phase I route alternatives.



STAFF PHOTO BY LAUREL BEAGER

Another group at Wednesday’s session writes down their ideas for development.

## DONAHUE

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“There are two things we need to do in the EDA,” she said. “Growth jobs and grow the tax base — that’s it.”

A public input form area residents can use to share ideas on what to do, or not to do, with the Donahue property is available at the Falls Municipal Building and is expected to be posted on the city’s website.

Members of the Donahue family took part in exercises that helped the group develop ideas for potential uses of the property. Brothers Matt and Pat Donahue spoke about

the history of the property, where their father Pat, and mother, Ethel, raised their children.

Matt Donahue said he and his siblings have left the area, and have considered what helped them to be successful.

“You learn your core values when you are young,” Matt Donahue told the group. “We wanted to give (the property) to the city and say thank you for what you taught our family and have given us.”

Mayor Bob Anderson, who attended Wednesday’s session, has suggested the city consider selling the property, or taking Matt Donahue up on an offer to take back the property.

Anderson has said the property cost the city too much — about \$90,000 — in brokerage fees that are paid annually over six years to Matt Donahue’s brokerage fees. In addition, he said more money will be spent on the property to meet items in a 17-point agreement between the city and family.

The groups at Wednesday’s meeting took turns announcing their ideas for potential use of the property. Anderson said his group identified no potential uses.

Near the close of Wednesday’s session, Matt Donahue said it costs the city \$2.50 each day to hold the property for another three years.

“It’s the cheapest insurance program in the world,” he said. “After that, that’s all given to the tax base.”

The property was valued by an appraiser at \$1.8 million. The property was taxed at a value of about \$400,000, with property taxes paid to Koochiching County, because it is outside the city limits.

Meanwhile, part of the session focused on identifying in several categories the needs of International Falls. Hubley said those needs would be provided to an economic response team considering ways to address the loss of 265 jobs by October at the Boise Inc. paper mill.

## VNP

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**VISITORS MAY MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR THE NEWLY IMPLEMENTED SITES:**

- Beginning in February and then up to six months in advance.
- On-line at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).
- By phone at the National Call Center — 877-444-6777.
- Walk-ins will be taken for that day only (multiple days will need a reservation).
- Free overnight permits will still be required for all non-reservation sites
- Temporary computer kiosks will be available at the parks’ three visitor centers and park headquarters during regular hours

**BOATS ON INTERIOR LAKES PROGRAM:**

- 17 interior campsites
- 12 canoes

- 3 rowboats

**RAINY LAKE**

- 14 campsites
- 1 site accessible to people with handicaps

**KABETOOGAMA LAKE**

- 6 campsites

**NAMAKAN LAKE**

- 6 campsites
- 1 site accessible to people with handicaps

**SAND POINT LAKE**


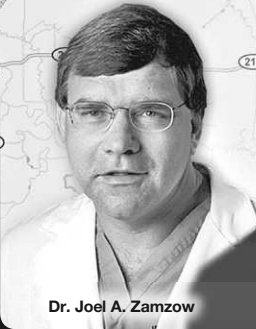
- 4 campsites

The fee structure for sites is as follows: (a one-time reservation fee to Recreation.gov will be taken off the first night’s stay)

- Small campsite with no tent pad \$16 per night
- Small campsite with 1 tent pad \$18 per night
- Small campsite with 2 tent pads \$20 per night
- Large campsites \$24 per night
- Canoe/rowboat \$12 per boat per night

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