

LOCALNEWS

Bring in spring on a bicycle

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

It's time to pump up those tires and oil those sprockets, because May is National Bike Month. Since 1956, the League of American Bicyclists has organized National Bike Month as a way to showcase bicycling's benefits, as well as encourage more people to get out and ride more.

Locally, Koochiching County is recognizing National Bike Month with three events: Bike to School Day, Bike to Work Day and a bike rodeo. Nationally, Bike to School Day is today, but due to spring's late start, local students will be biking to school on May 21 following the bike rodeo on May 20.

Bike to Work Day is May 16, and the bike rodeo at Kerry Park Arena is May 20. Nancy Lee of the Koochiching County Public Health Department said this is the fifth year public health has been involved with the National Bike Month program. One of the goals for the month is to get people to be more active in everyday life, she said.

"It's great if people go for a walk or bike ride when the weather's nice," Lee said. "But we want people, if they're going to the bank or the store, to decide to bike instead of drive."

Last year, Lee said local policymakers like Koochiching County commissioners and International Falls city councilors conducted an assessment of the area's biking infrastructure and found it needs improvement. However, she said the goal is to get people prop-

erly educated on how to bike safely before more improvements are made.

"We did well in some parts, but need work in some other parts," Lee said. "We need to get people educated before we make those improvements so they bike safely."

Bike rodeo
The bike rodeo aims to teach students the rules of the road and how to bike safely, Lee said. Students will watch a short safety video, and then be taught the various handsignals for riding a bike. Then, they'll ride through a safety course set up and ran by law enforcement officials, she added.

Community Education Director Angie Schwartz said this is the second year she's been involved with the bike rodeo, and said she likes to see kids excited about bike safety, as well as getting a new helmet, compliments of Boise Paper, a Packaging Corporation of America company.

Sports Shop owner Milt Layman lends a hand during the rodeo, Schwartz said, and will show kids how to do a safety check on their bike. Layman was recently in an accident where a dog knocked him off his bike, she said, so he'll bring the helmet he was wearing to show kids the importance of wearing proper gear when riding a bike.

Props to Minnesotans
Despite the state's tendency for sub-zero winter temperatures, Minnesota was recently ranked second in the LAB most bicycle-friendly state rankings. Last year, Minnesota was also ranked second, and in 2010 and 2011, came in fourth.



FILE PHOTO BY EMILY GEDDE

The bike rodeo at Kerry Park Arena is scheduled for May 20. At last year's rodeo, Carley Thrasher got a tip about stopping at stop signs from International Falls Police Department Officer Dane Olson.

Just the facts

- The Department of Public Safety and MnDOT have provided these tips for bicyclists and motorists:
- Bicyclist tips**
- Follow the law – obey all traffic signs and signals. Ride in the same direction as traffic
 - See and be seen – wear bright colors, reflective gear and use head and tail lights
 - Protect yourself – wear a helmet
 - Ride on the road, and ride in the same direction as traffic
 - Obey all traffic control signs and signals, just as motorists
- Motorist tips**
- Be patient when passing a bicyclist – slow down and pass only when it's safe. Allow clearance of at least 3 feet
 - Be on the lookout – watch for and yield to bicyclists before making a turn
 - Stay alert and avoid distracted driving – put away mobile devices, food and makeup

"This ranking is recognition of the work on behalf of bicycling being done by both the public and private sectors throughout the state," Dorian Grilley, executive director, Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota, said in a release. Nearly half of Minnesotans rode a bicycle

last year, according to the Minnesota Department of Transportation 2012 Omnibus Transportation Survey. Washington remains the most bicycle-friendly state for the seventh year in a row, followed by Minnesota, Wisconsin, Delaware and Oregon. Even

with more bicyclists on the road, bicyclist deaths and injuries are on the decline in Minnesota.

On the decline
From 2011-2013, 18 bicyclists died on Minnesota roads and 2,634 were injured. Of those injuries, 155, or 6 percent, were serious. This is a decline from the previous three-year period from 2008-2010, when 32 bicyclists were killed and 2,836 were injured.

"Reducing bicycle crashes is important to Minnesota's vision of eliminating all fatalities and serious injuries on our roadways," Sue Groth, MnDOT state traffic engineer, said in a release. "Bicyclists on the road must act like vehicles — meaning obeying traffic signals, signaling their turns and of course, being visible. Motorists must treat bicyclists like they treat other vehicles and providing ample space for the bicyclist when passing."

Council awards contract

After a lengthy discussion on ownership, the International Falls City Council unanimously approved the second and final reading of an ordinance awarding a contract to Wagner Construction Inc. of International Falls, the low bidder at \$410,254, for installation of utilities to the multimodal district on County Highway 155.

The council Monday also approved a motion calling for Anderson, Shermoen, city Administrator Ken Anderson and Public Works Director Gary Skallman to determine how to clarify in minutes the ownership by the EDA of the multimodal district.

Mayor Anderson said minutes of previous meetings make it unclear whether the city or EDA owns the multimodal district property. He said the council approved a motion to purchase the property, but it has been said the EDA owns the property. He said he could find no motion to transfer the property to the EDA.

Anderson said he did not want to sign documents as mayor involving something that was not properly handled.

Rognerud said the land belongs to the EDA and a state grant to provide utilities to the property belongs to the city.

Shermoen agreed a better process would have involved rescinding a council motion made Aug. 6, 2012, but he saw no reason not to move forward with awarding the contract.

He said he views the issue as a technicality that can be clarified with future action.



Bob Anderson

Summary of Ordinance No. 152 City of Ranier Water System, Rates and Fees

An ordinance providing for the operation, control, maintenance and rules and regulations of the City of Ranier Water System, providing for the installation of water meters and service connections, and establishing the rates for the use of water and the collection enforcement thereof in the City of Ranier, Minnesota.

Ordinance No. 152 repeals City of Ranier Ordinance numbers 61, 69, 74, 76, 77, 91, 94, 100, 102, 108, 111, 124, 127, 130, 131, 132, 134, 142 and 144 pertaining to the City of Ranier Water System and its Water Rates.

- Section I: **Definitions**
- Section II: **Service Connections:** This section addresses connecting to the water system.
- Section III: **Service Lines:** Addresses specifications of service lines connecting to the water system and repairs thereto.
- Section IV: **Water Meters:** Addresses the use of water meters to measure water usage.
- Section V: **Fire Hydrants:** Addresses the keeping of fire hydrants.
- Section VI: **Water Rates and Fee Schedule:** As attached in Appendix A.
- Section VII: **Accounts:** Addressing water accounts and billing.
- Section VII: **Delinquent Accounts:** Addresses procedures used for delinquent accounts.
- Section IX: **Certification for Collection of Accounts with Taxes:** Addresses procedures used for levying a tax lien for non-payment of accounts.
- Section X: **Right to Discontinue Service:** Addresses the right to discontinue water service in specific situations.
- Section XI: **Households with Military Personnel:** Addresses Minnesota law regarding military personnel who have been actively deployed.
- Section XII: **Inspection and Right of Entry:** Addresses the rights to enter property for purposes of this Ordinance.
- Section XIII: **Unlawful Acts:** Addresses unlawful acts in regards to the water system.
- Section XIV: **Reservation of Rights:** Allows the council to adjust rates or amend this Ordinance
- Section XV: **Effective Date:** This Ordinance shall be effective **June 1, 2014**

APPENDIX A – WATER RATES AND FEE SCHEDULE

Usage - Minimum Base Fee	\$31.39	per month (includes first 2000 gallons usage)
Usage - Consumption Rate	\$8.78	per 1,000 gallons (after first 2000 gallons usage)
Monthly Escrow Fee	\$3.50	for Repair & Replacement
Annual Fee for water testing	\$6.36	February only
Late Fee	\$25.00	incurred on the 15th of the month

A COMPLETE COPY OF THIS ORDINANCE IS AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING AT THE RANIER CITY OFFICE.

Rollin' for Furballs

When: Saturday, May 17 – Noon – 4:30 pm (bowling)
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm (dinner at the Moose Lodge)

JACKPOT BOWLING meets **COSMIC BOWLING**

Fundraiser for the Borderland Humane Society.
100% of the profit goes towards the construction of the new holding facility.

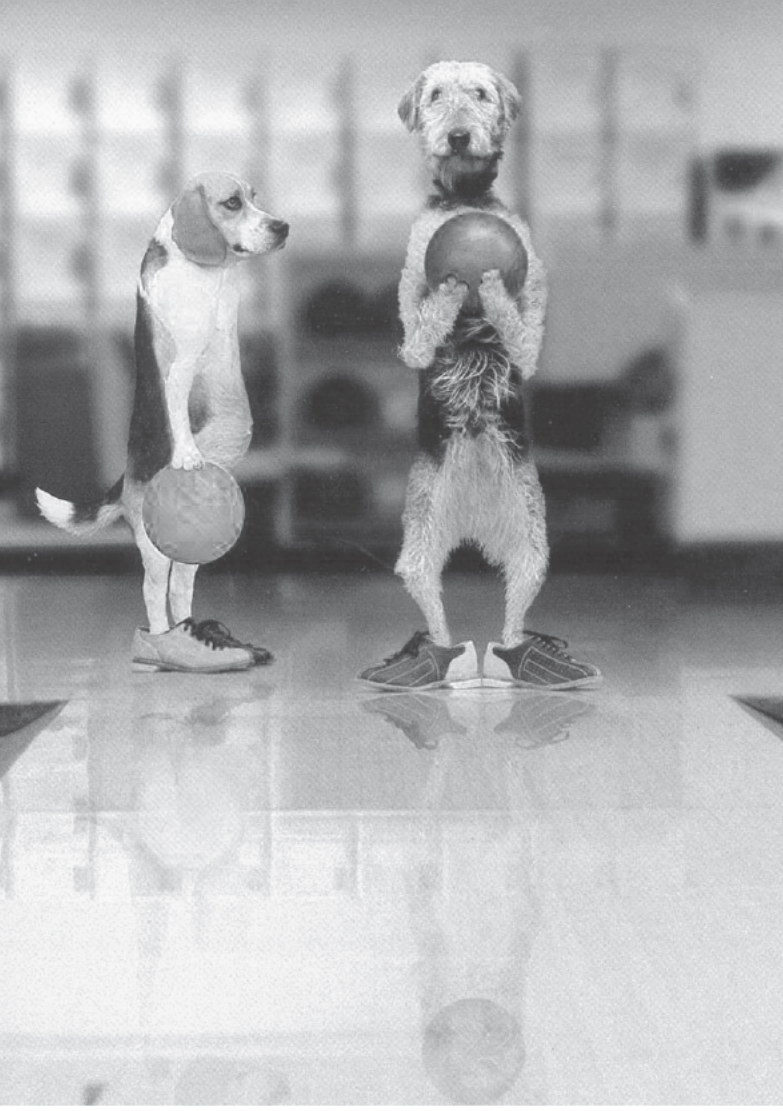
Please join us for a Taco Dinner
When: 5:00 pm – May 17 after bowling
Where: Moose Lodge
Cost: \$10 per person.
Everyone is welcome

\$5 per game
(includes shoe rental)
Minimum of 2 games

Grab your family & friends & support the BHS



Call or text Kallie 218.324.2949 with questions



FIND DEALS

in The Journal Classifieds

