

LOCALNEWS

Officers: Know the rules of the road

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

County roads and city streets are being used more by off-road recreational vehicles with the onset of fall temperatures and activities in Borderland.

Falls Police Capt. Tom Lynch reminds people that vehicles known as side-by-sides, which are growing in popularity, are allowed on all city streets except Third Street and Third Avenue because they are designated state-aid highways.

All-terrain vehicles, known as four-wheelers, are not allowed on any city streets, he said.

Side-by-sides must be driven on the far right side of the road and cannot exceed 20 miles per hour, Lynch added.

Should officers see an ATV on a city street, they may be cited for violating the rules.

“It is up to officer discretion to determine if (ATV drivers on city streets) are going directly to or from the ATV trails or just joy riding and cite offenders accordingly,” said Lynch.

Koochiching County Sheriff Brian Jespersen said an ordinance allowing use of county roads by ATVs and side-by-sides has been on the books since 2010.

The ordinance can be found on the county’s website at <http://www.co.koochiching.mn.us/news/DRAFT%20Koochiching%20County%20Ordinance%20ATV.pdf>

“It’s gone very well for the Sheriff’s Office,” he said of the county road rules.

The county ordinance sets out the following rules:

-Persons operating all terrain vehicles on any county maintained roadways, outside incorporated municipalities, must operate the all terrain vehicle on the extreme right hand side of the road, making left turns across the road only if it is safe to do so under prevailing conditions.

-Persons operating all terrain vehicles within the right of way of any of the county maintained roadways shall not operate their ATV on the inside slope, ditch bottom or outside slope of the right of way.

-No person shall operate an ATV, or other motorized vehicle, on the bike trail between International Falls and Ranier or any other trail where motorized vehicles are prohibited.

-No person shall operate an ATV on Koochiching County maintained roads at a speed greater than 20 miles per hour.

Jespersen reminds riders

that all Minnesota Department of Natural Resources off-highway regulations apply, which prohibit riding in wetlands.

Since the ordinance was enacted, Jespersen said his office has been called a few times about ATVs traveling too fast on county roads.

“But for the most part, people are following the rules and have been very good about following the rules,” he said.

Speed, he said, is often a factor in ATV accidents. Taking turns too abruptly can cause drivers to lose control and roll or skid. And, he said, ATVs do not provide the same kind of protection in a crash that a larger vehicle does. While many of the side-by-sides have seat belts, people aren’t usually wearing them, he said.

He said going slower than 20 mph is within the law.

“You can have fun, but you need to use common sense out there,” he said.

THE DNR OFFERS THE FOLLOWING TIPS TO HELP PREVENT ATV ROLL-OVERS:

■ Make sure the operator ‘fits’ the ATV. Young operators often lack body weight, arm and hand strength and riding experience.

■ Operate at a slow, safe

and reasonable speed. Many of these tragic accidents could be avoided if operators would slow down.

■ Don’t carry passengers. Most ATVs are designed for only one person.

■ Stay off roads and hard packed surfaces. Low pressure ATV tires are for off-road use.

STATE RULES

Each of the classes of ATVs have different age requirements for use. Minnesota’s off-highway vehicle rules can be found on the DNR’s website at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/regulations/ohv/index.html>. For more specification information see the website.

Youth who are ages 12 to 15 must successfully complete the DNR ATV Safety Training program, offered on compact disc, and review class with a riding component before operating an ATV on public lands and frozen waters.

Anyone born after July 1, 1987, and who is age 16 or older must successfully complete only the ATV Safety Training program CD before operating an ATV on public lands and frozen waters.

People less than age 15 may not operate a Class 2 ATV. A passenger or op-



FILE PHOTO

Local law officers remind riders of all kinds of ATVs to know the rules of the road before you head out.

erator under the age of 18 while on an ATV must wear a helmet approved by the Minnesota Department of Transportation. An operator or passenger under the age of 18 must wear a seat belt if provided by the manufacturer. A person less than 18 may carry one passenger on a Class I ATV only if it is their parent or legal guardian.

CLASSES OF VEHICLES

■ Class 1 ATVs are motorized flotation-tired vehicles with at least three but no more than six low pressure tires that have an engine displacement of less than 1,000 cubic centimeters and total dry weight of less than 1,000 pounds.

■ Class 2 ATVs are motorized flotation-tired vehicles with at least three, but no more than six, low pressure tires that have an engine displacement of less than 1,000 cubic centimeters and total dry weight of 1,000 to 1,800 pounds. Dry weight is normally the weight of the vehicle without fluids.

■ Off-Highway Motorcycles are motorized off-highway vehicles traveling on two wheels. OHMs have a seat or saddle designed to be straddled by the operator and have handlebars for steering control. Motorcycles may be legal for highway use and still considered to be OHMs if used for off-highway operation on trails or natural terrain.

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Indus School Lunch Menu for October 2013				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
September 30	1	2	3	4
Chicken Fajitas WG Flour Tortilla Mixed Fruit Fresh Fruit Salad Bar Milk	Meat Balls in Gravy Mashed Potatoes Applesauce Fresh Fruit WG Dinner Roll Salad Bar, Milk	Turkey Stacker Potato Rounds Cheese Slice Pineapple Tidbit Fresh Fruit Sun Chips Salad Bar, Milk	Sloppy Jo WG Hamburger Bun Green Beans Mandarin Oranges Fresh Fruit Salad Bar, Milk	Hot Dog WG Hot Dog Bun Bakes Beans Peach Sauce Fresh Fruit Salad Bar, Milk
7	8	9	10	11
Chicken Nuggets Mashed Potatoes Pear Sauce Fresh Fruit Bread n Butter Salad Bar, Milk	Chicken Alfredo Egg Noodles Veggie Mix Fresh Fruit Bread n Butter Salad Bar, Milk	Turkey, Mashed Potatoes Gravy, Stuffing Cranberries Pineapple Tidbits Fresh Fruit WG Dinner Roll Salad Bar, Milk	Tomato Soup Melted Cheese Sandwich Applesauce Fresh Fruit Crackers Salad Bar, Milk	Hamburger WG Hamburger Bun Potato Rounds Mandarin Oranges Fresh Fruit Salad Bar, Milk
14	15	16	17	18
Subs: Turkey Ham, or Roast Beef Cheese Slice Pickles Peach Sauce Fresh Fruit Salad Bar, Milk	Tater Tot Hot Dish Corn, Pear Sauce Fresh Fruit WG Dinner Roll Salad Bar, Milk	Stuffed Crust Pizza Green Beans Mixed Fruit Fresh Fruit Salad Bar, Milk	MEA NO SCHOOL	MEA NO SCHOOL
21	22	23	24	25
Corn Dog Sweet Potato Puffs Pineapple Tidbits Fresh Fruit Salad Bar, Milk	Grilled Chicken Breast Wild Rice Steamed Broccoli Mandarin Oranges Fresh Fruit Salad Bar, Milk	Taco Salad peach Sauce Fresh Fruit Garlic Bread Stick Salad Bar, Milk	BBQ Chicken WG Hamburger Bun Oven Fries Pear Sauce Fresh Fruit Salad Bar, Milk	Mandarin Chicken Vegetable Fried Rice Egg Roll Mixed Fruit Fresh Fruit Salad Bar, Milk
28	29	30	31	November 1
Turkey Burger WG Hamburger Bun Potato Wedges Pineapple Tidbits, Fresh Fruit Salad Bar, Milk	Hamburger Gravy Mashed Potatoes Apple Sauce Fresh Fruit Bread n Butter Salad Bar, Milk	Breaded Beef Steak Red Skin Potatoes Mandarin Oranges Fresh Fruit Salad Bar, Milk	Spookgetti Moldy Cheese, Slippery Slaw Rotated Peaches Eye Balls Garlic Bread Stick Salad Bar, Milk	Tony’s Pizza Green Beans Pear Sauce Fresh Fruit Salad Bar, Milk

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be conducted by the Koochiching County Board of Adjustment relative to the following item’s **on Thursday, October 17, 2013 at 4:30 p.m.** in the County Board Room, Koochiching County Courthouse, International Falls, Minnesota.

A variance application received by **Jedediah D. Swenson** requesting a deviation from the required 100ft setback from the ordinary high water level (OHWL) of the Rat Root River in order to construct a 24 x 32ft addition to the existing house. The parcel is located along Town Road 443 (Ericzburg) and is described as part of Gov’t Lots 5 & 7, Sec. 5, Twp 69N, Rge 23W, Koochiching County, Minnesota.

A Re-hearing on a variance application received by **Kevin & Camille Murphy** requesting a deviation from the required 75ft setback from the ordinary high water level (OHWL) of Rainy Lake in order to construct a 16 x 32ft combination guest cabin/sauna. The proposed structure will be located approx. 63ft from the OHWL. The parcel is located on Grindstone Island and is described as part of Lot 12, Gov’t Lot 2, Plat of Grindstone Acres, Sec. 28, Twp 71N, Rge 22W, Koochiching County, Minnesota. This item was tabled at the September 26, 2013 meeting.

All interested parties are invited to attend the said hearing to be heard. If more information is desired, please contact the Koochiching County Environmental Services, ph. (218) 283-1158.

October 1, 2013

Dale Olson
Zoning Administrator
Koochiching County