

JAMSHED

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Jaksa has been among several local officials leading a push for sharing resources, such as medical services and educational opportunities, between Fort Frances and International Falls.

As an example of how border restrictions impact people's lives, she points to the lack of dialysis services in the Falls, which forces many area residents to travel more than 100 miles one way in all seasons for the necessary treatment,

when just blocks away in Fort Frances the service is available.

"We just have to keep at it," said Jaksa of the push. "And we will and we are."

She said last year's friendly competition and subsequent meetings including Merchant helped bring attention to the issues to local, state and federal officials on the U.S. side of the border.

Now, she said, provincial officials must get involved and she said she hopes Merchant can assist. "He is our link into this whole dignitary meeting," she said.

"(Canada's) medical is

delivered at a provincial level, so if we are to find harmony between the two systems, we have to pull in federal, provincial and state, to pull together to use the (Fort Frances) renal service for dialysis," she said.

Allowing Americans to cross the border into Fort

Frances for dialysis would help people in need of the service as well as financially assist the Fort Frances medical provider, she said.

Former Koochiching County Commissioner Chuck Lepper several years ago began to explore the feasibility of siting a dialysis center in the Falls,

but the lack of population has been a deterrent for providers, said Jaksa. Money collected from several fundraisers conducted toward the dialysis effort remain in a local bank.

Jaksa said state lawmakers have asked her to make a proposal to allow Americans to use the Fort Frances medical services, but she said "I can't until I know what the terrain is. My goal is to make a proposal, and have it before them for the tug meeting in July. But there is homework to be done before that."

Last year's meeting with

Merchant was valuable, said Jaksa.

"The ground has been turned, it's been broken, now we plant the seeds and make this thing grow for the future," she said.

Ultimately, Jaksa said local leaders want Merchant and U.S. Consul General Jim Dickmeyer, located in Toronto, together at a local meeting together to discuss the border issues.

"It's not the final answer, but what is politics about? It's about getting people together and talking about things," she said. "If you don't do that nothing happens."

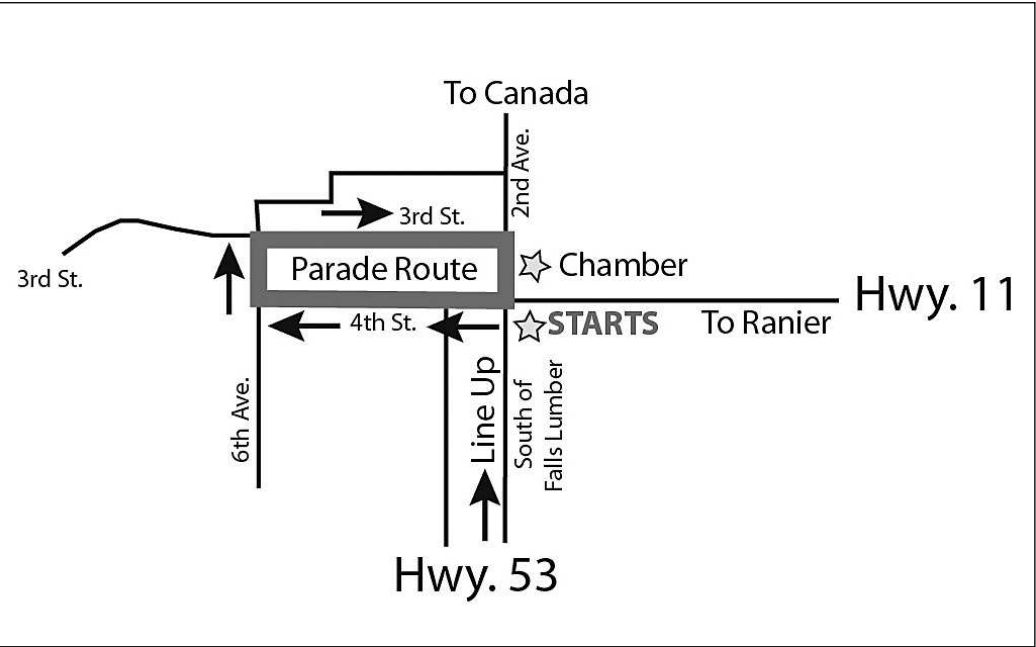
HOLIDAY

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disperse left and right on Second Avenue near the Chamber of Commerce."

Floats and all entries for the parade are needed, she added. Any theme may be used in the entries which will be judged primarily by the usage of lights, music and craftsmanship. Prizes for float entries in first, second and third place are \$300, \$200 and \$100, respectively.

"But what's important is to have fun and include children in the magic," Whitbeck said.



FILE ILLUSTRATION

An illustration of the 'Twas the Lights Before Christmas Parade route shows floats will gather on Fourth Street near Falls Lumber, head west and turn north up Sixth Avenue to Third Street where it will travel east and disperse left and right on Second Avenue near the Chamber of Commerce.

day and Saturday will each offer registrations to win \$25 gift certificates from their store, and the Chamber will provide a grand prize of \$300 in Chamber Dollars."

According to the second annual Small Business Saturday Insights Survey, released Tuesday by the National Federation of Independent Businesses and American Express, nearly one-third of small business owners are starting holiday promotions earlier this year, and 70 percent say participating in Small Business Saturday will be helpful in attracting new customers.

Shopping locally supports a community in ways shopping at large retailers doesn't, Whitbeck said.

"When you shop at your local small businesses, you boost the survival of all the things that make your community great," she said. "The money you spend here, stays here."

She said for every \$100 spent in a community, \$68 goes right back in.

"Particularly now, keeping holiday shopping local is vital to our hometown economy," Whitbeck said. "Please, please be mindful that shopping in the

"When you shop at your local small businesses, you boost the survival of all the things that make your community great. The money you spend here, stays here."

Faye Whitbeck
President of International Falls Chamber of Commerce, on Small Business Saturday.

community in which you live is an investment that improves the local quality of life for your family and friends."

As shopping continues, kids are invited to see free movies at 10 a.m. at Cine 5 sponsored by the Rotary Club. Doors open at 9:30 a.m.

Added to local store specials and drawings, Saturday is the Backus Holiday Shopping and Craft Festival from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lunch from 11 a.m.- 2 p.m.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
Nov. 29
■ 3:30 -6:30 p.m. Community gathering in barricaded area of Centennial Park next to Border Boxes on Third Street.
■ 4-5 p.m. Cutest Holiday Pet Contest – just show up.
■ 5-6:30 p.m. Visits with

Santa, Elks Lodge
■ 5:30 p.m. Sloppy joe feed, Elks Lodge
■ 6-6:30 p.m. Line-up for holiday parade on Second Avenue, south of Falls Lumber.
■ 7 p.m. 'Twas the Lights Before Christmas Parade
■ 7:30 p.m. Live music with Patty O'Porter, Elks Lodge
Nov. 30
■ 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. Special sales at participating Falls businesses with \$25 gift certificate registrations at each.
■ 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. Registration for \$300 Chamber Dollar certificate at all participating businesses
■ 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Backus Holiday Shopping and Craft Festival
■ 10 a.m. Free movies for kids, Cine 5: Doors open at 9:30 a.m.

GRANT

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"If it's as easy as it sounds, I would take part," he said.

But a clause in a resolution seeking the grant that deals with how police might handle a civil rights demonstration caused concern among some councilors and Falls Police Chief Mike Musich.

The clause states "The city of International Falls prohibits the use of excessive force by law enforcement agencies within its jurisdiction against any individuals engaged in non-violent civil rights demonstrations."

Musich said city law officers are guided in their use of force by state law and the department's own policies. He wondered whether approval of the resolution

would mean the policy would be added to the International Falls Police Department's policies.

Others at Tuesday's meeting, including Councilor Pete Kalar, a jailer/dispatcher at the Koochiching Law Enforcement Center, wondered what the clause has to do with a rental housing grant application.

"I don't think we need it, we have regulations about use of force," he said. "We have policies, we have a professional police force with professional leadership, but I won't vote against it because I think we need this grant."

The council said it would seek an opinion from city Attorney Steve Shermoen about whether the resolution would cause the clause to be included in the department's policies.

SYMBOL OF REMEMBRANCE



STAFF PHOTO BY EMILY GEDDE

Preschool student Brooklyne Dowty accepts a poppy during Monday's Veterans Day program. The practice of wearing of poppies takes its origin from the poem "In Flanders Fields," written in 1915 by John McCrae.



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