

LOCALNEWS

Don’t remove the sandbags — yet

Rainy Lake properties take a hit Tuesday

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

It’s not over yet. As many home and business owners west of town watch river waters recede, the itch to remove sandbag fortresses from properties is growing, but local officials say to hold off.

“People are going to want to start cleaning up, but don’t start taking the dikes down yet,” said Koochiching County Commissioner Rob Ecklund. “We don’t know what’s going to happen (with the weather). This is a ‘c-and-o’ area and people want to do all they can and get back to normal, but this is a long, slow process.”

Still, the look of mud-filled yards and a wall of white sandbags is testing the patience of some property owners.

“I’m sick and tired of walking over sandbags,” said Haylee Wimmer, who lives on the Littlefork River near Pelland Junction.

Like many of her neighbors, panic set in two weeks ago for Wimmer as the river rose quicker than dikes could be built. Fortunately, in Wimmer’s case, several hundred sandbags surrounding her home kept the water at bay, but her yard took a rough hit.

“It looks like a cow pasture,” she said. “There is hardly any grass, it’s all mud and there are deep ruts everywhere.”

While Wimmer said she understands the need to wait to remove dikes, she

is looking forward to operation fix-up.

“We’re going to use the sand to fill in our yard,” she said. “We have a lot of work ahead of us. Landscaping the yard is going to be the longest part.”

County Environmental Services Director Dale Olson also stressed leaving the sandbags protecting property in place at this time.

“On the lake it’s absolutely not safe to remove the sandbags,” he said Thursday morning, noting Rainy Lake is expected to crest over the weekend, but with more rain forecast the lake could stay at high levels for some time and rivers could again rise.

And, while he said it may feel safe to remove the sandbags from property along the Rainy River, he urged people to wait.

County Assessor Len Petersen’s office has completed checking damage reported about homes west of International Falls. And property on Rainy Lake will be checked after the water recedes. Ecklund encouraged property owners to contact the Assessor’s Office at 283-1122 if they suspect damage to their home or cabin.

Efforts continue to the east

Meanwhile, east of town along Rainy Lake, efforts to build and reinforce existing dikes were still well underway Wednesday.

Gusting winds reaching 22 miles per hour out of the northeast, along with periods of pouring rain, Tuesday tested dikes along County Roads 46 and 20 built by community members and Minnesota National Guard soldiers who were relieved of duties earlier in the day.

Posts on social media sites said some Rainy Lake homeowners had lost their cisterns to rising water and that members of the International Falls Fire Department worked well into the evening hours Tuesday to do what they could to pump out water accumulated behind dikes to save homes.

“Adam Mannausau and his crew deserve a large amount of praise for continually being on this,” Ecklund said.

In addition, he said a crew from the National Park Service is available to fortify any damaged dikes.

Rainy Lake’s level rose an inch Tuesday night following rain. The commissioner said that is within the estimate provided by the Lake of the Woods Control Board hydrologist Matt DeWolfe. Ecklund said he and other officials are hoping Rainy Lake crests over the weekend or Monday, but, added, that’s all dependent on rain. DeWolfe is providing officials with daily updates on water levels and forecasts.

Ecklund said area property owners should continue to document and photograph damage. “If they are starting to take apart what needs to be fixed, whether it’s drywall or carpeting or anything, they need before and after pictures, more for insurance purposes,” he said.

Ecklund said officials continue to seek information about what kind of financial assistance is available. “We’re still in the information gathering process, we don’t know what agencies we can tap or where we can tap, but we’re exploring all options,” he said.



Chris Wolden and Kathleen Kolu work to build a sandbag dike near her home on County Road 46 last week. Tuesday’s rain and wind took a toll on the dike and volunteers gathered at the property near City Beach Wednesday in an effort to fortify the dike and save Kolu’s home.

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**DUE TO FLOODING EMERGENCY DEADLINE
EXTENDED TO JULY 7, 2014**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Advertisement for Roofing Proposals
City of Ranier Community Building
Ranier, MN
City of Ranier

Itemized proposals will be accepted for the furnishing of all equipment, tools, materials, skills, labor and all else necessary for removing existing roofing material, repairing and/or replacing any damaged roof boards, ice/water shields, flashing, ridge and soffit venting and re-shingling the Ranier Community Building. Shingles will be 250 lb. per roofing square asphalt/fiberglass composite. The proposals must be itemized to include materials, project clean-up and debris removal.

Quotes will be accepted until 5:00 pm on July 7, 2014.
City of Ranier office 218-286-3311.



Breakfast Specials
Mon.-Sat. \$6.29 • Sunday \$7.29

| | | |
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| Mon. | Big Moose Skillet with hashbrowns | |
| Tues. | Breakfast Sandwich with hashbrowns | |
| Wed. | French Toast w/eggs & sausage or bacon | |
| Thurs. | Blueberry Pancakes w/eggs & sausage or bacon | |
| Fri. | Biscuits & Gravy w/eggs & hashbrowns | |
| Sat. | Cinnamon Swirl French Toast with ham & eggs | |
| Sun. | Blueberry Cream Cheese Crepes with eggs & ham | |

Dinner Specials

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|--------|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Mon. | Half Chicken Dinner | \$10.99 |
| Tues. | Full Rack of BBQ Ribs | \$17.99 |
| Wed. | Pan Fried Walleye | \$14.99 |
| Thurs. | Mozzarella Giraole w/Marinara Sauce | \$10.99 |
| Fri. | Fishermen’s Catch | \$16.99 |
| Sat. | Rib Eye Steak | \$17.99 |
| Sun. | Chicken Kiev | \$11.99 |

Dinners include choice of potato & salad. Choice of soup for \$1.00

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be conducted by the Koochiching County Planning and Zoning Commission relative to the following item **on Thursday, July 10, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.** in the County Board Room, Koochiching County Courthouse, International Falls, Minnesota.

A parcel rezoning application submitted by **Hufnagle Family Limited Partnership** in order to rezone an approximate 3-acre parcel of land from O-1 (open space) to R-1 (low density residential). The parcel is located west of Big Falls off of County Road 30 (aka: Sturgeon River Road)) and is described as that part of the SE1/4 NE1/4 lying south of the Sturgeon River, Sec. 26, Twp 155N, Rge 26W, Koochiching County, Minnesota.

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.

June 23, 2014

Dale Olson
Zoning Administrator
Koochiching County

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Bids will be received for the remodeling of the WOODLAND PARK APARTMENTS COMMUNITY ROOM 2014. The project is located at 1200 Riverside Drive, International Falls, MN 56649. The contract will be with OWNER. The Owner’s representative will be Kim Nuthak. PLANS WILL BE AVAILABLE BEGINNING FRIDAY JUNE 20, 2014 from the office of the Architect.

Bids will be **RECEIVED UNTIL 2:00 P.M. (Local time) Thursday, July 10, 2014** at the Office of the Owner. Faxed or emailed bids will be allowed and preferred. **The BID OPENING WILL TAKE PLACE Publicly. BIDS WILL BE AWARDED WITHIN 14 DAYS.** Written proposals will be received, in duplicate, on Contractor’s standard proposal forms.

Bids shall be accompanied by a bidder’s bond, certified check, or cashier’s check in a sum equal to five percent (5%) of the total amount of the bid, conditioned that if the contractor’s bid be accepted and the contract awarded to him, within ten days after notice of award will execute and effect a contract in accordance with the terms of his bond. Bidding Documents may be examined at the following locations until bid opening time: OWNER’s Office and at Lucachick Architecture, Inc., 481 Mag Seven Court, Suite #9, Bemidji, Minnesota 56601-0219, Phone: (218) 759-2305, Fax: (218) 759-0407.

Plans may be obtained by bidders only for their personal use from the office of the Architect/Engineer upon receipt of a refundable deposit check of \$25.00 per set. Requests for plans by mail must be accompanied by a \$10 non-refundable deposit to cover expenses. Make all deposit & expense checks payable to: THE OWNER.

Plans and specifications shall be returned to the Architect **IN COMPLETE SETS** within ten (10) days after contract award **FOR RETURN OF DEPOSIT.** Partial sets of Bidding Documents will not be issued. All bids shall be in accordance with Bidding Documents prepared by Lucachick Architecture Inc., 481 Mag Seven Court, Suite #9, Bemidji, Minnesota 56601 and the consultants listed. Bidders must carry Minnesota Worker’s Compensation insurance and conform to all governing laws of the State of Minnesota. The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informalities in bidding, and to **award the contract to other than the lowest bidder if, in the discretion of the OWNER, their interest will be best served thereby. THE OWNER REQUIRES THAT ALL BIDS BE FIRM FOR FORTY -FIVE (45) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF BID OPENING. ANY BID WITHDRAWN IN THAT TIME PERIOD WILL SACRIFICE THE BID SECURITY.**

FOR THE OWNER: Woodland Park Apartments
End of Invitation to Bid