

LOCALNEWS

Board sets aside crisis heating fund

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

Koochiching County commissioners Tuesday established a crisis heating assistance fund and policy as a result of a propane shortage and the high cost of heat because of the persistent cold temperatures this winter.

The action was prompted

by a report last week by Dana Herschbach, of KOOTASCA Community Action, who told the board funding through the agency's energy assistance program is being quickly depleted and some county residents have already used up their allotted assistance.

The board agreed to set \$20,000 aside, as it has in previous years, to serve as a

guarantee for heat assistance when clients have exhausted all other funding sources. The applications will be handled by the county's Community Services Department.

County Administration Director Teresa Briggs said clients will be required to complete an emergency assistance application which will determine if eligibility requirements are met and assistance through other programs have been accessed prior to seeking the county funds.

Briggs said criteria for accessing the county funds will be the same as that of KOOTASCA and will be based on income.

The money will be used as a guarantee and provided by the county directly to vendors for the minimum delivery of fuel allowed by the vendor. People gaining the county's crisis funding will be required to sign an agreement stating should additional heating funds become available, the county will be reimbursed.

Establishing the fund was recommended by Community Services Director Terry Murray. He told the board approval to process payments weekly would be needed to meet billing deadlines from vendors. Murray is expected to report to the board March 25 on use of the fund.

In other county business, the board agreed to set aside \$68,000 for timber and resource development and \$45,000 for park development from the 2013 Trust Fund gained from timber sale revenue.

In addition, the board set aside for cities within the county \$7 per capita — a \$2 increase from previous years — from the fund income for promotion as allowed under state law.

KSWCD seeks apprentice

KSWCD REPORT

Conservation Corps Minnesota is accepting applications for young adults, ages 18-25, for summer apprentice positions in 37 Soil and Water Conservation Districts throughout Minnesota.

Apprentices will spend their summer working alongside natural resource professionals to learn hands-on skills in managing soil and water resources. Responsibilities will vary by site and

may include communicating with landowners, providing educational materials, monitoring, inspecting sites, preparing reports and other conservation-related activities.

The Koochiching SWCD apprentice will be based in International Falls.

Apprentices will serve as AmeriCorps members and receive a monthly living stipend of \$1,210 as well as an education award of \$1,468 to use

towards qualifying education and student loan expenses. Educational credits may be arranged by the apprentice. The service term runs from May 19-Aug. 15.

Interested candidates should apply online at www.conservationcorps.org/apply by March 21.

The program is funded through the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund and Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources.

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WATCH YOUR STEP





STAFF PHOTO BY SPENSER BICKETT

Taking advantage of the winter thaw on Tuesday, one man on Second Avenue clears his roof with a shovel before the next round of snow on Thursday.

ISD 361/FES
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KINDERGARTEN

OPEN HOUSE

Monday February 24, 2014
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. & 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.



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- Small group learning
- I pads & smartboards
- PBIS
- Differentiated instruction
- Music, movement & Art
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- Character Education/ Social Skills
- Music & Movement
- Science Exploration
- Language & Literacy
- Technology
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Bus provided in the morning & After school


Preschool & Kindergarten Registration begins on February 24th at Open House
No early Registrations
Limited spots available

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3 yr. olds	4yr. olds
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T-Fri...12:30-3:00	M-Fri...12:30-3:00
T & Th...8:30-3:00	M-W-F..8:30-3:00

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CALL:
Missy Tate: 283-2571 ext. 232
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