

IMPORTANT NEWS from Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations

E-Newsletter July 2020



[OTC COLA WEBSITE](#)

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County Reminds Residents Smart911 Replaced CodeRED

Published on July 9, 2020 at 4:57am CDT | Author: Pelican Rapids Press

Due to privacy & security, it is necessary to create new account

Recent weather may have residents and visitors wondering why they may not have received weather warnings they were used to receiving through the county's emergency notification system. Otter Tail County reminds everyone that beginning July 1, the county replaced its countywide CodeRED emergency notification system with Smart911.

"Smart911 continues to be a free, countywide service," says County Emergency Manager Patrick Waletzko. "However, due to security and user privacy features that were in CodeRED and now in Smart911 – and because users can now provide much more information – we were unable to transfer user information between systems. As a result, we are asking everyone – including our seasonal visitors – to sign up with Smart911."

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No Surface Water Ordinance Passed By OTC Board

Lake recreation became a topic of general discussion at Tuesday's Board of Commissioners meeting. The board discussed issues that were occurring on a lake in front of a constituent's home. The Otter Tail County Sheriff's Office has responded to complaints of gatherings of many boats on popular sand bars across several lakes in Otter Tail County. The discussion of a future ordinance

was sent to the Public Works Committee for further review this fall.

The typical complaint is loud music and underage drinking but several people also said, on some occasions like the Fourth of July weekend, lake property owners could not get their boats off their docks because of so much boat traffic or uninvited boats tied to their docks.

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Introducing: www.lakeadmin.org

**[AIS – WATER QUALITY – ADMINISTRATION](#)
[REGULATION – GENERAL INTEREST](#)**

Introduced this month is a new website for Lake Associations and lake property owners. The tagline for the website is “**Everything Lake Organization Administration**”. It is a library of postings and articles to provide unique and innovative tools to organize and manage lake organizations. It also includes valuable information on combating Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and lake water quality challenges. It is intended to be informational, educational and inspirational for all lake property owners.

The website is a repository for informational posts to help Lake Associations and lake property owners to be good stewards of their lakes. It also provides information on the creation of Associations and Lake Improvement Districts. There are posts on Lake Association Member engagement, Member communications and organization management. It also includes important information on state and county regulations as well as annual State and IRS reporting requirements for lake organizations.

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Lida Petition Drive For LID Expected To Pick Up

Published on July 16, 2020 at 4:12am CDT | Author: Pelican Rapids Press

Petitions to officially form a Lake Improvement District for Lake Lida continue to be advocated by the Lida Property Owners Association.

At last report, there have been about 50 signatures. The petitions are available at Lida Greens Golf Course.

“By my estimate, we need 403 valid signatures at a minimum to move forward,” noted Lida association officer David Hilber. Many of Lida’s beach captains have been calling their local meetings to gather signatures. “I expect more will start coming in in the next week or two,” said Hilber.

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Petition Aims At Lida Improvements

Published on July 2, 2020 at 10:17pm CDT | Author: Pelican Rapids Press

If half of nearly 1,000 property owners sign on, Lida could proceed with formal lake district proposal

Battling weed infestations, “pea soup” algae attacks, zebra mussels clinging to docks and lifts—plus an apparent decline in fish numbers –Lake Lida property owners are proposing action.

A “Lake Improvement District,” which is a quasi-governmental entity, has been proposed for Lida.

Known as a “LID,” the district would enhance lakeshore property owner efforts to take on environmental issues. A LID structure also opens doors to potential DNR and other conservation grants and funds.

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Tamarac Joins Lida In Pursuing A LID

Published on July 16, 2020 at 4:02am CDT | Author: Louis Hoglund

Two area lake associations are investigating the possibility of forming a formal “Lake Improvement District.”

Aquatic invaders are the motivation for both Lida, and now Tamarac residents, in considering a Lake Improvement District (LID). Chemical treatments are expensive, and a LID can open up a lake to taxing authority and potential grants.

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Swimmer’s Itch Back In Some County Lakes

With watersports popular again there has been reports of Swimmer’s Itch in lakes like Otter Tail and East Lost. Both lakes are part of the Otter Tail River watershed.

Swimmer’s itch is common with reported cases somewhere in the county almost every summer. It is not confined to the county either. It is considered a worldwide problem.

“We do see swimmer’s itch in our community, especially during the early summer season,” Otter Tail County Public Health assistant director, Kristi Wentworth said. “Perhaps people want to avoid the marshy areas of the lake

and swim in the deeper spots, if it's safe for them to do so. Showering and drying off well after you swim is always a good idea as well."

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Homeowner Septic Training Seminar August 8

Attend the homeowner septic training at Thumper Pond on Aug 8th 10am-12pm. The course is free and will feature Dr. Sara Heger with the University of Minnesota speaking to homeowners about the basics of septic systems.

It will be live streamed on YouTube and available on the Otter Tail County YouTube Channel for future viewing.

<https://www.youtube.com/OtterTailCountyMN>

<https://ottertailcountymn.us/department/land-resource-management/>



Solid Waste / Recycling Master Planning Survey

OTC is kicking off public engagement activities for the Master Planning process and seeking engagement from the lakes/seasonal/resort population.

The survey and info on the Master Planning process is on our website here:

<https://ottertailcountymn.us/content-page/solid-waste-master-plan/> and the direct link for the survey is <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OTCSolidWaste>

Otter Tail County is evaluating how we collect and manage solid waste and recycling, and we want to hear from you! The County is kicking off a Solid Waste Master Plan process to create a policy-based roadmap for the solid waste system. Let us know how you use the system and your desires for the future by participating in the following survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OTCSolidWaste>. Visit the Solid Waste Master Plan website for more information at <https://ottertailcountymn.us/content-page/solid-waste-master-plan/>.



Endocrine Disruptors In lakes Are Becoming A Concern

Detroit Lakes Tribune

Over the past few years, studies of Minnesota's waters have found a variety of unregulated chemicals -- such as pharmaceuticals, fragrances, fire retardants, detergents and insecticides -- which are widespread in the state's lakes and rivers.

Some of these contaminants are called endocrine active chemicals, which can mimic the effects of hormones in humans and wildlife.

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County Boat-Water Safety Grant Of \$51,000 Approved For Safety

Published on July 2, 2020 at 10:30pm CDT | Author: Tom Hintgen

County commissioners, on June 29, announced approval of a state grant which will be used for water patrol wages in Otter Tail County. The goal is to reduce

injuries, deaths and property damage on county waters.

Dollar amounts provided to counties in Minnesota are based on the prior year's boat and water safety activities. Considerations include counties such as Otter Tail County which patrol large lakes and several rivers.

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OTC AIS Task Force Minutes

- [June 8, 2020](#)
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OTC Board Of Commissioner Minutes

- [June 16, 2020](#)
 - [June 30, 2020](#)
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- [Water Quality Analysis](#)- Individual reports for 168 OTC Lakes
- [Lake Property Owner Directories](#)- Directories by Street and Name for 100 OTC Lakes
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[John Kruse](#), OTC COLA Administrative Assistant