**CORRESPONDENCE and NEWS**

**Doris Hendrikson to Chair – Campground Fee\_2022-09-27**

I am writing to express my disappointment in the fee increase for campsites at Siskwit Lake. I have camped there multiple years and enjoy the primitive conditions but $30.00 per night for my 10 foot sleeping trailer is robbery! My little trailer takes up less real estate than most tents! Without any amenities (not to mention any site improvement) compared to other campgrounds that include electricity, internet, cable for the same cost, you are discouraging use. Most fellow campers that I have spoken to are from the local area. These are the people that you are exploiting! It used to be an inexpensive activity but you have made it less accessible given the current economy. Instead of making money with price increase you may lose in the long run as other options are sought out instead.

As chairman I hope that you share this with your fellow board members.

Regretfully,

Doris Hendrickson Sent from my iPad

**Will Hughes to Chair-Concern re growth of ATV’s\_2022-09-26**

Forwarded WPR featured Article - [Amid growth of ATVs in Wisconsin, concerns over lacking enforcement](https://www.wpr.org/forward/emailref?path=node/2007576)

Copied here:

**Amid growth of ATVs in Wisconsin, concerns over lacking enforcement**

**State approaching half a million registered all-terrain and utility vehicles**

By Courtney Everett

Published: Sunday, September 25, 2022, 7:05am

Continuing a recent climb in registrations, Wisconsin is now home to more than 472,000 all-terrain and utility vehicles, according to state authorities.

That’s about 5,000 more than last year when about 332,000 ATVs and 135,000 UTVs were registered in the state.

"All throughout the state, this ATV and UTV growth has exploded," said Jacob Holsclaw, recreation warden for the state Department of Natural Resources.

The growth in registrations comes amid communities weighing expanded rights of all-terrain and utility vehicles on public roadways. In April, the towns of Porter and Palmyra were the latest to hold referendums asking voters if the vehicles should be allowed on local roads. More than 60 percent of voters in each community supported the move.

Last year, voters in communities including Avon, Center, Orfordville, Plymouth and Union approved similar referendums.

Holsclaw told Wisconsin Public Radio's "The Morning Show," the vehicles are becoming so popular that enforcement is having trouble keeping up. The DNR has nine recreation wardens who oversee state trails and laws regulating ATV and UTV use.

"A lot of people are frustrated, because there are just simply not enough of us sometimes to enforce the existing rules," he said.

Holsclaw serves nine counties near Eau Claire. He said several of those counties now allow all-terrain and utility vehicles to use county and town roads, in addition to off-road trails. But compliance with local and state laws can be a problem.

"Sometimes they're going to get off trail and get into the wetlands. Or every now and then, we'll see folks operating on maybe stream banks or lake beds," he said.

The local golf course and trail have since reopened. The riding club’s Facebook page says the people responsible for the damage have been identified, but doesn’t disclose their names. The ATV/UTV club didn't respond to messages seeking comment for this story.

Alcohol is a common concern in illegal ATV/UTV use, Holsclaw said. This year, state authorities have counted 12 fatal accidents with the vehicles — third of those incidents involved alcohol. Holsclaw said it's more dangerous to operate an ATV or UTV than a car while under the influence.

"The rider kind of has to shift their body weight from side to side to operate the machine properly. And if somebody is intoxicated, that's going to be a lot more difficult," he said.

All-terrain and utility drivers born after 1988 who are at least 12 years old for ATVs and at least 16 years old for UTVs must take a safety course under state law.

Noise is also a frequent complaint, according to Holsclaw, who said state laws allow machines to emit up to 96 decibels.

Holsclaw said people can submit complaints about ATV or UTV drivers to local law enforcement or a local warden.

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| |  | | --- | | **Save the Date**  **Internet for All: Connecting Wisconsin Kick-Off** | |

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| |  | | --- | | The Wisconsin Broadband Office and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration invite you to **Internet for All: Connecting Wisconsin Kick-Off** on **Tuesday, October 25** in Wausau, WI.  This day-long event will bring together critical stakeholders in Wisconsin from state and local governments, Tribal communities, federal agencies, and industry to discuss coordination on high-speed Internet infrastructure deployment and digital equity efforts as the state prepares to launch the Internet for All initiative in Wisconsin under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Connecting everyone in Wisconsin to affordable, reliable high-speed Internet service is critical to the overall success of the state, ensuring the health and well-being of residents and a strong state economy. This event will provide an opportunity for us to discuss ways we can work together to efficiently and effectively utilize these dollars to achieve the highest possible level of high-speed Internet deployment and adoption.  Please hold October 25 in Wausau on your calendars.  Information about the venue and registration will be provided as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact:  Kathy Endres, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, [Kathy.Endres@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Kathy.Endres@wisconsin.gov)  Carah Koch, Federal Program Officer for Wisconsin, NTIA, [CKoch@ntia.gov](mailto:CKoch@ntia.gov)  **New Scam Involving Nutritional Drinks**  **From:** [wisnutrition@googlegroups.com](mailto:wisnutrition@googlegroups.com) <[wisnutrition@googlegroups.com](mailto:wisnutrition@googlegroups.com)> **On Behalf Of** Darby Smith **Sent:** Tuesday, September 13, 2022 10:36 AM **To:** [wisnutrition@googlegroups.com](mailto:wisnutrition@googlegroups.com) **Subject:** [wisnutrition] New Scam Involving Nutritional Drinks  Good Morning,  Below is some information about a new scam involving nutritional drinks this group may be interested in knowing about from the Senior Medicare Patrol National Resource Center:  **"The Senior Medicare Patrol is warning people about a new scam involving nutritional shakes. People are offering seniors "free" nutritional drinks at senior living facilities, public fairs, and even grocery stores in exchange for their Medicare number.  When they get their Medicare information, these scammers are signing the seniors up for hospice services. This is incredibly dangerous because once signed up for hospice services, any curative services (surgeries, medications, treatments) will be denied.  Please share this with every older adult you know. Never accept "free" services or products from someone saying they just need your Medicare information. If you have been approached about "free" nutritional shakes, please report this to the Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol right away at 1-888-818-2611."**    ***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***  ***Darby Smith, MS, RDN***  ***Nutrition & Transportation Manager***  ***Aging and Disability Resource Center - Barron Location***  **Adopt-A-Beach event at Cornucopia -** Erin Burkett, PhD Lake Superior Outreach Specialist, 715-685-2676  Hi all,Thank you so much for participating in the Adopt-A-Beach event at Cornucopia Beach on Saturday, September 17.  I believe the [Alliance for the Great Lakes](https://greatlakes.org/) will share the details, but here is a quick summary. In total, **we removed over 15 pounds of litter from the beach**. This included:   * 139 cigarette butts * Over 150 pieces of plastic * 5 articles of clothing * Fishing line, lure, & netting * A large piece of wood with many nails in it   Thanks again to [Landmark Conservancy](https://landmarkwi.org/) staff and board members and the Town of Bell for supporting and attending this event.  If you would like to receive monthly Lake Superior news including future events hosted by [Lake Superior Collaborative](http://lakesuperiorcollaborative.org/) partners, please [sign up to receive news](https://signup.e2ma.net/signup/1927738/1920443/) or [follow us on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/LakeSuperiorCollaborative).  And finally, some pictures from this event:    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **Reminder:  November 15 is the application deadline for the State Property Friends Groups Grant Program**  This is a reminder that the deadline to submit applications for the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship State Property Development (Friends) Grant Program is the 15th of November.  Application information and program staff contacts can be found at the following website:  [https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Stewardship/ApplyFriends](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMjEwMDEuNjQ1MjI3MTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL2Ruci53aXNjb25zaW4uZ292L3RvcGljL1N0ZXdhcmRzaGlwL0FwcGx5RnJpZW5kcyJ9.5yOwdc3AeRviUP1w_Z4K2KxlFV2HmH0Z5hfLQ4c_hS0/s/2108156947/br/145061701514-l)    Applications must be reviewed and approved by the relevant DNR Property Manager and District Supervisor before they can be submitted to the Stewardship Friends Grant Administrator.  Applicants should contact their DNR property manager as early as possible when preparing a grant application.    Please contact your DNR Property Manager or the Friends Grant Administrator with any questions.    Thank you! | |

**Gov. Evers Invests Additional $16.6 Million to Help Wisconsin Families Keep Heat on this Winter**

Total of $24.6 million in available programs will help 200,000 households this fall and winter

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers today announced an additional $16.6 million investment to help Wisconsin families keep their energy and heat on throughout the fall and winter months. This investment will be managed by the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) and includes $13.6 million for the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) for heating assistance and $3 million for the Keep Wisconsin Warm/Cool Fund for crisis energy assistance.

Energy assistance benefits are available for individuals and households through WHEAP from Oct. 1, 2022, until May 15, 2023. This heating season, the average heating benefit it expected to be $372 and the average electric benefit is expected to be $210.

Residents can apply for energy assistance through county social and human service offices, Tribal governments, and private non-profit agencies, online at https://energybenefit.wi.gov, or by phone at 1-800-506-5596.

Eligibility is based on household income, household size, and the home's energy costs. Residents may be eligible if their gross household income is 60 percent or less of the state median income level. WHEAP pays benefits directly to energy providers to offset home energy costs. Crisis assistance, emergency furnace repair and replacement, and repair and replacement of leaking or otherwise malfunctioning water heaters may also be offered based on household need.

More information is available online at https://energyandhousing.wi.gov.

**STR \_ Mike and Kathy**To our 5 Town Board Members, our 5 Planning Commission Commissioners, and MaryBeth, Janice, Mark, and Phil, **Saturday October 8.**

We--Mike and Kathy--wish everyone happy days around this year's Apple Fest. (By the way, please excuse any typos, etc.)

Three things in this email:

1. STR Recusal details regarding Roger and Jesse;

2. Purchase (by us) for a town hands-on review of an Airbnb-promoted monitoring system;

3. Sharing STR information.

(1) In our future communications about anything to do with STRs, we will not include Roger and Jesse due to their recusals from STR matters back in July, 2022; this is in line with what Roger himself said in a town meeting following his conversation with one of our town lawyers regarding staying out of the STR discussions and votes; we will not cross that line. We repeat here that we were glad that Roger and Jesse recused as they did; perhaps they can use their new-found freed-up time (previously spent on STRs) to focus on other town matters and needs (ATV trail review, Emergency Preparedness Committee, Harbor Commission, etc.).

As our town moves forward to future STR policies and writing an STR ordinance (we don't have one yet), we are in favor of quickly catching up with the towns that are years ahead of us; we support the idea of allowing existing businesses to continue per their permits. We favor ordinance that, at least, preserves our neighborhoods. Obviously, there are many other towns with ordinances that do things beyond the bare minimums as these other towns serve their tax-payers and residents.

We recognize that Roger and Jesse will stay out of STR discussions and votes.

(2) We are making our final choice of a system promoted by Airbnb for management of Airbnb businesses. (Note: We do not own an Airbnb business. We are purchasing this system for the benefits it offers our community...) This particular system monitors things in an Airbnb--things like temperature, occupancy, noise, mold and more--it's like a high-tech smoke detector, but with other features. (These monitors cost only $100--they're actually discounted to $50, or free, with various plans.)

We see that this system may have applications for town buildings, too.

If you have a preference regarding the features of the system, please let us know before October 15; after that we will purchase a system that will be available for a "hands on" review by the Planning Commission, the Town Board and the STR sub-committee.

After reviews have been done, the system will be donated to the STR owner / operator within our town that has had the most noise complaints--noted in town correspondence and/or other sources. We've already seen many complaints regarding noise from STRs in Town Correspondence; if there is a "tie" for the most complaints, we have already considered purchasing multiple systems for the benefits of everybody. We plan on paying--and will be glad to pay--for the first year's monitor subscription fee ( $180 for the year) for the benefits the system brings to the STR owner / operator and their neighbors and the community. As the system is used for a year, everyone can benefit; also, those using the system can share their experiences with other STR owners / operators and/or agents--whether or not the sub-committee is continuing to meet at that future time.

Here's a link to the system; it's called, "Minut" : https://www.minut.com/

(3) In future meetings and emails we look forward to sharing more of the ideas and info that we have gathered from dozens of people over recent months--residents, professors, town administrators, local and county and State politicians, lawyers, realtors, STR owners and managers, guests and more; also, we will share links to other towns' ordinances showing how easy and clear it can be to write our town's ordinance in ways that catch us up with other towns like ours that have had ordinances for years already.

We welcome your responses to this email whether they are as an email or a discussion in a future meeting.

We recall from September's Planning Commission meeting that Phil had asked for an October meeting agenda item regarding the future STR sub-committee survey. (We are sending this email before the agenda is posted, so we can't know for sure that Phil's item is listed; nonetheless...) We feel the discussion of that agenda item should come before discussion of the contents of this email; the discussion of this email's contents can follow if there is time, and/or take place in following meetings.

In closing, we express that we were glad to hear some fresh views and reviews on old STR perspectives in our most recent Planning Commission meeting; thanks to those people that were part of those discussions.

To our town representatives and everyone in town and beyond, here's wishing us all a wonderful autumn season !

More another time,

Kathy Tietze and Mike Storms

Spirit Point Residents

(Note: A multi-decade town member that reads our submitted emails suggested that we list our email recipients' last names and their roles...so here they are... )

Town Board members:

Roger Lindgren, Town Chair, Allen Hahn, Supervisor, Jesse Kaseno, Supervisor, Gordon Anderson, Supervisor, Jackie Eid, Supervisor

Planning Commission Commissioners:

Dave Tillmans, Nancy Moye, Jody Hipsher, Mark Ehlers, Jackie Eid

Other:

MaryBeth Tillmans, Town Clerk, Janice Olson, Town Treasurer, Phil Moye, STR Sub-Committee Leader