

# KRRC Newsletter

Greetings and Happy Thanksgiving!

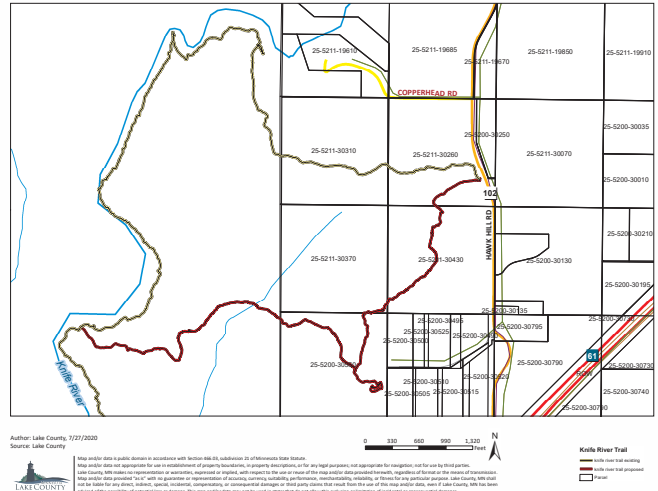
We have a lot to be thankful for living in an area with such beauty and with such good friends and neighbors.

I want to acknowledge one good neighbor in particular this month, Steve Betzler. In 2018 Steve noticed that five forty acre parcels would be listed for public auction in Lake County and feared that soon no trespassing signs would be posted. One of these parcels included the Hawk Hill Road trailhead. He brought this to the attention of the rec board and subsequently organized a group of community members to attend a county board meeting and ask them keep this land public. They did agree to pull it from the current sale but would likely plan to post it for the next. Steve organized a community meeting, where support for keeping this land public was given. The county board then gave the rec board two years to come up with a plan that would justify keeping this land public. Steve chairs the rec trail committee and for two years they worked to map existing trails, maintain existing hiking trails, quantify trail usage, and propose a new loop incorporating a panoramic Lake Superior overlook. An easement for the overlook was obtained in August of 2019. In August of 2020, the work was presented to the Lake County Land Use Committee and a conditional use permit was granted for the proposed trail addition. The next day, the council presented the information to the Lake County Board who indicated that they would keep 180 acres as public land as long as the rec council would manage the hiking trails. In September, a conditional use permit was obtained for the St. Louis County portion of the trail. In September and October, Steve and community members flagged and cut in the new trail making a loop trail that is most easily accessed at the Hawk Hill trailhead.

Like the folks who had the foresight to preserve the beach for public use, we thank Steve for preserving this land for use by those who have been using it for generations as well as for new generations.

We would also like to thank Lake County and St. Louis County for their support of the KR trails.

Anne Skadberg





Summer of 2020 was the most active summer of play at the tennis court since the days of John Geist. This provided such a safe way for people to both exercise and socialize with their friends in the time of Covid. Thanks to Lee Cohen and Mary VonGoertz for working on and maintaining the tennis court this year. Thanks also to David Grong for improving the stairs!

Unfortunately it appears that some bike tires have caused damage to the surface as tire tracks were seen over an area that was being repaired. It may not seem that riding a bike on that surface would cause damage, but it does so please let kids know about this. We really want to keep the tennis courts unlocked and open for everyone's use, but we'll have to figure out a different system if this damaging activity continues.

**WOW** what a summer and early fall at the beach. We had lots of people this past season enjoying the warm water and temps. This year we had to increase the garbage pickups to 2 a week and add extra containers as well as a handicapped accessible toilet. Overall the beach was kept clean with people and volunteers picking up most of the trash on a timely basis. Thank you to all who picked up after others.

We are looking into what we can do next year to improve the use of the beach. If you drive down to the beach you will see a new sign board waiting for signs to be attached. The new sign board is at the entry to the parking lot so people will see directions on the use of the beach in a safe and orderly manner. If you have suggestion please let us know.



## New concrete pad:

The local election judges were concerned about being able to safely route people through the rec building during the election and asked that improvements be made to the side entrance. Thanks to Alex Happ, Dave Schlomann, Steve Betzler, Joe Russell, Kelly Seavey, and Dwight Lind for making this happen! We were reimbursed the cost of this through the CARES Act.



On Veteran's Day the Two Harbors American Legion Post 109 conducted a ceremony to honor the raising of our flag on a new 30' pole given to the KR community by the Albert Wieme family in honor of family service members. A formal dedication will be held on Memorial Day, 2021

Nice job Knife River Heritage and Cultural Center!

\*photos provided by Lee Bujold





## Winter Fun Report!



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### Introducing the Hidden Folk Trail!

There have been signs of "hidden folk" along the trail starting at the Shilhon trailhead.

Families may hike the 0.9 mile trail and along the way look for these signs while reading a story. They may play on an obstacle course, make music in the woods, and decorate trees. The trail will be accessible from **Dec 4 – Jan 1**. It will start at the Shilhon trailhead and go to the lower trail outlet on Shilhon Road where people will then walk back up Shilhon road to their cars. We hope we are offering families a COVID safe opportunity to get out of the house and celebrate in the Christmas season.

Please check out the **Virtual Julebyen 2020** at [julebyen.us](http://julebyen.us)

To help with your Christmas shopping needs all the Julebyen vendors will be featured on the KRRC Facebook page and Julebyen US Instagram page @julebyen.

Vendor videos will give updates on products available for the holiday season and if they have any specials.

Watch the FB and IG pages for exciting news about vendors AND updates on the Julebyen Troll Trail Hike.

### The Troll Report

The Minnesota Department of Troll Control has been on troll patrol and will be making their report to the governor. See this report at [julebyen.us](http://julebyen.us) after December 4th.

Thanks to Bob and Mary McDonald, Kathryn Jorgenson, and Neil Skoy for this fine report.

**Ice Rink** Dean Korri has the forms for the ice rink up and will be flooding when the weather allows. Because of COVID, the warming room will be closed and we will have a mat set in front of the benches for people to get their skates on.  
Thanks Dean!  
Sledding hill is open too!

### Bridge boxes are filled with greens!

Many thanks to Marcia, Robin, Mary and Linda for all of their hard work! Thanks Alex Comb for the supply of many of the greens. The ladies had their work cut out for them as the soil was ALMOST frozen and needed to be chopped apart. Despite the cold task at hand, the boxes turned out beautiful!



### Winter Solstice is December 21st - Help KRRC Light up the Town

KRRC plans to bring some Christmas cheer to this year with Christmas lights!

The KRHCC will be lighting the CRUSADER, the depot, and flagpole as well!

Help welcome the light by adding your own Christmas light display! To enter the official **Welcoming the Light contest** please call or email Carol at: 834-5950 or [carolojardcarlson@gmail.com](mailto:carolojardcarlson@gmail.com) with subject line - welcoming the light. Contest will be judged on December 21st. **1st place will receive \$25 gift certificate to Russ Kendall's Smokehouse.** Please have all entries in by December 18.

All December memberships will be counted for 2021!  
If you are not sure of your membership status email  
KRRCEmail@gmail.com

## 2020 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Member(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Type to enter text

Phone Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership: Family @ \$25/yr. \_\_\_\_\_ Individual @ \$15/yr. \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Donation  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: KRRC

If you'd prefer to use a credit or debit card, please complete the following:

Card Type:    Mastercard            Visa            American Express

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address (if different than listed above):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature Authorizing Payment:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed form to: KRRC, PO Box 266, Knife River, MN 55609

Knife River Resident  
P.O. Box  
Knife River, MN 55609

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