

Highway Department Facility Nears Completion

Lake County will relocate its Two Harbors Highway Department operations to an improved \$9.1 million facility, which was financed with a combination of bond funds, insurance receipts, and state-aid funds. The new facility sits across from the fairgrounds on Highway 2 at the site of its former Highway Department headquarters, which was significantly damaged by a December 2016 fire. Lake County stores eight plows, two graders, two loaders, and various other road maintenance equipment at this location. The Two Harbors Road Crew maintains sixty-two percent of county road miles. Additionally, equipment from the Highway Department's Finland and Fall Lake Township locations is transported to Two Harbors for servicing. Eighteen employees are based out of the engineering, road maintenance, and shop offices located at 1513 Highway 2.

After Lake County received clearance to demolish the former facility in the spring of 2018, construction crews broke ground to prepare the site for a 54,000 square foot, two-story precast concrete building, which was designed by the architectural firm CBS Squared, Inc. The project encountered slight delays due to unexpected poor soil conditions and delivering the concrete wall panels from Savage, Minnesota

to Two Harbors. Construction changes were managed within the county's contingency for the project: finishing on-budget and nearly on-time. The project team - led by Kraus-Anderson Construction Company working with twenty-one contractors and local utility providers - achieved substantial completion of building work earlier this month. Sidewalks, curb and gutter, and minor landscaping are scheduled for completion this summer.

"The county wants to thank those agencies, vendors, the community, and other stakeholders for your support of these improvements," says District Five Commissioner Rich Sve, "Plans are in the works for a public open house this summer."

For the past twenty-eight months, Highway Department employees worked from the County Courthouse, Service Center, leased space, and shared space with the City of Two Harbors. Most of the department's records and shop parts have been stored at off-site locations since 2017. The new facility provides adequate storage space for today's equipment, a safe work site featuring a bridge crane and vehicle lifts, a wash bay, separate locker rooms for male and female employees, and a new meeting room. The new meeting space can be utilized by

community organizations, and Lake County is considering a polling place change for Unorganized Territory No. 2 Precinct 3. Residents who currently vote at the Two Harbors High School might vote at Lake County's new conference room in 2020. This polling place change was reviewed at the County Board's April 23rd meeting.

"The Highway Department looks forward to better serving residents and visitors from this location, and Lake County is proud to provide a modern workspace for current and future Highway Department employees" states Highway Engineer Krysten Foster. Foster shared that she is glad the engineering

and maintenance groups will be working under the same roof again.

Highway Department office services will be unavailable from Monday, April 22nd through Friday, April 26th as staff transitions from the Service Center to the new facility. The Highway Department plans to resume services at the new facility beginning Monday, April 29th. Residents needing to request a mailbox or complete an entrance permit and parties needing a permit to work within county-managed right-of-way are advised to call 834-8380 or stop by the new Highway Department after April 29th.



Lake County Highway Department's new facility - Shop entrance. (Photo submitted by Lake County Highway Department)

Cook County Youth Agency Coalition to Awaken Summer Imagination at Annual Healthy Kids Day®

Event encourages kids to stay active and keep learning all summer long

Grand Marais, MN. On Saturday, April 27, the Cook County YMCA and Community Education are holding a free community event to inspire more kids to keep their minds and bodies active at the annual YMCA's Healthy Kids Day®, the Y's national initiative to improve health and well-being for kids and families is an opportunity to ignite children's imaginations so that they can imagine what they'll accomplish this summer. The event will be held from 1-4pm and features activities such as interactive booths hosted by local organizations supporting youth and families, kayaking and paddleboarding in the pool, arts and crafts, youth fitness classes, a toddler zone, and a Big Wheels Expo to motivate and teach families how to develop and maintain healthy routines at home throughout the summer months.

Healthy Kids Day, celebrated at over 1,500 Ys across the country by over one million participants, works to get more kids moving and learning, creating habits that they continue all summer long. When kids are out of school, they can face hurdles that prevent them from reaching their full potential. Research shows that without access to out-of-school learning activities, kids fall behind academically. Kids also gain weight twice as fast during summer than the school year. As spring turns to summer, Healthy Kids Day is a powerful reminder not to let children idle away their summer days. Instead, the Cook County Youth Agency Coalition wants families to focus on helping children imagine what they can accomplish over the summer.

"When a child is healthy, happy, and supported they can make great things happen," says Emily Marshall, Executive Director of

the YMCA. "We believe in the potential of all children, and we strive to help kids find that potential within themselves. A child's development is never on vacation and Healthy Kids Day is a great opportunity to educate families and motivate kids to stay active in spirit, mind and body throughout the summer."

Keeping Kids Healthy All Summer Long

In celebration of YMCA's Healthy Kids Day, the Cook County Youth Agency Coalition offers the following tips to help families develop healthy habits this summer that can have a lifetime effect:

- High Five the Fruits and Veggies – Make sure kids get at least five servings of fruits and veggies each day, the minimum number nutritionists recommend for healthy childhood development. And to keep kids' taste buds evolving, have everyone in the family try at least one bite of a new fruit or vegetable at least once a month.
- Read Together – The summer is a great time to enjoy books with summer program participants—and 30 minutes a day goes a long way! Take trips to the local library or create a family reading challenge to see who can log the most minutes of reading. Encourage youth to create their own stories as well.
- Get Moving! – Activities that require movement also help kids flex their mental muscle. Use materials in unique ways: ask youth to build models, manipulate tools or develop their own theatrical scenes.
- Play Together – Play may be the best way to prevent childhood obesity. By putting

more play into your family's day, you will soon find yourself getting the activity that will have your family feeling energized and strong.

- Make sleep a priority – Doctors recommend 10-12 hours of sleep a day for children ages 5-12 and 7-8 hours per night for adults. Sleep plays a critical role in maintaining our healthy immune system, metabolism, mood, memory, and learning.

Locally, Healthy Kids Day is sponsored by the North Shore Federal Credit Union.



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