

Status for Upgrading Township Broadband Services

The townships of Lakewood, Normanna and North Star have joined together to bring attention to the deficiencies in internet service in our communities. We have held meetings with CenturyLink, the relevant County Commissioners, and representatives of Lake Connections, which provides internet service to the east and north of our townships.

CenturyLink is responsible for providing upgrades to internet service in our townships with monies from the federal Connect America Fund. Their preliminary plans are to enhance service in Lakewood and Normanna in 2019 and in North Star in 2020. We will have a firm understanding if the 2019 plan is on track by February 2019. If the plans go forward, they will bring fiber conduits to nodes within our townships; copper wire will be used to connect from the nodes to residences (that is, this is not a fiber-to-the-home plan). It will bring modest improvement in internet service to our

townships; some should see a significant improvement in bandwidth and hopefully it will address the many pockets of homes that have no current service. Meanwhile, we will continue to work with the County Commissioners and our State representatives to identify funding options for improvements above those envisioned for 2019 and 2020 in our townships.

In the interim, consider contacting the Minnesota-specific CenturyLink retail store at 763.421.9373 to inquire about current service offerings for your residence. CenturyLink has made significant repairs to the existing copper-wire infrastructure in some of our areas. The retail store has the most up-to-date information and may be able to offer you better service. If the retail store is unable to provide an acceptable service offering, you are encouraged to contact Mark Swanson (mark.d.swanson@centurylink.com) or 218.723.4212) to share your concern. Mark is a CenturyLink Region Operations Supervisor for our area, and has a genuine interest in understanding where our

gaps in service are and that our residents wish to have those gaps removed. Your input may prove valuable as CenturyLink plans out where fiber nodes should be placed to satisfy the maximum number of residents.

Knapweed! Thistle! Leafy Spurge!

Let's find the bloomin' things. Kristin Fogard (St. Louis County Agricultural Inspector) will lead a session on **July 24th, Tuesday at 6:00 PM** at the Lakewood Town Hall, 3110 Strand Road, to help us identify growing weeds that are a growing concern in the Northland. Kristin provides a wealth of information and is a primary contact to help us when noxious weeds are found and need to be controlled.



Leafy Spurge

Election Judge Training & Notice of Primary Election

Election judges are paid officials who staff local polling places and ensure that the rights of voters are protected on Election Day. Election Judges must be 18 years old and are essential to our democracy. Serving as an election judge provides an opportunity to learn more about the election process and is a great service to our community.

Contact Clerk Ellen Hanson at 409-1999 for more information.

Election Judge training will be held on **Wednesday, July 25, 1:00-3:00 p.m. and Thursday August 2, 6:00-8:00 p.m.** at the Lakewood Town Hall, 3110 Strand Road. If you can not make this time, please contact Ellen to make arrangements for another time.

The Primary Election will be held on Tuesday August 14, 2018 and the General Election will be Tuesday, November 6, 2018.

Normanna Newsletter
 6472 French River Road
 Duluth, MN 55804




The Next Board Meeting will be Monday, August 20, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Fire Department	Normanna Town Board	DNR Fire Wardens
Jeff Cooke-Chief (525-7159)	Dan Johnson-Chair (525-0155)	Jeff Cooke (525-7159)
Thomas Fitzgerald-Asst. Chief	Buildings & Grounds	Dennis Gunsolus (525-1526)
Cassandra Pohl-Secretary/Treasurer	Fire Department Liaison	Bill Prudhomme (348-3584)
	Roads & Bridges	Dick Story (525-4052)
	Dennis Gunsolus-Vice Chair (525-1526)	Everett Swartz (525-1073)
Normanna Newsletter	Land Use Committee Chair	
Ellen Hanson-Editor (409-1999)	Tammy Courrege (525-2931)	
The Newsletter is published irregularly.	Cloquet Valley Internet Initiative Rep.	
	Ellen Hanson-Clerk/Treasurer (409-1999)	



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