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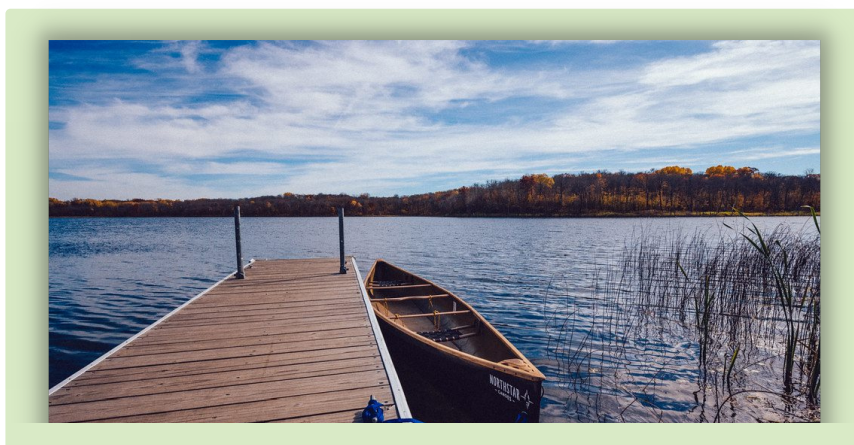
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WWW.LCSC.ORG

LIBRARIES OFFERING MINNESOTA STATE PARKS PASS THROUGH DNR PARTNERSHIP

by Hilary Stevens, LARL Marketing Coordinator



Lake Agassiz Regional Library (LARL) has partnered with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to offer free access to the state's parks and recreation areas.

The Minnesota State Parks Library Program offers community members the opportunity to visit any state park or recreation area in Minnesota without paying an entrance fee.

The pass provides access to parks around the state for seven days. Passes may be reserved up to seven days in advance by calling the library.

More information about Lake Agassiz Regional Library's participation in the Minnesota State Parks Library Program can be found at larl.org/parkpasses. A list of state parks and recreation areas can be found at dnr.state.mn.us.

View a list of all participating libraries [HERE!](#)

Cooperative Purchasing Connection Wins National Award for Relationship Excellence

Cooperative Purchasing Connection has received a national award for relationship building through the Association of Educational Purchasing Agencies (AEPA).



Lisa Truax, Mary Juliot, Julia Dangerfield, Melissa Mattson, Lori Mittelstadt, Jerome Evans, Jane Eastes

Cooperative Purchasing Connection (CPC) is the trusted cooperative contract procurement partner for education communities, municipalities, and nonprofits. Through AEPA and in partnership with other agencies, CPC maintains a portfolio of competitively solicited contracts that Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota schools and organizations have come to rely on for service, relationship, and great value.


AEPA is a national cooperative of education purchasing professionals from 29 states, managing national contracts with vendors in dozens of buying categories.


Each year AEPA members vote to recognize outstanding contributions from and performance by AEPA member states and vendor partners. The CPC team received the award for Relationship Excellence at the AEPA Spring 2021 Annual Meeting, held virtually on April 20, 2021.


The Relationship Excellence award recognizes excellence in stakeholder engagement strategies that proactively support opportunities for co-discovery, intimacy, trust-building, collaboration, brainstorming, solution development, and other activities that support the mission of AEPA.



**CONTACT THE CPC
TEAM FOR MORE
INFORMATION**

 Info@purchasingconnection.org

 888-739-3289

 www.purchasingconnection.org

Lakes Country Service Cooperative's Health & Safety Team: New Contract with the City of Bemidji

by Rick Brynildson, LCSC Health & Safety Manager

The Health and Safety Team at Lakes Country Service Cooperative (LCSC) is pleased to announce that the City of Bemidji has contracted with us to assist in administering their health and safety program.



The City of Bemidji is a vibrant community with a population of over 15,000. The city has seven city parks, The Nielson Reise Arena, the historic Carnegie Public Library, two municipal liquor stores, and provides services through fire, police, public works and the parks and recreation departments.

We look forward to working with the City of Bemidji in achieving their health and safety goals!

If you are interested in learning more about LCSC's Health & Safety Services, please visit our website, or contact Rick Brynildson by email at rbrynildson@lcsc.org or via phone at 218-737-6555.



Street Faire AT THE LAKES

Two Days of Art, Music & Food!

Friday, August 13th through
Saturday, August 14th

Mark your calendar for the 21st Annual
Art & Craft Experience!
Downtown Detroit Lakes, Minnesota

Learn more about the event [here!](#)



**Celebrate the 150th
anniversary of the City
of Detroit Lakes!**

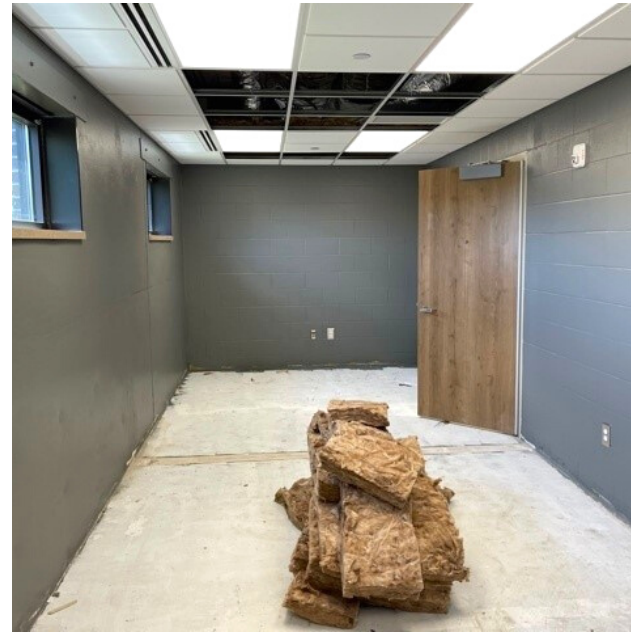
CLAY COUNTY *Minnesota*

CHILD FOSTER CARE HOMES NEEDED IN CLAY COUNTY!

**Have you ever thought about sharing your
house with a child who needs a temporary place
to call home?**

Clay County is looking for individuals interested
in providing weekend, short-term and long-term
care to children in need.

If you are interested in receiving more
information about being a foster parent, please
contact Gail Burnside at 218-299-7654 or
gail.burnside@co.clay.mn.us
[Visit website here!](#)



by Allyson Kuehn, LCSC Special Education Director

Given our role as a service cooperative, the Lakes Country Academy (LCA) continues to strive to meet the needs of our member districts. This includes working closely with our regional directors of special education to design specific programs for students with special needs.

The SUN program (Students with Unique Needs) supports students with cognitive, communication and behavioral challenges. Research indicates that students with these needs require a structured quiet space, with specialized materials to make progress within a school setting. At times, our districts are unable to support this level of service. This is when a separate program can be very helpful for our schools, our families, and our students.

Over the past couple of years, the LCA in Fergus Falls was unable to meet district needs by not accepting some student referrals to the program due to inadequate space, design, and staffing. The LCA in Alexandria supports students needing a SUN program but transporting students for over an hour was not an option.

Looking to better serve our districts and students, discussions were facilitated with our member districts. Within these discussions, our member districts indicated that they would like us to consider options and the possibility of designing a new program in the Fergus Falls area.

After looking at different options, the member districts preferred to expand/remodel our current site in Fergus Falls prior to adding any other new programs/buildings in other locations, as it proved to be the most efficient and effective use of resources. We joined classrooms to create a larger space, created a separate entrance to support our more vulnerable students, and now have the materials and training required to support our staff.

Completing this construction grants the LCA the ability to accept students with unique needs. We now have the space, safety measures, specialized materials, and highly trained staff available to serve students and districts and develop the SUN program.



Legal Aid Kiosks Expand Access to Free Legal Help Throughout Minnesota

Lake Agassiz Regional Library Offering Access to Legal Kiosks

Lake Agassiz Regional Library (LRL) has partnered with the Minnesota Legal Services Coalition to offer access to Legal Kiosks in seven of its locations within its seven-county service area.

The Legal Kiosks are made possible thanks to CARES Act Funding from the State of Minnesota to provide Reach Justice Minnesota. Reach Justice Minnesota is a series of initiatives that leverage technology and emergency staffing to help protect Minnesotans' basic civil and human rights in the face of an unprecedented emergency and disaster. There is rising demand for civil legal aid all over Minnesota as a direct result of the public health and economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Minnesota Legal Services Coalition's initial rollout includes more than 250 kiosk locations including libraries - such as the seven Lake Agassiz Regional Library locations, community centers, courthouses, health centers, shelters, Native American Tribal Centers, and a variety of nonprofit partners throughout the state.

The statewide Legal Kiosks will expand access to free legal services for vulnerable populations offering the public the ability to apply for civil legal aid services, access legal resources, and, in some cases, attend online meetings and remote court hearings in privacy.

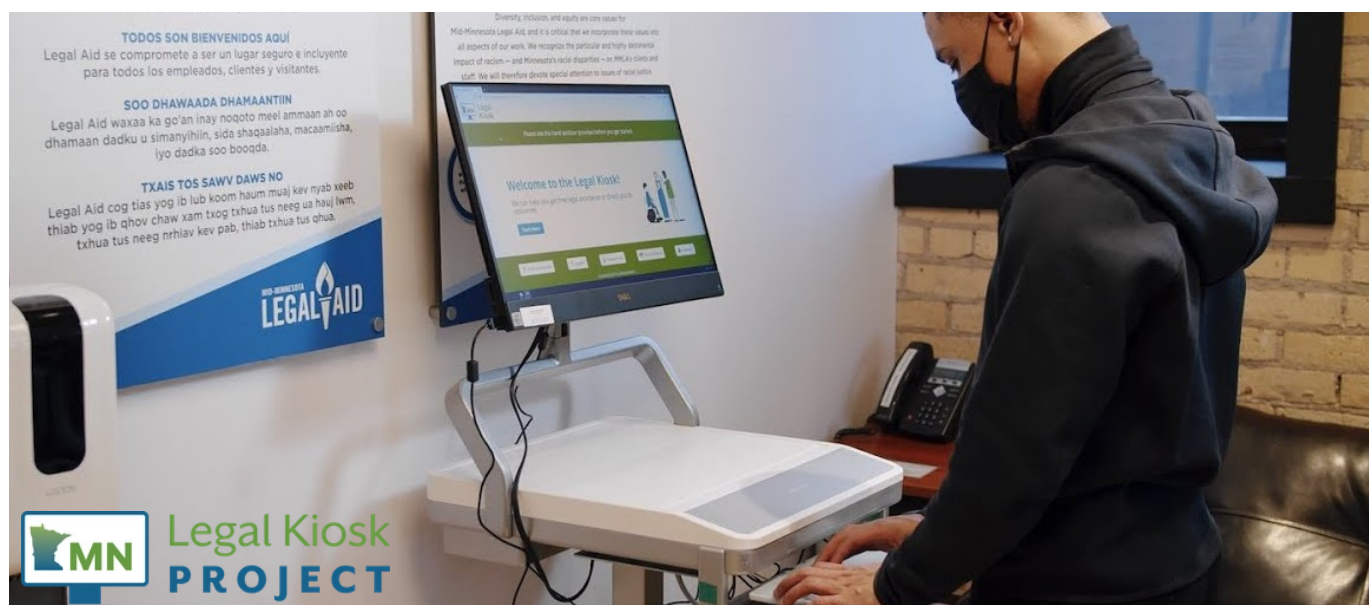
Legal Kiosks are available in the following Lake Agassiz Regional Library locations: Moorhead, Crookston, Detroit Lakes, Breckenridge, Fertile and Bagley. To schedule a time to use one of the Legal Kiosks, visit www.legalkiosk.org. For a list of publicly accessible kiosks, visit <https://www.legalkiosk.org/locations>.

The kiosk terminals are ADA accessible. The kiosks are currently set up in English and will soon have translations into Spanish, Hmong, and Somali.

Find more information about the Legal Kiosk Project, visit www.legalkiosk.org.

*Civil legal aid makes
justice a reality in the
communities we serve.*

*Drew Schaffer, Executive Director of
Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid*



|Era to Act|

└ Virtual Speaker Series ┐

Be inspired by diverse, thought-provoking voices from our rural region and beyond.

The last year has brought hardships on global, local, and personal levels. It also brought to the forefront two causes in which we have long focused our work: building equitable communities and reversing the effects of climate change.

Now—as we work to restore our world, our communities, and ourselves with perspective and purpose—we challenge you to seize this opportunity to help create a more sustainable and equitable society.

Because now, more than ever, we're in an era to act.

Learn more about the upcoming presentations and register today!



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THE LCSC COMMUNICATOR IS A PUBLICATION OF LAKES COUNTRY SERVICE COOPERATIVE.

Lakes Country Service Cooperative (LCSC) is a public, non-profit membership-based organization dedicated to providing services that help make our members successful. Originally created by legislation in 1976 as one of Minnesota's nine service cooperatives to provide services to pre-K through 12 education, we have grown and expanded to provide high quality, innovative programs to cities, counties, other governmental agencies, and non-profit entities. Together, we build relationships that help make all members and communities stronger.

Together...We Achieve.

STAY CONNECTED.

