

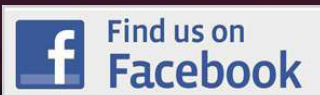
Lake Benton

Make your memories in Lake Benton

LODGING, DINING
& SHOPPING

RECREATION
& PARKS

CALENDAR
OF EVENTS



www.lakebenton.us



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LAKE BENTON CITY COUNCIL WELCOMES YOU!



A warm welcome is extended to each of you and we hope your stay, however long, is enjoyable and rewarding. If we can be of any assistance, please contact the city office at (507) 368-4641, ext. 1.

Lake Benton is a friendly, progressive community and we extend the invitation to have you join us as a resident. To assist those who are contemplating a business venture in the community, we offer the able assistance of the city's Economic Development Authority.

WELCOME TO LAKE BENTON

On behalf of the City Council, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the City of Lake Benton.

Lake Benton is located at the crossroads of US Highway 75 and US Highway 14 in southwestern Minnesota. Whether you are visiting or have chosen to live in Lake Benton, I think you will be surprised at all our little town has to offer. As I was growing up, Lake Benton was called the “Four Season Funland”, because there is always something to do here during every season of the year.

Lake Benton has a variety of activities and conveniences to offer.

- The beautiful lake extends seven miles and covers 2,875 acres. Come and enjoy a day of fishing, waterskiing, swimming, boating or camping.
- “Original Wind Power Capital of the Midwest” – hundreds of wind turbines decorate the landscape surrounding our scenic community. Tours of a locally owned wind tower are available.
- Heritage Museum and Wind Power Learning Center
- Public Library
- Excellent elementary school
- Lake Benton Opera House for fine theatre/entertainment
- The Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park offers camping, hiking, horseback riding trails and a newly renovated Chalet, available for gatherings and entertaining.
- Horse Hill overlooks Lake Benton, as part of the Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park.
- Norwegian Creek County Park offers camping, boat access, playgrounds, beach and picnic areas.
- The Saddle Horse Holiday community celebration is held annually on Father’s Day.
- The Lake Benton Fire Department Street Dance is held annually on Saturday night during Saddle Horse Holiday weekend.
- Benton Fremont Days / Te Tonka Ha Rendezvous is held annually the first weekend in August at the Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park.
- Lake Benton Grocery for all your food and deli needs.
- The Lunch Box Cafe is open for breakfast and lunch.
- The Country House Supper Club is open for dinner and catering.
- Freddy's Lake Benton Bar and Off-Sale is open for lunch and dinner, including off-sale.
- The Lake Benton Community & Event center offers a large meeting/banquet space.
- Lake Benton Resort offers lodging on the lakeshore, plus a restaurant/bar for lunch and dinner.
- Benck Lakeview Lodge offers lodging, overlooking the lake.
- The Wooden Diamond B&B offers lodging on the east lake shore.
- Delightful specialty and antique shops.
- ExpressWay offers fuel and food for take-out or dine-in.
- Lake Benton Avera Medical Clinic
- Seven beautiful houses of worship.

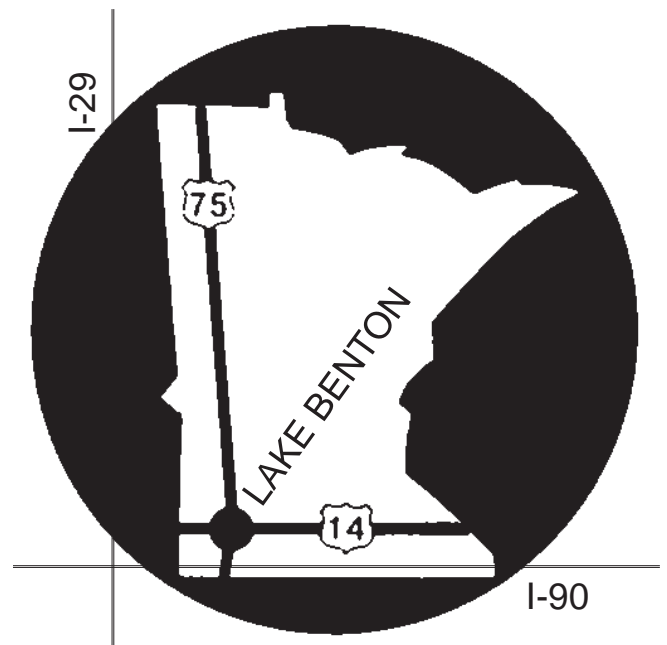
We are proud of our community and believe you will find that we have much to offer.

Mayor Bob Worth

OUR LOCATION

Lake Benton (pop. 684) is located in southwestern Minnesota at the crossroads of U. S. Highways 75 and 14. Our community lies in a scenic valley in southern Lincoln County on the shores of beautiful Lake Benton. The city is located 180 miles southwest of Minneapolis and 28 miles east of Brookings, S.D. The city limits encompass 2,300 acres, making Lake Benton geographically the largest of the county’s five cities.

Lake Benton and its vicinity includes some of the highest elevation points in Minnesota. The area in and around Lake Benton is significantly different from any other city in the county. This is due to the Bemis Moraine, a glacial ridge, which forms the drainage divide between the Missouri and Mississippi River basins.



NEW RESIDENT INFORMATION

ELECTRICAL HOOKUP

Otter Tail Power Co. - District Office in Morris, 1-800-257-4044

Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative - 507-247-5505 or 1-800-927-6276

WATER/SANITATION SERVICE

City Office - 507-368-4641, ext. 1

TELEPHONE/INTERNET SERVICE

Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative (ITC) - District Office/
Clear Lake, S.D., 605-874-2181 or 1-800-417-8667

CABLE TV

Mediacom - 1-800-332-0245 (Billing); 24-hour service 1-800-422-1473
(Repair)

Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative (ITC) - 800-417-8667

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

Lake Benton Valley Journal - 120 North Center St., 507-368-4604

LAKE BENTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

106 S Center St., 507-368-9577, ext. 2, Chamber@LakeBenton.us

LAKE BENTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

106 S. Center St., 507-368-4641, ext. 1, benton@itctel.com

LAKE BENTON CITY OFFICE

106 S. Center St., 507-368-4641, ext. 1, benton@itctel.com
Open Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

CITY/SCHOOL PARKS

Lake Benton Elementary School Park/Playground
Public facility located at South Garfield and East Bluff Street.

Lakeside City Park

N. Highway 75 and west shore of Lake Benton, 507-368-4641, ext. 1
Shelter house with water and electricity, grills, restrooms, boat ramp,
fishing pier, handicap-accessible dock and playground equipment.

West Side Field

Tennis courts, ball diamonds, football field, volleyball courts, shelter
house with grills and water, restrooms and playground equipment.

SERVICE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY

Call 911

LAKE BENTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

507-368-4830

West Benton St., Lake Benton, MN

LINCOLN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

507-694-1664

433 W. Rotherwood, Ivanhoe, MN 56142

LAKE BENTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Call 911

West Benton St., Lake Benton, MN

LAKE BENTON FIRST RESPONDERS/ RESCUE UNIT

Call 911

AMBULANCES AND HOSPITALS

Located in Tyler, Ivanhoe, Hendricks and
Pipestone: Call 911 or check local listings.

LAKE BENTON DINER'S CLUB

507-368-9564

106 South Center St., Lake Benton, MN

LAKE BENTON FOOD ASSISTANCE- LAKE BENTON FOOD SHELF & NAPS FOOD DISTRIBUTION

507-368-9577

106 South Center St., Lake Benton, MN

LAKE BENTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

507-368-4641, ext. 4

110 E. Benton St., Lake Benton, MN

U.S. POST OFFICE

507-368-4229

126 E. Benton St., Lake Benton, MN

LINCOLN COUNTY VETERAN SERVICES

507-694-1033

319 N. Rebecca St., Ivanhoe, MN 56142

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Ivanhoe, MN 56142

Office: 507-694-1033 | Fax: 507-694-1198



HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The first meeting of the Lake Benton Area Historical Society was held September 4, 1996. The mission statement of the society is as follows: "The mission of the Lake Benton Area Historical Society shall be the collection, preservation, and dissemination of knowledge about the history of the Lake Benton area and to relate the history to that of the State of Minnesota." The society became a member of the Minnesota Historical Society in May, 1997.


Groundbreaking ceremonies of the "The Heritage and Windpower Learning Center of Southwestern Minnesota" were held June 17, 2000. Dedication of the building was held on October 13, 2001. Our beautiful museum is located at **106 South Center Street, at the Heritage Center in downtown Lake Benton.**

Donation of items unique to the Lake Benton community are gratefully accepted, as well as those that are loaned for special exhibits. Visitors are welcome during regular visiting hours or any time by special appointment. Many groups enjoy our museum and learning center, including school classes and youth groups. Tours are also given to the windpower sites.

Please contact our office for further information at (507) 368-9577 x3. Hours are: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.- Monday through Friday. By appointment on Saturday and Sunday. E-mail address: history@lakebenton.us

Lake Benton Area Historical Society

Non-Profit 501(c)3 ~ Donations Tax Deductible



Your Donations Help To

Preserve the Past

Focus on the Present

Enhance the Future

106 S Center St. PO Box 267

history@lakebenton.us www.lakebenton.us

SERVICE CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

4-H Clubs (Cross Country, Diamond Lake, Verdi Go-Getters) • Lake Benton Opera House • Farmerettes Extension Club • Henry Sollie American Legion Auxiliary • Henry Sollie American Legion Post #10 • Lake Benton Lake Association • Lake Benton Area Chamber of Commerce • Lake Benton Area Foundation • Lake Benton Area Historical Society • Lake Benton Convention & Visitor Bureau • Lake Benton Economic Development Authority • Lake Benton Fire Department • Lake Benton First Responders/Rescue Squad • Lake Benton Volunteers for Education • Lake Benton Housing and Redevelopment Authority • Lake Benton Sportsmen's Club • Lake Benton Lions Club • Sons of the American Legion • Town and Country Study Club • Valley Extension Club • Lake Benton Friends of the Library • Lake Benton Fiber Guild • Lincoln County Veterans Services • Lake Benton Diner's Club

The Lake Benton Sportsmen's Club



The Lake Benton Sportsmen's Club was organized on February 14, 1952. The goal of the organization is to promote good sportsmanship and for the preservation of fish and wildlife.

The Lake Benton Sportsmen's Club has installed and operated the lake aeration system since the fall of 1980. They have also been instrumental in promoting and funding gun training, pheasant feeding, shelter house and fish cleaning facility construction, public access purchase and AI's Landing, lakeshore cleanup, and habitat improvement. They also help fund the indoor shooting range west of Tyler, MN.

The club holds its meetings the fourth Wednesday of the month, September-May, in Lake Benton. The annual ice fishing tournament is the last Saturday of January, and the summer fishing tournament is on the first Saturday of June; Annual game feed is on the third Saturday in March; and the Annual meeting (oyster stew feed) is the second Saturday in January. For membership information call Garret Petersen at 507-368-2075.

LAKE BENTON CHURCHES



As you overlook the hills to the southwest, you will see a cross on the hill. It was placed there in 1976 during our nation's bicentennial, through the united efforts of an ecumenical committee who wanted to give tribute to our rich religious heritage.

As a visitor, you will be warmly welcomed by whichever church you choose to attend. Each church also has a variety of organizations that would enjoy your presence as well. Just call the church office for information regarding the meeting time.

FIRST BAPTIST

507-368-4319

504 Highway Street (N. Hwy. 75)

Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship - 10:45 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

507-368-9365

E. Highway 14

Sunday - 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday - 7:00 p.m.

LIGHTHOUSE ASSEMBLY OF GOD

507-368-9303

1966 Cty Rd. 124

Norwegian Creek Park Road

Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship - 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.

ST. GENEVIEVE CATHOLIC AREA FAITH COMMUNITY

507-368-4232

119 S. Sherman St.

Check local listings for times

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN (WELS)

507-368-4656

113 S. Garfield St.

Sunday School and Sunday Worship - check local listings for times

UNITED METHODIST

507-368-9395

104 W. Bluff St.

Sunday Worship - 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.

GRACE LUTHERAN (ELCA)

507-368-4243

101 S. Sherman St.

Sunday School and Sunday Worship - check local listings for times



LIONS CLUB

Some local citizens saw a need for an organization to serve the Lake Benton community. So, with the help of the Pipestone Lions Club, the Lake Benton Lions came into being. Its purpose was to give sympathy to those in distress, aid to the weak, and substance to the needy, "We Serve" being their watchword. The first official meeting of the Lake Benton Lions Club was held December 17, 1966, with Charles Parsons elected president.

The club has raised funds for their causes in many ways in the past, such as collecting newspapers, selling fish, light bulbs, and mints. The major fund-raiser of the club is now their pancake breakfasts. These are held on the first Sunday of the month, October-March, at the Community and Event Center in Lake Benton (8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) The club donates 90% of their funds raised to assist local individuals and for various community projects. Some of their community projects of the past and present are: "bicycle day," purchasing playground equipment, athletic/activities banquet, fan of the year award, in addition to donating funds to purchase

equipment at the University of Minnesota Hospital for the sight and hearing wing of the facility.

These are a very dedicated group of individuals who invite you to join their club! They thank you for your past and present support of their pancake feeds.

The Lions meet the second Tuesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. at the Lunch Box Café.



Lake Benton Lions

PANCAKE DAY

Serving breakfast the
first Sunday of each month
October through March

8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
at the Lake Benton Community and Event Center

Everyone Welcome!

Proceeds used for Community
Projects and Services to the Blind.



The Lake Benton Area Foundation

Give Where You Live

LBAF

PO Box 145

Lake Benton, MN 56149

About Us and Our Purpose

- ❖ The Lake Benton Area Foundation (LBAF) was established in 2006 to keep our community thriving.
- ❖ We have a permanent endowment fund created by many donors that share our vision & want to support our community.
- ❖ We help make Lake Benton an even greater place to live, work, & play by awarding grants to worthy recipients.
- ❖ We're here to help people- those who want to improve our community- whether you are an individual, a business, or an organization.
- ❖ By gathering and effectively managing gifts of all sizes, we give community members, both current & past, the opportunity to leave a legacy while ensuring Lake Benton will remain a vibrant, promising place.
- ❖ If you are interested in learning more about the foundation or serving on the board, please contact one of our board members below.

Board Members: Jess Gums (jessica@dsi-services.com), Darcy Miller (millerd@itctel.com), Margo Sik, Curtis Rethwisch, Laura Rethwisch, Mary Carmody, Caitlin Petersen, Nikki Prosch, Vince Robinson & Pam Veire.

Commitment

THROUGH GIVING BACK
TO OUR COMMUNITY

ENHANCING THE
QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE
LAKE BENTON AREA
FOR GENERATIONS
TO COME

Lake Benton

AREA FOUNDATION

An Affiliate of Southwest Initiative Foundation

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Darcy Miller – 507-368-6693

107 Center St. N., Lake Benton, MN 56149

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**Lincoln County Enterprise
Development Corporation**

PO Box 46, 402 N. Harold
Ivanhoe, MN 56142

Toll Free: 800.658.2479

vince@lincolnterprise.org

Buffalo Ridge State Agency, Inc.



139 W. Hwy 14, Tyler, MN 56178

507-247-5244

DON HUGHES – (507) 829-6693
JEFF VAN DYKE – (507) 820-2700
DAN HENNEN – (507) 829-4547

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www.firstsecuritybanks.com



THE HERITAGE AND WINDPOWER LEARNING CENTER

The “Heritage and Windpower Learning Center of Southwest Minnesota” is located at 106 South Center Street, Lake Benton. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held on June 17, 2000. Dedication of the Victorian facade building was held on October 13, 2001.

The Heritage and Windpower Learning Center incorporates the

following: City of Lake Benton, Lake Benton Area Chamber of Commerce, Convention and Visitors Bureau, Lake Benton Historical Society, Economic Development Authority, Heritage Museum and Windpower Learning Center.

Please be sure to visit our Heritage and Windpower Learning Center on your next trip to Lake Benton. The building houses a museum with timeline displays and exhibits portraying Lake Benton’s past and present. The museum exhibits are changed often to keep it interesting to return visitors. Also available at the Center are travel brochures from the surrounding areas. Lake Benton souvenirs can be purchased at the Center.

The primary focus of the

Windpower Learning Center is to educate visitors on the numerous benefits that windpower has to offer. Come see the wind turbine model and several displays that provide detailed information on wind energy. These displays will provide insight regarding the latest technology used in producing alternative sources of energy by windpower use.

Tours of the Center, wind turbine sites and area farms are available for groups and school classes. You will be fascinated by the educational experience that awaits you. Please call for appointment or for more information: 507-368-9577x 6. The center is open daily from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is a must-see when visiting Lake Benton.



HISTORY OF LAKE BENTON

The City of Lake Benton, founded in late 1879, was named after the lake which had been discovered by the exploration of the Nicollet-Fremont party through the Minnesota-Dakota territory in 1838. General John C. Fremont, second in command of the party, named the beautiful body of water “Lake Benton” in honor of his fiancée, Jessie Benton, daughter of a powerful senator from Missouri, Thomas Hart Benton. Official authorization of the municipality by the state legislature was October 24, 1881.

During the summer of 1879, the railroad began west of Tracy, Minnesota. The railroad reached Lake Benton by November of that year. The first lot, sold as a business, was located on the corner where Lake Benton Hardware/NAPA is now located. Within a year, several new businesses were established and Lake Benton became a very active, bustling village.

Lake Benton became the Lincoln County Seat in 1881 after the Village of Marshfield disbanded. In 1901, it was voted to move the county seat from Lake Benton to Ivanhoe. A supreme court judge declared the vote illegal in 1903 and the county seat was returned to Lake Benton. In 1904, it was voted to return the county seat to Ivanhoe where it remains to this day.

Lake Benton has always had the pride and determination to remain successful throughout its colorful history. We are rich in heritage and tradition for excellence. We are dedicated to pursue and expand the vision of our forefathers.

HISTORIC SITES

Established in 1896, the Historic **Opera House** provides entertainment and theatrical productions by local talent and touring groups throughout most of the year. Pleased patrons come from more than 200 miles away to attend performances each year. Many tour directors include the Opera House at least once as they plan their annual itineraries. There are very few original opera houses left to provide the setting for this unique cultural experience. Recently, it was redecorated and new seats were installed.

The 1896 **Osbeck House** was built by an early Lake Benton merchant and was restored in 1976 by the late Jack Burk, one of the best known antique dealers in the Midwest. He lived in the house, which he furnished with many unique antiques from the Victorian era.

The **Snyder Log Cabin** in Hole-in-the-Mountain Park was the home of early settlers to the area.

Sites of **Major Brown’s 1862 Trading Post** and the Taylor family home are both marked in the north part (horse camp) of Hole-in-the-Mountain Park.

Burial mounds, built by the mound builders about 10,000 years ago, are located in Memorial Hill Cemetery.

The Heritage Center Museum is open in downtown Lake Benton Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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WINDPOWER



In 1994, the Minnesota State Legislature ordered 425 megawatts of wind power and 125 megawatts of bio-based energy as down payment on the detailed nuclear phase-out plan proposed by Northern States Power (NSP), now known as Xcel Energy, for storage of 17 nuclear waste dry casks at Prairie Island Nuclear Facility located in Red Wing, Minnesota. From this law, Lake Benton became known as the “Windpower Capital of the Midwest.” As legislation continues to visit the issue of windpower, the number of megawatts continues to rise. As of 2003, Xcel was ordered to produce 825 megawatts of renewable energy.

The second highest point in southwest Minnesota is located just north of the Lake Benton city limits. Lake Benton is located on the Bemis Moraine, more commonly referred to as the Buffalo Ridge. The ridge is a moraine, which is a pile of sediment (silt, sand, gravel and boulders), that were left at the edge of a glacier. There is a 1.6 kilometer-wide break in the moraine in Lake Benton. There are similar, but less spectacular, breaks in the moraine northwest of the city. The Buffalo Ridge provides the most constant wind speed, averaging 15-18 mph. The Buffalo Ridge is approximately 10 miles wide. It begins in northwestern Iowa and stretches about 60 miles through Minnesota and into South Dakota. It is approximately 2,000 feet above sea level. More than 450 wind turbines grace the skyline along the Buffalo Ridge in Lincoln County, Minnesota.

Wind developers from around the world flocked to Lake Benton in hopes to cash in on the new crop. The initial step, Phase I, called for 25 megawatts. Kenetech Windpower was contracted to put up the first 25 megawatts. The first turbines, 73 in all, are known as the “Kenetech Turbines” and are now owned by Florida Power and Light. This was a 28 million dollar project. In 1994, they were the largest turbines in the world, reaching 125 feet in the air, the blades were on average 40 feet long and each turbine produced 360 kilowatts of electricity. This was enough to supply the electrical needs of 125 homes.

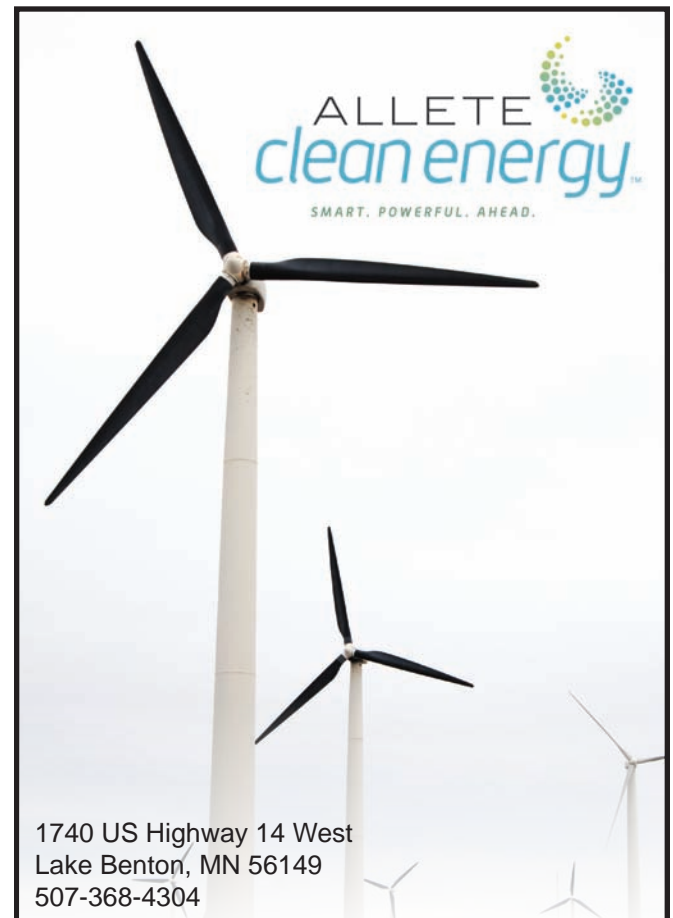
In September, 1996, and in April, 1998, Lake Benton Power Partners, LLC (formerly Zond Minnesota Development Corporation II), now known as AES Wind Generation, signed a contract with Xcel Energy to supply Xcel with 211 megawatts of clean windpower capacity for 25-30 years. These projects became known as Lake Benton I and Lake Benton II. To produce that amount of electricity, it took 291 wind turbines. Each turbine produces 750 kilowatts of electricity, which is enough to supply the electrical needs of 250 homes. Each tower stands on 415 tons of concrete, they are 168 feet tall, and weigh 124,000 pounds (62 tons). The blades measure 76

feet long and make a complete revolution every two to three seconds.

In January of 1999, Xcel Energy was mandated by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to double its wind power development in the coming years. The PUC ruled that it was “in the public’s interest” and that additional windpower should be developed. Xcel committed to 825 megawatts in its resource plan through the year 2015. The new requirements would produce enough energy to power about 100,000 homes.

The technological advances of the wind turbine have allowed for expansion on the Buffalo Ridge. The next generation of turbines reach up to 400 feet, from base to tip of blade. The blades range from 100-130 feet long. The turbines produce up to 2.8 megawatts of electricity each. Minnesota is in the top 15 states with the greatest wind energy potential, with an estimated 75,000 megawatt potential. That is enough to serve over 25 million people.

Please tour our “Heritage and Windpower Learning Center of Southwest Minnesota” located at **106 South Center Street, at the Heritage Center in downtown Lake Benton.** For further information contact: 507-368-9577 x2. The center is open 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily and by appointment on Saturday.



A photograph of a woman with brown hair, wearing a white top, holding a baby with blue eyes. The woman is looking down at the baby with a smile. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with greenery and a pink flower.

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The logo for KISD, featuring the call letters 'KISD' in a bold, yellow, outlined font, with a yellow circle above the 'I'. Below the call letters is the text 'OLDIES CHANNEL 98.7 FM' in a smaller, black font.

KISD
OLDIES CHANNEL 98.7 FM

The logo for KLOH, featuring the call letters 'KLOH' in a bold, blue, outlined font, set against a background of horizontal wooden planks.

KLOH

BLAZIN' COUNTRY 1050 AM
AND 94.1 FM

The logo for kd radio, featuring the call letters 'kd' in a stylized, lowercase font, with 'radio' in a smaller, lowercase font to the right. The background is a sunset scene with orange and yellow hues.

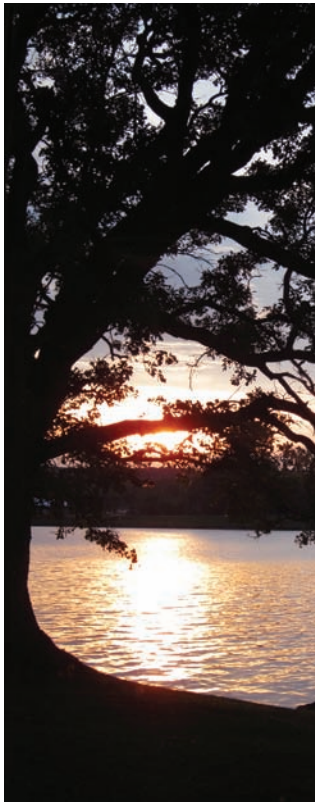
kd radio
99.3 FM & 106.1 HD3

The logo for K-Joe, featuring the call letters 'K-Joe' in a stylized, white, outlined font, set against a blue oval background. The background of the entire section is a green field with white flowers.

K-Joe

COUNTRY 106.1 FM

LAKE BENTON LAKE ASSOCIATION



The membership of the Lake Benton Lake Association pledges to work together to protect and enhance the quality of the water, the aquatic environment, the fishery and the wildlife of Lake Benton Lake and its surrounding watershed. We are committed to preserving the health of our lake for present and future generations. LBLA is proud to preserve Lake Benton's history, heritage, natural beauty, environment and promote its use and enjoyment for all. As we work together with local communities, Lincoln county commissions, Lincoln county environmental office, and the Minnesota DNR we strive to keep Lake Benton weed free. We continue to monitor the health and ecosystem of the lake and continue to combat invasive weeds like the curly leaf pondweed. In conjunction with weed treatment, we have implemented a fish stocking program of panfish in hopes of promoting more "family fishing fun." Everyone is welcome and encouraged to help protect the beauty and charm of Lake

Benton Lake by becoming members. Our 6th and 7th Annual Pork Sandwich FundRaiser's and Member drives will be June 27, 2020 and June 26, 2021, at Stoney Point Campground. The fundraiser is held indoors so come rain or shine! Please watch for further information as it becomes available. It's not too late to donate this year. Please send any donation amount to LBLA, PO Box 193, Lake Benton, MN 56149. To receive any additional information or you would like to attend our monthly meetings please contact our President, Dean Lueck or our Vice President, Darin Cox.



Lake Benton Elementary School



The Lake Benton Public School District envisions itself as the school of choice for families wanting their children to reach their full academic, social and emotional potential. Lake Benton Public School will accomplish excellence in education through

- Highly qualified and empowered staff
- Innovative and Rigorous Curriculum
- Focused efforts on whole student growth
- Student centered learning approach
- Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports that promote positive character traits

**Excellence in Education
Come Learn With Us!**

Lake Benton ISD #404 | 101 S. Garfield St. | (507) 368-4235
www.lakebentonschools.org | Email: jeff.hansen@lb.k12.mn.us

Lincoln County HRA

*Two and three bedroom duplexes available in
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All incomes ~ All age groups

Benton Valley Manor

*One and two bedroom apartments. Two, three,
and four bedroom single family homes.*

106 West Bluff Street

Lake Benton, MN 56149

507.368.4600 or 877.484.5844

Equal Housing Opportunity



LAKE BENTON STORAGE UNITS AVAILABLE



CALL 507-829-6693

email: lbstorag@itctel.com

HISTORIC HIGHWAYS

US HIGHWAY 14

A segment of US Highway 14, from Lake Benton to Mankato, Minnesota, was designated as Laura Ingalls Wilder Historic Highway in 1994. Along the route, you will find signs at the entrance of each town. The towns along this designated route of US Highway 14 have formed a coalition for the purpose of promoting the highway and their individual communities. Each town has identified specific sites that relate to the Ingalls era of the late 1800s. The Ingalls family traveled along this route from Wisconsin to DeSmet, South Dakota, settling for a time at Walnut Grove, Minnesota. "The Laura Ingalls Wilder Guide" will help you find interesting sites and events along US Highway 14, including Lake Benton.

US HIGHWAY 75

Historically, US Highway 75 was known as the "King of Trails" (KT) before highways were numbered in 1926. The "trail" is marked from Winnipeg, Manitoba, to the Gulf of Mexico at Galveston, Texas. This trail was originally used by the Indians and early pioneers as a trade route. Although the present "KT" does not follow the old "KT" exactly, large segments of the highway include it, while the rest of the highway was constructed nearly parallel to it. A remnant of the original "KT" is still visible today following the railroad tracks south of Lake Benton.

"The International Historic Highway 75 King of Trails Coalition" was incorporated in 2000. The purpose of the organization was for cooperative marketing and for the promotion of the communities along the highway and its corridor. The organization has developed a website: www.highway75.com, which provides excellent information about member communities and additional links to those communities listed. The Minnesota Legislature designated US Highway 75 the "Historic King of Trails" in 2001.

Lake Benton Lake is the the second largest freshwater lake on the King of Trails. The community of Lake Benton is very proud of our history and we encourage our community and visitors to discover the "King of Trails."



LAKE BENTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

The library's history began in 1929 with the Excelsior Federated Women's Club, which had a high interest in education and literacy. The Excelsior club collected more than 200 books and magazines, available opening day. The members took turns tending the library during the original hours, which were from 3-5 pm on Fridays.

The library was originally located above the city Jail, which was in the building next to the Lake Benton Community Center. We moved to our current location in 2007. In 2012 an addition was put on, doubling the space. In 2014, Carl and Joann Burk donated the construction of a patio at the back of the library, in memory of Jack Burk, Carl's brother and Lake Benton advocate

The Lake Benton Public Library has been a part of the Plum Creek Regional Library system for more than 25 years. We work hard to strengthen the relationship

between our library and the regional system to improve service to our patrons. Because we are part of the Plum Creek regional system, patrons have access to free wireless



internet, a larger collection of items, and various special events and programs.

The Lake Benton Public Library has always been proud of its collection. Patrons have access to more than 10,000 collection items, including DVDs, books, audiobooks, cake pans, CDs and other non-print materials in the Lake Benton Public

Library. Patrons also have access to more than 800,000 items within the Plum Creek Regional system and more than 28,000,000 collection items throughout the state of Minnesota.

The library has been an active learning center. The children's programs include Friday Morning Fun hour every Friday from September through April, Summer Reading Program from June through July, Game Time, and various special programs throughout the year. The library also provides adult learning opportunities, with monthly adult book club from September through May, an outreach program for homebound community members twice a month, the Winter Reading Program from January through March and various learning opportunities and special events throughout the year.

RECREATION

FISHING

Lake Benton Lake is 2,875 acres in area and is the sixth largest lake in southern Minnesota. It is famous for whopper-sized walleye. It is ranked among the 10 best walleye lakes in Minnesota. Several walleye weighing over 10 pounds have been caught in recent years. Two- and three-pound “marble eyes” are common and many are caught that weigh in at the five- to eight-pound range. Blue gill, sunfish, and crappies are abundant and several trophy-sized have been caught. Many of them weigh over a pound and many have been brought in weighing more than two pounds. There are also northern pike and some large mouth bass. Fishermen who return year after year attest to the fact that Lake Benton Lake is one of southwest Minnesota’s favorite angling spots.

HUNTING

Herds of deer make their home in the wooded hills of Lake Benton. Hunters can bag their deer with little difficulty. The thousands of acres of grassland provide excellent nesting habitat for game birds of all kinds, especially for pheasants. Our lakes and marshes attract many species of waterfowl, including geese and ducks. The bountiful supply of wildlife makes the area around Lake Benton a hunter’s paradise.

CAMPING

There are two fine county parks available for your camping comfort and enjoyment. **Hole-in-the-Mountain Park** is located on U.S. Highway 14 on the west edge of town. The chalet provides indoor facilities for gatherings in the summer and is used as the warm-up shelter in the winter. It is a popular camping park and many family reunions are held there. The park manager’s office is also located here. **Norwegian Creek Park** is on the north shore of Lake Benton and is only one mile north of town on U.S. Highway 75 and one mile east. There is a swimming beach, a boat-launching area, picnic and shelter house facilities, restrooms, and many camp sites.

TRAILS

A portion of Hole-in-the-Mountain Park (on the north side of Highway 14) is designated for those who like to bring their horses while camping. Facilities are there to accommodate both the campers and their horses. Horseback riding is fun on the hillside trails.

Hiking on the park trails give an opportunity to explore some of the evidences of early pioneer life.

Snowmobilers enjoy the open spaces while enjoying our winter wonderland.

SKIING

Water skiing is popular in the summer. A lake that is several miles long gives everyone plenty of room without interfering with other activities on the lake.

Cross-country skiing is gaining popularity each winter at Hole-in-the-Mountain Park.

WINDFARMS

Tour the “Original Windpower Capital of the Midwest” where you will view over 450 wind turbines generating electricity for Xcel Energy.



LAKE BENTON OPERA HOUSE

In December of 1895, only two weeks after fire had destroyed the original wood frame opera house, a group of citizens formed an association to finance the construction of "a fine new brick structure." When it was finished in late 1896, it was considered one of the finest of its kind in the area, boasting a "spacious" stage, a horseshoe-shaped balcony (which is still one of its most endearing features), private boxes for honored guests, and a gas lighting system. It drew theatrical groups and traveling troupes of performers, and was the locale for school plays and concerts, church and political meetings, and July 4th and Decoration Day observances. Since the seats were movable, it also provided space for dances, card parties, dinners, basketball games, and all manner of community events. Even a few funerals for community leaders were conducted at the opera house. From the 1920s through the early '50s, the Opera House showed movies on a regular basis.

Thereafter, the unoccupied building fell into a state of disrepair, with a devastating hail storm in 1963 dealing a final blow and opening it up to the elements. In 1970, with the building already scheduled for demolition, a group of citizens united in an effort to save it. Restoration has continued for nearly fifty years, always with the goal of retaining as much as possible the original ambience of the beautiful old building. Physical maintenance has included roof repairs, tuckpointing, heating and cooling systems, and lighting and sound improvements from time to time.

Early 2001 saw the accomplishment of the monumental task of installing new seats, and, while the area was empty, the entire interior was repainted. In the fall, the disintegrating outside balcony was restored to its original form. Exterior



painting in Victorian colors brought attention to some lovely, but previously unnoticed, decorative details on the front of the building.

In 1976, the Opera House was incorporated as a non-profit organization "to restore the historical building ... and to promote and sponsor the arts." On March 25, 1977, it was placed on The National Register of Historic Places. In 2002, the companion building next door, also built in 1896, was acquired and intensive restoration of its once-glorious facade began. It provides storage for costumes and sets, and a locale for dressing rooms, rehearsals and board meetings.

The Opera House is open from March until mid-December, with a full and varied program of plays, musicals and sponsored talent.

Much credit goes to the many volunteers who keep the Opera House going and growing, whether in the ongoing preservation of the building, as a board of directors which manages its affairs, as actors, costume, set, and technical people involved in its plays, as ushers and reservationists, or as helpers with the mailings.

2020 Board Members

Mark Wilmes - President
Beth Reams - Treasurer
Jodi Greer - Secretary
David Norgaard - Chairman
Milo Downs - Vice Chairman
Anne Lichtsinn - Ticket Manager
Nathaniel Gates - Director
Sandy Hanson - Director
Kathy Holck - Director
Alan Riedel - Director
Lisa Willert - Director
Priscilla Osland - Director
Justin Condelli - Director
Jocelyn Klein - Director
Amy Reese - Director

For tickets call 507-368-4620 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. or email info@lboh.org
Visit us online at www.lakebentonoperahouse.org

Find pictures, videos and upcoming events on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/lakebentonoperahouse

LAKE BENTON OPERA HOUSE



"Shrek: The Musical" - 2019

"37 Postcards" - 2019



"Broadway Meets Lake Benton"
- 2019



"Arsenic and Old Lace" - 2019



2020 OPERA HOUSE SCHEDULE

March 14	Broadway Meets Lake Benton
April 17-19, 24-26	"Out of Sight, Out of Murder"
July 23-26, July 29-Aug. 2	"Grease"
August 22	Tonic Sol Fa in concert
October 10	Children's Theater
November 12-15, 19-22	"Elf: The Musical"
December 5	Opera House Christmas Show

COMING IN 2021

The Odd Couple • Les Misérables • Plaid Tidings

Mark your calendars now for the
2020 summer musical,
"Grease"

Reservations

Go to: www.lakebentonoperahouse.org

Or email: info@lboh.org

For more information: call 507-368-4620

Visit us online at www.lakebentonoperahouse.org or
www.facebook.com/lakebentonoperahouse

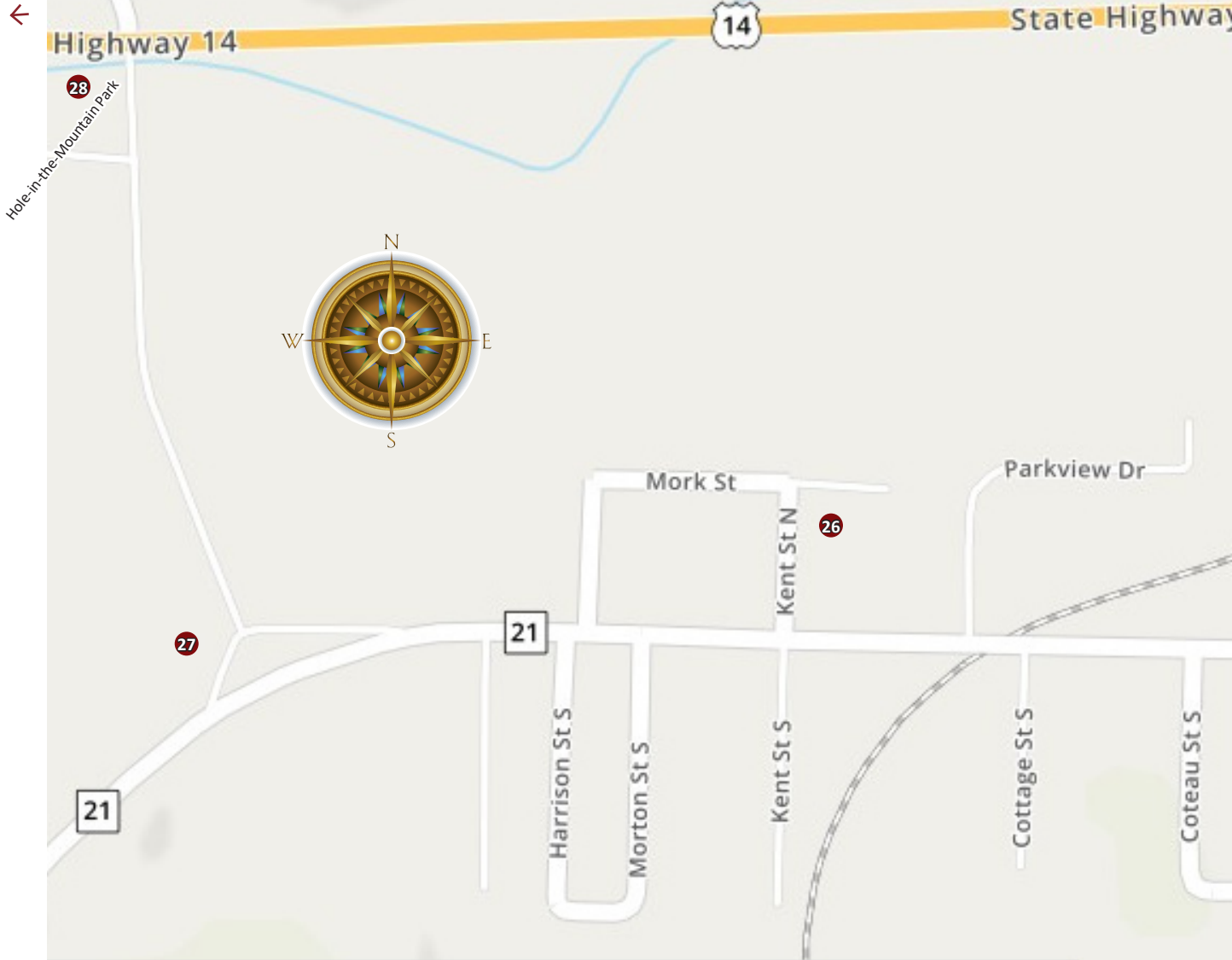
LAKE BENTON 56149

LEGEND

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1 Lake Benton Resort | 13 Lake Benton Valley Journal | 26 Central MN Senior Care (The Homestead) |
| 2 Country House Restaurant | 14 Lunch Box Café | 27 Roggenbuck Tree Service |
| 3 Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water | 15 Freddy's Lake Benton Bar & Off-Sale | 28 Hole-in-the-Mountain/Lincoln Co. Park |
| 4 Stevo's Party Bus | 16 Pluto Boes Legal | 29 Allete Clean Energy |
| 5 Lake Benton Elementary School | 17 Avera Clinic | 30 Benck Lakeview Lodge |
| 6 Lake Benton Post Office | 18 DSI (Development Services Inc) | 31 Kjergaard Sports |
| 7 Lake Benton Opera House | 19 Expressway | 32 Wooden Diamond B&B |
| 8 Buffalo Ridge Antiques | 20 Kinner & Company | 33 Lake Benton Storage |
| 9 Lake Benton Library | 21 City Office/Chamber/Museum | 34 Rick's Welding |
| 10 Lake Benton Grocery | 22 Lake Benton Community & Event Center | 35 Western Veterinary Clinic |
| 11 Rethwisch & Son | 23 S&E Auto Clinic | 36 Country Side Nursery |
| 12 First Security Bank/Buffalo Ridge State Ag. | 24 Lake Benton Fire/Police Station | 37 Knotty Pine Supper Club |
| | 25 Benton Valley Manor/HRA | |

29 (1 mi. W. on HWY 14)

37 (8 mi. W. off HWY 14)



www.lakebenton.us | Chamber@LakeBenton.us
507-368-9577 Ext 2.