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# District of Powers Lake NEWSLETTER

Published for all those who use and love Powers Lake

## april

## 2026

### Ice On/Ice Off

By Monday, December 19, 2025, Powers Lake experienced an early ice on. Following warmer temps than normal, about 1/3 of the lake had opened up by Jan. 4th, 2026. After that, the lake froze up again so that a total ice off did not occur until March 9th, 2026.

### Great Things to Know About Your Lake in Winter

The lake is a very different place when encased in ice for the winter but it is still very much a living system with many mysteries to explore. Aquatic creatures change their habits to make it through until the water warms again. Here are a few things you may not know about the life of a frozen lake.

#### It all starts with steam

Looking out on your lake on a very cold October morning, you may see tendrils of steam rising from the water. The steam forms as warmer, moist air just above the water rises to meet the cold, drier air above. The moisture condenses into tiny droplets to form what's known as steam fog, or water smoke. It's a sure sign that the water is cooling as time for ice formation approaches.

#### Ice requires cold stillness

Have you ever wondered why your lake won't freeze when the days and nights are windy? It is because wave action constantly fractures tiny ice crystals as they form, keeping solid ice from taking hold. In these conditions, the water can actually super cool, remaining as liquid below the freezing point of 32 degrees F.

Then along comes a very cold, windless night and presto! A thin sheet of ice covers your lake.

#### Your winter lake has layers

Underneath the ice, lake water has an interesting temperature profile. The warmest, densest water, at about 40 degrees F, lies at the bottom. The coldest, least dense water, at 32 degrees F, lies right under the ice. The ice itself is the least dense of all, which is why it floats. Ice expands by about 19 percent from the liquid state of water.

#### The lake starts winter rich in oxygen

Fish and other water creatures need a supply of oxygen to make it through the winter. Fortunately beneath the new ice, the lake holds more oxygen than at any other time of the year. At 32 degrees, water holds almost twice as much oxygen as it would at 80 degrees.

#### Water creatures need less oxygen in winter

Fish, frogs, mollusks, crayfish and other critters are cold-blooded. In cold water, their metabolism slows down and they move about slowly, if at all. As a result, they use less energy and so less oxygen. They go into winter with the most abundant oxygen they will experience all year, at a time when they need oxygen the least. It is a good scenario for survival.

This article is adapted and excerpted from Ted J. Rule's book, A Lakeside Companion, and printed by permission of the University of Wisconsin Press, all rights reserved.

## Water Patrol Report

Water Patrol Chief, David Ferger, who spoke at our October meeting, feels our efforts have made a huge difference on the lake. The lake has been very active but has had no issues with surf pattern.

The Chief now oversees 15 officers in this 3rd year he has served. The Water Patrol was well staffed this year on weekends and at least 85% staffed on weekdays.

2022 7 citations 1 warnings  
2023 51 citations 121 warnings  
2024 52 citations 151 warnings  
2025 80 citations 180 warnings

Registration issues usually involve ID info in the wrong place on the hull. After that, they will do a safety inspection-batteries, fire extinguishers [check expiration dates], and life jackets. The new buoys were a huge undertaking by the TOR board and will result in consistent placement. Any direct conversation can be had by emailing, Dave @ [chiefferger@townofrandall.gov](mailto:chiefferger@townofrandall.gov). He reviews email regularly.

## Reminder

Please remember to use phosphorous free lawn fertilizer. Most soils in Wisconsin naturally provide all the phosphorus your established lawn needs. Much of the phosphorus (phosphate) you apply actually runs off the lawn before penetrating the soil. Runoff into our lake could contribute to algae bloom and undesirable aquatic plants. Check the second number on the package formula. 15—0—10, for example, means zero phosphate. The first number is the nitrogen content, the middle number is the phosphorus content and the last number is the potassium content. Make sure the middle number on the bag is 0 indicating it is phosphorus free. If you use a lawn service, ask your applicator service not to use phosphorus on your lawn. If they are unwilling to do this, contact another provider or consider applying the no-phosphorus fertilizer yourself.

## Kenosha County Revamped Land Notification Alert

A newly enhanced Land Notification alert system is now available to help Kenosha County property owners protect themselves against deed fraud. This free service allows users to receive email or text message alerts when documents are recorded against their property, or when a document that includes their name is recorded. scam, which is growing nationally. With deed fraud, bad actors may record documents that could lead to a fraudulent transfer of properties. Deed fraud typically occurs on unoccupied properties, vacant land and high-valued homes with no mortgage. By signing up for alerts, you can know right away if fraudulent documents have been filed against your property.

Online: [landnotification.kenoshacountywi.gov/LandNotification](http://landnotification.kenoshacountywi.gov/LandNotification), the Land Notification system requires users to register and enter their name and property information (such as an address or a parcel number), as well as the email address or cell phone number where they'd like to receive alerts. Users may create alerts for multiple properties or names.

Property owners who signed up to receive email alerts under a previous version of the system will continue to receive alerts through the new system. However, those individuals will need to register with the new system to add text message alerts or to add or change property or name information.

For more information or to ask questions about the Land Notification system, contact the Register of Deeds Office at 262-653-2444.

## Website Signup

If you have not already done so, please visit our website and sign up for notifications of lake events such as E. coli advisory/closure at the Knolls Beach or Slow No Wake [www.districtofpowerslake.com](http://www.districtofpowerslake.com)



Wauwatt Co.  
Kenosha Co.

**THE  
DISTRICT OF  
POWERS  
LAKE**

P.O. Box 462  
Powers Lake, Wisconsin 53159

**Elected Commissioners:**  
 Neal Kuhn, Chair  
 Ken Vesely, Secretary  
 Dave Anstett, Treas.  
 Lou Manfredini  
 Edward Gignac

**Appointed Commissioners:**  
 Judy Jooss, Kenosha Co.  
 Mark Nordigan, Randall Twp.



## **DISTRICT OF POWERS LAKE MISSION STATEMENT**

### **Quarterly Meeting**

The next Quarterly Meeting will be held on Friday, April 17th, 2026 at 5 p.m. at the Randall town Hall, 35430 Bassett Road, Bassett, WI. This meeting and others are open to the public.

### **2026 Annual Meeting Date:**

The next annual meeting was scheduled for Friday, August 7, 2026 at 7 p.m. at the Randall town Hall, 35430 Bassett Road, Bassett, WI. This meeting and others are open to the public.

Within the scope of the powers vested in it under Chapter 33 and in furtherance of the Public Trust Doctrine of Wisconsin, the mission of the District of Powers Lake is:

To support, protect, preserve and enhance the native ecosystem of the watershed, shoreline, and waters of Powers Lake as a natural resource for generations to come;

To be responsive to the interests and concerns of the district residents and the public; and

To proactively advocate when faced with potential damage to Powers Lake's environmental values, wildlife, natural beauty, peacefulness, safety and/or recreational value.