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BOATING SAFETY: Intoxicated person rescued from the lake **PAGE 7A**

Beach to remain closed

For the eighth straight year, the beach at Ramsey County Park will remain closed this summer.

Despite a slight rise in lake level since last year, the county feels it is still unsafe to operate the beach, noted Jennifer Fink, recreation services supervisor for Ramsey County.

Fink provided a chart of historical lake levels from the Department of Natural Resources that shows a lake level close to 923 feet at each of the "opening days" of 2007 and 2008.

"As summer progresses, there is an inevitable seasonal drop that occurs," Fink said. "At this time, because of that anticipated drop

in level, the county feels it is still unsafe to operate Ramsey County Beach. The lake needs to come up significantly in order for us to open."

A figure provided previously by the county Parks and Recreation Department show a preferred level of 924.75 feet for the beach to open, although Fink said a specific water level has not been identified.

"I would agree with that specific level," she said. "It makes sense based on what I have seen on site and the historical numbers."

The lake is currently at 921.95 feet.

Debra Neutkens

