

Local Events & Summer Guide

The 2023 Line-up is here, don't miss an adventure with family and friends

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Lifestyle

ISSUE 2023

A Supplement to the Annandale Advocate / Maple Lake Messenger





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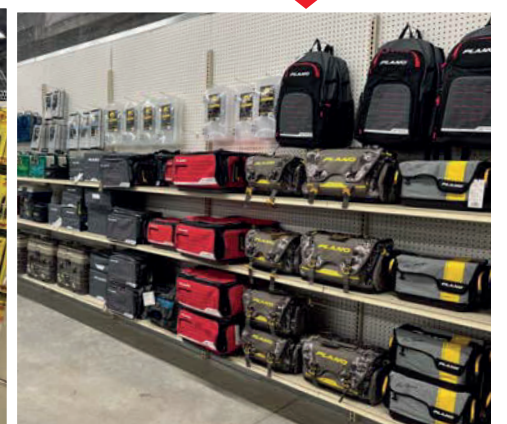
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Lifestyle

ISSUE 2023



The 2023 Lifestyle Issue



Town Baseball - Is Back

12



After another Minnesota winter and cold spring it's time to get out and enjoy some time outdoors! Inside this Annual issue of "Lifestyle" you will find plenty of options for all members of your family to get out and be active. Lifestyle is a free supplement to your subscription to the Maple Lake Messenger and Annandale Advocate. Subscribe online or give us a call and keep up with all the local events found year-round in Annandale and Maple Lake.

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Thank you!



1973-2023



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Lifestyle
ISSUE 2023

Summer 2023
A Special Supplement to
Annandale Advocate / Maple Lake Messenger

From the Staff of the Maple Lake Messenger & Annandale Advocate



Farmers Markets in Annandale, Maple Lake, and Buffalo are a great way to find fresh local foods.



4th of July Check out the many fireworks displays set to take place this summer at area events.



Wright County Fair is July 19 - 23.



Gearhead Get Together event in Maple Lake is set for August 19.



Makers and Growers market. Shop fine arts and local growers once a month May-October in downtown Maple Lake.

Local Events provide plenty to see in 2023

By Brenda Erdahl
Staff Writer

Albertville

Friendly City Days, Wednesday, June 7 - Sunday, June 11. Includes carnival, live music, fireworks, parade, coronation and city-wide garage sales. Visit albertvillefriendlycitydays.com for more information.

Annandale

All-City Garage Sale, Saturday May 6.

Farmers Market, Saturdays, June 11 - Sept. 24, 8 a.m. to noon in City Hall Square.

Fourth of July Celebration, Friday, June 30 - Tuesday, July 4. Enjoy a carnival, music in the park, boat parade, softball tournament, kiddie parade and on July 4th a queen coronation, Fourth of July Parade, fireworks display and more.

Wright County Swappers meet Minnesota's Largest Outdoor Market is open every Saturday April 1 - October at 13594 100th St. NW South Haven. Visit www.wrightcountyswappersmeet.com for more information.

Buffalo

Outdoor Farmers Market Saturdays, May 6 - October 28, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. downtown Buffalo.

Championship Rodeo, June 22 - 24. Enjoy a full weekend of showmanship at Minnesota's oldest rodeo. Visit www.BuffaloRodeo.com for more information.

Triathlon in Sturges Park, June 4, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Visit TriBuff.com for more information.

Buffalo Days, June 11-18. Enjoy a parade, fireworks, carnival, street dance and more.

Concerts in the Park, June 29 - August 31; Thursday evenings in Sturges Park. Bring your own lawn chair and enjoy a variety of live music from classic to rock to country.

Crazy Days, July 14 - 15, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit participating stores downtown and throughout Buffalo.

Art and Craft Festival, August 19, historic, downtown Buffalo, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. See 100+ artisans showing their wares and sharing their talents. Enjoy an ice cream or a lemonade while you shop or a full lunch from the various food trucks along the way!

Classics by the Lake Car Show, September 9, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on the shores of Buffalo Lake.

Clearwater

Clearwater Rodeo, August 18 - 20, put on by the Silver Bullet Saddle Club. Visit www.silverbulletssaddleclub.com for more information.



Howard Lake: Wright County Fair celebrates 152 years July 19-23. Admission is free for children 17 and under. Enjoy food, rides, live entertainment, animals and much more. Visit www.wrightcountyfair.org for more information.

Cokato

Cokato Corn Carnival, August 7-9th. Enjoy free corn on the cob, kiddie parade, midway, a parade and more. Visit Cokato Corn Carnival - Cokato Minnesota for more information.

Delano

Fourth of July in Delano. This several-day event includes a parade, fireworks and much more. Visit www.delano4th.com for more information.

Kimball

Kimball Days is August 7-12. Enjoy a variety of food, a car show, street dance, parade and more.

Maple Lake

Memorial Day program. Enjoy an outdoor program to honor fallen soldiers the morning of May 29 in the Community Park.

All City Garage Sale, June 3

Makers and Growers markets May 21, June 11, July 16, August 13, September 17, October 15th. From 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. shop fine artisans and local growers at this all-new event; enjoy food trucks and live music in downtown Maple Lake.

Gear-Head Get Together, August 19. A car show, and much, much more, the get together is a favorite among gearheads and non-gearheads alike in downtown Maple Lake.

Monticello

City wide garage sale May 11-14.

28th Annual Walk N Roll Community Pathway Celebration, June 10, 9 - 11 a.m.; begin at Monticello Community Center, travel along Walnut Street to West Bridge Park.

Monticello Party in the Park - Ellison Park, July 13, 5 - 8 p.m. Enjoy games, food, drink and free live music.

Riverfest - Car Show & Family Fun Day, July 14-16. Enjoy a car show, pie eating contest, petting zoo, pony rides, fireworks, parade, 5K and more. Visit monticelloriverfest.com for more information.

Art in the Park, July 15, 8 a.m. - 3p.m. at Ellison Park on the banks of the Mississippi River.

Taste of Monticello, July 15, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Ellison Park. Monticello Chamber Member restaurants and caterers serve their favorite dishes on site.

St. Michael

St. Michael Daze and Knights Festival is Aug. 11 & 12. Enjoy kids' activities, a business expo, craft show and market, music, a 5k run.

Waverly

Waverly Daze. This annual event is held the weekend after July 4 in American Legion Park on the edge of Big Waverly Lake. Family events, live music, fireworks, a 5K and fishing contest are the highlights of this celebration.

2023 Maple Lake Chamber of Commerce Members



Support Local Business – It makes our community strong!

St. Patrick's Day Festival

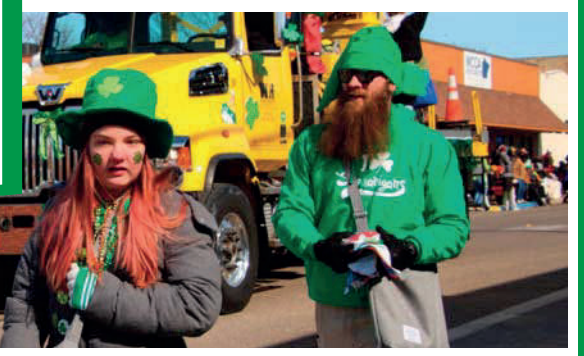


A Maple Lake Chamber Event

MAPLE LAKE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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www.maplelakechamber.com



A Maple Lake Chamber Event

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Visit our website for the latest news and current events on Maple Lake at

www.ci.maple-lake.mn.us



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Email

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Kick off summer at the Maple Lake Makers & Growers market

By Brenda Erdahl

It's been said that for a small town, Maple Lake has a lot to offer. That reputation is due in part to three large events that annually attract thousands of people to town. – The Gearhead Get Together, the St. Patrick's Day festival and the Ice Fishing Contest. The newly formed Small Business Group has added a fourth big event that will have people oohing and aahing over the ingenuity of this small town all over again.

Starting on May 21 and continuing one Sunday out of every month through October, downtown Maple Lake will play host to the Makers and Growers Market. Fine artisans and local growers will set up their wares under tents lined back-to-back down Birch Avenue from Pagel Law to Star Street starting at 10:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Already the group has 30 unique vendors lined up for the first event.

"We're going to flood the streets with booths; it's gonna be like Gearhead all over again," said Denise Blizil, one of the event's organizers.

The whole concept of the market is to draw attention to Maple Lake's small yet unique and varied business community and attract more creative businesses to the area, said organizer Scott Chant-



Farm fresh eggs, veggies and more will be available at this summer's Makers and Growers Markets.



Find unique jewelry like this piece made by Cashman Forgeworks, a local family and veteran owned small business.

land.

"It's been phenomenal the reaction we are getting from this," said Blizil. "It's going to be a carnival."

In addition to the 30 plus vendors, there will be live music from the acoustic trio, Shotgun Mafia, yard games, children's crafts and face painting and an assortment of food trucks including Debbie Wurm's T-bomb trailer, the Pork Chop Guys, Sara Liebecklce's Cream Machine plus mini-doughnuts, shaved ice, cheese curds and corn dogs. The Maple Lake Lions will also be on hand with grilled burgers and fries.

To meet their big goals, this first year the group decided to waive admission fee for vendors. Instead, they are asking for a donation of an item \$25 or more in value which the group will auction off at a fundraising event next February. There is also no admission for shoppers.

So far, the group's plan has worked beautifully, attracting a diverse selection of high-quality local vendors. Here are a few samples to whet your appetite:

- Molly Drossel, owner of Cocoa Maas in Big Lake will delight your sweet tooth with such hand-made

delicacies as dipped pretzels, turtles, homemade salted nut rolls, coconut treats, dipped marshmallows and more. Drossel has been creating yummy treats that people love since 1985.

- The Simple Gourmet out of Saint Michael aims to make it easy for everyone to become a great cook with flavorful, convenient, high quality and unique products from seasoning mixes including steak butter and seasoned sour cream to the fan-favorite Overnight Oats. Made with organic, gluten-free, sprouted oats, organic chia and flax seeds, and organic, freeze-dried fruit, Overnight Oats have a shelf life around five months and comes in a variety of flavors such as blueberry muffin, apple pie and French silk pie. Most are also gluten-free.

- The Butchery of Maple Lake is a hometown favorite known for its fresh cuts, award winning smoked meats.

- KTZ Wood Laser-Engraving is a small family and veteran owned company that specializes in laser engraving and wood turning. Woodturning is the craft of using a wood lathe with hand-held tools to cut a shape that is symmetrical around the axis of rotation. Like the potter's wheel, the wood lathe is a mechanism that can generate a variety of forms.

- Cashman Forgeworks provides high quality, hand-made heirloom worthy knives for use in hunting and everyday applications. They also create high quality and unique jewelry.

Other vendors scheduled for the May 21 Makers and Growers Market includes: CBD of Maple Lake, Steph Ellingson canned goods and flowers, Sweet Stop Home Bakery, garden vegetables from Kelly Edmondson, eggs and veggies from Andrea McBrady, breads, bagels and cookies from Heather Willey, Beckah and Matt's mushrooms, herbs and juice, Needs Power, Jon & Ashley Vega's honey and brown-



10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 21

- Sunday, June 11
- Sunday, July 16
- Sunday, August 13
- Sunday, September 17
- Sunday, October 15



Downtown Maple Lake one Sunday a month through October

Shotgun Mafia

will entertain throughout the May 21 Makers and Growers Market.

ies, Kaehler & Adam Canned Goods & Art, Joe Pavlik Painting, HPF Originals, Gaye Butcher's Fiber Arts, Scarves and Rugs, Cindy Cowen's rolled paper art, Laurel O'Neil's homemade candles and bath salts, paintings and pottery from Pamela Kaskinen, Suzanne Kolbinger's stained glass works, Laura and Ken Neeser's wood board quilts, Massage Therapist Ashley Davis, sculptures and jewelry by Heidi and Randy Schmidt, Jessi Spike's bath products and baked goods, Tie Dye and Concrete, jewelry and bags by Jill Demisse, Kara Steele's wood-working and Travis Swen's tray boards.

Chantland and Jennifer Smail, local business owners, have long talked about hosting some sort of market to draw people to the community and downtown seemed the most logical place to do it. For a while there had been a farmer's market in the empty lot on the corner of Birch and Division Street, but that ended some time ago. There was talk of opening another farmers market, but that's hard because produce is so seasonal here

in Minnesota, Smail said. Opening the event to fine artisans and local growers gives them many more options.

Makers and Growers is a sub-committee of the Small Business Group newly formed last fall under the Maple Lake Chamber of Commerce to create new events, and support already established events with the goal of boosting Maple Lake's economy. For instance, next winter they hope to support and expand The Chamber's Christmas in Maple Lake by adding a vintage snowmobile show.

The Small Business Group meets monthly and currently has about 20 members. Its underlying goal is to encourage conversation between the small businesses in the community and exchange ideas. Its official mission statement is: To promote the growth and the strength of small businesses by creating an inviting business friendly environment while working with all Maple Lake businesses, the Maple Lake Chamber, City Hall and the community as a whole.



Find canned goods, flowers, baked goods and more at the Makers and Growers Markets this summer. Check one out every month through October in downtown Maple Lake.

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Artistry Shines

in local family's repurposed treasures



By Brenda Erdahl

If it's worth doing, it's worth doing well. That's the philosophy of the Kingsbury family in Maple Lake.

Kenyon, who graduated from Maple Lake High School in 2022, was the student who always made the most elaborate dioramas and amazing baking soda volcanoes.

"Once we were supposed to draw a totem pole, and we actually carved it out of wood," she said.

"We," of course is her family, because when it comes to anything hands on and creative it's always a group effort.

"We all get into it," her mom, Janine said.

Kenyon, along with her mom, and dad, Rick, are natural crafters. They can make feathers out of old denim jeans, jewelry out of old belt buckles and bracelets out of the belts. Rick has a knack for refurbishing old table lamps and lamp posts into solar powered garden lights.

Over the years, their crafts have drawn the attention of friends and neighbors, which encouraged them to dream a little bigger. This summer, they will sell their wares at Minnesota's largest seasonal outdoor market, the Wright County Swappers Meet.

"We don't make a lot of money at this, we just enjoy seeing other people enjoy what we made," Rick said.

Their new entrepreneurship all started last summer with the opening of Trails End T, a business venture of Kenyon and Janine's that has them selling Herbalife brand healthy beverages on the go from a converted horse trailer. Wanting to drum up more business for their new endeavor, the family decided to pursue a spot at the Swappers Meet, a summer-long market just west of Annandale that attracts 150 to 200 sellers on Saturdays and 350-plus on holiday weekends. And it wasn't easy getting in. Initially, there



Rick Kingsbury, left, made these solar powered garden lights with help from his family, daughter Kenyon and wife Janine. The family will be selling them and other crafts this summer.

was another Herbalife seller at the meet and with limited spacing, swap meet organizers decided they only wanted one, Rick said. The Kingsburys lucked out when shortly-there-after the Herbalife dealer decided to move on, and the family was in a position to move right in.

It turned out the 30 by 30-foot space they were given was too much for the little trailer so they asked if they could also sell some of their crafts. Now they are glad they did because they've become quite popular. Among the items they sell are belt buckle necklaces, hand-made earrings, bracelets and keychains made out of belts, decorative denim feathers and homemade paper infused with wildflower seeds that can actually be planted and grown after use. The majority of the Kingsbury's crafts have a decidedly western feel and have been popular with men and women alike.

Kenyon has even taken to making custom jewelry orders onsite. She lets the customer pick out a buckle and all the embellishments and puts it together right in front of them. It puts a little more pressure on Kenyon who recalled one customer last summer who really challenged her with a design. Usually able to crank out her creations relatively quickly, this one

took a bit longer. The customer decided to walk around the outdoor market to pass the time, Kenyon recalled. But by the end of the second lap, Kenyon had made just what the customer wanted.

"And they think it's really cool to see it being made," she said.

Kenyon came up with the belt buckle necklace idea back when she was in 4-H. That first belt-buckle necklace got her to the State Fair. She's always been interested in repurposing old treasures. It started when she found a bag of antique bottle caps and turned them into earrings. Her par-

ents think along the same lines. When Kenyon was younger, she and her mom often made decorative jars, occasion cards and whatever else came to mind. If they find something laying around with no apparent purpose and it looks intriguing, they will figure out a way to put it to good use.

Rick became interested in solar lighting when Janine asked him to make a gnome house out of a stump in their yard. Like every project this family undertakes, it became more elaborate, until he not only had a tiny house, he had a tiny house with a tiny window lit by solar power. That led him to want to figure out how to use solar to light more parts of his yard.

Eventually he started collecting old lamps and lamp posts that he took the wiring out of and replaced with solar lighting. His solar powered lamps are great for the outdoors because they don't need electricity and they give off just enough light to see by, but not enough to attract swarms of mosquitos, he said.

While each Kingsbury has their own niche, they all help each other out. It's a true family endeavor, and above all, it's fun, they said.

The Kingsburys expect to be at the Wright County Swappers Meet most weekends and holidays.



Kenyon Kingsbury is the mastermind behind these belt buckle necklaces and handmade earrings, but the family works together in everything they do.



These are some of the bracelets Kenyon has made from refurbished belts.



Janine likes to make these decorative denim feathers. She makes them by sewing a line down the center then fraying the edges. People like to hang them in their cars, on their hats and on their purses.



Kenyon doesn't waste a thing; she uses belt buckles for necklaces and the rest of the belt for key chains and bracelets.

RELIVE HISTORY AT MINNESOTA PIONEER PARK

By Brenda Erdahl

Minnesota Pioneer Park is one of the largest “open-air” living history museums in the United States and it’s practically in our back yard. Located on the east side of Annandale just off Highway 55, the park is dedicated to preserving pioneer heritage with more than 20 historical buildings that house an assortment of artifacts specific in many ways to Central Minnesota.

The park has become a destination for visitors and students from around the state, country and even the world.

Maple Syrup Pancake Breakfast

The Maple Syrup Pancake Breakfast is one of the first events the park initiated 51 years ago when it opened. In “History of Minnesota Pioneer Park,” an article that documents the making of Pioneer Park, author Carol Weir writes about how maple syrup was abundant at the park, and how Willard Leinonen, Gil Otto and many others collected and cooked the sap for the first pancake breakfast in an effort to raise money for the many expenses involved in operating an open-air museum. This year’s event will take place, Sunday, May 21.

Vintage Tractor Show

Minnesota Pioneer Park will host its fifth annual Vintage Tractor show on June 10. Local collectors are invited to compete for trophies in several categories including people’s choice, best restoration, oldest tractor, most original tractor and longest distance. There will be an exhibitor’s tractor drive at 9:30 a.m., a tractor parade at 1:30 p.m.



Pioneer Park will host its fifth annual Vintage Tractor show on June 10.



Enjoy pioneer reenactments and demonstrations at multiple events this summer.

and plowing following the parade. Lawn and garden tractors and stationary engines are welcome. The park’s historical buildings will be open for viewing and food will be available. There is a gate admission for visitors. Those exhibiting their tractors get in free.

Country Church Service

Enjoy a County Church Service in a pioneer church July 2 at 10 a.m. followed by brunch in the Big Woods Museum. Free will donations accepted.

Pickers Festival/Car Show

Take a trip back in time during Minnesota Pioneer Park’s 10th annual Bluegrass Picker’s Festival and third annual Collector Car Show all on the same day, July 8. Lay your eyes on an assortment of classic and antique automobiles from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and enjoy Bluegrass jam sessions throughout the day. At 5:30 p.m. the Bluegrass Music Show begins in the barn. Bring your own lawn chair and enjoy the music. Food will be available all day.

Pork Chop Feed

The park’s Pork Chop Feed on August 13 is a fundraiser to renovate the blacksmith shop. Enjoy a meal of porkchops, potato, coleslaw, a roll plus dessert and beverage from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Home baked goods and maple syrup will be for sale. Donations are appreciated.

Nobel Shadduck Festival

On September 16, Pioneer Park

will honor Nobel Shadduck and early founders of the park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be artisans, demonstrations, music, family activities and much more. The park’s 21 historical buildings will also be open for touring.



Enjoy family games at Pioneer Park’s Nobel Shadduck Festival on September 16.

Fall Maple Syrup Pancake Breakfast

Enjoy all you can eat pancakes at the park on October 8. The meal also includes eggs, sausage and a beverage. Gluten free pancakes will be available.

Halloween Spooktacular

Enter if you dare the Hunted Barn of Terror October 28 at Pioneer Park’s Halloween Spooktacular, plus food and free cookie decorating.

The making of Pioneer Park

The historic moving of the Soo Line Train Depot down Highway 55 in 1972 was the first piece of a puzzle that, over the next five years, saw rapid growth. The park board at that time had at their disposal a sizeable piece of land

along Highway 55 that the Village of Annandale offered to lease to them for \$1 per year. Known as the Ridgeway Farm, this is where they brought the depot and the many buildings that followed. On the property already were three buildings that were part of the original farm – the granary, barn, and farmhouse.

From that point, construction of the park as it is known today began to move forward rapidly. In 1974, the park acquired the 1901 Albion Township schoolhouse that had been used to teach students until 1970. In 1975, the 1886 French Lake church was moved onto the grounds and around that same time the Corinna Township Hall, built in 1892, was moved to Pioneer Village. Pioneer Village was a large undertaking all on its own. From 1977 to 1978 volunteers worked tirelessly to build a historically accurate main street scene with nearly a dozen businesses authentic to the times and a wooden boardwalk that ran the length of them. Old buildings were brought in for use as replicas of the barbershop, 1917 dental office and 1886 post office, lawyers office, buggy shop, and undertaker parlor.

By the late 1970s, construction of a sod house/claim shanty replica was finished, and the park had acquired the 1884 Anton Sorensen Log Cabin from Foley and reconstructed it on site. At that time the maple syrup operation in the new Maple Syrup Shack had begun. Work had also begun on the two level Big Woods and Museum which would house Native American artifacts loaned by Harvey Hawkinson, rock collections and much more given by Shadduck and other donors. In 2015 this is where the Gordon Memorial Research Library was established.

In 2017, volunteers from Annandale, Maple Lake and South Haven worked together to build and furnish the firehall in Pioneer Village. Many artifacts from the Maple Lake Fire Department can be found here including authentic

gas masks, gear and a fire hose wagon used in the late 1920s and 1930s to haul hoses to the fire site. The building itself is a remarkable feat of volunteerism. Spearheaded by Jim Dearing, retired owner of Dearing Construction and Tom Neu of Maple Lake Lumber, the hall was constructed in one day using volunteer labor. According to a description of the event written by then Park President Ed Skomoroh, a group of about 25 workers went to action at 7 a.m. and by 3:30 that afternoon everything was complete except for the front façade because they had run out of lumber. Skomoroh wrote, “it reminded me of when early settlers would get together to raise a barn.”



The park’s Bluegrass Picker’s Festival and Collector Car Show is July 8.

Preserving history

Over the years, the park has held a variety of events to raise money and grow the knowledge of Central Minnesota’s past, but its biggest accomplishment remains the many school children who come through the park as part of school tours. Before COVID hit, the park easily hosted 1,000 children a year.

A proud past

Minnesota Pioneer Park has a proud history and looks forward to an equally distinguished future. Pioneer Park is open Memorial weekend to Labor Day, Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and weekends from noon to 4 p.m. For more information visit their website at www.pioneer-park.org, email pioneerp@lakedalelink.net or call 320-274-8498.



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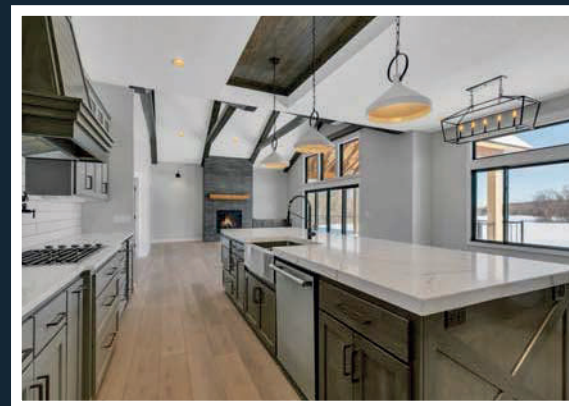
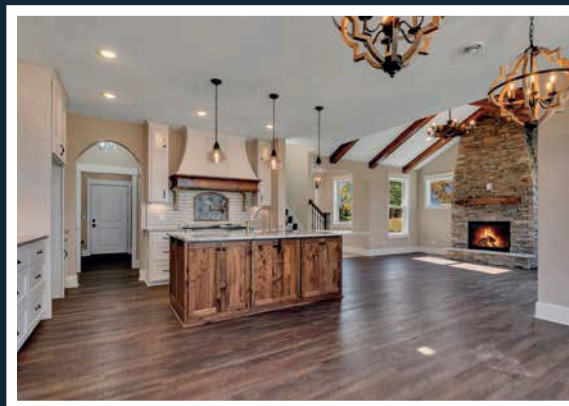
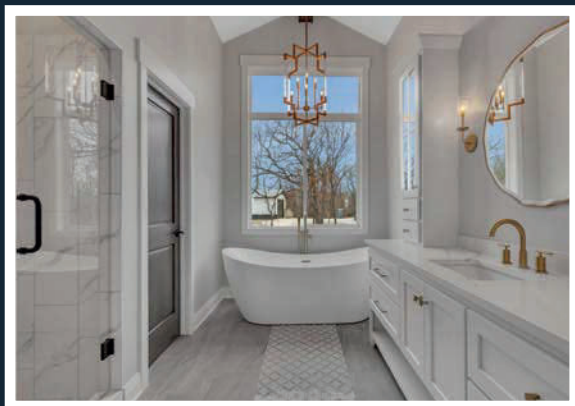


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Summer at the Ball Park in Maple Lake

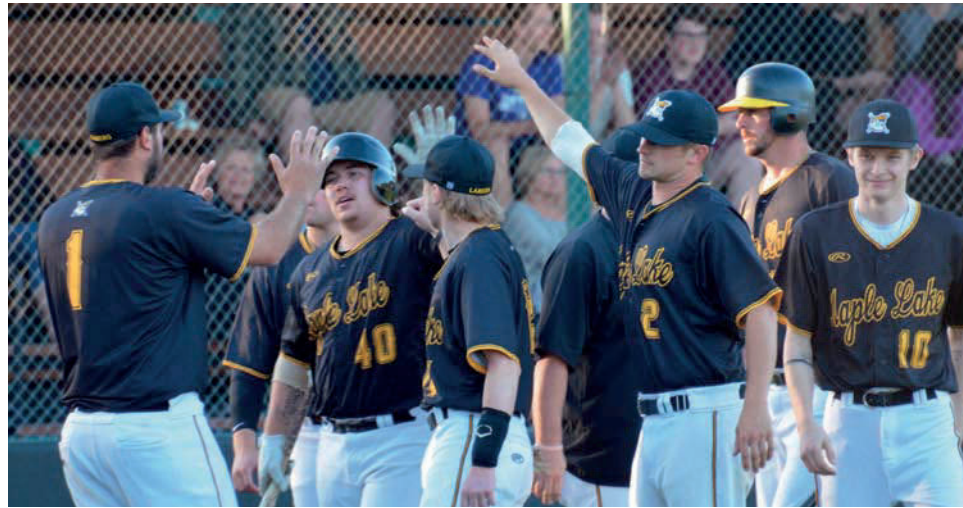
By Brenda Erdahl

After a long, snowy winter, nothing is more welcoming than a warm evening at the baseball park. Maple Lake's amateur club, the Lakers kick off their season this weekend, on Saturday, May 6 at 6 p.m. in Mora. Their first league home game set for Friday, May 12 against Montrose/Waverly.

Since the early 20th century, town ball has held a spot in the history and heart of Maple Lake. With one of the best amateur baseball parks in the state, no shortage of community support, and a winning program with 20-state tournament appearances since 1975, the Lakers are a source of pride and entertainment.

2023 outlook

The 2023 squad returns a core of talented players including one of the best pitching staffs in the League in long-time ace Mitch Wurm, Ben Reilly, Nick Preisinger, Grant Mergen and Hunter Malachek. Last year, Malachek had 57 innings pitched, a 7-1 win/loss record, 72 strike outs, and a 1.74 earned run average for the fourth-best pitching stats in the league.



Enjoy an evening at the baseball park this season. The Maple Lake Lakers first home game is Friday, May 12 at 7 p.m.

The pitching staff should see plenty of run support from a hard-hitting team led by Reilly, Donnie Mavencamp, Matt Bergstrom, Ben Clapp, and Ben Goelz.

Maple Lake is part of the North Star League, a deep and competitive group made up of 12 teams: the Buffalo Bulldogs, Cokato

Kernels, D-C Saints, Delano A's, Howard Lake Orphans, Hutchinson Huskies, Litchfield Blues, Loretto Larks, Maple Lake Lakers, Maple Plain Diamond Devils, Rockford Crows and Waverly/Montrose Stingers.

Lakers Manager Casey Pack expects Hutchinson and Delano to be at the top of the

pack with Litchfield not far behind with a lot of young talent and a competitive pitching staff. Last year, Litchfield's Avery Liestman was second in the league in pitching with a 1.59 earned run average. Hutchinson pitcher, Z. Kuseske, was third with 1.74 (He had just one more win than Malachek).

The Lakers finished the North Star League playoffs last year as the fourth seed from Region 12 and advanced to the state tournament where they were knocked out in round one by a close, one-run (9-8) loss to the Stark Longhorns.

"We're looking forward to another great season, and the goal is always to make the state tournament," Pack said.

The 2022 season marks the 20th time the Lakers have qualified for the state tournament. The highlight of those years was 2012 when they won the state title, the first for the team since 1939. That was also the year of a total remodel at Irish Stadium for the 2013 Class C Championship which Maple Lake was chosen to host. Maple Lake played host to the prestigious event again in 2019, further tightening the bond between baseball and the community. This year's state event will be the

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The Lakers possess one of the best pitching staffs in the North Star League.

100th. Delano, Dassel and Litchfield are hosting.

A highlight of the 2022 Laker season includes longtime player, manager, and volunteer Dale Decker's acceptance into the MN Baseball Hall of Fame. He joined former Laker Manager Gary Porter who was inducted in 2013.

A distinguished past

Townball has been around in Maple Lake since the early 1900s and even back then saw

no shortage of success.

In 1916, the Lakers won their first league championship. In 1925, they attended their first state tournament, losing 4-0 to White Bear Lake. In 1931 the Lakers won their first state championship, then won another in 1939. That same year the team advanced to the national tournament in Battle Creek, MI as the smallest community represented, and the last Minnesota team to play there.

In 1947 the Maple Lake players again won their way to the state tournament but lost to Chaska 1-0. The first home game played in a stadium at its current site was on July 24, 1950. Since that first state appearance in 1925, the Lakers went to state seven more times in 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1936, 1939 and 1947. In 1958 the Lakers made league history by becoming the first team to win the regular season championship and the league championship.

In 1965 a lack of players, money problems and rising interest in the Minnesota Twins caused the Lakers to withdraw from the Northstar League. It wasn't until 1971, under coach Gary Porter, that the Lakers reorganized into the success story they are today.

Off and running

The Lakers first home game against Montrose/Waverly starts at 7 p.m. It's also free popcorn night. On Sunday, May 14 they play Delano at 1 p.m.

Maple Lake Lakers Baseball Schedule -2023



VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR CURRENT SCHEDULE!



* League Game
Home Games Bold

www.maplelakelakers.com

05/06	6:00 PM	@ Mora - First game new field
05/12	7:00 PM	vs. Montrose/Waverly* - Free Popcorn
05/14	1:00 PM	@ Delano *
05/19	7:00 PM	@ Monticello
05/21	1:00 PM	@ Rockford*
05/24	7:00 PM	vs. Maple Plain*
05/31	7:00 PM	vs. Dassel-Cokato*
06/02	7:00 PM	@ Loretto*
06/04	1:00 PM	@ Hutchinson*
06/07	7:00 PM	vs. Buffalo*
06/09	7:00 PM	vs. St. Wendel* - \$1 Dog Night
06/11	5:00 PM	@ Montrose/Waverly*
06/14	7:00 PM	vs. Hutchinson*
06/16	7:00 PM	vs. Litchfield* - Pizza Night
06/18	1:00 PM	vs. Cokato*
06/23	7:30 PM	@ Watertown
06/27	6:30 PM	@ Maple Plain*
06/28	7:00 PM	@ Litchfield* - Fox 9 Night
06/30	8:00 PM	All-Star game. NSL vs Crow River League at Delano*
07/05	7:00 PM	@ Cokato*
07/07	7:00 PM	vs. Loretto* - Youth Night
07/09	1:00 PM	@ Howard Lake*
07/12	7:00 PM	vs. Delano*
07/14	7:00 PM	vs. Howard Lake* - Burger Night Lakers Golf Tourney -Whispering Pines
07/15	8:00 AM	@ Dassel-Cokato *
07/16	1:00 PM	
07/19	7:00 PM	vs. Rockford*
07/21	7:00 PM	@ Buffalo*
07/26	7:00 PM	vs. St. Michael
07/28	7:00 PM	vs. Champlin - Fan Appreciation
08/03	TBA	@ TBDPlayoffs *

Regions Start - Loretto

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Enrich your palate at summer Wine Tastings



Wine and Spirits co-hosts Big Wines and Small Plates. They filled the house at their first event. Maple Lake Wine and Spirits offers wine tastings throughout the year starting on Wednesday, May 31 at the American Legion. Stop by the store and become a Wine Club Member. See Maple Lake Wines and Spirits ad on page 19 for details.

By Brenda Erdahl

Pairing a delicious meal with the perfect wine can be a match made in heaven. Or maybe you prefer a cool glass of Riesling by the lake on a warm summer evening. Whatever your preference, wine tastings are a great way to get a feel for what your occasion calls for.

Maple Lake Wine and Spirits offers wine tastings throughout the year starting on Wednesday, May 31, with their annual Summer Wine and Cocktails Tasting at the Maple Lake American Legion. The event is meant to put you in the mood for summer while introducing you to new and exciting combinations of sweet and refreshing wines that are easy to drink and make any summer occasion memorable, Assistant Manager Kate Heberling said.

Multiple vendors attend this event that annually attracts 100-plus visitors eager to sample a multitude of brand-new wines, tequilas, margaritas, pre-made cocktails, seltzers and more.

Heberling expects vendors to have at least 40 new varieties available, and all are perfect for a day on the boat or at the beach.

Among the new wine varieties for your summer pleasure are the Lemon Moscato, a sweet and dry wine that is refreshingly light, crisp and tart; Melon Mint and Honey Dew, wines that offer a refreshing taste with splashes of sweet, juicy fruit.

To aid in wine consumption, Legion Manager Monica Scheiber puts together a spread of appealing appetizers. Scheiber has been described as a “mastermind” when it comes to finger foods, and she has developed a reputation in the area as such. Her assortment of chicken wings, meatballs, shrimp cocktails, pinwheels, fruit and cheese dishes are so vast you are sure to find something that pairs well with the wine of your choice.

Tickets to the wine tasting can be purchased at the door, but it’s preferable to buy in advance at Maple Lake Wine and Spirits located just off High-

way 55 on the east side of town. Wine Club members are admitted for free, but an RSVP is appreciated. The tasting begins at 7 p.m.

Maple Lake Wine and Spirits also co-hosts a food and wine pairing event called Big Wines and Small Plates. This is a limited event and happens a few times throughout the year. Keep tabs of upcoming opportunities on Wine and Spirits Facebook page.

Big Wines and Small Plates features five courses of food. Enjoy fine dining and learn how to pair certain wines with different types of foods.

Last year 30 tickets were sold, and that is about the maximum for the space.

It is said, learning to taste wine and differentiate between flavors is similar to appreciating art or music. With so many wines available to tempt your palate, this year, before your next summer get together, try visiting a local wine tasting. Your guests will appreciate your efforts.

How much do you know about wine?

Here are some characteristics of four popular varietals.

Cabernet Sauvignon

Widely available and incredibly popular, Cabernet Sauvignons are typically bold wines that are rich in flavor. Cabernet Sauvignons are derived from a full-bodied red grape, which is why they are often described as “full-bodied.” Tannins are a naturally occurring polyphenol found in plants and seeds that are predominantly in red wines, and those in Cabernet Sauvignons are bold. Some Cabernet Sauvignons elicit tastes similar to baking spices, while others may taste more like black cherry or black currant.



Pinot Noir

Another popular, widely available varietal, Pinot Noirs boast a low tannin finish that gives them a fruity taste reminiscent of cherry or cranberry. Pinot Noirs are light-bodied and smooth. The alcohol content in Pinot Noirs tends to be lower than that of a typical Cabernet Sauvignon.



Riesling

Rieslings are white wines that are popular thanks in large part to their sweetness and floral, citrus taste. Rieslings are a go-to option when pairing wines with certain ethnic cuisine, including Indian, Thai and Vietnamese dishes. Some Rieslings can be dry, so wine enthusiasts looking for Rieslings for their sweetness may want to speak with a representative at the winery to ensure they’re getting the wine they want.



Merlot

Another wildly popular red wine, Merlots have an extensive flavor profile. Some Merlots may produce a taste reminiscent of black cherries, while others may provide strong hints of cocoa. Merlots are typically made in a dry style, and they are easily mistaken for Cabernet Sauvignons.



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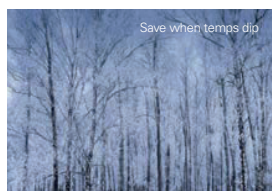
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Career changes on the rise

New career opportunities await job seekers at the May 6th Career Fair and May 18th Job Fair Block Party

Quitting a job might never seem like the best option for established professionals, but it's a route that was taken by an incredibly high number of workers in recent years.

A survey from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows 50.5 million people quit their jobs in 2022. Improved job prospects undoubtedly contributed to that high turnover, but professionals who left their jobs without another one already lined up may need some help finding their next gig.

Significant layoffs in the early months of 2023 coupled with tens of millions of individuals leaving their jobs voluntarily in 2022 could potentially make the competition for new jobs more competitive.

Busy schedules, longer commute times and increasing commuter expenses have led many workers to seek employment closer to home in recent years. Finding the right fit can be frustrating. If you're thinking about a new career locally or summer employment it can be useful to identify who you want to work for and targeting a specific company that fits your skill set. This can take some of the frustration out of modern day job hunting. There are many local opportunities for people looking for a new career or a summer at one of these upcoming Career Fairs. Good Luck!

Trailblazer Transit Career Fair

Trailblazer Transit will host a Transit Driver Career Fair from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 6 at 115 Commerce Circle in Buffalo.

Refreshments will be available including brats, hot dogs and treats, so families are invited to attend. There will be a tour of the Trailblazer facility, those interested can apply in person and there are same-day walk-in



Trailblazer Transit is looking to hire flexible hardworking professionals at their career fair on May 6th.

interviews.

Full- and part-time openings are available with multiple shifts are available for flexible, hardworking individuals with a professional mindset to provide demand response public transit service in Wright County and neighboring areas.

For more information see ad see ad on page 17 and visit the Trailblazer website at www.TrailblazerTransit.com or call toll-free 1-888-743-3828 with any questions.

Maple Lake Job Fair, Block Party

Plans are in the works for the second annual Maple Lake Job Fair/Block Party on May 18th starting at 3 p.m. at The V By HH.

So far, eight local businesses have registered to have booths at the fair, but this is more than just a stuffy job fair. The event will also include a youth music performance, a bean bag tournament for participating businesses and music by Maple Lake native, James Warren. Plus, there will be a special high school student only session from 2:15 to 2:45 p.m.

By engaging at each booth, attendees will be eligible for cash drawings of \$500, \$250 and \$100. Free food and drink will be awarded to the first 100 people.

Organizers are also working on scheduling a demonstration by the Maple Lake High School Robotics Program.

Participating businesses include:

OPS Assembly - OPS America Assembly is a rapidly growing company located in the Maple Lake Industrial Park that provides nationwide services in a small-town atmosphere. OPS strives to deliver a wide variation of projects in an efficient and timely manner, including the assembly of Mylar balloons.

Airlift Doors - Airlift Doors, Inc. has been a leader in the commercial door business for over 30 years. They specialize in car care applications such as car washes, service bays, car dealerships, oil change bays, salt storage sheds, and vehicle showrooms. They have a strong distributor network set up across the United States and work with a limited number of distributors overseas.

Rhino - Since 2007, Rhino Tuff Tanks has been part of a diverse, family-owned group of companies centered on premium rotationally molded products. They operate out of more than 180,000 sq. ft. of manufacturing and warehouse facilities Maple Lake.

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Airlift doors will return to the second annual Maple Lake Job Fair/Block Party on May 18 along with seven plus other businesses from Maple Lake.

Cedar Lake Engineering has been providing quality metal stamping and laser cutting services at its over 75,000 square feet of facilities in Maple Lake's Industrial Park.

PACE Industries - located in Maple Lake, PACE Industries is North America's leading full-service aluminum die casting, zinc die casting and magnesium die casting manufacturer.

MP Nexlevel - MP is a nationally recognized full-service utility contracting company that was founded in 1973. It started by offering excavation services locally in Minnesota. Today, MP offers turnkey services to a wide range of markets throughout the United States, with permanent offices in Maple Lake and Annandale, MN, Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, Texas, California, and Arizona.

ML Fire Department - The Maple Lake Fire Department is responsible for providing an efficient and effective delivery of fire, medical, rescue, and life safety emergency services for the Maple Lake fire district in Wright County. The fire department is currently accepting applications.

Wright County Economic Partnership/CareerForce of Monticello - CareerForce is committed to helping individuals start, advance or change their career; employers attract, develop and retain talent, and, Minnesota thrive economically. As a collaborative group of private, public, and nonprofit partners, CareerForce offers one-on-one guidance, training, networking, labor market information and much more.



The Maple Lake Fire Department is seeking applications for those looking for a career in fire, rescue and education.

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Lessons for a Lifetime

By Brenda Erdahl

A mentally and physically fit child is a happy child. That is the belief of Master Chris Hourscht co-founder of Dojo Karate. It's a philosophy Hourscht and his team at his Buffalo martial arts school pursue each and every day.

Along with forms, kicks, and punches Hourscht and his crew of trained black-belts teach focus, concentration, respect, and discipline. They are necessary ingredients to earning a black belt, the pinnacle for martial arts students, and they are the ingredients for a successful life.

The Pecarina's are one local family that has benefited from this philosophy. Sachi and Ben Pecarina have four children ages 4-7 who are learning skills and building stronger relationships with each other and other students in the class. And it's happening, Sachi said, because they have something in common, namely a love of karate.

"A lot of friendships develop here and that is a big attraction to families," Hourscht said.

It also gets kids out of the house and away from the screens and attracted to the

idea of progressing at their own pace with incentives like stripes and belts to mark their progress and motivate them. Meanwhile the physical exercise relieves stress and as they see themselves getting stronger and able to move in ways they couldn't before, they are further motivated.

Martial arts has long been held in high regard by teachers, coaches and doctors for physical, mental and emotional wellbeing. Through achievable mini-goals, martial arts instructors lead children to the triumph of a new belt and along the way help them develop focusing skills, confidence, self-control, and self-defense.

Bullying

Instructors address the continuous problem of bullying in schools with their annual Bully Buster campaign. The program helps kids learn what they can do physically if they are challenged, but it also gives kids self-confidence which changes how they carry themselves and often eliminates them as an easy target to bullies.

Martial arts for all ages

Martial arts appeals to people of all ages, often retired people are looking for something to do, and they choose martial arts because they don't have to motivate themselves to go for that mile walk or jog. Martial arts keeps the body limber and active, and it's never too late to learn a little self-defense.



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Silent Auction benefits Fire Department

Find unique gifts and support fire fighters at this summer's silent auction

By Brenda Erdahl

Folks who want to support a good cause this summer need look no further than Maple Lake Wine and Spirits and their annual in-store silent auction fundraiser to benefit the Maple Lake Fire Department.

Customers will have from Aug. 21 to Sept. 11 to bid on unique items donated by the liquor store's vendors. Last year they had 30-plus items and raised a record \$3,777 for the fire department. The selection included Vikings and Wild collectables (including jerseys and coolers), neon signs, chairs, and fishing gear, all sporting vendors logos. Last year, one of the big-ticket items was a chest freezer donated by Jagermeister. Another vendor donated a golf bag.

"This is a great way for customers to donate to a good cause and maybe get something nice out of it too," Wine and Spirits Manager Ang Berthiaume said. "And they are unique items that you will not find anywhere else. They are great for gifts."

The silent auction is spread throughout the store and customers can keep track of who's bidding on what each time they come in. Some of this year's big-ticket items include a pedal bike donated by Tito's Vodka and a wooden bench donated by Keystone. Berthiaume expects this year's collection of auction items will exceed last year's. Now that the word has gotten out among



the vendors, more want to participate, she said.

Maple Lake Wine and Spirits has been holding this fundraiser for several years now. Last year was the first time they incorporated the in-store silent auction, and it sent their numbers soaring. The first year of the fundraiser they collected \$740 for the Maple Lake Fire Department. In 2020 they jumped to \$1,125 and in 2021 that increased to \$1,540. They expect big things from this year's event.



Last year, Maple Lake Wine and Spirits raised \$3,777 for the Maple Lake Fire Department. Vikings and Wild memorabilia drew a lot of votes at last year's fundraiser.



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Take advantage of free state park days

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is waiving vehicle permit fees at all 75 state parks and recreation areas on four dates in 2023. The Free Park Days are Saturday, April 22; Saturday, June 10; Saturday, Sept. 9 and Friday, Nov. 24.

With the support of the state legislature, the DNR offers Free Park Days to encourage Minnesotans to get outdoors and enjoy the health and wellness benefits of spending time in nature.

“Minnesota state parks and recreation areas are open year-round, and there’s plenty of fun to be had in the outdoors in every season,” said Ann Pierce, director of the DNR Parks and Trails Division. “We hope offering a series of free entrance days will encourage Minnesotans to visit these special places to spend time enjoying the outstanding natural resources our state has to offer and recharge from the stresses of everyday life.”

Getting outdoors makes exercise more fun and can boost mood and immunity. According to the American Psychological Association, exposure to nature is linked to benefits like improved attention and lower stress.

There’s a state park or recreation area within 30 miles of most Minnesotans. In addition to offering popular activities such as hiking, biking, camping, swimming, skiing and birding, a variety of state park programs are open to all visitors. Programs are free, but some require pre-registration. Find state park programs online at the state parks and trails events calendar (mndnr.gov/ptcalendar). The entrance fee waiver on Free Park Days does not cover activities like camping, rentals or tours.



PLAN A MEMORABLE CAMPING TRIP



Minnesota Department of Resources Report

Now that the snow is gone, Minnesotans are preparing for the summer camping season. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has a few tips to offer that will help in planning your next outdoor adventure.

“We know Minnesotans love being outdoors, and getting outside after a long winter is exciting,” said Ann Pierce, Parks and Trails Division director. “We also know time and knowledge can be barriers in planning a camping trip. We’re working to alleviate this for folks by providing information to help them prepare for a fun experience.”

Book campsites early, and be flexible if you can’t book early

Reservations for campsites in state parks and recreation areas can be made up to 120 days in advance. Reservations are in high demand for holiday weekends and at the most popular parks, like those on the North Shore.

If reservations are full, the DNR has three suggestions. First, sign up for the “notify me” function on the reservation website to get notified by email if there’s a cancellation. Second, consider a camping trip on weekdays instead of the busy weekends if

your schedule allows. Third, look for open reservations at less busy parks. Some of the DNR’s favorite hidden gems are:

- Quiet is the essence of Carley State Park in southern Minnesota and is often colored with wildflowers.
- Way up north, Garden Island State Recreation Area is virtually undeveloped and remote with a quiet beach.
- Hayes Lake State Park in northwest Minnesota is so quiet, the only visitors may be you and the wildlife.
- Kilen Woods state park offers a wonderful view of the river valley from Dinosaur Ridge Overlook.
- Minnesota Valley State Recreation Area is right in the Twin Cities and offers a quiet SRA with great trails.
- Monson Lake State Park is a quiet campground perfect for a peaceful fishing, birding or hiking trip.
- At Franz Jevne State Park you can see Canada across the river.
- George Crosby-Manitou State Park offers excellent wilderness hiking and backpacking.
- John A. Latsch State Park offers scenic views of the Mississippi River Valley.

• Lake Bronson State Park is more than 356 miles from the Twin Cities, you can’t get much further than that!

• Schoolcraft State park epitomizes the theme of quiet places.

• Old Mill State Park is an understated park in northwestern Minnesota that hosts beautiful historical and ecological attractions.

Looking for flexible camping options? Try camping in a state forest.

If spontaneity is your style, try camping in a state forest where all campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and dispersed camping is allowed. Learn more at mndnr.gov/state_forests/camping

Buy a vehicle permit

A permit is required for each vehicle entering state parks and recreation areas. Permits can be purchased online or at park offices during open hours. The cost is \$7 per day or \$35 per year. If you’re camping just one night, a one-day permit will be valid until check-out time. Find details on the Minnesota state park vehicle permit web page (mndnr.gov/permit). State forests do not require a vehicle permit.

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A CLASSIC CAMPFIRE DISH

SMOKEY CORN



The next time you're camping try out this tasty corn on the cob side dish that is tailor-made for campsite cooking. The sweet flavor of corn complements just about any meal, and those kernels take on a robust flavor when touched with a little char.

Brenda Erdahl

Campfire Corn on the Cob

4 Cobs of Corn – do not husk

Water

1/2 to 1 cup sugar – optional

Butter to taste

Salt to taste – optional

Mix the water and sugar in a clean bucket, cooler or large pan (add enough water to cover corn). Add the corn to the water mixture and soak for 1 to 2 hours. Remove the corn from the water and place over the campfire or on the grill, turning often to avoid over-burning the husk. Cook for approximately 20 to 30 minutes or until tender; remove corn from the fire. Peel back the husk and silk, spread with butter and/or salt. Enjoy steaming hot.

Camping FROM PAGE 20

Pack smart

Sometimes it can be hard to figure out what to pack for a camping trip, especially for those who are new to camping. For a good starting point, the DNR has a camping supply checklist (mndnr.gov/state_parks/stay_overnight/packing101).

Check equipment before you leave home

Broken tent poles or a leaky air mattress might ruin a camping trip or make it less comfortable. If your camping gear hasn't been used in a while or is new, test it at home before the trip to make sure it works.

Research events to enhance your trip

Events and programs are scheduled at state parks throughout the year, offering a wide range of activities from fishing and

birding to interpretive hikes, to crafting. Visitors of all ages are welcome, and no prior experience is needed. Find event listings on the state parks and trails event calendar (mndnr.gov/ptcalendar).

Check visitor alerts before leaving home

State park and recreation area websites post visitor alerts to communicate important information related to safety, closures, construction projects and other helpful details. Find visitor alerts by choosing a park from the state parks map (www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/map.html).

Don't get lost, Smartphone Apps

The Avenza Maps app uses GPS location tracking so visitors can stay found, even off the grid. After you download the



If you are planning a camping trip at a state park this summer, remember to reserve your site early, and be flexible if you can't book early. Reservations for campsites in state parks and recreation areas can be made up to 120 days in advance.

app and a GeoPDF map, no internet or cell service is needed. DNR maps can be downloaded for free. Get details on the DNR's GeoPDF web page (mndnr.gov/geopdf).

Watch the weather

Stay in the know by enabling severe weather notifications on your smartphone. Because cell service is not available in all locations within state parks, recreation areas and forests, visitors may want to bring a weather radio to get information about severe weather warnings, watches, and advisories.

Document trip and share your photos

Make sure to bring a camera to document the great memories made on the camping trip, and remember to share. Images submitted may be featured on the Parks and Trails social media accounts. Share photos on the DNR photo sharing web page (mndnr.gov/sharephotos).

For more information about any of these camping tips, visit www.mndnr.gov or contact the DNR Information Center at info.dnr@state.mn.us or 888-646-6367

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