



Maple Lake St. Patrick's Day

Parade Program and Line-up

Inside

CHAMBER
MEMBER
OF THE YEAR



Mike Rowe

See Page 4

COMMUNITY
SERVICE
AWARD WINNER



Denise Blizil

See Page 10



CELEBRATING ST. PATRICK'S DAY! A fun-filled day of events has been planned for Saturday, March 16th. Stick around after the parade and celebrate St. Patrick's Day with some live music and take in the Irish atmosphere at one of the local watering holes. See Page 2 for dates and times of some of the events planned for Parade Day.

Live Music
"Radio Nation Party Band"
8 p.m. - Midnight
*Come On In!
After the Parade*

Serving Green Beer
while it lasts!

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YOUR HEADQUARTERS FOR
St. Patrick's Day
March 15th, 16th & 17th
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WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

ALL YOU CAN EAT

FISH FRIDAYS
DURING LENT
\$16
FRIED or BOILED

Let's Celebrate
St. Patrick's DAY
With
Live Music at

Everett Smithson Band
4 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Kevin James & The Weary
8:30 p.m. - 10:00 P.m.
Lamont Cranston w/Bruce McCabe
10:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.
Saturday March 16th

Weekend SPECIALS
Prime Rib Special
Friday's and Saturday's
Breakfast Served
Saturday's & Sunday's
7a.m.-12p.m.
Fish Fry
FRIDAY'S ARE BACK

Easter is Sunday, March 31st
Make Reservations now for
Easter Brunch
Restaurant, Bar & Event Center
Hwy. 55 • Maple Lake • 320-963-3405

Join us after the Parade!

GREEN BEER
IRISH STEW
BURGERS
LIVE MUSIC
Chopper
3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Two FOR THE Road
7 p.m. - 11 p.m.

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FRIDAY NIGHT FISH FRY
\$13.95

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MAPLE LAKE'S 47TH ANNUAL

St. Patrick's Day Parade

EVENTS



Irish Scamper

11:00 a.m.
Downtown Maple Lake
Registration 9 a.m.
Maple Lake High School
raceberryjam.com



Grande Day Parade

1:30 p.m.
(line-up at 12:30 p.m.)



Craft Sale

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Maple Lake
Elementary School



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MAPLE LAKE'S 47TH ANNUAL St. Patrick's Day Parade GRAND MARSHAL

Marilyn Groth has put literature in the hands of Maple Lake residents for over 30 years. She was here before the used bookstore in The Den, and before the all-volunteer library opened on Birch Ave.

She started selling books in 1980 from her home on Sullivan Lake. In 1986 she opened a storefront on Birch Avenue in Maple Lake. In 1989 she moved to Buffalo for 26 years before returning Book Break to Maple Lake in 2015. Just this winter she retired at 77 years old.

But Groth is more than a bookstore owner. She's also a conscientious citizen who raised her children in the community and dedicated countless hours to organizations like the Maple Lake Library, Chamber of Commerce, the Small Business Group and Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

On Wednesday, March 6, Groth will be awarded the title of Grand Marshal of the St. Patrick's Day parade at the annual Chamber Social. The title of Grand Marshal is yearly bestowed upon the person or persons demonstrating civic mindedness and outstanding service to the community. Groth will ride in a place of honor in Saturday's (March 16) Grand Day Parade.

"I was very surprised, and I don't feel that deserving. There are a lot of people who put a lot of effort into keeping Maple Lake going, keeping Maple Lake alive . . . it's a big honor," Groth said.

Groth and her husband Dennis moved to rural Maple Lake in 1974. She grew up in Robinsdale and that is where she met her husband of 57 years. Dennis was working at the Post Office in Robinsdale when a buddy who was building a house on Sullivan Lake invited him out to do some fishing.

"That's how he noticed the lots for sale on the lake," Groth said with a smile.

The Groths raised their four children – Derek, Natalie, Peter and Matt – in their home on Sullivan Lake. All four attended Maple Lake Schools and two still live in Wright County. Today Groth is the proud grandmother of nine.

It was due in part to her children that she started the

Sullivan Lake Book Swap Shop in her home. Her kids were young, and she thought this was something she could do short term in her basement, she said.

Her inventory consisted of used books that people came and traded other used books for. She started with her husband's collection of westerns and her own collection of novels and just by trading, the business grew. Eventually, she wanted to expand her business so she rented a store front in Maple Lake where she hoped she would see more foot traffic. For the next three years she occupied the building that is now the photography shop on Birch Avenue next to the Maple Lake Library. The move into town inspired her to shorten the name of her business to just Book Shop Swap.

In 1989 she moved her store to Buffalo and renamed it Book Break. The little store was seeing big success. Then in 2015 the recession hit. "It was like somebody flipped a switch," she said. "People just weren't buying books anymore. Interest was sky high, and no one wanted to spend any extra money."

She sold her Buffalo building and moved back to Maple Lake, this time on the east side of Birch Ave. That same year she joined the Maple Lake Chamber of Commerce because she wanted to be involved.

She was an active member of the chamber up until the store closed in December of 2023. She always did her best to add to chamber sponsored events like Christmas in Maple Lake, St. Patrick's Day and Gear-Head Get Together by decorating her store for the occasion, offering sidewalk sales and book signings by local authors. In fact, many local authors found their start at Book Break and Groth always displayed their books in a place of prominence in the front window of her store.

During one Christmas in Maple Lake, Groth encouraged fellow members of the Holy Cross choir to get in costume and walk the streets singing carols.

In 2019 Groth joined the library board where she served for five years. She is a member of the chamber's Small Business Group and the Midwest Independent Book Sellers Association.



MARILYN
GROTH

The St. Patrick's Day Festival has always meant a lot to the Groth family, whether watching the parade or participating in it. In 1987, her daughter Natalie rode in the parade as a Maple Lake Princess.

"There was a blizzard that year," Groth recalled. "There was no one in town until about five minutes before it started. The City was busy going up and down the streets clearing and then the people came out of the woodwork."

Some years later, Groth's granddaughter rode in the Maple Lake parade as a member of visiting royalty from Montrose.

The Book Break has been represented in the parade a time or two as well, but Groth remembers with particular fondness the year she was coerced back into the lineup after several years of absence.

"That was back when Kenny Mengelkoch was still alive," she said. "He was a regular customer and he just thought we should do something. So, he showed up with his golf cart, we decorated it, and my two grandsons rode with him, and Denny did too. They represented the book break, in a golf cart."

That same sense of enthusiasm grips the Groth family this year as Marilyn prepares for the traditional St. Patrick's Day ride as Grand Marshal of the parade.

"I think (the kids) are more excited about the parade than I am," she laughed. "We're going to try to get as many of them on the trailer as possible."

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MAPLE LAKE

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



MIKE ROWE

2024 Maple Lake Chamber of Commerce Member of the Year

Mike Rowe is this year's Maple Lake Chamber of Commerce Member of the Year. To be considered for this award, members must attend and participate in chamber meetings, demonstrate leadership, and contribute to the community in a commitment of time and resources.

Rowe has been a member of the chamber for four years, three of which he was vice president, and this year has taken on the role of president.

He volunteers at or attends most chamber events and offers his help as much as he can wherever it is needed. Besides the numerous chamber events, Rowe is also a part of Irish Mentors.

His nominator said: "Mike has done a great job the last two years volunteering his time and effort with the Chamber. He is a member of multiple chamber affiliated groups and has now taken on the role of president."

As superintendent of Maple Lake Schools for the last four years, "he has done a great job of bridging the school with our chamber and seems to never turn down an opportunity to help out.

Mike has been very busy and to find time like he does to help out is nothing short of amazing."

Rowe is married to Elisabeth and they have three children at Maple Lake Schools, Avery, Ainsley and Grayson.

"Maple Lake is a great community that prides itself on being a great host for many events. The school is the largest hosting site for many events in Maple Lake. We enjoy being able to assist this great community however we can," Rowe said.



SUNFISH DENTAL
NICOLE TRIPP, DDS

SUNFISH DENTAL

2024 Maple Lake Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year

Sunfish Dental is this year's Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year.

To be considered for this award, businesses must be an active chamber member who is involved in the community, promotes community events, and encourages employee community involvement. Businesses must also have made changes or improvements to business and be a community employer of friends and family.

Sunfish Dental has been a member of the chamber since it opened in Maple Lake 3 1/2 years ago in Dr. Dennis Quinlan's old office. Last year they undertook the job of renovating the McHugh Building down the street. They moved in last fall and in December, hosted Santa Claus during the chamber's Christmas in Maple Lake. Over the years, Owner Niki Tripp and her staff have become known for their creative and enthusiastic participation in chamber events. Their nominator said: "Dr. Niki Tripp and her staff have done an excellent job this year providing space for our chamber events here in Maple Lake. She goes all out when it comes to these events, like hosting Santa at Christmas in Maple Lake, and decorating and dressing up for our Halloween Trick or Treat. They spend a lot of time and money to make everything spectacular when

involved and deserve to be recognized for the effort they put in. They also volunteer almost every time we have something going on and are first to give their time."

Dr. Tripp said she is blessed to work with an amazing team that always has a positive attitude whenever they come up with a crazy photo or marketing idea. Jen, their office manager, is often the visionary for the office decorations but everyone is active in making their ideas come to life.

In addition to its work with the chamber, Sunfish Dental staff visits local schools each February to teach about oral hygiene for Children's Dental Health month. They also enjoy sponsoring other local community teams and events like Maple Lake Girl's Fastpitch, Maple Lake Post Prom, Maple Lake St. Patrick's Day Parade, Maple Lake Ice Fishing Tournament, Buffalo Kites on Ice, Gear-Head Get Together and MN CAST for Kids.

When Sunfish Dental was formed in September of 2020 Dr. Trip wanted to create a dental practice that provides exceptional patient care and truly has an emphasis on getting to know each patient as an individual. Dr. Trip and her staff focus on forming real connections with their patients, so they have a comfortable, positive experience.

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2024**
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Maple Lake Makers and Growers Sponsored by the Maple Lake Chamber of Commerce

St. Patrick's Day Parade Line-up

- 1

Wright County Sheriff Sean Deringer
- 2

American Legion Post #131 Maple Lake American Legion Post #131 under the command of Randy Mavencamp. The Legion started on March 24, 1930
- 3

Maple Lake VFW Maple Lake VFW Post 7664 (Veterans of Foreign Wars) under the command of Bob Carnes, organized in August of 1981
- 4

Wat-Kim-Valley POW/MIA The Wat-Kim-Valley POW/MIA veterans have made a commitment to never let any POW/MIA be forgotten. These men have been marching together since 1985 with the purpose of bringing awareness to the fact that there are many veterans from past wars that have not been accounted for. Every year there are remains recovered from past wars and those remains are identified and sent home to have a proper burial and give their families closure. These men marching today have been a part of our parade for well over 30 years and we thank them for their service.
- 5

Wright County VFW #1901
- 6

Monticello VFW Post 8731
- 7

St Michael American Legion
- 8

American Legion Post 473 Representing the Rice, MN American Legion 473 is Jim Larson and riding in his side car is Private Scoop and Private Thumper
- 9

Lake Mary VFW Post 9232
- 10

Clearwater Legion Riders ride to support Veterans and local communities. They are members of the Clearwater Legion.
- 11

Maple Lake Fire Department
- 12

Maple Lake Chamber of Commerce The St. Patrick's Day Parade is sponsored by the Maple Lake Chamber of Commerce
- 13

Freedom Flight III "Ladies & Gentleman PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE for Freedom Flight. The POW/MIA Hot Air Balloon Team. POW/MIA stands for Prisoners Of War / Missing In Action. We fly to honor the over 80,000 people still missing and all the family members still waiting. This is their 34th year and are now flying 4 balloons all over the world and are doing almost 50 events a year. "
- 14

City of Maple Lake The Mayor and Council welcomes everyone to the 47th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade! Representing the city today are Mayor Lynn Kissock and Council Members Scott Chantland, John Haack, Lori Hausken & Wayne Paumen. Truck is driven by a member of our fabulous City Maintenance Department - who we'd like to thank for working tirelessly to prepare the town for this event. We invite you to visit Maple Lake again this summer for the monthly Makers & Growers events and Gear Head Get Together in August!



City of Maple Lake - Mayor Lynn Kissock



A leprechaun warms up by the POW/MIA hot air balloon basket before last year's St. Patrick's Day parade. The balloon, owned by Freedom Flight, Inc. will be in the parade again this year.

POW/MIA balloon will elevate awareness. Freedom Flight, Inc. will bring attention to the POW/MIA issue at this year's parade with their hot air balloon basket. Based out of St. Cloud, Freedom Flight attends parades and flies their balloons at events across America and the world to elevate awareness of those still missing in action or prisoners of war. The idea of Freedom Flight, Inc. was conceived in 1988 by co-founders, Dr. Jim Tuorila, Ph.D. and Bill Nohner who felt that a hot air balloon would be a good means of gaining media attention. It is meant for publicizing the fact that Americans have been reported to still be alive in foreign countries and that only a ground swell of public support will bring them home. The organization is made up of dedicated volunteers who give their time, talent and money to honor American service men and women still held captive in foreign lands, and to get people to raise their voices and demand they be brought home. Their POW/MIA hot air balloons can be seen flying at balloon rallies, city festivals, veterans' functions, community parades, dedications, patriotic celebrations and ceremonies. Organizers feel that a Freedom Flight Balloon serves as a high impact, visual message in promoting the POW/MIA issue.

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- 15 **2024 Grand Marshal** Marilyn Groth
- 16 **Maple Lake Marching Band** The 2024 Maple Lake Marching Band
- 17 **Minneapolis Aquatennial Sr. Royalty** 2024 Commodore Clayton Miller, Queen Shirley Peterson and Princess Kathie Arbogast
- 18 **Minneapolis Aquatennial Ambassadors** "The Minneapolis Aquatennial has finished celebrating its 84th year. Festival founders selected the 3rd week in July because this week has the best weather on record for the year. The Aquatennial Ambassador Organization exists to inspire young Minnesota women to achieve extraordinary futures by providing professional development opportunities through networking and mentoring. The ambassadors travel throughout the state of Minnesota and the country. Our organization also provides educational scholarships to our ambassadors to help them reach their goals. The 2024 Crew is thrilled to be celebrating in your community today. Join them next summer for the 85th Aquatennial!"
- 19 **Maple Lake Royalty 2023** Miss Maple Lake Charlee Wurm, Maple Lake Princess Madysen Payne and Maple Lake Jr Princess Olivia Rollings. Congratulations on a wonderful year!
- 20 **Gear-Head Get Together** This year will be the 13th year of the gear-head get together. The event is open to all things mechanical including cars, motorcycles, tractors, even airplanes have been at past events! It also includes a swap meet and all sorts of entertainment for the family. This years "get together" will be happening in downtown Maple Lake on August 17th.
- 21 **SunFish Dental** "Sunfish Dental was established in September 2020 by Dr. Nicole Tripp in Dr. Dennis Quinlan's former location in downtown Maple Lake. They are now located just down the street at 33 Birch Ave. S. Dedicated to creating personalized, comprehensive care for the whole family in a fun and professional environment. Dr. Tripp and her team are looking forward to being a part of the community and cannot wait to meet you! Come in, we're awesome!"



Maple Lake Lakers – 2023 State Champions

- 22 **Maple Lake Royalty Candidate** Little Miss Maple Lake Candidate Lillian Carlson. Lillian is sponsored by Ramsey Lake Association. Good Luck Lillian!
- 23 **Silver Bullet Saddle Club** is a non profit WSCA Saddle club that has many volunteers who spend countless hours organizing great events in Clearwater, MN. Two of which are Chaos in Clearwater demolition derby in June and The Clearwater Rodeo in August. Check out the Silver Bullet Saddle Club website for more details.
- 24 **Maple Lake Lakers 2023 Class C State Champions** The Maple Lake Lakers are the 2023 Class "C" Amateur Baseball Champions. This is the Lakers 4th state title in team history-1931,1939,2012,2023.
- 25 **Wright County Dairy Princesses and Ambassadors** Wright County Dairy Princesses and Ambassadors would like to wish you all a happy St. Patrick's Day and remind you to enjoy your 3 servings of dairy every day. Because whether you scoop it, pour it, or shred it. It's undeniably dairy.
- 26 **St. Timothy School** in Maple Lake is a vibrant part of the local Maple Lake Community. They invite you to attend their annual Spring Dinner and Auction on Saturday May 11th at the V right here in Maple Lake! St. Timothy's Students are seen with their Spring Auction Raffle Grand Prize of a Can-Am 2024 Commander Side by Side or you can choose \$15,000 Cash! There are several smaller cash prizes as well! You can buy tickets today, from school families, or at the Parish or School Offices."
- 27 **Maple Lake Royalty Candidate** Miss Maple Lake Candidate MacKenzie Gundersen. Sponsored by S&R custom laminate and Mike Grant Mechanical. Good luck Mackenzie!
- 28 **Wright County Republicans** The Wright County Republican Party bring you the legislators of Wright County; Senator Bruce Anderson, Representative Marion Rarick, and Representative Joe McDonald! Wishing you a safe and Happy St. Patrick's Day!
- 29 **Bernatello's Foods** is proud to be a part of the wonderful Maple Lake community for over 40 years. At Bernatello's, we're dedicated to manufacturing innovative and delicious quality frozen pizza.
- 30 **Annandale Ambassadors** Happy St Patrick's Day from Miss Annandale Atalie Druga and Annandale Princesses Amy Eckstrom and Adelynn Rivers.
- 31 **Oak Realty** is proud to be celebrating their 50th year in business! They have been working together to help buyers and sellers in the Maple Lake and Annandale area since 1974. Oak Realty loves marketing property; and their friendly, professional and experienced staff welcome the opportunity to be your guide. The Maple Lake Oak Realty office is located 1 block North of Amoco on Maple Street.

"To a long life and a merry one.

A pretty girl and an honest one.

A cold beer... and another one!"

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Happy St. Patrick's Day!

32 **The Costume Shoppe** The Costume Shoppe in Maple Lake supplies rental costumes for all occasions! From weekend parties to special holidays we have theatrical quality costumes, make-up and wigs for your next event. Need an Easter bunny? Ours are clean and cute! The Costume Shoppe is open year round and located next to the ML Fire Department.

33 **Irish Washer Women** Here they are the darlings of the St. Pat's Day parade The Irish Washer Women! Their history goes back to the very first parade in 1978! (and by the looks of it so do some of the washer women!) If it's above freezing watch out for the water! Their traditional blessing is "May the good Lord bless you and keep you, out of the bars!"

34 **Wright Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association** is a member-owned, not-for-profit electric utility that provides power to rural Wright County and western Hennepin County. The cooperative has been a corporate citizen to the area since 1937 and currently serves more than 55,000 electric accounts. It is headquartered in Rockford, Minn.

35 **Maple Lake Royalty Candidate** Miss Maple Lake Candidate Dayzie Floding, Sponsored by Floding Lawn Services LLC and Bernatellos. Good Luck Dayzie!

36 **Isanti Ambassadors** "Ambassadors Annabelle, Chloe, and Lauren and Junior Ambassadors Cece, Sage, and Kenzie would like to say HOWDY all the way from Isanti! They invite you to dust off your cowboy boots and join them for Isanti Rodeo Jubilee Days on the second weekend in July!



The Costume Shoppe in Maple Lake

37 **St. Michael Royalty** The St. Michael Royalty are excited to be in Maple Lake celebrating St. Patrick's Day. Joining us today is the 2023-2024 Royal Court; Queen Maggie, Princess McKenna, Commodore Eli & Little Misses Rosie & Ellianah. Join them the second weekend in August for the St. Michael Daze and Knights Festival!

38 **True Friends** is a nonprofit organization providing life-changing experiences that enhance independence and self-esteem for children and adults with disabilities. True Friends programs include camp, respite, retreats, team building, therapy and adaptive riding, and travel; serving over 25,000 individuals annually.

39 **Maple Lake Royalty Candidate Aurora** Little Miss Maple Lake Candidate Aurora Knapp. Sponsored by Fine Line Welding LLC. Good Luck Aurora!

40 **Maple Lake Ice Fishing Derby** Even though this winter's warm weather forced

a cancellation of the 49th Annual Maple Lake Ice Fishing Derby, organizers are still going to raffle off the new Ice Castle Fish house. The drawing will be (tonight) Saturday night, March 16th, 2024 at Madigan's. Tickets are available along the parade route or at Madigan's (today) Saturday before the drawing. Next year's Ice Fishing Derby is set for Saturday, February 8th, 2025.

41 **Buffalo Royal Ambassadors** Irish greetings from the Buffalo Royal Ambassadors - Kenna, Josie and Ella. We hope today brings you luck! Remember to share the gift of your smile and we invite you to come out to Buffalo the 3rd weekend in June during Buffalo Days and enjoy the beautiful City by the Lake!

42 **MN RC Demo Derby** is a non profit event that performs at local bars, restaurants and outside events for RC enthusiasts. Check them out via Facebook at MN RC Demo Derby

43 **Winsted Ambassadors.** Winsted Ambassadors Dani, Hailey and Amber are riding on a float that depicts them sitting on a

dock on the shore of Winsted Lake. The ambassadors would like to invite you to join them for the Winsted Summer Festival this August 9th and 10th.

44 **Mighty Mites** We ride so kids can walk

45 **Maple Lake Royalty Candidate** Little Miss Maple Lake Candidate Delaney Miller. Delaney is sponsored by M&M Express Car Care. Good Luck Delaney!

46 **Hudson Irish Dance Academy** We are competitive and performance Irish Dance group out of Wayzata - we compete on a national and International level. This year our dancers will be representing our school at the World Irish Dance Championships in Glasgow! Come by for a free class today!

47 **Stiftungsfest Ambassadors.** Stiftungsfest Ambassadors Josie Degn & Emily Stieve along with Lil Miss Ambassadors Eiza (Asa) Mendoza and Claire Storms like you to join them the last weekend in August for Minnesota's oldest celebration which takes place in Norwood Young America. Stiftungsfest is more than a German celebration - it's entertainment for all ages with continuous

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SUNFISH DENTAL

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music all weekend long. We will be celebrating our 162nd year. Don't forget to try our famous burgers and brats!

- 48 **Albertville Royalty** "Happy St. Patrick's Day from the Friendly City of Albertville. Joining us today with the luck of the Irish is Miss Albertville Lindsey, Albertville Princess Em, and Jr Misses Reina (rain-a), Gemma (Gem-a), Ellie, and Marilyn. They would love to see you on the other side of the rainbow in Albertville for Friendly City Days June 5th - 9th 2024. They thank you for having them today!"
- 49 **Buffalo Rodeo** The Buffalo PRCA Championship Rodeo is celebrating it's 70th anniversary this June! Today, the rodeo is being represented by the reigning Miss Buffalo Rodeo, Ellie Gallus, and some of the Buffalo Rodeo Ambassadors. If you love mutton busting, roping, barrels, broncs and bulls, get ready for a good time June 20 - 22!
- 50 **Osman Shrine Calliope.** The calliope was built in 1929 and it's still working
- 51 **Dassel Ambassadors.** Dassel Red Rooster Days is held Labor Day weekend. Parade and coronation are on Saturday with the



Stiftungsfest Ambassadors

- largest bbq chicken feed on Labor Day.
- 52 **McBrady McDonald Clan.** The McBrady & McDonalds gather together to celebrate family. The clans unite to bring joy to those who are watching and fun to their families. It is a long-standing tradition that will continue long into the future. After a family wedding in Ireland, we agreed that the Cliffs of Moher remain a favorite to visit and marvel in the magnificence of this beautiful and treasured site.
- 53 **The Butchery of Maple Lake** Your local source for fresh meats, home smoked sau-

- sages, wild game processing and catering! The Butchery of Maple Lake - we craft it, you crave it!
- 54 **St. Louis Park Ambassadors.** "The St. Louis Park Ambassadors are representatives of the Parktacular Festival, which is held Father's Day weekend. St. Louis Park is the birthplace of the Children First initiative and these Ambassadors spend the year at parades, coronations, and community functions promoting the 40 developmental assets, the Parktacular Festival, and the City of St. Louis Park. Our Ambassadors include Senior Ambassadors Mare & Joanne, Ambassadors Abigail, Catie, Estella & Sidney, and Junior Ambassadors Ebba, Lily and Fiona. Thank you for having us be a part of the Maple Lake St. Patrick's Day parade."
- 55 **Derek Brant State Farm.** Give your local agent Derek Brant a call to help you save on your insurance...Derek and his team are here to help, like a good neighbor State Farm is there!
- 56 **Foley Ambassadors.** The 2023 Foley Royalty include: Foley Ambassadors Allison and Braelynn, Foley Junior Ambassadors Allison and Hattie, and Little Miss Foleys Haley and Julianna. The Foley Royalty invite you to Foley Fun Days 2024 June 15-19.
- 57 **Lake Central.** Lake Central, taking care of your insurance, banking, and investment needs! Call for your free quote today! (and then any fun comments on our float)
- 58 **Maple Lake Royalty Candidate** Maple Lake Jr Princess Candidate Lillian Enger. Sponsored by Earth Child Tattoo. Good Luck Lillian!
- 59 **The Maple Lake Federation of Teachers** wants to thank the members of the Maple

- Lake community for all their support. Unity is strength, and where there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved.
- 60 **Cokato Royalty.** Miss Cokato Carly and Princess Lauren welcome you to Cokato Corn Carnival Aug 12-14. Come be part of our parade on Monday, Aug 12 and coronation on Tuesday, Aug 13. Enjoy rides, games, and free corn on the cob.
- 61 **Big Lake Ambassadors.** Happy St. Patrick's Day from the Big Lake Ambassadors. Please join us the last full weekend in June 2024 for Spud Fest.
- 62 **Bethlehem United Church of Christ.** Where all are welcome and we are committed to serving our local communities and the world.
- 63 **Litchfield Watercade Royalty** Miss Litchfield Ayda, Princesses Abby and Kylie, and Jr. Ambassadors Brynley and Lexi invite you to join them in Litchfield for Watercade July 11-14.
- 64 **Lucky Charms Childcare & Preschool** New Childcare Center coming to Maple Lake summer 2024. We will offer Child Care for kids 6 weeks to 12 years.
- 65 **Maple Lake Royalty Candidate** Little Miss Maple Lake Candidate Olivia Decker. Olivia is sponsored by Custom Contracting of MN. Good Luck Olivia!
- 66 **Maple Lake Wine & Spirits** is a municipal liquor store! Our profits go back into the community to help support different city programs. You can find us on Hwy 55 next to Cenex! Thanks for shopping local!!
- 67 **Glenwood Waterama Junior Royalty.** The Glenwood Waterama float proudly car-

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ries the grace and charm of Junior Queen Stella Meyer and Junior Princess Elin Gandrud. Save the date for the 68th Glenwood Waterama, happening the last full week-end in July. Don't miss out on the fun! see you there!

- 68 **Farside 4-H Club Lydia Hadash.** Farside 4-H club would love to see you at the upcoming bake sale at the Maple Lake Township hall! Message us on Facebook for details.
- 69 **Maple Grove Ambassadors.** "Top of the morning to you all! Please welcome Maple Grove Ambassadors Alexis and Aspen on their float - The Dream of Maple Grove. Their pride in their city is showcased on the float...from the lamp posts and flowers of the Shoppes at Arbor Lakes, to the hand painted mural of Main Street on the leaves on top. The Ambassadors are excited to be here, and thank you for inviting them to your festival this morning they hope you have a lucky day!"
- 70 **Dojo Karate** Free month if you mention the parade 763-684-1000
- 71 **Gaylord Royal Ambassadors.** Gaylord Royal Ambassadors Queen Abby Rodriguez, Princess Amelia King, Princess Jada Messner. Join us the second weekend in August for our Egg-stravaganza celebration.
- 72 **Irish Anglers,** The Maple Lake Youth Fishing Team is excited for its 3rd season. Registration is open to boys and girls who live in or attend the Maple Lake School District and are currently in 6-12th grade. Registration deadline is Sunday March 24th. More information can be found on our website: irishanglers.com



Peter Jude and his candy truck

- 73 **Lester Prairie Ambassadors.** Ambassadors Allison Knoll, Averey Heimerl, Junior Ambassadors Alison Martinez & Audriana Dawson, and they would like to invite you to Lester Prairie Days July 12th & 13th 2024!
- 74 **MP Nexlevel, LLC,** Careers Built Here. Apply online or in person
- 75 **MidCountry Bank Buffalo.** Happy St Patrick's Day from your friends at MidCountry Bank Buffalo!! We are the gold at the end of your financial rainbow! Give us a call or stop in and visit with Jayme or Quinn!! Erin Go Bragh!!
- 76 **Hanover Royalty.** Greetings from Hanover Royalty. "The Little City on the Crow." Miss Hanover Melia (Ma-Lee-a) and Princess Lilly would like to invite you to The Hanover Harvest Festival the 1st Saturday in August.

77 **Malco Tools - Go Green!** Malco Tools is 100% employee owned and dedicated to producing innovative, dependable, and high-performance hand tools at their corporate headquarters and manufacturing facility in Annandale, Minnesota.

- 78 **The Miss St. Francis Ambassador Program** is being represented by Little Miss St. Francis's Brooklynn and Scarlett, Miss St. Francis Ambassadors Addi and Melissa.
- 79 **Montrose Royal Ambassadors** are in their Irish spirit! Please join them the 3rd weekend of August for Celebrate Montrose.
- 80 **The Farmington Ambassador Program** exists to provide opportunities to young women and girls in the Farmington area. Ambassadors gain poise, speaking abilities and community service experience during their time with the program. The Ambassadors travel near and far to share the Farmington story and goodwill. The program's intent is to teach skills that will be invaluable throughout life. All are invited to attend Farmington Dew Days the fourth week of June each summer."
- 81 **Jude Vending** Peter Jude and his candy truck.

Happy St. Patrick's Day

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MAPLE LAKE'S 47TH ANNUAL St. Patrick's Day Parade SERVICE AWARD



DENISE BLIZIL

Friends, fellowship, and a place to call home. Denise Blizil has found these and so much more in Maple Lake, which is why she spends so much time trying to give something back.

Through her work getting the all-volunteer-run library up and off the ground 18 years ago, to her more recent efforts to launch the popular Makers and Growers Market last spring and numerous other endeavors in between, Blizil has demonstrated time and again her dedication and commitment to serving this community. It's really no surprise that she is this year's recipient of the Community Service Award.

As the St. Patrick's Day Festival approaches, the Maple Lake Chamber of Commerce annually honors its most dedicated members with awards. The Community Service Award, formerly the Commodore's Award, is given to a chamber member who shows a continued dedication to the community and service.

Blizil's nominator wrote, "she is an advocate for the Maple Lake Library, attends the chamber meetings and was instrumental in establishing the Makers and Growers this past year in Maple Lake. She is not afraid to take on any task in the community."

Blizil was born and raised in Maple Lake. She graduated from Maple Lake High School in 1977 and that is where she met her husband, Tom. The couple will have been married 45 years this April and they've lived their entire lives in Maple Lake. They raised their two children here, Tracy and Michael, and started a successful business, Blizil Repair. Their blood runs green for this town.

"We have gotten a lot from this community," Blizil said. "Whether it's Tom on the fire department, whether it's the great education we've gotten between St. Tims and Maple Lake High School, whether it's the caring when my parents died. This community gives, it really gives, no matter what, whether it's a benefit or the school, or any fundraiser, they just wrap their arms around each other."

After working 30 years for a life insurance company in the cities, when she retired, she decided she wanted to try to give back a little of what her hometown has given her and her family. She's done that exponentially, and not just in Maple Lake. Her generosity has spilled into neighboring cities and communities.

It all started in 2006 when Theresa Andrus asked for her help to open a library in Maple Lake.

"We worked out of her basement in the Messenger. We had 30,000 donated books that we had to catalogue," she said.

Eventually they opened a used bookstore in The Den, a recreation/hangout space for residents located in the old Carlson Doll Building on Birch Avenue. In 2009 the all-volunteer run Maple Lake Library opened on the corner of Birch and First Street and was there until it moved to its current location on the corner of Birch and Division Street. Ever since that day Andrus approached her, Blizil has supported the library in one way or another. She was a member of the library board for many years, holding positions as vice president and president, she has worked on numerous committees and fundraisers including the big capital campaign and now she volunteers her time behind the checkout counter and cataloguing

books.

Probably the most rewarding for her was being a part of the Buffalo Hospital Foundation, she said. She was part of the foundation for 10 years and was on the board of directors for one. During that time, the foundation was instrumental in the hospital's Spiritual Center, Cancer Center, the Penny George Institute for Health and Healing and the Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute. The foundation raised money for the walking paths around the hospital and the employee fitness center plus scholarships that are annually given out to youth in Wright County. The group is also responsible for the sleep sacks given to new babies and the tradition of ringing a bell to announce a new birth.

Blizil was on the board of directors for Camp Friendship before it became a part of True Friends. She was co-chair for the capital campaign for a new dining hall, which was very rewarding, she said, and more recently was part of the chamber of commerce subcommittee that brought the Makers and Growers Market to Maple Lake.

She is currently a member of 100 Women Who Care, continues to volunteer at St. Timothy Church in various capacities and for the last two years, has dressed up as Santa's Helper at Christmas in Maple Lake to hand out cookies at the library.

"After working in the city for 30 years, it just felt so great to give back," she said. "I want maple lake to thrive and to grow. It was so much fun to see the streets crowded on a Sunday (for Makers and Growers),

but it's more than that, it's Gear-Head, it's the fishing contest, it's the way we support people in trouble it's everything this community does with their whole heart."

"Sometimes I have to pinch myself because I've had such a great life. I feel very blessed," she said.

Blizil will accept her award Wednesday evening, March 6, at the annual Chamber Social.

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