

PSAs

Week of 11 / 1 / 21 A

BLOOD DRIVES:

Call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit RedCrossBlood.org to schedule a donation time or to find a drive near you. **NO WALK-INS at this time...**

The American Red Cross continues to experience *an emergency blood shortage* that has caused the blood supply to drop to the lowest post-summer level in at least six years. In addition, blood donor turnout decreased by about 10% as summer came to an end. While donations have dropped, hospital demand for blood remains strong. Donors of all blood types – especially type O – are urged to make an appointment to give now to help meet the needs of patients this fall. Those who come to donate in October will receive a link by email to claim a free \$5 e-gift card to a merchant of their choice (terms and conditions apply). All who come to give Oct. 11-31 will receive a bonus \$5 e-gift card.**

Wed.	11/3	8:00-2:00	Royalton High School
Thurs.	11/4	12:30-6:30	Swanville High School
Fri.	11/5	10:00-4:00	Brainerd VFW
Fri.	11/12	10:00-4:00	Lakewood Church in Baxter (BHS Key Club)
Wed.	11/17	12:00-6:00	City Hall in Emily
Thurs.	11/18	8:30-2:30	Central Lakes College in Brainerd
Thurs.	11/18	12:00-6:00	Immaculate Heart Church in Crosslake
Tues.	11/23	12:00-5:00	Deerwood Auditorium in Deerwood

11/1 - 11/7

Essentia Health is hosting an **advance care planning (ACP) Virtual Class** from 2:00-3:00 on **Wed. Nov. 3rd**. Advance care planning is a process that helps you think and talk about your choices for health care in the future. It's important for every adult to have an advance directive, also known as a living will or health care directive. To register for the online class, visit EssentiaHealth.org.

Join the **Chamber in Crosslake** for the next **Explore Crosslake Business Meeting** on **Thurs. Nov. 4th** from 8:00-9:30AM via Zoom. Always the first Thursday of the month, and usually in person, you can join them for a meeting of local business owners, managers and key staff. Network with others, learn more about events, activities and organizations in Crosslake, plus share info about you and your business. Register at Crosslake.com

The public is invited to the **Pillager Lions Fall Dinner** on **Fri. Nov. 5th** from 5:00-7:00 at the Pillager Community Center. The meal will consist of meatballs, mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetables, cranberry sauce, a roll, dessert and a beverage. The cost is \$13 for adults... \$8 for children and seniors (70+). A meat raffle will also take place during the dinner with the proceeds being used to serve and help people in the community.

The **St. Francis Council of Catholic Women** will host its **Annual Fall Bazaar** on **Sat. Nov. 6th** from 8:30-1:30 at the church at 404 N. 9th Street in Brainerd and all are invited! Join the fun with a raffle, granny's attic, crafts, bag-affle and quilt raffle. Lunch will also be served.

Join **Crossing Arts** for its annual **Kringle Market**, a fun holiday shopping experience! Doors open to the public on **Sat., Nov. 6th**. Enjoy shopping in the Gallery & Gift Shop, with an amazing selection of local artist-created art and fine craft, art supplies, holiday gifts, and so much more! Crossing Arts members who visit the market between Nov. 6 - 13, will be eligible to win an amazing gift basket of goods created by Crossing Arts member artists. (Must have a current membership to be eligible to win.) The Kringle Market runs through Dec. 24th, with normal hours of Tues, Thurs, Fri, 10:00 - 5:00... Wed 10:00 - 7:00... and Saturdays, 10:00 - 2:00, with the exception of Fri, Dec 24, 10:00 - 12:00. For more information contact Crossing Arts at 218-833-0416 or visit CrossingArts.org. Crossing Arts is located in Brainerd at 711 Laurel St.

Gabriel's Home in Brainerd would like to honor area veterans by hosting a **story-sharing event** at the farm on **Sun. Nov. 7th** from 2:00-5:00. They invite any veteran or active duty service member and their families to the farm where they will have coffee, hot cider, hot chocolate, hot dogs and homemade soup. Don't forget to bring a bag of carrots or apples to fee the horses and all share stories about the "good ol' days." Gabriel's home is at 8118 County Rd. 108. If you have questions, please call Anthony at 820-8949.

11/8 - 11/14

Free **breast and cervical cancer screenings** will be offered at **Cuyuna Regional Medical Center's** Crosby Clinic on **Tues., Nov. 9**, from 5 to 7 p.m. for uninsured and under-insured women age 40 years and older who meet income guidelines. All women are at risk for breast and cervical cancer, but regular screenings can prevent these diseases or find them early. Women between 40 and 74 years old should get a mammogram every year. Women should get their first Pap test at age 21 and continue screening until age 65. Light refreshments will be served at the event and ladies will receive a swag bag. For a screening appointment, call 218-546-7000, ext. 2135.

The next **Ruby's Pantry Pop-Up Pantry** will be on **Tues. Nov. 9th** at The Northern Pacific Center - Building #2, 1511 Northern Pacific Rd, Brainerd, MN 56401. Food distribution begins at 4:30 p.m. and ends at 6:00 p.m. Ruby's Pantry is a non-profit food ministry serving our community on the second Tuesday of the month. There are no income guidelines to participate; Ruby's Pantry is for everyone who eats. For **a \$22** cash donation, participants will receive a "share" with an abundance of groceries. The variety and amount of food varies each month. Contact The Journey North Community Church at 218.824.5617 about volunteer opportunities at Ruby's! ((To comply with COVID-19 guidelines it will be an outdoor, drive-thru distribution. *You must stay in your vehicle.*))

In 2020, 295 adults and children – all originally **Crow Wing Co** residents - experienced **homelessness**. Now in 2021, progress is being made towards a warming shelter for the cold winter months, and it's time to begin working towards long term solutions that will not only offer a place to call home but also allow our homeless neighbors to rediscover purpose and productivity. **Long term solutions are available – want to learn more?** Come to **an informational meeting** hosted by the newly-formed non-profit **My Neighbor To Love Coalition on Tues., Nov. 9th** at the Brainerd Public Library in the large conference room. Refreshments and a showing of the Community First! Village documentary will be from 5-6 pm, followed by a meeting to discuss the adaptation of this model to our area, and the steps that are being taken. Feel free to arrive anytime between 5–7 pm. Reducing homelessness is loving our neighbors well and building a stronger community. Come and see if there's a part for you in this innovative and successful model for transforming the lives of our homeless neighbors. For more information, go to mntlc.org, or call Vicky Kinney 218.821.7875.

The **Central Lakes College Music Department** invites the community to enjoy some live music at 7pm on **Tues., Nov. 9** in the Chalberg Theatre, Brainerd campus. Three ensembles will be featured: Concert Winds, Jazz Collective, and the semi-professional big band, the Central Lakes Jazz Orchestra. Tickets are \$5 and will be sold at the door. CLC students and children under 12 are free. Masks are required on CLC campuses.

Tis' the season for giving and receiving and you can do both at **The Crosslake Common Goods Christmas Boutique** on **Fri. Nov. 12th** from 9:00-5:00 at the Crosslake Common Goods Store. Enjoy hot cider, cookies and live Christmas music while you shop a winter wonderland! This will also be the first chance to see this year's Christmas tree ball gown design, in addition to brand new Christmas displays throughout the store. By shopping Common Goods, you are supporting the mission of **Bridges of Hope**. For more information, visit CommonGoodsMN.org

The Chalberg Theater stage will come alive with highly kinetic and exhilarating movement when Minneapolis Dance Company **ARENA Dances** performs at 7:00 p.m on **Fri. Nov. 12th**. As part of the **Central Lakes Community Performing Arts Center's Cultural Arts Series**, the dance program will present contemporary dance with messages for contemporary audiences. Tickets for ARENA Dances are \$5 and available for purchase online at CLCPerformingArts.com or by calling 218-855-8199.

The **Pequot Lakes High School Theater** will present "**Mary Poppins**" (presented by Disney and Cameron Mackintosh with special arrangement by Music Theater International) on **Fri. and Sat. Nov. 12 & 13** at 7:00....and on **Sun. Nov. 14th** at 2:00. The musical will be held at the Pequot Lakes High School Theater. Tickets are on sale now, just \$5. Visit Facebook and search Pequot Lakes High School Theater to purchase tickets and for more information.

Immanuel Lutheran Church in Crosby will host the **Spirit of Christmas Bazaar** on **Sat. Nov. 13th** from 8:30-1:30. There you will find quality arts and crafts, caramel rolls, fresh wreaths and the Little Elves Gift Shop. The church is at 600 4th St. SW in Crosby. All are invited!

The Center in Brainerd invites the public to its annual Holiday Craft Show on Sat. Nov. 13th from 8:00-3:00 at The Center on Kingwood Street in Brainerd. Guests will find artist and crafter exhibits, hand crafted items, demonstration, donuts and prize drawings. For more information, visit TheBrainerdCenter.com.

Join the **Brainerd Nordic Ski Club** for its annual **Ski Swap** on **Sat. Nov. 13th** at Brainerd High School (diff. from last year). If you have items to sell, bring them in at 7:30 that morning priced and ready to go. The sale runs, then, from 9:00-12:00 in the old BHS cafeteria where you will find both new and used ski equipment (Nordic & Alpine), snowboards, snow shoes, skates, gear and more! When the sale ends at noon, you'll have until 1:00 to come pick up your money or unsold items. Only cash and checks are accepted at the swap. Because it is inside the school, masks will be required. Visit BrainerdNordicSkiClub.com for more information.

MISC...

Crow Wing County is committed to addressing the shortage of quality child care in our area with a new funding opportunity. The county has allocated \$500,000 towards **child care assistance grants** available to existing child care providers and new start-up child care businesses. The application window is open now until Mon. Dec. 6th. Applications must be submitted online through Google Forms and must be completed **by Dec. 6** at 4pm. To learn more, visit CrowWing.us. For the application, log on to GrowBrainerdLakes.org, which is the BLAEDC website.

Walk with the Doc, Cuyuna Regional Medical Center's free health program that brings doctors and individuals together to walk, will continue in Crosby throughout the winter months. Depending on the weather and per the group's preferences, the walks may be held indoors or outdoors. The goal of Walk with Doc is to improve the health of participants. Walks are held every Wednesday starting at 4:30 p.m. at the Hallett Community Center. Participants hear a brief presentation on the benefits of walking and wellness and then walk at their own pace. Indoor walks will be held around the Hallett's ice-skating rink and the outdoor walks will be along the Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area trails near the Croft Mine. For more info, visit CuyunaMed.org.

The Crow Wing County Land Services Department's Household Hazardous Waste Program is now open Monday – Friday from 8AM-5PM. County residents can bring in all types of household chemicals for disposal such as cleaning products, pesticides, herbicides, paints, stains, and automotive chemicals. Upon arrival at the landfill site, residents must stop at the Landfill Office where you will get instructions on how to proceed. Visit CrowWing.US for more information.

Youth on their own who are **experiencing homelessness** are less visible in our community. Most are sleeping on a friend's couch, in their cars or camping in tents for shelter. This can be lonely and scary. Fortunately, **Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota** provides transitional housing, crisis shelter, street outreach and more for youth age 24 or younger experiencing homelessness. November is National Runaway & Homeless Youth Prevention Month. If you or someone you know is experiencing homelessness and are 24 or younger, please call 888-828-4383 for support.

The **Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen** in Brainerd offers free meals to those in need every **Mon.-Sat. from 5:00-6:00** p.m. and on **Sun. from 12:30-1:30** p.m. If you are in need of a meal during the week, please stop by during these hours and food will be served free of charge. Sharing Bread can be found at 923 Oak Street in Brainerd. Visit SharingBread.com for more.

A new partnership between the **Northland Arboretum** and the **Children's Museum WonderTrek** program is now offering educational hikes, called "**Trekking The Trails,**" which will take place during the fall. The **1st and 3rd Saturdays** of September and October, and will run from 10:00-12:00. The programs are geared for kids ages 3-9 and all will meet at the Holden Gazebo. The events are free. For more info, visit NorthlandArb.org.

If you are looking for **volunteer opportunities** here in the lakes area, the **Lakes Area United Way** has a bunch of choices for you! Visit UnitedWayNow.org and click on the Get Connected banner. From dog walkers, to crisis line volunteers, to handyman services... game players, wheelchair transport drivers... the list goes on. If you want to volunteer, visit that site. Non-profits are also encouraged to register if they are in need of volunteers!

Are you a caregiver for a loved one? Do you have a plan for if you were suddenly unable to care for them? **Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota** can help you build peace of mind through **Emergency Care Planning Services**. LSS can work with you to answer questions like: Who will care for my spouse if I no longer could? What resources would be available to my family? Work with an experienced care provider to develop a plan at no cost to you. Get started by calling 1-800-488-4146.