

PSAs Week of 2 / 6 / 23 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 very low levels. Donors of all blood types – especially type O – are urged to make an appointment to give now.

2/10	Fri.	8:00-3:00	Heartwood Senior Living in Crosby (CRMC)
2/10	Fri.	10:00-3:00	Central Lakes College in Brainerd
2/10	Fri.	11:00-5:00	Fellowship Bible Church in Pierz

February is American Heart Month – TAKE CARE OF YOUR “TICKERS!”

2/6 – 2/12

Common Goods invites the community to join their **Sweet Treat BINGO Challenge** on **NOW through Tues. Feb. 14th** (Valentine’s Day). To play along, participants will complete in-store challenges to earn stamps and will need five stamps in a row to earn a Bingo. Completed Bingo cares can then be turned in to receive a Sweet Treat at ANY Common Good location (Baxter, Crosslake or Crosby). Then, on Valentine’s Day, three lucky BINGO card will be drawn for a Sweet Treat Shopping Spree were the winners will receive 50% off their entire purchase with no spending limit! To learn more, visit BridgesOfHopeMN.org.

The Pequot Lakes Diary Queen is hosting a **fundraiser** in support of the **Breezy Point Figure Skating Club** on **Tues. Feb. 7th** from 3:00-8:00pm. 20% of all sales during this time will be donated to the BPFSC to use toward scholarships for skaters to attend skating camps, skate sharpening equipment, free rental skates and Ice Skating Show costumes and equipment. The extra money will help to keep the costs for skaters’ families low. For info, visit [Facebook](#) and search *Breezy Point Figure Skating Club*.

“The News Photography of Steve Kohls” will be the focus of the next **Rosenmeier Forum**, scheduled for 7 p.m. on **Wed. Feb. 8** in the Chalberg Theatre at Central Lakes College, Brainerd campus. The event is free and open to the public. Kohls has shot news, sporting events and artistic photos for the Brainerd Dispatch for more than 47 years. A sampling of his work will include images of Brainerd’s 1987 and 1991 downtown fires, the city’s long fight against mandatory fluoridation, a devastating train crash near Motley, as well as feature photos of Little Falls artist Charles Kapsner and Bataan Death March survivor Walt Straka. Images will range from black and white pieces from the beginning of his career, to current day photography and short videos.

The **Northland Arboretum** will host a **Valentine's Day Snowshoe Hike & Dinner** on **Sun. Feb. 12th** starting at 5:00. Couples will enjoy a guided snowshoe hike through the woods, lined with ice luminaries. Please bring your own snowshoes. You'll receive a certificate for a heart-shaped Rafferty's pizza. After, cozy up at home with a bottle of wine and some chocolates, all included in this date night package. The cost is \$55/couple. **Registration is required no later than Thurs. Feb. 9th.**

Baia Della Italian Kitchen is proud to announce the return of **Happy Hour for a Cause!** Join Baia Della on **Thurs. Feb. 9th** from 5:00-7:00 for an evening of socializing, wine and drink tasting, and light appetizers. (Cash Wise Liquor and 5Rocks Distilling will be on-site offering samples). Tickets are \$20 at the door, but pre-registration is HIGHLY encouraged as space is limited. 100% of the dollars collected this evening will be donated to the **Northland Arboretum!** For more info, visit [Facebook](#) and search *Baia Della*.

Happy Dancing Turtle in Pine River, along with **Pine River-Backus School Community Education**, will host its annual **Back To Basics** sustainable living event on **Sat. Feb. 11th** at the Pine River-Backus High School. The event, which runs from 8:00-5:00, combines workshops, vendors and exhibitors, a keynote speaker, lunch, door prizes and more all in an effort to teach guests more about sustainability and resiliency. In addition to the 40+ workshops, the event includes a large vendor area with 50+ booths offering educational materials, services and locally-made/grown goods. If you want to attend a WORKSHOP, you must pre-register as space is limited. To learn more and register, visit HappyDancingTurtle.org.

The temps may be cool, but the competition will be hot! Join the fun at **Bobber Bocce On Ice** on **Sat. Feb. 11th** on Sibley Lake in Pequot Lakes! This bocce-curling hybrid event will feature teams competing to be named the top team while guests enjoy other ice games, bonfires, food, music, beverages and raffle drawings! Park your car at TDS in Pequot (no parking on the ice) and take the free shuttle to the ice anytime between 8:00-5:00! The event is free to attend (team registration is now closed). Bring your cleats, dress for the weather and get ready for a lot of fun and laughs! Learn more online at PequotLakes.com.

Crossing Arts in downtown Brainerd invites the public to join them on **Sat. Feb. 11th** for another **Creativity Kit** giveaway! Guests can stop by between 10:00-12:00 to get a kit, which includes two art projects and supplies that will focus on African American Artist, Alma Woodsey. Kits are geared for kids ages 5 – 13, but all ages may enjoy them. The kits are free and available on a first come, first served basis. Crossing Arts is at 711 Laurel Street in Brainerd. Learn more online at CrossingArts.org.

The first phase of **BPS 150: THE EXHIBITION** may now be visited at its exhibition location, Brainerd High School. The next guided tour, given by BPS archivist John Erickson will be held on **Sat. Feb. 11th** at 1:00 (additional tours will be held Feb. 25 and Mar. 4th). The tour takes about 30 minutes and will include an introduction, overview and commentary on the 45 exhibits of Phase 1. The event is in celebration of the 150 years of delivering educational public services to the people of Brainerd and beyond by Brainerd Public Schools. There is no limit of registrants, but registration is required. Visit [Facebook](#), search *Brainerd Public Schools Archives*, and register on the link provided.

Join **Gabriel's Home Equine Rescue Facility** for a **Valentine's Family Day** on **Sat. Feb. 11th** from 2:00-4:00. Visit with the horses as you enjoy s'mores, hot dogs, and hot cocoa around a bonfire. Kids can also enter a drawing for prizes! All are welcome. (Gabriel's Home is a non-profit equine rescue whose mission is to bring horses from desperate situations, rehabilitate them and use their experiences to help others. They provide opportunities for children, families and Veterans to spend time with the horses, providing peace and healing for both the horse and the individual. For more info., follow *Gabriel's Home* on [Facebook](#).

The **Aitkin Area Chamber of Commerce** will celebrate **Winter Wonderama** on **Sat. Feb. 11th** from 2:00-4:00, with a chili cookoff at 4:30. All around the town of Aitkin, you can enjoy kids' games, ice skating, bon fires, snowshoeing, and hot cocoa! For more information, visit [Facebook](#) and search *Aitkin Area Chamber of Commerce*.

The **6th Annual Sunny Zwilling Memorial Ice Carousel Extravaganza (I.C.E. Fest)** will take place on **Sat. & Sun. Feb. 11th & 12th** starting at 10:00 on Green Prairie Fish Lake in Little Falls. The event is held as a fundraiser for the Pay It Forward Foundation and is free to attend. Guests will enjoy curling, spear fishing, human foosball, ice fishing, an underwater drone, figure skating, igloo building, human bowling, parachute rides and more! A warming tent will also be on the ice with free food/beverages available. Once again, a world record ice carousel will be attempted... come and see it for yourself! For more information, visit [Facebook](#) and search *I.C.E. Fest 2023*. The event will raise money to help kids through the Flyer Pride Pack program and the Kare Kloset.

2/13 – 2/19

Don't forget to treat your dog this **Valentine's Day** with a trip to the **Buster Dog Park** in Brainerd where you can share your love for your pup! Brainerd Parks & Rec will have their **Smooch A Pooch** kissing booth in the park from **Mon. Feb. 13- Fri. Feb 17th** where you can snap a picture of you and your pooch. For more info, visit [Facebook](#) and search *Brainerd Parks & Rec*.

The community is invited to attend the **Central Lakes College Music Dept.'s Winter Chamber Ensembles Concert** at 7:30pm on **Mon., Feb. 13** in the Chalberg Theatre, Brainerd campus. The concert will feature the Woodwind, Brass and Percussion Ensembles. Tickets are \$5. CLC students get in for free. The performance will also be available via livestream on YouTube.

Join the Brainerd Lakes Chamber for **Business After Hours** on **Tues. Feb. 14th** at the **Crow Wing County Jail** in Brainerd from 4:30-6:00. Guests will gather in one of the empty housing units and enjoy mixing with other chamber members, delicious appetizers, beverages, tours and learning more about the Crow Wing County Jail from Sheriff Eric Klang. Guests may even win some prizes! RSVP online in advance at BrainerdLakesChamber.com.

The **Crow Wing County Volunteer Coordinators Open House** will be held on **Wed. Feb. 15th** from 8:00-9:00 a.m. at The Center in Brainerd. If you are a volunteer coordinator or if you work for an organization that uses volunteers, please join this group for a light breakfast and coffee to learn more about the Association and how it can benefit your organization. For more information, visit [Facebook](#) and search for *Volunteer Coordinators Association of Crow Wing County*.

Join **Jack Pine Brewery** in Baxter for another **Pints for a Purpose** on **Wed. Feb. 15th** from 5:00-8:00pm. \$1 from every pint sold during that time will be donated to the **Pohl Children's Foundation**. Guests will also enjoy pizza from Papa Murphy's and will have the chance to win gift cards and prizes. For more information, visit [Facebook](#) and search *Pints for a Purpose Baxter*.

Kinship Partners presents a **Who's Got Game** Fundraiser on **Fri. Feb. 17th** at the Taconite Canteen & Event Center in Ironton from 6:00-10:00pm. Teams of 4 to 8 are invited to join them for a brain-busting night of trivia, appetizers and fun all to support mentoring in the Brainerd Lakes Area! Tickets are \$40 per person and can be reserved online at KinshipPartners.org.

The annual **Nisswa Winter Jubilee** will take place **Fri. Feb. 17-Sun. Feb. 19th** throughout the town of Nisswa! The fun starts Friday with great food and drink specials throughout the town, including live music by King's Ransom from 8:00-12:00 at The Pickle! Saturday will feature a medallion hunt, fun for the kids and the Nisswa Winter Jubilee Parade at 12:00! Snow sculpting, Nisswaschlagen, wood splitting and storytelling and more live music that night at the Nisswa Legion and at the Pickle! Sunday, then, don't forget about the **Nisswa Fire Department's Ice Fishing Derby** on Nisswa Lake from 12:00-2:00 where it's only \$5 a hole to fish! Learn more online at Nisswa.com or follow the *Nisswa Winter Jubilee* on [Facebook](#). Get your \$5 Jubilee Button for savings all around town!

The breathtaking glamour of the Jazz Age comes to the stage in Simon Levy's adaptation of F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic novel, ***The Great Gatsby*** at the Pequot Lakes High School Auditorium starting on **Fri. Feb. 17th** at 7:00. Presented locally by the **Greater Lakes Area Performing Arts** (GLAPA), the play is set in New York and tells the story of Jay Gatsby, a self-made millionaire, and his pursuit of Daisy Buchanan, a wealthy young woman who he love in his youth. Show times are Feb. 17, 18, 24 and 25 at 7:00 and on Feb. 19 & 26 at 2:00. Get tickets online at GLAPA.org.

It's time for the **19th Annual Fishing For Ducks Ice Fishing Contest** on Mille Lacs Lake at Garrison Bay. Hosted by **Garrison's Ducks Unlimited**, the contest will take place on **Sat. Feb. 18th** and the top prize is \$20,000!!!! Tickets are \$30 until 11:59 PM on Sun. Feb. 12th...then they go up to \$40. The pre-party will be held on Fri. Feb. 17th at the Garrison VFW. Free entry with your fishing ticket! Learn more online at FishingForDucks.org.

The public is invited to the **Breezy Point Ice Arena** on **Sun. Feb. 19th** for a **Family Skate Night** that will run from 6:00-7:00. Admission is \$5 per skater, with a maximum \$20 for a family. Limited free skate rental and sharpening will be available. Members of the Breezy Point Skate School and Figure Skate Club skate for free. Popcorn, candy and hot cocoa will be available for purchase.

2/20 – 2/26

The **Babinski Foundation** will host an **Adoption Event** at Camping World in Baxter on **Fri. Feb. 24th** from 10:00-2:00. Babinski will have adoptable cats and dogs on-site, where you can stop and meet the animals and Babinski staff... enjoy a bite to eat and support the Babinski Foundation. For more information, visit [Facebook](#) and search *The Babinski Foundation Pequot Lakes*.

Verse Like Water: The visiting poet program of **Central Lakes College** presents Romanian-American poet Maya C. Popa at 12:00 noon on **Fri. Feb. 24** in the Chalberg Theatre, Brainerd campus. A book signing and craft talk will follow this free literary event. Popa teaches poetry at New York University and celebrates the relationship between poetry and wonder in the human heart. For more info, visit CLCMN.edu.

The **2023 Gull Lake Frozen Fore Weekend** is set for **Feb. 24-Feb. 26th** stationed out of Hole-In-The-Day Bay on Gull Lake. The Frozen Flop will be held Friday at 7:00 followed by music under the tent at 7:30 and 9:00. Visit GullLakeEvents.com for registration and more information.

The first phase of **BPS 150: THE EXHIBITION** may now be visited at its exhibition location, Brainerd High School. The next guided tour, given by BPS archivist John Erickson will be held on **Sat. Feb. 25th** at 1:00 (one last tour will be held Mar. 4th). The tour takes about 30 minutes and will include an introduction, overview and commentary on the 45 exhibits of Phase 1. The event is in celebration of the 150 years of delivering educational public services to the people of Brainerd and beyond by Brainerd Public Schools. There is no limit of registrants, but registration is required. Visit [Facebook](#), search *Brainerd Public Schools Archives*, and register on the link provided.

MISC....

The Minnesota Department of Health and **Crow Wing County** remind county residents that **FREE Radon Testing Kits** are available right now by stopping by the Land Services building in Brainerd. The Department recommends that all home should be tested for radon every 5 years. Radon is an odorless, colorless and tasteless gas that occurs naturally in the soil and can enter homes through cracks and openings in floors and walls. Two-in-Five homes have radon levels that could cause significant health risk, but it is preventable. Free test kits can be picked up at Land Services at 322 Laurel Street. One kit limit per household. Call 218-824-1010 for more information.

Lakes Area Habitat for Humanity is in **need of volunteers** to help us complete two current build projects, as well as in our bustling ReStore. If you want a rewarding volunteer experience, many of our volunteer say that they receive more by volunteering than they feel they give...and that there is so much to learn! Habitat needs help with construction of the homes, helping at the ReStore, which deals in recycling new and like-new building and home materials AND they need help with pick-ups and salvages. If you can help in any of these areas, please send an email to Heidi.Gould@LakesAreaHabitat.org or call 454-7012.

Crow Wing County Community Services is looking for **volunteer drivers** to help some residents get to and from appointments, grocery stores, doctor appointments and other important destinations. Volunteers must have a reliable vehicle, pass a background check and have a valid driver's license. Reimbursement is available for some mileage (at current IRS rate). If you would like to volunteer, call Matt at Community Services 218-824-1228.

It's snowplow season and residents of **Crow Wing County** can once again find out just where their snowplow is during snow events! **Where's My Snowplow?** is a web-based map that uses GPS to track the 15 county plows and show you the current location of each plow. Track the plows in real time- updated every five minutes during winter events. Visit CrowWing.US to find the snowplow tracker!

Tickets are selling fast for the **2023 Clear Vision with Confidence** event coming **Mon. Mar. 6, 2023** to Grand View Lodge. The event will be held from 11:00-5:00 where attendees will enjoy a Keynote Presentation about "Powering Up: How Self-Awareness Helps Women Succeed (by Dr. Tasha Eurich), networking opportunities, a panel of local leaders, a plated lunch, silent auction and more! Tickets start at \$75 for general admission. Get tickets online at ClearVisionWithConfidence.com. Funds raised will benefit The Confidence Learning Center and Camp Confidence, a camp that serves people of all ages with cognitive and developmental disabilities.

A new **mental health crisis line** is now available to Minnesota residents as part of a nationwide effort to make the **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline** number easier to remember. Now, Minnesotans can **CALL or TEXT 988** any time of any day to access resources. There are currently four call centers across the state of Minnesota.

Bridges of Hope reminds the public that the **Brainerd Area Overnight Shelter** is open for those in need of a warm place to sleep. If you are in need of a warm, safe place to sleep between the hours of 7:00PM and 8:00 AM and are 18 or older, you are welcome. Those who need a bed need to arrive at the shelter between 7:00 and 11:00 PM. The shelter address is 1926 S. 7th Street. For more information, visit BridgesOfHopeMN.org/WarmingShelter.

The **Brainerd Lakes Area Women's Fund** (BLAWF) invites everyone to save the date and plan to join them at Grand View on **Tues. Apr. 18, 2023**, to honor the **Women Making Waves and Ripple Maker Recipients**. The Woman Making Waves and Ripple Maker awards recognize women who have significantly contributed by giving of their time and/or financial resources to help local charities. We ask that if you know any local women who fit either of these criteria to please nominate them online at CommunityGiving.org/BrainerdWomensFund.

Lakewood Health System, in partnership with the **Alzheimer's Association**, will be offering a **support group for caregivers** of those with loved ones diagnosed with dementia or Alzheimer's disease. The group will meet the **first Wednesday of every month** from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Burlington room, located through Door C at Lakewood's Senior Campus (401 Prairie Ave. NE). The group is designed to provide emotional, education and social support for those who care for a loved one with dementia or Alzheimer's. Participants will develop coping methods, along with some encouragement to help maintain their person, and their physical and emotional health, as well as optimally care for the person with dementia or Alzheimer's. Masks are required to be worn during the meeting.

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!

Brainerd Lakes Area residents are encouraged to **turn in your empty toner and ink jet cartridges** at either of **The Office Shop** locations (Brainerd or Aitkin) for recycling. By doing so, you will be helping the **Zachary Johnson Kids with Cancer Fund**. The fund offers grants to surrounding area families with a dependent child (age 21 or under) who has any form of cancer. It can be used for anything that the patient or caregiver wishes. If you are interested in applying for a grant, contact Riverwood Foundation or stop at either Office Shop location. Or to donate, visit RiverwoodHealthCare.org/foundation/giving or call 218-927-5158.

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. Volunteer opportunities are available.

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.

My Neighbor To Love Coalition is a local non-profit with a mission to end homelessness in the Brainerd Lakes Area by building affordable rental housing, connect people to supportive services and create a community of hope and belonging. They are raising funds right now to build the first four housing units. To learn more or give a donation, visit MNTLC.org.