

# PSAs

## Week of 11 / 13 / 23 B

### **BLOOD DRIVES:**

Call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) to schedule a donation time or to find a drive near you.

Thurs.	11/16	8:00-2:00	Camp Ripley Armory in Little Falls
Thurs.	11/16	11:30-5:30	Crosslake Lutheran Church in Crosslake
Mon.	11/20	11:00-5:00	Zion Lutheran Church in Little Falls
Mon.	11/20	12:00-6:00	Gull Lake Center (GVL) in Nisswa
Mon.	11/20	12:00-6:00	Vets Club in Onamia
Tues.	11/21	12:00-5:00	Deerwood Auditorium in Deerwood
Wed.	11/22	9:00-3:00	Aitkin High School in Aitkin
Wed.	11/22	9:00-3:00	Verndale High School in Verndale
Fri.	11/24	10:00-4:00	Team Ascension Martial Arts in Brainerd
Mon.	11/27	12:00-6:00	American Legion in Ironton
Mon.	11/27	12:00-6:00	Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wadena
Tues.	11/28	12:00-6:00	Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wadena
Tues.	11/28	12:00-6:00	American Legion in Milaca

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**NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL EPILEPSY AWARENESS MONTH:** For those living with epilepsy or know/live with someone who does, you're welcome to connect with others in your situation the **THIRD THURSDAY of EVERY MONTH** (Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>) at the Hallet Library in Crosby. Each 1-hour meeting starts at 10:15 and provides support, education and connection with others dealing with epilepsy. To get more info or learn more, please send an email to: [BLA.EpilepsyAdvocate@Gmail.com](mailto:BLA.EpilepsyAdvocate@Gmail.com). Learn more by visiting [Facebook](#) and searching *BLA Epilepsy*.

The **Outreach Program of Brainerd Lakes**, located in Nisswa MN, is a **humanitarian food aid organization**. They package 10 different meals that are distributed to local area food shelves and other locations where food insecurity is present. 80-90 % of the meals they package stay in Minnesota. The Outreach Program of Brainerd Lakes is always **looking for donations** to support their mission of feeding families in need, as well as volunteers to package the meals. To learn more, visit [OutreachProgramBLA.org](http://OutreachProgramBLA.org).

**ATTENTION MILITARY VETERANS!** The **Damsite Supper Club in Pine River** will host a **Veterans Lunch at NO EXPENSE** to veterans **every Wednesday** from 12:00-2:00 starting Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>. The goal is to gather Veterans and their families and friends together to share stories and make memories. The lunches are sponsored by The Pine River Area Foundation and the Minnesota Veterans Project.

## **11/13 – 11/19**

The **Kringle Market** at the **Crossing Arts Alliance** in downtown Brainerd is **now open** for the season every **Tues. – Sat. now through Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>**. The market hours are Tues. – Fri from 10:00-5:00 and Saturdays from 10:00-4:00. The Kringle Market, featuring fine crafts from over 100 Crossing Arts member artists, is open to the public. You'll find pottery, blown and fused glass, books, paintings, knitted items, unique jewelry, ornaments, stickers, woodworking and so much more! Visit [CrossingArts.org](http://CrossingArts.org) for more information.

**Jack Pine Brewery** in Baxter will host another **Pints for a Purpose** on **Wed. Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>** in support of **Breath of Life Adult Day Service** in Brainerd. Between 5:00-8:00 on the 15<sup>th</sup>, \$1 from every pint sold will be donated to Breath of Life, which provides an encouraging, caring, Christian atmosphere for dependent adults while simultaneously offering respite care for their caregivers. Papa Murphy's pizza will also be available for a free-will donation. More on **Facebook**: *Pints for a Purpose Jack Pine*.

The **Brainerd Family YMCA** will host a **Hiring Fair** on **Wed. Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>** from 5:00-7:00 and again on **Thurs. Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>** from 11:00-1:00 as they are looking to hire teachers and staff members for their new childcare center. If you are interested in a teaching job with the Brainerd Family YMCA, this is something to attend. Enjoy a tour of the new facility, food and a chance to visit with current staff. Be prepared for some "speed interviews." The hiring fair will take place at the new facility at 703 Oak Street in Brainerd. Learn more online at [BrainerdLakesYMCA.org](http://BrainerdLakesYMCA.org).

**Brainerd Community Theater** presents "**Winter Wonderetts**" on **Wed. – Fri. Nov. 15-17** at 7:00 and on **Sat. Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>** at 2:00 and 7:00 at the Dryden Theater at CLC Brainerd campus. This seasonal celebration finds the girls entertaining at the annual Harper's Hardware Holiday Party, when Santa turns up missing and the girls use their talent and creativity to save the holiday party. Enjoy the great '60s versions of holiday classics like "Jingle Bell Rock" and "Santa Claus is Coming to Town!" The show is fun for all ages! Tickets are \$15 for adults...\$12 for seniors....\$10 for those under 18 and \$5 for CLC students. Get tickets online at [CLCPerformingArts.com](http://CLCPerformingArts.com) or call the box office at 855-8199.

**Give To the Max Day** in Minnesota is **Thurs. Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>**...

Pick your favorite charity and GIVE TO THE MAX today!

A **Remembrance Ceremony for the US Soldiers of the 194<sup>th</sup> Battalion** will be held on **Thurs. Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>** at the **Brainerd American Legion** at 1:30. The public is invited to attend this moving ceremony. For more info, call Tammy at 838-1057.

**November is Diabetes Awareness Month** and **North Star Family Medicine** in Brainerd will host a **Diabetes Awareness Event** at their Brainerd Clinic on **Thurs. Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>** from 2:00-4:00. Visit with Nutritionist Karen Marschel to discuss healthy dietary options for management of Diabetes. Dr. Kristina Lelcu and Ashley Gagnon, PA will also be available to discuss evaluation and treatment of both Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes. For more information, visit [Facebook](#) and search *North Star Family Medicine*.

The **Northland Arboretum** wants to remind lakes area residents that their **Compost Site** will remain **open ONLY THROUGH FRI. NOV. 17<sup>th</sup>** (because the weather has been cooperative!). You can stop by the Arb's Visitor Center for the key and to pay the \$5 charge if you are NOT a member. Members can use the site for free. If you have questions, call the Arb or visit [NorthlandArb.org](http://NorthlandArb.org).

Join the fun and maybe win some meat at the **Friday Meat Raffle** at **Barajas Mexican Bar & Grill** in Pequot Lakes **Fri. Nov. 17** from 5:00-6:30. Raffles will happen until all the meat is won and the proceeds benefit **Community Action of Pequot Lakes**. For more info, visit [PequotLakes.com](http://PequotLakes.com) and click on Events.

The **Little Falls Lindbergh Lions** will host a **BINGO Extravaganza** on **Fri. Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>** starting at 6:00 at the Little Falls VFW. The BINGO includes prizes for guys and gals... like designer purses and bags, outdoor prizes and more! The main Bingo package will be \$35 with small packets available for \$10 – CASH ONLY. Food and beverages will be available for sale with the food special, loaded nachos for \$8. For more info, visit [Facebook](#) and search *Lindbergh Lions*.

The **Emily Community Market's Christmas Extravaganza** will be held on **Fri. Nov 17<sup>th</sup>** from 4:00-7:00 and on **Sat. Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>** from 9:00-2:00 in-doors at the Emily Wesleyan Church. A number of vendors will be on hand presenting and selling their items, which will all make great holiday gifts! The event is a fundraiser for the church's Kids Ministry. You can also enjoy a Sloppy Joe Dinner on Friday...and a Pancake Breakfast on Saturday. All are welcome! Emily Wesleyan Church is on Hwy 6 in Emily.

**Park United Methodist Church** in Brainerd will host a **Craft Sale & Cookie Walk** on **Sat. Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>** from 9:00-1:00. Guests will find handmade craft items, homemade cookies and more! Start your Christmas shopping – and get a To-Go lunch for just \$5. The **Northland Arboretum** in Brainerd will host its annual **Holiday Market** on **Sat. Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>** from 9:00-3:00 and it's free to attend! They will have over 30 vendors, gifts, concessions and more! Learn more and/or RSVP online at [NorthlandArb.org](http://NorthlandArb.org).

**The International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day Event in Brainerd** will be held on **Sat. Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>** at Clearwater Forest – Learning Tree Lodge (on Crooked Lake Rd.) in Deerwood from 10:00-2:00. Each year the AFSP supports hundreds of large and small Survivor Day events around the world, where suicide loss survivors get together to find connection, understanding and hope through their shared experience. There is no cost to attend, but pre-registration is requested. For more information and to register, please visit [Facebook](#) and search *Brainerd Lakes Area Loss Survivors Day*.

**The Crosby Fire Auxiliary** will host **Turkey Bingo & Raffle** on **Sat. Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>** at the Fire Hall in Crosby. Bingo starts at 6:00. You can also purchase \$1 raffle tickets were the top prize is \$1,000 CASH! TONS of other prizes available too! The firehall is located on 1<sup>st</sup> St. NW in Crosby. For more info, visit [Facebook](#) and search Crosby Fire Auxiliary.

**International Catholic Speaker, Musician and Comedian Paul J. Kim** will be on-stage **Sat. Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>** at the Gichi-zibi Center for the Arts in Brainerd. The evening, hosted by Brainerd Catholic Churches, will begin with a 6:00 social hour and the performance at 7:00. The show is appropriate for all ages. Tickets range from \$5 to \$30 (VIP) and can be purchased online at [BrainerdCatholic.org](http://BrainerdCatholic.org). For more information, call 218-822-404.

**The Brainerd VFW** will host its monthly **Fundraising Breakfast** on **Sun. Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>** from 8:00-12:00 and the cost is just \$10/person. Choose from Omelets, biscuits and gravy, pancakes, French toast and more! Just two blocks south of Brainerd's Historic Water Tower... visit [BrainerdVFW.org](http://BrainerdVFW.org) for more information.

**Smiles for Jake** will host **Tools & Jewels Bingo** at the **Brainerd American Legion** on **Sun. Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>** starting at 1:00 (Doors will open at 11:00). There will be 9 rounds of Bingo with a Tool and Jewel prize for each round. Over \$6,500 in prizes will be given away! Tickets are \$50. Lunch will be available for sale. Bingo starts at 1:00. A portion of the proceeds from the event will benefit the Smiles for Jake organization – a suicide prevention movement that spreads positivity through life-affirming actions. Purchase tickets and learn more online at [SmilesForJake.org](http://SmilesForJake.org) or follow *Smiles For Jake Movement* on [Facebook](#)!

## **11/20 – 11/26**

The public is reminded that the **Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner** will be available through the Brainerd American Legion on Thanksgiving Day, **Thurs. Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>** through pick-up or delivery only. **RSVPs are DUE BY 12:00 ON Mon. Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>** by contacting the Legion at 829-2249, the Brainerd VFW at 829-6393, The Brainerd Elks Club at 829-2643 or the Brainerd Eagles at 829-4216. DELIVERIES will be made between 9:00-10:30. Meals can be PICKED UP between 11:00-1:00. There is no cost for the meal, however Free-Will Donations are GRATEFULLY accepted. Any excess food donations will go to Teen Challenge and the Women's Shelter.

**Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota** will offer a free **"Prepare for Medicare 2023"** community workshop to teach guests about Medicare and comparing your options, including prescription and drug benefits and when to enroll. The workshop will take place on **Tues. Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>** from 11:00-12:00 at the Brainerd Lakes Chamber office in the CTC Room in Brainerd. This is a free, no obligation workshop. Reservations for attendance are appreciated, but walk-ins are also welcome. Go to [BrainerdLakesChamber.com](http://BrainerdLakesChamber.com) and click on Events.

**Youth On Stage Open Mic Night** will have their next event on **Tues. Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>** at Ya Sure Kombucha in the James Cullen Room starting at 6:30. If you are ages 5-25, and you have family-friendly talent to share (singing, playing an instrument, comedians, poets, story-tellers, etc.), sign up at [YouthOnStageMN.org](http://YouthOnStageMN.org). 15 minute time slots are available from 6:30-8:30pm.

Who wants to COOK the night before Thanksgiving? NO ONE! So, instead, head to **Taco John's in Brainerd** on **Wed. Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>** between 4:00-8:00 and help a great cause! During that time, Taco John's will **donate 20% of its proceeds** to the **Brainerd Lakes Area Women of Today**, which will use the funds to give right back to the Brainerd community! For more info, visit [Facebook](#) and search *Brainerd Lakes Women Of Today*.

The **14th Annual Brainerd Turkey Run** will take place on Thanksgiving morning, **Thurs. Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>** starting at the Brainerd Armory. Registration will be from 7:00-8:30 with the race starting at 9:00 (also pre-register the day before 5:00-7:00pm). Choose from a 5K Wal/Run or a 1 Mile Walk. To register and for more information, visit [BrainerdTurkeyRun.com](http://BrainerdTurkeyRun.com). The event raises money for Shriners Hospitals for Children – Twin Cities.

The **Minnesota Department of Natural Resources** reminds Minnesota residents and visitors that the next **Free Park Day** is **Fri. Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>**. This means that all 75 of Minnesota's State Parks are offering free admission to everyone – no vehicle permits needed! The entrance fee waiver for fee-free days does not cover amenity or user fees for activities like camping, rentals or special tours. The goal is to encourage families to spend time together with a walk in the great outdoors! Learn more online at [DNR.State.MN.US/StateParks](http://DNR.State.MN.US/StateParks).

It's time for the **31<sup>st</sup> Annual World Famous Aitkin Fish House Parade** on **Fri. Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>** in Aitkin! A perfect kick-off to the holiday season, the day is full of fun and shopping, including a Craft & Bake Sale at The Ripple Center from 9:00-12:00....free cider and donuts at the Jaques Art Center starting at 11:30, visits with **Santa**, a vintage snowmobile display (10a-3p), the [Fish House 5K run](#) and, of course the **PARADE at 1:00!** Be ready as some of the most unique and creatively decorated Fish Houses make their way through downtown Aitkin! For info about the day and the parade, visit [Aitkin.com](http://Aitkin.com).

The annual **Nisswa City of Lights Celebration** will take place on **Fri. Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>** as the town invites everyone to embrace the holiday spirit through a beautiful display of lights! The evening also includes horse drawn wagon rides, photo ops with live reindeer, storytelling, bonfires, hot cider, mini donuts and carolers! The littles can even share their wishes with Santa. Fireworks will top off the night, too! For more info, visit [Nisswa.com](http://Nisswa.com).

Join the fun and maybe win some meat at the **Friday Meat Raffle** at **Barajas Mexican Bar & Grill** in Pequot Lakes **Fri. Nov. 24** from 5:00-6:30. Raffles will happen until all the meat is won and the proceeds benefit **Community Action of Pequot Lakes**. For more info, visit [PequotLakes.com](http://PequotLakes.com) and click on Events.

The **Mustard Seed of Deerwood Thrift & Gifts** will host the **2023 Taste of Christmas** event on **Fri. & Sat. Nov. 24 & 25<sup>th</sup>** and again on **Mon.-Fri. Nov. 27-Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>** from 9:00-5:00 each day! This is your chance to take advantage of a huge storewide Christmas Sale, find baked goods, home décor and more! The Mustard Seed is on State Hwy 6 in Deerwood.

**Motely United Methodist Church** will host a **Community Breakfast** on **Sat. Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>** from 9:00-10:30 and all are welcome. There is no charge for the breakfast as it is an opportunity for the community to come together and share a meal. A donation basket will be available with the dollars going to support the good works of the church. Motely United Methodist Church is at 847 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. S. in Motely.

**SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY** will take place on **Sat. Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>....**

Take your **MN Permit to Carry Class** with a full time law enforcement officer with 25+ years of service to the Lakes Area on **Sat. Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>** from 9:00-1:00 at the Super 8 on Edgewood Drive in Baxter. Everything is provided for the class - use of firearm, ammo, use of safety equipment and range fee is just \$99. Register online at [CentralMNPermitToCarry.com/register](http://CentralMNPermitToCarry.com/register).

The **Breezy Point Figure Skating Club** invites the public to a **Family Skate Night** on **Sun. Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>** from 5:00-6:00pm. The event takes place at the Breezy Ice Arena on Co. Rd. 11 in Breezy Point. The cost is \$5/skater with a \$20 cap for families. Price includes skate rental (limited adult sizes). Hot cocoa, popcorn and other goodies will be available for sale. For more info, visit [Facebook](#) and search *Family Skate Night Breezy Point*.

## **11/27 – 12/3**

The **City of Breezy Point** is seeking public comment on the future of City Hall during a **Community Open House** on **Mon. Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>** from 5:00-7:00pm. The event will give community members an opportunity to provide input on the proposed design for City Hall and to ask questions of staff and architects. Comments received at this open house will be processed by architects and designers at Widseth, the city's contractor, for consideration by the final design committee. For more information, visit [BreezyPointMN.gov](http://BreezyPointMN.gov).

Join the **Lakes Area United Way** for **Business After Hours** on **Tues. Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>** from 4:30-6:00 at their location on the lower level of Bremer Bank in downtown Brainerd. This is a time to network and enjoy appetizers and beverages all while learning more about the Lakes Area United Way and maybe winning some prizes! If you plan to attend, please RSVP online at [BrainerdLakesChamber.com](http://BrainerdLakesChamber.com).

**Happy Hour to Help** with **The Outreach Program of Brainerd Lakes** will take place on **Tues. Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>** at Big Axe Brewing Company in Nisswa. The event will run from 5:00-8:00. During that time, 5% of food sales and \$1 from every beer sold will be donated to the Outreach Program, which works to provide stable, nutritional meals to families in the U.S. and developing countries. Search *Happy Hour To Help With The Outreach Program* on [Facebook](#) for more information.

**Just for Kix in Baxter** will host **Photos with Santa** on **Wed. Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>** and kids are welcome to come see him! Get your photos taken for FREE, just in time for your Christmas cards! Santa will be in the Studio at Just for Kix on Lake Forest Rd. in Baxter from 5:00-7:00. Learn more at [JustForKix.com](#).

**The last Brainerd Pop-up Pantry of 2023** will take place on **Thurs. Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>** in the CLC West Parking Lot from 10:00-11:00 or while supplies last. This final drive-through Pop-up Pantry will feature nutritious food and produce from Second Harvest North Central Food Bank and Pantry Packs from the Outreach Program of Brainerd Lakes, all loaded into your car by Lakes Area United Way volunteers. For more information, or to find dates and locations for other Pop-up Pantries and food resources throughout the broader Lakes Area, visit [SecondHarvestNCFB.com](#).

The **WAVE Young Professionals Network** will host its **November Event** on **Thurs. Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>** at Madden's On Gull Lake (TIME TBD) and will feature guest speaker, Jill Casper – Director of Marketing & Community Engagement with CTC. Jill will facilitate a personality test with attendees and review the meaning behind the results (and take a deeper dive into what they mean). The event is free to attend. WAVE YPN is a new networking and professional development program for individuals ages 18-39 in the Brainerd Lakes Area. Learn more at [WaveYPN.com](#).

The **2023 Sertoma Winter Wonderland** at the Northland Arboretum in Brainerd/Baxter will open for the season on Thanksgiving night, **Thurs. Nov. 23** at 5:30, ready for another spectacular season of lights! Winter Wonderland will be open, then, from 5:30 – 8:30pm... **Nov. 23-25 and Nov. 30**... then **Dec. 1-2, 7-9<sup>th</sup>, 14-16<sup>th</sup>, 21-23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>**. Advance tickets are \$15/vehicle or \$20/vehicle (cash or check only) at the gate. Get tickets in advance online or at Cub Foods in Brainerd or Baxter..... Tickets and more info is online at [SertomaWinterWonderland.com](#).

The **Heartland Symphony Orchestra** will present its **2023 Winter Concert Series, "Shall We Sing"?** Thurs. Nov. 30 and Sat. & Sun. Dec. 2 & 3 and everyone is encouraged to attend! On **Thurs. Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>** the concert will be held at 7:30pm at The Log Church in Crosslake. On **Sat. Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>**, it will start at 7:30 at the Charles D. Martin Auditorium at the Little Falls High School. The concert will be performed for the final time on **Sun. Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>** starting at 2:30 at the Gichi-ziibi Center for the Arts in Brainerd. The concerts will include traditional Christmas Carols to opera arias and will be fun for the whole family! Concerts are free to attend, however good will donations would be gratefully accepted. For more, go to [Facebook](#) and search *Heartland Symphony Orchestra*.

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**estination Downtown Brainerd** invites everyone to the **Downtown Brainerd Window Walk – Poinsettia Lane** on **Fri. Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>** from 5:00-7:00pm. Come and experience the festive storefront decorations at the event where you can stroll downtown and then vote for your favorite decorated business! Many stores will be open late that night, so do some shopping, grab a bite to eat and/or a drink and have fun! For information on this event, visit [Facebook](#) and search *Downtown Brainerd Window Walk*.

The **Cuyuna Lakes Chamber of Commerce** and the **City of Crosby** invites the public to their **Community Tree Lighting ceremony** on **Fri. Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>**. The event will be held at 5:00 in the Main Street Marketplace Plaza and will include holiday carol singing, a hot chocolate bar and cookies, candy canes, popcorn and more! The event is free and will kick off the Cuyuna Christmas weekend. String of Lights sponsorships are available for \$25. To sponsor a string or for more info about the event, visit [CuyunaLakes.com](http://CuyunaLakes.com).

Join the fun and maybe win some meat at the **Friday Meat Raffle** at **Barajas Mexican Bar & Grill** in Pequot Lakes **Fri. Dec. 1** from 5:00-6:30. Raffles will happen until all the meat is won and the proceeds benefit **Community Action of Pequot Lakes**. For more info, visit [PequotLakes.com](http://PequotLakes.com) and click on Events.

The **Cuyuna Range Farmer's Christmas Market** will be held on **Sat. Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>** at the Cuyuna Range Youth Center from 10:00-2:00. You'll find canned and preserved goods, some seasonal produce, eggs, pork products, breads, cookies, cakes, fresh roasted coffee beans, wood-turned gifts, glasswork, metal work, soaps, lotions, cards, dried flowers and more! They'll offer free coffee and cocoa...and lunch will be available for sale! Learn more by visiting [Facebook](#) and searching *Cuyuna Range Farmers Market*.

The **10<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday at the Dam** in Crosslake will take place on **Sat. Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>** from 12:00-3:00 featuring holiday fun for the whole family AND there is NO CHARGE to attend! Head to the US Army Corps of Engineers Campground to visit with Santa, take your family photo with a holiday backdrop, make & take a fun holiday craft, munch on kettle corn and sip hot cocoa while you roast a s'more over a warm campfire! Then, stay for the day and shop in Crosslake where you will find discounts, specials, treats and gift wrapping! For more info, visit [Crosslake.com](http://Crosslake.com) or download the free Crosslake App.

**CRMC** and **Smiles for Jake** will host **A Cuyuna Christmas** on **Sat. Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>** at Crosby Memorial Park in Crosby. On that day, the park will come alive with holiday cheer including live entertainment (That 70's Sunshine Band) under a heated tent, games, crafts, cookie decorating, face painting, a petting zoo and an area where kids can write letters to Santa! Tons of other fun will be happening too – for details, visit [CuyunaChristmas.com](http://CuyunaChristmas.com) or go to [Facebook](#) and search *Cuyuna Christmas*.



## **12/4 – 12/10**

The **Friends of the Brainerd Public Library** will feature Minnesota author **Cary J. Griffith** as part of their **Brown Bag Lunch Author Series** on **Mon. Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>** from 12:00-1:00. Griffith will discuss his latest mystery novel, "Killing Monarchs." Those attending are free to bring a sack lunch or enjoy the light refreshments provided. No registration is required. All are welcome. Learn more on [Facebook](#) by searching *Friends of the Brainerd Public Library*.

**Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota** will offer a free "**Prepare for Medicare 2023**" community workshop to teach guests about Medicare and comparing your options, including prescription and drug benefits and when to enroll. The workshop will take place on **Tues. Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>** from 11:00-12:00 at the Brainerd Lakes Chamber office in the CTC Room in Brainerd. This is a free, no obligation workshop. Reservations for attendance are appreciated, but walk-ins are also welcome. Go to [BrainerdLakesChamber.com](http://BrainerdLakesChamber.com) and click on Events.

Join the **Jaques Art Center** in Aitkin for "**A White Christmas Tea**" on **Wed. Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>** from 1:00-3:00. Join the center for tea, tiers of treats, raffles and a program. Tickets are \$25. Learn more by visiting [Facebook](#): *The Jaques Art Center*.

The **Upper Midwest Region Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)** will host its **Annual Candlelight Vigil** on **Thurs. Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>**. The public is encouraged to honor those injured or killed in substance-impaired driving crashes at 7:00pm on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> for a virtual moment of remembrance and by lighting a luminary. To learn more, to register and to order a luminary for the event, [Google](#) *MADD Victim Services Vigil* and click on Light A Candle.

Join **Just For Kix of Pequot Lakes** for their "**Here for the Hoedown Winter Show**" on **Fri. Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>** at the Pequot Lakes High School. The show will start at 7:00pm and feature dancers of all ages and dance styles. Tickets at the door will be \$9 for adults, \$7 for students, and children 5 and under are free! All are welcome!

The **Brainerd Elks** will conduct their **52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Hoop Shoot** on **Sat. Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>** at Forestview Middle School in Baxter. Boys and girls ages 8 to 13 are all invited to compete. Registration and warm-ups start at 12:00 noon with the Contest starting at 1:00. There is no fee to take part and the winners in each division move on to the district competition and, from there, state, regional and national levels. It's a "free throw contest" just for fun! No experience necessary! To learn more, call Dick at 851-1753.

Join the **Pine River Chamber of Commerce** for the **2023 Pine River Parade of Lights** on **Sat. Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>** starting at 5:00. The theme is "Sleigh Bells Ring" and participation in the parade is free! There will be contests for "best use of theme" and "best use of lights." Line up starts at 4:00 by the Lutheran church. After the parade, enjoy some hot chocolate around the bonfire at the Chamber building. Contact the Pine River Chamber for more information.