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Contributors to the Summer Guide include the writers noted within these pages and Advocate staff members Tom Westman, Samantha Bordak, Andrew Enninga, Amanda Menden, Maddie Juvland and Steve Prinsen.

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Welcome to summer in the Heart of the Lakes. It’s that brief time of year when there are so many choices and not enough time, when you can dig into life’s sand bucket and make a castle or two before the season becomes a distant memory.

Here’s hoping you enjoy your summer and what it has to offer — whether it’s on the lake fishing or boating, in your backyard or at one of the many area community events that provide fun for all ages throughout the summer.

You can smell the grill, you can hear the children play, you can see the sunsets and listen to the wildlife scurry about. Indeed, it’s the time of year when all of nature awakens.

In the Heart of the Lakes Summer Guide we’ve put together some of the best of what the Annandale-South Haven area, the Heart of the Lakes, has to offer. We’ve blended some history, stories on local attractions and a lot of other fun and interesting information to help you better plan your summer.

Enjoy the season. It’s our hope that you spend your leisure time with family and friends, making memories that will be cherished many years from now. Whether you’re a visitor, a summer homeowner or a resident, stay safe in your travels and be respectful of others and nature.

Enjoy your summer!
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LOCAL EVENTS
2022 Calendar

MAY

ALL-CITY GARAGE SALE
Saturday, May 7: There will be something for everyone at Annandale Chamber’s annual city-wide sale, which has been held for more than 30 years. Look for many sales around town. Check your Advocate for listings.

CINCO DE MAYO
Thursday, May 5: A celebration of Mexican heritage and culture.

YOUNG EAGLES
Saturday, May 14: The Young Eagles program introduces youth to the world of aviation by giving ages 8-17 their first free ride in an airplane. Airport location will change so please check the website and pre-register at youngeaglesday.org

MOTHER’S DAY
Sunday, May 8: Celebrate mom today and every day.

POTLUCK SUPPER
Tuesday, May 10: Minnesota Pioneer Park will host a meal at 6:30 p.m.

CRUISE-IN
Thursday, May 12: Classic Rides & Rods/Classic Hall will host a car enthusiasts free cruise-in event. Visit Classic Rides and Rods Facebook page for more details.
FISHING OPENER
Saturday, May 14: This is the opening date for most game fish in Minnesota. See the Advocate for more on the opener.

FUNGUS AMONG US
Saturday, May 14: This tour by Martin Dibben gives an on-trail and off-trail tour at Bertram Chain of Lakes detailing fungi and mushrooms located in the park. Find out which ones are and are not edible during this free program from 9-11:30 a.m. Check www.co.wright.mn.us/parks for more details.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Sunday, May 15: From 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Pioneer Park will be hosting a pancake breakfast with all you can eat pancakes. For more information check out their website.

STEP INTO SPRING
Saturday, May 21: Go for a hike and explore Robert Ney Nature Center as we step into the spring season from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Pre-registration is required. Check www.co.wright.mn.us/parks for details.

BIKE RODEO
Saturday, May 21: The Annandale Police will hold a free bike rodeo for children from 10 a.m. to noon at Annandale High School. They will provide instruction on proper bike safety, maintenance, hand signals and riding etiquette.

AHS COMMENCEMENT
Friday, May 27: The Annandale High School commencement ceremony will be held at 7 p.m.

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Have a safe and happy summer in the Heart of the Lakes!
**EVENTS**

**CHILI COOK-OFF**
Saturday, May 28: Sample homemade chili at many participating businesses and organizations during the Annandale Chamber’s annual Chili Cook-off from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. See the Advocate for more details.

**MEMORIAL DAY BREAKFAST**
Monday, May 30: Annandale Boy Scout Troop 354 will hold its annual Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast from 7 to 11:30 a.m. at the pavilion in the park. Check the weekly Annandale Advocate for up-to-date information.

**MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONIES**
Monday, May 30: The Annandale Memorial Day Parade and Remembrance Service begins at 10 a.m. The parade proceeds along Oak Avenue to the city park and continues to Woodlawn Cemetery for services. Everyone is invited. Check the weekly Annandale Advocate for up-to-date information.

**JUNE**

**LAST DAY OF SCHOOL**
Friday, June 3: This is the final day of classes in the Annandale School District.

**MAPLE LAKE GARAGE SALES**
Saturday, June 4: Maple Lake’s All-City Garage Sale is sponsored by the Maple Lake Chamber of Commerce. Visit www.maple-lakechamber.com for more information.

**PADDLE ON! KAYAKING**
Saturday, June 4: Bertram Chain of Lakes Park will provide kayaks and paddles for all ages and experience levels from 10 a.m. to noon. Instruction is provided to help make novices more comfortable on the water in a kayak. There will be a participation fee for this event. Check www.co.wright.mn.us/parks for more details.

**SUMMER READING PROGRAM**
Monday, June 6 - Saturday, Aug. 6: Great River Regional Library starts its Summer Reading Program for children ages 0-12. The theme is “Read Beyond the Beaten Path.” For registration details, visit griver.org or contact your Great River Regional Library. In Annandale, call 320-274-8448.

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**EXPLORE...LEARN...CONNECT...**

Join the Great River Regional Library Summer Reading Program
June 6 - August 6

Early literacy program for ages 0-3.
Independent reading program for ages 4-18.

For registration details, visit griver.org or contact Annandale Public Library.

**ANNANDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

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POTLUCK SUPPER
Tuesday, June 7: Minnesota Pioneer Park will host a meal at 6:30 p.m.

HEART OF THE LAKES CRUISE IN
Friday, June 10: Line up on Cedar Street by city hall to Excelsior Avenue, between 5-8 p.m. Everyone is welcome – cars, trucks, and motorcycles. There is no registration required, and there will be a food shelf at the Clock Tower, all sponsored by the Annandale chamber.

ANNANDALE FARMERS MARKET
Saturday, June 11: The Annandale Farmers Market is set to begin its 14th season from 8 a.m. to noon at City Hall Square. The market runs every Saturday through the last weekend of September with the exception of the Fourth of July weekend.

YOUNG EAGLES
Saturday, June 11: The Young Eagles program introduces youth to the world of aviation by giving ages 8-17 their first free ride in an airplane. Airport location will change so please check the website and pre-register at youngeaglesday.org.

BUFFALO DAYS
Sunday to Sunday, June 12-19: This eight-day festival every June attracts thousands of visitors to Buffalo. There is a full slate of activities during the week, as well as weekend fun including fireworks on Friday night and a movie in the park. For more information visit www.buffalochamber.org.

LET’S GO CRUISIN’
The Annandale Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the “Heart of the Lakes Cruise In” on four Friday nights this summer, June 10, July 8, Aug. 12, and Sept. 9 (the second Friday of the month)
- The events are from 5 to 8 p.m. each night, so cruise on in.
- Everyone is welcome – trucks, cars and motorcycles
- Bring a food shelf item or a cash donation. A food shelf truck will be at the Clock Tower Park.
- No registration required, and there is no cost
- Lineup is on Cedar Street by City Hall and will extend to Excelsior Avenue.

FLAG DAY
Tuesday, June 14: Take a moment to appreciate our nation’s banner and what it represents.

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES
Friday, June 11: TENTATIVE The live music event is free at Annandale Municipal Park. Bring your own chair. Picnics and family fun are encouraged. Check the weekly Annandale Advocate for up-to-date information.

ANNANDALE FARMERS MARKET
Saturday, June 18: The market is open from 8 a.m. to noon at City Hall Square.

ANTE TRACTOR SHOW
Saturday, June 11: Don’t miss this Minnesota Pioneer Park event! Attend the Classic Tractor Show from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Collectors are welcome to bring old tractors, garden tractors and gas engines. Prizes and more. Pre-register by contacting Pioneer Park, 320-274-8489 or download a form at www.pioneerpark.org.

FLY TYING WITH MN TROUT
Saturday, June 18: Robert Ney Memorial park from 4 to 7 p.m. There will be a participation fee for this event. Check www.co.wright.mn.us/parks for more details.

FATHER’S DAY
Sunday, June 19: Say thanks to dad today.

BUFFALO CHAMPIONSHIP RODEO
Thursday, Friday and Saturday, June 23-25: The 67th annual Buffalo PRCA Championship Rodeo will take place at 7 p.m. each day. For more information and tickets, visit www.buffalorodeo.com.

WONDERS OF WATER DAY CAMP
Friday, June 24: A program for ages 5-12 at Robert Ney Memorial Park from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is a participation fee, check www.co.wright.mn.us/parks for more details.

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KICKOFF TO THE FOURTH GALA  
Friday, June 24: The Kickoff to the Fourth of July Gala begins at 7 p.m. at Southbrook (lower level) in Annandale. Advance tickets available. Check out the Advocate for more details.

CHAOS IN CLEARWATER DEMO DERBY  
Friday to Saturday, June 24-25: This event will be held at the club grounds in Clearwater. Performances start at 6 p.m. After the demo derby on Saturday night, the band Radio Nation will be playing. Visit silverbulletsaddleclub.com for more information.

ANNANDALE FARMERS MARKET  
Saturday, June 25: The market is open from 8 a.m. to noon at City Hall Square.

OLD SETTLERS DAY  
Saturday, June 25: Check Old Settlers Day Facebook or the Advocate for further details.

FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION  
Thursday, June 30 to Monday, July 4: Annandale’s historic annual Fourth of July celebration includes a parade, multiple concerts, carnival, food, fun, games and activities. Discount carnival ride tickets will be available at some local chamber businesses before the week arrives. The celebration is sponsored by the Annandale Area Chamber of Commerce. Check the chamber’s site, www.annandale chamber.org, and www.annandale 4th of july.org. Also, check the Annandale Advocate for up-to-date information.

AMBASSADOR CAR WASH  
Saturday, July 2: The Annandale Ambassador Program Car Wash Fundraiser takes place from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Annandale Fire Hall.

COUNTRY CHURCH SERVICE  
Sunday, July 3: Minnesota Pioneer Park will host its annual Country Church Service. Music begins at 10 a.m., with a message and singing at 10:30 a.m. A freewill breakfast will be served in the Big Woods Museum at 11:30 a.m. All welcome.

CLASSIC CAR SHOW  
Saturday, July 2: Classic Rides & Rods/Classic Hall will host a car enthusiasts event from 4 to 8 p.m. with live music, food and fun. Visit Classic Rides and Rods Facebook page for more details.

FIRECRACKER 5K RUN-WALK  
Saturday, July 2: The St. John’s Firecracker 5K run-walk begins at 8 a.m. at St. John’s Lutheran Church. The 1 mile sparkler run starts at 8 and the 5K at 8:45. See the ad in this guide. For more information go www.tempotickets.com/firecracker5k.

PADDLE ON! KAYAKING  
Saturday, July 2: Collinwood Regional Park will provide kayaks and paddles for all ages and experience levels from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Instruction is provided to help make novices more comfortable on the water in a kayak. There is a fee for this event. Check www.co.wright.mn.us/parks for more details.
CRUISE-IN
Saturday, July 2: Classic Rides & Rods/Classic Hall will host a car enthusiasts free cruise-in event. Visit Classic Rides and Rods Facebook page for more details.

FOURTH OF JULY PARADE
Monday, July 4: The parade begins at 10 a.m. and will feature bands from the surrounding area, a performance by the Annandale Middle School Band and the Annandale High School Drumline. The parade is one of the highlights of the celebration. Get your spot on the route early. Check www.annandale4thofjuly.org. Also, check the weekly Annandale Advocate for up-to-date information.

CORONATION, CONCERT, FIREWORKS
Monday, July 4: Coronation for the next Miss Annandale is at 5:30 p.m. at the Municipal Park. The Fabulous Armadillos will perform a free concert from 7 to 10 p.m., and fireworks will be displayed after the concert. Watch the Advocate for more information.

HEART OF THE LAKES CRUISE IN
Friday, July 8: Line up on Cedar Street by city hall to Excelsior Avenue, between 5-8 p.m. Everyone is welcome – cars, trucks, and motorcycles. There is no registration required, and there will be a food shelf at the Clock Tower, all sponsored by Annandale chamber.

ANNANDALE FARMERS MARKET
Saturday, July 9: The market is open from 8 a.m. to noon at City Hall Square.

YOUNG EAGLES
Saturday, July 9: The Young Eagles program introduces youth to the world of aviation by giving ages 8-17 their first free ride in an airplane. Airport location will change so please check the website and pre-register at youngeaglesday.org.

PICKIN’ IN THE BIG WOODS
POTLUCK SUPPER  
Tuesday, July 12: Minnesota Pioneer Park will host a meal at 6:30 p.m.

ANNANDALE FARMERS MARKET  
Saturday, July 16: The market is open from 8 a.m. to noon at City Hall Square.

HEART OF THE LAKES TRIATHLON  
Sunday, July 17: The big race will be hosting its 35th year anniversary! The event includes a long and short course and team or individual competition. Visit www.holtri.org for more information. See the article in this guide.

CLUB TRAIL RIDE  
Sunday, July 24: Silver Bullet will host an 10 a.m. trail ride at Robert Ney Park. After the ride, the club will be grilling lunch. Visit silverbullet-saddleclub.com to RSVP and for more information.

WRIGHT COUNTY FAIR  
Wednesday to Sunday, July 20-24: The Wright County Fair will be held at the fairgrounds in Howard Lake. Lots of family activities for all ages, including a car show, mud truck racing, motorcycle show, bull riding, demo derbies, tractor and truck pulls, carnival rides and more. For a schedule of events, visit www.wrightcountyfair.com, and watch the Advocate for updates.

CHAMBER GOLF TOURNAMENT  
Wednesday, July 21: The Annandale Chamber is sponsoring a golf tournament at Whispering Pines Golf Course in Annandale. Check the chamber website on how to sign up at annandalechamber.org

ANNANDALE FARMERS MARKET  
Saturday, July 23: The market is open from 8 a.m. to noon at City Hall Square.

BASE CAMP: OVERNIGHT FAMILY CAMPING  
Saturday-Sunday July 23-24: Family camping at Beebe Lake Regional Park from 10 a.m. to 10 a.m. there is a participation fee. Check www.co.wright.mn.us/parks for more details.

Our Mission  
“The Annandale Area Community Team (ACT) will promote and facilitate community visioning and positive change by engaging area residents in grassroots involvement.”

ACT is improving Annandale’s quality of life. Visit our website to learn all about our activities!  
“A Great Community Getting Better”

AnnandaleOnline.com/ACT
CLUB TRAIL RIDE
Sunday, July 24: Silver Bullet will host an 10 a.m. trail ride at Robert Ney Park. After the ride, the club will be grilling lunch. Visit silverbullet-saddleclub.com to RSVP and for more information.

ANNANDALE FARMERS MARKET
Saturday, July 30: The market is open from 8 a.m. to noon at City Hall Square.

FLY FISHING WITH MN TROUT
Saturday, July 30: Fairhaven Mill Park from 2 to 4 p.m. There is a fee; check www.co.wright.mn.us/parks for more details.

ANNANDALE FARMERS MARKET
Saturday, July 30: The market is open from 8 a.m. to noon at City Hall Square.

FLY FISHING WITH MN TROUT
Saturday, July 30: Fairhaven Mill Park from 2 to 4 p.m. There is a fee; check www.co.wright.mn.us/parks for more details.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
Tuesday, Aug. 2: Get together with your neighbors and participate in this community-building event.

ANNANDALE FARMERS MARKET
Saturday, Aug. 6: The market is open from 8 a.m. to noon at City Hall Square.

COKATO CORN CARNIVAL
Monday to Wednesday, Aug. 8-10: Come enjoy the annual Cokato Corn Carnival with a parade, entertainment, prizes, bingo and more! Also, free corn-on-the-cob served after Monday. See the schedule for dates/times. Watch the Advocate for more information.

POTLUCK SUPPER
Tuesday, Aug. 9: Minnesota Pioneer Park will host a meal at 6:30 p.m.

HEART OF THE LAKES CRUISE IN
Friday, Aug. 12: Line up on Cedar Street by city hall to Excelsior Avenue between 5 and 8 p.m. Everyone is welcome – cars, trucks, and motorcycles. There is no registration required, and there will be a food shelf truck at the Clock Tower. Sponsored by the Annandale chamber.

KIMBALL DAYS
Friday to Sunday, Aug. 12-14: (tentative)
This community-wide annual celebration includes many activities with a parade on Sunday. See details at kimballeachamber.com and in the Advocate closer to the event.

ANNANDALE FARMERS MARKET
Saturday, Aug. 13: The market is open from 8 a.m. to noon at City Hall Square.

YOUNG EAGLES
Saturday, Aug 13: The Young Eagles program introduces youth to the world of aviation by giving ages 8-17 their first free ride in an airplane. Airport location will change so please check the website and pre-register at youngeaglesday.org

PORK CHOP DINNER
Sunday, Aug. 14: Pioneer Park will host a pork chop dinner. Check the Advocate for further details.

CLEARWATER RODEO
Friday to Sunday, Aug. 12-14: The market is open from 8 a.m. to noon at City Hall Square.

HEART OF THE LAKES CRUISE IN
Friday, Aug. 12: Line up on Cedar Street by city hall to Excelsior Avenue between 5 and 8 p.m. Everyone is welcome – cars, trucks, and motorcycles. There is no registration required, and there will be a food shelf truck at the Clock Tower. Sponsored by the Annandale chamber.

YOUNG EAGLES
Saturday, Aug 13: The Young Eagles program introduces youth to the world of aviation by giving ages 8-17 their first free ride in an airplane. Airport location will change so please check the website and pre-register at youngeaglesday.org

PORK CHOP DINNER
Sunday, Aug. 14: Pioneer Park will host a pork chop dinner. Check the Advocate for further details.

CLEARWATER RODEO
Friday to Sunday, Aug. 12-14: The 42st annual Clearwater Rodeo includes performances at 7 p.m. on Friday, 6 p.m. on Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday. A rodeo dance immediately follows the rodeos on Friday (Radio Nation) and Saturday (Drop Tailgate). Saturday also features a barbecue supper at 4 p.m. Sunday events include a 10 a.m. Cowboy Church Service and it’s Kid’s Day from noon until 2 p.m. A petting zoo and games are also available for kids along with free pony rides. For more information see the ad in this guide or visit: www.silverbulletsaddleclub.com.
GEAR HEAD GET-TOGETHER  
Saturday, Aug. 20: The show and swap meet runs from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. in downtown Maple Lake. Bring your cars, trucks, rods, motorcycles, scooters, tractors, snow machines and more! Food, beverages and live music. For more information go to www.gearheadgettogether.net

PADDLE ON! KAYAKING  
Saturday, Aug 20: Collinwood Regional Park will provide kayaks and paddles for all ages and experience levels from 10a.m. to 12p.m. Instruction is provided to help make novices more comfortable on the water in a kayak. There will be a participation fee for this event. Check www.co.wright.mn.us/parks for more details.

ARTS AND CRAFTS FESTIVAL  
Saturday, Aug. 20: The annual Buffalo Arts and Crafts Festival runs from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in downtown Buffalo. Approximately 200 arts and crafts vendors. Free to the public.

ANNANDALE FARMERS MARKET  
Saturday, Aug. 20: The market is open from 8 a.m. to noon at City Hall Square.

ANNANDALE FARMERS MARKET  
Saturday, Aug. 27: The market is open from 8 a.m. to noon at City Hall Square.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL  
Monday, Aug. 29: Classes begin in the Annandale School District.

Wright County Swappers Meet  
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HOLIDAY WEEKEND SCHEDULE:  
Open Friday, Saturday & Sunday Holiday Weekends!  
Memorial Day - May 27, 28 & 29  
4th of July - July 1, 2 & 3  
Labor Day - Sept. 2, 3 & 4  
• Gates open for shopping 1/2 hour before sunrise  
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Dealers! Set up on your trailer or tables, food an ATM on grounds.  
Setup begins 12 noon the day before the sale begins.

Clean out garages, basements & children’s rooms. What you can’t use, someone else can! Turn unwanted items into CASH!

More information at wrightcountyswappersmeet.com
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SEPTEMBER

ANNANDALE FARMERS MARKET  
Saturday, Sept. 3: The market is open from 8 a.m. to noon at City Hall Square.

LABOR DAY  
Monday, Sept. 5: Make the most of this symbolic end of summer.

CRUISE-IN  
Thursday, Sept. 1: Classic Rides and Rods-Classic Hall will host a car enthusiasts free cruise-in event. Visit Classic Rides and Rods Facebook page.
CRUISE IN
Friday, Sept 9: Line up on Cedar St. by City Hall to Excelsior Ave. between 5-8 p.m. because everyone is welcome - cars, trucks, and motorcycles. There is no registration required, and there will be a food shelf at the Clock Tower, all sponsored by Annandale chamber.

CLASSICS BY THE LAKE CAR SHOW
Saturday, Sept. 10: Classics by the Lake Car Show in Sturges Park by Buffalo Lake in Buffalo. Visit www.buffalochamber.org for further details.

ANNANDALE FARMERS MARKET
Saturday, Sept. 10: The market is open from 8 a.m. to noon at City Hall Square.

YOUNG EAGLES
Saturday, Sept. 10: The Young Eagles program introduces youth to the world of aviation by giving ages 8 to 17 their first free ride in an airplane. Airport location will change so please check the website and pre-register at youngeaglesday.org

POTLUCK SUPPER
Tuesday, Sept. 13: Minnesota Pioneer Park will host a meal at 6:30 p.m

ANNANDALE FARMERS MARKET
Saturday, Sept. 17: The market is open from 8 a.m. to noon at City Hall Square.

NOBEL SHADDUCK FESTIVAL
Saturday, Sept. 18: Honor Minnesota Pioneer Park's founder by attending the Nobel Shadduck Harvest Festival from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

There will be many activities to enjoy. Fun for all! Check the Advocate for more details closer to the date.

ANNANDALE FARMERS MARKET
Saturday, Sept. 24: The market is open from 8 a.m. to noon at City Hall Square. This is the last Saturday of the season for the market.
Annandale is situated on the Soo Line, 51 miles west of Minneapolis and has a population of about 800 inhabitants. As a resident point, Annandale is abreast of the age in natural beauty.

Its beautiful natural scenery and lakes that abound with all kinds of fish attract people from all parts of the United States during the summer months. It has become an ideal place for tourists and has a number of beautiful summer resorts within a radius of six miles.

In writing a history of a village it is of course necessary to give a few facts about the early happenings in the locality that afterward is embraced in the village. And as Annandale is in the township of Corinna, it will be well to say that Corinna was cut out of the district in early times known as the Big Bend which embraced all the country south of Clearwater and west of Monticello. The name is said by the late Levi M. Stuart, of Minneapolis, to have been given to the township by Elder Robinson, a baptist preacher who was a boyhood chum of Stuart's. Both were born in Corinna, Maine.

The locality in about where Annandale is now located went through the usual pioneer period, and some of the early landmarks are still visible on the lake shore where the early settlers fortified themselves in a wooden fort and defended themselves from an enemy that did not dare to attack.

In the year 1885 rumors were current about a railroad that would be put through the next year, very much as the reports we are now getting of the proposed electric lines that are being talked of. The new road was to be named the Minneapolis & Pacific, and sure enough the next year the road was laid out and the townsit of Abbyville was put on the map. It remained there until it was time for a post office to be established, and it was found that there was one town of that name in the state.

Sen. Washburn was asked to give the place a new name and as stated he looked around for something to suggest itself. He saw the name of the actress, Lizzie Annandale, suspended across the street and from this he gave the present name.

The land in which the greater part of the village is located was owned by James M. Pratt, a very friendly and easy going kind of a man who gave an undivided one half of his land for a townsit, W. D. Washburn owning the other half. Pratt had a very high opinion of the future of the village and took great pride in all the improvements and settlements that went on during his life and it is too bad that he could not have lived to see more of the village. He was accidentally killed by his own .22 rifle near where the cemetery is now located in September 1891 and was buried at Clearwater.

The townsite of Annandale was platted in October 1886. Quite a number of lots were sold on Oak Avenue the same fall and winter. The first man who erected a building on his lot was John H. Buri, who opened up his hardware store Jan. 1, 1897.

Early 1900s

In the early 1900s, the Annandale Electric Light and Power Company was formed as a local stock company made up of the citizens of Annandale. With 24-hour service, it was considered very successful in service to the town and from a financial standpoint. The Annandale Council granted an electric light franchise to the Public Service Company in March of 1916. In 1929, Northern States Power Company put up lines to furnish the farmers and lake dwellers with electricity.

In the early 1900s, one of the duties of the Marshal, Owen Groves, was to keep the old-fashioned street lamps clean and full, and to light them every evening at dusk.
Annandale's first Fourth of July celebration was held in 1889. The village council and citizens began to plan for a rousing celebration. Nearly all the citizens of the village were on some of the committees and pulled together to make Annandale's first celebration the best in the county. It was proposed by some and generally agreed to, that the funds remaining after the celebration were to be equally divided between the M.E. church and the Annandale school.

Sen. A.Y. Eaton of Buffalo, and Honourable C.M. King of Fair Haven, were secured as orators of the day. The Kimball brass band was employed to furnish music during the day.

There was a general turnout by the surrounding country and neighboring villages. The Annandale celebration passed off as a great success in every respect, and was one of the biggest advertisements for the new growing village at that time.
Celebrate FOURTH OF JULY

For more than 125 years Annandale residents have united to celebrate the Fourth of July as a city, and have welcomed many visitors for the festivities.

Over time, the celebration has grown from a single-day affair featuring a pair of area orators and a brass band from Kimball to a nearly week-long celebration of American heritage with a wide variety of entertaining events.

The first organizers in 1889 would be astounded to see today’s 100-plus unit parade, the whirling, rushing rides of the carnival, and the captivating fireworks display. They would be mystified by the boat parade on Pleasant Lake, the crowds reaching up to 10,000 people, and the street dances at night.

Some elements, however, would remain familiar, such as the festive wind tunes from the Annandale Community Band, a general sense of patriotic pride and perhaps even the basic elements of the modern softball games.

In all things, today’s event coordinators work to preserve some of the favorites from previous years while bringing a variety of new entertainment into the mix.

Schedule of events

This year’s celebration extends from Thursday, June 30, to Monday, July 4.

An ice cream social to introduce the Miss Annandale royalty candidates is in the works at the Municipal Park Pavilion. And the Kickoff to the Fourth of July Gala will be held at 7 p.m. at Southbrook Golf Course, lower level, on Friday, June 24.

The celebration opens with the carnival on Thursday afternoon, June 30. Each year the carnival spreads out over a few city blocks near Municipal Park on Oak Avenue north of downtown with an assortment of food, rides and games that the whole family will enjoy. Local food vendors will also be on hand along with the carnival’s food vendors, and a softball tournament begins Friday evening and continues to Sunday.

On Friday, July 1, the carnival opens at noon, bingo will be played from 3 to 6 p.m., there will be music in the park from 6 to 8 p.m. featuring Josie Sanken, and the Cake by the Lake fundraiser starting at 7 p.m.

A longtime tradition continues with the Kiddie Parade at 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 2, on Main Street, starting at Annandale Middle School. Along with parents and grandparents, the Annandale ambassadors will march with the children, who are invited to dress up in their favorite costumes, ride bikes, pull wagons or just march around the town in a mini version of the city’s annual Fourth of July Parade.

After the parade, royalty and candidates will hold a car wash fundraiser from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Annandale Fire Station.

The carnival opens at noon. This year, from noon to 5 p.m. the Bassmobile will be in the park with kid-friendly games and a demonstration of their products. Look for the camper that looks like a fish!

There will be bingo in the pavilion from noon to 6 p.m., the Jolly Ramblers will perform from 6 to 9 p.m. on the portable stage, and there will be a Brownies with the Band fundraiser as well.

The softball tournament continues on Sunday and will conclude around 5 p.m. In addition, the carnival will kick into gear at noon, and there will be bingo from noon to 5 p.m.

Other activities planned for Sunday, July 3, include a 7 p.m. performance by the Annandale Community Band, Pie in the Park fundraiser, also at 7 p.m., and the Pleasant Lake Boat Parade at 7 p.m. that concludes at 8 at the Pleasant Lake public beach.

Celebration centerpiece

A centerpiece of the celebration includes the parade, which begins at 10 a.m. on Monday, July 4, when around 100 floats, cars, bands and more fill Park Street, Main Street and Chestnut Street. Grab your spot early!

In addition to colorful floats and exotic displays, the parade will feature an assortment of musical talent. Parade entries can vie for most entertaining in a float contest.

The carnival re-opens immediately after the parade, and at 5:30 p.m. a new Miss Annandale will be crowned in the park.

The Fabulous Armadillos will return to play the Fourth of July concert in the park at 7 p.m. and will play until 10. The Armadillos have drawn some of the largest crowds in memory during their recent performances. Once dusk settles in, a large fireworks display will light up the town from an offshore platform, capping off a long weekend and a great day celebrating the country’s independence.

Check the Annandale Advocate this summer for more details. There is also a website devoted exclusively to Annandale’s Fourth of July activities, www.Annandale4thofjuly.org.
By Tom Westman

Annandale’s Summer Concert Series returns to the Annandale Municipal Park this year with five bands Friday nights, June, July and August. Bring your lawn chair or blanket, relax and enjoy great music on the shores of Pleasant Lake. Each concert begins at 7 p.m. If it rains, shows will move into the park pavilion.

The concert series is sponsored by the Arts and Culture Committee of the Annandale Area Community Team (ACT).

Tuxedo Band

The Tuxedo Band kicks off the series on Friday, June 17. The Tuxedo Band bills itself as the Twin Cities’ longest-running cover band of classic and contemporary rock, pop and country music. Crowd-pleasing and entertaining for all! You won’t want to miss them playing all of the favorites.

Friday, July 15

The band for this performance, Friday, July 15, has not been confirmed; however, a band is planned. Check the Annandale Advocate for updates or contact Annandale Community Education at www.isd876.org/domain/25.

Revolution 5

The Revolution 5 will perform on Friday, July 29. They are Minnesota’s premier Beatles tribute band. Since its inception in 2010, the group has played various venues across the Midwest.

Their extensive set list includes hours upon hours of Beatles tunes and boasts virtually every chart-topping hit sprinkled with a handful of deeper tracks for the true enthusiast. The Revolution 5 promises to impress fans and critics of all ages, offering a Beatles experience with a sound and spirit that is second to none.

West Metro Big Band

The West Metro Big Band will be on stage Friday, Aug. 12. A crowd favorite, the band performs the sounds and the memories of the Big Band era. The band prides itself in faithfully recreating the music of the likes of Glenn Miller and Count Basie, while also offering sounds of more contemporary Big Bands such as Jools Holland and Brian Setzer.

Annandale Community Band

On Friday, Aug. 19, the Annandale Community Band will take the stage. You won’t want to miss a town favorite, the Annandale Community Band. The band started playing together in 1993. The music consists of Americana, gospel, show tunes, pop, rock, etc. End the summer with Annandale’s own band.
Annandale’s Main Street got a welcome facelift in 2020-21 as the street was completely rebuilt. The wooden canopies which adorned the downtown businesses for more almost 40 years were removed, and widened sidewalks and awning-style canopies were added, including plantings and other amenities.

The result is a welcoming, pedestrian-friendly city that displays Annandale’s unique downtown. Today, there are many shops and restaurants, as well as other retail and professional business that make up the downtown.

Here is a sampling of the shops, which reveal a wide variety of unique gift shops, art and craft galleries, fine dining and coffee stops, jewelry and more.

**Little Treasures Gift Shop**
You may want to begin your treasure hunting at Little Treasures Gift Shop, located in the former Judy’s Cottage building. The store carries a wide variety of fun and unique toys, games, books, puzzles, baby items and gifts in all price ranges. Little Treasures also specializes in lake area gifts and souvenirs.

The store stocks a wide variety of glassware, cutting boards, picture frames, and wooden maps etched with one of the Annandale area’s many lakes. Custom etching is also available.

Put more fun in your life with a stop at Little Treasures.

**Shore House Outfitters**
Just up the street a few doors is Annandale newest shop, Shore House Outfitters, which is expected to open in May. Like the name implies, this shop offers items to outfit your home, gift items and more.

Be sure to check out this new shop on Annandale’s Main Street!
Annandale Advocate

Across the street is the Advocate, where you can pick up books by local authors that will give you a glimpse into the interesting tales that make up this small town’s past, including “Memories of Annandale” by Lotus Williams.

For current information, pick up the Annandale Advocate, the community’s award-winning newspaper.

Lu’s Cafe and Catering

Two doors down from the Advocate office is a comfortable place for breakfast and lunch. Lu’s Cafe and Catering, with its large dining area and tasty food, is a fine place to relax and socialize. Breakfast food is served at all times, and customers are encouraged to stay awhile and enjoy the fine food and wonderful staff.

Look for Lu’s to re-open this summer after a two-year hiatus. Lu’s has been a Main Street fixture since its opening in 2007.

Grandpa Earl’s Country Store

At the end of the block is Grandpa Earl’s Country Store. It is much larger than some of the other shops on Main and is divided into themed rooms that are as art worthy as the paintings they sell and frame.

A walk down “the garden path” consisting of a cobblestone trail painted on the floor, will lead you past murals and artfully arranged displays that makes it feel like strolling through a garden. It’s a great way to get ideas for your own space.

Like many stores on Main Street, Grandpa Earl’s has done a good deal of renovating its building, and it blends nicely into the downtown.

Miller’s Jewelry

www.millers-jewelry.com

Also on

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Zahler Photography

In the summer of 2018 Dan Zahler and Zahler Photography moved from the corner of Oak and Chestnut to just around the corner on Chestnut.

The former Annandale State Bank building (Lake Central) is now David Burd’s State Farm Agency, which was formerly located about a block north on Oak.

Zahler Photography specializes in high school senior portraits, but also covers a wide array of school activities, children and families, sports and weddings.

Annandale Art and Textile Center

Owners Joe and Elizabeth Bayer bought the former “All Things Good” building (across from Kaz Hardware) and started this art haven. They are a non-profit that provides training and employment to individuals with a variety of abilities.

The store offers artwork, unique gifts, creative classes (including how to weave) and more. It’s a “must stop” if traveling down main street.

Kaz Hardware

Kitty corner from State Farm is Kaz Hardware, Annandale’s longtime hardware store. Ed and Donna Kaz came to town in 1958. It has been a fixture in town ever since.

Their son, Joe, owns the store and has all your hardware and rental needs in addition to small and major appliances, gift items, garden...
tools and supplies, other seasonal items and much more.

Whether you’re in need of items for a fix-it-quick day at the lake or a larger-scale project, Kaz Hardware has the right equipment and the expertise to share some friendly advice.

**Annandale Embroidery**

Annandale Embroidery and Apparel has been a fixture of downtown since 2006. They are a custom apparel shop specializing in embroidery and heat printing services to outfit businesses, organizations and teams of all sizes. All work and services are done in house.

In 2022, laser engraving was added to their service offerings.

Their large retail area is filled with Cardinal spirit wear, Annandale and lake-centric clothing and hats, and many non-apparel items as well.

**Sweet Escape**

Continuing north, Sweet Escape is the fun sweet shop with the easily identifiable aqua-striped awning. They have been in business since June of 2020.

The shop is owned by Annandale residents John and Terri Dyer.

Items available in the shop include super premium ice cream (Brown’s Ice Cream, that was formerly made in Annandale), Minnesota-made chocolates, ultimate sundaes, cakes with real ice cream, nostalgic candy, bath products, and unique gifts for everyone.

**Grey Duck Screen Printing and Apparel**

Grey Duck Screen Printing and Apparel is just up the street. It’s owned by Kindra and Jerry Liebhard.

Grey Duck specializes in screenprinting for businesses and organizations. If you need something screenprinted for your business or organization, Grey Duck will take care of you.

They also have retail items on sale, including Cardinal gear and fun lake apparel.

**Miller’s Jewelry**

Keep north, across the street across from the post office, and you will find Miller’s Jewelry in a classic, attractive building. Jim and Amy Miller took ownership from Mark and Laurel Miller in 2011, becoming the third generation of the family to offer fine jewelry and many services from the store. Mark’s father Lee owned the store before him.

The building itself has been continuously operated as a jewelry store since 1892. The iconic store brings in shoppers from a wide area. When visiting Annandale, you will not want to miss this stop.

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**Annandale Art & Textile Center**

Over 45 local artists. Wonderful creations for your home or a unique gift.

**Shopping - Summer Guide 2022**

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SHOPPING

You’ll find a wide selection of diamond engagement and wedding rings, and beautiful fashion styles. Miller’s is also known for its custom work. All work is done in-house, and the expert, friendly staff will assist you with any question you may have.

City Hall Square

From Miller’s Jewelry, cross the street and head east toward the post office, and continue toward “City Hall Square.” This is the location of the Annandale Farmers Market on Saturday mornings throughout the summer growing season.

In Hot Water

The former Cafe Jules is now In Hot Water, which was formerly located across the street.

The historic building is the perfect spot to stop for a break. This traditional gathering spot has expanded its offerings since moving into the new location. Stop in for coffee, breakfast item, lunch and more. In Hot Water is owned by Megan Champlin and Nikki Seaberg.

While there, look around – the walls feature original works from several local artists. They also feature local wares including honey, lotions, soaps, wild rice and more. In Hot Water has been an Annandale fixture since 2000.

Sylvia + Louisa

Across from In Hot Water, you will find a cute boutique that supplies trendy, affordable women’s clothing and accessories.

Owners, Sarah Onstad and Missy Hardin opened the boutique in July of 2020. The fun clothing and accessories will tempt your pocketbook!

Going off Main, Vintage Patina

Add a couple extra blocks to your journey by heading west down Cedar Street to the former Petty Bros. building and you’ll find Vintage Patina. Owners Tiera Marsh and David Anderson remodeled the classic building, keeping some of the original architecture with the old style block wall and windows.

This timeless treasures and local artisan creations shop features specialty antiques, collectibles and furniture, as well as unique, handmade goods produced by local artisans. It is well worth the trek west of Main Street to see the fun items of the past.

More eats, drinks

Annandale’s downtown boasts three bars that all offer a variety of beverages and have their own kitchens: Billy D’s Crooked Tavern, the Stadium, and the Rendezvous Bar and Grill, which has expanded to include a retail store that offers, beer, wine and other spirits.

Each has its own hometown flavor and feel, and often features local musicians on the weekends.

The Thayer Hotel Dining (see inset) also is an authentic, tasty stop you will want to visit. Whether you’re looking for casual dining, or a more intimate experience, this is unique stop.

Just off Main...

Homestyle Country Cafe – Situated on the south side of Highway 55 at the edge of Annandale’s downtown, the people at this friendly restaurant serve up tasty meals with a small town flavor.

Lakeside Nutrition – Next to the Lake Region Cenex Gas Station on Highway 55. They offer nutritious shakes, teas and more in a variety of flavors. Be sure to check them out the next time you’re in town.

Vintage Style Market – About one block down Cedar Street is Vintage Style Market, another fun store! Stocked with antiques and vintage clothing, they are all about classics that are back in fashion. They also have an ample supply of vintage scarves and handbags.

Thayer Hotel Dining – The historic Thayer Hotel re-opened its doors in the spring of 2018. Longtime restauranteur Bob Krebsbach and members of his family are operate the busy facility that fronts Highway 55. The Thayer dates to 1889, and it’s Annandale’s only structure that is on the National Register of Historic Places. Come hungry!
It's summer and that means getting out on the roads, or in some cases off the roads and enjoying all that summer, vehicles and motors have to offer.

Annandale's Truck Mate Toppers has been accessorizing vehicles for more than four decades.

Truck Mate Toppers was founded by Don “Minnow” Rasset in 1983. Eric Rasset bought it from his uncle in April 2020.

“Customers are often surprised that Truck Mate Toppers carries more than just toppers,” Rasset said. “We carry pretty much everything other than toppers. Most people are not aware that we have accessories for cars, SUVs, ATVs and side-by-sides too.”

Truck toppers, tonneau covers, running boards, side steps, “nerf” bars, and remote starters make up the majority of their business, but their offerings don’t end there.

Additional products include floor mats, bug shields, hood protectors, vent visors, mudflaps, bed liners, air suspension, custom wheels and tires, bed storage units and drawers, bed slides, fender flares, brush guards, aftermarket bumpers, toolboxes, seat covers, trailer hitches, under-seat storage, headache racks, truck top tents and racks, paint protection film, and wheels and tires for ATVs, UTVs and side by sides.

“Truck Mate Toppers is way more than a topper shop,” Rasset said. “We truly are your one-stop-shop for all your vehicle accessories.”

Annandale native

Rasset is the son of Denny “Chopper” Rasset and Mary Lou (Ahsenmacher) Rasset. He grew up in the Annandale area and bought his first home in Annandale in 1999.

Rasset and his wife Stacy (a Maple Lake native) were married in 2002, and their 11-year-old daughter Charlie now live in South Haven.

“I attended Annandale my whole life and graduated from Annandale High School in 1996,” Rasset said. I worked at various jobs post-high school and did on-the-job training to become an electrician.”

Remodeling, other improvements

A fresh new look is underway at Truck Mate Toppers.

“We are remodeling the showroom,” Rasset said. “We will be able to display more of the goods and services we provide.

“Other than the remodel, we will be adding a purified water distribution center, the Water Shack.

“Annandale is a great town to do business,” Rasset said. “It has a great support system for the local businesses. Word of mouth is the best there is.”
Classic Hall and Classic Rides and Rods is a one-of-a-kind gem located in An-
andale. This beautifully restored building on the east side of town is a unique 
combination of wedding, corporate meeting events center and classic car sales showroom.

**Classic Hall**

Classic Hall offers a nostalgic setting with a modern flair, which provides a perfect at-
mosphere for events. The hall's setting offers an ‘old town’ appearance, a black-and-white 
checkerboard tile floor, and a collection of classic dream cars just a peek around the vel-
vet curtains away. The event center captures the imagination of all who enter.

At the event center visitors are trans-
ported to Main Street U.S.A., where they find replica storefronts with cool names like 
Cadillac Cafe, Hotel Desoto and the fully func-
tioning Corvette Bar.

In addition, the marquee on the Grand Movie Theater is a hit with 
wedding and party guests alike, as they see their name in lights. Other 
storefronts include a mercantile bank, soda fountain, local tavern, room-
ing house, town jail, wedding chapel and barbershop.

Classic Hall offers 20,000 square feet of space to rent for groups from 20 to 420, for anything from weddings, banquets, expos, reunions, 
dances, meetings, car shows and seminars.

Brit Haskins, who previously served as facilities manager, took over 
ownership of Classic Hall along with her husband, Dusty, on 
Jan. 1, 2019. Call 320-274-2121 or visit the website, www.Clas-
sicHallmn.com for more information.

The hall is now home to Pour L’Amour Wine Bar and Bistro, which is also run by the Haskins.

**Classic Rides and Rods**

Classic Rides and Rods is located next to Classic Hall, which also 
houses some of the classic vehicles sold by Classic Rides and Rods.

Hundreds of cars rotate through the car collection throughout the year, 
so car buffs and others will want to stop often. Cars on display range from 
muscle cars, sport and exotic cars to luxury cars, antiques, street rods and 
special interest cars. Some cars are local and national award winners.

- A Classic Car Show is planned from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, 
July 2, the Clock Trophy Show. There will be live music and much more. 
Twenty-three trophies will be given. Contact Classic Rides and Rods for 
more information.

- There are two “Cruise-Ins” planned for Thursday, May 12, and 
Thursday, Sept. 1.

- In addition, Classic Rides and Rods is partnering with the Annan-
dale chamber for four other Friday night Cruise-Ins that start in downtown Annandale. See the Calendar section of this guide for more 
information.

For more information on Classic Rides and Rods, call 320-274-8874 
or check the website www.ClassicRidesandRods.net.
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Dining & Entertainment - Summer Guide   l   29
The essence of community can be found in the Annandale area’s many civic events, and deeper relationships can be forged around the table at any number of fine establishments found nearby.

In fact, that act of sharing a meal and conversation inspired a small group of community residents to organize the first Field to Feast event in 2016 that brought about 200 diners together on Oak Avenue near Municipal Park at the close of summer. In 2019, more than 300 gathered, even though the event had to be brought indoors.

Those and other events are visible demonstrations of the connection between food and hospitality the community has produced in recent years. The same principal of food as a conduit to fellowship applies to any group of people that chooses to visit one of the area’s fine establishments to share a meal, beverages and time together.

The Annandale area boasts a wide variety of restaurants to suit just about any taste. There are places that specialize in breakfast and lunch. There are lake establishments that include a great view with the meal. There are numerous places to enjoy a favorite style of burger, sandwich or pizza, and quality options for many other foods as well.

In the same way that food can bring people together, entertainment does the same by providing a common attraction. And those who live in the area year-round or simply visit have many opportunities that include the Summer Concert Series, the Farmers Market, the 4th of July and other events. Read on to find out more.
**Dining & Entertainment - Summer Guide 2022**

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On Saturday, June 11, the Annandale Farmers Market will launch its 15th season with the familiar canopies stationed in the parking lot in front of Annandale City Hall.

The market will be open from 8 a.m. to noon every Saturday until Sept. 24.

A small group of volunteers runs the Annandale Farmers Market as part of the Discover Downtown Committee through the Annandale Area Community Team.

This year, the market looks forward to hosting musicians once a month in cooperation with Annandale Great River Regional Library. As in the past, the market also accepts SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits.

**Favorite vendors return**

The following vendors will be returning:

- Long-time vendor Fairhaven Farm will carry locally grown produce, flowers, herbs, fruits, jams, and apple pies.
- Untiedt’s Vegetable Farms will enter its fourth year and sell a wide assortment of produce grown in Waverly.
- The Danish Baker, owned by Rasmus Bregendahl, will be on-site half the time while (Papa) Tom and Barb Westman will occupy the same space the other half. Bregendahl will offer Papa Tom’s sticky buns, buttermilk cinnamon rolls, Danish rye bread, doughnuts, gluten-free Brazilian cheese bread, chocolate chip cookies, and sourdough bread.
- Papa Tom and Barb Westman will offer sticky buns, cinnamon rolls, sourdough bread, chocolate chip cookies, and seasonal surprises.
- Olson Family Farm’s Shelly Olson will have pure and infused maple syrup produced on their farm in rural South Haven and freeze dried fruit and goodies, honey, eggs, granola and barbecue sauce.
- Joe Rand with Lazy Toad Farm will be at the market every week offering plants, honey, bars, bread, and seasonally available canned goods.
- Garry and Linda Elfstrand with Weaving by Linda will be at the market once a month to offer loomed rugs, embroidered dishtowels, jam, pickles, fudge, bread, and woodworking items.
- The Shannon Seiffert family at Boothill Farm will offer goat cheese and eggs as available.
- Terry and Beth Alison Berggren with Frisky Rooster will be returning this year to sell their Bloody Mary mix and canned salsas.
- Reno Williams with Hultgren Farms will sell individual cuts of beef.
- Jane Schmidt with Made by Jane will offer photo cards, dog bandanas, bunting, bowl cozies, birdhouses, and biscotti.
- Marie Schneider will be selling CBD products.
- Robin Hoef will sell a variety of hand-crafted macaroni cookies.
April Elletson with Dirty Boots Farm will offer market customers soy wax candles and room spray.

The Annandale Friends of the Library will be on-site once a month to hold their ongoing book sale.

Stephanie Pieske with Hand Made in Clay will sell one-of-a-kind functional pottery for the kitchen and more.

**New vendors added**

New vendors this summer include:

Kate Ritger with Just Food Collective will sell microgreens, salsify, sour cherries, salad greens, sunflowers, and fall crops, including winter squash, garlic, onions, carrots, and beets.

Nathanial Dioh with Bethel Empowerment Farming will carry tomatoes, basil, peppers, peas, okra, and spinach when in season.

Kelsey Pilgram, Misty Mountain Bakery, will be at the market full-time selling baked goods, rice bags, bowl cozies, and bird feeders.

Marie Oster with Heart of the Lakes Soap Co. will be at the market once a month, selling soaps, bath bombs, shower fizzies, lotion bars, and soap dishes.

**Power of Produce for kids**

The popular Power of Produce (PoP) program will again be offered this year. The PoP program, which benefits both families and local farmers, will start on Saturday, June 18, the second week of the market this year. The main focus of PoP is to improve childhood nutrition, empower kids to make healthy food choices, and connect children to healthy local food.

Go to www.annandalefarmersmarket.com/poP-program.html to sign up online. This program is supported wholly by local businesses and individuals. Program sponsors are listed on the website and receive a number of benefits.

For more information about donating, contact Marnie Macgregor, the PoP program coordinator, at mmmacgregor25@gmail.com.

**Plant sale**

Fairhaven Farm will also host a plant sale to support the PoP program. Date to be determined; follow the Annandale Farmers Market Facebook page for ongoing information.
The Wright County Swappers Meet is a summer tradition, now in its 52nd year. Folks come out for the great bargains, good food as well as spending time with family and friends in the beautiful outdoors of Minnesota.

**Hours and location**

The Swappers Meet opened the first Saturday of April and runs through the end of October. Hours are sunrise to 1 or 2 p.m., depending on the weather.

Holiday weekends are a three-day event open Friday, Saturday and Sunday. This year the Swappers Meet will be open for Memorial Day: May 27, 28 and 29; Fourth of July weekend: July 1, 2 and 3; and Labor Day weekend: Sept. 2, 3 and 4.

“We don’t close the gates due to rain as some vendors with canopies will continue to sell even if the weather isn’t ideal,” Miller said. “In the event of heavy rain, most vendors do pack up to protect their merchandise,” Laurie Miller said.

Visitor admission and parking is free. The meet is located at 13594 100th Street NW, South Haven.

For more information, the website is wrightcountyswappersmeet.com and they can be found on Facebook or call 320-274-9005.

**Vision of Stanley Miller**

It started as the vision of Stanley Miller, who opened the first Swappers Meet on April 4, 1970, with about five vendors and a dozen curious shoppers.

After he passed away in 1982, Stanley’s wife Gladys took over the
business. In 2013, Glady’s son Kevin and his wife Laurie assumed the responsibility to make sure the family tradition is carried on.

**More than 200 vendors, 50 acres**

Professional vendors are drawn to the Swappers Meet because of the large crowds, with some coming from as far away as Missouri and Texas, while other vendors flood in from around the upper Midwest each week. Still, there is generally plenty of room on 50-plus acres of land for local sellers as well.

The Wright County Swappers Meet has grown into the largest seasonal outdoor market in Minnesota. According to Miller, an average week attracts 200 vendors showing off their wares from sun-up until early afternoon. On holiday weekends, the event swells to accommodate up to 300 to 350 vendors and more visitors than can be counted.

“It’s a family-run farmers market, art fair, garden center, antique mall, sporting goods store, and garage sale near South Haven,” Laurie said.

The Swappers Meet offers both new and used items. Most weekends you will find antiques, clothing, sporting goods, tools, music CD’s and vinyl, video games, jewelry, collectibles, home goods, artwork, produce, flowers, trees, toys, books, pets and more.

“Vendors vary from week to week, so the merchandise for sale is always changing,” Miller said. “I would advise shoppers to arrive by 9 a.m. for the best deals.”

**Food and more**

- Food is available from several vendors selling cold drinks, hot beverages, candy and treats.
- There are flush toilets and porta-potties on-site.
- There is free parking, including handicapped parking.
- An ATM can also be found on-site.
One of the Annandale area’s cultural gems is Minnesota Pioneer Park, celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2022. The park has been an attraction for more than four decades, from musical interests to historical artifacts, buildings, and reenactors. It remains a refuge where the people and places of the past live on.

Its dedicated volunteers and detailed exhibits illustrate what life was like in years gone by and help thousands of visitors each year understand how the present has been shaped.

The park, which includes a recreated turn-of-the-20th-century main street, began when the abandoned Soo Line train depot was put on wheels and towed down Highway 55 to the east side of Annandale.

Along with Blaine Barkley, the late Nobel Shadduck saved the depot from becoming just another dress shop or antique store and made it into the museum’s first historical display. The park’s 26 acres, which once belonged to the Ridgway family, are home to more than 20 exhibit buildings, including the original Ridgway homestead’s log cabin and house from the 1800s.

Since 1972

The museum opened as the Minnesota Travel Park in 1972, but it quickly evolved into a place to preserve the area’s pioneer heritage and was renamed Minnesota Pioneer Park.

In 2011 the park’s board of directors approved adding “An Open-Air Historical Museum” to all park literature to reflect its mission and role as an area educational and tourist attraction.

Caboose, schoolhouse, church

Now people come from all over to visit attractions like the authentic 1886 Soo Line caboose, the one-room schoolhouse dating back to 1902, and the 1886 Finnish Apostolic Church, which has ties to the Titanic tragedy. The minister and his wife were two of the lost passengers at sea.

Visitors can hike through a piece of the countryside once called the “Big Woods” by pioneer settlers and view an assortment of native plant life. Near the railroad, visitors can stroll down the main street and stop at recreations of a general store, dentist’s office, funeral parlor, blacksmith’s shop and other buildings. The park also features the original Corinna Township Hall.

In the fall of 2017, a town fire hall was constructed.

Big Woods building

At the center of the park is the Big Woods building. Inside, visitors can see exhibits featuring area veterans and military history, Native American artifacts and clothing, photographs of the Annandale community and more.

The Big Woods building also features the Gordon Memorial Library, which opened in the fall of 2015 and contained several hundred books that either date from or feature the mid-1800s through World War II. Some examples include an Annandale High School yearbook from 1910; an Encyclopedia Britannica set from 1893 formerly owned by Annandale settler John Buri, and a large set of leather-bound classic novels.

Student visits

Minnesota Pioneer Park hosts hundreds of students each year from as far away as the Twin Cities for a day-long guided tour that includes hands-on activities.

Over the years, the park has welcomed more than 50,000 students, with many schools making return visits.

Summer calendar

Spring and summer events at the park this year include:

- Spring Maple Syrup Pancake Breakfast – Sunday, May 15
- Fifth annual Vintage Tractor Show – Saturday, June 11
- Country church service – Sunday, July 3
As the hearty hard-working immigrant settlers pursued their dreams, wheels of progress were turning. Work horses were being replaced by “iron horses” and the era of tractors and farm equipment was dawning. By the middle of the 1900s farming was becoming an easier form of prospering.

Pioneer Park likes to convey this new era to the community and all visitors young and old. In the summer they have an antique tractor show planned for Saturday, June 11 (check the Advocate for updates). During the event, weather permitting, the fields will be plowed, disced, planted and harvested using old equipment stored here or loaned by members. Area tractor clubs bring their old machinery and it’s fun to see them work.

Demonstrations are held throughout the day. The east field features hay cutting, harvesting by hand or baler on hay racks in the morning. The west field is worked up in the afternoon.

Visit the park

The park is located on Annandale’s east side on Highway 55 and is usually open from Memorial Day to mid-October. Office hours are Tuesday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Park is staffed by volunteers Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

Call the office during the week for weekend availability. There is an admission fee. Check their website for more information at www.pioneerpark.org or call 320-274-8489.
1. Municipal Park - picnic area, pavilion, softball field, beach, fishing pier, public access
2. Minnesota Pioneer Park
3. 1872 Saint Mark’s Episcopal Chapel in the Woods
4. Marcus ZumBrunnen County Park – hiking trail
5. Limestone Lake County Access picnic area, fishing pier, public access
6. Stirewalt Memorial County Park – beach
7. Harry Larson County Forest – picnic area, hiking trail, ski trail
8. Schroeder County Park – picnic area, campground, beach, fishing pier, public access
9. Lake Maria State Park – picnic area, campground, hiking trails, ski trails
10. Ney Memorial County Park – Nature center, hiking trails, ski trails
11. Maple Lake County Access – picnic area, fishing pier, public access
12. Clearwater Pleasant County Park – picnic area, beach, disc golf, dog park, fishing pier, public access
13. Carl Johnson County Forest – picnic area, hiking trail, ski trail
14. Stanley Eddy County Park – picnic area, hiking trails, ski trails
15. Lake Louisa County Park – nature
16. Fair Haven Dam County Wayside – picnic area, fishing pier, historical marker
The Heart of the Lakes Triathlon has earned a reputation as one of Minnesota’s largest and most attractive races. Each year almost 750 participants from around the country come to Annandale for this race, now over 30 years old.

On Sunday, July 17, from 8 a.m. until shortly after noon, the streets of Annandale will overflow with crowds of well-conditioned athletes and spectators.

In addition to the athletes, more than many local volunteers work tirelessly to get the triathlon off the ground and keep things running smoothly.

Online registration began on Jan. 1, and can be completed online at the Heart of the Lakes Triathlon website www.holtri.org.

Registration and packet pickup begin at 5:30 a.m. on race day. Gear West Bike and Triathlon mechanics will be available at 6:45 a.m.

The first wave goes off at 8 a.m. at Pleasant Lake City Park Beach. Successive waves go off at three-minute intervals. The awards ceremony begins at 10:45 a.m.

Race distances depend on whether athletes are in the short or long course. Both courses start and finish at the park.

**Long course**

The long course consists of a half-mile swim, a 21-mile bike ride and a 5.3-mile run.

The swim starts and finishes at the Pleasant Lake beach. The bike ride is a cycling course of gently rolling hills, well-marked with distances posted every five miles.

Finally, the run around Pleasant Lake is a terrific way to end the challenging race.

**Short course**

The short course consists of a quarter-mile swim, a nine-mile bike ride and a 2.5-mile run. The swim follows the same rectangular pattern as the long course. The bike ride is relatively flat terrain, and the run for the finish is primarily flat with just a slight roll in the middle.

**Relays**

Both the short and the long course can be run as a relay, where one person does the swimming, one the biking and the other the running.

For more information visit the Heart of the Lakes website www.holtri.org.
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In 1948 the Annandale Commercial Club published a brochure promoting Annandale with 14 lakes and 23 resorts within a seven mile radius as a great vacation destination. The following are the 23 resorts described in the brochure:

**Lake Sylvia**
- Pebble Beach Resort consisted of furnished cabins with running water and electric refrigeration with daily rates of $5 a day - $25 a week. Featured was a newly constructed Finnish steam bath, excellent bass, northern, sunfish and crappie fishing, sandy beach, groceries, refreshments and picnic grounds.
- Bungalow Beach Resort catered to families and offered 12 furnished cabins. Great sandy beach for swimming in Sylvia’s pure spring fed lake.

**Lake John**
- Lake John Hall's Resort consisted of eight fully furnished cottages, with screened porches. Good walleye fishing and boat furnished. Willing to meet trains or busses by appointment.

**Pleasant Lake**
- Pleasant Lake Lodge consisted of eight furnished cottages. Fishing guide and boats available. Sandy beach, croquet and horseshoe courts. Rates $4 per day/$20 per week.
- Shady Lawn Resort consisted of six cottages with one, two or three bedrooms. Fuel and boat furnished. On-site tavern with dancing and other indoor activities.

**Cedar Lake**
- Urich's Resort was located on the east side of Cedar Lake and consisted of nine cabins located on a breezy ridge at $16 to $24 per week. Good fishing and boat provided. Picnic and camping grounds plus beer and soft drinks available.
- Mears Resort was a family resort located on the north shore of Cedar Lake where the south winds eliminate mosquitoes. 16 furnished cabins with bathrooms and showers. Groceries sold on-site and a lodge and pavilion

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**Looking Back**

ANNANDALE RESORTS IN 1948

By Tom Westman

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- Geardink’s Resort featured winterized modern cottages with refreshing shade under sugar maple trees.

**Clearwater Lake**

- Clearwater Lake Boat Livery offered new round bottom boats, bait and guides.
- Lafayette Resort featured bright airy cottages with innerspring mattresses, a gradual sloping beach.
- Baker’s Park Resort had clean cottages with running water and electricity.
- Beecher’s Resort had 30 modern cottages with private toilets. Located on wooded grounds they offered the American plan for lodging and meals. There was a main lodge, dining room and soda fountain. Swimming with a diving tower, ping-pong, tennis, croquet and horseshoe for recreation. Rates were $5.50 per day to $49 per week and up.
- Maple Hill Resort offered 12 cabins on the point bordering Clearwater and Grass Lakes and connected by the Clearwater River. Store on the grounds, boat furnished and motors for rent.
- Sweeney’s Resort and Diner was located on the north shore of Clearwater Lake and offered six cabins with a private toilet. Diner specialized in fried chicken and steak dinners. Rates were $27.50 per week and up.
- Raymond’s Resort had nine cottages furnished with ice, fuel and a boat. Rates were $25 per week and up.
- Aarseth Bay Resort was located on the west shore of Clearwater Lake that featured cottages, boats, guide service, a trailer court, picnic grounds and a playground for the children.
- Julian’s Resort featured cabins with gas for cooking, electricity and a store on the grounds.
- Cofield’s Resort was located on the southwest shore of Clearwater Lake, it featured nine cabins and excellent fishing waters sheltered from strong winds.

**Lake Augusta**

- Augusta Beach Resort featured 16 heated lake-view cabins $20 per week and up.
- Springdale Resort featured eight cabins with electricity and running water, a sandy beach with a diving tower and riding horses.

**Bass Lake**

- Gillitzers Resort had six furnished cabins with electric lights on Bass Lake.
- Knickerbocker’s Resort was located on the north shore of Bass Lake and featured five roomy cabins. The resort was situated so it offered boats on Bass, Grass and Clearwater lakes. Rates were $16 and up per week.

**Sugar Lake**

- Gillham’s Resort and Dance Pavilion was on the west shore of Sugar Lake and offered seven cottages and a newly constructed 3200 square foot dance pavilion. Chicken and steak dinners were served. Rates were $15 per week and up.
Breathtaking natural beauty is a year-round benefit of living in the Heart of the Lakes. The drab browns and grays of early spring soften and warm into the dark greens, deep blues and brilliant colors of summer. The lakes shed their icy blankets and welcome swimmers, boaters and waterfowl back into their welcoming waves, and abundant life is evident on all sides.

Brilliant sunrises and sunsets accentuate the allure of the lakes, and the call of loons lends a northern Minnesota-style soundtrack to the evenings. With such peaceful surroundings, it’s no wonder that the lakes have made Annandale a destination from its earliest days.

A culture of seasonal lake residents has developed alongside and in cooperation with the services and residents in town. Over time, many multi-generational lake homes have become permanent residences for the “lake people,” adding year-round vibrancy to life in Annandale.

With 26 lakes in a 10-mile radius, Annandale is a hub of fishing activity during the warm season. There are regional attractions in large, beautiful bodies of water like Clearwater and Sylvia. Many boaters make a day of it in the area, moving from lake to lake as they wish.

Outside of fishing, area residents also have an abundance of lakeside parks and beaches to enjoy, as Annandale Municipal Park is located in town, and county parks like Clearwater-Pleasant on the north side of Pleasant Lake and Schroeder Park on Cedar Lake are just a short drive or bike ride away. These places are popular for families with children, as each park offers a quality playground as well as large swimming areas and beaches. There are also picnic shelters and recreational options like ball fields, volleyball courts and walking or biking paths.

Go forth and live life on the lakes to the fullest.
Bass are real suckers for plastics

By Jerry Carlson

Fishing is one of those unusual activities that one can enjoy at whatever level they choose. If a person likes watching a bobber, there is nothing wrong with that. Fishing from shore with a setline and gob of crawlers will get results in many locations. Crankbaits catch fish as do live bait rigs.

However, if someone is a bass angler and really serious about the catching part, plastics have to be in the mix. I find this to be especially true of my early season bass angling.

There was a time when I would rig up several different rods for my early, shallow water bass escapades. I know I caught fish on a variety of lures when the fish were shallow, but I have also learned that plastics outperform other presentations.

I realized last spring that my presentation arsenal for early bass is now down from four rods to two. One has a wacky worm and the other a Ned rig.

I can’t begin to count the number of bass that have been caught in my boat on a wacky worm. To be honest, I simply don’t understand the appeal of this do-nothing presentation. However, I do understand that bass can’t seem to resist it.

The biggest mistake I see people make is fishing the wacky worm too fast. It is the slow, methodical drop that entices the fish to strike. Patience is definitely the key.

Once the bass start to move into a little deeper water, I do take advantage of some extra weight for my wacky worming. This can be done by adding a split shot to the hook or by using a weighted hook. The weight increases the drop speed for targeting deeper fish.

The Ned rig is the other do-nothing presentation I have come to trust. When this lure first started making news, I didn’t jump on it right away. That was my mistake.

Since that time, I have become very familiar with this presentation and fish it a great deal all summer long. However, I do find that the early season is the best.

There is really no wrong way to fish the Ned rig. Sometimes, I just throw it out and slowly swim it back to the boat. Other times, I will jig it and fish it like I would a typical jigworm. There is nothing wrong with letting it sit on the bottom once in a while, either.

Northern really love the Ned rig. This is both good and bad as a person gets a lot of action from these toothy critters, but the bite-offs can be annoying. I have also caught numerous crappies and walleyes on the Ned rig.

It is hard to say which of these two plastics is going to produce the most fish. My wife always reaches for the Ned rig first. For me, it’s a toss-up.

The one thing I can tell you is that both of these lures are dynamite fish producers in early season shallow water. If you like reeling in bass, you can’t go wrong with these two plastic presentations.

Jerry Carlson of St. Augusta is the author of “Details for Catching Fish.” He has fished the area’s lakes for many years, and he is an avid hunter. He is an occasional contributor to the Advocate and Messenger.
By Jerry Carlson

Too many times I get into a summer rut of largemouth bass and walleyes. Although I certainly enjoy targeting these two species, I also appreciate the crappie and bluegill opportunities that are available in the summer.

Back in the days when I did a lot of guiding, I had numerous clients that preferred catching panfish in the early summer months. The techniques I utilized with my clients are the same ones I prefer to use today. That technique involves trolling.

When I talk about trolling for crappies and gills, a lot of people think I am a bit crazy. Although they may have a point, I still think this method is one of the best summer options available.

The first thing to think about is the equipment. Long, seven-foot, light action rods with six-pound-test line is a start. The jigs I tie on are a critical part of the equation.

To start with, the jigs must be small enough that they can be eaten by both sunfish and crappies. Although bluegills will peck at larger baits, they have much smaller mouths than crappies do and are harder to hook. I prefer jigs that will hook bluegills as easily as crappies. For this reason, I utilize 1/32-ounce jigs.

Color is a big deal to me. I always start with an orange or pink jighead and a white plastic twister tail body. If that is not produc-
Fewer crappies bites are often not very sensational. This is where the long, limber rod is important. Many times, the tip Bluegills will usually peck and attack the jig where crappies often split shot is determined by the depth I am targeting. I want to be above the jig to get the lure down to the desired depth. The size of the depth transitions quickly.

Because the jigs are small and light, I will use a split shot 18 inches above the jig to get the lure down to the desired depth. The size of the split shot is determined by the depth I am targeting. I want to be deep enough to ride just above the weeds or gently into the weeds.

I troll slowly and try to keep my jig at the top of the weeds. Bluegills will usually peck and attack the jig where crappies often hang on and create extra weight but little in the line of a fierce bite. This is where the long, limber rod is important. Many times, the tip will load up with extra weight due to the crappies just hanging on. Crappies bites are often not very sensational.

Once fish are found, I will sometimes hit the spot lock on my trolling motor and cast or try a bobber rig. However, there are many days when trolling is by far the most productive method.

It is important to note that other fish species like these tiny jigs. Walleyes, bass and northern are frequently caught.

Crappies and bluegills are excellent eating fish and one of the reasons I spend time working these fish in the summer. In addition to that, they are eager biters, scrappy fighters and fun to catch.

**Weed growth**

Most of the locations I prefer have good weed growth in the eight-to-12-foot range. Cabbage is nice if you can find it. Panfish love cabbage, but it is not totally essential. Many times, my preferred area is located on a break where the depth transitions quickly.

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**Source:** RE/MAX® #1 Real Estate Franchisor Site

MILLION VISITS

RE/MAX®#1 Real Estate Franchisor Site

Century 21 32% FEWER VISITS**

Coldwell Banker 46% FEWER VISITS**

Keller Williams 63% FEWER VISITS**

Data from January-December 2021*  

remax.com: The site they see.

270 Elm Street East, Annandale, MN 55302  
320-274-2233 Annandale.TheRealEstateAdvantage.com

*Source: RE/MAX first-party data for full-year 2021

**“Source: More visits than any other national real estate franchisor website, according to SimilarWeb report of 2021 data for all U.S. real estate franchisors among website visits in the “Business and Consumer Services/Real Estate” category.” ©2022 RE/MAX, LLC. All rights reserved. Each Office Independently Owned and Operated. 22_304284
I've been thinking about the gift a lake is and the gifts a lake dispenses: Reflecting our blue Minnesota sky. Amplifying sunrise and sunset. Floating not only our bodies as we swim and play, but also the myriad boats humans design and create to skim the water's surface. Nurturing fish that we can catch, and eat if we desire. Holding water that can be used to water planters and gardens. Attracting numerous birds that really most everyone loves to observe and listen to. Even perhaps extending our lives as we absorb the peace and tranquility of a lake, are physically active swimming, skiing, hunting and fishing on and near a lake, and benefitting from the social aspect of lake living—by inviting friends and family to partake in lake oriented activities.

Which brings me to the title of this essay, what have we given back to the lake? If you read the above gifts the lake has given each of us who love the lakes, you like me may be asking what you can do in return. The list could take up pages but let's start with some things that we all have within our ability to do.

Good things to do

If you are a lake home or cabin owner properly maintain and upgrade your septic system as needed. Not the most sparkly gift one can give … but very important for the long term health of our area lakes!

Lake property owners, have you sought to create a buffer zone for the lake planting native plants, replacing trees lost to age or construction, and minimizing or opting not to use chemical fertilizers near the water. This gift, actually gives back to property owners in that shade from trees lowers cooling costs, provides aesthetic compliments to and gives a good measure of privacy to close set houses from neighboring homes and cabins. Also, carefully chosen plantings can attract beautiful birds and butterflies enhancing that sunset or sunrise experience as one enjoys a cool beverage and a stunning and interesting view!

For all of us, pick up pet waste. Our loyal dogs love lakeshore and lakeside walks as much as we do … but pet waste can degrade water quality. Yes even in the winter when many owners like to let their little Fido run free on the ice, bring that pet waste pick up bag and pick it up!

Did you know that fallen trees in the water, can provide habitat? As long as they don't obstruct or endanger recreation, consider allowing that interesting tree to remain in place naturally.

Boaters, be thoughtful about where you create large waves, close to shore, or in narrow parts of lakes can erode shoreline washing dirt and contaminants into the water. Who wants to water ski, swim or wake surf in dirty, algae ridden water?

Finally if you can, plant a tree near a lake, stream or on land near to our Minnesota waters. Their roots will hold that lakeshore close and shelter our waters.

We are lucky enough to be the hosts of the fifth generation of our family to love our lake. It is pure joy to watch our granddaughters bob in the water, let the wind blow through her hair as we boat, and hear her exclaim about the loon calls in the evening. I imagine the joy my grandmother would get seeing her revel in our lakes beauty. Let’s give back, so the lakes can be there for the next five generations and for all Minnesotans.

Kris Potter and her husband Mike, Minneapolis, have had a cabin on Lake Sylvia for many years.
The Heart of the Lakes area has an abundance of lakes, rivers and streams with fishing opportunities.

Most of the lakes in Wright and Stearns counties are managed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Area Fisheries office in Montrose.

Public water access maps are available from the Section of Trails and Waterways, and are helpful guides to the state owned public access sites. Also, visit any local bait shop for maps or the DNR’s website, www.mndnr/fishmn.

**AUGUSTA**

**BASS**
213 acres. Public access on the west side. Crappies, largemouth bass, northerns and panfish.

**CAMP (HENRY)**
108 acres. Public access on the north end. Panfish, northerns and bass.

**CEDAR**
837 acres. Public access from Co. Rd. 6. Over 100 feet deep. County park (Schroeder) with camping facilities on north side. DNR fishing pier. Panfish, northerns, walleyes, bass.

**CLEARWATER**
3,182 acres. The area’s largest lake. Two public accesses on the west side. Best fishing in the area for northern, walleye, panfish and largemouth bass.

**FRANCIS**
1,172 acres. Public access on the northwest side. Panfish, northerns, bass, walleye.

**FRENCH**
332 acres. Public access on the northwest corner. Some trophy walleyes with crappie, northerns and carp.

**GRANITE**
339 acres. Public access on west side. Sunken island good for crappies, bass, walleyes and northerns.

**LOUISA**
179 acres. Public access on Lake Marie. Some large pike, panfish.

**MARIE**

**MARY**

**MINK-SOMMERS**
459 acres. Public access on Sommers Lake. Five-pound northerns, panfish.

**NIXON**

**PLEASANT**
509 acres. Adjoins city of Annandale. Two public accesses (one on the south side, one in the new Clearwater-Pleasant County Park on the north side). One of the top 100 walleye lakes in the state. Bluegills, bass and northerns.

**SUGAR**
1,050 acres. Public access on the north and south ends. Resort. Wright County’s only muskie lake. Northerns, bass, panfish and walleye.

**EAST LAKE SYLVIA, WEST LAKE SYLVIA**
1,524 acres. Public access on West Lake Sylvia (west side). The cleanest in the area with 30-inch walleyes. Panfish, bass and northerns.
Lake associations

The Heart of the Lakes area has a good number of active lake associations. If you own a home or cabin on a lake, or are interested in lake related issues, join a lake association. Dues are usually very reasonable and members can be both active and semi-active. Most associations have annual meetings, most often during the summer months.

- Camp Lake Association, Ryan Bollman, chair, 320-241-5543, website: www.camplake.org
- Cedar Lake Conservation Club, president David Glass, email: glassdavida@gmail.com, website: www.cedarlakecc.org
- Clearwater Lake Property Owners Association, president Jim Kutzner, 320-274-1820, website: www.clpo.org
- Clearwater River Watershed District, chairperson Robert Schiefelbein, 320-398-8400, email: rgaab@meltel.net, website: www.crwd.org
- Cokato Lake Improvement Association, president Louis King, 612-490-0482, cokatolakeassociation@gmail.com
- Chain O’ Lakes Association - Lake Louisa, Marie, Mill Pond and Caroline, co-chairperson Darren Juilfs, email: drjules@mac.com
- Granite Lake Watershed Association, president Andy Wilde, 651-895-6342, website: www.minnesotawaters.org
- Lake Augusta Association, president Jack Gleason, 612-751-1050, email: calljackgleason@aol.com, website: www.lakeaugusta.mylaketown.com
- Lake Francis Area Recreation and Conservation Club, president Craig Panning, 952-449-1286, website: www.lakefrancismn.org
- Lake John Association, president Adrienne Owens, email: president@lakejohnassociation.com, website: lakejohnassociation.com
- Greater Lake Sylvia Association, president Russ Fornter, 612-865-5470, email: russfornter@hotmail.com, website: www.lakesylvia.org
- Mink and Somers lakes, chair Kathleen Poate, website: www.minksomers.org
- Pleasant Lake Association, president Kevin Bergstrom, website: www.plamn.com
- Sugar Lake Association, chairperson Dan Erdmann, sugarlakemember@gmail.com, website: www.sugarlake.org

Prevent the spread

Regardless of the invasive species in question, boaters should be aware of legal guidelines for protecting lakes and other bodies of water. All boaters are required to:
- Clean all visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels or other species from watercraft, trailers and equipment before leaving a water access or shoreland.
- Drain equipment, including boat, ballast tanks, bait containers, bilge, live well and bait well by removing drain plugs and keeping them removed during transportation. It is illegal to arrive at a lake access with drain plugs in place, to transport aquatic plants or species on a roadway, or to transport water from lakes or rivers.
- Dispose of unwanted bait, including minnows, leeches and worms, in the trash. It is illegal to release live bait into a body of water. To keep live bait, use bottled or tap water.

Those who fail to comply with the regulations can face criminal or civil penalties that can include fines. In addition, a boat lift, dock, swim raft, or associated equipment that has been removed from any infested water body throughout the state may not be placed in another water body until a minimum of 21 days have passed or unless they have been washed at an approved wash station.
Keeping it simple

By Jerry Carlson

Sometimes I get the feeling that the angling world is moving in a direction of extreme sophistication and technical fishing. I am not against that movement, as I have seen the rewards from experimenting with something new. However, I think it is still OK to fall back on the good old basics that continue to put fish in the boat.

When it comes to basic walleye fishing, there is little doubt that live bait rigging is as classic as it gets. This simple system of presenting live bait on a leader with a sliding sinker has helped anglers boat countless walleyes. With that being said, it doesn’t mean that a live bait presentation can’t be tweaked to make it better.

My experience on the water has taught me a number of tricks that have helped me improve my live bait presentation. It starts with the rod.

The right rod

I am as frugal as the next when it comes to spending money on fishing rods. For example, when I am using a float, the float is doing all of the work in detecting a bite. The visual aspect of a float makes it easy to tell when something fishy is happening. I don’t need a super expensive rod to help me watch a bobber.

On the flip side of this, a live bait rod should be the best rod a person can afford to purchase. After all, it is the fishing rod that is going to telegraph a bite to your hands. There is a huge difference in the sensitivity or feel found in a quality rod versus a low end model.

I am a firm believer in using seven-foot medium light models with a very flexible tip. The length of this rod is great for absorbing hooksets and fighting fish. The flexible tip allows anglers to watch a rod load up with weight, which helps determine when to set the hook or sometimes to visually see a pick-up.

Choosing a line

The line is the next consideration. I typically spool eight-pound test mono on my reel but use a six-pound fluorocarbon line for my leader. Fluorocarbon is less visible in the water than standard mono and it is also quite tough.

On days when the bite is difficult, switch to a four-pound-test leader.

Leader length can make a difference. If I am fishing a river with some current, 18 inches is about right. However, if I am dealing with finicky walleyes on Rainy Lake, a six-foot leader and small wire hook would be in order. I often add a chartreuse bead in front of my hook for a little extra color.

Although many anglers have switched to a super braid to put on their reel for extra feel, I have not. Too many times I believe the sensitivity of the line allows the fish to feel me as much as I feel them.

However, if the bottom is very rocky and snaggy, I will use super thin braided line. The extra sensitivity helps me feel my way through the snags.

When using a jig, I generally start with six- or eight-pound-test braided line and go to mono as a second choice.

Weighing the options

As for the weight on a live bait rig, I tend to go heavier than most. I like to feel the bottom with the weight and then lift it off of the bottom so it doesn’t drag. I have also found that by fishing quite straight down I have great feel and fewer snag issues.

Live bait rigging is a very basic approach to catching walleyes. However, even the basics can be tweaked to make them better.

Remember, it is often the subtle changes that helps anglers catch more fish.
The summer months open endless possibilities for outdoor recreation in the Heart of the Lakes. Annandale’s trail system is expanding, a handful of exceptional state and county parks are nearby, and there are multiple opportunities to engage in sports like softball, golf, tennis and more.

For youth, there are many opportunities to play baseball or softball at various levels of competition in a traveling league. Annandale Community Education also offers a variety of summer activities.

Adults might enjoy taking in a baseball game played by one of the best Class C teams in the state, the Maple Lake Lakers. Those who still want to play can join a slowpitch softball league in Annandale, or pursue a less traditional sport like disc golf at Clearwater-Pleasant Regional Park or a round of paintball at a nearby course.

Golfing is a main attraction in the area, with three high-quality golf courses located in or within a few miles of town, and many others located nearby.

The Southside Trail now connects various trail segments south of Highway 55 this year and creates a continuous 2.7-mile link from Southbrook to Minnesota Pioneer Park that bikers, runners and walkers will appreciate for years to come.

Families can enjoy their choice of beaches to handle hot summer days, visiting two on Pleasant Lake or the Schroeder Park beach on Cedar Lake. A beach house is open at Annandale Municipal Park.

Those looking for a more wooded walk can find it at beautiful trails in Wright County’s Robert Ney Regional Park and Stanley Eddy Regional Park, each just a few miles east and west of Annandale, respectively. More trails and activity options are available a short distance to the northeast at Lake Maria State Park.

Read on for more details about each of those items.
Baseball-Softball Traveling League
■ Youth ball games are as common as fishing poles in the Heart of the Lakes. The traveling league, for kids age 9 to 18, begins each year in late May and ends around the first week of August. Throughout the summer, the fields around Annandale are busy most evenings, including Annandale’s new rec park. For registration and schedule information, visit www.annandalebbsb.org, or call coordinator Brent Danzeisen at 612-750-4991.

Community Education
■ There are lots of activities for younger children. Annandale Community Education offers an assortment of classes, clubs and sports. Visit www.isd876.org, click on Community Education and follow the links to view a catalog of youth and adult programs. Printed copies are also available, or call 274-3058 Monday through Friday, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Maple Lake Lakers
■ Baseball fans will enjoy a night out at historic Irish Stadium in Maple Lake, home of the Maple Lake Lakers. The amateur baseball team consists of former college and high school athletes who play because they love the game. The ball field is lit up most Wednesday, Friday and Sunday nights during the summer starting in May, and seats are inexpensive. For a complete schedule of games, visit www.maplelakelakers.com.

Softball
■ Slowpitch softball leagues play during the summer months at Annandale Municipal Park. Look for men’s action on Thursday and Friday evenings. Grab a seat or get in the game. Concessions are available.

Tennis
■ As part of the Annandale Rec Park project, new tennis courts were completed in the summer of 2017. They are behind the high school and open to the public in the summer.

The tennis courts alongside Annandale Middle School make a recreational game of tennis appealing to area visitors and residents. The courts are open to the public throughout the summer.

Disc golf
■ Clearwater-Pleasant Regional Park has a disc golf course across the road from the main park. It’s clearly marked, and there is parking. The holes vary in length, making it an attractive activity for all abilities.
Paintball

Annandale Paintball offers a fun and exciting summer activity for individuals 8 years and older. Having been in business for over 15 years, they have extensive experience ensuring a fun and safe afternoon is in store.

Sharing a parking lot with the Wright County Swappers Meet, located at 13659 100th St. NW, South Haven, Annandale Paintball features multiple playing fields that are all surrounded in netting. This netting ensures paintballs are kept on the playing field, while allowing spectators the ability to view the game.

They offer three versions of paintball, so that it best fits the group outing. Additionally, paintballs are 100% washable and biodegradable.

For younger players who are 8 to 14, there is family friendly paintball. These markers are spring powered instead of air, and are designed especially for kids. The intermediate level offered is low impact paintball. Using a smaller paintball, and slightly slower speed, this is the perfect version available to first time players, and those who are 10 and older.

Traditional Paintball is for those that have experience playing paintball, and is the version that most people are familiar with when they think of paintball.

Annandale Paintball also offers airsoft, laser tag and gel blaster games. Annandale Paintball offers rental equipment that includes everything needed to play, without time limits.

To learn more or to make a reservation visit www.annandalepaintball.com or call 320-274-8242.

Walking, running, biking

The Southside Trail extension project was completed in the summer of 2017. It links the southern side of town together. During the project, 1.2 miles of new trail segments were constructed to connect existing trails and form a contin-
uous 2.7-mile link from Southbrook to Minnesota Pioneer Park.

■ A nice walking, running and biking trail from Annandale begins on the west side of Pleasant Lake and ends at Clearwater-Pleasant Regional Park, which also has a lovely path system. Be careful of traffic on County Road 5 (Montgomery Ave. NW) out of Annandale. There is no path from the park back to town on Highway 24, but road reconstruction in the fall of 2007 widened the shoulders. A trip around the lake is about 5.3 miles. From Annandale Municipal Park to the CPRP and back (on the path) is a mile or two longer.

Swimming

■ Swimming is available at the Annandale Municipal Park beach and the Clearwater-Pleasant Regional Park beach. At the city park, volunteers have improved the beach house and helped make the beach family-friendly.

The beach house is usually open from mid-June through mid-August. Concessions are available, along with games and towels, and accessories are for sale. No lifeguards are on duty.

■ Another nearby beach is Schroeder Park on Cedar Lake. It is part of the Wright County Park system and offers a number of amenities (see the article in this Guide) and is a just short distance from Annandale.

SUP

There is a loosely organized Standup Paddle Boarding group in Annandale. For more information contact Anchor Dock and Lift at 274-6500. SUP boards are sold and rented locally at several outlets, including Anchor Dock, Little Jim’s and Clearwater Outfitting.

RUNNING TANGENTS

EDDY TRAIL RACES

BIG EDDY – 50K
Saturday, August 13, 8 am Start
Course: All loops in Stanley Eddy Park Reserve and the roads to get to and from it from Chi Rho.

EDDY ’ROUND THE BLOCK – 5K
Saturday, August 13, 9 am Start
Course: The hills and around the “block” just south of Chi Rho. One of the most difficult 5K road races you’ll ever run!

THE EDDY – HALF MARATHON
Sunday, August 14, 8 am Start
Course: The South and East portions of Stanley Eddy Park Reserve and the roads to get to and from it from Chi Rho.

Register for races online at www.running-tangents.com
If paddling the beautiful and scenic bends of the Mississippi River where bald eagles soar and deer can be seen drinking at the water’s edge is what you’re looking for, there’s one area family that’s got you covered.

Sandra and Dan Meer, owners of Clear Waters Outfitting, have turned their passion for the outdoors into a livelihood that has people falling in love with the sport and river.

“When you put a paddle in your hand and shove off from shore, whether it’s a lake or river, the rest of the world has a tendency to just slip away,” said Dan Meer.

Since opening its doors in 2009, CW Outfitting has quickly become a destination for beginner and experienced paddlers alike.

Serving thousands of paddlers each year CW Outfitting is now Minnesota’s premier Mississippi River outfitter and paddle sport specialty store.

Located on the banks of a state-designated “wild and scenic” stretch of the Mississippi River, CW Outfitting is within a stone’s throw of the Highway 24 bridge leading out of Clearwater, only about 20 minutes from Annandale.

“Living in this state, there is a growing desire to experience the water in new ways,” Meer said. “On our river adventures, it’s just you and the river. It helps to put life into perspective.

“Whether beginner or experienced, we have a bunch of options for you to choose from, and we offer the perfect way to enjoy our Minnesota summers.”

Complete outfitter and paddle specialty store

The area’s only complete outfitter and paddle sport specialty store, CW Outfitting offers half-day, full-day and multi-day paddling adventures.

There are rentals, shuttles, and all different types of paddle sport equipment for sale including: paddle boards, recreational kayaks, touring kayaks, fishing kayaks and canoes.

CW Outfitting will do free delivery and pickup, with a 3-day rental, within 15 miles of Clearwater.

More information

For more information or to schedule a paddle trip, contact CW Outfitting at 320-558-8123 or visit www.cwoutfitting.com.
Design • Build • Renovate
We work hard to make your dreams a reality!

Check out our quality craftsmanship at CapCustomHomes.com. Follow all our latest projects on Facebook! Contact us today at al.evavold@capcustomhomes.com

Owner/Licensed General Contractor
Alex Evavold 320-267-8591
The 80-acre Annandale Recreation Park is enjoying early success, and this year, the park will be the site of many games, tournaments and activities.

Phase I of construction began in the spring of 2016 with road and field grading, the installation of drainage systems and water mains.

Phase II saw the construction of the ball fields, the tennis courts, the walking trail and parking lot in 2017.

Completed in the summer of 2017 and available for use by the public are the eight new tennis courts, located at the back of Annandale High School.

All parking areas are paved with curbing around them and the access road from the park to Hemlock has been paved.

The three football-soccer fields began being used in the late summer of 2018.

The concession-press box building was completed last summer by the Annandale Lions and is up and running.

Batting cages, funded by the Annandale Athletic Foundation, are scheduled to be installed for both baseball and softball.

2015 referendum

The project was funded by a $4 million school district referendum passed by Annandale School District voters in November of 2015. The question was approved by a 69-39 percent margin.

Discussions on the need for additional recreational facilities began in Annandale around 2003. Passage of the referendum was the culmination of more than a decade of effort to address the issue.

The referendum dollars along with private and civic donations provided the project with a $4.4 million budget.

Joint powers

The City of Annandale and the Annandale School District have formed a joint powers agreement and share equally the future costs of the operations and maintenance.

Future plans

Many additional features have been outlined for the park, but those will be added by private donations, civic organizations or the city as revenue is available.

Possibilities for future facilities include basketball and volleyball courts, horseshoe pits, bocce ball courts, a skate park, dog park, splash pad, additional multi-use fields and additional infrastructure such as lights for the tennis courts.

By Tom Westman

Fields of dreams

Here’s where the action is
Wright County is blessed with some beautiful geography, from rivers and lakes to woods and prairie, and there are few better ways to experience what nature has to offer than by visiting one of the nearly 30 parks, reserves, waysides and accesses that make up the Wright County Parks system.

Clearwater-Pleasant

Nearest to Annandale is the Clearwater-Pleasant Regional Park on the north side of Pleasant Lake. It is very popular with families. This park features a large swimming beach, park pavilion, bathroom facilities, a playground, a Department of Natural Resources public boat landing and fishing pier, and walking and biking trails that stretch through the entire 210-acre park.

The trail starts on County Road 5 on the west side of Pleasant Lake and winds its way to the park. The six-mile journey, either walking or biking, might make you a little hungry, so pack a lunch and enjoy it at the park.

A disc golf course was added and the playground area was expanded in 2005. In addition, the trail system has been updated, making CWPRP even more attractive.

The disc golf course is across the road from the main park. It is clearly marked, and parking is available. The holes vary in length, making this an attractive outdoor activity for all abilities.

Lake Maria

Lake Maria State Park will offer a variety of programs and events during the summer. The park is located approximately 10 miles northeast of Annandale on Wright County 111. A paradise for hikers, horseback riders and campers, there are 14 miles of hiking trails, plus six miles of horse trails.

Schroeder Park

Rivaling Clearwater-Pleasant Regional Park for variety of features is Schroeder Park on Cedar Lake, a short drive north and east
Schroeder Park features a fishing pier, creative play area for the kids, hiking trails, a boat launch and a beach area.

At both Clearwater-Pleasant and Schroeder, the swimming area is marked by buoys. There is no lifeguard on duty.

Ney Nature Center
Another county park close to Annandale is the Ney Nature Center just north of Maple Lake. It features a large number of interpretive programs and ski trails in the winter, and lots of hiking trails and other amenities in the summer. Take County Road 8 north and just watch for the signs.

Stanley Eddy
The Stanley Eddy Park Reserves south of South Haven are open for horseback riding and hiking in the summer and skiing in the winter. It has a bike trail as well.

The four units of the reserves make up 658 rolling acres of scenic beauty. This is the perfect park for the hiker.

Camping options
One feature that Schroeder holds above that of Clearwater-Pleasant Regional Park is that of overnight camping on the lake. It is one of two locations in the county park system that offer conventional camping – the other being Collinwood Park near Cokato.

There are also canoe camping or backpack camping options available in Wright County. Canoe camping sites are available on the North Fork of the Crow River, including at Albright’s Mill County Park south of Annandale on County Road 5. Remote backpacking camping sites are also available at Stanley Eddy Memorial Park Reserve near South Haven. There is no charge for using these campsites and they are available on a first-come, first-served basis. A use permit is required.

Contact the Parks Department office at 763-682-7693 a few days before your trip to obtain a permit.

Visit www.co.wright.mn.us for more on the parks system.
Camp Friendship
- Location: 10509 108th St. NW, Annandale. Ten acres of the camp are located off Clearwater Lake, an additional 60 acres are located across the lake access road.
- Phone: 274-8376, fax: 274-3238
- Website: www.truefriends.org
- Founded: In 1964 by Arc Minnesota. A group of parents established a facility where they could entrust the care of their children with disabilities to others for short periods of time.
- Mission: Camp Friendship is owned and operated by Friendship Ventures, a non-profit agency. The camp offers resident camp programs for children, teenagers and adults with development, physical or multiple disabilities, special medical conditions, Down Syndrome, autism or other conditions. Many sessions are open to siblings or friends without disabilities. The camp has many modern amenities, including a program center with an indoor gym and swimming pool, modern cabins, a dining hall, large swimming beach, animal farm, tree house and much more. It features dozens of indoor and outdoor activities. Scholarships are offered for those with limited financial resources.

Camp Courage
- Location: 8046 83rd St. NW, Maple Lake.
- Phone: 963-3121, fax: 963-3698
- Website: www.truefriends.org
- Founded: Originally founded in 1938 on the shores of the St. Croix River, east of Hinckley. It was then moved to the east side of Cedar Lake near Maple Lake in 1955.
- Mission: Camp Courage is a barrier-free residential camping facility serving people of all ages with physical disabilities and kids with speech/language/hearing impairments. It offers a safe, accessible natural environment where campers discover abilities they never knew they had or thought they had lost. During the school year groups rent the facilities for retreats. There are also a number of volunteer opportunities available. The camp encourages campers to visit, regardless of ability to pay; referrals are welcome.

In addition to Camp Friendship and Camp Courage, there are also several other area camps. Each has its own rich history and serves one or many needs; they are non-profit and have distinct missions that benefit campers from the local, state, regional and even national area. Most of the camps operate year-round. Check with a specific camp as to its programs that are offered in the fall and winter.

Camp Chi Rho
- Location: 5750 Porter Ave. NW, Annandale, southeast side of West Lake Sylvia.
The Mississippi State Water Trail is located north of Annandale where the river flows through a valley that features bluffs, islands and sandbars teeming with a wide variety of plants and animals.

In 1973, the section of the river where the trail is located was designated as a Minnesota Wild and Scenic River and is on the State Water Trail System. The fully navigable waters are open to small motorized boats, canoes, kayaks, etc. throughout the season.

Multiple accesses are available along the trail to launch your watercraft. Moderate rapids and currents provide family-friendly paddling opportunities.

Northern pike, smallmouth bass and walleye present great angling opportunities as well. If you need gear, local outfitters are available nearby to help with shuttles and rentals.
To be an avid golfer and live in Annandale has been a great match for me the past many years. And to have a family who enjoys golf has been a bonus, in that our area has offered us many an opportunity to enjoy the sport.

**Whispering Pines Golf Course**

Travel to Whispering Pines, Annandale’s original golf course, and a player is likely to see the much the same course when he plays a round now as when the course opened back in 1986. Several stands of woods filled with birds, squirrels and the occasional deer are just part of Whispering Pines’ natural beauty.

Although the course’s general attitude is one of “I want an entire family to have fun when they come to play,” the course can be anything but a walk in the park. Its stands of strategically placed trees and water hazards make both the novice and the accomplished player take note.

Today the course is an enjoyable 18-hole layout, having added nine holes in the late 1990s.

Starting with Mark Dvorak’s purchase of the course in 2012, things began to change greatly. As an example, several stands of trees and brush have been cut and removed, and the ground has been groomed to improve playability and course sightlines. In 2015 Whispering Pines remodeled its clubhouse to better accommodate its guests. It now includes a very comfortable sports bar setting to enjoy a beverage following a round of golf. A newly renovated outdoor patio area overlooks the first and tenth tee boxes, as well as the 18th green. Each golf group can enjoy a post round beverage on the patio that is enhanced by a beautiful running brook and waterfall.

On the course, literally tons of crushed rock and sand were dumped on the many cart paths and sand traps in previous seasons. Several tee boxes have been leveled and enlarged. A new fleet of carts, a new liquor license, new golf leagues and new ball washers highlight a long list of improvements to the overall golf course’s amenities. And yet, improvements continue to happen. This last season, the course has upgraded to GPS systems on the each cart to better help the players make club selection on the course.

While the original beauty of the course, and its great layout, haven’t changed, the clean look of the traps and true rolling greens make “the Pines” a must-play attraction for area residents.

The course now offers many leagues and an ever increasing number of events to suit just about every level of golfer.

Having known the Dvoraks for many years (Mark played for me on the Annandale golf team), I know that they will continue to work hard to improve both the on-course and clubhouse product each and every year.

**Albion Ridges Golf Club**

While Whispering Pines was designed by capturing the beauty of its natural stands of oaks and cedars on its rolling terrain, Albion Ridges Golf Course, approximately five miles southeast of Annandale, was developed from the rolling terrain of Dennis and JoAnn Olson’s rich black farmland.

Despite very few natural stands of trees, Albion Ridges, designed by Todd Severud, opened in 1991 to rave reviews. It was obvious to everyone that it would become one of the very best conditioned public courses in Minnesota. That initial opinion has not changed and today includes 27 holes of public golf as good as you will find anywhere. A third nine was added in 2000.

Owners LeRoy and Michelle Wurm took over from Dennis and JoAnn Olson in 2018, and bring new ideas to the course operation, yet provide the same quality service and conditions that have always marked the Albion Ridges reputation. As the long time course superintendent, the outstanding care by LeRoy and his maintenance staff continues with excellent greens, tees and fairways that many golfers compare with the best in the state. Michelle, who was an outstanding high school golfer for me at Annandale, and a member of the nationally-ranked Minnesota State, Mankato golf team, brings a fresh perspective to this great course.

Beginning his second full season as the clubhouse manager, PGA Professional Steve Fessler brings a wealth of expertise to Albion. Steve has a long list of accomplishments and awards from the golf community including winner of the prestigious Horton Smith Award given to the top professional in the Minnesota Section of the PGA each year. Since 2004, he has been named a top 10 teacher in Minnesota by Golf Digest and has been a PGA Award Top Junior Leader. In 2015-16, he served as the president of the Minnesota Section of the PGA and was a section board member from 2000-2018. Needless to say, Albion Ridges is in good hands. Steve is available through the clubhouse for individual and group lessons.

I can’t think of another course that has a design that allows players of all levels to enjoy the experience as much as this one does. Novices and high handicappers love playing at Albion because it allows them to spray the ball all over and still have some sort of shot to the green. Additionally, it has four tees on each hole to choose from, giving players the chance to find a playing distance that suits their games. There isn’t an overabundance of sand traps or water, but just enough of them, and they are strategically placed at that.

But even though it appears to be wide open, it is also as much a challenge to the low handicap as it is welcoming to the high handicap. Quick, undulating greens that roll true test the nerves of even
the best players. Unless players are driving in the fairway, it is challenging to hit a shot close to the pin. Even at that, approaching from the fairway is often not enough, as good pin positioning can force players to approach from the “correct” side of the fairway. And approaching from the lush rough does not allow the top player to control trajectory, distance or spin to consistently give himself the type of chance at birdie that he would like.

Arriving at Albion Ridges, players will be met with a long fleet of golf carts near the well-maintained clubhouse area. Started in the summer of 2021 and completed this spring, Albion’s clubhouse has received a complete makeover, enticing golfers to enjoy a postround relaxing discussion. As always, the staff provides a friendly and welcoming atmosphere for area and Twin Cities golfers alike.

Southbrook Golf Club

The dream of Daryl Gunnarson began to take shape in the early 1990s, when he and his partner, Clint Olson, built Southbrook Golf Club as part of their larger golf course community. Now in year five of Clint’s daughter- and son-in-law Holly and Brian Peterson’s ownership, Southbrook is a family run course, and employ a friendly and helpful staff. Playing at Southbrook, you will enjoy great rates and great course conditions. Annexed to the west side of Annandale, the course weaves through several wooded areas, single-family residential areas and a whole lot of wetlands. In fact, Southbrook sports no less than 17 holes with some form of water hazard to challenge players of all levels. Its well manicured fairways and lush roughs put a premium on driving accuracy.

The course is probably the easiest to walk in the area as it is built on flat land and, in some regards, the most difficult to score on. The front nine makes its way through the golf community that expands each and every year, while the back takes a more traditional golf setting, away from the homes of Southbrook.

Southbrook’s huge teeing areas and three separate tees on most holes, are made of bent grass, which makes them a treat from which to start each hole. While the novice golfer can play the course from one of the course’s two front tees, the low handicapper can challenge himself from the back blues.

That challenge is exemplified on each of the par fives where the back tees can add up to 75 yards more than the distance from the white tees. This extra distance makes the par fives the most challenging part of the Southbrook experience for me. No hole exemplifies this more than No. 18. Many a round has been shipwrecked near the shores of this challenge, but no trip to Southbrook should be avoided for fear of running aground here. There are enough “friendly” holes to make this a completely enjoyable experience for every level of golfer.

You get more than good golf at Southbrook. Brian and his staff are constantly striving to improve the course’s playability. Add to that a beautiful clubhouse and a party room on the lower level. Tournaments, junior golf clinics and the home of the Annandale High School golf teams just add to the allure of the course. Andrew Daniels has taken over the restaurant operation. The great menu and fine relaxing atmosphere make the Southbrook Grille bar and restaurant on the upper level a fine social facility. The view from the deck of holes one, 10 and 18 make for a great setting to enjoy the round just completed.

These beautiful facilities allow Southbrook to be a complete entertainment package.

Kimball Golf Club

Travel a short distance to Kimball and enjoy the scenic Kimball Golf Club. Joel Goldstrand was called in to design a new nine holes when in the late 1990s Kimball decided to go to 18 holes from its original nine.

Still hilly, but always well maintained, it offers one of the toughest finishing stretches in the area in holes 14 through 18. Lengthy par fours such as the dogleg No. 14, plenty of marsh-filled risk and reward from the short but treacherous No. 15 with its island green, and the tight landing area on the long par-five 17th highlight this group.

These and other challenges make the Kimball Golf Club one of the best golfing values around.
More area courses

Still more golf is available only minutes away from the immediate Annandale area as golfers can play Eagle Trace along the Mississippi River in Clearwater.

Upgrades have been made to the course, and there are many challenging risk-reward options from the beginner to the pro.

There are 15 acres of man-made lakes in addition to three holes along the Mississippi. No. 11 is the signature hole, and a birdie is rare here. The hole is a visual gem.

■ Take a trip to Monticello and play one of two challenging layouts in the always interesting Monticello Country Club. Drive south from Monticello to Buffalo and find two other long-standing courses in the small but well-maintained Buffalo Heights and, just a few minutes away, at the challenging Wild Marsh.

■ In addition, there is always the dependable nine-hole Cokato Town and Country Club that is enjoyable because of its small-town flavor.

■ To the west, Koronis Hills Country Club offers 18 challenging holes among scenic, rolling hills.

On any given day during the golfing season, one is likely to encounter an Annandale area resident on any of the fine courses that can be found in the Annandale area.

The area has become a golfing haven to an enthusiast such as myself. I hope that each of you takes the time to enjoy the golfing riches that our beautiful area has for each of us.

See you at the first tee!

Dave Greve has been teeing it up in the Heart of the Lakes for many years. The retired middle school teacher has his share of trophies, and he is a longtime golf coach-instructor. Dave's three sons played high school golf and two competed at the collegiate level, including Ben, who played for the University of Minnesota and has golfed professionally on the Canadian and Hooters tours, was the 2019 Minnesota Golf Association Player of the Year and two time Minnesota State Open Champion.

Locate the links...

Albion Ridges – Go two miles east of Annandale on Highway 55, turn right (south). Keep going south for five miles and turn left on County Road 105. Follow the signs for one mile. For more information, call 963-5500, or 1-800-430-PUTT. The website address is www.albionridges.com.

Kimball Golf Course – Go west of Annandale on Highway 55, turn left (south) through town, turn left at County Road 150. Course is about one mile on the right. For more information call 320-398-2285. The website is www.kimballgolf.com.

Southbrook Golf Course – From Highway 55 in Annandale, turn south on County Road 5, then west on County Road 183. Go one mile and turn left on Morrison Ave. For more information, call 274-2341 or 1-877-292-9630. The website is www.southbrookgolf.com.

(***The Driving Range is located before the entrance of Southbrook Golf Course, although it is not affiliated with Southbrook. It is open sun-up until sundown in the summer months.***)

Whispering Pines Golf Course – Located a quarter mile north of Highway 55 on County Road 6 or two miles south of Highway 24 on County Road 6. For more information, call 274-8721. The website is www.whisperingpinesgolf.com.
Annandale schools hold a well-earned reputation for serving as quality centers of learning occupied by outstanding students. The school district strives to provide quality education to over 2,000 students. In addition to the traditional kindergarten through grade 12 population, educational opportunities for individuals of all ages are provided through the district’s community education program. For more information, see the school district’s website at www.isd876.org.

**Annandale Elementary School**
- Location: 655 Park St. E. School hours: 8:15 a.m. to 3 p.m. Office hours: 7:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. Telephone: 320-274-8218. Principal: Jonathan Klippene. Annandale Elementary School serves 882 students from the pre-kindergarten level to the fifth-grade. The school, built in 2013, is located next to the high school.

**Annandale Middle School**
- Location: 125 Cherry Ave. N. School hours: 8:10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Office hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Telephone: 274-8226. Principal: Jeffrey Erickson. About 35 teachers at Annandale Middle School serve about 400 students in grades six through eight. The middle school is located on an 11-acre site downtown.
Annandale High School

Location: 855 Hemlock St. E. School hours: 8:20 a.m. to 3:10 p.m. Office hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Telephone: 320-274-8208. Principal: Steve Scherber. About 40 teachers at Annandale High School, located on the northeastern edge of the city, serve more than 500 students in grades nine through 12. The high school building was constructed in 1991 and is designed to meet educational needs of students for many years to come. A 650-seat auditorium-performing arts center was completed in March of 2000.

Annandale Community Education

Location: 655 Park St. E. Office hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Telephone: 320-274-3058 Fax: (320) 274-2862 Director: Tiffany Grube

The Community Education Center at Annandale Elementary School is home to the Community Education offices, Kindergarten Connection Preschool, Adult Basic Education/GED, Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE), Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE), Cardinal Playland and the Family Information/Resource Kiosk. Community Education offers a wide variety of programs for youth and adults. Watch for quarterly brochures with class and activity listings. Also, register for events and classes online at www.isd876.org.

Youth First

Youth First is a grassroots initiative to inspire the community to become asset builders for youth. Its origins are rooted in a group of community members who gathered in 1995 with a goal of creating healthy youth in Annandale.

The non-profit organization is involved in many activities and has an office located in the middle school. Visit annandaleyouthfirst.com, call 320-274-0636 or e-mail Mary Barkley Brown at mbarkleybrown@isd876.org.

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**City of Annandale**

- **City Hall**
  (320) 274-3055 Fax (320) 274-5728
- Police (non-emergency) 274-3278
- Deputy Registrar 274-3284
- Public works garage 274-8520
- **Website**: www.annandale.mn.us
- Email: city@annandale.mn.us
- 30 Cedar St. E., P.O. Box K, Annandale, MN 55302-0136
- **Mayor**: Shelly Jonas
- **Council members**: JT Grundy, Tina Honsey, Corey Czycalla, Matthew Wuollet
- **City Administrator**: Kelly Hinnenkamp
- **Building Official**: Metro West Inspection Services
- **City Attorney**: Susan Kadlec
- **City Engineer**: Jared Voge
- **Community Development Director**: Jacob Thunader
- **Deputy Registrar**: Vicki Jarmon
- **Fire Chief**: Brian Haag
- **Police Chief**: Peter Standafer
- **Public Works Director**: Joe Haller

**Clearwater River Watershed**

The Clearwater River Watershed District maintains an office at 93 Oak Ave. S., Ste. 5 in Annandale. The mailing address is: 3235 Fernbrook Lane N., Minneapolis, MN 55447. Phone: 320-274-3935. Copies of all CRWD public documents are on file at the district’s office. The website is www.crwd.org.

A board of managers runs the district, which encompasses about 159 square miles. The managers meet monthly in Annandale.

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**Wright County**

**Government Center**
(763) 682-3900, (800) 362-3667
**Website**: www.co.wright.mn.us

10 Second Street NW Buffalo, MN 55313

- Chris Husom of Buffalo is Wright County’s District 1 commissioner who serves Annandale, South Haven, Southside Township, Corinna Township, Albion Township and other areas.
- Darek Vetsch serves the Clearwater area and Maple Lake.
- Mike Kaczmarek serves the Cokato area, including French Lake Township.

Contact them through the website or by calling the numbers listed above.

For information on Stearns County, call 320-656-3600 or see www.co.stearns.mn.us. Leigh Lenzmeier, commissioner in District 4, serves this area of Stearns County.

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**Township Information**

- **Albion**: Clerk Debbra Uecker, 612-716-0465
  www.albiontwpmn.govoffice2.com
- **Clearwater**: Clerk Jean Just, 320-558-4011
  www.clearwatertownship.org
- **Corinna**: Mary B. Brown, 274-8049
  www.corinntownship.com
- **Fair Haven**: Leslie Rose 320-251-3425
- **French Lake**: Clerk Breanna Chapman, 320-583-0157
- **Lynden**: Clerk Jenny Schmidt, 320-774-8507
  www.lyndentownship.net
- **Silver Creek**: Clerk Nancy Betzler, 763-878-2600
  www.silvercreektwp.com
- **Southside**: Clerk Carmen Merrill, 320-274-8602
  www.southsidetownship.com

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Email: city@annandale.mn.us • www.annandale.mn.us
South Haven  

Situated near the western edge of Wright County is South Haven, a city of just under 200 people located five miles northwest of Annandale on Highway 55. The community features restaurants and other stores and is close to several resorts and public water areas.

A city park includes a baseball field and playground equipment for children, which could be upgraded this summer. The city also has a wastewater treatment plant and sewer system that serves about 90 homes and businesses.

In 2013 the city completed construction of a new city hall-community building on Main Street. The new hall has brought an updated look to the community and is used for government and community activities.

South Haven has an active fire department, which formed a rescue squad in 2007 that responds to car crashes and other emergencies. The department hosts its annual smelt fry in early May.

One of the city’s biggest events is the South Haven Sportsmen’s Club fish fry, which is held in April, the first in 1938. The event typically attracts well over 1,000 visitors at the fire hall.

The popular eating place Mom’s Place was sold in the spring of 2022, but will re-open with a new venue this summer. Bedrock Bar and Grill is also a Main Street fixture, and South Haven Sports carries groceries, gas, bait and much more.

**City leadership**

Norm Bodeker is the mayor and Melissa Stenson is the city’s clerk-treasurer. The city council meets monthly.

For more information, call the South Haven City Hall at 320-236-2424 or email sohavenc@lakedalmlink.net.

The city’s website is www.cityofsouthhavenmn.com.
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The Annandale Area Chamber of Commerce is a 100-plus member organization which actively promotes the Annandale area. The chamber holds monthly luncheon meetings (usually the second Wednesday) and other social events throughout the year. Members are notified in advance of the events. Look for monthly updates in the Annandale Advocate.

For more information, visit the website, the chamber’s Facebook page, write Annandale Area Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 417, Annandale, MN 55302, or contact one of the officers listed below. The website is www.annandalechamber.org.

2022 officers
President ..........Jeremy Wheeler, 320-420-3416
Treasurer ..........Aleah Edwards, 320-274-8827
Secretary .............Stacy Rassett, 320-274-8216

Other members of the chamber’s board of directors are David Burd, Mike Zieska, Kelly Hinnenkamp, Holly Peterson, Mona Volden, Kris Nelson and Corey Cygalia.

Brent Stromme handles the chamber’s communications. New officers will be elected in June.

Chamber Members

Academic Year in America...........1-800-322-4678
Aflac ........................................612-474-1234
Allina Health - Buffalo Hospital ....763-684-7025
Anchor Dock & Lift .................320-274-6500
Annandale Advocate .................320-274-3052
Annandale Area Community Team (ACT) ........................................612-247-9881
Annandale Art & Textile Center ....320-980-0437
Annandale Embroidery ...............320-274-6878
Annandale Eye Clinic .................320-274-3701
Annandale Health & Community Services ........................................320-274-2579
Annandale Improvement Club .......320-274-2563
Annandale United Methodist Church ........................................320-274-5127
Annandale Monument & Countertops ........................................612-293-4176
Annandale Paintball ..................320-274-8242
Annandale Public School District 876 ........................................320-274-2808
Any Thyme Catering .................320-290-4158
Aspen & Oak Contracting, LLC ....320-980-6208
Backyard Reflections Inc. ..........320-275-9908
Billy D's Crooked Tavern ..........320-274-6184
Cardinal Athletic Foundation .........320-963-2178
Carefree Lawn Sprinklers ...........320-963-2178
Christine Husom, Author ..........320-274-3055
City of Annandale ......................320-274-3055
Clearwater River Watershed District ........................................320-274-3935
Clearwater Truck Center ..........320-558-6565
Community Behavioral Health Hospital ........................................651-259-3854
Corner Stone Flooring of Annandale LLC ....................................612-812-8588
Cottage Gourmet ......................320-493-0416
Country Chevrolet ....................320-274-3064
Custom Door Sales, Inc. ..........763-535-0042
Dingmann Funeral Care ............320-274-8811
Domagala Handyman Service ....320-209-5977
Duran’s Photography ..........612-310-2045
E.A. Sween Company .................952-249-2148
Eastview Mobile Home Park ........320-274-8187
Edina Realty Home Services ....320-282-5656
Edmonson Ink & Drafting Design Co. ........................................320-223-1519
Edward Jones .........................320-274-2302
eXp Realty, Heart of the Lakes Team ........................................320-274-6160
Furnace & Air Duct Cleaning Plus LLC ........................................320-274-6076
Grey Duck Screen Printing and Apparel ................................320-296-6033
Heartland Evangelical Free Church ........................................320-274-8951
Hoeft Party Rentals .................320-309-2193
Howard’s Plumbing .................320-274-8913
In Hot Water Coffee Shop ........320-274-6828
Jane Goodall Environmental Sciences Academy ................................952-852-0129
Jeremiah Johnson Log Homes ....303-641-7903
Just North of Memphis BBQ & Catering ....................................612-306-1432
Lake Central Bank ..................320-274-8216
Lake Central Insurance Services, LLC ........................................320-274-8216
Lake Country Cabinets and Trim ...320-274-2494
Lake Region Coop ....................320-963-6074
Lake Union Church .................320-298-2992
Little Learner's Childcare Annandale, LLC ..................................320-241-5110
Lundeen Bros., Inc. .................320-274-8211
M & M Bus Service, Inc. ........320-274-8313
Malco Products, SBC ...............320-274-8246
Miller's Jewelry .........................320-274-5313
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Rendezvous Bar & Grill ..........320-261-5167
River of Life Church .................320-261-5300
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Southbrook Golf Club ...............320-274-6181
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Spilled Grain Brew House ..........320-274-8828
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Think Up Technologies ..........763-238-6443
Truck Mate Toppers .................320-274-3008
Vintage Patina .........................320-980-7977
Whispering Pines ......................320-274-5226
Young & Brown LLC .................320-274-8221
Zahler Photography .................320-274-8800
Zion Lutheran Church ...............320-274-5226

Events and projects...

■ Annandale Expo
■ Annandale All-City Garage Sale
■ Chili Cook-off
■ Annandale Fourth of July Gala featuring the candidates for the Miss Annandale coronation
■ Annandale’s 125-plus year old Fourth of July Celebration, featuring a large parade, the Annandale Queen Coronation and fireworks in the evening at the municipal park, and much more
■ Float which can be seen in the Fourth of July Parade and many other area parades
■ Annual Golf Tournament
■ Trick-or-Treat at Chamber businesses
■ After-hours winter social
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SUMMER CALENDAR

All-City Garage Sale - May 7
Chili Cook-Off - Saturday, May 28
Friday Night Concerts in the Park
Farmers Market - Saturday mornings, Annandale City Square beginning June 11
Fourth of July - June 30–July 4
Heart of the Lake Triathlon - Sunday, July 17

SHOP LOCAL

For every $100 spent locally, $68 stays in the community!

The Heart of the Lakes Welcomes You!

Heart of the Lakes

City of Annandale
30 E. Cedar St., Annandale, MN 55302
320-274-3055
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Annandale Area Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 417, Annandale, MN 55302

www.annandale.mn.us ■ www.annandalechamber.org
**Locations:**
940 Elm St E, Annandale MN 55302
24142 Smiley Rd, Nisswa MN 56468

**Contact Information:**
320-274-6336 or 877-365-4034
Backyardmn.com
info@backyardmn.com
These area churches welcome you to visit and worship with them!

**Heartland Evangelical Free Church**
10252 State Hwy 55 NW, Annandale, MN 55302
320-274-8951

**Sunday Morning Worship:** 8:30 & 10 am
**Vacation Bible School:** July 17-21

**Bethlehem United Church of Christ**
400 County Road 37 NE; Maple Lake
320-963-3118; bethuccml@gmail.com

**Sunday Worship** - 9:30 a.m.
Check Our Facebook Page for Online Services
www.bethlehemmn.org

**No matter who you are, no matter where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.**

**Concordia Lutheran Church**
LCMS, 13455 Bluffton Ave., Fair Haven
www.concordialcms.com
320-236-7655, Pastor David Buchs

**Sunday Service 9 am**
**Wednesday Service 7 pm**

**St. Mark’s Episcopal Church**
10536 108th St NW, Annandale (across from Camp Friendship)
Sunday Service, 9:30 a.m.
June 12 through August 21
320-274-3545

**Annandale United Methodist Church**
320-274-5127 - 250 Oak Ave. N
Rev. Mark Schlasner, Pastor
www.annandaleumc.org
Sunday Worship, 8:30 am Fellowship, 9:30 am
Like us on Facebook

**Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church**
14550 County Rd. 37 NW, French Lake
Sunday Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship - 10:30 a.m.
https://oursavioursfrenchlake.org

**St. Ignatius Catholic Church**
35 Birch Street E, Annandale, MN 55302,
320-274-8828 • www.stignatiusmn.com
Pastor: Fr. John Meyer

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:**
1/2 hour prior to Saturday Mass

**Vacation Bible School:**
Check the website or parish bulletin for dates

**St. John’s Lutheran Church, ELCA**
331 West Harrison Street, Annandale, MN
(320) 274-8827 • www.stjohns-annandale.org

**Sunday Worship:**
8:30 a.m. Traditional service
10 a.m. Contemporary service
Pastor Todd Nelsen Pastor Alex Becker
Watch our Website www.stjohns-annandale.org and Facebook for updates & changes

**Zion Lutheran Church (LCMS)**
360 East Chestnut St., Annandale
320-274-5226
Rev. Tyler LaGrave, Pastor
www.zionannandale.org

**SUNDAY Worship, 9 am**
**Sunday School & Bible Study, 10:15 am**

**Kimball Christian Church**
Authentic community where families flourish

**YOU’RE INVITED to join us!**
241 State HWY 55
Kimball, MN 55353
(320) 398-3660
www.KimballChristian.Church

**Sunday Worship** 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
**Vacation Bible School**
July 24-28, 2022
5. Annandale Paintball
12. Malco Products
22. The Waterfront Lakeside Grille

See Downtown Advertisers on page 84
# Heart of the Lakes Area Summer Guide

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### Summer Guide 2022

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CALL THE TOP-DOG!
And We’ll Come Running to Your Rescue

- Financing available
- After hours/emergency service available
- Upfront competitive pricing
- 348 Google & 164 Facebook 4.9 Stars

We have been monitoring the COVID-19 virus and have been taking precautions. The health of our staff and families, and the health of our customers and their families is of the utmost importance to us.

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