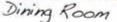


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Contributors to the Winter Guide include the writers noted within these pages and Advocate staff members Tom Westman, Andrew Enninga, Mary Christen, Amanda Menden, Eric Scott and Steve Prinsen

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WRIGHT COUNTY

Government Center Phone 763-682-3900, 800-362-3667 Website: www.co.wright.mn.us 10 Second Street NW Buffalo, MN 55313

Beginning in January 2023, Tina Diedrick, Annandale, will be Wright County's District 1 commissioner. The district serves Annandale, South Haven, Corinna Township and other areas. Darek Vetsch, District 2, serves the Clearwater area, Silver Creek and Maple Lake. Mike Kaczmarek, District 5, serves the Cokato area, including French Lake Township.

■ For information on Stearns County, call 320-656-3600 or find it on the web at www.co.stearns.mn.us. Jeff Bertram, Paynesville, commissioner in District 3, will serve this area of Stearns County beginning January 2023, including Lynden, Fair Haven and other area townships.

Township Information

Albion	Clerk Debbra Uecker, 320-963-4015
	www.albiontwpmn.govoffice2.com
Clearwater	Clerk Jean Just, 320-558-4011
	www.clearwatertownship.org
Corinna	Mary B. Brown, 320-274-8049
	www.corinnatownship.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, 763-878-0141
	www.silvercreektwp.com
Southside	Clerk Carmen Merrill, 320-274-8602
	www.southsidetownship.com

CLEARWATER RIVER WATERSHED

The Clearwater River Watershed District maintains an office at 93 Oak Ave. S. in Annandale. The mailing address is: 3235 Fernbrook Ln N, Minneapolis. 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.

South Haven

Situated near the west-

ern edge of Wright County is South Haven, a city of just under 200 people located five miles northwest of Annandale on Highway 55. The communi-

ty 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 annual events is the South Haven Sportsmen's Club fish



fry, which has been held in early April every year since 1938. The event typically attracts well over 1,000 visitors at the fire hall.

The city is undergoing a major reconstruction project with utility services, including water and sewer and major street renovation. A new water tower is also in the works.

Bedrock Bar and Grill is a Main Street fixture, and South Haven Tesoro carries groceries, gas, bait and much more. The former Mom's Cafe is now a popular Mexican restarant, the Agave Mexican Restaurant.

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@lakedalelink.net. The city's website is www. cityofsouthhavenmn.com.



Annandale Schools

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 about 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 Klippenes. Annandale Elementary School serves 900-plus 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: 8:05 a.m. to 3 p.m. Office hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Telephone: 320-274-8226. Interim Principal: Gabew Hackett. About 35 teachers at Annandale Middle School serve about 475 stu-

dents in grades six through eight. The middle school is located on an 11-acre site downtown. Annandale High School Location:

■ Location: 855 Hemlock St. E. School hours: 8:05 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Office hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30

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 600 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; Director: Tiffany Grube. The Community Education Center at Annandale Elementary School is home to the Community Education offices, Kinder-

> garten 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.annandalece.com.

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.

Call 320-274-0636 or e-mail coordinators Pam Wurm or Mary Barkley Brown at pwurm@isd876.org or mbarkleybrown@ isd876.org.

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Explore – Explor

A nnandale may be known primarily for its lakes and summer life, but community events are not limited strictly to the warm weather months. In fact, the number of things to do around the area, particularly during the Halloween and Christmas seasons, is scarcely less than one might hope for between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

After a flurry of back-toschool events in September, the area's fall and winter schedule really hits its stride in October. Stroll Main Street or Minnesota Pioneer Park for the annual Halloween events at those locations, or head over to Annandale Elementary for its Monster Mash night.

November includes high school musical concerts and the kickoff to the Christmas season, with the tree lighting event at Clock Tower Park on Small Business Saturday.

December is one of Annandale's busiest times of the year. It is highlighted by numerous opportunities to meet Santa, an increasingly popular Main Street Holiday complete with a lighted parade, and the annual visit from the Canadian Pacific Holiday Train that attracts up to 3,500 people when it stops at the Oak Avenue crossing. The train will make a return this year on Wednesday, Dec. 13. Bring a food shelf item and enjoy the fun!

January and February typically bring multiple ice fishing contests and good conditions to try skiing, snowshoeing or any number of outdoor activities at some of the area's beautiful parks. Nearby Powder Ridge provides area residents a relatively unique opportunity to enjoy downhill skiing and more.

By March, a few of Annandale's high school sports teams are typically making deep playoff pushes, and opportunities to gather with neighbors continue.

April brings Easter egg hunts in Annandale and South Haven, as stubborn winter begins to loosen its grip. Lakes thaw, snow recedes and the Heart of the Lakes throbs in anticipation of summer, of warmth, of new life.





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lovember

THANKSGIVING

Thursday, Nov. 23: Give thanks with family and friends.

ANML LIGHTNING TURKEY TROT

Thursday, Nov. 23: The Annandale-Maple Lake Lightning Wrestling team is hosting the annual Turkey Trot. Registration begins at 6:30 a.m. at the Annandale Middle School. The race starts at 8 a.m. Proceeds will go to the wrestling team.

THANKSGIVING BREAK

Thursday and Friday, Nov. 23-24: There is no school in the Annandale School District.

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

Saturday, Nov. 25: Be sure to support small businesses and shop local. See the Advocate for the Holiday Shopping Guide and more on shopping local and small this holiday season.

TREE LIGHTING EVENT

Saturday, Nov. 25: Attend the Annandale Tree Lighting Event, 5 p.m., at Clock Tower Park after shopping locally!



FESTIVAL OF TREES

Friday, Dec. 1, through Saturday, Jan. 6: The Wright County Historical Society, in Buffalo, is displaying more than 80 Christmas trees along with a Santa writing station, animated characters and electric train display. Admission is free. They will be open Tuesday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. They are closed Sunday and Monday. For more details call 763-682-7323.

CHRIST CHILD LUNCHEON

Friday, Dec. 1: St. Ignatius Catholic Church, Annandale will host its annual luncheon from 10:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. The luncheon will be catered by Any Thyme Catering. Proceeds will go to pro-life organizations.. The luncheon is sponsored by the St. Ignatius Council of Catholic Women.

VILLAGE CHRISTMAS

Saturday, Dec. 2: Minnesota Pioneer Park will host Village Christmas from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visit and get photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, enjoy wagon rides, Christmas music, roasted marshmallows, old-fashioned stew, bake sale items and more.

AHS CHOIR CONCERT

Monday, Dec. 4: The Annandale High School choirs will present a holiday concert at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center. Come out and enjoy this free concert.

POTLUCK SUPPER

Tuesday, Dec. 5: Minnesota Pioneer Park will host a meal at 6 p.m. All members and friends of the park are welcome. Bring a dish to share.



December ...

Continued

AMS BAND CONCERT

Thursday, Dec. 7: The Annandale Middle School's Band Concert begins at 6 p.m. for sixth grade, and 7 p.m. for seventh and eighth grade, at the high school's Performing Arts Center. All are invited to this free concert.

PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY

Thursday, Dec. 7: Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day observes the attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii during World War II.

MAIN STREET HOLIDAY

Saturday, Dec. 9: Main Street Holiday has fun activities for the whole family. Visit downtown Annandale, from 1 to 6 p.m. There will be a Main Street Mile run before the event at 1 p.m. pictures with Santa, activities for the kids, hot chocolate, the Holiday Lights Parade and much more. See the story in this guide for more information, and watch the Advocate for details.



VISIT WITH SANTA

Sunday, Dec. 10: Visit with Santa at the South Haven City Hall from 1 to 3 p.m. Santa is bring some friends as well. There will be treats, the fishing tank and much more. All families are invited. This event is sponsored by the South Haven Sportsmen's Club.



Main Street Holiday

ain Street Holiday is a welcome tradition in Annandale's downtown. Residents and visitors can count on a festive afternoon and early evening to get in the holiday spirit. The event is planned for Saturday, Dec. 9.

Planned events include the Main Street Mile, a one mile run before the event starting at 1 p.m. Also scheduled is an elf scavenger hunt, pictures with Santa, holiday lights parade and more. This year, there will be carriage rides from a horse-drawn carriage.

Santa himself is planning on attending, and visiting with



10 & Heart of the Lakes Winter Guide



kids in local stores. Of course, Annandale's stores will be open for all your holiday shopping, and Annandale's restaurants will be open as well.

The Holiday Lights Parade is one of the highlights, as more than 20 units of festivally-lit floats light up Main Street. The parade starts at the middle school, takes Chestnut Street to Main Street, then turns at Birch Street to circle back to the school. It is scheduled to start at 5:30 p.m.

There will be plenty of food options at Main Street and local restaurants.

The event is sponsored by the Downtown Committee, a cooperative effort between the Annandale chamber and the city.

HOLIDAY TRAIN

Wednesday, Dec. 13: The Canadian Pacific Railway's Holiday Train will stop in Annandale at approximately 7:15 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14, near Oak Avenue and the railroad crossing. There will be entertainment, and bring a food shelf item or a donation. See the story in this guide.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Sunday, Dec. 17: The Annandale Lions Club will host a breakfast with Santa from 8:30 a.m. to noon at Annandale High School (note the new location). Kids eat free with an adult. There will be photos with Santa, gifts and cookies for all kids, and a delicious breakfast.

TUNES AND TREATS

Monday, Dec. 18: The Annandale High School and Middle School jazz bands will present a "Tunes and Treats" concert in the high school commons area at 7:30 p.m. Come and enjoy this festive holiday event. There is no admission charge.

WINTER BEGINS

Thursday, Dec. 21: It is the first day of winter.

CHRISTMAS EVE, CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday and Monday, Dec. 24-25: Celebrate Christmas Eve and Christmas Day with family and friends.



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WINTER BREAK

Monday Dec. 25 to Monday, Jan. 1: There is no school in the Annandale School District. Classes resume Tuesday, Jan. 2.

NEW YEAR'S AT 9

Sunday, Dec. 31: Bring in the New Year with this family-oriented event. Gather around at 8:45 p.m. to watch the ball drop at 9 p.m. at Clock Tower Park in downtown Annandale. A photo op will be available with Father Time and Baby New Year. See the story in this guide.



NEW YEAR'S DAY

Monday. Jan. 1: Time to start on those New Year's resolutions.

WINTER BREAK ENDS

Tuesday, Jan. 2: School resumes in the Annandale School District.

DOG SLEDDING

Friday and Saturday, Jan. 5, 6: The annual dog sledding program at Robert Ney Memorial Park will host a presentation on how Siberian Huskies are trained, followed by a 1.5 mile mush through the park. Times are 4 and 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 5 and 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m., and 2 p.m. Jan 6. Space is limited. Go to www.co.wright.mn.us or call 763-682-7693 for more information.

POTLUCK SUPPER

Tuesday, Jan. 9: Minnesota Pioneer Park will host a potluck meal at 6 p.m. Bring a dish to share.

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

Thursday, Jan. 11: A youth program for ages 6 to 13, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. Robert Ney Nature Center. There is a fee. Go to www. co.wright.mn.us or call 763-682-7693 for more information.



Rory Norgren



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Continued

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

Monday, Jan. 15: Today we celebrate the life and achievements of Martin Luther King Jr. Some businesses and organizations are closed. There are classes in the Annandale School District.

SNOWFLAKES

Wednesday Jan. 17: A program for youth ages 1 to 5, at Robert Ney Nature Center, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Explore the fascinating world of snowflakes. Go to www.co.wright.mn.us or call 763-682-7693 for more information.

TEACHER WORKSHOP DAY

Friday, Jan. 19: There is no school in the Annandale School District.

LANTERN CROSS-COUNTRY SKI

Saturday, Jan. 20: A 1.5 mile ski loop around the pond at Robert Ney Memorial Park will be illuminated by lanterns. There is no need for reservations, it is a come and go event from 6 to 9 p.m. It is free with your own skis, a fee if you rent skis. Go to www.co.wright.mn.us or call 763-682-7693 for more information.

WINTER WONDER KIDS

Tuesday, Jan. 23-Tuesday, Feb. 13: An after school program to embark on thrilling adventures in the great outdoors. For children ages 6-12. There is a fee. Go to www.co.wright.mn.us or call 763-682-7693 for more information.

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Holiday Train to stop again in Annandale

By Brenda Erdahl Annandale Advocate

The Canadian Pacific Holiday Train returns to Central Minnesota this year with a stop in Annandale on Wednesday, Dec. 13.

The 1,000-foot train with hundreds of thousands of LED lights is scheduled to arrive at 5:45 p.m. at the 5th Street NE railway crossing in Buffalo before arriving in Annandale.

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At 7:15 p.m. it will arrive at in Annandale near the Harris Street West railway crossing. Sometime between 6:30 and 7:15 p.m. it will pass through Maple Lake. For those wanting to catch a glimpse of the bedazzling locomotive, First Street on the south end of the Maple Lake Community Park is a good place to do it.

This is the CP Holiday Train's 25th year of touring. Throughout the holiday season it makes stops at large and small communities across the United States and Canada supporting the local food shelves by raising money, food, and awareness for food insecurity.

While it's a sight all on its own as it trundles across the country with its 14 brightly lit rail cars, each decorated with illuminated holiday designs, it's the show that will really fill your cup with holiday spirit. At 6 p.m. in Buffalo and 7:30 p.m. in Annandale, the train will open its side doors to a musical stage fit for a star – or two stars in this case.

Dallas Smith, a three-time Canadian Country Music Awards winner for Entertainer of the Year, is teaming up with MacKenzie Porter, a 15-time CCMA nominee, to deliver a toe-tapping holiday concert that is sure the warm the heart even if it's a cold night outdoors. But the real heart of the Holiday Train isn't the lights or the music. Its true purpose is to fight hunger.

For instance, between the CP Holiday Train's first stop in Annandale in 2004 and its last before the pandemic in 2019, it helped raise a total of \$272,560 and 24,557 pounds of food for the Annandale Food Shelf. That final year before the pandemic attracted an estimated 2,000 people to Annandale and generated \$36,000 in donations and 536 pounds of food.

In 2020, the Annandale food shelf still managed to raise \$21,900 despite COVID and no CP train. In 2021, CP hosted a virtual tour, and the local food shelf was able to raise \$31,000. That amount included a check of \$4,500 from Canadian Pacific.

Last year was the first year the Holiday Train was back, live and in person since 2020.

Donations

The donations go a long way in helping the Annandale Food Shelf provide groceries to families in need in its three communities - Annandale, Maple Lake, and South Haven. Donations over the years have also helped the local food shelf buy a used van and build a new building.

Since the Holiday Train program launched in 1999, it has raised more than \$21 million and collected 5 million pounds of food for community food banks across North America.

Holiday Train shows are free to attend, Canadian Pacific only asks attendees bring a cash or non-perishable food donation if they are able.

MOONLIT SNOWSHOE ADVENTURE

Thursday, Jan. 25: A night time adventure under a full moon will take place at 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Ney Park. Venture off the beaten path. Even if the skies are cloudy the hike will happen. There is a fee, which includes snowshoe rental and activity. Go to www.co.wright.mn.us or call 763-682-7693 for more information.



GROUNDHOG DAY

Friday, Feb. 2: Groundhog Day. Will the groundhog see its shadow?

MAPLE LAKE ICE FISHING DERBY

Saturday, Feb. 3: Maple Lake's 49th annual Ice Fishing Derby on Maple Lake. Many activities including arctic plunge, ice auger contest, vintage sled show, prizes, after party on the lake with music and more, it's billed as Minnesota's largest. Visit maplelakefishingderby.com for more information and watch the Annandale Advocate and Maple Lake Messenger for the special section prior to the derby.

AHS SNOW WEEK

Monday through Friday, Feb. 5-9: Annandale High School will be celebrating Snow Week. The week concludes with a dance on Saturday night.

AHS BAND CONCERT

Monday, Feb. 5: The Annandale High School choirs will present a concert at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center.

POTLUCK SUPPER

Tuesday, Feb. 6: Minnesota Pioneer Park will host a meal at 6 p.m. All members and friends of the park are welcome. Bring a dish to share.

KITES ON ICE

Saturday, Feb. 10: The Buffalo Chamber of Commerce presents the fifth annual Kites on Ice Festival from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Huge show kites, free kites for kids, dog sled rides and more. See the ad in this issue and visit www.buffalochamber. org/event/kites-ice-festival for more information.

SWEETHEART SNOWSHOE HIKE

Saturday, Feb. 10: This is a guided hike at the Bertram Chain of Lakes Park for couples celebrating Valentine's Day, followed

by a catered meal and other goodies, 6 to 8:30.p.m. There is a fee, and space is limited. Go to www.co.wright.mn.us or call 763-682-7693 for more information.

FAMILY SNOWSHOE HIKE

Sunday, Feb. 11: Discover winter's wonders on this hike at Robert Ney Memorial Park, 2 to 3:30 p.m. There is a fee. Go to www.co.wright.mn.us or call 763-682-7693 for more information.





Continued

AMS BAND CONCERT

Monday, Feb. 12: The Annandale Middle School Band Concert starts at 6 p.m. for sixth grade and 7 p.m. for seventh and eighth grade, in the high school Performing Arts Center. The public is invited and there is no charge.

MARDI GRAS

Tuesday, Feb. 13: Fat Tuesday, a carnival held most famously in New Orleans.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, Feb. 14: The first day of Lent.

VALENTINE'S DAY

Wednesday, Feb. 14: An opportunity to show how you feel about those you love.

ANNANDALE LIONS YOUTH FISHING CONTEST

Saturday, Feb. 17 (tentative): The annual Annandale Lions Youth Fishing Contest will be at the Pleasant Lake South City Public Access in the morning and early afternoon. Free to participate for kids 16 years old and under. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Weather and ice permitting. Watch the Advocate for more information.

WINTER FEST

Saturday, Feb. 17: Enjoy some frosty fun at Otsego Prairie Park, 10 to 2 p.m. There is no charge for this event. Snowshoe through the landscape, build a snowman or enjoy some dog sledding. Warm up with cocoa or cider. Go to www.co.wright.mn.us or call 763-682-7693 for more information.

PRESIDENTS DAY

Monday, Feb. 19: There is no school in the Annandale School District. There are also no classes on Friday, Feb. 16.

CLEARWATER LEGION FISH FRY AND AUCTION

Sunday, Feb. 25: The 66th annual Clearwater Legion Fish Fry and Auction will run from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Watch the Advocate for more details.



AHS CHOIR CONCERT

Monday, March 4: Annandale High School choir concert will be held at 7 p.m. at the high school Performing Arts Center. The concert is free and open to the public.

POTLUCK SUPPER

Tuesday, March 5: Minnesota Pioneer Park will host a meal at 6 p.m. All members and friends of the park are welcome. Bring a dish to share.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS

Sunday, March 10: Starts at 2 a.m. this morning. Move your clocks ahead one hour Saturday evening.

Take in 2024 a few hours early

A nnandale will once again take in the new year a few hours early thisyear. The unique winter tradition in focuses on the "New Year's at 9" Times Square style, lighted-crystal ball drop from the top of the Clock Tower at the Clock Tower Park, not at midnight but at 9 p.m.

This year's event will be on Sunday, Dec. 31. Since it started in 2014, the New Year's Eve ball drop event has been a popular attraction.





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It became even more popular since the time was changed to provide an opportunity for families to attend, thus allowing families with children to enjoy the tradition without having to stay up until midnight.

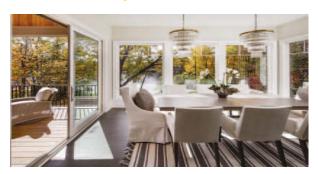
"Watching the excitement of the children who attend brings a special kind of community focus to the event," Vicki Morgan said, who coordinated the ball drop for many years and still helps out.

Father Time and Baby New Year will appear again this year, offering fun photo opportunities to celebrate with noisemakers, hats, and other celebratory effects.

The tower will be specially lit, and music from Flamingo Event Services will add to the festivities, which occur from about 8:45 to 9:15 p.m.

The entire community is invited to the ball drop, which is sponsored by the Annandale Chamber of Commerce.

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ST. PATRICK'S DAY FESTIVAL

Saturday, March 16: The annual Maple Lake St. Patrick's Day Festival includes a craft sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Maple Lake gymnasium. Registration for the Irish Scamper 5K at 9 a.m. and the Grande Day Parade beginning at 1:30 p.m., plus much more. Watch the Advocate for more details.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Sunday, March 17: A day to celebrate Irish heritage.

AMS CHOIR CONCERT

Monday, March 18: The Annandale Middle School Choir Concert starts at 6 p.m. for sixth grade and 7 p.m. for seventh and eighth grade, in the high school Performing Arts Center. The public is invited and there is no charge.

FIRST DAY OF SPRING

Tuesday, March 19: Winter's hold is nearly broken.

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, March 29: Annandale schools are closed and some businesses observe the holiday. Many churches hold services.

SPRING BREAK

Monday through Friday, March 25-29: Spring break for the Annandale schools. Classes resume Tuesday, April 2.

EASTER EGG HUNTS

Saturday, March 30: South Haven's Easter Egg Hunt starts at 9 a.m. at the city park. Annandale's hunt starts at 10 a.m. at the Annandale Municipal Park. See the Advocate for more details.



EASTER

Sunday, March 31: Celebrate the resurrection of Christ with family and friends.

April

ANNANDALE BUSINESS EXPO

Saturday, April 6: The Annandale Area Chamber of Commerce's annual business expo will be held from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Annandale High School. Check the Advocate for updates.

AMS and AHS JAZZ CONCERT

Monday, April 8: Annandale Middle School and Annandale High School jazz concert, 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center. All are welcome.

POTLUCK SUPPER

Tuesday, April 2: Minnesota Pioneer Park will host a meal at 6 p.m. All members and friends of the park are welcome. Bring a dish to share.

TAX DAY

Monday, April 15: Income taxes are due today.

EARTH DAY

Monday, April 22: This year marks the 54th anniversary.

Bar & Grill

Explore MAIN STREET

nnandale'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, jewelry, fine dining, coffee stops 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.

Shore House Outfitters

Just up the street a few doors is one of Annandale's newest shops, Shore House Outfitters, which opened in May or 2022. Big changes for the store are coming in 2024 as owners Christy and Topher McKinlay embark on a new Main Street project, in which they will make an even larger footprint. Meanwhile, the Shore House building will get a new tenant that is sure to bring more products and excitement to downtown.





Annandale Advocate

Across the street is the Advocate, Annandale's oldestt continuous business. There you can pick up books that give you a glimpse of the 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. 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.

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. In the summer of 2023, the expanded into a former dental office.

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.

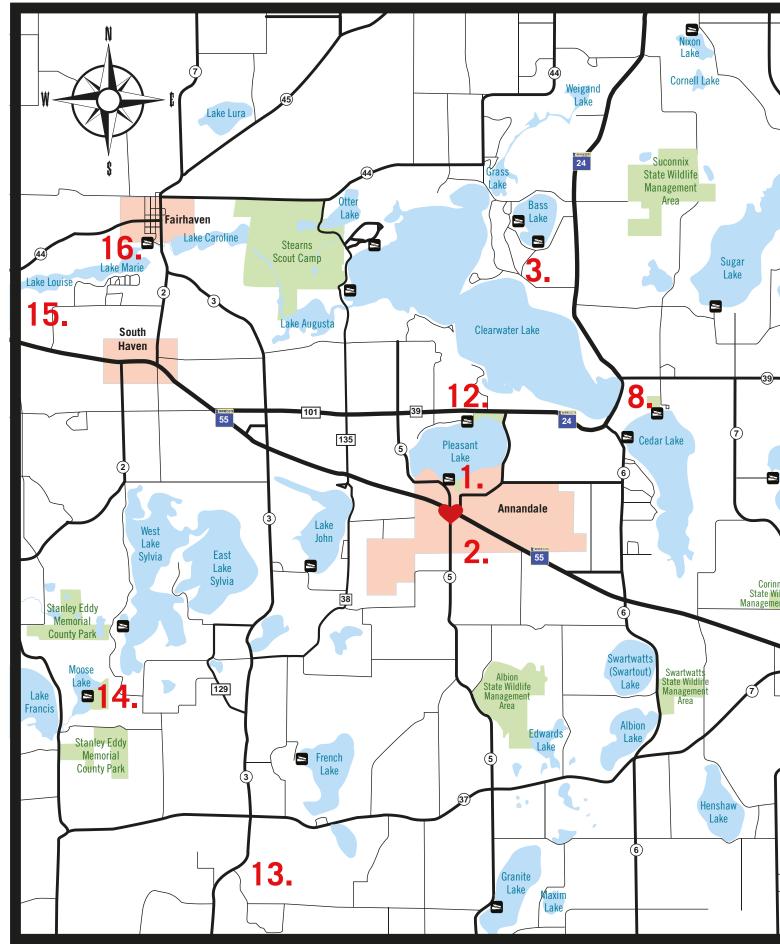
Whether you're in need of items for a fix-it-quick day at the lake or a larger-scale project, Kaz Hardware has the right equipment and the expertise to share some friendly advice.

Annandale Embroidery

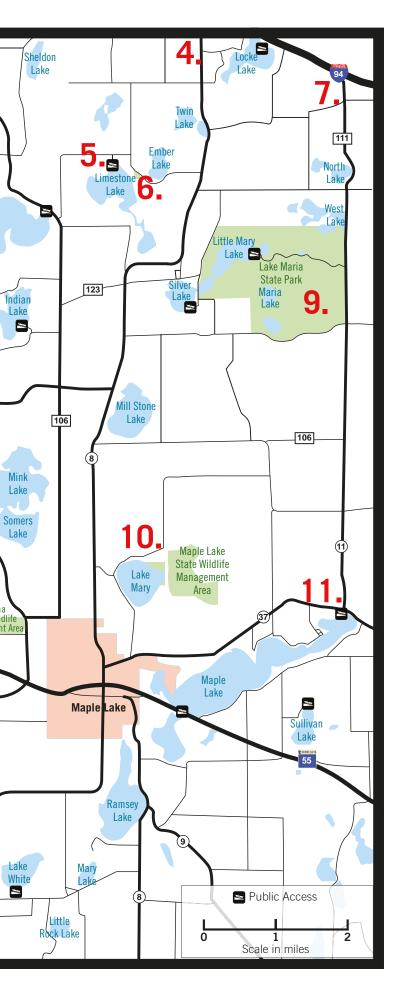
Annandale Embroidery and Apparel has been a fixture of downtown since 2006. They are a custom apparel shop specializing in embroidery and heat printing services to outfit businesses, organizations and teams of all sizes. All work and services are done in house. In 2022, laser engraving was added to

> Shops Turn to page 22





20 & Heart of the Lakes Winter Guide



- 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, 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



From page 19

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, Minnesota-made chocolates, ultimate sundaes, cakes with real ice cream, nostalgic candy, bath products, and unique gifts for everyone.

With friendly customer service, and an amazing atmosphere, Sweet Escape, is a must stop for those with a sweet tooth or those who know someone with one - in other words, everyone! **Tin Roof Candle Company**

Tin Roof Candle Company is Annandale's newest addition to Main Street.

Opened in the summer of 2023, Jenifer



Munson makes her own candles from natural and synthetic ingredients. They are made to strict safety standards. Tin Roof holds workshops on candle making and sells other products as well.

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 screenprint-

ing 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

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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.

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!

Kat's Lake Country Antiques

Add a short distance to your journey by heading west down Cedar Street to the former Annandale Co-op Creamery building, and you'll be at Kat's Lake Country Antiques, which opened in the winter of 2022.

You might say that antiques are in owner Kathleen Nystrom's blood. The Annandale native along with a number of vendors are located on Maple Avenue at the former Vintage Style Market location. There you can step back in the past and browse countless antiques beautifully displayed in a rustic setting.

Vintage Patina

From Kat's, go west a few short steps and you're at Vintage Patina. Owners Tiera Marsh and David Anderson remodeled the classic building, the former Petty Bros. Meat Market, keeping some of the original architecture with the old style block wall and windows.

This timeless treasures and local artisan creations shop features speciality 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. You will not want to miss this stop to complete your journey.

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 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.

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 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.



MOWA



Explore DING

The essence of community, of friendship and of solidarity, can often be found around the table, in the act of sharing a meal and conversation.

That was the belief of a small group of community residents who in 2016 organized the annual Field to Feast event that brought more than 300 diners together at the close of the summer. After a two-year absense, the event is now the Feast of Friends, a branch of ACT (Annandale Area Community Team). much like the Clocktower Park, Summer Music in the Park and the Farmers Market. It was held two nights this past summer, with hundreds of people attending. Look for the feast again in the late summer of 2024.

Whether summer or winter, the connection between food and hospitality, and the same principal of food as a conduit to fellowship applies to any group of people who chooses to visit one of the area's fine establishments to share a meal, beverages and time together. There are plenty of other fundraising meals held throughout the fall and winter as well – from pancake breakfasts to the Christ Child Luncheon and more.

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.

Enjoy your food, and build relationships in the process.





24 & Heart of the Lakes Winter Guide

Foraging for food in the center of the state

By Kris Potter

White the seems that food becomes one of those things that warms our houses, gatherings and spirits. Windy, snowy, cold afternoons become perfect bread baking days, sparkling winter mornings ideal for coffee and a sweet treat with friends and dark evenings a bowl of soup and slab of that homemade bread from earlier in the day make a simple filling meal.

For me, it's easy to get wrapped up and stressed out about creating the perfect meal and doing all the work myself. But, after the last few years when gatherings had to be curtailed, being with friends and family is more important then ever to me. It dawned on me that I personally could cook every food item for my guests, or...don't tell ... I could forage and gather food that brings some sparkle and fun to the table and is already prepared. So in no particular order, here are some fun Central Minnesota food items that are within a short drive.

Great Harvest Bakery in St. Cloud has three items I always stock up on if I



am in town doing errands. Garlic herb butter, great on that bread you made, or melted over cooked vegetables...delightful! Parmesan fennel bread sticks- a perfect pairing for that soup you made. Finally their cranberry wild rice bread results in a sandwich to remember.

St. Joseph has become a destination for gathering specialty food finds. Flour and Flower for delicate and rich cookies or crispy pie crust sticks. Milk and Honey Ciders for non-alcoholic apple cider Pomme de Vie. This cider has a delicate wine like flavor and is a great option for those going alcohol free or reducing alcohol consumption for health reasons.

We were lucky enough to have Cold \$pring Bakery prepare our wedding ¢ake 40 years ago. It's so fun to see the þakery still busy on a Saturday morning. We recently tried their

frozen pizza rolls and will be going back for more to stash in our freezer for the hext visit from our adult children, one of whom was the king of commercially made pizza rolls in his high school years.

Brats, more

For the brat lovers, I don't really know where to start, but let's begin at Petty Brothers Meats Inc ... choose your favorite brat. Keep driving to Clearwater to hit up McDonald's Meats for your favorite there and if the weather is good swing way back to the St Joe meat market for the best in their case. Head home, heat up the grill on a warm winter day and have a cook off to compare!

Foraging see page 26





From page 25

Closer to home, Fairhaven Farm stocks their wide variety of jams that are great on toast, or if warmed gently can make a great sauce for meat or veggies. Just inside the door, their frozen pies and apple crisps are an excellent standby to have at home for surprise visits by friends.

For local honey, head downtown to Vintage Patina or In Hot Water coffee shop to stock up! Olson Century Farm also supplies the shops with a unique barbecue sauce and delectable local maple syrup too. It's truly more delicious to cook with items grown and harvested locally.

For a light and fun cookie with coffee or tea, Robin Hoeft creates macarons and can be reached via her website www. mycustombakes.com for orders or follow her fun instagram at @_Midwest_Macarons.

So gather, call your friends, neighbors and family and have them over for a meal, coffee, or just dessert. The house doesn't have to be perfectly clean, as my long time cleaning lady always said before our yearly Christmas party," They're just going to mess up the house anyway!" There is something very special about gathering around a table at home where guests are served, conversations heard and the gift of food is shared.

Call ahead to these establishments for hours and availability of each item:

- Great Harvest Bread St. Cloud 320-259-4622
- Flour and Flower St. Joseph, 320-557-0170
- Milk and Honey Ciders, 320-271-3111
- Petty Brothers Meats, 320-274-5615



- McDonald's Meats, 320-743-2311
- St. Joseph Meat Market Inc., 320-363-4913
- Fairhaven Farm, 320-236-7685
- Vintage Patina, 320-261-5267
- It Hot Water coffee shop, 320-274-6828

Kris Potter and her husband Mike have had a cabin on Lake Sylvia for many years. They rebuilt it recently and have made it their home.



26 & Heart of the Lakes Winter Guide



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- Vibrant Business Community
- Residential and Commercial **Development Opportunities**
- 26 Area Lakes in 10 mile radius
- Historic Minnesota Pioneer Park
- Historic 4th of July Celebration

WinterEvents

- 🎔 Small Business Saturday Saturday, Nov. 25 Tree Lighting at Clock Tower Park
- 🎔 Main Street Holiday Saturday, Dec. 9
- 🎔 Canadian Pacific Holiday Train Wednesday, Dec. 13
- New Year's Eve Ball Drop Sunday, Dec. 31
- School Performances & Activities

Visit www.isd876.org for details and see the calendar in this Guide

🎔 Many Other Activities

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–Explore –

reathtaking beauty is a year-round benefit of living in the Heart of the Lakes. The warm green and blue hues of summer shift and intensify with the entrance of autumn, then fade as the browns and grays of November settle in. That austere landscape, oftenpunctuated by spectacular sunrises and sunsets during the "month of clouds," has an appeal of its own, but its time is limited before the arrival of winter with its heavy white blanket and long, dark nights.

Life on the lakes changes with the seasons, but there is no need to mourn the passage of warm waters and sunlit ripples.

The frozen surface become accessible to new events and activities that are available to everyone, not just those with watercraft or lakeshore property.

Fishing remains popular during the winter months, with vehicles and ice shanties creating new roads and villages. The offshore landscape includes wide open spaces that can be explored by snowmobiling or cross country skiing. If firm ice is established before snow arrives, the lake becomes an unparalleled skating surface. There is a haunting mystery in the star-filled skies viewed far

from the city lights on a frozen lake at night. There is an aching silence in the breeze, which bears none of the busy noises of a summer evening. There are no croaking frogs or buzzing insects, no bedtime bird songs, only the soft sigh of loose snow sliding across the hardened crust that caps earlier snowfalls, and the occasional groan or crack of shifting ice.

Time spent outdoors in the winter, appreciating a new world that cannot be duplicated at any other time of year, quickens the senses to small glimpses of life and movement: the ripple of water in a partially frozen stream, the sight of a cardinal or blue jay against the drab backdrop of skeletal trees, or the shadow of a deer slipping into a thicket.

Life is different in the Heart of the Lakes when summer fades, but it is no less beautiful. Go forth and explore.

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Explore SPORTS & REC

sk just about anyone, and you'll hear that hunting and fishing are favorite pastimes around the Annandale region. With 26 lakes in a 10mile radius of the city, fishing opportunities are limited only by an angler's endurance.

Woodlands, wetlands and plenty of open space also make hunting a profitable endeavor in the area.

Athletic opportunities abound as well, with unique features like Powder Ridge just a few miles up the road, in Kimball, a hockey rink and plenty of gym space in town, and much more.

Cross country skiing, snowshoeing, skating and other opportunities are offered at some of the area's parks. Lake Maria State Park in Silver Creek Township is one of the area's true gems, with many miles of trails that have made the park a popular winter destination.

Robert Ney Memorial Park Reserve near Maple Lake is one of the finest cross country skiing areas in the county, and equipment rentals are available during certain hours. The park is also a wonderful place to take in the fall colors with a hike. The same can be said for Stanley Eddy Memorial Park Reserve in French Lake Township, which offers a more rugged landscape to challenge skiers and hikers alike. Explore the trails far enough, and you'll soon find yourself at the highest point of elevation in Wright County.

Snowmobiling is a popular winter pastime as well. The Wright County Snowmobile Association is the main organizing body for snowmobilers in the region, but the Annandale area has a few clubs of its own, including the Snow Haven Drift Demons and the Annandale Snowmobile Club. The Drift Demons now maintain over 60 miles of trails in the area, and also install signs so that those passing through who aren't familiar with the area can find food and gas.

Regardless of one's interests, the Heart of the Lakes offers

numerous opportunities to stay active over the fall and winter months.

A tale of two basins

By Jerry Carlson

T t was an invitation from a couple of fellow anglers that brought me to this small, central Minnesota lake. It was a body of water I had never fished before and lacked a public access. Because of this, I was told it received very little fishing pressure in the winter months.

After we rendezvoused at a family residence on the lake, we discussed the crappie fishing options that were available to us. According to the map, there were two deep basins in the lake that bottomed out around 30 feet. My hosts suggested we try the smaller of the two basins because they had caught crappies there in the past.

The wheeler ride down the steep embankment was interesting, to say the least. If we received any more snow, the pathway to the lake would become impassable. Once on the ice we began the process of searching for fish.

Being able to work as a team to locate fish is always a nice option. With a couple of people drilling holes and the third checking the depth and looking for suspended fish with a Vexilar, it is possible to cover considerable water in a hurry.

I am a big fan of targeting deep basins for crappies in the winter months. Unless the water is gin clear, crappies will head to deep water to spend the winter. The depth offers some security to the fish as well as supplying them with an ample number of invertebrates for food.

I rarely find the fish suspended over the deepest part of the basin. Typically, they will be located on the slope where the depth is just a little shallower. This is exactly where we found the first group of fish.

After catching a number of crappies, we realized these fish were all small. Six-inch crappies bode well for future years of fishing but really weren't what we were interested in. We opted to move to the second basin.

According to the map, there was a distinct finger of deep water that protruded out from the basin. Since fish seem to be attracted to something in their environment that is a little different, we decided to give this oddity in the structure a try. It was a good decision!

It took very little time for us to locate suspended fish. Although the crappies were not monster fish, they ranged in size from ten-to-eleven-inches. That is perfect for fish I like to eat. A drop kick jig tipped with plastic brought lots of action.

Finding fish in the winter months is always a challenge for anglers. For this reason, I keep targeting deep basins when searching out crappies. The trick can be finding the part of the basin the fish are using. Once I do locate fish, I mark the spot on my GPS as crappies will typically use the same general area each winter.

As for the small lake we targeted on this outing, I found it interesting that one of the basins held small crappies and the other had bigger fish. Although they appeared to be very similar to us, the fish thought differently.

Our success for the day was definitely due to the fact we did not give up and continued searching for fish. As it turned out, this fishing trip was truly a tale of two basins.

Jerry Carlson, St. Augusta, has fished the Annandale-South Haven area lakes for many years.



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An active chamber

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.

2023-24 officers

PresidentJeremy WheelerTreasurerAleah EdwardsSecretaryStacy Rasset

Other members of the chamber's board of directors are David Burd, Mike Zieska, Kelly Hinnenkamp, Mona Volden and Christy McKinlay.

Amanda Amundson handles the chamber's communications.

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 historic Fourth of July Celebration, featuring a large parade, the Annandale Queen Coronation and fireworks in



- the evening at the municipal park, and much more
- Annual Golf Tournament
- Trick-or-Treat at Chamber businesses
- Regular meetings and social events
- Shop local campaign
- New business welcoming
- Downtown Committee



Heart of the Lakes Winter Guide * 35

Explore CHURCHES











Holy Cross Lutheran Church LCMC' School Year Schedule (Labor Day - Memorial Day) Sunday Services 8:00 & 10:30 am Wednesday Service 6:00 pm 5460 63rd St NW, Maple Lake 763-463-9447 www.holycrossmaplelake.org

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(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 Like us on Facebook 🛐









For more information go online to: www.stjohns-annandale.org 9:30 am - Education Hour 10:30 am - Contemporary WEDNESDAY WORSHIP 6 pm - Messy Worship



MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Mass - 5:00 pm Sunday Masses -8:30 am and 10:30 am Daily Mass -Mondays 6:00 pm, Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays 8:00 am

35 Birch Street E, Annandale, MN 55302 320-274-8828 www.stignatiusmn.com Pastor: Fr. John Meyer

RECONCILIATION

5:30 pm Mondays 4:30 pm Saturdays

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Last Thursday of the month 8:30 am - 7 pm



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