

# Lake Country Lure

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ANNANDALE  
Advocate

The Maple Lake  
MESSENGER

## Maple Lake Chamber of Commerce

By Brenda Erdahl

### Good for the community, good for business

Maple Lake is known as the small town with big events and it's because of the local chamber of commerce.

With 77 members, the Maple Lake Chamber of Commerce is not overly big, but its events like the St. Patrick's Day Parade and Gear-Head Get Together brings thousands of people to town every year.

The goal of the chamber is to improve the vitality of the community and make Maple Lake a great place to live and do business. They do that by building relationships among the businesses then working together to promote the community with some really fun events.

Just this year, the chamber's newly formed Small Business Group came up with the idea of a summer-long Makers and Growers market. The first event in May attracted 30-plus vendors and crowds of people. There was live music, food and crafters selling unique home grown and home crafted items. The market took place one Sunday a month through October and every event drew a crowd.

"It was super successful," said Chamber President Nick Pawlenty. "It attracted a lot of people to our downtown and its businesses. Now we're concentrating on fundraising so we can keep the event as big next year as it was this year."

The Gear-Head Get Together is a car show and much, much more that brings in more than 1,000 cars and 150 motorcycles for a display that takes over much of the town. The event, which takes place in August, also features live music, food stands and a swap meet.

In February, the Maple Lake Ice Fishing Derby takes place, which the chamber doesn't put on itself, but supports and right around St. Patrick's Day in March, the chamber hosts the city's big St. Patrick's Day festival.

The Chamber also hosts a handful of smaller events like Christmas in Maple Lake, Business Trick or Treat, the All-City Garage Sale, Fall Craft Fair and other seasonal activities and occasions.

"We're striving with our big events to draw people in and to keep them returning for our smaller events too," Pawlenty said.

Sometimes smaller events have a way of turning into larger occasions as well, such is the enthusiasm of chamber volunteers. Take for instance Christmas in Maple Lake. Although always popular for families with children, this year organizers strived to make it more inclusive for all ages, not just the little ones.

The result was an all-day event that started with children's activities in the morning, including photos with Santa Claus, live reindeer and smore roasting over an open fire, and in the evening featured live music, food and a drink tent, a bonfire, vintage snowmobile show and lighting ceremony.

"Other chamber presidents are always saying for such a small town we have a lot of great things, that's because everyone works together; we are a tight knit group," Pawlenty said.

A business community that promotes its town promotes itself, but the chamber is also interested in how it can help its members in more specific ways. That's why they have made it their goal to find out what local businesses need and want.

"I want to make sure our chamber members are taken care of. We want our members to achieve something attainable through the chamber, and with that serve our community to the fullest," he said.

Being a member of the Chamber of Commerce gives business owners and individuals the opportunity to come together monthly to inform one another of events, updates or happenings going on in their businesses. It's at these meetings that they can plan and talk about opportunities available through numerous community events. Being involved with this group of individuals affords a company the opportunity to meet with other business owners and involved community members to form long-lasting relationships. It is a terrific networking mechanism.

In addition to networking, being a member of the chamber offers great



The Maple Lake Chamber's newest event, The Makers and Growers Market attracted dozens of vendors and crowds of people one Sunday a month from May through October in 2023. The chamber of commerce has hosted many events over the years such as the St. Patrick's Day Parade and Christmas in Maple Lake which attracts thousands of people to town each year.

ways for business owners to increase their exposure. The names of all member businesses are published in the chamber's resident newcomer packet that is distributed to new residents of the area. Member businesses are also listed in chamber newspaper ads and can have their business website linked to the chamber website. The chamber has a Facebook page for members to keep up to date with happenings in town and to share their promotions or events and they get discounted pricing on the use of the chamber's Highway 55 finger board messaging signs positioned on both

ends of town.

For those who want to get even more involved, the chamber will soon be looking for a new secretary, vice president and president. Kathy Hennen, chamber treasurer for the past 14 years, is serving her last two-year term and that position will need to be filled as well.

"Hennen has been a mainstay of the chamber, and we are thankful for all she does. She has worked selflessly for the chamber all these years," Pawlenty said.

If being a board member isn't quite what you are looking for, the chamber is also in need of volunteers to help with the many community events it puts on. Pawlenty himself isn't just the chamber president, he also organizes the St. Patrick's Day Grand Day Parade. Thousands of people turn out annually for this 47-year-old festival in March that features the 5K Irish Scamper, craft fair and Grand Day Parade.

The organization has one main fundraiser, which at one point was the Irish Party. This has been replaced with a cash raffle that will be for purchase starting in February. Please visit local businesses that month to purchase tickets for a chance to win big cash prizes.

The other way the chamber makes money is by its membership fees which Pawlenty said is one of the lowest of any chamber in the county. Because of all the benefits the

Maple Lake Chamber of Commerce can offer, it has become home to a broad spectrum of members, from large industrial corporations to small, downtown shops.

The chamber also has several members that are not businesses, including the City of Maple Lake, the Maple Lake Lions, the Maple Lake School District, St. Timothy's Church, and Bethlehem United Church of Christ. All work together to make Maple Lake a better place for its residents and its businesses.

Businesses and organizations can join the Maple Lake Chamber of Commerce anytime throughout the year. The chamber meets at noon the first Wednesday of each month at a local restaurant. Join them for lunch or contact Pawlenty for more information. He can be reached at 963-3813 or nick@maplelakemessenger.com.

"We are always looking for new businesses to join our group," Pawlenty said. "We want to make sure this year benefits our local businesses to the fullest, because when we achieve that it will reflect in our commerce sections and our community. When our businesses succeed, our community succeeds, and we succeed."



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The Gear-Head Get Together is another chamber event that brings a lot of people to town. It always takes place the third Saturday in August.

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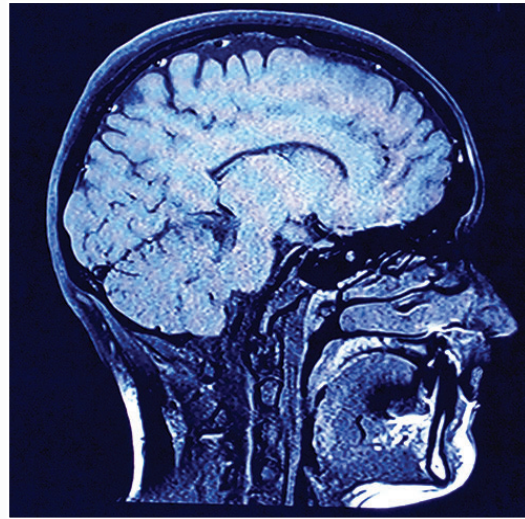
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# Five Resolutions to Benefit the Brain



**Contributed Report**

**R**esolutions made at the start of a new year often focus on personal improvement. Giving up poor habits like

smoking or drinking too much alcohol and losing weight through diet and exercise are some popular resolutions.

Health and wellness certainly dominate the resolution landscape. Improvement-minded individuals interested in gaining long-term benefits from their resolutions this year may want to consider ways to improve brain health and function. Here are five ideas to consider.

**1. Get Moving**

Exercise does the body good and even positively affects the brain. The American Academy of Neurology has found aerobic exercise may play a significant role in reversing and preventing cognitive decline. Researchers have found that even a little exercise each day can result in improved brain function in less than six months. Andrew E. Budson, M.D., a professor of neurology at Boston University, also says aerobic exercise releases growth factors in the brain, which can help grow new brain cells.

**2. Start a new hobby**

When doing the same activities over and over, you eventually learn how to do those activities better. But doctors can't confirm this is actually helping the brain in a meaningful way. Rather, there is evidence that doing new things can be beneficial to the brain. So learning a new hobby, taking a class, or even learning to play a musical instrument can push the brain to improve from a cognitive

standpoint, indicates The Healthy, a Reader's Digest brand.

**3. Make more time for fun**

Repeated stress can have detrimental effects on the body and mind. Harvard Health says stress has been linked to cognitive problems and a higher risk for Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Taking time to relax and enjoy oneself can tame stress, and in turn, alleviate issues affecting memory and cognition.

**4. Practice mindfulness often**

Mindfulness is an exercise in paying attention to one's surroundings, senses and more. Too often people are multi-tasking and never fully devoting their attention to one thing. Mindfulness gives the brain a break and brings a person into the present.

**5. Eat a better diet**

The benefit of eating healthy foods extends beyond the waistline. Many of the foods that are good for the heart are important for preventing cognitive decline and dementia. A 2015 systemic review found strong evidence for a protective effect of the Mediterranean diet, according to researchers at Deakin University School of Medicine in Australia.

By making brain health a priority when coming up with New Year's resolutions this year, individuals can benefit for years to come.

## Snowmobile safety tips

By Minnesota DNR

The snowmobile season is almost upon us and staying safe while riding is paramount. Watching your speed, riding to the right, and staying on the trail are three of the best ways to do that.

- Watch the weather and check trail conditions before riding. Don't ride in adverse weather conditions. Plan your trip and check the trails you'll be riding prior to departure. Check trail conditions and see trail maps at [www.dnr.state.mn.us/snow\\_depth/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/snow_depth/index.html)

- Don't drink alcohol and ride. Alcohol is a factor in over 60% of all fatal accidents in Minnesota, as well as many non-fatal snowmobile accidents.

- Always ride with a friend on another snowmobile. This way if one machine is disabled, you have another to get help.

- Dress for safety and survival. Always wear a quality DOT helmet and facemask. Wear layers of clothing to keep warm and dry. Snowmobile suits, bibs, jackets, gloves and mittens should cut the wind, repel water and keep you ventilated.

- Slow down. Excessive speed is a major factor in many accidents, especially at night. To help avoid accidents, keep your nighttime speed under 40 MPH.

- Almost every trail is a "two way" trail. So stay to the far right of the trail, especially on hills and corners. Obey all trail signs and cross roadways with extreme caution.

- Stay on the trail or stay home. Trespassing is a major complaint about snowmobilers and can result in trail closure. Always stay on designated snowmobile trails. Venturing off of trails can result in accidents. Only ride private property when you have landowners permission.

**Snowmobiles and ATVs are both allowed to ride shared use trails in winter**

- Both snowmobiles and ATVs are allowed to ride the Matthew Lourey State Trail and the Nemadji and St. Croix state forest trails in winter.

- ATVs are only allowed to ride when the air temperature is 30°F or below. This helps to keep trails sustainable and increases safety for everyone, including trail groomers.

- Remember that you may encounter snowmobiles, ATVs and pedestrians on the trail.

**Riding on ice - lakes & rivers**

It is safest to avoid riding on lakes and rivers. If you must ride on ice, wear a life jacket over your outer clothing. Stay on the marked trail and stay off of ice that has moving water (current) near or under it - ice in these areas may be thin and weak.

**Take a Snowmobile Safety Training Course**

Designed to educate the student on basic snowmobile operation, laws and regulations, and safety. Go to [www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/vehicle/snowmobile/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/vehicle/snowmobile/index.html) for more information on snowmobile training.

## Library Winter Reading Challenge begins



Challenge yourself to read more this winter with Great River Regional Library's Winter Reading Challenge.

**Contributed report**

Get perched on reading! Challenge yourself to read more this season with the Winter Reading Challenge at the Great River Regional Library.

"Perched on Reading," the 2024 Winter Reading Challenge begins Monday, January 2, 2024, and runs through Tuesday, February 28.

This challenge provides fun incentives for readers to settle into cozy winter reading habits. It is designed primarily for teens and adults and is open to anyone in the 6th grade or older. Each of the 32 branch libraries in the GRRL system will have prize drawings for participants. All book lovers need to do is register for the program at a branch library, online at [grivver.beanstack.org](http://grivver.beanstack.org), or on the Beanstack Tracker app.

Readers can log their winter reading either using a log from their library or our tracker app, Beanstack. By downloading and using the app, readers can keep track of their reading,

get book recommendations, and earn online badges to help make reading a habit. Count your time spent reading to be eligible for online badges and prizes. Branches will have drawings for special "Perched on Reading" coffee mugs and winter hats at the end of the program.

The library's first Winter Reading program took place in 2004, and participation has increased every year since. Many of the region's libraries now schedule special events to support the program and encourage winter reading.

Great River Regional Library (GRRL) provides library services at 32 public libraries and one to-go system in Benton, Morrison, Sherburne, Stearns, Todd and Wright Counties. GRRL2GO is a locker system that allows you to pick up items at the Sartell Community Center. GRRL supplies the residents of Central Minnesota with nearly 1 million books, CDs, DVDs, 250 public computers, and information services.

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# Ward off winter woes at the public library

## Annandale Public Library

30 Cedar Street East, Annandale  
**1,000 Books Before Kindergarten** is a reading program designed to increase the awareness of early literacy and to encourage parents to embrace their role as their child's first teacher. Plus, there are prizes! This program is ongoing, so you can sign up anytime! No limit, please come to the library to register. Sponsored by the Annandale Friends of the Library and the Great River Regional Library.  
 When: Ongoing

**Basic Computer & Internet Help** Do you need help setting up an email account, doing a basic web search, using Word or Excel on your PC? An experienced volunteer is willing to help! Walk in or call ahead: 320.274.8448.  
 When: Tuesday and Friday mornings, 9 to 11 a.m.

**Popcorn and a Movie** Spring is nowhere in sight, until then borrow a DVD from our movie collection on Friday or Saturday through March 20 and a take-home package of microwave popcorn to enjoy. Sponsored by the Annandale Area Friends of the Library.

**Preschool Fridays** Preschoolers are invited to the library on Fridays to interact with small learning stations that will allow exploration, playing and learning with one or two of their favorite adults. Stations are set up for participants to come and go as time and attention span permits. Stations will be rotated. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Sponsored by Annandale

Improvement Club.  
 When: Fridays, January through April, during library open hours

**Tiny Art Show** Connect with your inner artist in our Tiny Art Show! Starting January 3, you can pick up a tiny paint kit, while supplies last. Use what is in the kit and other materials to create your own 3"x 3" masterpiece. Bring in your finished artwork with a completed information slip by Jan. 30 to be on display through the month of February. The library reserves the right to exclude any work. Artists can pick up their artwork in March. For ages 13 and up. Sponsored by the Annandale Friends of the Library.  
 When: Wednesday, Jan. 3 – pick-up begins; Tuesday, Jan. 30 – drop-off deadline; February – art on display

**Annandale Library Book Club** Looking for some engaging conversation while meeting new people? Join us at the library this winter to discuss our next book selection, *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* by Muriel Barbery. Call the library directly or go online to reserve a copy of the book today! For adults and seniors. No registration required.  
 When: Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2:30 p.m.

**Tech Tutors** Trouble understanding your laptop, iPad, Kindle, or other electronic devices? Would you like to download books from the library website, or use Ebooks MN, but are not sure how to proceed? A Tech Tutor is here to help! Call ahead or drop in for individual help from a Great River Regional Librarian.

When: Wednesdays, Jan. 17 and Feb. 14, 2 to 4 p.m.

**Alcohol Ink Water Bottles** Alcohol inks are brightly colored dye-based paints that are most often used in creating free flowing textures. They can be used alone in mixed media projects such as printing and stamping, jewelry making, fabric dyeing, and brightening up household objects. In class, you will experiment with alcohol ink and create a beautiful one-of-a-kind water bottle to take home. For ages 15 to adult. Limit 12. Registration required. This program was made possible with Arts & Cultural Heritage Funds from Minnesota's Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment.  
 When: Wednesday, Jan. 24, 5:30 to 8 p.m.

**Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament** Gather a group of four friends to form a team, select a team name and enjoy a morning of puzzling fun! Each team receives the same puzzle and teams try to put the puzzle together the fastest. Six team limit. Register with team name. Ages 12 to adult. Sponsored by the Annandale Area Friends of the Library.  
 When: Saturday, Feb. 10, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

## Buffalo Public Library

18 NW Lake Blvd Buffalo  
**Marvelous Mondays: ECFE Storytime** Join us for a family story time. Program includes books read aloud, a story-based activity or craft, and time to browse the library shelves. Registration required. Limit 30.  
 When: Mondays, Jan. 8 & 22 and Feb. 5, 12 & 26, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

**Exploration Station** Join Mr. Gregg for hands on STEM activities that will teach young people about the world around them. Bring your imagination! Each session will bring a new building kit and experiments. Registration required. For ages 9 to 12 years. Limit 10 children, but parents or guardians are welcome to stay and work with their child. This program was made possible with generous donations from the library's Locally Growin' fundraiser.  
 When: Thursdays, Jan. 18 and Feb. 15, 4 to 5 p.m.

**Adult Book Club.** Enjoy discussion of a book from our collection that we hope will stimulate conversation every third Thursday each month. Bring suggestions of your own for future book club discussions. Books selected from GRRL's collection of Book Club Kits. For adults. Limit 15. February book discussion will be on Sherman's Wood-ticks by Paul Hodnefield.  
 When: Thursdays, Jan. 18 and Feb. 15,



Enjoy the ongoing 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program at the Annandale Library and earn prizes while increasing awareness of early literacy.

6:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
 \*Wright County Historical Society invites book club members on February 24 from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. for a special Author visit by Paul Hodnefield.

**Great River Children's Museum Hands-On Experiment: Let's Experiment!** Join Great River Children's museum for mind-blowing science experiments. Then, take a few minutes to experiment with liquid densities and make your own Storm Sensory Bottles. For ages 3 and up. We encourage adults to join their child(ren) in all Great River Children's Museum programming to strengthen bonds and encourage the joy of play together.  
 When: Friday, Jan. 19, 3 to 5 p.m.

**Gardening Series-Master Gardeners** Join Master Gardeners from Wright County in this winter gardening series at the Buffalo Library:

**Foodscaping:** How to Create an Edible Landscape by Jake Lunemann—Saturday, Jan. 20, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Winter Sowing:** A Simple Way to Start Seeds Outdoors by Patricia Aveces—Saturday, Feb. 17, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Turf Talk:** Solutions for Lawn Care by Beth Geelan—Saturday, March 16, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

No registration required.

**Procraftinators.** Join us for an hour and a half of creating and community building! Bring your choice of craft, nee-

dlework included, or use one of our provided free crafts. Group discussions will focus on different materials, techniques, and inspiration! For teens, adults, and seniors. Registration required. Limit 20.  
 When: Thursdays, Jan. 25 and Feb. 22, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

**Games with Kim.** Fit-ivities fun before going back to school. This is a great game for kids to be active and engage their bodies & minds while having fun together. For ages 6 to 10. Registration required. Limit 10.  
 When: Friday, Jan. 28, 1 to 2 p.m.

**Spring Preschool Story time** Join guest story time leader Ms. Rachael at the Buffalo Public Library for a story time this fall! Each story time will engage children's curiosity, while developing important literacy skills and fostering a life-long love of reading and learning. Books are selected for developmental ages 3 to 6, but all ages welcome.  
 When: Wednesdays, Feb 7, 14, & 21, 10 to 11 a.m.

## Great River Children's Museum Hands-On Experiment: Let's Build a Kite

What's that in the sky?! Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No! It's a kite you built! Join Great River Children's Museum staff for a fun day of crafty engineering while you test out materials and build a kite you can fly! For ages 4 and up. We encourage adults to join their child(ren) in all Great River Children's Museum programming to strengthen bonds and encourage the joy of play together.  
 When: Saturday, Feb. 10, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## Celebrate the Lunar New Year

We invite you to come celebrate the Lunar new year with us, as 2024 is the year of the dragon! Learn facts and traditions about this special celebration and receive a simple craft to take home and make. One per person for school-aged children. While supplies last. Sponsored by the Friends of the Buffalo Library.  
 When: Saturday, Feb. 10 to Thursday, Feb. 15, during library open hours

## Community Spotlight Storytime: Wright County Historical Society

Families are invited to this week's Spotlight Story time featuring the Wright County Historical Society (WCHS)! Ms. Sally will read some themed books, share about the Historical Society, and complete an activity. Books are geared towards 3- to 6-year-olds, but older and younger friends are welcome!  
 When: Wednesday, Feb. 28, 10 to 11 a.m.



Connect with your inner artist during the Annandale Public Library's Tiny Art Show. Pick up a tiny paint kit, create your own 3"x 3" masterpiece, return your finished artwork for display through the month of February.

# DNR enhances protection for turtles starting in January

## By MN Department of Natural Resources

Two changes that enhance protection for Minnesota's native turtles will go into effect Jan. 1.

Commercial harvest of western painted turtles and snapping turtles is no longer allowed in Minnesota beginning Jan. 1, the result of a new law enacted in 2023. People will still be allowed to raise turtles for commercial purposes under an aquaculture license with a turtle endorsement.

In addition, also beginning on Jan. 1, anglers will need both an angling license and a newly required recreational turtle license to harvest turtles using angling gear like hook and line, landing nets and gaff hooks. In the past, only an angling license was required. Traps will not be allowed for turtle harvest. Individuals under

16 do not need a recreational turtle license and may still collect turtles for turtle races.

Minnesota's native turtles face several threats including habitat loss and fragmentation, pollution and overharvest. Due to the life history characteristics of turtles — that they are long-lived and slow growing — even low levels of increased mortality can result in declining populations, especially in northern latitudes that have short growing seasons. The enhanced protections coming into effect will help ensure the ongoing health of turtle populations in Minnesota.

Recreational turtle licenses are \$25 annually and will be available Jan. 1 through the Minnesota DNR electronic license system, and more information is available on the Minnesota DNR website ([mndnr.gov/fishing/commercial/turtles.html](http://mndnr.gov/fishing/commercial/turtles.html)).



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# Top tips for fun winter outings to state parks and trails

By Minnesota DNR

Many Minnesotans visit state parks and hit the trails in summer, but winter outdoor activities are just as fun. To help people plan winter visits to state parks, recreation areas and trails, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources shares its top tips to have fun this winter, along with some resources for planning a winter adventure.

While there is little to no snow cover across much of the state right now, it's a good time to plan snow-based activities for later this winter, or to enjoy activities that don't require snow such as winter hiking, ice fishing or naturalist programs.

"We know Minnesotans love being outdoors, and winter offers a whole new way to play outside," said Ann Pierce, the DNR's Parks and Trails Division director. "However, we also know cost and information can be barriers for Minnesotans to get outdoors and enjoy nature. We're working to alleviate this for folks by providing no cost or low-cost activities and providing easy trip planning resources."

### Check out free entrance options

A state parks vehicle permit is required. However, the DNR offers several free visit options to help expand access to Minnesota's top-notch state parks and recreation areas, including the library pass program and fee-free days. There are more than 100 libraries across Minnesota that offer seven-day state park permits to check out at no cost. A list of participating libraries is on the library program webpage ([mndnr.gov/librarypass](http://mndnr.gov/librarypass)).



State trails do not require a permit and are free to use for popular winter activities like hiking, snowshoeing and fat tire biking.

There are also four free park days offered each year, one for each season. The first free day in 2024 will be Monday, Jan. 15. Find all 2024 free days on the free park day webpage ([mndnr.gov/freeparkdays](http://mndnr.gov/freeparkdays)).

State trails do not require a permit and are free to use for popular winter activities like hiking, snowshoeing and fat tire biking. However, groomed cross country ski trails require a ski pass and groomed snowmobile trails require a state trail sticker.

Start making plans to enjoy some of these great winter activities:

### Snowshoeing or winter hiking

Exploring a state park or recreation area on snowshoes is not only great exercise, but also a way to see areas of parks that aren't accessible in summer. When the ground is frozen and snow-covered, it's safe to wander off trail without the risk of trampling sensitive plants or

spreading invasive species. Many state parks offer snowshoe rentals for \$6 per day. Details are available on the DNR snowshoeing webpage ([mndnr.gov/state\\_parks/snowshoeing.html](http://mndnr.gov/state_parks/snowshoeing.html)).

No snow? Enjoy winter hiking until snow arrives.

### Participate in a nature program

Events and programs are scheduled at state parks throughout the winter season, offering a wide range of activities from escape rooms to interpretive hikes to outdoor skill building to education about park wildlife. Programs are open to all ages, unless noted otherwise. Most programs are free. See the Parks and Trails events calendar ([mndnr.gov/ptcalendar](http://mndnr.gov/ptcalendar)) for program listings.

### Attend a candlelight event

Candlelight events are free, family-friendly events. They offer short, easy trails lit with lanterns

or luminaries. Visitors can stop by anytime during the event and enjoy the trail at their own pace. Visit the DNR candlelight event webpage ([mndnr.gov/candlelight](http://mndnr.gov/candlelight)) for dates and locations.

### Try ice fishing

Minnesota residents can fish without a fishing license in many Minnesota state parks, including ice fishing. If new to the sport, check out one of the state park ice fishing programs to get tips for a successful fishing trip.

### Go cross country skiing

There are 27 state parks with groomed ski trails, and additional groomed trails are available in some state forests and state trails. If someone plans to ski on groomed trails and is age 16 or older, they'll need a Great Minnesota Ski Pass, which costs \$10 per day, \$25 per year, or \$70 for a three-year pass. Find trails and ski pass information at the DNR cross country ski web-

page ([mndnr.gov/skiing](http://mndnr.gov/skiing)).

### Stay in a camper cabin or a yurt

Enjoy a cozy winter stay in a camper cabin or yurt at a state park or recreation area. All camper cabins available in winter have heat and electricity, and yurts have woodstoves to keep visitors comfy and warm. Make a reservation on the state park reservation website ([mndnr.gov/reservations](http://mndnr.gov/reservations)).

### Hit the snowmobile trails

When the snow arrives, Minnesota offers more than 22,000 miles of snowmobile trails. Visit the DNR snowmobiling webpage ([mndnr.gov/snowmobiling](http://mndnr.gov/snowmobiling)) to find an interactive trail map, check trail conditions, and get snowmobile registration information.

### Become a Junior Ranger

State park visitors are invited to pick up a free Junior Ranger book, or print one at home from the Junior Ranger website ([mndnr.gov/junior-ranger](http://mndnr.gov/junior-ranger)). Activities are designed for ages six to 10. Complete the activities and earn a free Junior Ranger badge.

### Planning and safety tips

Being prepared is key to making a trip to a state park or trail successful and fun.

- Visit the state parks and trails winter guide ([mndnr.gov/winter-guide](http://mndnr.gov/winter-guide)) for more information about visiting parks and trails in winter.

- Be aware of alerts that might impact park visits by checking park websites ([mndnr.gov/parklist](http://mndnr.gov/parklist)) before leaving home.

- The DNR recommends buying a vehicle permit before arriving at the park using the state parks permit webpage.

## Wright County Parks January nature programs

By Brenda Erdahl

Spending time outdoors helps improve mood. Nature has been known to help generate positive emotions such as calmness, joy, and creativity. Connectedness with nature has also been linked to lower levels of poor mental health, particularly depression and anxiety.

Wright County Parks has plenty of opportunities to get you and your family outdoors this January. Registration is required for all programs. Sign up at [www.co.wright.mn.us/982/Programs](http://www.co.wright.mn.us/982/Programs)

### Dog sledding

**When:** Friday, Jan. 5 4-6 p.m. and 6:30- 8:30 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 6 8:30-10:30 a.m., 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2 p.m-4 p.m.

**Where:** Robert Ney Park, Maple Lake.

Learn about dog sledding from some of the best mushers around then experience for yourself the thrill and excitement of being pulled by a team of Siberian Huskies around Ney Park. At the end of your outing warm up with hot cocoa or cider. Space is limited

to 25 participants per session. New this year, children four and under are free with a paid adult.

### Lantern Ski

**When:** Jan. 20, 6-9 p.m.

**Where:** Robert Ney Park, Maple Lake

Enjoy a night of cross-country skiing on the groomed trails at Ney Park. Lanterns will be lit to help guide you through the winter wonderland. Afterwards, inside the Nature Center, there will be sweet treats and warm drinks to enjoy. Once you have your treats

and drinks, you can head outside to warm your toes at the campfire.

### Moonlit Snowshoe Hike

**When:** Jan. 25, 7-8:30 p.m.

**Where:** Robert Ney Memorial Park, Maple Lake

Discover winter's wonders off the beaten path at Ney Park as you venture through areas accessible only by snowshoe in winter. Bring your own snowshoes or reserve a pair when you register.



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Color the drawing below it to enter for a chance to win a \$25 gift card to In Hot Water Coffee Shop or a subscription to the Annandale Advocate! Extra copies of the picture are available at any of the businesses listed on this page and online at [www.annandaleadvocate.com/CoLUREing](http://www.annandaleadvocate.com/CoLUREing). Deadline to drop of picture is **Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024**. All ages are welcome to enter. Colorings will be judged by the CoLUREing contest sponsor of the month. Winners will be published in the following Lure and will be notified by phone.

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**ENTRY INFORMATION** (Please fill in the information below to complete your entry into the CoLUREing contest.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_



## THANKS COLURERS!

Due to the Holiday, the December CoLUREing winners were unavailable at the Lure press time. See the Jan. 3 issue of the Annandale Advocate and Maple Lake Messenger, and next month's Lake Country Lure for the winners.

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# MORE COLUREING ACTIVITIES!

## MATH MAZE

Navigate the maze by beginning at the value in the black square, move through the maze by **ADDING** horizontally or vertically adjacent numbers ending at **100** totaling the ending value shown.

0	5	4		9	5	0		3	1	
	0	2	8	7	6		0	7	5	3
	0	7		1		7			2	
	0	0	2	1	4		9		9	
	1	4		1	1	1	7	3	1	
	0	6	4	9	8		1		4	3
	0	0		1		8		9	1	100

## UNSCRAMBLURE

Unscramble the letters to determine the words.  
Hint: Each word relates to this month's CoLUREing sponsor.

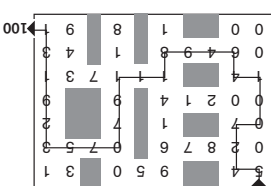
I S T L E L K

C I T N K H E

N H D A S W I C

## ANSWERS

Unscramblure Answers  
Sandwich  
Kitchen  
Skillet



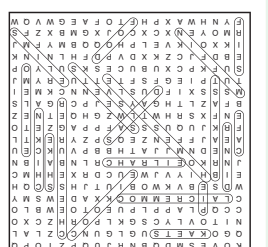
## LURE WORD SEARCH

Find the words in the word bank to the right in the puzzle below.  
Words may be found in any direction including diagonally and may be overlapping each other. The solution is below the word bank.

K O V E S M D Q B N R J U Q P Z T O P Q  
Q G O K A E T S U G L G U N C C Z L A L  
N I T O V L Y C S G K L P O R H Z C X O  
C C Q P L A P P L P U E O T O E W B L O  
C L A I C R E M M O C K X A D E W S M Y  
W D S E B V K W O B I U T J H S S C Q H  
E I B H I Y V J W E U C D R X E H H M C  
J N R K O E I L R A H C R L N B A I B N  
C N E D N M J J A T H B B P V U K C E U  
A E A J F F E N Z E Q S P Z Y R E K T L  
F R K J U Q U S S S A F P P A G Z E T O  
E N F X S R H W T L W Z G H Q E T N E Z  
B F A Z L T H G A Y S E J P C R G A L S  
M S S S X I F D U S L V E N N C K M E I  
T U T P I E G F S F T E T T U E R Y M J  
S U F K P C X U B U C E S K S U L Y O P  
E B D F J C Z K X D V P D F H L N I N K  
I K X O I K V E L P H O Q Q B M Y F M J  
R M O Y E N X C X C O J X G M B X Z F S  
F Y N H W A X P H F T O F A E G W V Q W

## WORD BANK

- BREAKFAST
- DINNER
- LUNCH
- PIE
- OMELETTE
- SMILE
- CAFE
- CHICKEN
- FOOD
- SHAKE
- SALAD
- COMMERCIAL
- CHARLIE
- HOMESTYLE
- STEAK
- MUFFIN
- SWEETS
- CHEESEBURGER
- FRIES
- COOKIE





# 2024 January



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	<b>New Year's Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annandale Conservation Club- 7:30 p.m.</li> <li>South Haven City Council Meets, 6:30 p.m</li> <li>Silver Creek Township Meeting, 7 p.m.</li> <li>Corinna Township Meeting, 7 p.m.</li> <li>Classes Resume</li> <li>Potluck Dinner Pioneer Park, 6:30 p.m.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maple Lake Chamber Meeting, 12 p.m</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legion Riders at The Legion Club, 7 p.m.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dog Sledding at Ney Park 4-6 p.m./6:30-8:30 p.m.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dog Sledding at Ney Park 8:30-10:30 a.m./11a.m.-1p.m./2-4p.m.</li> </ul>
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Sunrise- 7:55 a.m. Sunset- 4:51 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annandale City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.</li> <li>Maple Lake School Board Meeting 7 p.m</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chatham Township Meeting, 7 p.m.</li> <li>American Legion Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Legion Club</li> <li>Maple Lake Schools- Late Start</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hasty Silver Creek Sportsmen's Club Meets, 7 p.m</li> <li>Annandale Chamber Meets, 11:30 a.m.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lion's Club Meets, 7 p.m., at the V by HH</li> <li>Sons of the American Legion, 8 p.m. at the Legion Club</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Barn Quilting Class, Wright County Historical Society, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.</li> </ul>
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Sunrise- 7:52 a.m. Sunset- 4:59 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annandale School Board Meeting, AES Media Center, 7 p.m</li> <li><b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maple Lake City Council Meets, 7:00 p.m</li> <li>Corinna Township Meeting, 7 p.m.</li> <li>Maple Lake Township Meeting, 7 p.m.</li> <li>Albion Township Meeting, 7 p.m.</li> <li>Silver Creek Township Meeting, 7 p.m.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maple Lake VFW Post 7664, at the Maple Lake Legion, 7 p.m.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wright Saddle Club Meets, 7:30 p.m.</li> <li>Maple Lake Legion Auxiliary Meets, 7 p.m</li> <li>Minneapolis Boat Show</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teacher Workshop Day, Maple Lake &amp; Annandale, No School</li> <li>Minneapolis Boat Show</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minneapolis Boat Show</li> <li>Lantern Ski at Ney Park, 6-9 p.m.</li> </ul>
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minneapolis Boat Show</li> <li>Sunrise- 7:48 a.m.</li> <li>Sunset- 5:09 p.m.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wright County Snowmobile Association Meeting - American Legion, 7:30 p.m.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Full Moon</b></li> <li>Knights of Columbus Meeting, St. Timothy Church, 7 p.m.</li> <li>Moonlit Snowshoe Hike at Ney Park, 7-8:30 p.m.</li> <li>St. Paul Winter Carnival Through Feb. 3rd MN Hockey Day, Warroad (Jan. 25-27)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Barn Quilting Class, Wright Co. Historical Society, 9 am- 3 pm</li> </ul>
28	29	30	31			
Sunrise- 7:42 a.m. Sunset- 5:18 p.m.						

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