

Make memories with a boat from J&J Marine



J&J Marine specializes in Godfrey Pontoons like the one above. Owned by Minnesota-based Polaris, Godfrey is considered one of the best built pontoons on the market.

By Brenda Erdahl

For many, owning a boat is all about making memories.

Whether it's a pontoon cruise around the lake on a peaceful summer evening or a family fishing outing that ends in a meal of fish or just a lot of laughter, those are the days we remember and cherish.

Guiding people on their way to making great memories on the water is what J&J Marine in South Haven is all about.

"We appreciate knowing that people are going to make memories on the decisions they make here in our store," J&J General Manager Travis Buranen said. "We want to help people enjoy the lake, enjoy boating and we want to help them in the right way."

Travis himself has many good memories centered around the area lakes and boating. His dad Jim started this business and he's been helping ever since he was five years old.

That means he also has a lot of experience, and he likes to share his knowledge with his customers.

"I like to make things personal when you buy from us. I like to share my knowledge, especially with first time boat owners," Travis said.

As spring approaches, Travis and his crew are gearing up for their busy season. Their 6,000-plus square foot indoor showroom

- Continued on page 2



Located just west of Annandale on Highway 55, J&J Marine sells docks, lifts, new and used boats. The company also services equipment and offers boat storage.

J&J MARINE

For more information visit [J & J Marine](http://www.jjmarineinc.com) online at www.jjmarineinc.com or give them a call at **320-236-3625**

Service Department

If you are not in the market for a boat, new or used, but have one you want to get water ready, J&J's service department can help with that as well. You don't have to buy a boat from them to make use of their talented mechanics. Not only are J&J's mechanics fully certified, they are all highly experienced, have been with the company for many years and share the same values as the Buranen family.



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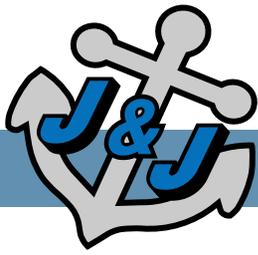
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J&J MARINE

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is well stocked with an impressive selection of both new models and the tried and true. J&J specializes in Godfrey pontoons and Alumacraft fishing boats. Both have connections to Minnesota and are known for their quality and craftsmanship.

Godfrey has been around for 60 plus years and is a very popular brand. Owned by Minnesota-based Polaris, Godfrey is considered one of the best built pontoons on the market.

"When you buy a Godfrey pontoon, you don't have to worry about an issue with the quality or failures or inadequate designs," Travis said.

This year Godfrey's entry level line of pontoons has been expanded and updated to give you a great

makes a world class aluminum fishing boat with features and capabilities anyone can enjoy. New this year from Alumacraft is the Competitor X model, which is vastly different from the previous generation boat. It's bigger, more comfortable and quieter. All qualities anglers can appreciate.

Besides new boats, J&J Marine also carries a selection of used boats in a variety of models on its outdoor lot. All are put through a rigorous inspection process by J&J's certified mechanics and are water ready.

If you are in the market for a boat this spring, J&J Marine offers a low-pressure buying process. Travis likes to think of it as a fact-finding journey for the cus-



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bang for your buck. Godfrey offers both luxurious, high-performance vessels and the more traditional (more affordable) style people are familiar with.

"We have something for everyone when it comes to the Godfrey pontoon," Travis said.

For fishermen, J&J specializes in Alumacraft fishing boats. As everybody knows, Alumacraft

tomers rather than a sales pitch.

"We don't sell you anything you don't need, and we have a lot of experience with the finer details other dealerships overlook," he said.

More than just boats

J&J Marine got its start as a dock installation company in the 1980s although it wasn't incorporated until 1996. Jim, the compa-



New this year from Alumacraft is the Competitor X model fishing boat. It's bigger, more comfortable and quieter than previous generation boats.



Check out a new Alumacraft fishing boat or Godfrey pontoon at J&J's 6,000 plus foot showroom. J&J also carries motors, fishing electronics and boating accessories.

ny's co-founder, eventually started servicing and storing boats and that led to selling them, Travis said. Soon the little building they occupied – an old two-stall gas station just east of South Haven – became too small for the growing business so they purchased a nearby lot and in 2004 finished construction on their current showroom. Jim has since stepped back from the daily operations of running the business and handed the leadership reigns over to Travis. Travis's brother, Brandon Schmidt, is also involved in the family business in the service department.

Over the years, the company has continued to expand and grow. While J&J Marine no longer offers installation or dock removal, they continue to service and store boats of most makes and models. They have about 500 stored boats currently on their property waiting for the lakes to open up and the boating season to begin.

Before putting the boats away for the season, J&J factory trained mechanics perform full winterization services including maintenance and rebuilds if necessary. Then they shrink wrap them to protect them from the elements. In the spring, J&J mechanics inspect the boats again to make sure they are in tip-top condition for the boating season.

"We know how short the boating season is, and we know our customers want to make the most of the time they have, they don't want their boat to be in the shop. We know that these boats are our customer's pride and joy and for that reason we treat them like they are our own," Travis said.

Docks and lifts make up another large part of the company's inventory. J&J Marine is a Shoremaster dock and lift dealer, and they can't say enough good things about the company. Like Godfrey and Alumacraft, Shoremaster has been around "forever." They are Minnesota based and provide pre-

mium products. "That's a trend we like to have here, we sell quality," Travis said.

A dozen or so years ago, J&J branched out even further to become a Hustler lawnmower dealer.

"There was a need for a lawnmower here, the stars aligned, and we started selling lawnmowers," Travis said. "They are a great product and it's a nice fit for us."

He added that Hustler is "great to work with" and builds quality innovative mowers. If someone does have a problem, J&J mechanics always service what they sell.

Motors and accessories

J&J Marine carries four major outboard motor brands: Yamaha, Honda, Mercury and Suzuki. They also carry a full line of parts, accessories and the latest in fishing electronics at their location off Highway 55 west of Annandale.

New & Used boats



J&J Marine has a large selection of used boats to choose from on their outdoor lot.

More than just boats



J&J Marine is also a Hustler lawnmower dealer.

It's time for a Road Trip

Dawn Zimmerman

Road trips are a classic American pastime. The windows are rolled down, music is playing and your vehicle is filled with all your favorite people. The only thing on your mind is where your next stop is going to be and the beautiful landscapes outside your window. Whether you are making a long trek to an exciting destination or road tripping to your favorite Minnesota lake on the weekend, you will need to verify that your vehicle and trailers are functioning correctly. Give your vehicle an inspection this spring to see if you need to have any work done before your next road trip and spare yourself the hassle and lost time of an unexpected breakdown.

No matter how long your road trip is, keeping yourself rolling down the road should always be your primary concern. With a little preparation and pre-planning, you are doing your part to ensure a safe trip for you and other people on the road.

Cleaning Your Car

A clean car is a comfortable car, and a comfortable car means happy passengers. Before you leave, consider gathering the

12 items to pack for your next

ROAD TRIP

1. Spare set of keys
2. Spare tire properly inflated
3. Car Jack and tire iron
4. Empty spill-proof gas can
5. Emergency Cash
6. Tire Gauge/ Air tank
7. Jumper Cables /Jump Starter
8. Insurance paperwork
9. Sunglasses
10. Insect repellent/Sunscreen
11. Car phone charger
12. Ratchet straps / Tow strap

Do you have the twelve essential items in your car for your next road trip? Consider adding a few items to your vehicle if you don't have them onboard. Many of these items may not be found at the next service station.

group to work together to get the vehicle in tip-top shape. Take time to scrub both the inside and outside, and make regular stops at car washes along the way if necessary to remove any mud, salt or debris buildup that could impact your vision on the road.

The best way to keep the car clean and enjoyable for all is to be prepared for anything, including messes. As you are planning your travel route, consider where all rest areas, toll booths, gas stations and pull-off points are so you have enough supplies to last between stops. Always fill your water bottle every time you have the opportunity to do so. If your route includes a lot of back roads or rural areas, fill your gas tank as often as you can. Keep an eye on the weather forecast as you travel and set up emergency weather alerts on your cell phone, so you can be prepared to pull over if necessary.

Road trips are a lot of fun, but they require a little bit of pre-planning if you want things to stay comfortable for each passenger. This includes regularly emptying trash at rest stops, creating a comfortable temperature inside and staying dry. While packing your road trip bag, be sure to check the weather forecast and factor in the climate of each destination you plan to visit.

Vehicle & Trailer Spring Check List

- Headlights working
- Taillights working
- Change Oil
- Check Fluid Levels
- Air Conditioner Working
- Change Air Filter
- Replace wiper blades
- Inspect brake pads
- Tires

Tires. Good tires are essential for a smooth ride and good mileage. Inspect your tread and tire pressure monthly. The primary functions of the tread on your tires is to grip the road and to divert water that causes hydroplaning. Tires with plenty of tread and proper tire pressure can help you maintain control and reduce your chances of getting a flat. Look for signs of tire wear, and maintain the recommended tire pressure. All tires deflate slowly over time, usually about 1 PSI per month. If you see any of the signs listed below or your tires continually lose air and seem to completely deflate without warning, replace your tires.

Inspect Tread Wear Bars. Tread wear bars are small, raised bits of rubber that run between the tread blocks. As these bars become even with the top of the tread, it is likely time for new tires.

Cracked Rubber. Tires will wear down over time, even if you don't drive much. Sunlight, heat, and chemicals used to melt snow and ice can reduce rubber flexibility, causing tires to crack, lose air, and eventually fail.

Unevenly Worn Tire Tread. There are many factors that may cause uneven wear, which could shorten the life of your tires. Vehicle alignment, tire pressure, lack of rotation, and/or worn steering and suspension components can all contribute to this problem. To prolong the life of your tires and reduce uneven wear, consider getting them rotated at consistent intervals. Rotate tires every 5,000 miles and ask a service professional why your tires may be wearing unevenly.



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Community Calendar
2025
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 April Fool's Day • Annandale Conserv. Club- 7:30 p.m. • South Haven City Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m. • Silver Creek Township Meeting, 7 p.m. • Corinna Township Meeting, 7 p.m. • Potluck Dinner Pioneer Park, 6:00 p.m.	2 Maple Lake Chamber Meeting, 12 p.m.	3 Legion Riders Club at Legion Club, 7 p.m.	4 • Post-Prom Fundraiser Fish Fry, Maple Lake American Legion	5 • Annandale Business Expo, Annandale High School 8 a.m.- 1 p.m. • Buffalo Indoor Farmer's Market, Buffalo Community Center, 9-12 p.m. • Wright County Swapper's Meet opens for the season
6 Sunrise- 6:46 a.m. Sunset- 7:50 p.m.	7	8 • Chatham Township Meeting, 7 p.m. • American Legion Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Legion Club • Maple Lake Schools- Late Start	9 • Hasty-Silver Creek Sportsmen's Club Meeting, 7 p.m. • Annandale Chamber Meeting, TBD, 11:30 a.m.	10 • Sons of the American Legion, 8 p.m. at the Legion Club • Lion's Club Meeting, 7 pm, the V by HH	11 • Twin Cities Auto Show, Minneapolis Convention Center (April 11-13)	12 Full Moon Trout Season Opens
13 • Maple Lake Lions Pancake Breakfast and Candy Scramble Palm Sunday Sunrise- 6:33 a.m. Sunset- 7:59 p.m.	14 • Annandale City Council Meeting, City Hall, 7 p.m. • Maple Lake School Board Meeting 7p.m	15 • Tax Day • M.L. City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. • Township Meetings at 7 p.m. for Maple Lake, Corinna, Albion and Silver Creek • M&M Express Tire Sale starts	16 • Turkey Season Opens - A season - Six, one-week hunting periods (A-F) • Twin Cities Auto Show, Minneapolis Convention Center (April 16-19)	17 • Wright Saddle Club Meeting, 7:30 p.m. • Maple Lake Legion Auxiliary Meeting, 7 p.m.	18 Good Friday • Annandale/Maple Lake- NO School	19 • South Haven Easter Egg Hunt, City Park, 9 a.m. • Annandale Easter Egg Hunt, Annandale Municipal Park, 10 a.m.
20 Easter Sunday Sunrise- 6:21 a.m. Sunset- 8:08 p.m.	21 • Annandale/Maple Lake- NO School	22 • Wright County Snowmobile Association Meeting - American Legion, 7:30 p.m. • Earth Day	23 • Administrative Professionals' Day • Turkey Hunt -B Season Starts	24 • Knights of Columbus Meeting, St. Timothy Church, 7 p.m. • Take our Daughters & Sons to Work Day • Firearms Safety Hybrid Class, Rockford Fire Station, 6 p.m. • NFL Draft Begins	25 Arbor Day	26 • Maple Lake & Annandale Prom • Ladies Day Out, Downtown Shops, Buffalo, 10-4 p.m. • Puzzle Pooza, Monticello Community Center, 8:30 a.m.
27 Sunrise- 6:10 a.m. Sunset- 8:16 p.m.	28 • Toyo Tire Sale starts at M&M Express	29	30 • Turkey Hunt -C Season Starts			

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