

Lake Country Lure

Business Buzz
Advocate The Maple Lake MESSENGER

MAPLE LAKE 2025 BUSINESS OF THE YEAR



Maple Lake – Lake Property Owners Association

By Brenda Erdahl

The Maple Lake, Lake Property Owners Association (ML-LPOA) works year-round to promote the community and be good stewards of the Lake, from its successful Ice Fishing Derby that draws thousands of people to town to its AIS prevention, and walleye stocking plans.

They know that a healthy and clean recreational lake benefits the entire community. On Wednesday, Feb. 26th, the Maple Lake Chamber of Commerce recognized the ML-LPOA for its efforts with the Chamber Business of the Year award.

Chamber President Mike Rowe presented the group with the award Wednesday night at the annual Chamber Social at the Maple Lake American Legion.

The Business of the Year award honors a local business that has excelled in growth and support for the community. The business must be an active chamber member that promotes community events and encourages community involvement.

“Even though ML-LPOA isn’t a main street business, they should be recognized for their on-going efforts to keep Maple Lake a viable recreational asset

which is an attraction for our businesses,” the group’s nominator said.

Derby

The Lake Property Owners Association is perhaps best known for its wildly popular Maple Lake Ice Fishing Derby that happens every early February, if the weather is cooperative. This year the event celebrated 50 years. Not only does the contest bring thousands of people into the community to shop local businesses and eat at local restaurants, funds raised stay in the community, and some are donated back to local non-profit groups.

The economic impact of bringing so many people to town on a single day is huge for the city and the businesses in town, said ML-LPOA member Greg Thomes.

Thomes estimated the number of people who attended the event in February neared 9,000 thanks to plenty of ice and pleasant weather, although he suspects the snow did deter some from coming out. In 2019, at the height of its glory, an estimated 12,000 people gathered on Maple Lake.

- Continued on page 2



The Maple Lake, Lake Property Owners Association was honored with the Business of the Year award at the Chamber Social, Wednesday, Feb. 26 at the Maple Lake American Legion. Members of the ML-LPOA are pictured, front row, from left, Bob Porter, Lisa Breurer, Betty Thomes and Julie Hudek. Back row, from left, Dean Sandberg, Tom Valenta, Chad Lashinski, Al Hudek and Greg Thomes.

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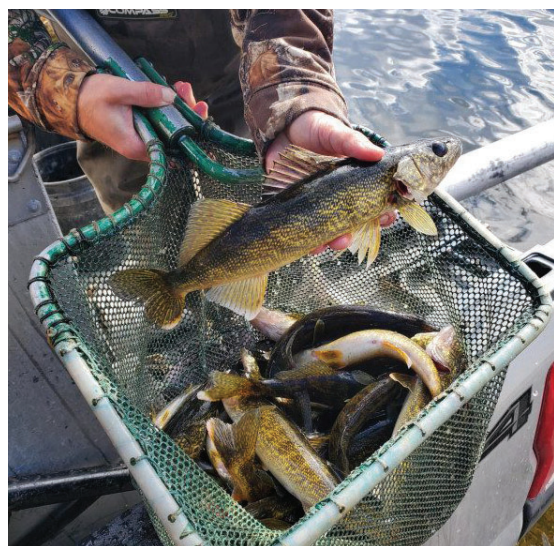
MAPLE LAKE 2025 BUSINESS OF THE YEAR



It takes a lot of volunteers to pull off the event, and many of the Association's 175-plus members donate their time every year. Local non-profits also get in on the act and as a thank you, their organizations are given a donation, Thomes said.

This year the Farside 4H Club, Maple Lake Boy Scouts and Maple Lake Royalty were all involved and benefited from their efforts, Thomes said. The Knight's of Columbus were also able to take advantage of the huge crowds to host a successful gun raffle fundraiser.

The rest of the proceeds from the derby go toward keeping the lake strong and healthy, Thomes said.



Last October the DNR poured 419 walleye fingerlings into Maple Lake off the Hwy. 37 access. The Lake Association partners with the DNR so walleyes are stocked every year.

Throughout the year, the Lake Association makes other donations as well to organizations like the Irish Anglers fishing team and events like the St. Patrick's Day festival.

Water quality and fishing

Keeping a clean, recreational lake is important to both lake property owners and everyone who uses the lake. Maple Lake has two public water accesses (at Hwy. 55 and Hwy. 37) and a swimming beach.

The ML-LPOA spends nearly \$50,000 annually to combat invasive species like Zebra Mussels, Eurasian Milfoil and the newest concern, Flowering Rush, Thomes said. The Lake Association is

also committed to keeping Maple Lake a quality fishing lake.

The Lake Association and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources work together to stock the lake with walleyes every year. The ML-LPOA fronts the bill in odd years and the DNR pays for stocking the lake in even years.

Over the course of 2024, the DNR stocked 3,139 walleyes equaling 524 pounds.

The Lake Association also lobbied and succeeded in lowering the daily panfish limit on Maple Lake to improve size and quality, Thomes said. On March 1, 2024, the new limits were enacted. The daily sunfish limit was reduced from 20 to 10 and the daily crappie limit from 10 to five.

According to Joe Stewig, MN DNR Fisheries, research has found that reduced bag limits for sunfish and crappies can be an effective tool to maintain or improve size quality.

MLIDWC

The Lake Association also has an active Lake Improvement District, which allows for greater local involvement in lake management activities. Last spring the ML-LPOA contributed \$49,500 to build a weir across Mill Creek to maintain water quality and proper lake levels. Headed up by the MLIDWC it was a project 3 1/2 years in the making and it involved numerous organizations including the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and Stantec engineers.

Other events

The Lake Association also hosts a Fourth of July Boat Parade every summer that encourages people to decorate their boat and get out on the lake for fun and prizes. The boats tour the lake showing off their creativity while a panel of judges determine whose boat is the best decorated.

Strong board

"We have a great, strong board right now with a lot of new faces. The life blood of any organization is new people with new ideas and we're trying to get as many people involved and helping the community as possible. They're excitement and enthusiasm, we hope rubs off on others," Thomes said.

Honored

"We are honored to be part of this community and honored to receive this award. We will try to continue to be good stewards," Thomes said.



The Lake Association's annual Ice Fishing Derby attracts thousands of people to Maple Lake.



Last spring the ML-LPOA contributed \$49,500 to build this weir across Mill Creek to maintain water quality and lake levels.



The Lake Association's Fourth of July Boat Parade is a fun way for people to be creative and get out on the water.



Tricia Manuel accepts the 2025 Maple Lake Chamber Community Service Award award from Chamber Vice-President Nick Pawlenty Thursday, February 26 at the Chamber Awards Program at the American Legion.

Tricia Manuel

MAPLE LAKE 2025 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Tricia Manuel is the winner of this year's Community Service Award. This award is presented to a Maple Lake resident for their record of outstanding service to this community.

Tricia grew up learning the value of good business sense and saw firsthand the impact one company can have on the welfare and economy of a small town. When her father closed Manuel's Department Store downtown, she opened Pricilla Mooseburger Originals in the same location. Since then, she has become the foremost authority on clown costuming and her business is known worldwide.

She played a role in getting the Highway 55 message billboards on both sides of the city; coordinates the Irish Washer Women float every year in the St.

Patrick's Day Parade; donates costumes to Community Care storybook readers for elementary schools; volunteers at St. Timothy Church as a sacristan and member of the Joyful Noise and Resurrection choirs and travels the country teaching the Art of Clowning.

She is responsible for the All Star Clown Show which she and Mooseburger Clown Arts Camp graduates perform free every year for the public.

She offers discounts on costume rentals for local high school theatre productions, is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, the Maple Lake Chamber of Commerce and is a founding member of the Maple Lake Development Group.

Maple Lake 48TH ANNUAL St. Patrick's Day

2025 PARADE PROGRAM & LINE-UP



2025 BUTTON
Winning Design by Heather & Hannah Zieska



GRAND MARSHALS
Retired Fire Fighters of Maple Lake

Parade Day is Here! A fun-filled day of events has been planned for Saturday, March 11th. Stick around after the parade and celebrate St. Patrick's Day with some live music and take in the Irish atmosphere at one of the local watering holes. See Page 2 for dates and time of some of the events planned for Parade Day.

Join us after the Parade!

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MAPLE LAKE'S 48TH ANNUAL St. Patrick's Day Parade **EVENTS**



Irish Scamper

11:00 a.m.

Downtown Maple Lake

Registration 9 a.m.

Maple Lake High School

raceberryjam.com



Grande Day Parade

1:30 p.m.

(line-up at 12:30 p.m.)



Craft Sale

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Maple Lake

Elementary School



St. Patrick's Day
2025 PARADE PROGRAM & LINE-UP

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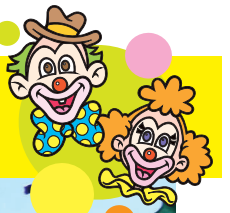
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2025 ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE LINE-UP



The Irish Washer Women Three generations of lucky washer women and leprechauns have graced the St. Patrick's Day Parade! Watch out for the water when float No. 37 reaches you!

- 1 **Wright County Sheriff** Wright County Sheriff Deringer
- 2 **Maple Lake American Legion Post 131**
- 3 **Maple Lake VFW 7664** The Maple Lake VFW is celebrating 80 years this year! More to come on the celebration
- 4 **Wat-Kim-Valley POW/MIA** The Wat-Kim-Valley POW/MIA veterans have made a commitment to never let any POW/MIA be forgotten. These men have been marching together since 1985 with the purpose of bringing awareness to the fact that there are many veterans from past wars that have not been accounted for. Every year there are remains recovered from past wars and those remains are identified and sent home to have a proper burial and give their families closure. These men marching today have been a part of our parade for well over 30 years and we thank them for their service.
- 5 **American Legion Post 567**
- 6 **Lake Mary VFW Post 9232**
- 7 **Maple Lake Legion Riders** Maple Lake Legion Riders sponsor many activities at the Legion in support of Veterans and other local causes. Join us for our Mother's Day Flower Sale, Rib Contest in September and Omelet Breakfasts the first Sunday of each month Nov-March to help us fund our charitable causes. We ride in support and honor of those who can no longer.
- 8 **Maple Lake Fire Department** The 2025 Maple Lake Fire Department.
- 9 **Maple Lake Chamber of Commerce** The 2025 Maple Lake St Patrick's Day parade is sponsored by the Maple Lake Chamber of Commerce.
- 10 **Freedom Flight IV** Please stand for Freedom Flight, Inc. The POW/MIA Hot Air Balloon Team from St. Cloud, MN. They are here to honor the over 80,000 people still missing since WWII. The Prisoners of War and the Missing in action. The person running the burners is Jerry Lang a retired Army, Major General and Vice president of Freedom Flight. -Thank you for your service Jerry.
- 11 **City of Maple Lake** The Mayor and Council welcomes everyone to the 48th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade! The truck is driven by a member of our fabulous City Maintenance Department - who we'd like to thank for working tirelessly to prepare the town for this event. We invite you to visit Maple Lake again this summer for the monthly Makers & Growers events and Gear Head Get Together in August!
- 12 **Grand Marshal** The 2025 Grand Marshal, the Maple Lake retired firefighters. Retired Maple Lake Fire Department fire fighters were chosen in recognition of the many years they have dedicated themselves to keeping the people of Maple Lake and surrounding communities safe.
- 13 **Maple Lake Marching Band** The 2025 Maple Lake Marching Band.
- 14 **Aquatennial Ambassadors Organization** The Minneapolis Aquatennial has finished celebrating its 85th year. Festi-



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2025 ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE LINE-UP



Maple Lake Royalty 2024. Give float 16 a round of applause for serving our community well over the last year. Thank you for representing Maple Lake. Come watch them say goodbye at tonight's coronation at 5:30 at the Maple Lake High School. and view the next page for candidates in 2025!



val founders selected the 3rd week in July because this week has the best weather on record for the year. The Aquatennial Ambassador Organization exists to inspire young Minnesota women to achieve extraordinary futures by providing professional development opportunities through networking and mentoring. The ambassadors travel throughout the state of Minnesota and the country. Our organization also provides educational scholarships to our ambassadors to help them reach their goals. The 2025 Crew is thrilled to be celebrating in your community today. Join them the 4th week in July for the 86th Aquatennial!

15 - St. Paul Winter Carnival Junior Royalty The St. Paul Winter Carnival Junior Royalty is just a part of the 139 year old tradition of the St. Paul Winter Carnival. The Junior Royalty program dates back to the 1940s and has invited young men and women serve in the royal court each year as goodwill ambassadors from the Winter Carnival to our neighboring communities. The Junior Court makes about 75 appearances throughout the year while learning public speaking skills,

interpersonal skills, and serving the community in various service projects. Please welcome our 2025 Junior Royalty: King Frost JJ, Queen of the Snowflakes Emma, Princess of Ice Lyndsey, Princess of Snow Layla and Prince of Ice & Snow Dijon.

16 - Maple Lake Royalty Your 2024 Maple Lake Royalty. Miss Maple Lake Dayzie Floding, Miss Congeniality and Maple Lake princess Mackenzie Gunderson, Maple Lake Jr Princess Lillian Enger, Little Miss Maple Lake Delaney Miller and Little Miss Maple Lake Aurora Knapp. These girls have served our community well over the last year, we thank them for their service. Please come watch them say goodbye at tonight's coronation at 5:30 at the Maple Lake High School.

17 Maple Lake Royalty 2025 Candidate Braelyn LaTour Little Miss Maple Lake Candidate Braelyn Latour. Braelyn is sponsored by LaTour Construction and SJ Roofing. Good Luck today Braelyn!

18 Maple Lake Royalty 2025 Candidate Dacqota Floding Maple Lake Jr Princess Candidate Dacqota Floding. Sponsored by Grumpys Outdoors. Good Luck today Dacqota!

19 Maple Lake Royalty 2025 Candidate Deanna Jansen Little Miss Maple Lake Candidate Deanna Jansen. Deanna is Sponsored by M and M Express Car Care, The Derrick Monroe Group and Call the Gutter Guys. Good luck today Deanna!

20 Maple Lake Royalty 2025 Candidate Harlyn Duran Little Miss Maple Lake Candidate Harlyn Duran. Harlyn is sponsored by The V by HH and KLN Enterprises. Good luck today Harlyn!

21 Maple Lake Royalty 2025 Candidate Hazel Krueger Little Miss Maple Lake Candidate Hazel Krueger. Hazel is sponsored by IntegriPrint INC. Good luck today Hazel!

22 Maple Lake Royalty 2025 Candidate Kalli Hennen The Candidate for your 2025 Miss Maple Lake Kalli Hennen. Kalli is sponsored by Maple Lake Lumber. Good luck today Kalli!

SEE YOU AT THE PARADE!

Happy St Paddy's Day

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McKinlie Klein-Pramann
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 Midwest Grain Bin Supply

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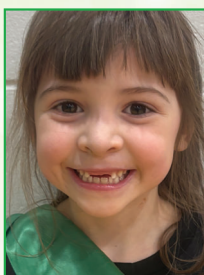
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Ellie Hanson
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Deanna Jansen
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Hazel Krueger
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LITTLE MISS MAPLE LAKE CANDIDATES

MAPLE LAKE ROYALTY - 2025 
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Kalli Hennen, Grade: 11th
 Miss Maple Lake Candidate
Parents: Tony and Laura Hennen
Sponsor: Maple Lake Lumber
Favorite Subject: Math
Favorite Activity: Dancing
How do you help out at home? Help take care
 of animals and house cleaning
Favorite part of the St Patricks day Festival?
 music

Ellie Hanson, Grade: 11th
 Miss Maple Lake Candidate
Parents: Debbie and Andy Hanson
Sponsor: Cedar Lake Metal Solutions
Favorite Subject: Film Class
Favorite Activity: Volleyball
How do you help out at home?
 I cook and clean
Favorite part of the St Patricks day Festival?
 To see everyone smile and come out in the com-
 munity



Melody Larson, Grade: 5th
 Jr Princess Candidate
Parents: Nicole Larson and Jesse Larson
Sponsor: Bernatellos and Earth Child Tattoo
Favorite Subject: Math and Science
Favorite Activity: Cheerleading
How do you help out at home? Help clean
Favorite part of the St Patricks day Festival?
 I don't know, everything

Dacqota Floding, Grade: 6th
 Jr Princess Candidate
Parents: Jared and Amanda Floding
Sponsor: Grumpys outdoors
Favorite Subject: Art
Favorite Activity: Dance
How do you help at home? Chicken chores
Favorite part of the St Patricks day Festival?
 Getting to see everyone happy

Layla Engle, Grade: 5th
 Jr Princess Candidate
Parents: Amber Engle
Sponsor: S & R Custom Laminate, Mike Grant
 Mechanical, Jewel Cabinet Refacing
Favorite Subject: Math
Favorite Activity: Softball
How do you help out at home?
 Dogs, cleaning living room
Favorite part of the St Patricks day Festival?
 Parade

McKinlie Klein-Pramann, Grade: 5th
 Jr Princess Candidate
Parents: Joshua Pramann and Brooke Bryce
Sponsor: Stadium Bar & Grill,
 Midwest Grain Bin Supply
Favorite Subject: Math
Favorite Activity: Gymnastics
How do you help out at home?
 Clean up after myself and help do dishes
Favorite part of the St Patricks day Festival?
 Community

Deanna Jansen, Grade: 1st
 Little Miss Maple Lake Candidate
Parents: Tim Jansen and Allison Mayer
Sponsor: M and M Express Car Care,
 The Derrick Monroe Group, Call the Gutter
 Guys
Favorite Subject: Music and Gym
Favorite Activity: Play
How do you help out at home? I Clean
Favorite part of the St Patricks day Festival?
 Decorating the Truck

Harlyn Duran, Grade: 1st
 Little Miss Maple Lake Candidate
Parents: Alex Duran and Anna Christen
Sponsor: The V By HH & KLN Enterprises
Favorite Subject: Art & sometimes field trips
Favorite Activity: Horseback riding
How do you help out at home?
 Help my parents clean
Favorite part of the St Patricks day Festival?
 Parade

Layla Lang, Grade: 2nd
 Little Miss Candidate
Parents: Gabby and Michael Lang
Sponsor: Polaris and Spray Foam Insulation
Favorite Subject: Art
Favorite Activity: Basketball
How do you help out at home? Cleaning
Favorite part of the St Patricks day Festival?
 Parade

Hazel Krueger, Grade: 1st
 Little Miss Candidate
Parents: Shannon Krueger and Kevin Krueger
Sponsor: IntegriPrint INC
Favorite Subject: Math
Favorite Activity: Volleyball
How do you help out at home?
 Help my mom clean up
Favorite part of the St Patricks day Festival?
 Making the floats

Braelyn LaTour, Grade: 2nd
 Little Miss Candidate
Parents: Mindy and Brad LaTour
Sponsor: Latour Construction and SJ Roofing
Favorite Subject: Art
Favorite Activity: Softball
How do you help out at home? Chores
Favorite part of the St Patricks day Festival?
 Parade

- 23 **Maple Lake Royalty 2025 Candidate Layla Engle** Maple Lake Jr Princess Candidate Layla Engle. Layla is sponsored by S&R Custom Laminate, Mike Grant Mechanical and Jewel Cabinet Refacing. Good luck today Layla!
- 24 **Maple Lake Royalty 2025 Candidate Layla Lang** Little Miss Maple Lake Candidate Layla Lang. Layla is sponsored by Spray Foam Insulation Inc and Polaris. Good Luck today Layla!
- 25 **Maple Lake Royalty 2025 Candidate Mckinlie Klein-Pramann** Maple Lake Jr Princess Candidate McKinlie Klein-Pramann. McKinlie is sponsored by Midwest Grain Bin Supply and Stadium Bar and Grill. Good luck McKinlie today!
- 26 **Maple Lake Royalty 2025 Candidate Melody Larson** Maple Lake Jr Princess Candidate Melody Larson. Sponsored by Bernatello's and Earth Child Tattoo. Good Luck today Melody!
- 27 **Maple Lake Royalty Miss Candidate Ellie Hanson** Candidate for 2025 Miss Maple Lake Ellie Hanson, Ellie is sponsored by Cedar Lake Engineering. Good luck Ellie!
- 28 **Lucky Charms Childcare & Preschool** Lucky Charms Childcare & Preschool is a brand-new Childcare center located right here in Maple Lake. They offer care for children ages 6 weeks to 12 years. The vision of Lucky Charms Childcare is to be a positive light in the community for families, while giving each child a family, home like atmosphere to experience each day. They still have a few spots open so be sure to check them out!
- 29 **St. Timothy School** St. Timothy's Students are seen with their 2025 Spring Dinner & Auction Grand Prize Raffle a 2025 Can-Am Defender HD7 XT Side by Side. You could win this Side by Side or \$15,000 Cash! Join them on Saturday, May 3rd at the V in Maple Lake for their 2025 Spring Dinner & Auction - Havana Nights. You can buy raffle tickets from school families or at the Parish or School Offices. Stop by St. Timothy's School for a tour to experience a family atmosphere of faith and academic excellence.
- 30 **Monticello Royal Ambassadors** Monticello is nestled along the banks of the Mississippi River. Known for their swans, Monticello also offers numerous retail, restaurant, and recre-



Don't miss the 2025 Irish Scamper in Downtown Maple Lake. Registration is at 9 a.m. at the Maple Lake High School. The Scamper starts at 11:00 a.m.

ational opportunities. Join the Monticello Royal Ambassadors as we celebrate Riverfest, July 11th -13th!

31 **Lester Prairie Ambassadors** Lester Prairie Ambassadors Kortney Swartzter & Annie Eastling, Jr Ambassadors Hazel Thompson & Myleen Juarez would love to invite you to Prairie Days, July 18th & 19th, 2025!

32 **Bernatello's Foods** Bernatello's Foods is proud to be part of the Maple Lake community for over 40 years! At Bernatello's, we are dedicated to manufacturing innovative, high quality frozen pizzas, while providing outstanding service and value to our retailers and customers. Enjoy a delicious Brew Pub or Bellatoria pizza!

33 **Montrose Ambassadors** Montrose Ambassadors Alyssa, Noah and Olivia invite you to Celebrate Montrose the 3rd weekend in August.

34 **Farmington Ambassador Program** The Farmington Ambassador Program exists to provide opportunities to young women and girls in the Farmington area. Ambassadors gain poise, speaking abilities and community service experience during their time with the program. The Ambassadors travel near and far to share the Farmington story and goodwill. The program's intent is to teach skills that will be invaluable throughout life. All are invited to attend Farmington Dew Days the fourth week of June each summer.

35 **Wright County Republicans** Please welcome the Wright County Republicans and Senator Bruce Anderson and House Representative Marion Rarick.

36 **The Costume Shoppe** The Costume Shoppe in Maple Lake is open year round providing high quality costume rentals for all occasions! From Easter Bunnies to Santa's helpers and everything in between. Let's give our local drama students a hand as The Costume Shoppe provides discount prices for all school plays in Central Minnesota!

37 **Irish Washer Women** A Maple Lake St. Patrick's Day tradition, the Irish Washer Women! Three generations of lucky washer women and leprechauns have graced our parade! Give them a big round of applause and watch out for the water!

38 **Pleasureland RV Center** Pleasureland RV Centers is a family owned and started in 1971, and now has 11 locations to serve you. Stop in take look around, many of our locations have indoor showrooms. Tell them Nick sent you.

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A pretty girl and an honest one.

A cold beer... and another one!"

HAPPY St. Patrick's DAY

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39 **Albertville Royalty Program** Joining us today sharing the luck of the Irish is our friends from Albertville. Miss Albertville Izzy, Princesses Olivia, and Audrey along with juniors Myra, Ben, Payton, and Makayla. They would love for you to join them for the 2025 Albertville Friendly City Days celebration June 11th - 15th 2025.

40 **Maple Grove Ambassadors** Please welcome Maple Grove Ambassadors Olivia, Jessica, and Sydney on their float - "The Dream of Maple Grove". Their pride in their city is showcased on the float...from the lamp posts and flowers of the Shoppes at Arbor Lakes, to the hand painted mural of Main Street on the leaves on top. As it passes, you can see the Ambassador Program slogan "Dare to Dream", on the back of the float, encouraging everyone to always reach for their dreams! The Ambassadors are excited to be here, and thank you for inviting them to the festival and they hope you have a delightful day!

41 **Wright Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association** Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association is a member-owned, not-for-profit electric utility that provides power to rural Wright County and western Hennepin County. The cooperative has been a corporate citizen to the area since 1937 and currently serves more than 55,000 electric accounts. It is headquartered in Rockford, Minnesota.

42 **Winsted Ambassadors** Julia, Mara, and Julia are excited to be celebrating with us today. Please join them August 8th and 9th in Winsted for the Winsted Summer Festival.

43 **Foley Ambassadors** The 2024 Foley Royalty include Foley Ambassadors Danica and Paige, Junior Ambassadors Kaydence and Lyla, and Little Miss Foley Paislee. They



would like to invite you to Foley Fun Days June 14-18.

44 **Mighty Mites** We ride so kids can walk!

45 **Buffalo Royal Ambassadors** The City of Buffalo is known as "the Beautiful City by the Lake". Area lakes, walking paths, paddleboat and canoe rentals, antique shops and a park bandshell are enjoyed by all throughout all of Minnesota's wonderful seasons. The Buffalo Royalty remind everyone to share the gift of your smile with people you meet - and invite you to come out to Buffalo in June during Buffalo Days and they will "Welcome you Home"!

46 **Sunfish Dental** was established in September 2020 by Dr. Nicole Tripp in Dr. Den-

nis Quinlan's former location in downtown Maple Lake. We're now located just down the street at 33 Birch Ave. We are dedicated to creating personalized, comprehensive care for the whole family in a fun and professional environment. Dr. Tripp and her team are looking forward to being a part of the community and cannot wait to meet you! Come in, we're awesome!

47 **Hopkins Raspberry Festival Royalty** A Tradition Preserved! The Hopkins Raspberry Festival is celebrating its 91st festival the 3rd weekend in July and hosts 5 days of events for all ages and interests including the Marketplace Fair, Fireworks, Grande Day Parade and of course the Raspberry Royalty Coronation. The Hopkins Raspberry Festival

Princess Judy Gonzalez, Princess Victoria Whaley, and Queen Maleeha (Ma-lee-ha) Subhan would love to invite all of you to celebrate with them in America's Raspberry Capital the 3rd week in July!

48 **McBrady McDonald Clan** have been coming together for this event for over 40 years. Family is important in Ireland and here in Maple Lake. These clans gather together to celebrate their Irish heritage and strong family ties. Time with family is precious, so we take time today for some shenanigans and Irish fun.

49 **Annandale Ambassadors** Happy St Patrick's Day from Miss Annandale Cecilia Klemik and Princesses Bailey Broich and Rylee O'Konek.



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2024 Irish Anglers Fishing Team

- 50 **Irish Anglers** Irish Anglers is a summer fishing league for boys and girls in grades 6-12 who attend or live in the Maple Lake School District. All experience levels are welcome to join. Volunteer boat captains are needed. Any type of boat will work. Captains can sign up for just the evenings that work for their schedule. More information can be found on our website, irishanglers.org.
- 51 **Stiftungsfest Ambassador Program** Stiftungsfest Ambassador Program. Ambassadors Kadence Arndt & Marlie Beneke along with Lil Miss Ambassadors Rose Russ

and Nora Widmer invite you to join them at the oldest celebration in MN the last full weekend of August in Norwood Young America. Stiftungsfest will be celebrating their 164th year in 2025. Be sure to try our famous burgers and brats!

- 52 **True Friends** True Friends is a nonprofit organization providing life-changing experiences that enhance independence and self-esteem for children and adults with disabilities. Programs include camping, respite, retreats, team building, therapy and adaptive riding, and travel. They serve over 25,000 individuals annually.

- 53 **Dassel Ambassadors** Dassel Ambassadors represent Dassel Red Rooster Days. Red Rooster Days are celebrated on Labor Day Weekend. Come out for the largest chicken feed in the state!
- 54 **Hanover Royalty** Greetings from Hanover Royalty, "The Little City on the Crow". Miss Hanover Lydia and Hanover Princess Kaleena would like to invite you to Hanover Harvest Festival the 1st Saturday in August!
- 55 **Shear Attitudes and Hair by Jennah Rae** Shear Attitudes and Hair by Jennah

Rae located at 63 Birch, offers cuts, colors, and waxes provided by Connie Munstenteiger and Jennah Groth!

- 56 **Rice Street Royalty** The Rice Street Royalty Program represents the North End of St. Paul and the vibrant Rice Street community. Princess Madison, Princess Salma, and Queen Madison have spent the past eight months traveling the state of Minnesota, representing the North End and promoting community leadership. The Rice Street Royalty Program invites you to celebrate this year's Canadian Days Festival with them the first weekend of August!
- 57 **St. Paul Clown Club** Here come the Clowns! It's the St. Paul Clown Club. Don't ask them not to clown around. That's what they've been doing since 1946. The St. Paul Clown Club has been bringing smiles and laughter to people in parades and community events for 79 years.
- 58 **St. Michael Royalty** The St. Michael Royalty are excited to be in Maple Lake celebrating St. Patrick's Day. Joining us today is the 2024-2025 Royal Court; Queen Helen, Princesses Mary & Cecilia and Little Misses Greta & Korah. Join them the second weekend in August for the St. Michael Daze and Knights Festival!
- 59 **Isanti Ambassadors** The Isanti Ambassador Program has 6 goodwill ambassadors who travel the state of MN! Miss Ambassadors are Emily Haugen, Morgan Zdon, and Grace Peters. Junior Ambassadors are Paige Bostrom, Avery Blaser, and Lydia Roberts.

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Gearhead Get-Together Show & Swap Meet

60 **Gear Head Get Together** Gear-Head Get Together comes to town Saturday, August 16th, 2025! The Gear-Head Get Together has come a long way from its roots when it was just a few gear-heads getting together to show off some of their favorite mechanical odds and ends down by the old creamery building in Maple Lake on August 21st 2004. Today the "Get Together" has become Maple Lake's largest event of the year and one of the most unique "car shows" in the state and perhaps the country. It all takes place on the third Saturday of August in downtown Maple Lake. The idea is simple: there are no plaques or trophies at this event. There are only gear-heads, their machines, and anyone else who appreciates the laid back atmosphere and live entertainment!



61 **Big Lake Ambassadors** Please join the Big Lake Ambassadors at Spud Fest June 26th-29th.

62 **Bethlehem United Church of Christ** Bethlehem United Church of Christ celebrates the love of Christ by being an inclusive and caring faith community in Maple Lake. Dance along with their music and give thanks for the wonder and joy of life.

63 **New London Spicer Ambassadors** The New London Spicer Ambassadors Natilee Anderson, Autumn Tortorella, Demi Schriener and Evangelyne Thompson give a big wave and send well wishes to you all! Come join us this summer in Spicer for SpicerFest and in New London for Waterdays!

64 **Maple Lake Lions** Maple Lake Lions are celebrating their 80th year in service to the community! The Maple Lake Lions club is one of the oldest in MN and they are proud to continue this legacy. Join them at their Pancake Breakfast & Candy Scramble on April 13, and at Lions burger stands at Gear Head in August. Reach out to fellow Lions to ask about joining our club, or join them at their meetings the 2nd Thursday of each month 7pm at the V. Maple Lake Lions, 'We Serve'!

65 **Litchfield Watercade Royalty** Miss Litchfield Addie, Princesses Kate and Maya and Jr. Princesses Hadley and Matylda invite you to join them in Litchfield for Watercade the second weekend in July.

66 **Osman Shrine Calliope** The calliope was built in 1929 and continues to entertain!

67 **Glenwood Waterama** Glenwood Waterama is thrilled to be a part of the incredible Maple Lake St Patty's Day Celebration! Representing us with pride are Jr. Princess Skylar Jermy, Jr. Queen Xeona Bauleke, 2nd Princess Ella Lewison, 1st Princess Katy Vold, and our reigning Waterama Queen Kendra Wilmes. We warmly invite you to join us the last full weekend of July in the beautiful lakeside town of Glenwood, MN, for an unforgettable Waterama weekend filled with fun, excitement, and community spirit. Come celebrate with us and create cherished memories!

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68 **Buffalo Rodeo** Howdy from the 71st Annual Buffalo Rodeo and Ms. Buffalo Rodeo Montana Martinson! Get ready for four days of heart-pounding rodeo action, from bulls and broncs to a whole lotta fun. Kicking off June 18 with family night and mutton bustin' qualifiers-because who wouldn't want to see kids take on sheep like cowboys? Then rodeo performances June 19-22. So, grab your boots, your family, and maybe a few beers, because this rodeo's about to get wild! Yeehaw!

69 **Northfield** - Defeat of Jesse James Days The Defeat of Jesse James Days invites you to Northfield the Weekend AFTER Labor Day to witness for yourself the guns blazing and the failed robbery attempt by the James/Younger gang along with lots of other great activities including a rodeo, arts & craft fairs, car show, carnival, soap-box racing and parade. There is something for everyone! This is the largest, ALL VOLUNTEER celebration in Minnesota. Ambassadors: Marea Sieger, Madi Dinneen and Maiah Skluzacek. Juniors: Isla Graff and Emily Stowe.

70 **Farside 4-H Club** Come check out the annual Farside 4-H Spring Bake and Craft Sale on April 19th at the Maple Lake Township Hall! This event is from 9-2. Even the Easter Bunny will be there!

71 **Delano Royalty** The Delano Royalty proudly represents the community of Delano and the Delano 4th of July Celebration!



tion! We are feeling lucky to be here at the Maple Lake St. Patrick's Day Celebration!

72 **Oak Realty** Oak Realty is proud to be celebrating 51 years in business! They have been working together to help buyers and sellers in the Maple Lake and Annandale area since 1974. Oak Realty loves marketing property; and their friendly, professional and experienced staff welcome the opportunity to be your guide. The Maple Lake Oak Realty office is located 1 block North of BP on Maple Street.

73 **Miss St. Francis Ambassador Program** Here are the Miss St. Francis Ambassadors, Little Misses Emma and Piper along with their Miss Ambassadors Chloe and Mackenzie.

74 **Little Mr. Phelps County** Little Mr. Phelps County

75 **Malco Tools** The Malco Group is a leading provider of high-quality HVACR and building construction solutions across the Americas. We offer wholesale customers a vast, ever-growing product portfolio, ensuring exceptional availability and convenience from a single supplier. Our innovative, turnkey products help trade professionals streamline installations and maintenance while our comprehensive support and training empower them to serve their customers efficiently. Our people-first culture has earned us the Minnesota and USA Today Top Workplaces Award, reflecting our commitment to fostering an environment where employees thrive and contribute to our shared success.

76 **Jordan Ambassadors** Miss Jordan Meghan Mahoney, Princess Brooke Bohnsack, Princess Jasmine Resendiz, Miss Congeniality Kaylee Klose

77 **MP Nexlevel** MP Nexlevel has been around for over 50 years! Although MP performs work in over 35 states, they are SO PROUD to be headquartered right here in Maple Lake, MN!! They are experts at providing complete solutions in the industries of Communications, Power and Gas. Fun fact- MP has successfully installed over 4.3 million feet of cable in data centers across the US. Those numbers are impressive! If you are looking for something exciting and new, start building a career at MP Nexlevel, where you don't just get to drive a red truck; you get to drive your future!

78 **Cokato Royal Ambassadors** Do you love corn? The Cokato Royalty invite you to head on over to the Cokato Corn Carnival on August 11th-13th!

79 **Jude Vending** Peter Jude and his candy truck.

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**MAPLE LAKE 2025
CHAMBER MEMBER OF THE YEAR**



Greg Thomes

**MAPLE LAKE 2025
COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**



Tricia Manuel

**MAPLE LAKE 2025
GRAND MARSHALS**



Retired Firefighters
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St. Patrick's Day

PARADE DAY MAP



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Greg Thomes

MAPLE LAKE 2025 CHAMBER MEMBER OF THE YEAR

By Brenda Erdahl

Greg Thomes is an old hand at winning awards centered around the Maple Lake St. Patrick's Day celebration.

In 1999 he earned the title of Commodore and in 2014 he was bestowed the honor of Grand Marshal for his service to the community.

Now it's his turn to be the Maple Lake Chamber Member of the Year.

The Chamber made the announcement at its annual Chamber Social, Wednesday Feb. 26 at the Maple Lake American Legion. The Social is a night dedicated to honoring those who happily do their part to promote and support their community through volunteerism. Other awards given were Grand Marshal, the Community Service Award and the Chamber Business of the Year award.

The Chamber Member of the Year goes to the member that attends and participates in chamber meetings, shows leadership and contributes to the community in a commitment of time and resources.

"Greg has been an active member of the chamber over the years and has spent countless hours each year organizing the Maple Lake Ice Fishing Derby that brings hundreds of people to our town," his nominator said.

Thomas agreed that the Derby's economic impact on the community has been huge. Although it

doesn't happen every year because of the weather, when it does, it draws thousands of people to town where they spend money at local businesses and then go home and tell others all about it.

Thomas has chaired the derby committee for the Maple Lake, Lake Property Owners Association since 2007 and he's witnessed the impact it has on local bait and sporting goods shops in both Maple Lake and the surrounding communities.

"I think a lot of other people could be recognized for this (award)," he said. "But if in our small way we put Maple Lake on the map, that is wonderful."

Thomes became active with the derby committee through his association with the Maple Lake Jaycees. Back when the contest started in 1975 it was a Jaycee project. Eventually the Maple Lake Public Schools took over and then 17 years ago, the Maple Lake, Lake Property Owners Association (MLPOA) took it on as a fundraiser dedicated to the lake's health and prosperity.

The MLPOA turned it into a derby to deter cheating and allow for the use of fish houses.

Thomes said the Lake Association has always had a lot of dedicated volunteers who work on this event year-round. That, combined with some talented marketing strategists, made the derby what it is today.

Thomes is more than just the

chairman of the derby committee, however.

His involvement started shortly after moving to Maple Lake in 1982. That's when he began serving with the Maple Lake Jaycees. Over the years he served as president at the local level, then the state level then the national level. In 1995, he was named the U.S. Jaycees Foundation president.

Eventually the Jaycees came to an end in Maple Lake, but Thomes continued to do his part to serve the community he lived in. He said volunteering is second nature to him.

"I was raised in a family that was very generous and so was Betty (his wife). That giving attitude bestowed on us by our parents is just ingrained," he said.

But there are some wonderful perks to being involved, he admitted.

"For example, I was president of the Hasty-Silver Creek Sportsmen's club for many years (2007-2012) and those members became life-long friends, and customers," he said.

Thomes is a third-generation owner/operator of Thomes Insurance Group in Buffalo and has been since 1989.

"I don't do A to get B, but it's a nice result," he said.

Over the years, Thomes has also served as president of the Maple Lake, Lake Property Owners Association; he is a member of



Maple Lake Chamber President Mike Rowe, right, presents Greg Thomes with the Chamber Member of the Year award.

the Experimental Aviation Association Chapter 878 which is based at Maple Lake Municipal Airport; is a member of St. Timothy's parish and is a member of both the Buffalo and Maple Lake chambers of commerce.

Thomes is also a proud member of The McBrady Clan. Although only half Irish on his mother's side, he became part of the clan through marriage and every year can be seen marching among of crowd of kilt-clad Irish men, women and children in the St. Patrick's Day parade.

The tradition started with his father-in-law, Joe McBrady. Joe was the bartender at the Maple Lake Muni and on St. Patrick's Day he served green beer in honor of his heritage. Thomes suspects Joe was the inspiration for what is now the beloved and wildly popular St. Patrick's Day festival.

When the parade started, Joe insisted the McBrady clan have a float in it. The parade also attracted the attention of the Fitzpatrick's of Waverly and for a while there was a good-natured rivalry between the two clans, Thomes said.

Today the parade serves as a sort of family reunion for the McBrady's and every year the clan grows bigger. Joe and his wife Mary started with eight children of their own then came spouses and grandchildren, great grandchildren and so on. As the generations accumulated, so has the fun.

Although Thomes doesn't feel deserving of the award, it's clear that others disagree.

"He is there when help is needed," his nominator said.

MAPLE LAKE'S 48TH ANNUAL St. Patrick's Day Parade



Maple Lake Chamber Vice-President, Nick Pawlenty (left) presents Roger Manuel, (center), and Daryl Hennen (right). a plaque on Thursday, February 26 at the Chamber Awards Program at the American Legion. Hennen and Manuel accepted the Grand Marshal award on behalf of all Maple Lake's retired firefighters.

GRAND MARSHALS

RETIRED FIRE FIGHTERS OF MAPLE LAKE

This year's Grand Marshal award goes to the retired fire fighters of the Maple Lake Fire Department. The Grand Marshal award is presented to Maple Lake residents for their record of outstanding service to this community.

Retired M.L.F.D. fire fighters were chosen in recognition of the many years they dedicated themselves to keeping the people of Maple Lake and surrounding communities safe.

Over the years they have committed their time to training, fighting fires, ambulance runs, responding to car accidents and assisting other fire departments.

Retired fire fighters will ride in a place of honor in this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade, March 15th.

2025 March



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Sunrise- 6:51 a.m. Sunset- 6:04 p.m.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fat Tuesday • Annandale Conservation Club- 7:30 pm • South Haven Council Meets, 6:30 pm • Silver Creek Township Meeting, 7 pm • Corinna Township Meeting, 7 pm • Potluck Dinner Pioneer Park, 6:00 pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ash Wednesday • Home & Garden Show, Mpls C.C. • Convention Center, March 5-9 • Maple Lake Chamber Meeting, 12 p.m., The V by HH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lion's Club Meeting, 7 p.m., V by HH • Home & Garden Show, Mpls C.C. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home & Garden Show, Mpls C.C. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polar Plunge, Buffalo Lake, 12-3 p.m. • Home & Garden Show, Mpls C.C.
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daylight Savings Time Begins • Home & Garden Show, Mpls C.C. Sunrise- 7:38 a.m. Sunset- 7:14 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annandale Council Meets, C.H., 7 p.m. • Maple Lake School Board Meeting 7p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chatham Township Meeting, 7 p.m. • American Legion Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Legion Club • Maple Lake Schools- Late Start 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hasty-Silver Creek Sportsmen's Club Meeting, 7 p.m. • Annandale Chamber Meeting, TBD, 11:30 a.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northwest Sportshow, Mpls CC • Wright Saddle Club Meeting, 7:30 p.m. • Maple Lake Legion Auxiliary Meeting, 7 p.m. • Sons of the American Legion, 8 p.m. at the Legion Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Moon • Northwest Sportshow, Mpls CC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maple Lake's St. Patrick's Day Celebration • Northwest Sportshow, Mpls CC
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCAA Basketball Selection Sunday • Northwest Sportshow, Mpls CC Sunrise- 7:12 a.m. Sunset- 7:32 p.m.	St. Patrick's Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annandale School Board Meeting, AES Media Center, 7 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maple Lake City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. • Corinna Township Meeting, 7 p.m. • Maple Lake Township Meeting, 7 p.m. • Albion Township Meeting, 7 p.m. • Silver Creek Township Meeting, 7 p.m. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Day of Spring • NCAA Basketball Round 1 • Wright Saddle Club Meeting, 7:30 p.m. • Maple Lake Legion Auxiliary, 7 p.m. 		
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29
Sunrise- 6:59 a.m. Sunset- 7:41 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ 3/24 Deadline for Event Calendar • 3/24 Spring Break-Maple Lake & Annandale- Monday, March 24-28 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring Break-Maple Lake & Annandale • Wright County Snowmobile Association Meeting - American Legion, 7:30 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring Break-Maple Lake & Annandale 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring Break-Maple Lake & Annandale • Knights of Columbus Meeting, St. Timothy Church, 7 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring Break-Maple Lake & Annandale 	

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