

Happy anniversary Maple Lake Lumber

MAPLE LAKE LUMBER Celebrates 60 years!

By Brenda Erdahl

Ken Hennen and his wife, Marge, took a leap of faith when they bought the Maple Lake Lumber Company in 1965.

That was back when lumber was delivered by train and in the winter, coal sold better than 2x4s.

Ken was a manager for Salzer Lumber Co. in his hometown of Watkins until he was transferred to the company's Maple Lake site. He had only been working there for six years when Salzer offered to sell him the business.

In a 2015 Maple Lake Messenger article, Ken described how the winters were harsh back then and lack of machinery made the work backbreaking.

His grandson Brad can still remember unloading truckloads of lumber by hand. When they got their first fork truck they were in heaven.

Sixty years later, Maple Lake Lumber is still going strong, and Brad is the third generation to operate it. He bought the family business in 2023 from his parents Daryl and Kathy Hennen who operated it since 1992. Both continue to be involved in the company today.

Maple Lake Lumber is celebrating its 60th anniversary with little fanfare but a lot of gratitude.



Ken and Marge Hennen bought the Maple Lake Lumber Company in 1965. Pictured above are the second and third generation owners. From left, Daryl and Kathy Hennen recently sold the family business to son Brad Hennen.

"We would like to thank our loyal contractors and all our customers who have done business with us for the last sixty years," Brad said. "A small-town business like us wouldn't be around without our loyal customers, contractors and employees."

Located at 120 Oak Ave. South in Maple Lake, Maple Lake Lumber salesmen have more than 150 years of combined experience to offer new and repeat clients. Likewise, many of the contractors Maple Lake

Lumber works with have been with the company for more than two decades. Customers return time and again for specialized construction knowledge, quality products and competitive prices.

Construction specialists

When you visit Maple Lake Lumber you have the choice of one of several construction specialists who will help you plan, design and estimate the cost of your project.

Daryl has been around the longest and no one knows the business better. Next to Daryl when it comes to experience is Tom Neu. He joined Maple Lake Lumber 35 years ago and has built a solid reputation for himself.

Brad started building pole sheds for the lumber company in 1999 and now is the store's post frame building specialist. Ed Vinkemeyer joined the crew in 2001, and Chad Shoberg joined as a salesman in 2018. The newest salesman is Dan Tongen. He brings 40 years of building experience to the job.

"You know you are doing something right when your employees are staying for so long," Kathy said.

Pete Piram, Travis Erger and Kenny Nyquist man the front counter and are often the first people customers see when they walk in the door. Erger is also in charge of inventory and takes customers' orders. A couple more men loading and unloading inventory and several experienced drivers make up the lumber yard's 20 member staff.

Products and services

This fall, they will be looking to fill another sales position. People with a construction background are encouraged to apply.

Maple Lake Lumber supplies materials for big and small projects, for do-it-yourself-types or as packages that include contractor services. The company has been working with the same trusted contractors for years. Some have been with Maple Lake Lumber since

- Continued on page 2

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MAPLE LAKE LUMBER



Staff at Maple Lake Lumber – 2025



Staff at Maple Lake Lumber – 1989

Maple Lake Lumber Staff. Four staff members remain today from the 1989 staff photo above. Daryl and Kathy Hennen, Mike Lauer and Al Huikko can be found in the 2025 staff photo.

Kathy and Daryl bought the business in 1992.

“We can get you in touch with people you need to start the building process,” Brad said.

Their website maplelakelumber.com

has recently updated its website, so it is more compatible with customer technology and easier to navigate.

For those who prefer a more hands-on shopping experience, the lumber yard’s showroom is



Maple Lake Lumber construction specialists can put you in touch with trusted contractors who know how to do the job right.

ber.com is a good place to begin when taking on a new construction project. Customers can view building products such as doors, windows, decking and hardware and get quotes specific to their needs.

To make the process even smoother, Maple Lake Lumber

stocked with a wide selection of items from interior and exterior siding to windows, doors, moldings and decking.

“They can come here and see exactly what they will be getting. Customers can crank out the windows, walk through the doors or compare boards and trim in pine, maple, oak, and poplar and

decide which one they like best,” Kathy said.

Maple Lake Lumber’s experienced salesmen are always on hand with their specialized construction knowledge waiting to answer questions and offer advice. At the same time, the lumber yard’s prices are competitive and the materials they sell are all high quality.

According to Brad, lumber prices are the lowest they’ve been in four years so now is a good time to build your dream home or tackle that project you’ve been putting off.

To make your project even more affordable, Maple Lake Lumber has a selection of over-stock items to sell at discounted prices.

Sixty years and counting

Maple Lake Lumber has come a long way since Ken and Marge bought the business in 1965. In 1995, Daryl and Kathy added an additional 8,300 square feet to the lumber yard’s main building and in 2005 they built the showroom. Today the Maple Lake Lumber complex consists of 15 buildings, most of which are located south of the railroad tracks.

The one thing that hasn’t changed is the Hennen family’s commitment to the community. Kathy currently serves as the treasurer for the Maple Lake Chamber of Commerce and Brad followed in his dad and grandpa’s footsteps when he joined the Maple Lake Fire Department. The Hennen family’s commitment to Maple Lake, their customers, employees and

contractors, has been proven time and again over the last 60 years, and with any luck, it will continue for many years to come.

For more information on Maple Lake Lumber Co.’s products and services, stop in, give them a call at 320-963-3612, visit them on-line at Maplelakelumber.com, or like them on Facebook to get current sales or information.



When you visit Maple Lake Lumber you have the choice of one of several construction specialists who will help you plan, design and estimate the cost of your project whether you are building a new house or a new patio.

Photos submitted

Maple Lake Lumber Yard – 2025



Maple Lake Lumber Yard – 1980’s

Maintain good health with an Active Lifestyle

Donald Zimmerman
Contributing Writer

An active lifestyle is a key part of life for anyone wanting to maintain good health at any age. Kids especially must start this process early. It is perfectly safe for kids to lift weights and exercise without fear of stunted growth or injury. However, what are the benefits of working out when you're young? Why would kids want to start working out to begin with?

The benefits

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that kids between the ages of 6 and 17 get 60 minutes of activity everyday, and for good reason. Kids experience a lot of the same benefits people of all ages experience: improved strength, better balance and coordination, increased focus and better grades, healthier heart, increased bone density, better body composition, and reduced risk and severity of injury to name a few of the benefits. One of the more obvious benefits for youth in sports is improved sports performance when their off-the-field programming is designed to enhance their performance on the field.

Not just physical

A big understated benefit is better academic performance. The positive ties between exercise (particularly cardiovascular exercise) and improvements in atten-

tion span and memory are many. In the book *Spark* author by John J. Ratey chronicles schools who implemented specific PE curriculum focused on cardiovascular exercise at strategic times which showed measurable increase in academic performance by students.

Additional huge benefits for young exercisers are improved self esteem, a healthier body image, and establishing the habit of working out. This makes it easier to maintain their health as they mature into adulthood. There are many good habits that children can learn in the gym, provided they are being given the tools to learn goal setting and self confidence.

Why exercise?

So why would kids want to start working out? Kids might want to be better at sports, they might start being concerned about their health or their body image, or they might just think it will help them gain more confidence. Regardless of the precise reason, it's important to support kids when they decide to make healthier choices.

Not all kids will find the idea of exercising appealing. Like adults, some children are not motivated to play sports or start lifting weights for the sake of it. It can be wise to exercise caution when encouraging kids to start exercising if they don't like working out.

Key considerations

Here are a few key tips to focus on when inspiring kids to move more and be active.

Set the example. If you're not active, then it's going to be hard to convince your kids that they should start. By making healthy choices yourself, you model the good behavior that you want out of the ones you care for most. Consider including your kids in your workouts and making it a family affair.

Be willing to try a lot of different things until you find something they do like. As kids get older and/or more involved in sports, it's easier to get them on board with conventional strength training. When kids are younger, it may be more difficult to get them on a strength training routine so you'll have to try sports and other physical activities. It's worth mentioning that not every kid is going to care about traditional sports. Furthermore, not every tall child will like basketball, and not every small child will like gymnastics, and that's OK. The point is to be willing to experiment with a variety of activities until you find what clicks. Once you tap into a passion, sticking with programming to improve performance can come more naturally.

Technology and exercise

There are recommendations online to limit screen time and

When a child finds something they're interested in, encourage them to pursue it and help them find opportunities to succeed in their new found interest. Building confidence and self esteem are just a few benefits of an active lifestyle that will mold them for the rest of their lives.

take away technology from kids to encourage exercise. While this advice may seem common, it is not without its drawbacks. Limiting technology runs the risk of making the child feel like they're being punished. Associating exercise with punishments is an ineffective practice and potentially creates a situation where the child will grow up hating exercise.

In reality, taking advantage of technology can help motivate kids. As adults, we often rely on our phones during workouts to keep track of our workouts, our progress, and in many cases to distract us from the fact that we're exercising. Sometimes you can use technology to find inspiration. If your child looks up to an ath-

lete, then connecting exercise and positive benefits is easy. However, if your child isn't a big sports fan, then you can try encouraging them to pursue positive role models who incorporate and consider staying active a big part of their success.

Everyone's fitness journey is unique, and it's the same for kids. Getting more active and maintaining health into adulthood will be different for each young person. Exactly how kids gets active doesn't matter. The important thing is to help your child develop a healthy relationship with fitness, goal setting, and wellness so that they can maintain it as they grow older and become adults.



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Community Calendar

August 2025



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sunrise- 6:05 a.m. Sunset- 8:41 p.m.	• Kimball Days (Aug 5-11) • Sunrise Yoga, Beebe lake County Park, 7 a.m	National Night Out • Annandale Conserv. Club- 7:30 p.m. • South Haven City Council, 6:30 p.m. • Silver Creek Township Meeting, 7 p.m. • Corinna Township Meeting, 7 p.m. • Mooseburger Clown Camp 2025 (Aug. 5-10)	• Maple Lake Chamber Meeting, 12 p.m. • Taste of Delano, Delano Central Park, 5-8 p.m.	• Legion Riders Club at The Legion Club, 7 p.m. • Monticello Farmer's Market, Library Parking Lot, 3:30-7 p.m. • Concert in the Park, Sturges Park, Buffalo 7 p.m	• Friday Night Concert Series, Annandale Municipal Park, 7 p.m • Bear License Purchase Deadline	• Annandale Farmer's Market, City Hall, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. • Buffalo Farmer's Market, across from Buffalo Cinema, 8-12 p.m.
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Sunrise- 6:13 a.m. Sunset- 8:31 p.m	• Annandale City Council Meeting, City Hall, 7 p.m. • Maple Lake School Board Meeting 7p.m • Cokato Corn Carnival, 8/11-8/13)	Chatham Township Meeting, 7 p.m. American Legion Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Legion Club	• Hasty-Silver Creek Sportsmen's Club Meeting, 7 p.m • Annandale Chamber Meeting, TBD, 11:30 a.m.	• Legion Riders at The Legion Club, 7 p.m. • Monticello Farmer's Market, 3:30-7 p.m. • Concert in Sturges Park, Buffalo 7 p.m • Delano City Wide Garage Sales (Thurs-Sat) • Clearwater Rodeo- (8/14-8/16)	• Heart of the Lakes Cruise in, Downtown Annandale, 5 p.m. • Kimball Days, (Fri 8/8-Sun 8/10)	Full Moon • Annandale Farmer's Market, City Hall, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. • Buffalo Farmer's Market, across from Buffalo Cinema, 8-12 p.m. • All-Star Clown Show, Maple Lake High School, 6:30 p.m. • Eddy Trail Races, Lake Sylvia (No Time)
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Sunrise- 6:22 a.m. Sunset- 8:20 p.m MN Renaissance Festival 9 a.m.- 7 p.m., Shakopee	• Annandale School Board Meeting, AES Media Center, 7 p.m.	• 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.		• Wright Saddle Club Meeting, 7:30 p.m. • Monticello Farmer's Market, Library Parking Lot, 3:30-7 p.m. • Concert in the Park, Sturges Park, Buffalo 7 p.m • Minnesota State Fair Begins through Monday, September 1		• Annandale Farmer's Market, City Hall, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. • Buffalo Farmer's Market, across from Buffalo Cinema, 8-12 p.m. • MN Renaissance Festival 9 a.m.- 7 p.m., Shakopee
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30
• Makers and Growers Market, • Downtown Maple Lake, 10:30-3:30 p.m. Sunrise- 6:30 a.m. Sunset- 8:08 p.m Sunrise- 6:38 a.m. Sunset- 7:56 p.m				• Knights of Columbus Meeting, St. Timothy Church, 7 p.m. • Monticello Farmer's Market, Library Parking Lot, 3:30-7 p.m. • Concert in the Park, Sturges Park, Buffalo 7 p.m	• Women, Water & Wine, Bertram Chain of Lakes, 6-8:30 p.m. • Wright County Swappers Meet, Three Day Event, Fri-Sun, Aug. 29-31	• Annandale Farmer's Market, City Hall, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. • Buffalo Farmer's Market, across from Buffalo Cinema, 8-12 p.m. • MN Renaissance Festival 9 a.m.- 7 p.m., Shakopee

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