

M&M Express: A local name you can trust

By Brenda Erdahl

It's rare if there's a quiet moment at M&M Express Lube and Car Care Center on Division Street West in Maple Lake. Some mornings customers arrive before the mechanics. That's a testament to the company's reputation of honesty and quality service, Office Manager Darcey Bichler said.

"It makes me feel good to have an honest facility that is trusted. We don't ever fix what doesn't need to be fixed, in fact, Shop Manager Kris Porter will do anything he can to save the customer money. I think the customers really appreciate that," she said.

M&M's reputation for honest, quality work has built a large following of loyal customers and continues to attract new customers every day.

Whether their certified mechanics are changing your tires or your oil, if you choose M&M they become a partner in your vehicle's care, and they will do all they can to make sure your vehicle is being serviced as it should be.

Porter leads a team of young, but experienced mechanics and has been in the business for 40-some-odd years himself. The M&M crew is always willing to step up even if it means taking on a bus route in a pinch.

The campus on Division Street in Maple Lake is home to M&M Express Lube and Car Care Center, M&M Express Sales and Service and M&M's Maple Lake school bus fleet.

The Millner family has operated M&M



Pictured are M&M's technicians who want to be a partner in your vehicle's care and do all they can to make sure it is being serviced as it should be (L-R) Isaac Millner, Kris Porter, Jackson Resop, Ethan Millner, AJ Ragan and Matt Myre.

for more than 50 years. It started as a bus company in Annandale and has evolved into a three-part, multifunctional business that continues to be family run.

M&M Express Lube & Car Care Center

At the heart of the business is M&M Express Lube and Car Care. More than a

quick lube, M&M technicians offer bumper to-bumper service on any vehicle including RVs and utility trailers, plus they offer free diagnostics and a shuttle service.

"We will pick up vehicles all over town at any commercial address or business for service. We will also pick up customers and bring them home at their convenience,"

Scott Millner said.

"We just do what we can to provide good service," Bichler added. "With the Maple Manor so close we help a lot of elderly customers who don't have anybody else. We pick up vehicles, jump start their vehicles, help however we can."

- Continued on page 2

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The crew at M&M also has strict ethics on charging for diagnostics.

“We typically do not charge for a diagnostic scan,” Bichler said. “Some businesses you walk in the door, and you are being charged to scan a vehicle. We choose not to.”

Tires

Fall is an important time to have your tires checked by professionals like the technicians at M&M, Millner said. Seasonal changes can be hard on tires and there are a lot of people driving on the roads who don’t realize they need a replacement. Even if a tire looks good on the outside shoulder, the inside tread can be completely worn away, and you can’t see the inside until you get under the car. Winter is a bad time to be driving on Minnesota roads with worn-out tires.

M&M offers free tire inspections to its customers and there are some sales on tires coming up in October, Bichler said. Unfortunately, tires continue to be expensive, so it’s a good idea to get in and take advantage of any deals available. To stay safe on the roads, Millner recommends replacing tires somewhere between 35,000 and 50,000 miles. Although rare, some tire/vehicle combinations can reach more than 70,000 miles before they need to be replaced.

“You are doing really well in Minnesota if you hit 70,000 on a set,” he said.

Once you buy a set of tires from M&M they become a partner with you in their upkeep. That partnership includes a lifetime of free rotations and help making sure your tires remain up to industry standards. M&M offers a wide variety of tires to choose from, and they are all quality tires the folks at M&M would put on their own cars.

Batteries

M&M not only sells batteries, M&M



Isaac Millner checks the air pressure on a vehicle in to have its oil changed. Appointments aren’t necessary for oil changes and typically the wait is not long.

technicians are skilled at evaluating the charging system and the battery condition. “We are the most qualified in town to evaluate those conditions and to sell batteries,” Millner said.

Fast Lube

The fast lube part of the business is fast and efficient. No appointment is necessary. They work on a first come, first serve basis and typically, the wait is not long, Bichler said.

If customers choose, they can sign up for an e-mail reminder when it’s time to have their oil changed. The automated system keeps track of recommended maintenance schedules and lets customers know when their vehicle is due.

As with the tires, if you choose M&M for your fast lube services they become a partner in your vehicle’s care, and they will do all they can to make sure your vehicle is being serviced as it should

be. M&M’s 20-point inspection process assesses tires, brakes, air filters, wiper blades and lights before you get a fix-it ticket. If technicians see something that might be a problem in the future, they alert you to it.

It all goes back to M&M’s commitment to be honest and upfront with their customers and never recommend repairs that aren’t necessary, Bichler said.

Fleet Services

M&M Express Lube and Car Care Center also offer fleet services, which means they will manage the service and maintenance on a company’s fleet of vehicles, including record keeping. For more information call 320-963-2060 or visit www.mmexpresssales.com.

M&M Express Sales and Service

M&M Express Sales and Service is Central Minnesota’s leader in outdoor

power equipment. They carry an inventory ranging from tractors, ATVs and snow blowers to handheld mowers, leaf blowers, chainsaws, and other yard care needs.

A popular niche item that is becoming more affordable thanks to lithium battery advancements is the robotic lawn mower. Like robotic vacuum cleaners, these machines are programed to run as often as you need to keep your lawn at a consistent length. One customer said her lawn has never looked nicer or had fewer weeds than it has since she bought a robotic lawnmower five years ago. M&M carries these in Husqvarna and Stihl brands.

If they don’t have what you are looking for in Maple Lake, they may carry it in one of their other stores. They have locations in Buffalo, Big Lake, Brainerd, and St. Cloud.

Their Buffalo Store, located at 600 Hwy 55 East, is looking better than ever this fall after a summer’s worth of renovations that makes better use of space and gives the business a more updated and appealing appearance. Some of the improvements include a vaulted ceiling, remodeled bathroom and shop, a larger showroom and a canopied outdoor patio.

An authorized Mahindra, Stihl, Husqvarna Power, Toro, Echo, Cub Cadet® and Exmark dealership, M&M Express Sales and Service carries a large selection of new and pre-owned inventory for both commercial and personal use.

For more information on their stores and the brands they carry visit www.mmexpresssales.com

M&M Express Sales and Service and M&M Express Lube and Car Care Center are located on Division Street West in Maple Lake. Whether you’re looking to have your oil changed or update your outdoor power equipment, M&M has you covered.



SCARE
UP SOME

HALLOWEEN FUN!



In recent years Halloween seems to have become the second most “wonderful time of the year” next to Christmas - the amount of decorating done is certainly comparable.

It’s a time for all ages to let loose, put on their favorite get-up and have some fun. This year, Halloween falls on a Friday, which makes it that much sweeter since party goers won’t have to worry about getting up for school or work the next day.

There are lots of opportunities locally for those who want to get in on the fun.

On Friday, Oct. 31, the Maple Lake Chamber of Commerce will host its annual Business Trick or Treat from 3 to 5 p.m. This is when businesses in downtown Maple Lake, and a few in the Industrial Park, hand out treats to children of all ages, so come dressed in your Halloween best.

Saturday, Oct. 25 is the Maple Lake Elementary PTA hosted Halloween Carnival. This family-friendly event features games, bingo, prizes, snacks, and a costume contest. All proceeds benefit the MLE PTA, a non-profit organization



Paisley and Austin Stemm and their dad John attended last year’s Maple Lake Business Trick or Treat dressed as Minecraft characters. Above, they are exiting Pagel Law with treats in their buckets.

that funds needs of the school, staff, and the students.

Pioneer Park’s, Halloween Spooktacular is also Saturday, Oct. 25 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Minnesota Pioneer Park in Annandale. There is something for all ages at this party. For younger children there are new games in the upper barn while older children can enjoy the “enter if you dare” Dungeon of Terror in the lower barn. There will also be trick or treating in the Barn and the “spooky village”, plus cookie decorating,

food and beverages in the Big Woods building.

Annandale Business Trick or Treat is Oct. 31 from 3 to 5 p.m. Get the kids dressed up in their Halloween costumes and come out to enjoy this family friendly community event in downtown Annandale. Many businesses get involved.

Children up to age 12 can enter to win a goodie bag from the Maple Lake Messenger now through the end of the month by participating in the

newspaper’s annual Halloween Coloring Contest. You can find the coloring sheet inside this week’s Messenger or pick one up at the Maple Lake Library during open hours. Kids can enjoy coloring the Halloween themed drawing then turn it into the Messenger office by Oct. 31 for a chance to win. Winners will be selected from two categories - ages 0 thru 7 and ages 8 thru 11. The winning coloring pages will be published in the Nov. 6 Messenger.

For those who would rather stay home on All Hallows Eve, consider hosting a party. Whether it’s big and loud or small and cozy, Halloween is a time for friends and family to enjoy time together. Consider a potluck where everyone brings their own dish or a simple bonfire. Go all out with a full-fledged costume party or set out a basket of easy costume elements for your guests, such as masquerade masks, silly glasses, hats, or clown noses for those who want a small touch of Halloween whimsy.

Halloween can be a lot of fun, so get out and enjoy it.

Color Contest!



Look for details in the Maple Lake Messenger on Oct. 1 or stop by the Maple Lake Library!

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">Halloween Coloring Contest starts, look for details in Maple Lake Messenger.Maple Lake Chamber Meeting, 12 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Legion Riders Club at Legion Club, 7pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Maple Lake Irish Football vs. USA @ Upsala High School, 2 p.m.Annandale Cardinals Football vs. Rockford Area @ Annandale High School, 7 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Buffalo Farmer's Market, 8 a.m.-12 p.m.
5 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Maker's & Growers Market, Downtown Maple Lake, 10:30-3:30 p.m.MN Vikings vs. Cleveland Browns, 8:30 a.m. (London Game)MN Pioneer Park, Fall Pancake Breakfast, 8a.m-12 p.m. Sunrise- 7:20 a.m. Sunset- 6:48 p.m.	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none">October Hunter's Moon	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Annandale Conserv.Club- 7:30 p.m.South Haven Council Meeting, 6:30pmSilver Creek Township Meeting, 7 p.m.Corinna Township Meeting, 7 p.m.Potluck Dinner Pioneer Park, 6:30 p.m.	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Hasty-Silver Creek Sportsmen's Club Meeting, 7 p.m.Annandale Chamber Meets, 11:30 am	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Lion's Club Meeting, 7 p.m., V by HHSons of the American Legion, 8 p.m. at the Legion Club	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Maple Lake Irish Football vs. West Central Area @ Maple Lake High School, 7 p.m.Annandale Cardinals Football vs. Milaca @ Annandale High School, 7 p.m.	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Buffalo Farmer's Market, across from Buffalo Cinema- 8 a.m.-12 p.m.Maple Lake Library Annual Fundraiser- Maple Lake Legion, 5:30-9 p.m.St. Timothy's School Marathon
12 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Columbus DayAnnandale Council Meeting, 7 p.m.Maple Lake School Board Meets 7p.mBertram Boo-tacular, Bertram Chain of Lakes, 4-7 p.m.ATV Safety Hybrid Class, Wright Co. Training Center, 5 p.m. Sunrise- 7:29 a.m. Sunset- 6:35 p.m.	13	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Chatham Township Meeting, 7 p.m.American Legion Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Legion Club	15	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Maple Lake Legion Auxiliary Meeting, 7 p.m.Wright Saddle Club Meeting, 7:30 p.mFall Holiday, No School Annandale & Maple LakeYouth Deer Hunt Season Opens	17	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Buffalo Farmer's Market, across from Buffalo Cinema- 8 a.m.-12 p.m.Snowmobile Safety Training Class, Mies Outland, Watkins, 8:30 a.m.
19 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Sunrise- 7:38 a.m.Sunset- 6:23 p.m.MN Vikings vs. Eagles, 12 p.m.	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Annandale School Board Meeting, AES Media Center, 7 p.m.Bus Safety Week, October 20-24th	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Maple Lake City Council Meeting, 7p.mMaple Lake , Albion, and Silver Creek Township Meetings, 7 p.m.Maple Lake VFW, at the The V, 7 p.m.Annandale Cardinals Football Quarter Finals, TBD, 7 p.m. October New Moon	22	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none">MN Vikings @ Los Angeles, 7:15 p.m.Monticello Chamber Business Trick or Treating, 4-6 p.m	24	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Buffalo Farmer's Market 8-12Buffalo Business Trick or Treat, 2-4 p.m.Ladies Day Out, Buffalo, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.Pioneer Park Spooktakular, 5-8 p.m.Maple Lake Elem. Halloween CarnivalAnnandale Cardinals Football Section Semis- TBD, 7 p.m.Bertram Boo-tacular, Bertram Chain of Lakes, 4-7 p.m.
26 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Sunrise- 7:47 a.m.Sunset- 6:12 p.m.	27	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Wright County Snowmobile Association Meeting - American Legion, 7:30 p.m	29	30	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none">HalloweenHalloween Coloring Entries DueSDD- NO School Maple LakeBusiness Trick or Treat. 3-5 p.m. in downtown Annandale & Maple LakeKnights of Columbus Meeting, St. Timothy Church, 7 p.mClue: The Musical, Buffalo Community Theater, 7 p.m.	

★ Calendar Sponsors – Submit next months events before the deadline noted above - Email to ads@maplelakemessenger.com


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