

CORONA-TIMES PSAs

WEEK OF 9 / 7 / 20 A

BLOOD DRIVES:

Call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit RedCrossBlood.org to schedule a donation time or to find a drive near you. **NO WALK-INS due to COVID- 19.**

Tues.	9/8	12:00-6:00	Crosslake Lutheran Church in Crosslake
Wed.	9/9	12:00-6:00	Hill City Assembly of God Church in H.C.
Thurs.	9;10	8:00-2:00	Camp Riley Armory in Little Falls
Thurs.	9/10	9:00-3:00	Essentia Health Sports Ctr. Brainerd
Wed.	9;16	9:00-3:00	Morrison County Gov. Ctr. In Little Falls

9/7 – 9/13

The Brainerd Public Library the “**Spring Blooming Bulbs for Northern Gardens**” will be presented by Master Gardener Jennifer Knutson on **Tues., Sept. 8**, at 12:00 noon via Zoom. Bulbs are a great addition to northern gardens! Information will be presented on ten easy-care bulbs, what to look for when purchasing them, proper site and soil preparation, good watering and fertilizing practices, and landscape design considerations. Register for this free Zoom webinar by calling the library at 218-829-5574 or registering online at TinyURL.com/CWCgarden. The Zoom link will be sent in a confirmation email after registration

((To comply with COVID-19 guidelines it will be an outdoor, drive-thru distribution. You must stay in your vehicle.)) **Ruby's Pantry Pop-Up Pantry** is **Tues., Sept. 8th** at The Northern Pacific Center - Building #2, 1511 Northern Pacific Rd, Brainerd, MN 56401. Food distribution begins at 4:30 p.m. and ends at 6:00 p.m. Ruby's Pantry is a non-profit food ministry serving our community on the second Tuesday of the month. There are no income guidelines to participate; Ruby's Pantry is for everyone who eats. For a \$20 cash donation, participants will receive a "share" with an abundance of groceries. The variety and amount of food varies each month. Participants should bring containers to put their food in. Contact The Journey North Community Church at 218.824.5617 about volunteer opportunities at Ruby's!

Join the **Salvation Army** and **Cub Foods** as they host **Business After Hours** on **Tues. Sept. 8th** at the parking lot near the Salvation Army in downtown Brainerd. Social distancing and state guidelines will be followed. The event runs from 4:30-6:00. Snacks and beverages will be available. Get ready to learn more about the Salvation Army and Cub Foods while doing some networking. You could win door prizes! As a courtesy to the host, please RSVP online at BrainerdLakesChamber.com or by calling 829-2838.

Please join **Central Lakes Community Performing Arts Center** as they present an outdoor concert featuring "**Deuces Wild! Dueling Pianos!**" The event will be held **Fri. Sept. 11th** on the south lawn of CLC Brainerd campus and will start at 6:30. Snacks and beverages will be available on-site. Tickets are \$25 and are sold online only (no box office) with on-site tickets (Cash or Check only) day-of based on availability. Get tickets now at CLCPerformingArts.com.

Join **Crossing Arts** Alliance on **Sat., Sept. 12th**, from 10 to noon, and pick up a little creative fun. **Creativity kits** will be distributed at multiple locations this month - at Crossing Arts and at Frandsen Bank & Trust branches in Baxter, Crosslake, and Nisswa. Kits will be available on tables in the front of Crossing Arts and Frandsen Bank volunteers will be handing out kits in their parking lots. These kits have two art projects, a coloring sheet, and more. **Creativity Kits are for anyone and free to the public.** Kits are limited to the first 200 at Crossing Arts. Frandsen Bank will have an additional 200 creativity kits between their three locations. First come, first served. Brought to you by Crossing Arts supporters, our Premier Sponsor Frandsen Bank & Trust, and our Supporting Sponsor Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union. For more information contact Crossing Arts at 21-833-0416, info@crossingarts.org. Crossing Arts is a 501c3 nonprofit located in the heart of downtown Brainerd at 711 Laurel Street.

The **Lone Eagle Auto Club** announced earlier this summer that their **46th Annual Lone Eagle Auto Club Show & Swap Meet** scheduled for Sept. 13th has been canceled. They say the health and safety of their participants, volunteers, spectators and community remains their top priority. They are looking forward to next year's event on Sept. 12, 2021.

9/14 – 9/20

Join the Brainerd Lakes Chamber as they present a Zoom webinar from their **Blue Ox Success Series** regarding the local **CARES Act Grant Dollars** on **Mon. Sept. 14th** from 1:00-2:00. If you've heard of the CARES Act Grant dollars, but you're not sure what is covered or how to apply, this webinar will answer those questions. If you own a small business or work at a nonprofit, your organization may be eligible for grant funds! Those facilitating the webinar will be from the Brainerd Lakes Area Economic Development Corporation (BLADEC) and Crow Wing County. Register in advance at BrainerdLakesChamber.com.

The public is invited to the **Crow Wing County Commissioner General Election Candidate Debate** on **Tues. Sept. 15th** at the Hallett Community Center in Crosby. The debate, which is free and open to the public, will be held from 5:00-7:00. Masks and social distancing are required. If you do not want to attend in public, send an email to Brielle@CuyunaLakes.com for a Zoom link.

The Brainerd Fire Department is hiring paid, on-call firefighters. If you live within 10 minutes of either the Laurel Street or Mill Avenue fire stations and are passionate about serving your community wanting to be part of something important, this may be the job for you. Applications are being accepted **until 12:00 noon on Fri. Sept. 18** to become a Brainerd PAID on-call firefighter. Apply online at CI.Brainred.MN.US. Required testing on Sept. 26th. Call 828-2312 with questions.

The **Minnesota Department of Natural Resources** is **auctioning** off confiscated hunting equipment. The auctions will be held online on **Sat. Sept. 19th** (and Oct. 24th). Items in the auction include over 500 guns, over 70 bows, and other equipment. Learn more at DNR.State.MN.US

MISC....

It's time again to **Flock Your Friends** with a flock of plastic flamingos – but all for a good cause! The rules to Flock A Friend are simple. You pay \$1 per bird and the **Brainerd Lakes Area Women Of Today** will migrate the birds from location to location. The flock will remain on one's lawn for 2-3 days and then will be picked up by a BLAWT member. This is a fundraiser by the Brainerd Lakes Area Women of Today. Each year we share the proceeds between H.A.R.T. (Heartland Animal Rescue Team) and Ruff Start Rescue (ruffstartrescue.org). There are two ways to order – online at BrainerdLakesAreaWomenOfToday.com to complete an order form and donate to our cause, or print and complete the form from the link at the website and mail with a check to Brainerd Lakes Area Women of Today at P.O. Box 1225 in Brainerd. A minimum flock of 20 birds all the way up to 50 birds can be ordered OR to assure you do NOT get flocked, it's \$50 "insurance."... but do it quickly....The birds head south October 1, so don't delay!

Register NOW for the **Crow Wing Energized** 1st Annual **"Move It for Mental Health"** virtual 1-mile, 5K, 10k, which can take place anytime from **Sept. 19-26th**. September is National Suicide Prevention Month and however you want to put in the distance, do what makes you happy! Walk, run, paddle, pedal, swim, kayak or skip... whatever way you want! The cost to participate is \$30 and one of five area non-profits will benefit! Participants will vote for either The Lighthouse Project, Smiles for Jake, Wellness in the Woods, Bridges of Hope or The Crisis Line. Registration includes a Make It OK shirt, neck gator and race bib. Then on Fri. Sept. 18th, they'll have a pickup location and time for you to get your items. Register now at CrowWingEnergized.org/events and let's Move for Mental Health!

Calling all artists! This year **Crossing Arts** Alliance's annual 8x8 art fundraiser is going online. Between October 18 - 25, you'll have a chance to bid on an original piece of art in an online silent auction and support Crossing Arts in the process. 100% of the proceeds go towards supporting our mission of promoting and enhancing the arts in the lakes area. **Interested in contributing your talents to this highly-anticipated event?** Crossing Arts provides the canvases, so stop in and pick up an 8" x 8" canvas at Crossing Arts, put your creativity to work, and return your **finished piece to us by October 1!** For more information contact Crossing Arts at 21-833-0416, info@crossingarts.org. Our hours are Tuesday - Friday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm. Crossing Arts is a 501c3 nonprofit located in the heart of downtown Brainerd at 711 Laurel Street.

As the national pandemic continues, **Cuyuna Regional Medical Center** is running low on its supply of masks and is again calling on community members for **donations of hand-sewn cloth face masks** to protect its patients and visitors. Masks may be safely donated Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. until 6 p.m. at CRMC's main entrance screening station. For answers to any donation questions or an alternative time to make a donation, please contact Jennifer at 218-545-4455.

Attention animal lovers! **Wild & Free Wildlife Rehabilitation Organization** needs your **help!** FIRST, they want to say thank you for all the donations of Acorns, Apples and dry dog food and they work to fatten up the 8 bear cubs they have before they hibernate... Wild and Free was overwhelmed by the public's generosity and NOW ONLY NEED ACORNS. They cannot accept any more apples (they rot too fast) and dog food (they have no place to store it all)...So they are still happily accepting JUST ACORNS. If you can donate ACORNS (without grass clippings or fertilizer), please drop your donations at the Garrison Animal Hospital. Thank you! Learn more online at WildAndFree.org.

The annual competition **for VFW Voice of Democracy scholarship** awards is now open. Students in grades 9 -12 write and read their composition with the theme, "Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?" Up to \$300 is awarded locally with winners going to state and national competition sharing \$154,000. Students in grades 6 - 8 enter the Patriot's Pen competition. This year's theme is, "What is Patriotism to me?" First place locally is \$300 with winners going to state and national competition sharing \$55,000. **The deadline for submissions is October 31st.** More details at BrainerdVFW.org.

Central Lakes College invites string musicians of all ages to **join its new Central Lakes String Orchestra**. Rehearsals will be Wednesday nights from 7-9 pm in the Rehearsal Hall, room E471. All string players, both students and community members, are welcome to join. No audition is required. Students can register for MUSC 1420, attend the first meeting on Sept. 2, or by emailing the instructor. Students can also take string lessons by registering for MUSC 1468. Community members join by attending Sep. 9 or by emailing david.thompson@clcmn.edu.

A reminder that the **Northern Minnesota Railroad Museum** is open **each Saturday** from 10:00-2:00 on Co. Rd. 66 in Crosslake. Admission is a minimum \$5 donation to the museum. Masks are strongly encouraged and social distancing is practiced. Fun for the whole family! To learn more, search Northern Minnesota Railroad Heritage Association on Facebook.

The **Destination Downtown Coalition** wants to **bring Babe the Blue Ox back to downtown Brainerd** but needs your financial help to raise the \$2,400 needed. Nor-Son Construction has donated a Babe the Blue Ox statue that they've had at their Baxter office since 2008. Babe is in need of repairs and a new look. The coalition want this to be a community project that adds to downtown Brainerd's uniqueness. The Crossing Arts Alliance has agreed to head the artistic side with a call out to local artists. They will be putting together a panel to determine placement, find great artists, and judge who will be doing the honors of creating downtown's latest attraction! If you would like to provide financial support for this project please make a donation by clicking on either link and add to the 21% raised so far of our goal! Sponsors of \$500 or more will have their name or business logo on a plaque next to the statue. <https://downtownbrainerd.org/donate/>

Crow Wing County Sheriff Scott Goddard has announced the creation of a **"Safe Exchange Zone"** on the campus of Crow Wing County. The designated area not only provides a safe location for child custody and e-commerce exchanges but also allows people feeling the need to meet in an area that offers a sense of safety and security a place to go. Two parking stalls have been marked for this purpose in front of the Crow Wing County Judicial Center and can be used 24 hours a day. The safe zone is monitored 24 hours a day by law enforcement and officers are able to quickly respond if there were to be a problem.

As the national pandemic continues, **Cuyuna Regional Medical Center** is again calling on community members for donations of hand-sewn cloth face masks to protect its patients and visitors. Masks may be safely donated Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. until 6 p.m. at CRMC's main entrance screening station. For answers to any donation questions or an alternative time to make a donation, please contact Jennifer Podsiadly at Jennifer.podsiadly@cuyunamed.org or 218-545-4455

The **2020 Walk to End Alzheimer's** will still be happening on **Sat. Sept. 26th** because Alzheimer's Disease doesn't stop – and neither do we! Although it may look a little different this year, the walking will take place and will still make a difference in our community. Families living with Alzheimer's and other dementias need us more than ever! Start a team or donate **today** at ALZ.org/Walk. Then get ready to walk wherever you would like on that day! You'll be able to watch a recorded Opening Ceremony starting at 10:00 and even track your walk on an App! We're still walking, just not all together in one spot. If you want to get a T-Shirt and flags to place in your yard, gather and submit at least the \$100 needed and the items will be shipped to you! You MUST get that in no later than AUG 28th, one month prior to The Walk.

The **Minnesota Department of Natural Resources** is **auctioning** off confiscated hunting equipment. The auctions will be held online on **Sat. Sept. 19th** and **Sat. Oct. 24th**. Items in the auction include over 500 guns, over 70 bows, and other equipment. Learn more about the auction at DNR.State.MN.US.

The **Lakes Area Farmer's Markets** are up and running for the season! The markets are open **TUESDAYS** from 8:00-12:30 at The Franklin Arts Center parking lot.... **THURSDAYS** from 8:00 – 12:30 at the Nisswa American Legion...and on **FRIDAYS** from 8:00-12:30 at the Vikingland Harley Davidson parking lot in Brainerd.

The **Little Falls Farmer's Market** takes place every **WEDNESDAY** and **SATURDAY** from 7:00-12:00 in the parking lot of the Boys & Girls Club in Little Falls (509 W. Broadway). Fresh produce and crafted items available.

The **Aitkin Farmers' Market** at Butler's Building is now open every **Sat.** through Labor Day. Located in the parking lot of the historic Butler building at 301 Minnesota Avenue North, it is open from 9 am to 1 pm. For more information call 219 678 2441.

The **Ideal Farmer's Market** is open every **Sat.** at the Ideal Green Market on County Road 39 in Pequot Lakes and runs from 9:00-1:00. For more information and an update on available produce, visit IdealGreenMarket.com.

The **Crosby Farmer's Market** is held in Crosby at the Main Street Plaza on the corner of Cross and Main Streets from 9:00-12:00 every **Saturday**. (They accept SNAP/EBT transactions). For info, visit Facebook and search Cuyuna Range Farmers Market.

Mount Ski Gull on the west side of East Gull Lake has **its hill open** on Tuesday nights **for running, walking and hiking** from 5:00-7:30pm. The goal is to encourage an active lifestyle for those who are interested in getting some fun exercise! The cost is \$5/person...12 and under are free with a paying adult. You must sign in outside the chalet each Tuesday night and get a wristband to be on the hill. Foot access only. Visit MountSkiGull.com for more information.

Common Goods in Baxter and Crosslake are once again **accepting donations**. They will accept them Monday through Friday, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. However, due to COVID-19, we are asking that you call ahead to determine our ability and availability to accept donations. (218) 825-7682. You may call our stores to set up an appointment time for later in the week. They'll need to know how many boxes and bags you plan to donate. Due to new safety protocols, you will be required to wear a mask when donating your items. They will not accept any loose items or clothing on hangers. All clothing/ linens must be in bags. All shoes must be in bags. All hard goods must be in boxes or totes with lids or covers so that they can stack items.

You can now shop at **Common Goods Thrift Shop** from the comfort of your couch! They've created an online store for each location (Baxter and Crosslake). You can have items shipped to you or opt for the contactless, curbside pickup! Purchases support Bridges of Hope. Visit CommonGoodsBaxter.company.site or CommonGoodsCrosslake.company.site, whichever you prefer!

Registration Open for the **2020 BLACF Award in Philanthropy** Dinner Virtually and/or at Crosslake Lutheran Church (if able to do in person) on **Tues. Sept. 22** at 5:30 pm. NEW THIS YEAR - Virtual and On-site Event Sponsorships & Tickets Available! \$400 Table sponsorships - 4 ppl. with social distancing or a Virtual Table for your 10 Heroes. \$50 for individual tickets. A portion of your cost will go to support the BLA Response Fund. CONTACT – Karl Samp, Executive Director: 218-824-5633.
www.CommunityGiving.org/Events