

CORONA-TIMES PSAs

WEEK OF 10 / 20 / 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.**

Wed.	10/21	8:00-2:00	Maslowski Wellness Ctr. In Wadena
Thurs.	10/22	9:00-2:00	First Baptist Church in Long Prairie
Thurs.	10/22	12:00-5:00	The Marina in Breezy Point
Fri.	10/23	9:00-3:00	Northland Arboretum in Baxter
Mon.	10/26	8:30-2:30	First United Church in Little Falls
Tues.	10/27	1:00-7:00	First United Church in Little Falls
Wed.	10/28	12:00-6:00	First United Church in Little Falls
Wed.	10/28	12:00-6:00	Community Center in Staples
Thurs.	10/29	10:00-4:00	VFW in Brainerd
Fri.	11/6	10:00-4:00	VFW in Brainerd

10/12 – 10/18

((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., Oct. 13th** 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 **Lake Country Crafts & Cones** in Crosslake as they host **Business After Hours** on **Tues. Oct. 13** from 4:30-6:00. SAFELY, enjoy chili with all the fixings, caramel apple sundaes along with beer, wine coolers, water and pop. And you could win prizes! Social distancing and state guidelines will be followed. As a courtesy to the host, advanced registration is recommended. Visit BrainerdLakesChamber.com and register.

Aitkin County Public Health is working in cooperation with the Minnesota Dept. of Health, Minnesota State Emergency Operations Center and the Minnesota National Guard to host a multi-day **COVID-19 Community Testing Site**. Testing will be available **free of charge** for anyone who is interested in getting tested. Testing will take place at The Journey North Church in Aitkin, on **Tues, Oct. 13th and Wed. Oct. 14th** from 12:00-6:00..... and on **Thurs. Oct. 15** from 12:00-3:00. The test is a mid-nasal cavity swab, so it is only about 1 inch into the nose. You can register online for the event at PrimaryBIO.com/R/Atikin.

Join the fun at the **Brainerd Lakes Chamber Sporting Clays Fall Fling** on **Wed. Oct. 14th** at LeBlanc's Rice Creek Hunting & Recreation near Little Falls. Registration and warm-up will start at 1:00 with a 2:00 Shotgun Start. The grand prize is a CZ Upland Ultralight 12GA 26" Shot Gun. The cost to participate is \$350 for a 4-person team. Individuals are \$90 and will be placed with a team. To register, visit BrainerdLakesChamber.com.

Advance care planning is a process that helps you think and talk about your choices for health care in the future. It's important for every adult to have an advance directive, also known as a living will or healthcare directive. **Essentia Health** is offering free, online classes via Zoom, a video conferencing platform, to learn more about advance care planning. Upcoming classes will be held on **Wed. Oct. 14**, at 1:00 p.m. (Mon., Nov. 9, at 11:00 a.m. & Tues., Dec. 8, at 11:00 a.m.). To register for the class, visit EssentiaHealth.org and click on "Classes & Events."

The **Northland Arboretum** in Brainerd for its annual **Haunted Trail** on **Thurs. Fri. and Sat. Oct. 15-17**. From 7:00-9:00 each night, general admission tickets are \$15/person. The LOW scare trail operates from 5:00-7:00 and tickets are just \$10/person. Limited tickets are available and **MUST** be purchased online in advance at NorthlandArb.org. Face masks will be required.

Starting **Fri. Oct. 16th**, **Crow Wing County residents** will have a **drive-through ballot drop-off site** available **through Nov. 2nd** at the parking lot at the corner of 4th and Laurel in Brainerd. It is across the street from the Historic Courthouse. Elections judges will be staffing the drop off site from 8:00-5:00. It will not be available outside of business hours. ((Voters can designate an agent to return their ballot to the elections office for them. Agents may not deliver ballots for more than 3 voters and will have to show ID and sign an affidavit of agent delivery when dropping off ballots for others.)) To learn more, visit CrowWing.us or call 824-1051.

Staying in town for MEA Break? The **Central Lakes Community Performing Arts Center** invites you to a community **drive-in movie night** hosted on the CLC Brainerd Campus, East parking lot. On **Thurs. Oct. 15th** "Shrek" will be shown at 7:00/dusk. On **Fri. Oct. 16th**, the movie will be "Jurassic Park." Gates open at 6:00. The cost is \$10 per vehicle, with a 40 car per night limit. Get tickets by calling 855-8199 on Tuesdays or Thursdays from 10:00-2:00 or online at CLCPerformingArts.com.

Full Tummies - Weekend Edition has recently gotten bigger and better at the **Baxter Cafe!** The Full Tummies program is now providing free weekend lunches to "anyone" regardless of age. **The Brainerd Outreach Program** is also providing each family with a set of prepacked meals. If you know anyone who might benefit, just have them call The Baxter Café (218) 829-1739, on **Saturday** morning **Oct. 17th** between 8am and 10:30am to order meals to be picked up, curbside, between 11:30 am and 12:30pm.

With **National Domestic Violence Awareness Month** underway in October, **The Mid-Minnesota Women's Center**, in an effort to raise funds while unable to host their annual fundraising gala, are hosting an online, silent auction they hope you participate in. It will be **open for bidding on Sun. Oct. 18** and will close on Sat. Oct. 31st. MMWC has been providing victim advocacy services since 1978 and now more than ever, their services are needed by victims. Visit WomensCenterOnline.org for more information.

10/19 – 10/25

Kinship Partners, Crystal Cleaners and Hubbard Radio Brainerd are teaming up for the **2020 Coats For Kids** drive, which WILL be taking place with or without COVID! Community members are being asked to drop off new, or GENTLY used winter coats at Crystal Cleaners in Brainerd **now through Oct. 19th**. Those coats will be cleaned by Crystal Cleaners and prepped for distribution on Oct. 24th at the Westgate Mall in Brainerd. They do ask that the donations are new or in gently used condition. They also ask that all the zippers are in working condition as they cannot replace them. All sizes of coats are needed, and they will also accept hats, mittens, scarves, boots and snow pants. For info. call 218-454-8014 or send an email to MarilynH@KinshipPartners.org.

Northern Lakes Youth Hockey Association is inviting boys and girls ages 4 to 9 to **Try Hockey For Free on Sat. Oct. 24th**. Two sessions will be held: 11:00-12:00 at the Breezy Point Ice Arena and from 2:30-3:30 at the Hallett Community Center in Crosby. Participants are asked to arrive early to get fitted for equipment. The association will provide all necessary equipment. The event/s are free of charge and no commitments are required. To register or learn more visit NorthernLakesLightning.com and click on the New to Hockey tab.

The **Mounted Eagles Therapeutic Horsemanship** presents **"An Evening For ME,"** a fundraising event celebrating the Mounted Eagles (ME) participants, families, volunteers and supporters. The event will be held on **Fri. Oct. 23** from 5:30-9:00 at The Woods – Gather on 3 Event Center just north of Brainerd on Co. Rd. 3. Guests will enjoy dinner, a silent auction, music and dancing and prizes. Tickets are \$35 in advance, \$40 at the door, \$250 for a table of 8. Purchase tickets by visiting MountedEagles.org or to learn more call 218-568-3968.

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Operation Community Connect is a free community event for Crow Wing County residents designed to provide resources, connection, and support in one location on a single day. This year's event will be held virtually on **Sat., Oct. 24** from 10:00-2:00 via Operation Community Connect's [Facebook](#) page and Zoom. This is an event for individuals that are in need, but the event is open to everyone. Guests can meet with housing representatives, county services, and a variety of providers to access resources in one easy online location. Additional services will include veteran's services, mental health screenings, public health information, public assistance and food benefit, restorative justice, a cooking demo, and more. Learn more by visiting Facebook and searching Operation Community Connect Crow Wing County.

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

MISC...

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CenterPoint Energy is reminding customers about **Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule**, which protects residential customers experiencing difficulty paying their natural gas bill from having their natural gas service disconnected between Oct. 15, 2020, and April 15, 2021. This year, the Cold Weather Rule will go into effect while the COVID-related moratorium on utility service disconnections for non-payment is ongoing. CenterPoint Energy is encouraging customers who may have difficulty paying their natural gas bills to set up a payment plan now so their bills don't become so large they struggle to pay them later. Under the Cold Weather Rule, customers are required to set up a payment plan to prevent disconnection. Customers should call CenterPoint Energy between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, at **800-245-2377** or visit CenterPointEnergy.com/Assistance

Crossing Arts in Brainerd presents its **newest exhibition** 'Following My Creative Compass, Works By Paula Jensen'. 'Following My Creative Compass' is an artistic journey of Paula Jensen's work and creative process over the last thirty years.

Opening October 9, this exhibition will be on display in their gallery through October 31. Due to COVID-19 and regulations for large group gatherings, we will not be having a public reception for this exhibition, but the public is invited to visit our gallery during regular business hours to view the artwork. For more information contact Crossing Arts at 218-833-0416, 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.

Tickets to support the **Outreach Program of Brainerd Lakes** are on sale now and only 500 will be sold! Five winners will be drawn on Tues. Dec. 1 at 6:00. Prize 1 is a \$1,000 gift card for grocery shopping at Schaefer's Foods of Nisswa... Prize 2 is \$1,000 worth of dining at any of the 3 Cheers restaurants (Iron Range Eatery, Notch B, Prairie Bay, Sherwood Forest)... Prize 3 is \$1,000 cash.... Prize 4 is \$1,100 Nisswa Shopping Spree.... Prize 5 is a \$1,000 Car Care package! Get tickets by calling Shawn at 218-961-0055. Learn more at OutreachProgramBLA.org.

Lakes Area Habitat for Humanity is in need of volunteers to help them gather items for their restore as they have been inundated with donations and salvages. They need help tearing job sites apart and unloading back at the store. The schedule is flexible and you'll feel good knowing you are helping others. If you are able to volunteer, please call 218-454-7027 or email Restore@LakesAreaHabitat.org.

The **Brainerd High School Music Coupon Books** are once again for sale! They are just \$25 and help to support the music at BHS! Plus, you'll enjoy savings like you cannot believe! Get yours today at Affinity Plus Federal Credit Union in Baxter, Bridge of Harmony, College & Pine Square Stores, Crystal Cleaners, Kingsley Musical School, Meg's Cabin in Nisswa or by calling BHS at 454-6200! You can also order them online at BrainerdMusic.org OR from any BHS music student!

As you may know, in late July, the **Brainerd Family YMCA** experienced significant structural and cosmetic damage to their facility from heavy rainfall and they found out that the damage is not covered by insurance – with damage estimates at over \$148,000. And before that, the pandemic forced the Y to scale back services, putting more strain on their finances. The Brainerd Family YMCA serves over 725 children and their families every year. They provide after-school programming, host summer camps, promote healthy lifestyles and they change peoples' lives. The Y has stepped up when businesses needed it. **IT'S TIME FOR BUSINESSES TO STEP UP. THE Y NEEDS US.** Both CTC and Digital Horizons have each donated \$1,000 to start the grassroots campaign to raise funds for the Y. If you can do the same or similar, please visit GoCTC.com/ymca

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.

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.

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/>.

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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.

The **Lakes Area Farmer's Markets** are up and running for the season through the end of October! 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.

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!