

CORONA-TIMES PSAs

10/27/20 - 11/1/20

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.	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

10/26 – 11/1

Help support local cancer patients by participating in **Cuyuna Regional Medical Center's** virtual **Kaleidoscope Fundraiser Auction** underway **now through Thurs. Oct. 28th** at 8:00pm. Bid on items like a smart watch, a jet boat fishing adventure, designer handbags, tons of themed baskets and more! All the items have been donated by CRMC staff and the community. Register for the fundraiser and start bidding at CRMC2020.GiveSmart.com or simply Google Cuyuna Regional Medical Center for a link.

The **Brainerd Lakes Area Walk to End Alzheimer's** has an exciting **matching gift** to let you know about! Any donations to the Walk made between now and midnight Wed., Nov. 5th will be matched 1-for-1 up to a total of \$1,500 thanks to a generous gift by a local Brainerd area donor ***in honor of Julie and Bill Gulliford***. Donations can be made online at Act.ALZ.org/Brainerd or checks can be entered using the mobile app. Checks can also be sent to the Minneapolis office with a [donation form](#) found on that website with a note that the donation is for the Brainerd Lakes Area Walk. Mailed checks need to be received by November 5th in order to be matched. ((They can be mailed to: Alzheimer's Association, 7900 W. 78th St., Suite #100 Minneapolis, MN 55439)) Again, learn more at act.alz.org/Brainerd,

Crow Wing County residents now have a **drive-through ballot drop-off site** available weekdays now **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.

A virtual **Lunch & Learn** that could save your life will be held on **Wed. Oct. 28th** from 12:00-1:00....it's entitled "**Preparing for Winter Safety.**" Deerwood Police Chief Mark Taylor will facilitate the webinar where guests will learn about winter safety tips, how to keep yourself and loved ones safe while walking and being outdoors in winter weather, driving safety tips and more. To get the link for the virtual event, call Cassie at 218-821-6975

Enjoy **Halloween** activities safely and at your leisure during the **Downtown Brainerd Spooktacular** from **Mon. Oct. 26 through Sat. Oct. 31st**. Have fun with the B.A.T.G.O Scavenger hunt...find the hidden bats throughout town to make a bingo. BATGO cards will be available that week in stores and online starting the 26th. They will also have a Selfie Station Costume Contest along with spooktacular sales and specials throughout downtown Brainerd. Learn more by visiting Facebook and searching Downtown Brainerd Spooktacular.

Join **Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation** for a complimentary **Estate Planning & Tax Strategies Workshop** on **Thrus. Oct. 29th** online via Zoom from 3:00-5:00pm. This is your chance to learn about estate planning essentials (trusts vs. wills), tax saving opportunities from the CARES Act, leaving a legacy and charitable giving options. Four speakers will be facilitating the workshop. To register, visit CommunityGiving.org/events.

The **Brainerd Lakes Chamber's Blue Ox Success Series** will host a **webinar** entitled **The State of Real Estate: How it Affects Your Business** on **Fri. Oct. 30th** via Zoom. The complimentary webinar will run from 9:00-10:00. Learn about the current state and future outlook of the BLA real estate market and how its changed due to COVID, learn how our local economy and/or your business can benefit from the new people and cabin owners voing to the area, and more! Register now at BrainerdLakesChamber.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 and Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union will be distributing Halloween bags to kids! If you know anyone who might benefit, just have them call The Baxter Café (218) 829-1739, on **Saturday** morning **Oct. 31st** between 8am and 10:30am to order meals to be picked up, curbside, between 11:30 am and 12:30pm.

Community Action of Pequot Lakes, along with Pequot Lakes area businesses, invite kids to **Trick-or-Treat** at the town's businesses on **Sat. Oct. 31st** from 10:00-12:00. Kids can trick or treat at the businesses that have the Candy Corn identifier in their windows. Miss Pequot Lakes royalty will also host a bonfire at Trailside Park at the same time where they will be serving s'mores and juice.

Little ghouls and goblins are invited in to **Downtown Brainerd** on **Sat. Oct. 31st** for the **Annual Spooktakular Trick-Or-Treat** event from 12:00-2:00. All children are welcome to come in costume to receive pre-packaged treats distributed outside downtown Brainerd businesses. All businesses will be following COVID guidelines for safely distributing treats. To learn more, go to Facebook and look up Destination Downtown Brainerd Coalition.

Brainerd's **Church of the Nazarene** invites kids to **TRUNK-or-Treat** in their parking lot on Sat. Oct. 31st from 2:00-4:00. Costumes are encouraged! Free to attend! The church is on Highway 371 at Johnson Road across from Landsburg Landscape Nursery.

Join the **Nisswa Lions** on **Sat. Oct. 31st** at Schaefer's Foods in Nisswa for a **Trick-or-Treat** event from 2:00-4:00pm. Free hotdogs will be available for kids 12 and under. A free will donation will be asked from those 13 and older. Kids will be receiving a pre-packaged Halloween treat pack. The event will be outside in the Schaefer's parking lot.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Baxter will host a **Drive-Thru, Touch-Free Halloween Event** on **Sat. Oct. 31st**, from 3:00-5:00 pm. The event will feature fun candy stations, providing sweet treats to children in SAFE, drive-thru style. The Outreach Board at Prince of Peace noted that each driver will receive a single plastic bag for candy as they enter the church's parking lot, with all candy going into the driver's bag. After driving thru, the driver can distribute the candy, as appropriate, to the children in attendance. Prince of Peace Lutheran Church is located just south of the new Baxter Elementary School at 6311 Mildred Road in Baxter. More information is at PrinceOfPeaceLutheran.Church.

Kids ages 10 and younger are invited to a **Trick or Treat Parade** at the **Cuyuna Regional Medical Center's Care Center** on **Sat. Oct. 31st** from 5:00-6:00pm. This will be an outdoor parade where kids will roam along the outside of the center in search of sugary, spooky delights while residents remain inside their rooms. The children will trick or treat, self-serve style at "scary stations" set up outside of residents' individual windows. The stations will be more than 6 feet apart and all candy will be pre-packaged. Free-will donations to cover costs would be appreciated. To learn more, visit CuyunaMed.org or call Mary at 218-546-4353.

Let your little ones celebrate Halloween by heading to the **Northland Arboretum** in Brainerd on **Sat. Oct. 31st** for a **low scare trail** featuring The Great Pumpkin, Underwater World, Jurassic Park, The Nightmare Before Christmas. The outdoor trail will be open from 4:00-7:00 and cost just \$5 per person. T-shirts and glow sticks will be sold, too. Face masks are required. At the end of the trail, they'll have a trunk or treat section.

The **Pillager Lions** invite kids to a **drive-thru Trick or Treat** event on **Sat. Oct. 31st** at the Pillager Community Center. The free event will run from 7:00-8:00pm.

TRUNK OR TREAT EVENTS (etc) in Pequot Lakes/Pine River/Backus Area on **Sat. Oct. 31st** :

Backus Legion will host a **kids party** from 11:00-12:30

Grace United Methodist Church in Pequot Lakes 11:00-1:00

Good Samaritan Society in Pine River... **Halloween Parade** from 3:00-5:00, outdoors

Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Backus 4:00-6:00

The Dock Guys on 16th Street SW in Pine River... 5:00 start

Backus Nazarene Church from 5:00-6:30

The Warehouse in Pine River 5:00-7:30

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 is open now 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.

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.

MISC...

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. This exhibition will be on display in their gallery **through Sat. Oct. 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

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/>.

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.

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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!