

## PSAs Week of 5 / 16 / 22 A

### BLOOD DRIVES:

Call **1-800-RED-CROSS** or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) to schedule a donation time or to find a drive near you. **NO WALK-INS at this time...**

The American Red Cross continues to experience *an emergency blood shortage* that has caused the blood supply to drop to the lowest level in at least six years. Donors of all blood types – especially type O – are urged to make an appointment to give now.

5/23	Mon.	12:00-6:00	Vets Club in Onamia
5/31	Tues.	12:00-6:00	Crosslake Community Center in Crosslake
6/27	Mon.	12:00-6:00	Lakewood Church in Baxter
6/28	Tues.	12:00-6:00	Lakewood Church in Baxter

## 5/16 – 5/22

**Brainerd Public Schools ISD 181 Board of Education** invites the public to their **final BPS Facility Dedication Ceremony** as they celebrate their beautifully renovated and new elementary, early childhood and aquatic center facilities! The final dedication will be held on **Fri. May 20<sup>th</sup>** at 9:00 at the Warrior Early Learning Center in Baxter. If you plan to attend, please RSVP at [TinyURL.com/PBSElementaries](http://TinyURL.com/PBSElementaries).

Are you doing some spring cleaning? Do you have (Brainerd) Warrior Gear that no longer fits you? Starting **Wed. May 18<sup>th</sup>**, the **Brainerd Public Schools Foundation** will be **collecting gently used WARRIOR WEAR!** They will collect the spirit-wear **through Wed. June 1<sup>st</sup>** at each of the district's buildings. The foundation is asking that you donate with dignity, making sure all donated items are clean, free of holes, rips, and stains and that all zippers are in working order. The Warrior Warehouse Initiative goal is to raise funds to support food/essential pantries across the district buildings. Any unsold items will be donated to the school pantries as well. For info, visit [BPSF.org](http://BPSF.org).

The **Northland Arboretum** in Brainerd invites you to get outside this spring and learn more about birds as the Arb partners with **The Brainerd Lakes Area Audubon Society** to host **Spring Bird Hikes** each Wednesday and Saturday at the Arb in May. The one hour hikes start at 8:00 and is free to Arb members and just a \$5 gate fee for non-members. For more info, visit [NorthlandArb.org](http://NorthlandArb.org). The next hike is **Wed. May 18.**

Join **Jack Pine Brewery** in Baxter for another **Pints for a Purpose** on **Wed. May 18<sup>th</sup>** from 5:00-8:00 as \$1 from every pint sold will benefit **Bridges of Hope**. Reps from Bridges will be on hand to answer questions about the organization, as well.

The **Crow Wing County Land Services Department** will conduct a **business electronics collection** event from 9:00-1:00 on **Thurs. May 19<sup>th</sup>** at the Crow Wing County Landfill. This is a chance for businesses to dispose of any old electronics like computers, CDs/DVDs, monitors, printers, scanners and MUCH MORE. There will be charges for some items. With questions, visit [CrowWing.us](http://CrowWing.us) or call 218-828-4392.

**Cuyuna Regional Medical Center** Physical Therapist Nancy Heise will speak about the **role of exercise and rehabilitation in the cancer patient's care** plan at CRMC's Cancer Support Group on **Thurs., May 19**, from 12 to 1 p.m. in the hospital's Clinic Conference Room. Heise will also share how physical therapy helps with lymphedema, fatigue management, and balance. There is no cost but those planning to attend should make a reservation by calling 218-546-4319.

**Essentia Health** is proud to partner with the **American Heart Association** for a **virtual GoRED webinar** on **Thurs., May 19**. During the engaging and interactive presentation, viewers will learn about women's risk factors for heart disease and how to minimize those factors while enjoying a longer, healthier life. They also will hear from Essentia cardiologists Dr. Natalia Rocha, Dr. Catherine Benziger and Dr. Nicole Worden — as well as a local survivor who has an inspiring story to share after experiencing a severe heart attack in fall 2021. A Q&A session will conclude the webinar. To register, visit [EssentiaHealth.org](http://EssentiaHealth.org).

Tickets are on sale now for the **Nisswa Chamber Membership Dinner & Citizen of the Year Celebration** which will take place on **Thurs. May 19<sup>th</sup>** at Cragun's Legacy Pavilion. Social hour starts at 5:00... Dinner is at 6:00....and presentation will start at 7:00. All Nisswa Chamber members and their employees are welcome. Tickets are \$45 and available online at [Nisswa.com](http://Nisswa.com).

**The Center** in Brainerd will host its annual **Plant Sale** on **Thurs. and Fri. May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>** from 7:00-5:00 and then on **Sat. May 21<sup>st</sup>** from 8:00-3:00 at their facility on Kingwood Street. Those shopping will find a huge variety of tomatoes, tons of different peppers, a large variety of herbs... along with strawberries in hanging baskets, floral baskets, annual & perennial flowers, rhubarb, hostas and more! For additional information, visit [TheBrainerdCenter.com](http://TheBrainerdCenter.com) or call 218-829-9345.

The **Lakes Area Growers Market** will host its **Farmers Market in Baxter** on **Fri. May 20<sup>th</sup>** at the Westport Shopping Center from 8:00-12:30. The market will feature different items each week, including fresh produce and other locally sourced food and goods.

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**The Northern Minnesota Railroad Heritage Association (NMRHA) Train Club**

invites the public to stop by their club in Crosslake to see all the trains! They have three different scale layouts in their 8,000 square foot facility in Crosslake. There are fun things for kids and free gifts for them as well! The club is located on County Road 66 across from Zorbaz in Crosslake and is open to visitors **every Saturday** (including **Sat. May 21**) from 10:00-2:00 year round! A donation of \$5 for those over the age of 5 is appreciated.

Members of the **Brainerd VFW** Post 1647 and the Freedom Festival Committee invites the public to celebrate freedom in our country, thanks to our military. The **Freedom Festival** will be held on **Sat. May 21<sup>st</sup>** from 12:00-4:00 in the parking lot of the Brainerd VFW on South 6<sup>th</sup> Street. The event is a fun, family event with kid-friendly activities like face painting, music and games. Concessions will be available for sale and there will be an educational element regarding flag etiquette. If you have a flag that is no longer serviceable, please bring it to the event to be properly retired. BrainerdVFW.org for more information.

Family activities and sustainable living will be highlighted at **Happy Dancing Turtle's Spring Fair** on **Sat. May 21<sup>st</sup>**. The free event will feature more than 35 vendors and exhibitors, mini-workshops and family activities outdoors at the Lakes Music & Events Park in Pine River. The event runs from 10:00-3:00, is free and open to the public. Food will be available for purchase. For more info, visit [HappyDancingTurtle.org/back-to-basics](http://HappyDancingTurtle.org/back-to-basics).

**Brainerd Parks & Rec** will host its annual **Kids Fishing Clinic** on **Sat. May 21<sup>st</sup>** at Lum Park in Brainerd. The clinic is geared for children ages 4 to 12 and will consist of informational sessions, lunch, fishing from shore or pier and some take-home fishing tackle. The event is free to attend and a parent/guardian **MUST BE PRESENT** at all times. Kids need to be signed up that morning between 9:00 and 9:30 at Pavilion 1 (closest to the beach). For more info, call 218-828-2320.

Join the **Nisswa Lions** as they help fight diabetes by attending the **Designer Purse and Tools Bingo** on **Sat. May 21<sup>st</sup>** at the Nisswa American Legion. Only 220 tickets will be sold and your ticket includes dinner and a tasting bar. You do need to be 18 or older to attend. Tickets can be purchased at the Outreach Program of Brainerd Lakes in Nisswa, or by calling 218-232-3528. Also learn more online at [NisswaLions.org](http://NisswaLions.org)

The **Lakes Area Skatepark** will host a **Thrash the Trash** event on **Sat. May 21<sup>st</sup>** from 8:00-4:00. Available to all BRAINERD residents, the Skatepark and the City of Brainerd are putting on a citywide cleanup. Drop off your trash and the crew will help you unload. Donations to the Skatepark are encouraged. You will need to show proof of Brainerd residency. The location will be the Crow Wing County Judicial Center in Brainerd. There will be no fees for household garbage, appliances, electronics, compost and yard debris. Landfill fees of \$7 for auto tires and furniture... and \$30 fees for mattresses and sofa sleepers. Some items will not be accepted... see the website [LakesAreaSkatePark.org/trash](http://LakesAreaSkatePark.org/trash) for a list of those items and more information.

Join the **Crosslake & Ideal Lions Club** for a fun-filled day at the **Flea Market** in Crosslake Townsquare on **Sat. May 21<sup>st</sup>**. After checking out the vendors, make sure to check out the other businesses in the square or relax in the park. The market will be open from 8:30-3:30.

The **VFW-DAV Armed Forces Day Freedom Festival** will be held on **Sat. May 21<sup>st</sup>** from 12:00-4:00 in the Laurel Street Parking Lot behind the **VFW in Brainerd**. This is a fun, family-friendly event where you can learn how and why you and your family can/should support the military, veterans and the community. Posting of the colors will take place at 12:00... the flag folding will happen at 12:30.... And retirement of the Flag will be at 1:00. Then enjoy face-painting, music, kids games, a silent auction, bean bag tourney and drawings every 15 minutes!! Food will be available for sale. To learn more, visit [BrainerdVFW.org](http://BrainerdVFW.org).

The **Toolin' Tour Ride for Habitat** will take place on **Sun. May 22<sup>nd</sup>** and all are invited! Motorcycles, Classic Cars, Classic Trucks are all encouraged to participate. The Ride will start at The Butler Building in Aitkin at 11:30 and will travel through Palisade, Jacobson, Buckhorn, McGregor, Pine Inn and Glen. The ride will end with food and prizes at the Aitkin Legion. Funds raised will go to help build a new home in 2023 for an Aitkin Habitat for Humanity family. Pre-registration for the ride is required (218) 927-5656.

## **5/23 – 5/29**

Join **Blaze Pizza** as the host **Business After Hours** on **Tues. May 24<sup>th</sup>** from 4:30-6:00 at their new location in Baxter. Guests will enjoy networking, a delicious variety of pizza, salads and desserts, fountain drinks, fresh lemonade and learning more about the restaurant from owners Larissa and Bob Sullivan. All attendees will receive free pizza coupons. Stay until the end for a chance to win 3- \$50 gift cars and 1- \$50 catering gift card from Blaze Pizza. Attendees are also encouraged to bring prizes from their own business for giveaway. As a courtesy to the host, advance registration is requested. Visit [BrainerdLakesChamber.com](http://BrainerdLakesChamber.com) or call 218-829-2838.

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**Crow Wing County** will host an **Alternatives to Guardianship Workshop** on **Thurs. May 26<sup>th</sup>** at the Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office in Brainerd. The free event will be a time to learn about legal aspects of guardianship and the issues affecting older and vulnerable adults, such as safety and autonomy. The event will benefit families, long term care staff, social workers, medical staff and youth transition staff attorneys. The event is sponsored by the Adult Protection Team and Crow Wing Energized. To register, call the Adult Protection Team at 218-824-5232.

The **Brainerd Splash Pad Grand Opening Celebration** will be held on **Thurs. May 26<sup>th</sup>** from 3:30-6:30 at Memorial Park in Brainerd. The event will feature music, an ice cream truck, an all-fried-up food truck, Pit Happens catering, bubbles, fun and more! To learn more, visit Facebook and visit Brainerd Splash Pad Grand Opening.

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The **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Race for Grace** will be held on **Sun. May 29<sup>th</sup>** at Forestview Middle School in Baxter. The 5K Family Run/Walk will start at 9:00, with registration opening at 7:30. The event will also feature kids activities, a bouncy house and prize drawings. Proceeds will benefit the **Brighter Days Foundation**. For more information and to pre-register, visit [BrighterDaysFoundation.org](http://BrighterDaysFoundation.org).

A **benefit** will be held on **Sun. May 29<sup>th</sup>** for **Todd Crist** at the St. Mathias Pavilion from 11:00 to 2:00 and the public is invited. Todd, who has worked as a mechanic in the Brainerd area his entire life, needs help to cover medical costs associated with his cancer diagnosis, treatment and future travel for treatment. The benefit will feature a sloppy-joe luncheon, silent auction, bake sale and ATV Rides in his honor. For more information on the benefit or how you can help, contact Traci at 218-838-6827. An account has also been set up at BN Credit Union: Todd Crist Benefit Account.

## **5/30 – 5/31**

**Brainerd's Memorial Day** ceremonies have been planned for **Mon. May 30<sup>th</sup>** starting at 9:00 at the Laurel Street Bridge in Brainerd where a wreath will be tossed into the Mississippi River to remember those military members lost at sea. It will move to the All-Veteran's Memorial for a 9:45 ceremony, followed by a Parade at 10:30 to the Evergreen Cemetery. (In case of rain, events will be held inside the Brainerd National Guard Armory). Lunch for veterans and their families will be served from 12:00-2:00 at the Brainerd American Legion. For more information, visit Facebook and search Brainerd Memorial Day.

The **Brainerd Lakes Chamber** will host its **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Sporting Clays Summer Fling** on **Tues. June 21<sup>st</sup>** at Rice Creek Hunting & Recreation in Little Falls. Sign up your team so you can enjoy the camaraderie while testing your shooting skills with a little friendly competition. Individual registration is \$225. Team registration (4 shooters) is \$700. (**REGISTER BY TUES. MAY 31<sup>st</sup> to receive an Early Bird discount!!**) Register now at [BrainerdLakesChamber.com](http://BrainerdLakesChamber.com).

The **Brainerd Lakes Chamber** is now **accepting applications and nominations** for its **Business Excellence Award, Business Legacy Award and the Lakes Proud Small Business Award**. **The deadline for submissions is 5:00 on Tues. May 31<sup>st</sup>**. All applicants will be reviewed by a committee in June and winners will be presented with their awards at the Celebration of Excellence Annual Dinner on Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> at Cragun's Resort on Gull Lake. Find the application and more information through the website [BrainerdLakesChamber.com](http://BrainerdLakesChamber.com).

## MISC...

One caring adult can make a difference to a child or youth experiencing instability. You can help children and youth thrive by supporting their needs with a safe home and supportive relationships as a foster parent. **MAY IS FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH** and the need is great for foster families in Minnesota. Nearly 8,600 children were in the state's foster care system on an average day last year. Consider becoming a Foster Parent and make a difference in the life of a child. Learn more by calling Lutheran Social Service at 612-499-5990 or visit [FosterCareMN.org](http://FosterCareMN.org).

Registration is now open for **Confidence Learning Center's Camp Classic Weekend!** Raise money for Confidence Learning Center, golf at one of the most prestigious courses in the area, fish with well-known guides and have fun **Fri. & Sat. June 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>**. On Fri. June 17<sup>th</sup>, the **49<sup>th</sup> Annual Camp Golf Classic** will take place at The Classic at Maddens with a 1:15 shotgun start. That will be followed by the Sertomans Mariucci Fest & Auction at the Confidence Learning Center starting at 5:00. Then on Sat. June 18<sup>th</sup>, the **39<sup>th</sup> Annual Camp Fishing Classic** will be held based out of Zorbaz on Gull Lake and will run from 8:00-2:00. To register or learn more, go online to [ConfidenceLearningCenter.org](http://ConfidenceLearningCenter.org).

**Crow Wing County Master Gardeners**, along with the **Northland Arboretum**, will share when, where, what and how to plant a garden that produces food and flowers to share with your family and friends. The class series, which runs **Wednesdays from June 1-Aug. 31**, includes hands-on instruction in your own garden plot at the Arb with the seeds and plants you select to grow! The cost is just \$35 for a 3'x16' garden plot, instruction materials, seeds and plants. Call the Arb to register at 218-829-8770. Space is limited. Advance registration is recommended at [NorthlandArb.org](http://NorthlandArb.org).

Every month during 2022, **The Crossing Arts Alliance** is hosting a **Second Saturday Creativity Kit Giveaway** at its downtown Brainerd location. These kits are free to the public on a first come, first served basis. If you are interested in **donating to the Creativity Kit Program**, they are in need of certain new, unused supplies for the kits like Elmer's Glue Sticks, Q-tips, boxes of extra-fine Sharpies, pieces of colorful fabric (cut into strips 1"-2" wide), bags of balloons, misc. patterned scrapbook paper and student Fiskars scissors (in the package). If you are able to make a donation, you can drop them off at Crossing Arts on Laurel Street in Brainerd during their business hours, or visit [CrossingArts.org/donate](http://CrossingArts.org/donate) for more ways to help.

The **Crow Wing County Highway Department** is starting the second year of the **Pick A Mile Program**. The program was first introduced in June 2021 for residents to pick a mile of county roads to **assist in roadside cleanup**. An easy to use app allows residents to reserve an available stretch of road to cleanup as a family, business or organization. The program also brings a sense of pride and ownership to county roads. The Pick A Mile app allows resident to choose a specific two-mile section of county roads to cleanup, see what roads have already been chosen and what county roads remain available. More information about the Pick A Mile county road program and easy to use app is available online at [CrowWing.US/PickAMile](https://CrowWing.US/PickAMile).

Find your next career in the **Brainerd Lakes Area as local businesses** are **searching for employees** in a wide variety of sectors. Retail, healthcare, finance, construction, hospitality, manufacturing, and more! **The Bridges Career Depot** is a one-stop shop for exploring careers. Visit [Chamber.BridgesConnection.org](https://Chamber.BridgesConnection.org) and click on Jobs. (There are currently over 300 job postings for 14-18 year olds – so LIKE the Bridges' Facebook Page and updates will be immediately sent to your FB page!).

Tickets are on sale NOW for the (rescheduled date of) **June 11<sup>th</sup>** 7pm performance of **"I am...He said' Celebrating the Music of Neil Diamond"** at the Gichi-zibi Center for the Arts in Brainerd. Tickets from the January 21<sup>st</sup> 2022 postponed event will be honored for the new date (**6/11**). For tickets, which are \$30, call the box office at 218-855-8199 or log on to [CLCPerformingArts.com](https://CLCPerformingArts.com).

In an effort to continue to help support Brainerd Area Athletics, the **Brainerd Sports Boosters** will host its **39<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament** on **Fri. June 24<sup>th</sup>** at Cragun's Legacy Courses. The cost is \$150 per golfer/\$750 per team and the fee includes golf, hamburgers, brat and hot dogs and random finish payouts, and Skins and Mulligans. Sponsorship packages are also available. All teas must be registered and paid in advance at [BrainerdSportsBoosters.org](https://BrainerdSportsBoosters.org).

**The Northern Minnesota Railroad Heritage Association (NMRHA) Train Club** invites the public to stop by their club in Crosslake to see all the trains! They have three different scale layouts in their 8,000 square foot facility in Crosslake. There are fun things for kids and free gifts for them as well! The club is located on County Road 66 across from Zorbaz in Crosslake and is open to visitors **every Saturday** from 10:00-2:00 year round! A donation of \$5 for those over the age of 5 is appreciated.

Brainerd Lakes Area residents are encouraged to **turn in your empty toner and ink jet cartridges** at either of **The Office Shop** locations (Brainerd or Aitkin) for recycling. By doing so, you will be helping the **Zachary Johnson Kids with Cancer Fund**. The fund offers grants to surrounding area families with a dependent child (age 21 or under) who has any form of cancer. It can be used for anything that the patient or caregiver wishes. If you are interested in applying for a grant, contact Riverwood Foundation or stop at either Office Shop location. Or to donate, visit [RiverwoodHealthCare.org/foundation/giving](https://RiverwoodHealthCare.org/foundation/giving) or call 218-927-5158.

The **Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen** in Brainerd offers free meals to those in need every **Mon.-Sat. from 5:00-6:00** p.m. and on **Sun. from 12:30-1:30** p.m. If you are in need of a meal during the week, please stop by during these hours and food will be served free of charge. Sharing Bread can be found at 923 Oak Street in Brainerd. Visit [SharingBread.com](http://SharingBread.com) for more.

**Walk with the Doc, Cuyuna Regional Medical Center's** free health program that brings doctors and individuals together to walk, will continue in Crosby throughout the winter months. Depending on the weather and per the group's preferences, the walks may be held indoors or outdoors. The goal of Walk with Doc is to improve the health of participants. Walks are held **every Wednesday** starting at 4:30 p.m. at the Hallett Community Center. Participants hear a brief presentation on the benefits of walking and wellness and then walk at their own pace. Indoor walks will be held around the Hallett's ice-skating rink and the outdoor walks will be along the Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area trails near the Croft Mine. For more info, visit [CuyunaMed.org](http://CuyunaMed.org).

**Cuyuna Regional Medical Center's Driving for Hospice Golf Fundraiser** will be an 18-hole best ball scramble with shotgun start at noon **Fri., June 17**, at Cuyuna Rolling Hills Golf Course. Players will compete for cash and other great prizes. A hole-in-one and best dressed 80's themed team contest is planned together with other fun activities. Proceeds will stay in the community and provide end-of-life care to area people. Register today online at [CRMCGolf.GiveSmart.com](http://CRMCGolf.GiveSmart.com).

If you are looking for **volunteer opportunities** here in the lakes area, the **Lakes Area United Way** has a bunch of choices for you! Visit [UnitedWayNow.org](http://UnitedWayNow.org) and click on the Get Connected banner. From dog walkers, to crisis line volunteers, to handyman services... game players, wheelchair transport drivers... the list goes on. If you want to volunteer, visit that site. Non-profits are also encouraged to register if they are in need of volunteers!

**The Crow Wing County Land Services Department's Household Hazardous Waste Program** is now **open Monday – Friday** from 8AM-5PM. County residents can bring in all types of household chemicals for disposal such as cleaning products, pesticides, herbicides, paints, stains, and automotive chemicals. Upon arrival at the landfill site, residents must stop at the Landfill Office where you will get instructions on how to proceed. Visit [CrowWing.US](http://CrowWing.US) for more information.