

PSA

Dec 12 – Dec. 22

The American Red Cross continues to face a critical blood shortage and continuing its call for eligible blood and platelet donors of all types to give NOW and help save lives. Blood donations are being distributed to hospitals faster than donations are coming in. Commit to give and make a difference. Use the Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED-CROSS to make an appointment. **Upcoming**

blood donation opportunities:

Fri.	12/13	12:00-6:00	St. Mathias Catholic Church in Fort Ripley
Tues.	12/17	1:00-6:00	Grace Lutheran Church in Aitkin
Wed.	12/18	1:00-6:00	Andover Fire Department in Aitkin
Fri.	12/20	10:30-3:30	St. Joseph's Med. Ctr in Brainerd
Fri.	12/20	12:00-6:00	Shoe Sensation in (Westgate Mall?) Baxter
Mon.	12/23	9:00-2:00	Vitality Wellness Building in Long Prairie
Thurs.	12/26	9:00-3:00	Northland Arboretum in Baxter
Thurs.	12/26	12:00-6:00	Northern Lights Casino in Walker
Fri.	12/27	10:00-4:00	Mid MN Fed. Cred. Union in Aitkin

Cass County Public Health is hosting some upcoming walk-in **Immunization Clinics** for children who are on MA/MnCare or who are un- or under-insured.

Select immunizations are available for adults who are un- or under-insured:

Wed.		9:30-11:30	Pine River-Backus Family Center in P.R.
Fri.	12/13	10:00-12:00	Northland Area Family Center in Remer
Tues	12/17	10-12 & 1-2:30	Pillager Family Resource Center / Pillager
Tues	12/24	9:00 – 11:00	Cass Co. Health, Human & Vet. Serv

For more information, call 218-547-1340 ext. 246

Would you like to be trained to be a **Census Taker** for the **2020 U.S. Census**? 2020 Census Jobs provide great pay, flexible hours, weekly pay and paid training. To apply, visit 2020CensusJobs.gov/jobs. For more information or help applying, call 1-855-JOB-2020.

The **Crossing Arts Alliance** in downtown Brainerd offers fun **events for KIDS** every **second Saturday** of the month from 10:00 to 11:30... AND from 12:00-1:30. A \$3 per child (or \$5 per family) donation for materials is requested (but no child will be turned away for inability to pay). Pre-registration IS REQUIRED for the classes.

Sat. **12/14** Nature Crafts

For more information and to register (required), visit CrossingArts.org.

In an effort to provide a safe environment to share stories, provide support and education to those who have lost a loved one to suicide, a **Survivors of Suicide Loss Support Group** invites you to its bi-weekly **Monday** meetings on the first and third Monday of each month. The group meets from 7:00-8:30 at Lutheran Church of the Cross on County Road 13 in Nisswa. This is a group for adults only. With questions, contact Jeri Borgwarth at jeriborg@hotmail.com

Crow Wing County and **Lakes Area Law Enforcement** have come together to introduce **The Vitals App**. Vitals is the new app that helps protect people with visible and invisible conditions and disabilities by voluntarily communicating critical information to law enforcement and first responders. Each Vitals individual is assigned a Vitals beacon that transmits a private and secure signal to authorized first responders that are within 80 feet, allowing them temporary access to critical information that can help the individual and law enforcement de-escalate what could become a dangerous or emergency situation. To learn more, or to register for the service, visit TheVitalsApp.com or text VITALS to 797979.

Essentia Health clinics are offering 10-minute **Flu Shot** appointments at all of their locations in the lakes area. The **Walk In Flu Clinics** will give the options for flu vaccinations that will include flu shots and a high dose flu shot options for those 65 and older. The clinics are in Baxter, Brainerd, Crosslake, Emily, Hackensack, Pequot Lakes, Pierz, Pillager and Pine River. To make an appointment, call 218-828-7100.

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 or call 218-927-5158.

Ruby's Pantry is a non-profit food ministry serving rural communities. There are no income qualifications to participate in Ruby's Pantry – Ruby's Pantry is for everyone who eats and would like to save on their grocery budget. For a \$20 cash donation you will receive a "share" with up to \$120 or more worth of groceries. There are no limits of how many shares that can be purchased at this time. Ruby's Pantry food distribution for the Brainerd Area is at the Journey North Church the **2nd Tuesday of the month**. Food distribution begins at 5:30pm and ends at 7:00 p.m. Ruby's Pantry has no government funding. It is primarily funded by the contributions of our guests. 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!

Having cancer is often one of the most stressful experiences in a person's life. But support groups help many people cope with the emotional aspects of cancer by providing a safe place to share and work through feelings and challenges. **Any female with a cancer** diagnosis is invited to this **supportive and caring group** facilitated by professionals and meets the second Friday of the month from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Essentia Health-St. Joseph's Medical Center. Speakers will also be asked to attend and discuss various topics throughout the year. For more information about the Women's Cancer Support Group please call 218-828-7685.

Children ages 2 to 8 and their parents/guardians are invited to the **Brainerd Public Library** every Tuesday for **Family Story Time**. From 10:00-11:00 enjoy a story, songs and crafts all based around a different theme each week. The story time is free and all are welcome.

The **City of Brainerd** will use **Crow Wing County Alert** powered by EverBridge to make sure you know about issues that may affect your safety. This system allows the City of Brainerd to contact thousands of residents in seconds, so you can find out about an emergency right away. Receive important messages from the City of Brainerd via email, phone, and much more! Get up-to-the-minute information about severe weather, road closures, snow emergencies, event cancellations, and much more! To register for the Crow Wing County Alert, visit ci.Brainerd.mn.us.

Would you like to make a difference in the life of a child? **Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota** is seeking **individuals and couples who can serve as foster parents** to children, especially older children and sibling groups. Ideal foster parents have compassion for kids and are open to caring for children from different backgrounds. Professional training and ongoing support is provided. If you can open your home and your heart to a child and would like to learn more, visit FosterCareMN.org.

The Crow Wing County Landfill are on their **winter hours**. The Landfill is open 8 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday and closed on Saturdays and Sundays through March 2020. Summer hours will resume in April 2020. The landfill is open to the residents of Crow Wing County for recycling and disposal needs. Items accepted are household garbage, fiberglass boats, mattresses, furniture, mobile homes, and much more. During the winter months (November through March), Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) will be open only for emergency situations such as residents who are moving, or an estate that must dispose of hazardous materials and cannot wait until the HHW program opens in May of 2020. This program is by appointment only during winter months. To schedule an appointment, contact the Land Services Department located at the Crow Wing County Landfill at (218) 839-0854.

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota is looking for **host homes** for people living with disabilities. They need to find nurturing and supportive, family-style living options for those with disabilities in our area and throughout the state. If you are interested in hosting, please visit LSSMN.org/HostHomes or call 651-255-2363.

The Lakes Area Food Shelf is pleased to announce new ADDITIONAL hours of service to the communities of **Breezy Point, Jenkins, Nisswa, Pequot Lakes and Lake Shore**. The Food Shelf is now open the **First and Third Thursdays** from 5 to 7 PM., in addition to our regular hours of Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:00 a.m until Noon. Access to healthy food is a critical component of our lives. By adding hours we hope to be more accessible to our present and future clients. The location: Grace United Methodist Church in Pequot Lakes.

The Brainerd Lakes Area Women's Fund (BLAWF) 2020 GRANT ROUND IS OPEN – To date, the BLAWF has provided over \$80,000 in grants, supporting nonprofits assisting women and girls. BLAWF funds new or expanded programs and projects, capital projects or operations for organizations. Eligible organizations include 501 (c) 3 nonprofit Organizations, Schools or Government entities. The funding focus area includes one-time and on-going projects and initiatives that support the educational, economic, social, and health issues faced by women and/or girls in the Brainerd Lakes Area. Grant funding may be requested up to the range of \$10,000 but the BLAWF retains the right to decline funding or fund only a portion of the requested amount. Applications are being accepted **until January 17th**. Contact: Karen (218) 822-5166 at or Terri at (218) 824-5633 for information on any of the above. Applications can be found on the Brainerd Lakes Area Women's Fun Facebook page or at CommunityGiving.org/Brainerd

Tickets are on sale NOW for the upcoming **"Clear Vision with Confidence"** – a half day women's learning event held at Cragun's Resort on Mon. Mar. 2nd, 2020. The event will feature New York Times Best Selling Author & Motivational Speaker **Rachel Cruze** along with influential leaders from the Brainerd Lakes Area as panel speakers. At this event, attendees will learn tools to take into their daily lives, whether it be in business or personal lives. ((Speakers include CTC's CEO & GM Kristi Westbrook, CLC President Hara Charlier, Just for Kix Founder & CEO, Cindy Clough and Bremer Bank's Regional President Kim Ellingson.)) The event is a **fundraiser for the Confidence Learning Center**, an outdoor educational and recreational experience for people of all ages with cognitive and developmental disabilities. Tickets are \$50 purchase online at ClearVisionWithConfidence.com.

Lakes Area Habitat For Humanity is looking for **volunteers** to go into to-be demolished homes and strip them of anything resalable. There are a number of salvages scheduled and they need help. To volunteer, call 218-454-7020.

The **Crossing Arts Alliance**, in downtown Brainerd, has its **Holiday Kringle Market** up and running. Over 75 local artists will have work for sale in the Kringle Market. Patrons will find a wide selection of art and fine craft including pottery, blown glass, fiber work, paintings, jewelry, woodwork, and more, geared towards gift-giving. The market will run through December 24th, (Tuesday through Friday 10:00 to 5:00, and Saturdays 10:00 to 2:00.) The Crossing Arts Alliance is located at 711 Laurel Street in Brainerd. For more, or visit crossingarts.org.

The **Salvation Army** has kicked off its annual **Red Kettle Campaign** in hopes of raising \$155,000 during the Christmas season. All donations will fund local Salvation Army programs that provide food, clothing, shelter, family mentoring, disaster relief, and more for Crow Wing County individuals and families in need. VOLUNTEERS are needed to ring bells. Just two hours at a kettle raises an average of \$60 for local services. You can sign up to ring online at SalvationArmyNorth.org.

Port Group Homes will be home to about 30 children this **holiday season** who will not be with family or friends for celebrations. The children range in ages from 10-18 and enjoy simple gifts like hygiene items, socks, underwear, shoes, sweatshirts, pajamas, clothes, hats, mittens, puzzles and games. Financial **donations** can also be made to contribute to their special needs and recreation fund. Port is accepting donations at its administration building at 115 North First Street in Brainerd. Port is located behind the Dairy Queen on Washington Street. Contact them for pick up in town at 218-454-7219.

Make your money go farther this holiday season by shopping **BBAY!** Everyone loves gift certificates, and shopping local is the way to go. Save even more money by listening to the Big BBay Show every Wednesday morning at 10:30 for the promo code for an additional 20% Shop BBay through your favorite Hubbard Radio Station's website. They are LAKES PROUD!

Home Instead Senior Care encourages everyone to become a **Santa To A Senior** this holiday season. The program is designed so that deserving seniors receive an anonymous gift at their door just before Christmas. Eleven trees throughout the area have the first name of the senior and some suggested gift ideas. Home Instead in Brainerd will collect the gifts and deliver them on Dec. 19th. Tree locations include Crow Wing County Social Services, Black Bear Lodge & Saloon, Edward Jones-Greg Bennett, Caribou Coffee in Brainerd and Baxter, Coffee & Bagels, The Center, Frandsen Bank & Trust in Crosslake, Riverwood Bank in Baxter, Guide Point Pharmacy in Brainerd and Home Instead Senior Care in Brainerd. For more info, call 824-0077.

The **Sertoma Winter Wonderland** is now up and operating at the **Northland Arboretum** in Brainerd/Baxter. Take a ride through the beautiful display of holiday lights now through December 31st. General admission per vehicle is \$15. You can get discounted tickets in advance at Cub Foods, Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union, the Brainerd Dispatch and the Northland Arboretum. Hours are 5:30-8:30pm. Dec. 4-7...Dec. 11-14...Dec. 18-21 and Dec. 24-31st. For more information, visit SertomaWinterWonderland.com.

12/9 – 12/15

Cub Foods and The Salvation Army in Brainerd are asking lakes area residents to help those less-fortunate by donating to the **Holiday Food Basket Program**. **Now through Dec. 15th**, Cub Foods will be collecting monetary donations that will provide a holiday meal to a family in need. Your \$25 donation will provide a family in the lakes area with a Cub Foods gift card to purchase a wholesome holiday meal. To make a donation, either mail or deliver your check (payable to The Salvation Army) to either Cub Foods in Brainerd or Baxter or to the Pequot Lakes SuperValu. You can also make a donation online at BrainerdLakesSA.org/donate.

The 6th annual **Live Drive Through Nativity** sponsored by area churches will be presented in Pillager on **Wed. & Thurs. Dec. 11-12** from 6:00-8:30 each night. Enjoy the complete Christmas story portrayed in live drama as you drive around the Cass County Fairgrounds in Pillager...you never leave the car. Bring the whole family. The event features four living scenes including camels, sheep, horses, donkeys, and nearly 100 people in costume each evening.

Stage North Theater Company presents its adaptation of **"The Snow Queen"** **Wed. Dec. 11 through Sat Dec.14th** at 7:30 and on **Sun. Dec. 15th** at 2:00 at The Franklin Art Center in Brainerd. Tickets are \$10 for adults...\$9 for seniors... \$5 for those 12 and under. Get tickets online at StageNorthTheater.com, by calling 218-232-6810 or swing into the A-2-Z Yarn Shop inside Franklin.

The **Alex & Brandon Child Safety Center** invites the public in for its **20th Anniversary Open House** on **Fri. Dec. 13th** starting at 2:00. They will have guest speakers, a guest of honor, an airplane fly-over, door prizes and more. The center is at 2602 Oak Street in Brainerd. For more info, call 828-0022.

Brainerd Community Theater presents the Arthur Miller play **"All My Sons"** **Thurs. and Fri. Dec. 12 & 13th** at 7:30pm... and on Sat. Dec. 14 at 2:00 at the Chalberg Theater on the CLC Campus in Brainerd. Reserved tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors (60+) and \$8 for those under 18. Get tickets by calling the box office at 855-8199 or online at CLCPerformingArts.com.

Grab your kids and your camera and head to Fifty Lakes because **Santa is coming to town!** Santa will be at the **Fifty Lakes City Hall** on **Fri. & Sat. Dec. 13th & 14th** from 6:30-8:30pm. All children will receive a free gift from Santa. Hot chocolate, hot cider and treats will be provided. The visit is sponsored by the Fifty Lakes Property Owners Association with assistance from the Fifty Lakes City Staff and Fire & Rescue.

The **National Remembrance Ceremony** for placing the honor wreaths takes place **Sat. Dec. 14th** at 11am at all Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery in Little Falls. Assistance with the honor wreath laying is provided by the Minnesota Patriot Guard, many civic and veterans' organizations along with the general public. The mission of **Wreaths For The Fallen.org** is to honor our Veterans (and their families) by providing honor wreaths for the Minnesota State Veterans Cemeteries in December of each year. WreathsForTheFallen.org

You and your pooch are invited to the **Santa Paws** event at **Buster Dog Park** in Brainerd on Sat. Dec. 14th from 11:00-1:00 hosted by the **City of Brainerd**. This will be an opportunity to get a picture with Santa Claus! Come join the fun and don't forget the rules of the park apply for this event.

The **8th Annual Santa's Bobbin' Into Town** event will take place in Pequot Lakes on **Sat. Dec. 14th** starting at 12:00 noon! It all starts at 12:00 with the placement of Wreaths for the Veterans at Our Saviors Lutheran Church Cemetery and City Cemetery. Then, join the fun at Cole Memorial Building for an open house from 1:00-4:00 and from 3:00-4:00, enjoy a magic show, with cider, coffee and cookies! Starting at 4:00, be in Trailside Park to see live reindeer, free horse and wagon rides, carolers, kids bobber hunt and more! \$5 dinners for kids will be served at the PL American Legion from 4:15 to 5:30... with the Light The Night Parade at 6:00 ...and fireworks at 6:45! The event is sponsored by Community Action Pequot Lakes and Landis Gyr.

Kids are invited to **Sherwood Forest's Holiday Open House** event each Saturday through Dec. 21st for a bunch of Christmas fun! Enjoy craft stations, cookie decorating, hot cider and cocoa, plus you can visit with Santa! The next event will be **Sat. Nov. 14th** from 11:00-2:00. The event is free, but they ask that, if possible, to bring a new, unwrapped toy for the Toys for Kids program and for donating, your name will go into a drawing for a \$50 gift card to Sherwood Forest! For more info, visit Facebook and search Sherwood Forest.

You are invited to the **16th Annual Community Christmas Celebration** at **Camp Shamineau** on **Sat. Dec. 14th**. The event will run from 1:00-4:00 at the camp and include hay rides, wreath-making, pony rides, a zip line, photos with Santa, open gym, a climbing wall, campfires, snacks and more! Camp Shamineau is 4 miles south of Motley on Hwy 10, the 1 ½ miles east on Ridge Road. For more info, visit www.Shamineau.org.

Homegrown, handmade food and art becomes available each winter month at the **Sprout Market** in Little Falls and the Holiday spirit is in full swing. With over 40 farmers, artisans, and artists displaying their work, the market becomes a one stop gift shop for the whole family. The **Growers & Makers Holiday Markets** take place on **Sat. Dec. 14th**, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Sprout MN (609 13th Ave NE, Door 8, Little Falls, Minn.) Sprout Growers & Makers Marketplace highlights regional arts through performances, cooking demonstrations, and free art activities at each monthly market. Interested shoppers, growers, artists, chefs, and educators who want to learn more, visit www.SproutMN.com and follow the Sprout Growers & Makers Marketplace on Facebook.

The **Vacationland Figure Skating Club** will host its **Holiday Show** on **Sun. Dec. 15th** from 6:00-8:00pm at the Essentia Health Sports Center in Brainerd. In addition to the show that will feature those from the Snow Flow to Senior Club skaters, there will be a bake sale with free will donations. Admission is free.

12/16 – 12/22

Bring your kids to **Santa's Storytime** on **Mon. Dec. 16th** at the **Brainerd Public Library!** Santa will be reading to the kids from 6:00-7:00. Munch a cookie, write a letter and get a photo with Santa, too...bring your camera! This event is free to attend.

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