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SEPTEMBER 2023

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FROM THE EDITOR

It would make sense that September is one of my favorite months. Wayzata's JJ Hill Days is held every September. You can find out all about this year's events later in the magazine. It's kind of a big deal!

But September is also the month I first met my wife, Megan.

We started elementary school in the same Kindergarten class at Widsten Elementary. Our teacher's name was Mrs. Boorsma and the year was 1979.

We recently came across a picture of the two of us sitting in that class. 35 years later, we married. And of course we were married in the month of September.

So, here is another September and another JJ Hill Days. No doubt it will be another memorable gem this year.

But September is so much more for me.

I wonder what those two five-year-olds had to talk about on that September day back in 1979?

Nate Leding
Editor in Chief



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NEIGHBORHOOD SPOTLIGHT

A TOUGH ACT TO FOLLOW: BLUE WATER THEATRE COMPANY


Rice Street between Broadway Avenue and Walker Avenue in Wayzata is a busy place. That's where you will find city hall, the fire department, the department of motor vehicles, the Wayzata Library, and St. Bartholomew Catholic Church and School.

And then there is a building on the corner directly across the street from the fire station. It is surrounded by beautiful stonework and landscaping. The structure has stood since the early 1900s when it once was a church. Now it serves a different purpose. It is home to Blue Water Theatre Company which was founded back in 2007. Its vision is to develop a safe, accepting, responsive, and supportive community. It aims to build confidence in young people.

Through the years, Blue Water Theatre Company has tackled some high-profile performances including Les Misérables, Singin' In The Rain, The Wizard of Oz, Little Women, and The Music Man.

While the daily hustle and bustle of Rice Street between Broadway and Walker is seen in plain sight, the magic being made at Wayzata's community theater happens behind the scenes. That's where its young cast of characters rehearse with confidence knowing they will steal the show on opening night.

Bravo, Blue Water Theatre Company, Bravo!

 To find out more information about Blue Water Theatre Company & upcoming shows visit www.bluewatertheatre.com or scan QR Code. Images courtesy of Bluewater Theatre Company



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LAKE LIFE

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

September Fishing Report

Most of the anglers you see on Lake Minnetonka are hunting for bass.

They are having the most luck along the weedlines.

You'll find panfish suspended 10-20 feet down.

Walleyes are biting in about 10 feet of water.



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In recent years, construction improvements along Lake Street have been by land. Now, work has started by sea. Okay, in Lake Minnetonka to be more accurate. The Panoway Lakewalk project is moving full steam ahead along the shores of Wayzata. You probably have noticed a barge, crane and other equipment putting piles into place. Those piles will ultimately support the 1,200-foot lakewalk. The Lakewalk will stretch from the Historic Section Foreman House to the Depot. It includes two lakeside overlook terraces.

WALKING ON WATER: WAYZATA'S NEW LAKEWALK

"It's so exciting to see our residents enjoying the fulfillment of Wayzata's 120-year dream with the beginning of the Lakewalk and docks construction," said Peter Hitch, Wayzata Conservancy Executive Director. "We can soon savor a stroll along the lakeside on the south side of the tracks away from the bustle of Lake Street knowing that our lake's ecology will be restored for all future generations."


The lakeshore has always been the crown jewel of Wayzata. Fortunately for us, the railroad tracks have protected it from development. You see, way back when, it ran closer to the businesses along Lake Street. The sparks and smoke were too much for business owners and they fought to have the tracks moved closer to the water. This new project is more than 10 years of persistence, patience, and planning, but the idea goes back further.

The Lakewalk Plan of the Wayzata Improvement Association presented an idea that was led by local businessman Gerry Carisch. The lakewalk was to embody Wayzata's vitality, warmth, and civic pride. Some thirty years later, the concept is a reality.

"We are thrilled to announce that the Carisches and Roths have just committed over \$1M in lead gifts to The Wayzata Conservancy so that we can celebrate the repurposing of the lakefront for hosting public events, bringing friends and family members together, and encouraging people to visit and enjoy downtown Wayzata," said Hitch.

If you're tracking this project, it will work west to east from the Depot down the shoreline. Substantial completion is targeted for May of 2024. A dedication will follow. Until now, the only way to enjoy the Wayzata shoreline was by boat or on ice. Imagine walking down the shoreline with waves lapping at the walkway, a summer breeze blowing, and one of those picture perfect sunsets on the horizon. You won't have to imagine this too much longer. Another way to enjoy the crown jewel of Wayzata.



 Track the progress of the new lakewalk by going to bit.ly/panowaypage or scanning this QR code.



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THE CITY OF WAYZATA
WAYZATA.ORG

SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Wayzata Farmers' Market
Thursdays | 1:30 - 5:30 pm

Minnetonka Farmers' Market
Tuesdays | 3 - 7 pm

Labor Day, 9/4

First day of school, 9/5

Three Rivers Park District
Programs and Events @ [threeriversparks.org](https://www.threeriversparks.org)

James J Hill Days
9/8 - 9/10, Wayzata

High & Mighty Band
9/8 - 9/10, 5:30 PM | Free concert @ JJ Hill Days

Wayzata Beach Bash 2023
Cody Jinks w/ Special Guests | 9/9, 6 PM - 11 PM

Wayzata Library Used Book Sale
9/9, 9 AM - 5 PM
9/10, 12 PM - 3 PM, BAG SALE (\$5/bag)

Excelsior Apple Days | Water Street
9/15, 5 PM - 10 PM
9/16, 10 AM - 10PM
9/17, 10 AM - 4 PM

Rosh Hashanah, 9/16

Wayzata Car Show
9/17, 9 AM - 2 PM | Wayzata Masonic Lodge

Yom Kippur, 9/25



Scan the QR Code for more event information Stay up to date on lake area activities at tonkalifestyle.com/events. Missing something? Send us an email to nate@wayzatatgether.com



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WAYZATA HISTORY

Once upon a time, there was a hospital located on Lake Street in Wayzata directly across the street from the Depot. Nearly 100 years ago (1928), Minnetonka Hospital opened. It certainly didn't look like the hospitals of today. It was more like a home, because it actually was a house. See, in their second year of business, Dr. Carl J. Martinson and Dr. Edward E. Mitchell actually bought the home from another doctor, Dr. J.J. Tibbitts (Wayzata's first health officer).

CARING FOR COMMUNITY: MINNETONKA HOSPITAL

Let's back up for a minute. Why did Martinson and Mitchell settle on Wayzata? Neither was from the area. Turns out Martinson fell in love with the town back in 1914 during a steamboat ride on Lake Minnetonka. Martinson's wife served as office manager. And Mitchell came into the mix as he was one of Martinson's classmates.

Surgeries took place on the first floor while the second floor housed patient rooms. How did the patients get upstairs? Staff carried them up the main staircase on a stretcher of course. The hospital had 15 beds in six rooms. More than 1,500 babies were delivered at Minnetonka Hospital during its 35 years in business! And who knows how many simple surgeries, bone sets, and stitches.

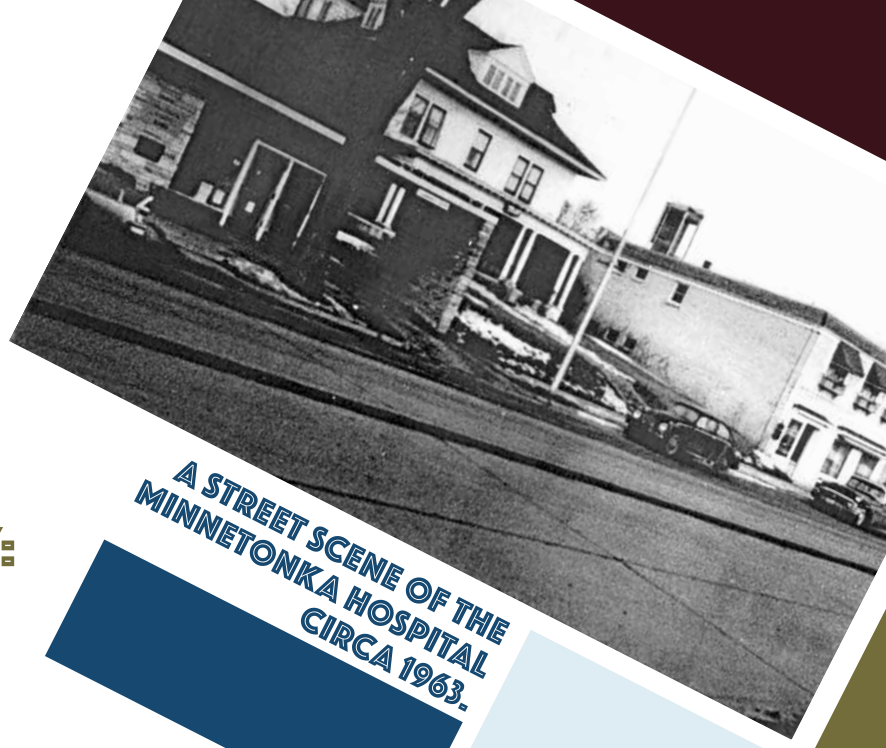
In the early years, lab services were done in house. In the mid-40s, a clinic on Wayzata Boulevard handled it. Pathologies were shipped off to Swedish Hospital in Minneapolis. It costs \$2.50 per day for room and board. Nurses worked 10-hour days and were paid \$5 per day. We all know how hospital food can be hit and miss. That wasn't the case at Minnetonka Hospital. It was known for its wonderful home-cooked meals. Word likely spread fast because the hospital served the entire Lake Minnetonka area.

In 1948, Dr. Martinson's son Elmer followed in his father's footsteps. He had served as an Air Force medical doctor while in England during World War II. He received training back in Minnesota at Minneapolis General, the University of Minnesota, and at Hennepin County's hospital.

The last baby to be born at the hospital was Rueben Schomer. That was 1963, the final year of the hospital's operation. On December 31 of that year, the final patient, Joanne Wormley, was released from the hospital. In May of the following year, the building was demolished.

Once upon a time, there was a hospital located on Lake Street in Wayzata directly across the street from the Depot. Imagine this the next time you walk down Lake Street. Do you smell the wonderful home-cooked meals or hear the crying of newborn babies?

We thank the Wayzata Historical Society and local resident Judy Starkey for all the research done on the Minnetonka Hospital that contributed immensely to this article. Images courtesy of Wayzata Historical Society.



A STREET SCENE OF THE
MINNETONKA HOSPITAL
CIRCA 1963.



THE MINNETONKA HOSPITAL'S
FRONT FACADE, CIRCA 1935.



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SEPTEMBER 8-10, 2023
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There is nothing more Wayzata than JJ Hill Days. We hope this gives you a roadmap to this celebration of what the railroad did for Wayzata.

JJ Hill Days has been going strong since 1975. There are so many reasons to take part - craft beer festival, carnival, logrolling, live music street market, doggy Olympics, fireworks, an airshow, parade, and more.

I've been going to this thing since the beginning and as a kid, JJ Hill Days creates those kinds of special memories that stick with you. Make your own special memories this year at JJ Hill Days!

The First JJ Hill Days In 1975

- Celebrated in October
- Steam engine stationed at the Wayzata Depot
- Old farm equipment and steam tractors on Lake Street
- Selection of antique cars displayed at Colonial Square
- Children's art contest at The Wayzata Bay Center
- Six-mile & two-mile races

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EVENT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 8

5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Rails & Ales Craft Beer Festival, 402 Lake Street E

DJ JOHN_WHITEKAR & DJSOUZO

5:00 PM - 9:00 PM | Panoway on Wayzata Bay

Logrolling

5:00 PM - 10:00 PM | Lake Street

Lake Minnetonka Carnival

Food + Drink

6:00 PM - 10:00 PM | Lake Street

Live Music

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 9

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM | Panoway on Wayzata Bay

Dachshund Races & Doggy Olympics

10:00 AM - 7:00 PM | Lake Street

Street Market

10:00 AM - 10:00 PM | Lake Street

Lake Minnetonka Carnival

Food + Drink

12:00 PM - 4:00 PM | Wayzata Depot

Llama Llovin' Experience

12:00 PM - 10:00 PM | Lake Street

Live Music

5:00 PM - 9:00 PM | Panoway on Wayzata Bay

Logrolling

WAYZATA BEACH BASH 2023

Cody Jinks w/ Special Guests | 6 PM - 11 PM

8:45 PM - 9:00 PM | Wayzata Bay

Fireworks

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 10

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM | Lake Street

Lake Minnetonka Carnival

Food + Drink

Street Market

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM | Panoway on Wayzata Bay

Logrolling

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM | Panoway on Wayzata Bay

Dachshund Races & Doggy Olympics

10:00 PM - 3:00 PM | Lake Street

Live Music

2:45 PM - 3:00 PM | Lake Street

T-6 Thunder Airshow

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM | Lake Street

Parade



Scan the QR Code for more event information or visit JJ Hill Days website at jamesjhilldays.wayzatachamber.com



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A man in Renaissance attire is dancing in front of a stone archway. He is wearing a black vest over a white shirt with puffed sleeves and a red and gold patterned collar. He has a small hat on his head and is smiling with his arms raised. The background is a stone wall with a large arched doorway.

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Children's Garden

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City Hall Park

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Great Lawn

851 Lake Street E
Wayzata, MN 55391

Heritage Park at Batson's Corner

1106 Wayzata Boulevard E
Wayzata, MN 55391

Klapprich Park & Field

340 Park Street E
Wayzata, MN 55391

Margaret Circle Park

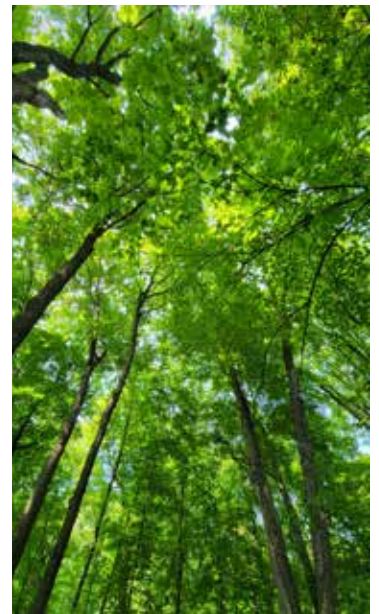
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Post Office Pocket Park

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Shaver Park

220 Grove Lane E
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