

January 2024

WAYZATA together

Events & Happenings • History • Spotlight Stories & More!

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From The Editor

Happy New Year!

If you do the New Year's resolution thing, it's not too late to make your pledge.

How about this one? Shop Local.

We hear this phrase every year in November and December, but why not make it a yearlong resolution?

Wayzata Together would not exist without the support of local businesses.

So, before you add another item to your online cart, think about the local businesses in Wayzata.

More than likely, they have just what you're looking for!

We will practice what we preach in 2024. We will do our part! How about you?

Shop Local ... our community businesses depend on you.

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Wayzata State Bank 1909. Building to the right is Pettitt & Kysor, a grocery store.

Old Money: Wayzata State Bank

If you owned a small business in Wayzata during the first half of the last century, there was a good chance you did your banking at Wayzata State Bank. The bank financed the early development of Wayzata through loans and mortgages for some 65 years.

The Wayzata State Bank opened its doors this month back in 1909. Five local businessmen put up the \$10,000 needed to launch the institution which included more than \$2,000 for construction costs. There was no mistaking that this building was a bank. The Neoclassical style with four large round columns in front.

It was said to be the first financial institution on Lake Minnetonka to be built exclusively for its own use. The bank had three brass teller's cages, a small walk-in vault, and an office. A buzzer under one of the teller's cages could be used as a distress call in the event of a robbery. Resident boat builder Royal C. Moore served as its first president.



1910 Wayzata State Bank tellers with bank president and local boat builder Royal C. Moore at right.

Images courtesy of Wayzata Historical Society (except image with replica)

Wayzata Insurance and Waytonka Market, 1960s

By 1950, however, it had outgrown the original building and moved to a new location. Several other businesses subsequently occupied the original building, including Wayzata Insurance and Five Swans gifts.

There was an effort to preserve the structure when a development plan was rolled out for that corner of Lake and Barry, but the old bones of the old bank were simply not structurally sound to withstand the project.



Property owner and Wayzata native Lowell Zitzloff incorporated a replica front facade to a new building as a nod to the city's past. You'll notice four pillars and if you look closely, a plaque honoring the site where the old bank stood. It also has a replica bank payment drop to add to the feel.

The original bank may not still stand, but a beautiful reminder stands today marking an institution that helped build Wayzata's early years.



The building as it stands today with the replica created by Lowell Zitzloff.



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Events

New Year's Day, 1/1

New Year's Day Hangover Brunch, 1/1

10-3 pm | Birch's on the Lake, Long Lake

Wayzata American Legion

Weekly Events | Taco Tuesday, Bingo, Meat Raffle, Karaoke & More!

Connect & Play, Saturdays

10 am - 12 pm | Westonka Library

Crafternoon

Wednesdays (times vary) | Wayzata Library

Jump - Van Halen Experience, 1/5

8 pm | Medina Entertainment Center

Wayzata Freeze, 1/5 - 1/7

Youth Hockey Tournament | Plymouth Ice Center

Family Storytime, 1/6

10:30-11:30 am | Ridgedale Library

Sled Dog Days at Birch's on the Lake, 1/6

Weekends | Birch's on the Lake, Long Lake

Wayzata Musicals: French Cabaret Night, 1/6

7 pm | for tickets and info, bluewatertheatre.com

Family Storytime, 1/11

10:30 - 11 am | Wayzata Library

Science Sunday (pre-school aged kids), 1/14

10:30 am | The Thinking Spot, Wayzata

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, 1/15

Funny Girl, 1/16 - 1/21

hennepintheatretrust.org | Orpheum Theatre - Minneapolis

Purse & Mancave Bingo, 1/18

7 pm | Medina Entertainment Center

Minneapolis Boat Show®, 1/18 - 1/21

minneapolisboatshow.com | Minneapolis Convention Center

Arctic Fever, 1/19 - 1/20

arcticfever.net | Shorewood, Tonka Bay & Excelsior

Wayzata Classic, 1/19 - 1/21

Youth Hockey Tournament | Plymouth Ice Center

Mpls Home Building & Remodeling Expo, 1/19 - 1/21

homeshowcenter.com | Hyatt Regency Minneapolis

Lake Minnetonka Flurry Scurry 5K, 1/22 (estimated)

watch for more info on date & time | Excelsior

Harry Potter & The Deathly Hallows™ Part 1, 1/25 - 1/27

minnesotaorchestra.org | Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis

138th Saint Paul Winter Carnival, 1/25 - 2/3

wintercarnival.com

St. Olaf Band kicks off Winter Tour, 1/28

4 pm | St. Philip the Deacon, Plymouth

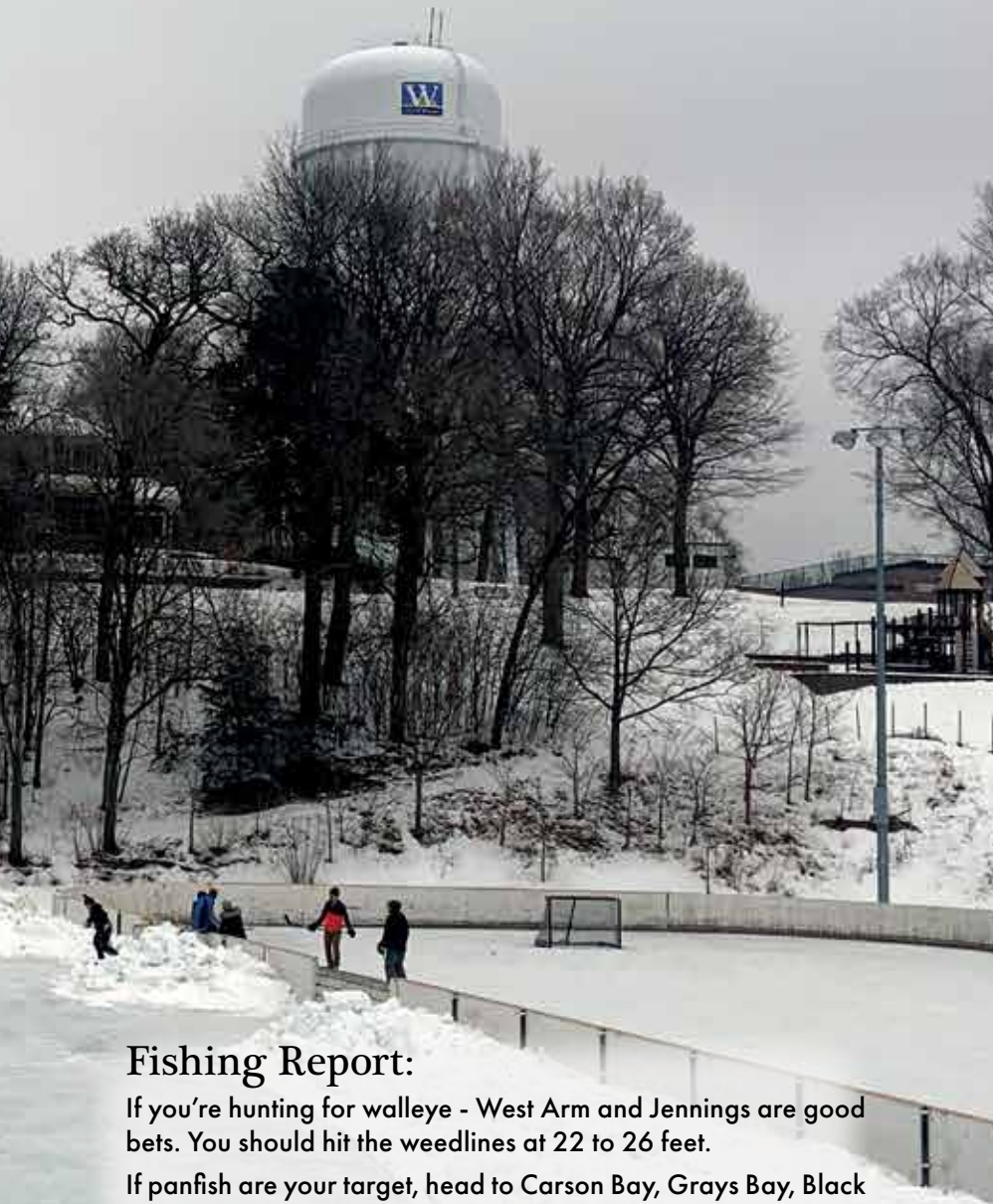


Scan the QR Code or visit tonkalifestyle.com/events

Missing something? nate@wayzatatogether.com

Happy New Year!

Health and happiness to you and yours in 2024.



Fishing Report:

If you're hunting for walleye - West Arm and Jennings are good bets. You should hit the weedlines at 22 to 26 feet.

If panfish are your target, head to Carson Bay, Grays Bay, Black Lake, and Seton.

A jig and minnow will serve you well.

With changing conditions during ice fishing season, safety is even more important. When you venture on the ice the first couple of times, bring a buddy, rope and check the depth of the ice constantly. Know what to do if you happen to fall through the ice.

Safety is paramount!



Make us part of your 2024 marketing plan The event section highlights happenings around the lake and beyond. Our ads are an affordable way to get your message out in a spot that gets attention. For all advertising info please contact: nate@wayzatatogether.com

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PROUD TO BE A PART OF THE COMMUNITY!

“It’s been a privilege to share in the continued tradition of making Wayzata a top notch community for residents and businesses,” said Lowell.

GAME SCORES

Wayzata	42	Oseo	13
Wayzata	32	Robbindale	0
Wayzata	32	Excelsior	0
Wayzata	24	Edina	0
Wayzata	26	St. Louis Park	0
Wayzata	40	Elk River	0
Wayzata	20	Mound	0
Wayzata	27	Hopkins	0
Wayzata Total	233	Opponents Total	25

LAKE STANDINGS

	W	L	T
Wayzata	4	0	0
Hopkins	5	1	0
Mound	4	1	1
Edina	4	1	1
Excelsior	1	4	1
Robbindale	1	5	0
St. Louis Park	0	5	1

ZITZLOFF, LOWELL

Lettermen's Club 3; Boys' Home Ec. Club Football 1, 2, 3, 4; Wrestling 3. "Uncle Zitz" is known to every member of the football team and "Bud" for his fatherly advice. For the fine job he did playing right end and his long touchdown run in the Mound game, Zitz was awarded a football and a berth on the all-conference team.

All images provided by the Zitzloff Family

To Left: Wayzata High School yearbook pics

Family Pic: The Zitzloff family mid-1940s with Lowell back left and Ray in front.

Bottom Left: The 1940 Wayzata Census Recording

Right Page: Lowell Zitzloff & His Children



First row: L. Zitzloff, C. Anderson, H. Thillierich, H. Swanson, J. Miller, W. Hicks, N. Linn. Second row: Leo Oaro; Third row: T. Schwab, N. Quist, W. Anderson.



ZITZLOFF, RAYMOND . . . Ray . . . Zitz . . . "The deeds of the leader shall live and the hard won glory of his exploits" . . .

Football 1, 2, 3, 4 . . . Captain 4 . . . All-Conference 3, 4 . . . Basketball 1, 2, 3, 4 . . . Co-Captain 4 . . . Baseball 1, 2, 3, 4 . . . Co-Captain 4 . . . Student Council Vice-President 4 . . . Hi-Y 2, 3 . . . Class Vice-President . . . Lil Abner 3 . . . Football Most Valuable Award 4



BACK ROW: Coach Thornblad, F. Farn, N. Schwan, T. Brown, C. Conroy, T. Gordon, J. Sloan, B. Williams, T. Koski, J. Eppa, Coach Schroeder. **FRONT ROW:** H. Walden, B. James, B. Hagaman, T. Winkler, R. Zitzloff, D. Korngren, M. Babcock, C. White.

Trojan Cagers Take Third Place in Lake Conference



Wayzata's leading ground runner for the past few years, Ray Zitzloff, carries his own share of the load in another healthy game.

Zitzloff Leads Spirited Gridders Past Rugged Competition

The Trojan gridders finished the 1959 football season with a two-win-seven-loss record. Although the season's record wasn't very impressive, the team, led by fullback Ray Zitzloff, never lacked spirit and drive.



no	Zitzloff, Ray	Head	0	M	N	35
	Sadie	wife	1	F	W	34
	Betty	Daughter	2	F	W	15
	Leroy	son	2	M	W	13
	Viola	Daughter	2	F	N	7
	Lowell	son	2	M	N	5



They really made it. We're talking about the brothers Lowell & Ray Zitzloff. And when we say "made it", it's about starting out with little and making a good life complete with successful careers, a growing family, and an unrelenting faith. Lowell and Ray grew up in Wayzata and after all these years are still very involved and invested in the community.

Faith & Determination: The Zitzloff Brothers

We pick up this story in 1940. When you look at the U.S. Census report from April of that year, it shows a husband and wife, Ray and Sadie Zitzloff, living in a one-bedroom home on Wayzata Boulevard across the street from where the Wayzata Home Laundry & Dry Cleaners sits today. Ray was 35 and Sadie was a year younger. Meanwhile, they had a 15-year-old daughter Betty, a 13-year-old son Leroy, a seven-year-old daughter Viola, and a five-year-old son Lowell. Ray, Jr. had not been born yet. According to the records, Ray was a truck driver for a retail fuel company. It states the Zitzloffs lived in the same home five years prior.

In January of 1946, the world changed drastically for this family. Ray was killed in a car accident when his car was hit by a drunk driver. He was just 41 years old. Sadie and Ray, Jr were in the car and fortunately they survived. In an instance, Sadie became a widow and was faced with raising five kids on her own.

"After my father died, the city provided opportunities for work for Mom, and

myself, as a young boy at the beach in the summer and Klapprich (Park) warming house in the winter," said Lowell.

Lowell and Ray would find father figures in their sports coaches. They both played sports all through their school days in Wayzata. Lowell was on a Lake Conference champion football team and a state champion wrestling team.

"I wouldn't have made it through the 12th grade without wrestling coach, Bill Manning, and football coach, Bud Crowningshield," said Lowell. "They provided me with the father figure I needed to make it to graduation."

Meanwhile, Ray played on the 1959 basketball team that won the state championship. Football was his main sport. In fact, he went on to play tight end for the University of Minnesota.

"Wayzata was a very small town when I grew up," said Ray. "We had two grocery stores, one hardware store, a movie theater, a hospital, two drug stores, Hart's Cafe, Egan's gas station, and a bank."

While Ray was in college, older brother Lowell had already set out on his career and had started his own family. He faced more adversity in 1963. Just before Christmas of that year, when Lowell's children were eight, five, and two, he was laid off. He had a damaged car that had recently been involved in a rollover accident, \$23 in the bank, and a lot of bills.

"Challenging times in my life taught me that hard work could produce success," said Lowell. "Even more important was relying on the Lord to provide for me and my family."

Through strong faith and relentless determination, Lowell turned things around. Lowell built his own successful auto parts and paint business which serviced the Twin Cities. He began purchasing the buildings for his auto parts stores.

This led him to purchasing and building commercial real estate. He currently owns four office buildings in Wayzata.

You probably know one of those buildings. It's at the corner of Lake Street and Barry Avenue across the street from the train depot. Its unique entrance with its classic pillars pays homage to an old bank building that used to stand on that corner. More on the history of the bank in another article in this month's magazine.

After college, Ray worked for a telephone company selling voice and data business systems. "Within a few years I set up my own company with some financial backing from Lowell selling Rolm voice and data systems to the Federal Government and Hospitals across the United States," said Ray.

"My private pilot's license and owning an Aerostar and an MU2 was an asset to servicing these clients." Ray sold the business five years later and bought a

fishing camp in the Northwest Territories of Canada. He added a 5,000-foot runway so that commercial jets and turboprop aircraft could land.

Ray and his wife, Judy, have been married 45 years and have two daughters and five grandchildren. They divide their time between Wayzata and Fort Myers, Florida.

"What I am most proud of is my family and our relationship with God and the love and support He has always given our family," said Ray. "We are all human and fail but God is always there."

"(It's important to be) able to share my blessings with those who are in need," said Lowell. "It's been a privilege to share in the continued tradition of making Wayzata a top notch community for residents and businesses," said Lowell.



A New Year, A New You!

By: Barbro Brost D.C

New Year's is always a good time to take inventory of our lives and set new goals for changes and improvements!

Weight loss is the most common goal. Most of us need that after the holidays! More exercise is another common and good goal. The health clubs are usually full of well-intended people in January.

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