

JAN 25

“We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity & its first chapter is New Year’s Day.”

Edith Lovejoy Pierce



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From the Editor

Happy New Year!

In 1983, a federal bill was signed into law creating a federal holiday honoring the late civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The holiday was first observed on January 20, 1986. Every year it lands on the third Monday of January. This year the holiday will be celebrated on the 20th.

Many folks get the day off of work and many students get the day off of school. I hope that we remember why many of us will have a three-day weekend. Let's take a moment to reflect on who MLK was and what he stood for. He advanced civil rights decades ago for people of color by using nonviolent means.

So, let's enjoy a new month, a new year, and be grateful for the work Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. put in during the 1950s and 1960s.

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Community Chief: Jamie Baker

It's a new year, and the community of Wayzata has a new person in charge of the police department. OK, that person actually took over on an interim basis last month and was already a member of the Wayzata P.D.

Jamie Baker was deputy chief when Marc Schultz retired at the end of November after serving as chief for five years. Baker will serve as interim police chief until early this year. There will be a process which will include members of both the department and the community to fill the chief position on a permanent basis.

"The citizens are among some of the most supportive people I have ever met," said Baker. "They truly care about the city and the employees that work for the city."

Before Baker was hired by the city of Wayzata, she worked for 21 years at the Roseville Police Department. She started as a patrol officer where she was a field training officer and background investigator. She was also the family violence detective for 11 years. She primarily investigated domestic assaults and child abuse. Eventually she was promoted to sergeant and supervised several officers.

Baker grew up in Coon Rapids with her parents and two older sisters. "I don't ever remember a time when I didn't want to be a police officer," said Baker. "I was a police explorer with Coon Rapids Police Department, which really solidified this was the career path I wanted to take. Also my parents were instrumental in letting me explore this as a profession."



Baker has been married to her husband Mike for 23 years. They have one son, Thomas, who is in the Navy. He is currently stationed in Norfolk, Virginia and is assigned to an aircraft carrier.

Most folks don't know that Baker has a first-degree black belt in American-Style Taekwondo. In fact, she competed a lot in her younger years. Not a bad skill to have when working in the police force.

The Wayzata Police Department consists of patrol sergeants, a detective sergeant, patrol officers, a school resource officer, a search and rescue K9, and a patrol K9. The department employs around 15 sworn officers.

While Baker enjoys many aspects of her job, there is one that really stands out.

"(It's rewarding to) see the younger generation of officers learn and grow as police officers," said Baker. "Their excitement and enthusiasm to provide the best service they can for the citizens and community is encouraging."





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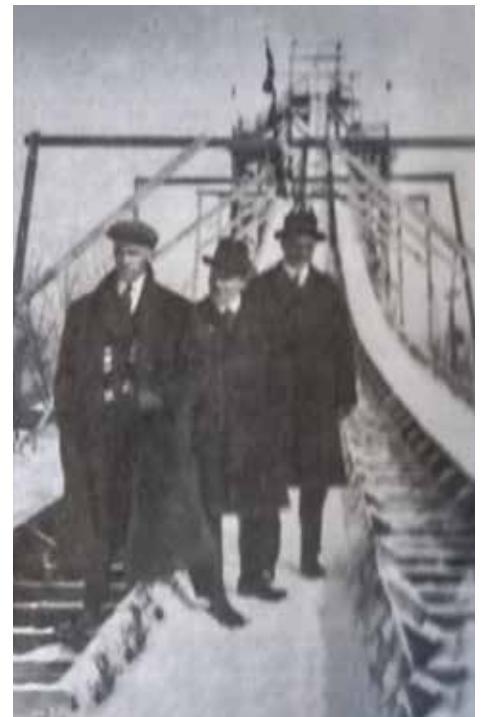
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Wayzata History: January 20th 1917

The modern-day Wayzata winter festival is the annual Chilly Open which began in the mid-80s. But Wayzatans celebrated well before that. We're talking more than 100 years ago. Beginning in 1915, Wayzata started an ice carnival. Thanks to previous research done by the Wayzata Historical Society (now known as the Lake Minnetonka Historical Society) a few years back, we have a perspective of the fun that folks had during the coldest time of the year.

In January 1917, the ice carnival was dubbed "Wayzata, A Sizzler". That year's event reached new heights with the opening of a nearly 400 feet long and 72 feet high toboggan slide. It was built on land just west of where Wayzata Beach is today. Participants would zip down the slide and eventually spill out onto frozen Lake Minnetonka.

The main attraction was a world champion figure skater Minnie Cummings. She lived in Excelsior at the time. She was traveling all over the U.S. and Canada featuring her fancy skating talents. The crowd at the Wayzata winter carnival was amazed by her terrific ice skating skills.

That day's fun included a toboggan contest, a relay skating race, ski races, snowshoe race that noted "women entries acceptable". Wayzata and Deephaven competed in a ice hockey game. Some of the prizes for boys and girls competition included pocket knives, hair ribbons, and homemade candy. Of course there was a skating rink that was lit by bonfires, torches, and lanterns. Literally fire and ice.

The day was capped by a tug of war on the ice, a lantern contest, and the formal opening of the new toboggan slide. And what Wayzata festival would be complete without the crowning of a queen. Marion Swaggert had the honor of being picked as Carnival Queen. Hundreds turned out for the festival.

So, when you gaze upon that frozen lake, imagine the fun of yesteryear. Imagine those brave toboggan riders hitting max speed down the slope and out in the ice. It's a wonder they didn't slide all the way to Gray's Bay! And imagine, after the sunset, those ice skaters guided by the warm light of those lanterns, torches, and bonfires.

Wayzata Ice Carnival
Saturday January 20
At Wayzata On Lake Minnetonka

Afternoon Program

2:30 P. M. Address by Warren Wakefield, "Our Slogan, Wayzata a Sizzler."

2:35 " Toboggan Contest between Five Local Organizations; maximum weight of toboggan 600 pounds, contestants must be in uniform.

2:40 " Relay Skating Race; Boy Scouts vs. Picked Team of Men, four in each team, distance 1200 feet.

2:50 " Exhibition of Fancy Skating by Mrs. Price, of Excelsior, an artist of national reputation.

3:15 " Ski Race between Holdridge, Wayzata and Ferndale Teams; two entries to each team, distance 400 yards. N. B. No jockeying allowed.

3:20 " Snow Shoe Race, 400 yard dash. Free-for-all, women entries acceptable, no color line drawn.

3:30 " Ice Hockey, Wayzata vs. Deephaven.

4:00 P. M. Skating Races:
 300-Yard Dash, Boys under 10 years old
 300-Yard Dash, Boys under 15 years old
 300-Yard Dash, Girls under 15 years old
 300-Yard Dash, Girls under 10 years old
 300-Yard Dash, Free-for-All (one legged men barred)
 300-Feet Dash, Free-for-All Crab Race
 All contestants must be ready to start at firing of pistol
 No time allowed for buckling on skates

Evening Program

7:20 P. M. King Dick and the Queen of the Carnival will feature some blood-curdling stunts and thrilling escapades. They will be introduced by Mayor P. W. Tibbetts. Kindly send no flowers.

7:30 " Tug-of-War on Glaring Ice; Hold idge vs. The World. Contestants to wear rubbers or arctics. This will pull off an old grudge.

7:40 " Snow Shoe Lantern Contest. Something unique.

8:00 Salute Your Partner and all Skate Ski or Toboggan. Formal opening of our new Slide.

Clockwise From Top Left:

Minnie Cummings (Mrs. Price)

Marion Swaggert (later Quay)

Jerry Manning, Clarence Dickey & Emerson Lauck standing on the toboggan slide.

A schedule of the days events.

Images Courtesy: Lake Minnetonka Historical Society

Do not hibernate this winter! The Lake Minnetonka area has too much to offer. Pick up a winter guide around the lake or visit us online.

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Fishing Report & Information:

Want panfish? Head to Carson Bay, Grays Bay, Black Lake, and Seton. A jig and minnow will serve you well.

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

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

Happenings

Hockey: Girls Varsity vs Visitation, 1/2
7 PM | Info & other Athletics: wayzataschools.org

Parrothead in Paradise, 1/10
7 PM | Jimmy Buffet Show | medinaentertainment.com

Healing through Art, 1/11
4-5 PM | RSVP | thethinkingspot.us

Sled Dog Days, 1/11 & 1/18
11AM-2 PM | Reserve Time Slots | birchsonthelake.com

Arctic Fever, 1/17-1/18
Free Winter Fun For All Ages | Shorewood | arcticfever.net

Dine With Wellness Yoga Sculpt Class, 1/18
9:15 - 10 AM | RSVP | crispandgreen.com

Take A Kid Ice Fishing Weekend, 1/18-1/20

Saint Paul Winter Carnival, 1/22-2/2
Most Events Are Free | wintercarnival.com

20th Annual US Pond Hockey Championships, 1/22-1/26
uspondhockey.com

Lake Minnetonka/Mound Polar Plunge, 1/25
plunemn.org

Lake Harriet Winter Kite Festival, 1/27
minneapolisparcs.org

Klondike Dog Derby, 1/31
klondikedogderby.com

Fantastic Mr. Fox, 1/31-2/9
bluewatertheatre.com



Scan or visit us at tonkalifestyle.com/events
Contact nate@wayzatatgether.com

Snowkiting on a frozen Lake Minnetonka, 1/23

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