



August 2024

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Cover Image: A look out onto Lake Minnetonka from a scenic point at the Wayzata Depot.

Right Image: Wayzata Beach & Playground is busy with summer fun.

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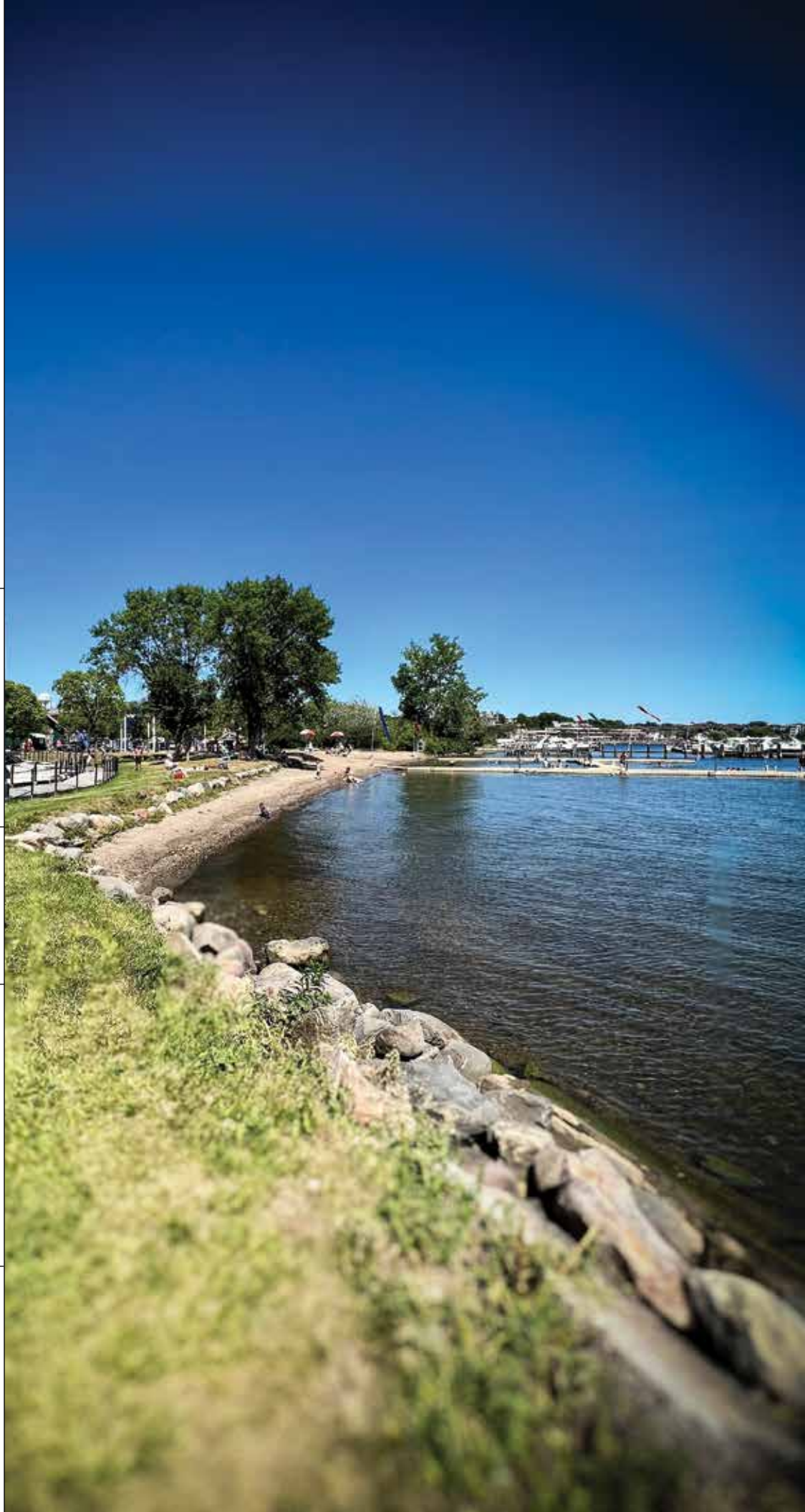
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## From the Editor

Hey folks.

Happy August - I hope you have enjoyed your summer so far! There is a new way to enjoy Wayzata this summer - the lakewalk along the shores of Lake Minnetonka. It follows the shoreline from the Depot to Broadway Avenue. It gives you water level views of Lake Minnetonka and a unique perspective of the City of Wayzata.

Have you had a chance to walk it yet? It's pretty awesome. Just another amenity that makes Wayzata so special.

*Nate Leding*  
Nate Leding, Editor in Chief

**"Wayzata Together Magazine is truly a community asset. It provides an opportunity to learn what is happening in Wayzata while also giving little known fascinating history of people and places." ~ Wayzata resident Dan Goldman**

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# Sue Sorrentino



Sue and her Family, pictured today

I've known Sue Sorrentino for several years now. We served on the Wayzata Historical Society board together and shared a passion for preserving the rich history of the Wayzata community. The impact Sorrentino has made on Wayzata is immeasurable. But you may not know this because of her humble demeanor. She's one of those folks working tirelessly behind the scenes preserving Wayzata history - making sure the story of this town continues for generations to come.



Sue and her Father, John, mid-50's  
Images this page courtesy of Sue Sorrentino

Sorrentino was born and raised in the Wayzata community. Back then, she was Sue Batson. Have you heard of Batson's corner? That's where Heritage Park is located - on the southeast corner of Wayzata Boulevard & Central Avenue (Highway 101). That's where her family ran a small gas station. The station along Wayzata Boulevard and the house set back.

"My grandparents, Sam and Jeraldine, were not pioneers," said Sorrentino. "They came (to Wayzata) in 1911. They came from the Kenwood area of Minneapolis." That's when they bought that on the corner across from Colonial Square. The Batsons opened a small gas station in 1927. Folks could not only fuel up their vehicle, but they could also buy eggs and honey. Their three sons all worked at the station. Sam and Jeraldine lived on the property until 1962.

Sue attended Widsten Elementary, that pueblo style structure on the hill that opened in 1921. "It was a very spacious room. You could walk to the southern wall of windows to see all of Wayzata Bay and watch the fire trucks when they left the station.

She went to Wayzata West Junior High, and graduated from the old Wayzata High School which is Central Middle School today.

During high school, Sorrentino played in the high school marching band. She recalls some hot Memorial Day parades marching with the band wearing those wool uniforms. As warm as that experience could be, another passion of hers was rinkside as a hockey team cheerleader for Wayzata.

Sorrentino graduated from high school and attended the University of Minnesota-Duluth where she obtained her teaching degree. She taught in the Minnetonka School District and that's where she met her husband Joe. He was also a teacher who grew up in Brooklyn. He was getting his Master's Degree at the University of Minnesota at the time.

In the mid-2000s, Sorrentino retired and got more involved in the history of Wayzata. She eventually became the board chair of the Wayzata Historical Society (now known as the Lake Minnetonka Historical Society).

For nearly 20 years, she has been a champion for preserving the history of Wayzata. There are many examples of her work and none bigger than the effort to rehabilitate the Section Foreman House, a home originally built in 1902 that housed the man, and his family, in charge of the piece of railroad tracks that ran through Wayzata.

Sue fought to save the building, get it on the National Register of Historic Places, and has been a big part of the future of the building. It will become an education center for children.

As passionate as she is about history, Sorrentino is even more passionate about her family. She has three adult children and several grandchildren. It's not unusual to see Sorrentino in the summer with a grandkid in tow at the historical society.

Sue lives in the house she grew up in. It's on the border of Wayzata and Plymouth.

"My dad built it right after World War II," said Sorrentino. "There's five acres there when he bought it. It used to be a dirt road for many, many years. That's where we raised our kids." And now, that house is filled with the sounds of grandchildren.



Sue's Grandfather, Sam Batson, sold real estate in Wayzata and offered free cider from his apple orchard, c. 1930's  
Image courtesy of Lake Minnetonka Historical Society

Batson Bros. Shell Station, circa 1930's  
Image courtesy of Lake Minnetonka Historical Society





## Fishing Report & Information:



REL Fishing  
Lake Minnetonka Fishing Guide  
Mound, Minnesota  
brett@reloutdoors.com  
763-228-8684

Walleye will be in deeper, cooler waters with gravel/sand transitions outside the weeds.

Slow trolling live bait or trolling crankbaits is a good tactic to cover ground.

Bass are moving out to deeper weeds. Drop shots, ned rigs or crankbaits are effective baits to use this time of year.

Muskies have moved out to deeper weeds and off shore structures. Panfish can be found in dense weeds.

Northern Pike are moving out to colder waters and are most active on those step and deep break lines in.

On Opposite Page: Enjoying the beautiful view of Lake Minnetonka on one of many benches located along Lake Street in Wayzata

## Events

### Wayzata American Legion

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

### Beautiful: The Carole King Musical, running til 9/28

See Schedule | Chanhassen Dinner Theatres | chanhassendt.com

### Canvas Convergence @ The Shops at West End, til 12/30

A pop-up 3D experiential art gallery | canvasconvergence.com

### CōV presents Live Summer Music, 8/1

5:30–9:30 PM | GenNOW DJ

For more info and other events visit covwayzata.com

### Saturday Morning on the Farm

9:30 AM - 12 PM | Gale Woods Farm, Minnetrista | threeriversparks.org

### Hamel Lions Flea Market, Sundays

6 AM - 12PM | Medina Entertainment Center

### Tour de Tonka, 8/3

For more info and visit tourdetonka.org

### Live Music Sundays, 8/4

5:30–8 PM | Javier Trejo

For more info and other events visit ninetyfive.com

### Sunday Music in the Park, Wayzata

4:30–5:30 PM | Every Sunday in August | On The Great Lawn

8/4, Buffalo Galaxy

8/11 Wailing Loons

8/18, Salas Del Soul

8/25, Ipso Facto

### Night to Unite, 8/6

5 PM | Wayzata

### Live Music Friday's in the Brewhouse 8/9

7:30–10:30 PM | Acoustic with Clark Machtemes | birchsonthelake.com

### Baila con Pasión BACHATA BASH Weekender!, 8/9-8/11

Dance Unlimited, Wayzata | For more info visit bailaonpasion.com

### Empowered Strength and Cardio + CRISP & GREEN , 8/10

9:30–10:30 AM | 755 Lake St E

### Kids Fest 8/15

5–8:30 PM | Hilde Performance Center | plymouthmn.gov

### Reading with Getty, 8/16

RSVP | 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM | The Thinking Spot | thethinkingspot.us

### Minnesota State Fair: Aug. 22 – Labor Day, Sept. 2,

The Great Minnesota Get-Together | mnstatefair.org



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# Summer Fun



The swimming beach on Wayzata Bay.

Image courtesy of Lake Minnetonka Historical Society

Let's face it. Wayzata was made for the summer. The lake, the sun. Take a walk down Lake Street on a Saturday in the summer and you'll get the vibe.

Summer recreation is nothing new of course. It goes back to the beginning. The first train arrived in Wayzata in August of 1867 and it opened up Lake Minnetonka to new visitors who found the lakeside community irresistible. As visitors got off trains and boarded steamboats, more and more sailboats could be seen on the lake.

Fast forward a century later and the Wayzata Yacht Club (WYC) was born. In 1965, a group of sailors pooled \$12,000 and bought a piece of lakeshore property. In the 70s and 80s the club bought more land in the area to allow it to expand. WYC members formed the Wayzata Sailing Foundation in 2000. This led to the Wayzata Sailing School which set sail in 2005.

Wind was one way to propel a boat across the lake. A motorized engine was another way to move a vessel from one bay to another. Motorboat racing was a big deal in the 1920s and thousands of people would pack the Wayzata waterfront to watch the racing boats. Many of those boats were made by local boat builders Moore, Wise, Hausen and Swaggert. In 1925, Ramaley Boats also called Wayzata home.

But you didn't necessarily need to be on the water to enjoy the water. What is now known as Shaver Park was purchased by the Village of Wayzata in the early 1920s for \$6,000. In 1926, Wayzata's first mayor Rufus Rand, donated funds for a new municipal bathhouse and beach. Lifeguards were hired in 1929 to safeguard the beach. A diving board was installed on a raft in 1933. And this was the place to take swimming lessons in the 1950s.

Nowadays you'll still see sailboats and motorboats out on the lake. You'll still see folks packing the beach. But summer recreation continues to evolve. A newly-minted lakewalk is a shining example of how the community continues to offer more ways to enjoy the summer season.





The "Rondivalla" motorboat on Wayzata Bay with Ramaley Boat Works in the Background, c. 1910  
Image courtesy of Lake Minnetonka Historical Society

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