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Events & Happenings • History • Spotlight Stories & More!







Cover Image: Snowy day on Lake Street in Downtown

This Image: Hotel Landing lit up at night.

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FROM THE EDITOR

Winter is here. Can you feel it? Could be those plummeting temps or maybe that stiff breeze from the north. It can take your breath away, right?

Sure, Wayzata and Lake Minnetonka are known for fantastic summers. Sunshine, warm weather, boating, etc.

But, the outdoor activities don't stop when the snow flies.

Klapprich Park is transformed into a Winter Wonderland each year. Ice skating, hockey, and sledding in a one-stop frozen shop.

You'll also see folks skiing, walking, and ice fishing on the lake.

So, throw on an extra layer of clothing, get out there and enjoy all there is to offer during this Wayzata Winter.

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PARABLES: A Special Kind Of Worship

About 10 years ago, something special began at Wayzata Community Church. It emerged with specific parishioners and their families in mind. It was an appreciated addition that made those with special needs feel welcome.

Parables is the name of the church's program that supports community members with special needs. Among many things, its worship service embraces everyone's unique personality in a much more casual setting. Spontaneous singing and dancing is encouraged. All can be exactly who they are. The first Parables worship service happened on October 12, 2013.

Director of Parables Worship, Autumn Toussaint's son has spina bifida, is in a wheelchair, cognitively and physically impaired, and is medically fragile. And it was with her son in mind that she realized that more was needed. "We need something for my son and his friends," said Toussaint.

A parable is a simple and memorable story, often with imagery, and teaches a lesson in daily life. That's where the name of this program came from. "A parable in the Bible is a way that Jesus teaches a lesson and so he tells a story, and it flips the world on its head," said Toussaint. "A parable is a lesson learned in life that might not be what you expected." Meanwhile, the Parables Red Fish symbolizes the unique and extraordinary gifts those in the disability community bring to the world. The fish is not swimming the "wrong" way, but swimming in their own individual way.



A PARABLES SERVICE LAST YEAR
Courtesy Wayzata Community Church

"We found that not only was the worship service for the disability population, but it's led by our special needs friends," said Toussaint. Parables embraces the "no-shush zone". Participants are not "shushed" if they don't follow the service as scripted. Singing spontaneously or dancing unexpectedly is embraced. "The space and the environment is already built for them," said Toussaint.

Parables is much more than a worship service. It offers respite care for parents, friendship programs for individuals with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities, and an opportunity to play on the Parables Parrots baseball team.

Parables has been going strong for more than a decade. Special needs folks and their families have found a welcoming place to simply be themselves. And for those attending Parables for the first time – expect the unexpected.

"People come into the presence of people with disabilities, and they think they are going to help them, going to teach them, when in reality it's the other way around," said Toussaint.


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FISHING REPORT & INFORMATION:

December is when we start to see ice on Lake Minnetonka. The depth of the ice is dependent on prolonged cold air temps.

Typically, smaller bays like Seton, Black Lake, and Emerald will freeze first. These spots are not as deep and are more shielded from the wind. The other bays like Browns and Wayzata Bay will follow suit later.

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.

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Living in Wayzata is a unique experience. An urban feel with the quiet of a lake community. The ability to walk to many diverse & distinctive shops. Offering endless possibilities to find that perfect gift for that special someone. Restaurants with varying culinary delights. Don't forget the many services that the local companies have to offer for home, health and everything in between.

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Happenings

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WAYZATA AMERICAN LEGION | HAPPY HOUR, BINGO, MEAT RAFFLE, TRIVIA, WEEKEND BREAKFAST, KARAOKE & MORE!

OPEN SAT/SUN THRU DECEMBER | 12 PM - 4 PM | WAYZATA DEPOT MUSEUM | WAYZATAHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG

SAT/ SUN TIL CHRISTMAS | 10 AM - 2 PM | BIRCH'S BREAKFAST WITH SANTA | BIRCHSONTHELAKE.COM

FAT PANTS FRIDAYS | $15 | 11 AM UNTIL SOLD OUT | 6SMITH.COM

THURSDAY – SUNDAY | 4:00 PM – CLOSE | WEEKEND DINNER SPECIALS | NINETWENTYFIVE | THEHOTELLANDING.COM

12/5-12/15 | MAGIC TREE HOUSE: A GHOST TALE FOR MR. DICKENS JR. | BLUEWATERTHEATRE.COM

12/7 | 10 AM - 5 PM | The Wayzata Design District Holiday Market | Various Lake Street Shops

12/7 | HOLIDAY CONCERT | WAYZATA SENIOR HIGH | PLYMOUTHROCKERS.ORG

12/20 | 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM | READ WITH MATA | RSVP | THETHINKINGSPOT.US

12/21 | 9:15 - 10 AM | STROLLER BARRE + CRISP & GREEN | WAYZATA, MN | CRISPANDGREEN.COM

12/25 | CHRISTMAS DAY BUFFET | NINETWENTYFIVE | 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

12/31 | CELEBRATE NEW YEARS EVE & WEEKDAY SPECIALS THROUGHOUT THE MONTH | BAJAHAUS.COM

12/31 | STARTING AT 8 PM | 70'S MAGIC SUNSHINE ROCKIN' NEW YEARS EVE | BIRCHSONTHELAKE.COM

Scan or visit us at tonkalifestyle.com/events Want your event listed? **Contact nate@wayzatatogether.com**





PICTURED FROM THE ORIGINAL NORTH SIDE IMAGE IS COURTESY LAKE MINNETONKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SECTION FOREMAN HOUSE: Past, Present, & Future

Nestled off Wayzata's Lake Street along the shores of Lake Minnetonka sits a house. It splits the water and the railroad tracks. You may not even know the home exists between Lake Street's newly-opened Pura Lima restaurant and the lake. Look closely - it's the color green. No, it's not a new build either - this residence has been there more than 100 years.

The Section Foreman House was built in 1902. Theodore Roosevelt was president, the American flag had 45 stars, and it was the year famed aviator Charles Lindbergh was born. J.C. Penney and Pepsi-Cola Company were introduced to the country that same year. Section foreman houses were popping up along the expanding Great Northern Railroad to support the section foreman and their families. You could expect to see one every 20 miles or so. The section foreman was in charge of the safety for a specific stretch of tracks. It was that person's responsibility to keep the rail in good repair.

These were simple homes. The Wayzata house is no exception. The home was originally 32 feet by 16 feet. It had two rooms each on the first and second levels, according to a comprehensive historic structures report by the Wayzata Historical Society and the City of Wayzata released in 2015. They were built with one set of plans and shipped by rail to the site for quick assembly. The 1910 census shows that the home was occupied by the section foreman and his large family.

Through the years, the Section Foreman House underwent several changes. While changes were made, the integrity of the home was never impacted. In 1926, electrical lights were installed. A 100-foot pipeline was installed between the home and the city water main in 1938. In 1943, the home was lifted to install a concrete foundation and basement. It was at this time that the home expanded; a first-level bedroom and living room increased the structure to 32-feet by 30 feet. A year later, toilet facilities and sewer lines were installed.

Dr. Charles N. Brooks bought the house from the railroad in 1962. The following year, Brooks built a new entrance on the south end complete with a front porch and an expanded living room.

The City of Wayzata acquired the home in the 1980s and has owned the house and the property since. After strong advocacy from community members, the house was designated as a Heritage Preservation Site in 2020. It then gained a place on the National Register of Historic Places in 2021.

The historic home is a part of the Wayzata Panoway project strategic plan. The Section Foreman House will be fully restored and will become an interpretive center adjacent to an Eco Park. The next time you're driving or walking down Lake Street look toward the Lake and peak through the trees. You can catch a glimpse of local history; a window into Wayzata's past. Better yet, a view from a boat. You'll not only get a feel for the way things were, but also, a vision of the city's future.


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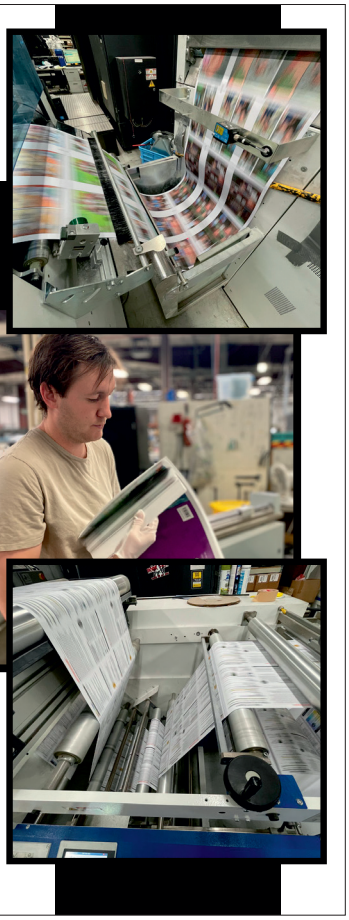

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