

# Community

Faribault Daily News

Saturday, April 30, 2011

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Calendar of Events is a daily feature of the Faribault Daily News. You are invited to submit items for publication. Items are open to the public. Deadline is by noon on business days prior to the event. To submit, call 507-281-1111 to the Daily News c/o Calendar; or e-mail to calendar@faribault.com.

### Faribault Days Celebration

Faribault Days Celebration is this weekend for the First District Men's and Women's Auxiliary members, citizens of Cannon Falls and Faribault First District communities, hosted by VFW Post #4452 Faribault Auxiliary of Cannon Falls. The VFW Post and Ladies Auxiliary will conduct meetings today, with registration at 9:30 a.m. and conclude around noon. Members meet at the VFW Post Home, 218 N. Fourth St., in Faribault. Faribault Ladies Auxiliary members meet at the Cannon Falls School on Highway 19. There will be election of officers immediately following the business meetings at the Cannon Falls Fire Hall. A luncheon banquet followed by entertainment, and the Loyalty Banquet at 1 p.m. Sunday.

### Monticello Zone LWML Spring Rally

Monticello Zone LWML Spring Rally is today at St. John's in Monticello. Beginning with registration at 9 a.m. Chaplain John Meyer will be "Serving the Lord in the Military." The fee is \$6 per person. "From the Heart" are care items for the military or a monetary donation. For a list of suggested items, check the church bulletin. The rally concludes with a noon luncheon.

### Ultimate Flyers Bike and Ski Club

Ultimate Flyers Bike and Ski Club, 8 a.m., breakfast at 129 N. Central Ave., with hiking/skiing to follow at 9 a.m. Call Kramer, 334-5549.

Faribault Nature Center's Interpretive Center is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Bird Walk**, 8 a.m., River Bend Nature Center, with Faribault River Bend naturalist, to seek out the "early birds" after sunrise. Participants will explore to see and hear birds in their migration excursion. The walk starts at the nature center, flows on the Wild backyard habitat and then continues through prairie and forest. Participants may bring their binoculars or borrow them from River Bend Nature Center. They are dressed for the weather. Preregistration is not required for this program. Visit [www.rbncc.org](http://www.rbncc.org) or call 332-7151.

**Arbor Day Tree-planting Celebration**, 9 a.m., White Sands Park, off Minnesota Highway 21, hosted by the Tree Community of Faribault and GROWS garden club. All who are interested to attend. GROWS garden club purchased \$500 worth of trees for city parks. Three of the trees will be planted around the new sign in White Sands Park at the Arbor Day celebration. **Adoption Event**, sponsored by SAFE Sanctuary animal shelter, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at Hy-Vee's Spring Fling Event. There will be many dogs available. For more information, call 334-7901 or visit [www.safe.org](http://www.safe.org).

**Faribault Gymnastics Club Open Gym**, noon-1:30 p.m., Rice Park grounds. Participants must be 6 years or older. They have full equipment and all gymnastics equipment. Open gym is supervised. A fee is charged at the door, with a reduced cost for registered members. Registration deadline was March 28. Call 334-2588 or visit [www.faribaultgymnastics.com](http://www.faribaultgymnastics.com).

**Hawk Trail and Motorcycle Ride**, with motorcycling at noon and leaving at 1 p.m. from Signature Bar and Grill. Bring Your Own Horse. Registration is at noon.

## Water can bring politicians together

It may seem as though the news from townships around Faribault

over the past few years has invariably involved controversy

— motocross, contract disputes, planning and zoning, and so on. But as is nearly always the case, the full picture is not quite so one dimensional. My neighbors and I in Forest Township are no strangers to the tussle of local politics, but we're excited now about something that everyone can get behind — lake-water quality.

Like nearly all other southern Minnesota lakes, Circle Lake has a lot of challenges when it comes to water quality. Our region's proud agricultural heritage does pose some runoff issues for lakes, and Circle Lake is one of many that over the years has earned a place on the state's list of "impaired" waters. While we have a beautiful, vibrant lake that people use for fishing, boating, and the like, we do have more than our share of green in our lake. Phosphorus levels are well over 300 parts per billion, more than three times the acceptable levels set by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Being on the "impaired" list is not unique. Getting off of it is — but that's our goal. Our understanding is that in recent years no lake has improved enough to be removed from the state's "impaired" list, and it's easy to see why. The causes of worsened water quality are numerous and their cumulative effect can become quite formidable. The state of Minnesota has



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a program for dealing with impaired waters, but in light of limited state resources the prospect of waiting for the state to solve our problems by itself is not an attractive one.

But part of what's great about Circle Lake is the community surrounding it, both right on the lake and in Rice County generally. Last year, dozens of our neighbors came together through our lake association to start raising money and taking action. We realized that we needed a solid plan to guide us, so we hired a consultant, Steve McComas (known to many as "the Lake Detective"), to work with us and come up with a lake management plan.

That plan is now complete, and we want to get to work on it. We'll be looking for even more support in our own community, and will also be looking to partner with like-minded groups, nonprofits, foundations, government agencies, and corporate sponsors to mount a sustained, multi-faceted effort to clean up our lake and get off that "impaired" list.

Circle Lake Association will be hosting a community meeting this coming Monday evening, May 2, at 7 p.m. at the Forest Township town hall on Highway 1. Our consultant will be presenting the plan and we'll talk about how to approach our major initiatives. All are welcome.

We have an ambitious goal but tremendous community spirit dedicated to trying to achieve it. With help from many, we hope to make Circle Lake an even more wonderful part of our community than it already is.

— Bob Gilbertson lives in Forest Township.

A picture

## TIMES

Events will culminate with a trip to Feed My Starving Children in Eagan in June to pack meals destined for starving children around the world.

### FHS Class of 2001 reunion

Faribault High School Class of 2001 will hold its 10-year high school reunion from 7 p.m. until close on June 25 at the Basher's Sports Bar and Grill, 1802 Fourth St. N.W., Faribault.

There is no cost to attend.

### Omelet Breakfast May 15

The Sons of the American Legion are hosting an Omelet Breakfast for the benefit of HOPE Center from 8:30 a.m.-noon on May 15 at the Faribault American Legion, 12 Fifth St. N.E.

The cost is \$7 for adults, \$3.50 for children ages 12 and under. Tickets can be purchased at HOPE Center or at the door.

### North Grove Cemetery Assoc. meeting Sunday

The North Grove Cemetery Association will meet at 2 p.m. on Sunday at the home of Geri Larson, 1914 6th St. N.W., Faribault.

Faribault