

Lakes Area Food Shelf expects to see double the number of individuals in 2022

PEQUOT LAKES — Lakes Area Food Shelf numbers show unprecedented growth in need in 2022.

Just under 5,000 individuals (4,962) came to the LAFS for supplemental and emergency food assistance through June 2022. The spike is one of the more stunning developments in the pantry's 42-year history, as only 4,657 individuals came through LAFS in all of 2021, a news release said.

The growing need means food shelf leaders project they may serve as many as 10,000 by the end of the year.

"We're all one surprise incident away from not having enough for food," LAFS Director Kathy Adams said in the news release. "Continuing pandemic adjustments combined with rising costs of groceries, housing and gas means our friends and neighbors often are short on cash."

LAFS noted the growing number of families who are food insecure. At least 1,500 families came to the food shelf through June, nearly triple the 2021 number.

"Rent has jumped between 30% and 50% for these working families," Adams said.

"They're being forced to choose between having shelter or going hungry."

LAFS stocks their small, grocery-store-like food shelf on Patriot Avenue with a variety of nutritional foods, buying food from Second Harvest Food Bank in Grand Rapids and Schaefer's Foods in Nisswa.

The food shelf also sources through food

rescue with Cub Foods, Pequot Lakes Supervalue, Country Hearth and Schaefer's Foods. Fresh produce comes from Brakstad Farms outside of Pequot Lakes.

Despite discounted prices, rising costs and higher demand mean the amount needed to stock the shelves keeps increasing.

"We're now spending nearly \$15,000 a month to keep pace. That's up from \$10,000," LAFS Board of Directors Chairman Tim Moore said in the news release.

"We're seeing families, grandparents raising grandkids, people with disabilities and individuals working multiple jobs. Thirty-one percent of those coming here are children and 20% are seniors."

LAFS' 31st annual Nisswa Christmas Home Tour will be Oct. 20-22. Tickets are \$40 per person. Tour participants are shuttled to two private homes elaborately decorated for the holidays. Upon return to Nisswa, they can get a meal at one of the town's restaurants and shop at the stores.

"We rely almost exclusively on donations to help our friends and neighbors," Adams said. "With the need growing in 2022, buying a ticket to the Nisswa Christmas Home Tour is very much appreciated. We also encourage direct contributions through our website, lakesareafoodshelf.org/donate."

Proceeds from the home tour go directly to Lakes Area Food Shelf. Tickets and additional information are available at www.lafshome-tour.com.



Photos by Megan Buffington / Echo Journal

The interior of the Lake Hubert Grange Hall, which was the Lake Hubert School in the early 1900s.

GRANGE

From Page 1

In 1873, during the original wave of Grange openings, there were 40 chapters across Minnesota. Today, there are four to seven chapters, with different sources reporting different numbers.

The Lake Hubert Grange is one of these few that survive, though they weren't one of the early 40. But the Grange continues to shrink.

"I know if you mentioned the Grange (people) have no clue where it's at or what it is," Burnard said. "It's just a small group. We have 22 I think or 24 members."

Not only is the Grange small in numbers, but the members they do have are getting older.

"We can't do as much as we used to," Burnard said. "We do try and raise money to help out different

LAKE HUBERT GRANGE NO. 735
GENERAL PROJECTS:
1. Donate to Expansion Fund. 9. Have Spring Flower Show & Fall Vegetable & Flower Show.
2. Donate to Charity Organizations. 10. Attend Fall Music Festival.
3. Enter Community Service Contest. 11. Entertain the Boy Scouts.
4. Assist Youth Money-makers. 12. Send \$2. to State Juvenile Fund.
5. Put on Degree Work. 13. Have an Attendance Contest.
6. Put on Money raising projects. 14. Submit Resolutions.
7. Encourage Youth to enter contests. 15. Dedicate Hall June 1.
LECTURES PROJECTS:
1. Keep Dues & Attendance Chart. 5. Lecturer to attend Conference.
2. Enter Traveling Project. 6. Have Monthly Paper.
3. Booster Night Program. 7. One Program to practice Marching.
4. Lecturer's Scrap-book. 8. Lecturer to have Money Raiser.
HOME ECONOMICS PROJECTS:
1. Have Hobo Lunch Sale, proceeds to 6. Have Grange "Go To Church" Sunday, go to Muscular Dystrophy Fund. Have Birthday Cake at First meeting each month.
2. Nat'l Grange Monthly in every home. 8. Have one Lecturer's Program.
3. Seed & Bulb Exchange. 9. Report at each meeting.
4. Sewing Contest. 10. Co-operate with Extension Office.
5. Have Turkey Supper.
YOUTH PROJECTS:
1. Make Grange Scrap-book. 6. Enter Essay Contest, sponsored by Automobile Safety Council.
2. Take part in Degree Work. 7. Enter Softball at State Picnic.
3. Youth fill Chairs one meeting. 8. Participate in Charity Work.
4. Enter Contest of County & State. 9. Get Three New Members.
5. Raise Money to go to Youth Camp.

A Grange activity list provided by the Nisswa Historical Society. The Lake Hubert Grange moved into the Lake Hubert School in the early 1950s. Based off the "Dedicate Hall" item, this list is likely from the early to mid '50s.

areas. We're not as big as (other local organizations), not that we wouldn't like to be."

Continuing to raise the number of donations is one of Burnard's goals

for the Grange. Other goals include raising awareness of the Grange in the community and recruiting younger members.

"I would love to get a Junior Grange

going," said Burnard. "Younger kids, let them come up with some ideas."

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RENTAL

From Page 1

The council approved the ordinance by a unanimous 5-0 vote.

Short-term rentals has been a topic in Crosslake as well, as that city tries to decide if it should have its own ordinance regulating them. Crow Wing County enacted a short-term rentals ordinance in January 2021, which covers municipalities and offers a 24-hour hotline and an online complaint form. The ordinance requires such properties to be licensed and follow a set of rules.

Pequot Lakes previously had its own short-term rental ordinance, but the council

rescinded it in 2021 and opted to use the county ordinance, which is less restrictive than what the city had enacted in late 2018.

Lake Shore, in Cass County, also tackled the issue in late 2018 with an ordinance amendment.

In other action July 5, the Breezy Point City Council:

► Approved a subdivision application and rezoning application to reconfigure three lots to provide golf view lots with access limited to Chicasaw Circle.

► Voted to re-grade the newly established assistant city administrator position from Grade 10 to Grade 13, which gives an increased pay range, and authorized staff

to repost the position. This was done after the personnel committee and David Drown Associates, Inc. reviewed the job description.

In June, the Breezy Point Police Department responded to 295 incidents, an increase of 91 from June 2021. Among the incidents were three traffic arrests, four crashes, three thefts and four fires. In Pelican Township, the department responded to 35 incidents, including one fire.

The city is seeking a member for the Planning and Zoning Commission. Those interested are encouraged to contact city hall.

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CRASH

From Page 1

A fundraiser was set up to help offset the cost of medical expenses, travel and lodging for Tyler Haller and her family.

The GoFundMe page said Tyler suffered severe injuries in the car accident while visiting family in Minnesota, suffering from multiple fractures in her pelvis and ankle. She is facing several surgeries and a hospital stay of at least three weeks, the page said.

This fund, which had raised \$15,395 as of Monday night, July 11, will go directly to the family and help support them during Tyler's extensive recovery, the page said.

Find the GoFundMe page at <https://gf.me/v/c/w3h5/tyler-hallers-medical-fund>

The state patrol reported road conditions were dry at the time of the collision and everyone involved was wearing seat belts.

The Pequot Lakes Fire Department, Zone 3 First Responders, North Memorial Ambulance, North Memorial Air Care, Life Link III, Nisswa Police Department, Crow Wing County Sheriff's Department and Breezy Point Police Department assisted at the scene.

In late 2018, the Pequot Lakes City Council asked the Minnesota Department of Transportation to look at the Highway 371-County Road 29 intersection after hearing from residents who were concerned that the intersection is dangerous.

Residents said the traffic moves too fast and the Highway 371 median is too small, making it unsafe for a vehicle, biker or pedestrian to cross the highway to the Paul Bunyan Trail or turn left from County Road 29 or Wilderness Road (CR 107) onto the highway.

At the time, a MnDOT representative said the intersection is challenging because it's on a curve with lakes and a swamp, so there wasn't a lot MnDOT could do with the geometry.

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