BY SHANNON GRANHOLM MANAGING EDITOR

This year marks the 49th annual Good Neighbor Days Celebration, but it marks the 50th anniversary of the Hugo Lions Club.

"That just means we are going to hype it up this year and we are going to hype it up next year," said Hugo Good Neighbor Days Committee Chair Chris Clausen, 2025 Lions vice president.

Hugo Good Neighbor Days is set to return to Lions Volunteer Park June 6-8. This year's theme is "Lions Thrive in 2025," and pays homage to the Hugo Lions who have been serving the community for 50 years.

Good Neighbor Days, hosted by the Lions, is the largest fundraiser for the community. The Lions also raise money through the Community Golf Scramble, which is scheduled for Aug. 23 at Oneka Ridge Golf Course. The



CONTRIBUTED

club also hosts an ice fishing event in February at Big Marine Veterans Campground in February.

"Eighty percent of the money we raise goes back into the community

through scholarships, purchasing things for the city, fire relief," Clausen explained.

In addition to various scholarships, the Lions are known for supporting the Hugo Fire Department and Hugo Good Neighbors Food Shelf and offering free Thanksgiving turkeys and holiday hams to local families and seniors.

Currently, the club has approximately 24 members but needs more to continue the Lions' mission, "To empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding."

"We put on a lot and do a lot, but we are looking for people that want to come out and volunteer," Clausen said. "We have a great time; we put some great events on; we encourage people to think about volunteering some of their time to benefit the community." 2025 Good Neighbor Days highlights

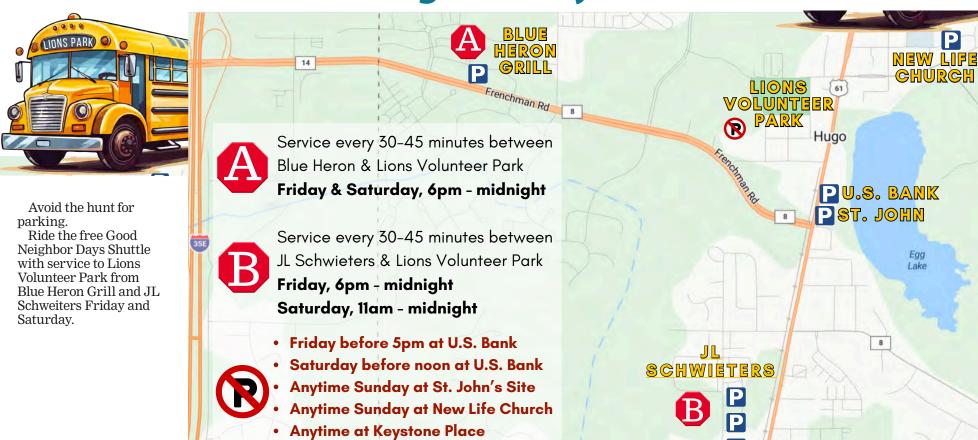
Many Good Neighbor Days staples will return, including carnival rides, food trucks, music and fireworks. This year's parade is scheduled for 11 a.m. Saturday. The cornhole tournament and vendor craft fair are also back. "The infamous game that shall not be mentioned will also return," Clausen noted.

A change this year is the location of the carnival. Rides will be shifted to the west side of the park in a bigger area, which will allow for some new rides for older children.

The fifth annual Ribfest competition will also return to Good Neighbor Days. In addition to prizes for first, second and third place, there will also be a People's Choice award. Members of the public are invited to purchase tasting tickets and vote for their

SEE **HUGO LIONS,** PAGE  $\mathbf{6}$ 

## **Official Good Neighbor Days Shuttle Routes**



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#### FRIDAY

5PM--8PM CRAFT FAIR 5PM--10PM FOOD TRUCKS

5PM--11PM CARNIVAL RIDES

6PM--12AM SHUTTLE SERVICE

7:30--11:30PM COYOTE WILD

#### SATURDAY AM

10AM--6PM CRAFT FAIR

**10AM--4PM CORNHOLE** 

10AM--10PM FOOD TRUCKS

10AM--5PM HISTORY DISPLAYS

11AM--11PM CARNIVAL RIDES

11AM--12PM PARADE

11AM--12AM SHUTTLE SERVICE

12PM--3PM FREE KIDZONE

12PM--RIBFEST TICKET SALES

#### SATURDAY PM

1PM--5PM PAVILION BINGO

1PM--4PM SKATEPARK DEMOS

4PM--RIBFEST PUBLIC TASTING

5:30--RIBFEST JUDGING

7:30--11:30PM SIX TO MIDNIGHT

🌟 10PM--FIREWORKS SHOW 🦅

#### **SUNDAY**

9AM--10AM YOGA IN THE PARK

10AM--3PM CRAFT FAIR

**10AM--4PM FOOD TRUCKS** 

11AM--4PM CARNIVAL RIDES

11AM--12PM KIDS NICKEL DASH

12PM--3PM FREE KIDZONE

12PM--3PM HUGO'S GOT TALENT

12PM--3PM PAVILION BINGO

1PM--3PM SKATEPARK DEMOS

4PM--AWARDS CEREMONY















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Mary Peterson – Production Manager Michael McNamara – Production Designer



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Carter Johnson - Publisher Patty Steele – Marketing Shannon Granholm – Managing Editor



## **Hugo Good Neighbor Days Carnival**



The carnival will be from 5-11 p.m. Friday; 11 a.m.-11p.m. Saturday, and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday.

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BRIGHTSPACES PHOTOGRAPHY I CONTRIBUTED

This year, the rides will be shifted to the west side of the Lions Volunteer park in a bigger area to allow for new rides for older children.

## Good Neighbors from '95 forward

Good Neighbors aren't hard to find in Hugo. The Lions Club has recognized at least one neighbor every year since 1995. Here is a look back:

1995-Lucille and Fran Lutz 1996-Lois and Henry Vietor 1997-Gert Granger 1998-Marlene and Darrell Granger 1999-Pat Wittkop 2000-Kathy Marier 2001-Viola Maslowski

2002-Jim Gits

2003-Judy Olinger
2004-Sharron and Deane Vail
2005-Jim Leroux
2006-Karen and Len Charpentier
2007-Pete Pedersen
2008-Gene, Theresa, Katrina and Paula Zerwas
2009-Floyd Petty
2010-Ray Pribnow
2011-Jim and Karen Bever
2012-Marlys Schaefer
2013-Kris Emerson
2014-Marilyn and Myles Stomberg

2015-John and Donna Kostuch 2016-Michele Anderson 2017-Barb Connolly 2018-Rick Kissner 2019-Bob Hanson

**2020**-Celebration canceled due to COVID-19

2021- Dr. Bill Barrett 2022- George Reus

2023- Jimmie and Rick Gregoire

2024- Tim Tanberg

Who will this year's Good Neighbor be? Be sure to look for an article in an upcoming issue of The Citizen.



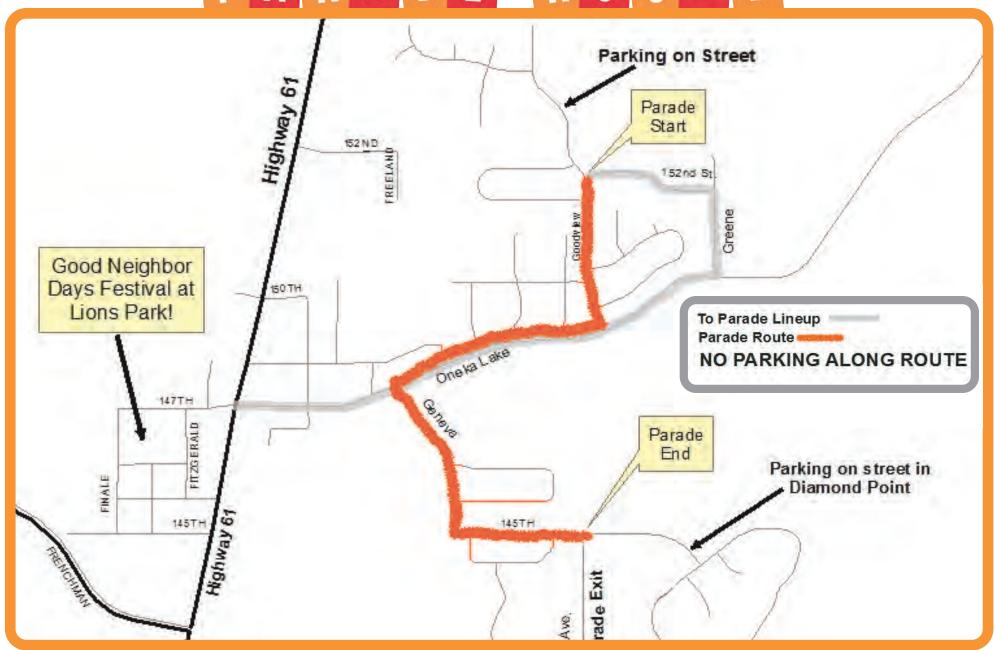
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### **HUGO LIONS:** Extend annual celebration with more Sunday activities

#### FROM PAGE 1

favorite. Tickets will go on sale on Saturday at noon and the public tasting will be at 4 p.m.

"It is always a great time, the ribs are always delicious." Clausen noted.

Music on Friday at 7:30 p.m. will feature Coyote Wild, a team of musicians and singers who perform an eclectic mix of classic rock and country. Saturday night, Six to Midnight, which played at last year's event, will play at 7:30 p.m. The cover band plays everything from the '60s to the '80s to Justin Timberlake. "No gimmicks, no costumes, just a bunch of music-loving guys in jeans with some really bad jokes."

Clausen explained the band plans to bring more lighting and stage equipment to this vear's performance. "It will be a bigger and better show than it has ever been before." he said.

This year, the Lions wanted to add more to Sunday's



PAUL DOLS | PRESS PUBLICATIONS

schedule of events in hopes of bringing more people back to the park for one final day of celebration.

Sunday will kick off at 9 a.m. with free yoga in the park. Children will want to attend the first-ever Nickel Bash at 11 a.m., sponsored by Premier Banks. Clausen said he got the idea from a rodeo he attended. Children will be split up into three

age groups. When given the green light, children will run into the designated area and collect as many nickels as they can. They will want to be on the lookout for two specialcolored nickels that will cash out to more than 5 cents.

"Those nickels will be worth some real cash dollars," explained Clausen.

Back for a second year, the Hugo's Got Talent

competition will begin at noon on the Peder Pedersen Pavilion stage. The winning act will receive a cash prize. Any age or talent is welcome to participate. This year's host is country singer Gary Growden, who will perform some of his songs during the event.

The day will end with the Lions awards ceremony at 4 p.m., where scholarships will

be given out along with the Good Neighbor of the Year Award. Three Melvin Jones Awards will also be given out to three Lions. The awards recognize individuals who have demonstrated exceptional service and dedication to humanitarian efforts.

While attending the event, participants should be sure to keep Lions Park clean by recycling their cans in recycling bins placed throughout the park to support the White Bear Lake Youth Football Association and White Bear Lake track team. "I want to see those bins full," Clausen noted.

And don't forget about the Hunt for the Golden Spike. The first three clues are included in this edition of The Citizen, and additional clues will be posted once a day at approximately 8 a.m. beginning Friday, June 6, until Spike is found.

For more information, visit www.goodneighbordays.



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## New Life hosts outdoor service



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To celebrate Hugo Good Neighbor Days and kick off summer, New Life Lutheran Church will host an outdoor worship service at 9 a.m. June 8. Worship will be on the lawn next to the parking lot. Chairs will be available to sit on, but attendees are welcome to bring their own chair or blanket. In the event of rain, the service will be moved inside. New Life Lutheran Church is located at 6000 148th St. N. in Hugo.





# Cefebrate

HUGO GOOD NEIGHBOR DAYS JUNE 6-8, 2025



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## **HUGO GOOD NEIGHBOR DAYS**

## 2025 Hunt for the Golden Spike

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Dearest readers, hunter-gatherers and fowlers, Greetings from our next Good Neighbors Days in Hugo! Grateful Lions always help wherever you go To the benefit of scholars, please fill growlers!



I, the honorary clue scribe, hereby do state: It is time for fun at parks and a kids parade Do not ruin our blessed green space, we dare not raid Start the hunt, and the Golden Spike ye escalate!



WWW.READTHECITIZEN.COM

CLUE

It's in county, it's in city, it's in a park.
If solving of a clue suddenly arises,
Use the Golden Ticket to increase your prizes.
Find Golden Spike with friend or dog, but dare not bark!

Mathias Baden is the clue writer for the Golden Spike hunt 2025, Realtor with Edina Realty, former journalist, and current Lions Club International member.

CLUES PROVIDED BY MATHIAS BADEN BADEN REAL ESTATE GROUP



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