



Good Neighbor Days turns 50

BY SHANNON GRANHOLM
MANAGING EDITOR

This year marks the 50th annual Hugo Good Neighbor Days celebration, which follows the 50th anniversary of the Hugo Lions Club in 2025.

Hugo Good Neighbor Days is set to return to Lions Volunteer Park June 5-7. This year's theme is "Getting Our Kicks Since 1976."

Good Neighbor Days is the largest fundraiser of the year for the community and is powered entirely by volunteers and sponsors.

"We have raised over \$1 million to give back to the community," explained Lions President John Kelley. "It's cool to see a group of individuals that selflessly give their time to help raise money. It is cool that we have a community of humans that support this cause and helps us keep the money in the community to (give to) worthy recipients."

Kelley added that 80% of the funds the Lions raise

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John Kelley
Hugo Lions President

stay within the Hugo community and the other 20% goes to other statewide or nationwide causes.

This year, the Lions have supported families who

have been displaced by house fires, the Veterans Campground at Big Marine, Hopkins School House and Heritage Center and high school seniors, among other causes.

Many Good Neighbor Days staples will return for 2026, including carnival rides, food trucks, music and fireworks. The parade, cornhole tournament and vendor craft fair will also return. Shoppers should get their wallets ready for the craft fair on Saturday and Sunday, as Kelley says they have a record number of vendors.

"We have been getting a ton of inquiries from vendors," he said. "We are at capacity and trying to squeeze them in one (way) or another, anywhere we can find so people have the opportunity, and the community can come out and support them."

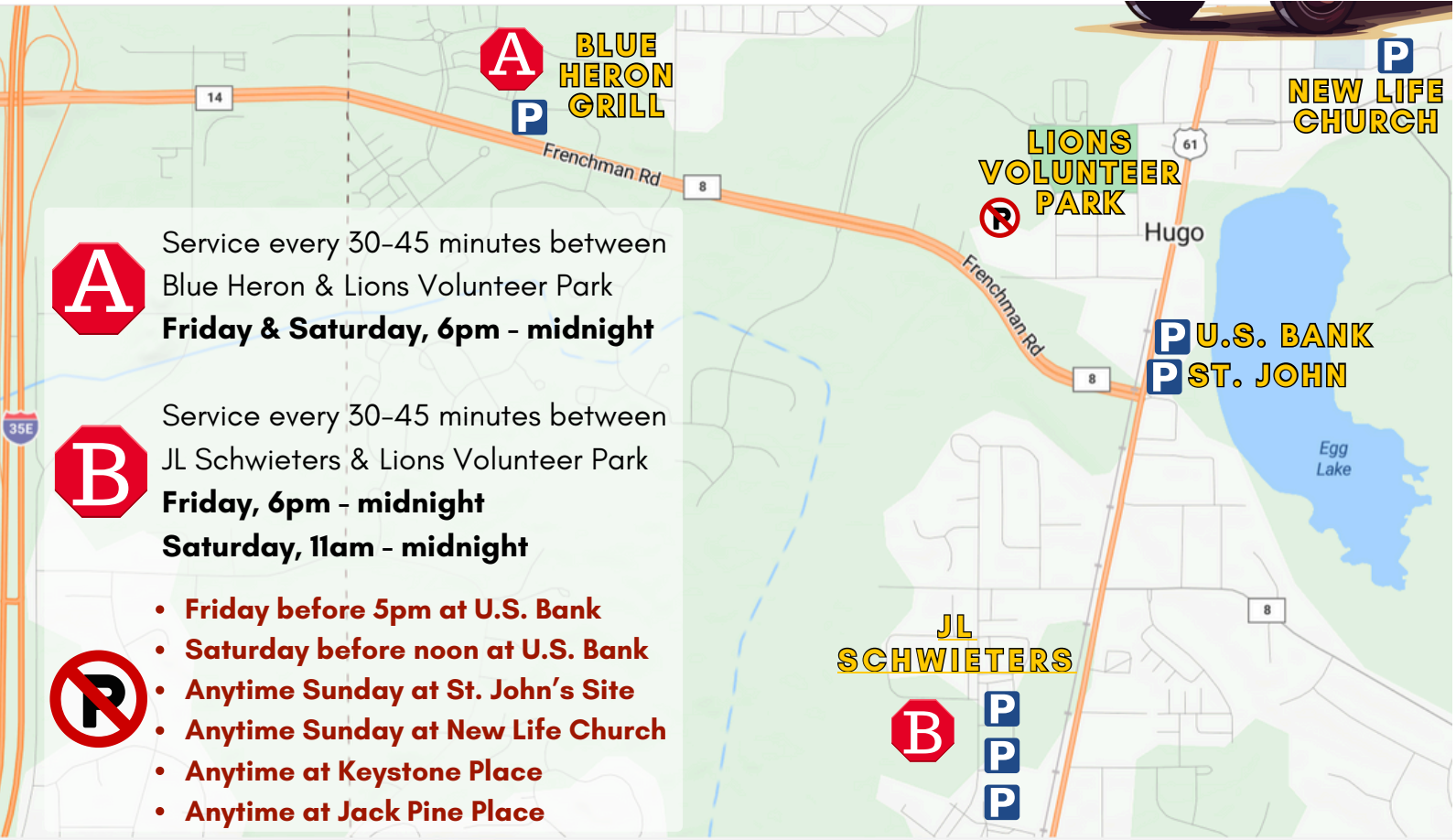
The sixth annual Ribfest competition will once again be held in conjunction with Good Neighbor

SEE 50TH ANNIVERSARY, PAGE 6

Official Good Neighbor Days Shuttle Routes



Avoid the hunt for parking.
Ride the free Good Neighbor Days Shuttle with service to Lions Volunteer Park from Blue Heron Grill and JL Schwieters Friday and Saturday.



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Friday

5PM-8PM CRAFT FAIR
5PM-10PM FOOD TRUCKS
5PM-11PM CARNIVAL RIDES
6PM-12AM SHUTTLE SERVICE
7:00PM DANCE PERFORMANCE
7:30-11:30PM ... *Maiden Dixie*

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

12PM-4PM BATTLE OF THE BANDS
1PM-5PM PAVILION BINGO
1PM-4PM SKATEPARK DEMOS
3:30-5:30 RIBFEST COMPETITION
7:30-11:30 **SIX TO MIDNIGHT**
10PM FIREWORKS

Sunday

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
3PM AWARDS CEREMONY



www.goodneighbordays.com



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GOOD NEIGHBOR DAYS 2026

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FILE PHOTOS

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
- 2025- Mike Loken

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

Appointments for the whole family!

That's my

P

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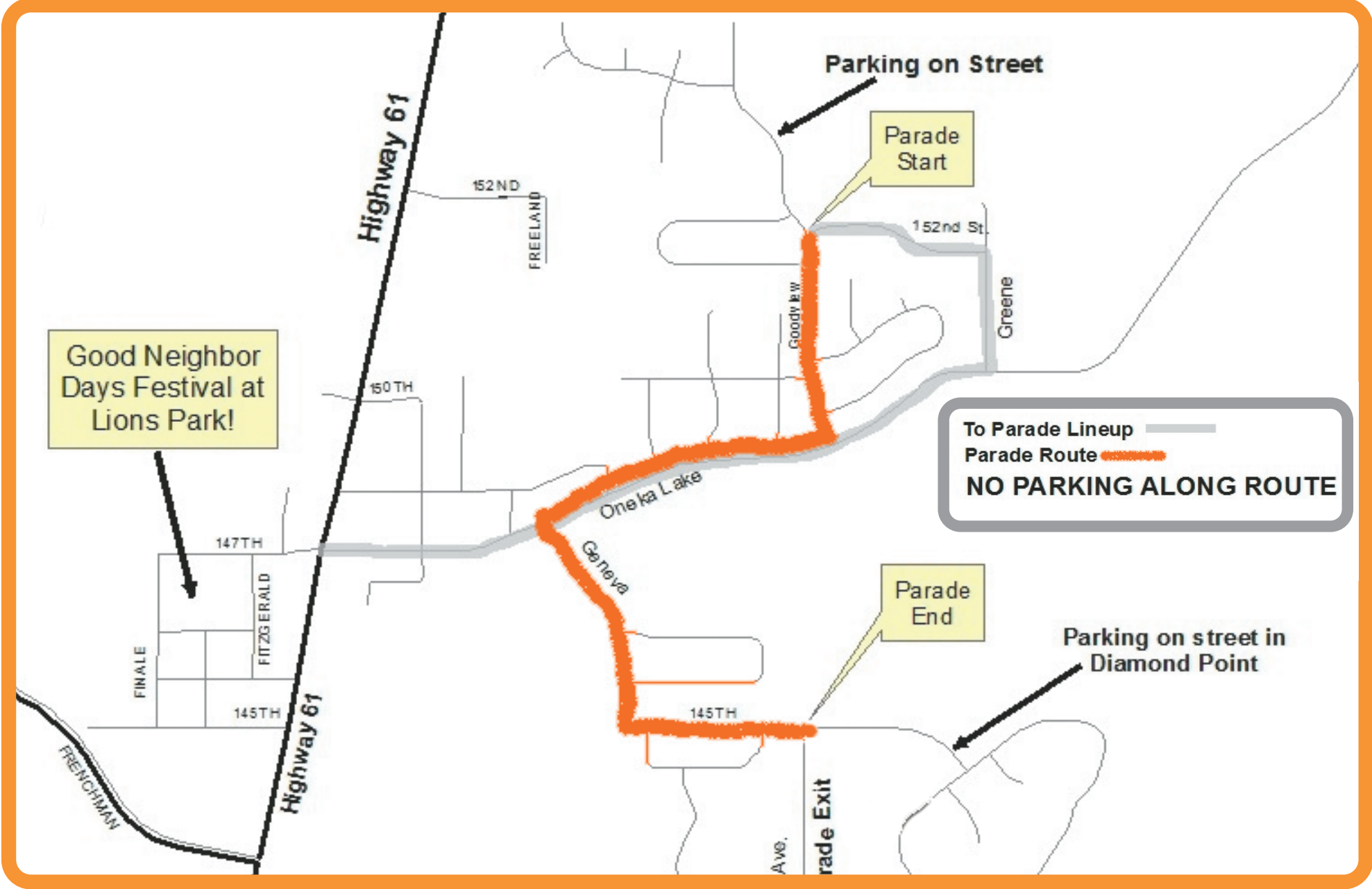
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History comes to life at Good Neighbor Days

The Hugo Historical Commission and the Hopkins Schoolhouse and Heritage Center will bring Hugo's rich history to life during this year's Good Neighbor Days celebration. Community members of all ages are invited to stop by and explore interactive displays, historic stories and hands-on activities that celebrate the people, places, and traditions that shaped Hugo.

The Hugo Historical Commission will feature displays highlighting Hugo's historic barns,



historical timelines and maps, the Train Depot, and the Telephone Exchange—offering visitors a glimpse into the community's past and its early development.

The Hopkins Schoolhouse and Heritage Cen-

ter will share a replica of the historic Hopkins Schoolhouse for visitors to discover and enjoy, along with delightful stories of school days past shared by "Mrs. Fraatz the School Marm," complete with sample 1928 candy. Families and children can also participate in a Hopkins Schoolhouse Coloring Contest, and visitors will have the opportunity to purchase Images of America: Forest Lake books and other history related items.



CONTRIBUTED

The Hopkins Schoolhouse and Heritage Center Committee commissioned a model of the schoolhouse from Les Kuiper that will be used in programming with school children and in promoting the efforts underway to restore the building for the community.



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50TH ANNIVERSARY: 'Great community celebration'

FROM PAGE 1



FILE PHOTO

Residents line up for the grand parade.

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 favorite. Tickets will go on sale on Saturday at noon and the public tasting will be at 4 p.m. Judging will begin at 5:30 p.m. There are still some spots open for teams to sign up. Registration will close Thursday, June 4.

For music, Maiden Dixie is scheduled to perform Friday, from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. On Saturday, Six to Midnight will perform from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m.

Back for a third 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. Registration will be accepted through Thursday, June 4.

On Sunday at 11 a.m. there will be a Lions Awards Ceremony where six scholarships will be given out to White Bear Lake Area High School seniors, along with the Good Neighbor of the Year award.

"It is a fundraiser, but it is a great community celebration and opportunity for people to get together," said City Council Member Mike Miron.

Good Neighbor Days attendees are encouraged to take advantage of free shuttles, as parking around the park will be tricky during the event. (See the shuttle map in this issue for more information.)

And don't forget about the Hunt for the Golden Spike. For more information about Good Neighbor Days, visit www.goodneighbordays.com.



CONTRIBUTED

New Life hosts outdoor service

Hugo Good Neighbor Days is a great way to kick off summer and celebrate as a community. To help us enjoy some fresh air outside together, New Life Church - Lutheran will host an outdoor worship service. On at 9 a.m. on Sunday, June 7, worship will be on the lawn next to the parking lot.

Padded chairs will be set

up on the grass and ready for everybody. If you have a favorite camping chair or blanket, you are also welcome to bring it. We will have space available for people to sit on their own chairs and blankets. If you have difficulty walking across grass and uneven ground, we will have a space reserved to sit on the edge of the parking lot.

In the event of rain, worship will be moved inside that day. Bring a friend and come join us as we worship God in His beautiful creation! New Life is located at 6000 148th St. N., next to Hugo Elementary School.

Pastor Tim Heinecke

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Pitmasters set to battle at Hugo Ribfest

Backyard pitmasters will fire up their smokers and grills Saturday as the annual Ribfest competition returns to Hugo's Good Neighbor Days festival, bringing a full day of barbecue rivalry and public tasting to Lions Volunteer Park.

Hosted by the Hugo Lions Club, the contest features teams competing for trophies, cash prizes and bragging rights in categories including best ribs and People's Choice. Organizers said competitors will prepare ribs on-site throughout the day before serving samples to the public during the afternoon tasting event.

Tasting ticket sales begin at noon,

with tickets including four rib samples and one People's Choice voting ballot. Public tasting runs from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., or until ribs run out. Winners are expected to be announced later in the evening following judging by a panel that includes celebrity and Kansas City Barbeque Society judges.

According to festival rules, each competing team receives 12 racks of spare-ribs and must cook entirely on-site using their own smokers and equipment. Judges will score entries based on taste, tenderness and appearance.

For more information, visit goodneighbordays.com/ribfest



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CLUE #1

We're the state of hockey, it's safe to say.
Grab a puck and a stick
And find a place to play –
Just as long as the pond's ice is thick.
While the Wild are out,
It was a great season.
No need to pout –
We have no good reason
So the melting of ice says winter is over. So what?
It's time! For a new season, a walk in the park.
It's the Golden Spike hunt – that's the scuttlebutt!
Take the dog out where she can run free and bark.



CLUE #2

Look up and down and all around.
The prize will be hidden partially visible.
It cannot be hidden underground.
So gather friends/hunters indivisible.
And speaking of a good outing and not pouting,
We won't hide the Golden Spike under the dirt.
So sad our Timberwolves are done shooting and shouting.
We won't hang it higher than a dunk by Rudy Gobert.



CLUE #3

Here's to the rules! Protect your fraternity.
This clue is under Double Secret Probation.
You won't seek answers for an eternity.
Solve all 10 clues for the final explanation.
Stay where it's public not private land,
Leave alone the birdie and a mouse,
Don't go where only HOA members can.
Look in the parks not in an Animal House!

Look for the next clue on June 1
at presspubs.com/citizen

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