

Welcome to Our Newest Tenants



**Peggy Basche
Apt. 313**



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Apt. 220**

Musings from Activities . . .

~ Abbey LeRoy

Known as the “Land of 10,000 Lakes,” Minnesota has stellar landscapes, lively cities, and a sense of community that is hard to match. Whether it’s the charm of a small town or the excitement of Minneapolis, life in Minnesota has something for everyone. The changing four seasons define daily life here—toasty summers for boating and fishing, vibrant autumns for crisp air walks through golden-leaved state parks, and blizzarding winters perfect for cozy indoor gatherings and outdoor fun. Living in Minnesota is a unique experience shaped by its natural beauty, delicious foods, and friendly atmosphere.

Minnesota Nice. Minnesotans, I’ve learned, are one of the nicest people I know. Minnesotans are known for their friendliness, politeness, and occasional “Uff da!” or “You betcha!” peppered into conversation. I’ve heard “duck, duck, gray duck” instead of “goose” and “pop” over “soda.” My first winter in Minnesota, I parked my car in the wrong spot and got a huge pile of snow surrounding it. I couldn’t back out so I started digging my car out with a small snow scraper. Within a couple minutes, two Minnesotan strangers brought their snow shovels and started helping me. I didn’t even ask for help and they came to my rescue! That’s when I realized Minnesota Nice is a real thing.

Minnesota’s food culture is a fine blend of tradition and comfort. One of the most iconic dishes I learned about after moving to Minnesota was the infamous “hotdish,” a hearty casserole made with meat, potatoes, vegetables, and a creamy sauce—perfect for the cold weather. It has quickly become my favorite MN dish. I even had it for my wedding meal. Lutefisk, lefse, and other Scandinavian favorites reflect the state’s heritage, especially during the holidays. Belgium cookies from Ghent are a must during the holiday season too. I’ve noticed Minnesotans also love their sweet treats, like freshly fried State Fair mini donuts, Bundt cakes, and wild rice soup. Food connects people, bringing warmth and joy to the table.

From the North Shore to the Twin Cities, Minnesota is filled with favorite places to visit. Nature lovers enjoy the shores of Lake Superior, hiking in the many state parks, or enjoying a peaceful weekend at a cabin up north. On my to-do list is to go up north to Duluth and Lake Superior. The Twin Cities offer the Mall of America and world-class museums like the Minneapolis Institute of Art. For sports fan, cheering on the Minnesota Vikings or Twins is a favorite pastime. What is your favorite place to visit?

**As one year ends and another begins, may we pause to remember all of
Hill Street Place’s tenants and former tenants who passed away in 2024:**

**Don Owen • Ken Miller • Millie Nagel • Merle Lange • Wally Runia
Bob Mann • Joan Palmer • Gordie VanOverbeke • Debbie Thielges
Florence Sommerer • Solveig VanOverbeke • David Eisenberger
Mary Lou Lange • Cy Schroeder • Shirley Wurscher • Bill Sammons • Bea Wewetzer
Millie Horsman • Jan Mann • Dorothy Swedzinski • Mona Westera • Karen Egly**

PUT THIS on YOUR CALENDAR!

Upcoming Events . . .

New Years - Office Closed	1
A Year in Review Slideshow	2
MLC Library Outreach	3
500 Card Party	3
Coloring Fun	6
Tenant Meeting	7
BINGO	7,14,21,28
Men's Group: Stephen Zimmer	8
Music: Cletus Goblirsch	9
Wii Bowling	9,20
Ole & Lena Joke Club	10
Card Makers	10,17, 24,31
Movie Matinee: Sweet Land	10
Brain Games	10, 17, 24,31
BINGO Night w/ Lorenzo's	11,25
Teach & Taste at ACC	13
Paul Bunyan Tall Tales	13
Paul Bunyan w/Hope Harbor	14
Chautauqua: Camden State Park	15
Games with St Stephens	15
Game Day: Pegs & Jokers	16
Virtual Voyage: MN	20
MN Madness Adventure	22
POKENO 50¢ to play	23
Lunch Outing: Applebee's	24
Page Turners Discussion	28
Minnesota Craft	29
Monthly Birthday Party	30
Fold & Deliver	31

Page Turners Book Club will be reading *Mysterious Minnesota & Mysterious Midwest* by Adrian Lee. If you would like a copy stop into the Activities Office. Join us for a discussion in the Pool Table Room on Tue., Jan. 28th.

Helping Hands at Hill Street Place - During the month of November we recorded a total of **81.5** volunteer hours. Thank you all who recorded their hours.

Intergenerational Fun - Come listen to the Holy Redeemer Second Grade Readers at 8:30 Tues. mornings Mrs. Rettey's class on Jan. 7th and Mrs. Klaith's class is here on Jan. 14th.

MN Month

~ Abbey LeRoy

Our theme for this month is Minnesota! We will have dress up days, MN BINGO, Scavenger Hunt, Brain Games, Virtual Voyage, Paul Bunyan Tall Tales, Ole & Lena Joke Club, and a MN Madness Day! Be ready for loads of MN fun and games this month!

- Fri., Jan. 3rd—Wear MN Vikings Gear!
- Tue., Jan. 14th—Paul Bunyan Fun—Axe throwing & log building with Hope Harbor. Wear Flannel!
- Wed., Jan. 22nd Minnesota Madness: The Adventure Game—Join us for some crazy challenges! Everyone welcome to join! Wear your Favorite Anything MN Gear!

The following is "Jeff Foxworthy on Minnesota."

If you consider it a sport to gather your food by drilling through 18 inches of ice and sitting there all day hoping that the food will swim by, YOU MIGHT LIVE IN MINNESOTA.

If you're proud that your state made the national news 96 nights each year because International Falls is the coldest spot in the nation, YOU MIGHT LIVE IN MINNESOTA.

If you know how to say Wayzata... Edina... Mahtomedi... Cloquet...Shakopee, YOU MIGHT LIVE IN MINNESOTA.

If you know several people who have hit deer more than once, YOU MIGHT LIVE IN MINNESOTA.

If you often switch from HEAT to A/C in the same day and back again, YOU MIGHT LIVE IN MINNESOTA.

If you can drive 65 mph through 2 feet of snow during a raging blizzard without flinching, YOU MIGHT LIVE IN MINNESOTA.

If there are seven empty cars running in the parking lot at Mill's Fleet Farm at any given time, YOU MIGHT LIVE IN MINNESOTA.

Last Month at a Glance . . .



January might be a challenging month. It is, after all, International Brainteaser Month. There are brainteasers for every taste. Wordsmiths enjoy crosswords, word jumbles, and acrostics. Mathematicians enjoy sudoku and kakuro. Riddles, logic puzzles, tangrams, ciphers, and even good old-fashioned Rubik's Cubes keep our minds sharp. Just as exercise is healthy for the body, brainteasers are healthy for the brain. Flex your gray matter by answering some of these brainteasers below:

1. A man stands on one side of a river, his dog on the other. The man calls his dog, who immediately crosses the river without getting wet and without using a bridge or a boat. How did the dog do it?
2. In 1990, a person is 15 years old. In 1995, that same person is 10 years old. How could this be?
3. Before Mount Everest was discovered, what was the highest mountain in the world?

Answers: 1. He walked; the river is frozen. 2. The person was born in 2005 BC. 3. Mount Everest; it was the highest mountain even before it was discovered.

MINNESOTA



ACROSS

4. First state park in MN
6. What type of trade became popular in the 1700s
9. One lake that is shared between only MN and Canada
10. MN official state fish

DOWN

1. What popular city is on Lake Superior
2. MN official state flower
3. MN has more than ___ lakes
5. What lake does MN, WI, MI and Canada share
7. MN official state bird

The ingenious system of raised dots that are “read” through the fingertips by the blind is known as braille and is named for the Frenchman Louis Braille. As a student at the National Institute for Blind Youth in Paris, Braille loved to read and craved a wider variety of books. His mission was to create a new alphabet for the blind, and, at age 15, he developed braille. January 4, World Braille Day, celebrates his achievement and his birthday.

Braille based his alphabet on a secret military code developed by Captain Charles Barbier de la Serre for Napoleon’s French army. This code of dots, known as écriture nocturne, or “night writing,” was a way for soldiers to communicate silently and without a light at night. Barbier visited the Institute for Blind Youth in Paris to present his system. Braille quickly mastered Barbier’s system, discovered its flaws, and developed his new system. When he presented his improvements to Barbier in person, the old army captain was incredulous and offended. History, however, has proven Braille’s contribution to be as important as Gutenberg’s printing press.

Green Rice Hotdish

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 cup minute rice
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1/2 cup chopped celery
- 1/2 cup onion
- 1 (8oz) jar cheese whiz
- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- 1 (10oz) package frozen chopped broccoli, thawed
- 1 jar mushrooms and juice if mushroom is omitted.

Add 1/2 cup water. Stir all together. Bake 1 hour at 350°F.

Recipe from Delores DeVos.



Down the Rabbit Hole

~ Activity Connection

January is a significant month for Alice in Wonderland enthusiasts. Lewis Carroll, born Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, entered the world on January 27, 1832, and passed away on January 14, 1898. His famous tale, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, began in 1862, during a boat trip where he entertained the Liddell children with an improvised story. Young Alice Liddell, the inspiration behind the heroine, urged Carroll to write it down. After two years of writing, the book was finished in 1864 and published the following year, quickly becoming a literary sensation.

The book introduced the world to memorable characters like the Mad Hatter, whose tea party never ends, and the grinning Cheshire Cat, who can disappear at will. Carroll even invented a new type of poetry, the "nonsense poem," one of the best examples of which is "Jabberwocky," which appears in *Through the Looking-Glass*, the sequel to *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.



What makes *Alice in Wonderland* so fascinating is its mix of wordplay, logic, and fantasy. Carroll was not just a writer but also a mathematician, which explains the whimsical logic and puzzling riddles that fill the story. His love of paradoxes and mathematical theories shines through in scenes like the Mad Hatter's tea party and the Queen's curious rules for croquet. This blend of intellectual play and imaginative adventure is what makes *Alice* a timeless favorite for readers of all ages.

January is a perfect time to embrace the whimsical world of *Alice in Wonderland*. Lewis Carroll's beloved tale, now over 150 years old, continues to captivate readers of all ages. The story has inspired countless adaptations, including theater productions, ballets, and even video games, cementing its place in pop culture. This January, whether by rereading the book or exploring a new adaptation, it's worth revisiting Wonderland to marvel at the unique genius of Carroll and his enduring creation.

