



DISCOVER
Staples

FREE Visitor's Guide
2026-2028



m EXPLORE
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Welcome to Staples, MN

The city of Staples is located in the **heart of central Minnesota**, conveniently situated between Fargo and Minneapolis. Turn off Highway 10 and enjoy fresh air, wide-open green spaces, and family-friendly adventures.

With a population of just over 4,000, Staples is home to a few hidden gems, including **Minnesota's longest wooden fishing pier**, the pristine **Crow Wing River**, the pet-friendly **Timberlake Hotel**, the historic 100-year-old **Batcher Block Opera House**, a train depot, the **Barn Quilt Trail**, and endless miles of well-groomed snowmobile trails.

While you're here, take a deep breath of that clean country air and look up at a sky filled with stars.

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Visit DiscoverStaples.com





Staples Bucket List

- FLOAT OR CRUISE THE CROW WING RIVER**
Wahoo Valley Bar & Grill – Tube rentals and drop-off
- DOWER LAKE / MN LONGEST FISHING PIER**
Picnic shelter, sandy beach, outdoor events, pet-friendly
- THE VINTAGE GOLF CLUB / BAR & GRILL**
Family-friendly 18-hole course, multiple patios, river views
- LIVING LEGACY GARDENS / CLC**
Stop along the Staples Bike Trail, apple orchard, vineyard, gazebo
- HISTORIC 100-YEAR-OLD OPERA HOUSE**
Batcher Block Opera House, Frosty's Bar, live music
- RAILROAD DAYS**
One week before the Minnesota State Fair



- CENTRAL MN BARN QUILT TRAIL**
Maps are at The Depot, Timberlake Hotel, and most area establishments
- LEGACY ARBORETUM NATURE TRAIL**
Peaceful walking trails surrounded by native plants and landscapes
- TIMBERLAKE HOTEL**
Complimentary breakfast, swimming, full service, pet-friendly
- HISTORIC ACTIVE TRAIN DEPOT**
Explore the Staples History Museum, a favorite photo location
- OLD WADENA COUNTY PARK / BOG WALK**
Picnic shelter, river access, campsites, pet-friendly
- LIGHTS IN THE PINES**
Thanksgiving through Christmas weekend at Pine Grove Park

Summer at Dower Lake

Dower Lake Recreation Area

24615 Thunder Rd, Staples

Located just 2 miles west of Staples, Dower Lake Recreation Area is a go-to destination for summer fun—whether you're visiting for the day or staying the weekend. Enjoy Minnesota's longest fishing pier, a sandy swimming beach, and public lake access perfect for boating, fishing, or tubing.

The park also features:

- Disc golf
- Softball fields
- Basketball court
- Sand volleyball courts
- Horseshoe pits
- Picnic shelters
- Scenic walking trails

Dower Lake Campground

Stay for the weekend or the season with 45 campsites, including seasonal, electric, and rustic options. Campers can enjoy hot showers, free firewood, and full utility services.

Whether you're casting a line, relaxing on the beach, or making memories around the campfire, Dower Lake has something for everyone.





Explore Old Wadena

Bike Trails, Bog Walk, River Access, Hiking, Fishing, Party Reservations and Camping!

History

In 1783, fur traders established the Crow Wing River's first trading post on the "little round hill"—"Wadena" in the Chippewa language. The area later became the site of a battle between voyageurs and the Sioux over valuable hunting grounds. It is also the original townsite of Wadena and where the Red River Ox Cart Trail crossed the Crow Wing River.

Camping

Rustic tent camping is available at Old Wadena Park and Dower Lake Recreation Area (DLRA). For RV camping,

Pick up camping supplies at Hubbard's Hardware or Staples Ace Hardware, and grab groceries—don't forget the marshmallows—at Jon's Family Foods or Ernie's Food Market.

Reservations & Events

Old Wadena Park is the only county park available for private reservations, making it a great setting for family reunions, weddings, and gatherings. The park features a large shaded open area, a small shelter, a larger pavilion, and optional electricity with reservation.

To reserve, contact the Wadena County Parks Department at 218-631-7604 or visit the county website.





Vintage Golf Course



Vintage Golf Course

27923 McGivern Dr, Staples

The Vintage Golf Club is an 18-hole championship public course set along the pristine Crow Wing River, winding through hardwood and pine forests. Whether you're golfing with friends, joining a league, or playing with family, all skill levels are welcome.

The Vintage is also a beautiful setting for tournaments, banquets, graduation parties, and weddings. Their friendly staff is available to help plan events in the clubhouse or outdoors with the scenic course as your backdrop.

Purchase a membership or book your tee time online at vintagegolfclub.com.

Living Legacy Gardens



Living Legacy Gardens

26505 County Road 2, Staples

This 10-acre garden just outside downtown offers a peaceful, park-like setting you'll want to visit again and again from spring through fall to see what's in bloom.

With an orchard, vineyard, and native prairie, there are plenty of serene spots to relax, play, or enjoy a picnic. Additional features include a children's garden and a whimsical fairy garden.





Farmers Market

49725 County 83, Staples

From summer through fall, our Farmers Market—located in the Lakewood Health System parking lot—is open **Thursdays from 2–5:00 p.m.**

Shop freshly baked goods, seasonal produce, and local favorites. Visit the “Something Good” coffee and sweets food truck—it’s the perfect stop to start or end your outing.

Railroad Days

Aug. 18-23, 2026 Main Event 22nd

Aug. 17-22, 2027 Main Event 21st 

Aug. 15-20, 2028 Main Event 19th



Thursday

Little Red Caboose
Variety Show

Friday

Fireworks

Saturday

5k Race: 8:00 a.m.
Parade: 10:00 a.m.
Main Event: 11:00 a.m.
Car/Vendor Show

Sunday

Music in the Park
Northern Pacific Park





Music in the Park

Sundays in July and August feature amazing music in an extremely relaxed environment. Bring some chairs or a blanket, and enjoy watching the show.

Free - bring your lawn chairs!

Northern Pacific Park at 7 p.m.

In case of rain, the concert will be moved to Faith Lutheran Church, 430 12th St. NE.





Explore Fall in Full Color

Staples is the perfect place to enjoy the fall colors. From our beautiful downtown streets to the picturesque Dower Lake fishing pier, to the most colorful and easily accessible trails at Old Wadena. Explore the bog walk, take your fur friend for a stroll, or adventure through the woods.





Ride the Trails with Lake Country ATV Riders

Lake Country ATV Riders are a local ATV group who enjoy exploring trails throughout the Staples area. Many riders head out to Spider Lake or cruise the back roads of Todd and Wadena counties.





Barn Quilts

Why barn quilts seem to be popping up all over central Minnesota

From the Lake Country Gems series, originally published in the Pine Journal, October 2025.

The story of the The Barn Quilts Trail is part of Lakes Country Treasures, a series that takes readers down Minnesota's backroads to some of the unique must-see gems of lakes country.

Hundreds of brightly painted barn quilts brighten the back roads and highways of central Minnesota. Mounted on barns, fence posts, parks and community spaces, these large-scale, hand-painted "quilt blocks" have become a hallmark of rural pride and artistry.

The Barn Quilts of Central Minnesota Trail — now featuring more than 150 designs — is

not an actual trail as much as it is a gigantic, rural art project with its pieces scattered and on display all over central Minnesota, up from Menhaga down to Long Prairie.

The project, co-founded by Lisa Kajer and Mary Noska, grew from friendship, creativity and a shared passion for heritage. The trail began with a simple goal: to celebrate local art while boosting tourism and preserving community stories.

"Barn quilts often come from people who want to honor the women in their lives who made beautiful quilts," Kajer said.

Stories in Paint and Pattern

Each barn quilt tells a story — some about family, others about faith, memory or landscape.

For Clarence and Mary Horsager, their barn quilt, ClarMar Family 8, is a heartfelt tribute to their family and faith. The design — a star with eight points — represents their eight children. Sixteen triangles symbolize their grandchildren, while five ivory points mark the spouses of their children. "The blue star in the center represents God — the center

of our lives,” Mary Horsager shared in a 2024 interview.

Mounted high on their barn near Verndale, Minnesota, the 8-by-8-foot quilt shines as part of the Barn Quilts of Central Minnesota’s Northwest Trail, a beacon of devotion visible from the country road.

From a Bus Tour to a Regional Movement

The spark for the Central Minnesota trail came in 2014, when Kajer, Noska and members of their Piecemakers Quilt Club took a bus trip to the Carver County Barn Quilt Trail.

“A bunch of us from the Piecemakers thought it would be great to start a trail of our own,” Kajer recalled. “It was on that trip that the idea really came to life.”

The group began small, painting a few barn quilts before reaching out to community partners. They connected with Staples-Motley High School art instructor Jill Kneisl, Future Farmers of America (FFA) students and local nonprofits. Through collaboration with the LEAP organization (a nonprofit group out of Staples that helps local businesses and organizations with community outreach) and the Staples Chamber of Commerce, Kajer and Noska helped establish a nonprofit to pursue grants and donations.

Their first grant — from the Initiative Foundation — funded supplies for FFA students to paint five barn quilts. Later, support from the Five Wings Arts Council and Staples-Motley Arts Council expanded the project even further.

By October 2015, the Barn Quilts of Central Minnesota Trail was officially launched.

Art, Education, and Collaboration

Funding and community enthusiasm allowed the group to partner with local artists such as Beth Kern and Melissa Hurtig with Creative Gypsies, a business rooted in art,

design and friendship. Kern designed the trail’s maps and brochures, while both artists volunteered to teach classes and create a “how-to” guide for barn quilt painting.

At Staples-Motley High School, art and design students painted barn quilts for local nonprofits and businesses as part of school projects. That partnership helped the trail expand across Wadena, Todd, Cass and Morrison counties, transforming barns and public spaces into colorful expressions of heritage and pride.



A Decade Later

A decade after establishing the Barn Quilts of Central Minnesota Trail, Kajer said more quilts are expected to be added to the trail. In 2024, Noska passed away, leaving behind a legacy that is memorialized with a barn quilt made in honor of Noska called “Mary’s Vision,” full of bold, bright colors. It depicts some of Noska’s favorite landscapes

— lakes and rivers and a big sun shining in the background. Located in Sylvan Shores, Kajer said, “Mary picked out the pattern and designed it. We finished after she passed away, and it’s now part of the trail.”

Where to See Them

A barn quilt is more than a splash of color — it’s a story told in geometry and paint. Typically created on wood or metal panels, barn quilts mimic the design of a quilt square. Some honor ancestry, others local history or the beauty of the Minnesota landscape. Each one reflects the personality and pride of its maker.

Visitors can find barn quilts throughout the region — in Wadena, Staples, Long Prairie and beyond. **Scan the code below for a map.**



Parks

Whether you're planning a weekend getaway, or an afternoon outdoors, you'll find plenty of places to take in the natural beauty of the area.

Cottingham Park Campground

Dower Lake Campground

Lakewood Park and Playground

McGivern Park Campground

Northern Pacific Park

Old Wadena Park Campground

Pine Grove Park

Staples All Veterans Park

Staples Sportsman's Club shooting range/trap shooting



Info and Reservations

Learn more about our parks and campsites, or reserve a space for your next event.

Call 218-894-2553

Hike and Bike

The **Legacy Trail** offers miles of paved paths for walking, jogging, and biking. The trail runs from **Legacy Gardens** in the north to just past the Highway 10 overpass, winding through beautiful open spaces and tall evergreens. Shorter walking routes are also available on the Staples Trail Map.

For a more rustic hiking experience, visit **Pine Grove Park** or **Dower Lake Recreation Area**. Both parks feature scenic nature trails through wooded areas and offer plenty of activities—so plan to spend the day. Hike, picnic, visit the playground, play frisbee golf, and repeat!

Step back in time at **Old Wadena Park**. This environmental park features walking trails, a footbridge across the Leaf River, and a unique bogwalk that stretches from one side of the bog to the other. Along the way, stop at learning stations to discover more about the wetlands, wildlife, and plant life.

Bicyclists can take advantage of two repair stations in Staples if needed. One is located at the Staples Community Center (corner of 3rd Avenue and 4th Street), and the other is along the Legacy Trail at the corner of Summit Avenue and Airport Road.





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Crow Wing River

Explore the Crow Wing River with easy access points.

Paddle or tube through quiet stretches of wooded shoreline, take in the natural scenery, and enjoy a relaxing day on the river at your own pace.

Wahoo Valley/Cottingham Park

25701 Co Rd 7, Staples

Old Wadena

13491 Old Wadena Cir, Staples

Orv's Landing

Orv's Landing Rd, Staples

McGivern Park

27208 McGivern Dr, Staples

Marsh's Landing

Warner Road to 301st Avenue, Staples





Winter

Sledding

The sledding hill at Lakewood Health System on County Road 83 is a favorite for all ages—perfect for sledding, tubing, or tobogganing. Parking is available at the base of the hill, and you might even catch a helicopter taking off nearby.

Ice Skating

Looking for something slower-paced? Enjoy ice skating on local rinks or frozen lakes for a classic winter experience.

Ice Fishing

Dower Lake is a local favorite for winter fishing. Keep it simple with an auger and line or bring a full fish house. Always check ice thickness before heading out.

Need gear or bait? Visit **Ace Hardware** or **Hubbard's Hardware** in Staples for supplies and tips.



Snow Trails



Staples is home to the Intersection of Todd & Wadena Trail Systems

Conveniently located along Highway 10, you'll find trailer-accessible amenities including hotels and food and beverage options.

Wadena Trail Breakers

Provides updates on more than 200 miles of groomed Grant-in-Aid trails, with two corridor trails running through the system.

Todd Area Trails Association

Grooms and shares updates on approximately 400 miles of trails winding through the county.

For more information on Todd County snowmobile trails, contact:

Todd Area Trails Association

Bernard Mumm
218-894-1835

Trail maps available at local stores and Timberlake Hotel.



Presented By Central Lakes College & The Staples Historical Society

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2026 Dates
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Holiday Lights

Thanksgiving
through Christmas
Weekend

Pine Grove Park, Staples

Friday-Sunday
5-8 p.m.

Free-will donation.
Vans are welcome.



Where to Stay

Timberlake Hotel

The Timberlake Hotel opened in mid-2017 and features 52 rooms, including extended-stay suites, king suites, spa suites, and standard rooms. Guests can enjoy a full range of amenities, including an ADA-compliant indoor pool, business center, fitness room, breakfast café, meeting and event space, EV chargers, and laundry facilities. The hotel is handicap accessible, pet-friendly, 100% smoke-free, and offers a complimentary hot breakfast each morning.

A hidden gem in Staples, the Timberlake Hotel is a favorite for staycations, team events, reunions, and group getaways. With friendly staff, convenient access, and comfortable accommodations at a great value, it's a place where every guest can feel right at home—just off Highway 10.



The City that Sings

A Vibrant Arts Community

Staples is home to the Staples Area Women's Chorus, Staples Area Men's Chorus, Central MN Boys Choir, Colla Voce Girls Choir, and Central Lakes College music ensembles.

Local talent shines through the Pit Orchestra Music Ensemble, River Rats Community Band, and award-winning high school orchestra, band, choir, and theatre programs. In addition to numerous vocal concerts, the community also enjoys outstanding middle school, high school, and community theatre productions.

Staples is a city committed to the arts—and proud of it.





TOWER PIZZA



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on the Block.**

218-894-3299

414 2nd Ave NE, Staples

Monday-Thursday: 11:00-7:30

Friday-Saturday: 11:00-8:30

Sunday: 4:00-7:30

View our menu!





Live in Staples

Staples offers a wide range of career opportunities across many industries, including Central Lakes College, Lakewood Health System, 3M, and Sourcewell.

You'll find it all here. Staples also offers safe, family-friendly neighborhoods with access to great schools.

Churches

Staples has a variety of churches serving different faiths and traditions.

- Assembly of God
- Staples Alliance Church
- Church of Christ
- Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA)
- Sacred Heart Catholic Church
- Seventh Day Adventist Church
- Thomastown Covenant
- Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS)
- United Methodist Church

Transportation

Friendly Rider provides public bus service Monday through Saturday. Riders can be picked up and dropped off anywhere within the service area. 218-631-5730

Jefferson Lines

Stops in Staples on a regular schedule, with pick-up and drop-off at Ernie's Food Market.

Amtrak Train Service

Available at the Staples Historic Depot. Call 800-872-7245 or visit amtrak.com.

Air Travel

Staples Municipal Airport is located near the industrial park and features a 3,300-foot hard-surfaced runway with instrument approach capabilities.

Have Questions?

Visit City Hall and our public library for resources to help you navigate and how to set up utility service for your home.

Recreation

Staples offers year-round recreation and outdoor fun for visitors of all ages.

Community Center

Enjoy pickleball, a lap swim pool, swimming lessons, and open gym activities for all ages.

Walking Trails

Explore scenic trails perfect for walking, jogging, and enjoying the outdoors year-round.

Tennis Courts

Public courts provide a great place for casual games, practice, and recreation.

Outdoor Basketball Courts

Shoot hoops or enjoy a pickup game at outdoor, community basketball courts.

Trap Shooting

Experience outdoor recreation and target shooting opportunities in the Staples area.

Outdoor Pickleball Courts


Play one of the area's fastest-growing sports on dedicated outdoor courts.

Golf Course

Spend the day on a scenic local golf course offering a relaxing and enjoyable experience for golfers of all skill levels.

The NEST Workout Facility


Stay active with fitness equipment, workout spaces, and an indoor walking track.



**Connected Then.
Connected Now.
Connected
Tomorrow.**

**Rooted in the past,
built for the future**

For over 70 years, CTC has been part of the community—evolving from phone lines to today's fiber internet. Through every change, our mission remains the same: keeping you connected to what matters most.



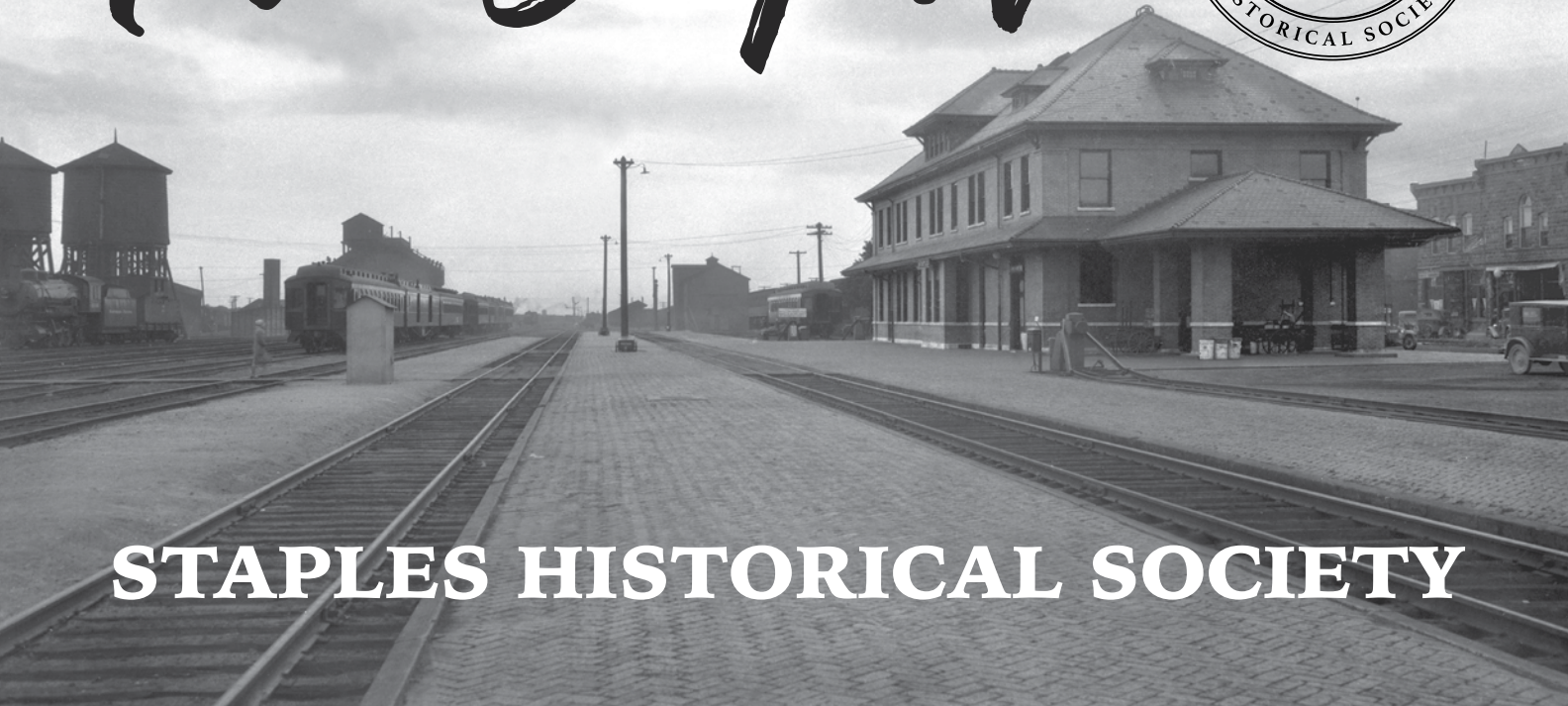
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A photograph of a young girl and a young boy smiling and holding potted plants. The girl is holding a red poinsettia, and the boy is holding a red poinsettia. They are standing in front of a display of various flowers.

*Williams
Floral*

1010 2nd Ave NE, Staples
218-894-2188

The Depot



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Housing

Kids riding bikes down tree-lined streets. Backyards big enough for the dog to run. Time to visit with your neighbor as you take your morning walk. Make your vision for your family a reality.

Staples has options to suit your lifestyle from townhomes, to single-family homes, to apartments or land to build your dream home.



THANK YOU!

To everyone who stopped by or reached out for information on this new neighborhood development!

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Central Lakes College

CLC in Staples offers programs in agriculture, energy, manufacturing, and heavy equipment. Recently remodeled, the campus supports hands-on learning for in-demand careers.

Serving about 5,500 students each year, CLC is known for its caring faculty, modern programs, and comfortable facilities.

Part of the Minnesota State system, CLC provides affordable education across 54 communities statewide.



Welcome to Cardinal Country!

The Staples-Motley School District serves approximately 900 students across its elementary and middle/high schools, offering strong academics and a wide range of opportunities.

Students can explore music, hands-on programs like welding, and College in the Schools courses for dual credit, while elementary students benefit from core learning and enriching specials like PE, music, and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math).

Beyond the classroom, students can get involved in athletics, fine arts, and Community Education programs.

Come experience the spirit of Cardinal pride.



isd2170.org

Childcare Resources

Dependable childcare and preschool options are a cornerstone of a thriving community. Families in Staples have a variety of choices for their young children, including in-home daycares, childcare centers, Head Start, and school readiness programs.

To learn about local childcare options or current openings, call 888-291-9811 or visit childcareawaremn.org.

For preschool and Head Start information, visit the Staples-Motley School District website or call Sue Anderson at 218-894-5400, ext. 3531.



Healthcare Resources

Staples offers access to high-quality care close to home, with trusted providers like:

- Lakewood Health System
- Essentia Health
- Longbella Pharmacy
- Staples Eye Clinic

Lakewood's new cancer center brings advanced oncology services to the area—expanding access and ensuring patients can receive treatment closer to home.



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The Staples Area Chamber is proud to champion economic growth, strengthen local businesses, and bring vibrant community events to life. From Shop Local initiatives and seasonal festivals to business networking and community development, we work every day to make Staples a thriving place to live, work, and visit.

Join the Chamber today – and grow with us!



WEBSITE :

 stapleschamber.org

EMAIL :

Stapleschamber@gmail.com

PHONE :

(218) 894-3974





Proud to call Staples home

We exist to empower positive, collective impact in central Minnesota communities. Learn more about how we serve students and communities at mn.sourcewell.org.



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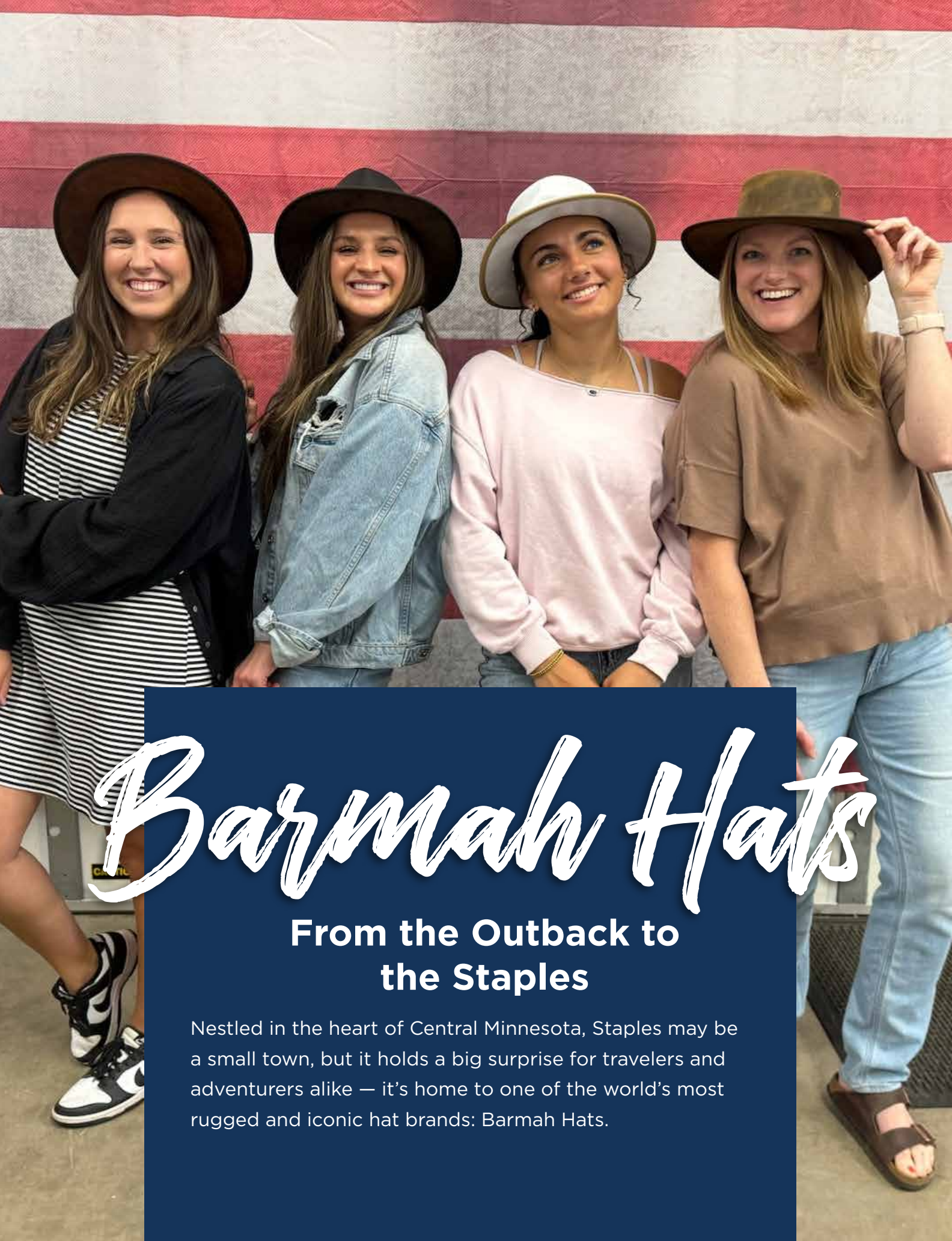
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Barmah Hats

From the Outback to the Staples

Nestled in the heart of Central Minnesota, Staples may be a small town, but it holds a big surprise for travelers and adventurers alike — it's home to one of the world's most rugged and iconic hat brands: Barmah Hats.

A Brand Built on Craftsmanship

The Barmah brand was founded in Melbourne, Australia, in the early 1990s. Thanks to its rugged designs, high-quality materials, and exceptional craftsmanship, Barmah hats quickly gained international recognition.

In 2002, Swiss-born entrepreneur Andreas Vogel brought the brand to the United States, purchasing the rights and establishing operations in San Francisco, California. Drawn by childhood memories spent at his aunt and uncle's horse ranch near Nimrod, Vogel relocated the business and his family to Staples in 2010. He now lives there with his wife, Michelle, and their two children. What began as a cost-effective business move soon turned into something more, as Vogel fell in love with the community's quiet charm and strong sense of connection.

Handcrafted in Staples, Worn Around the World

Initially favored by bushwalkers and adventurers, Barmah Hats can now be found in retail stores, tourist shops, music festivals, and craft fairs around the world—each one made right here in Staples.

From the Canvas Drover and Foldaway Suede to the Bison Outback adorned with genuine crocodile teeth, each hat is handcrafted by a small, dedicated team of artisans led by Amy Scheler, Barmah Hats' chief operations officer. Scheler began as a seamstress in 2013 and now leads day-to-day operations with expert craftsmanship and care.

With wide brims, breathable materials, and water-resistant construction, Barmah Hats has become synonymous with outdoor adventure. The popular "Squashy Hat," known for its travel-friendly design, and the original "Hat in a Bag" remain customer favorites for their durability and convenience.

Locally Sourced

Barmah Hats uses locally sourced leather and canvas from Red Wing, Minnesota, including high-quality materials such as cattle, bison, boar, and mountain goat. As a nod to its Australian roots, the company also offers kangaroo hide hats. Whether you're shoveling snow, kayaking on the Crow Wing River, or climbing a rock face in Duluth, a Barmah hat is built to handle the elements in style.

In 2021, Vogel expanded the brand by acquiring Maryon and Merlen's Magic Hat. Originally created in 1979, the husband-and-wife duo—known as "The Hatters"—passed the design on to Vogel upon retirement to preserve its legacy.

Made with premium canvas, the Magic Hat is now found around the world—from the streets of Los Angeles to the runways of New York City, where it was featured in high-end fashion brand Chloé's Spring 2022 collection.

Visit Barmah Hats in Staples

Customers can shop online at barmahhats.com or visit the store in person at 1240 Prairie Avenue NW in Staples to see where the craftsmanship comes to life.



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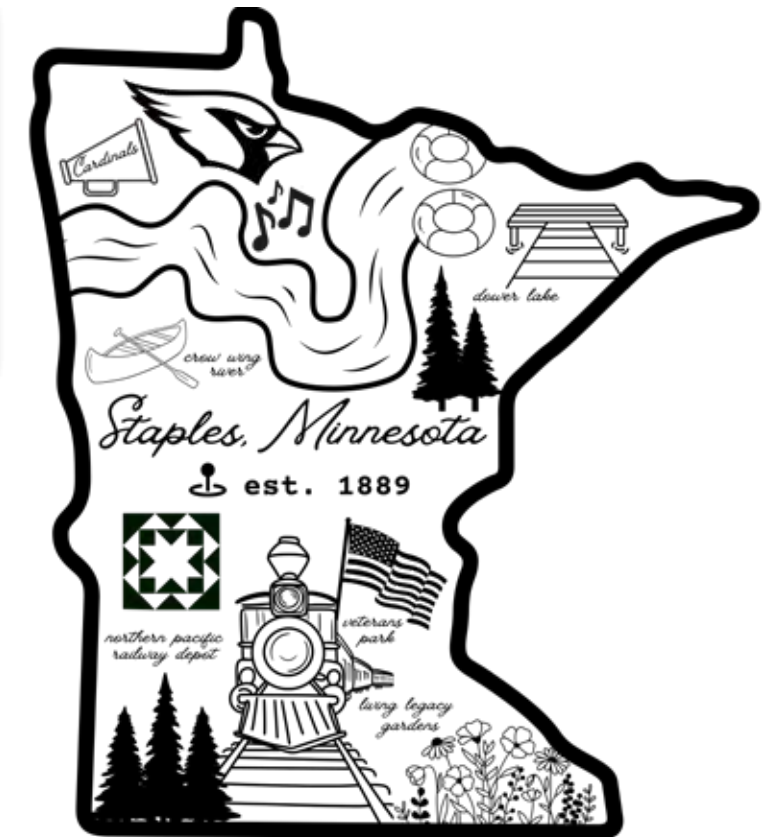
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RMOLTBTAHVNTKNQPEGTEQSDXDBKCGS
IWATESKKS FOWIDEPOTCCBHOQRPJMTX
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Lakewood Farmers Market

Living Legacy Garden

Lights in the Pines Arboretum Trail

Music in the Park Golf

Crow Wing River Timberlake Hotel

McGivern Park

Railroad Days Longest Pier

Pickle Ball

Opera House Pickle Ball

Dower Lake

Old Wadena Barn Quilt

Depot

Tennis Parks

HOPE

HAS A *new* HOME



Pictured left to right: The Lakewood oncology team including, Emily McGovern, MD; Nathan Dewey, MD; Sheilaine Mabanta, MD; Wade Swenson, MD; Jessica Nybakken, AOCNP; Aquino Williams, MD; and Mariah Nieman, FNP.

At Lakewood, hope has a new home.

Our Cancer Center was built with patients in mind—bringing advanced treatments, compassionate providers, and complete support under one roof. From diagnosis through recovery, we're here to walk beside you every step of the way.



**TO SPEAK WITH AN ONCOLOGY CASE MANAGER, CALL
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