

Lakeview Area News

Northern Montcalm and Southern Mecosta Counties' News Source

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It is now official. Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow, and there will be six more weeks of winter.

The next big event in town is the USA National Ice Fishing Championship.

Winter Forecast

Thu A 40 percent chance of snow showers, mainly after 1pm. Mostly cloudy, high 27. Light south southwest wind becoming southwest 8 to 13 mph in the morning. Winds could gust as high as 23 mph.

Thu Night Snow showers likely, mainly after 1am. Cloudy, low 21. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New snow accumulation of less than one inch possible.

Fri Mostly cloudy, high 34.

Fri Night Partly cloudy, low 2.

Sat Mostly sunny, high 18.

Sat Night A chance of snow showers before 1am. Mostly cloudy, low 5.

Sun Mostly sunny, high 20.

Sun Night Partly cloudy, low 4.

Mon Partly sunny, high 23.



Shopping for the Lakeview Food Pantry



Terri Larsen, Barb Cole and Julie Drew's went on a shopping spree for the Lakeview Food Pantry. It was sponsored by Community First Federal Credit Union and hosted by Leppinks.

USA National Ice Fishing Championship



By Lane Leppink

Headline Winter News for Lakeview! USA Ice Fishing Team is coming back to town! Lakeview is hosting the USA National Ice Fishing Championship tournament. This coming February 26 – March 1, the sport of ice fishing, once again, will be coming to Tamarack Lake. It will feel like déjà vu from last year's amazing international ice fishing event.

Just 11 short months ago.... on a wonderfully cold Friday afternoon in February last year, the

modest Village of Lakeview teamed up and opened their arms wide and welcomed the ten countries of anglers to parade down its Main Street for the commencement of the International XXIst World Ice Fishing Championship (WIFC). Although we were all in the middle of the cold of winter, the warmth and connection of true sportsmanship and brotherhood was in Lakeview that February weekend last year. The tournament lasted two-days with Lithuania taking the gold, Finland, the silver, and Norway taking bronze. Although USA was

tied for first place after the first day, they fell to 6th place at the end of the tournament.

Shortly after the international championship last year, the USA team held their 2025 National Championships in preparation for this season on their road to Sweden for this coming year's XXII 2026 WIFC being held this coming March.

USAngling Confederation and the USA Ice Fishing Team is coming back to Lakeview in just over a month, in February, for the US NATIONAL Championships to build the

2027 USA Ice Fishing Team that is proposed to take place in Kazakhstan.

Top qualifiers from each of USAngling tournaments will compete for the team. Here is this year's regional qualifying tournament schedule:

Jan 16- 18 (recently completed): Olney Montana

Jan 30- Feb 1: West Michigan (Cedar Springs and Trufant : Starting on Muskellunge Lake)

Feb 6- Feb 8: Naytahwaush, Minnesota

Top qualifiers from these three states will arrive in Lakeview the last week in February for the NATIONAL Tournament. USAngling is providing up to five 'walk-on' members from the Lakeview area to join the tournament. Contact the Village of Lakeview offices for more information (989-352-6322).

The USA National Championship Tournament in Lakeview is a 4-day event, starting on Thursday, February 26, and Friday, February 27th. On Saturday, February 28th, no

fishing takes place, but anglers will be found all over Lakeview, because the USA Ice Fishing Team has dedicated that day as a Community Day. Joe Martinez, President of the team, has dedicated his tenure to giving back to the communities that have given to the sport AND also sees the need to invest in our kids and educating our youth about outdoor activities like ice fishing. Joe and USA Team and the rest of the anglers competing in the tournament are dedicating that Saturday morning to hold a Kid's Clinic for Ice Fishing for all kids 8 to 18 years old. These dedicated anglers will each team up with a kid and teach them about ice safety, fishing equipment, and actually hold a mini fishing tournament. The first 50 kids to sign up for the Kid's Clinic will receive their own fishing rod. At 1PM on Saturday, there will be a parade of state teams with the official USA team bringing up the rear.

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