Every bird has a song; every person has a story - share yours with HTF!

INSIDE: How you can easily join the 1,100+ contributors who have had their stories, photos, and more published in HTF

“Inside each of us is a natural-born storyteller, waiting to be released.”
- Robin Moore, author
Get published – it’s easy!
Growing community through storytelling

Seeing your name in print and sharing stories with community members is a special experience. Everyone can be a storyteller, and we can help you tell your story. If it’s positive and local, it probably has a place in Hometown Focus!

Share, share, share
You don’t have to be a professional writer to share with the HTF community. Our editors handle proofreading, layout, and formatting. All we need is your content, and you can be in print!

We want you to tell your story in your own words (that’s what makes us different from other publications). Contributors share news, personal stories, community events, local history, creative writing, photos, recipes, and more.

Become a contributor today! If it’s been a while since your byline has appeared, we’d love to have you back.

Have questions? Just ask. We’re here to help. Give us a call at 218-741-0106.

There are a few common requirements for all submissions, so here’s a handy guide to help us help you.

Essentials
- Provide your name, city of residence, and a phone number in case we have immediate questions.
- Stories are usually 400 – 2,000 words long. Include as many details as you like, but keep in mind that your story might be shaped a bit by an editor.
- Make sure dates, times, and locations are specific and accurate.

News vs. stories
- A news article is written in the third person (without “I” or “we”) about a meeting, event, community project, etc. and gives details like who, what, when, where, why, and how. Avoid subjective language (adjectives and opinion words) unless used in a quote.
- A personal story is written from your own perspective and includes your feelings, thoughts, and observations. It can be about almost anything, such as an experience, an event, how to do something, or a history piece.

How to submit content
- Electronic submissions are preferred. Email to tucker@htfnews.us or submit online at www.hometown-focus.us.
- Help us out by keeping it simple: do not use all capital letters or fancy formatting. Send a Word document or write your story in the text of an email, and submit photos as separate files.

Photos (we love them!)
- Describe what and who are pictured and where the photo was taken.
- Clear, high-resolution files are best. Smartphone users, please send the full-size photo if prompted. We can scan photos if necessary.

Videos tell stories, too
- We also accept original videos about community news, school activities, local events, original music, wildlife, hobbies, sports, and even pets!
- You may submit links to your videos from most social media sites if the videos are publicly posted. Our website does not accept video file uploads.
- Videos should be 1 to 10 minutes long (longer videos will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis).
- Visit www.hometownfocus.us/submit-a-video for full details.

Deadlines
- The submission deadline is Friday for the next Friday’s edition.
- Submission does not guarantee publication. Content is published as time and space allows. Avoid submitting event notices less than two weeks in advance.

Don’t forget to share news, stories, and photos for our MINING and HEALTH editions.

Online and in print since 2007

Hometown Focus was founded over a decade ago as a grassroots publication dedicated to sharing positive stories from Iron Range area communities. More than 1,100 contributors have helped make our one-of-a-kind publication what it is today: a true reflection of the communities we serve and celebrate.

Our print edition can be found from Grand Rapids to Ely and from Cotton to Cook. HTF is also easily accessible online, where you read the digital edition in full color.

Don’t forget to check out our DiscoverMN app, your mobile connection to northern Minnesota. With our DiscoverMN Community Calendar, you can also share and view upcoming community events.

Share today at: www.hometownfocus.us
HTF is published/distributed every Friday.

BE A PHOTO CONTRIBUTOR
Maybe your photo will be the next HTF cover!

NORTHERN MINNESOTA
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FIND OUT WHAT’S HAPPENING IN OUR AREA!
It’s also quick and easy to submit your own community events.
Visit www.hometownfocus.us and click on “Submit your event.”
HUNDREDS OF DISTRIBUTION OUTLETS... and growing
IN OVER 20 COMMUNITIES

AURORA
Aurora Public Library
Carefree Living
IronGate Apartments
Lucky Seven General Store
Northern State Bank

BABBITT
Blomberg Oil
Short Stop Babbit
Tanks Bar
Zup’s Food Market

BIWABIK
Giants Ridge
The Lodge
Lucky Seven General Store
North Ridge Credit Union
Super One Foods
Villas

BRITT
Britt Lounge & Cafe

BUHL
Buhl City Hall
Buhl Public Library
Hideaway Bar
Northland Village
Senior Center
Short Stop

CHISHOLM
Chisholm Public Library
Freedom Value
Heritage Manor
Jennifer Ivanca Insurance
Jubilee Foods
Keyboard Liquor
Lucky Seven General Store
Snickers Pizza
Spur
Valenti’s Supper Club

COOK
Carefree Living
Comet Theater
Cook Area Health Care
Auxiliary Thrift Shop
Cook HRA
Country Store
Dollar General
Dream Weaver Salon
Frank’s Pharmacy
Lucky Seven

COTTON
Super America
Wilbert Cafe

ELY
A Laundry Room
Blomberg Oil
Ely Chamber of Commerce
Ely Northland Market
Grand Ely Lodge
Holiday Station Store
Library
Lucky Seven General Store
Mike’s Liquors
Voyageur’s 66 East end
Zup’s Food Market

EMBARRASS
Trapplein Liquor

EVELETH
Aquapower
At Your Convenience
Crosstown Convenience
Cubert Realty
Egg’s Bar
Ely Lake Short Stop
Entrepreneur Fund
Eveleth Bottle Shop
Eveleth City Hall
Eveleth Eye Care
Eveleth IGA
Eveleth Public Library
Eveleth Short Stop
Five Seasons Sports
Hilltop Manor
J&M Auto
J & T Sales
Lincoln Place
Lundgren Motors
Mary’s Morsels
Mesabi Range College
Paul’s Italian Market
The Rink
Waterview Woods

GILBERT
Broadview Manor
Gilbert City Hall

GILBERT PUBLIC LIBRARY
GILBERT PUBLIC LIBRARY

HOYT LAKES
Hoyt Lakes City Hall
Hoyt Lakes IGA
Hoyt Lakes Public Library
Lucky Seven General Store
Mesaba Drug/Ben Franklin
North Ridge Credit Union
Palm’s Town Pump
Vaughn’s Restaurant

KEEWATIN
Kewatin Public Library

MOUNTAIN IRON
1st National Bank
Anderson Auto
BG’s Bar & Grill
Brownie Furniture
City of Mountain Iron
Diamond Willow
Floor to Ceiling
L&M Supply
Laurentian Medical Clinic
Mountain Iron Public Library
Merritt Elementary School
Mountain Manor
Park Place Apartments
Post Office
Short Stop
Silver Creek LIquor
YMCA

NASHWAUK
Nashwauk Little Store
Nashwauk Market
Sinclair Express

TOWER
D’Erick’s Tower Liquors
Good Ol’ Days
Vermilion Food & Fuel
Y Store
Zup’s Food Market

VIRGINIA
Adventures Restaurant & Pub
AEOA
Affordable Cleaners
Americon
Anderson Furniture
Andrew’s Cameras
Apple Tree Learning Center
Arrow Auto
Arrowhead Bar
Arrowhead Center
Bell Building
Bleu Salon
Bowling Gardens
Bright Spot Nutrition
Burgher Office
Canelake’s Candies
Champion Auto
Cheestnut Collision Center
Clark Gas Station
Cope & Peterson
Darlene’s Hair
Dave’s Pizza
Dollar General
Dollar Tree
Dominio’s Pizza
Edgewood Vista
Edina Realty
Edward Jones
Erik Peterson
Essential Health-Virginia
F&D Meats
Fine Edge Custom Framing
Flamer’s Bar
Frandsen Bank and Trust
Grandma’s Restaurant
Grooming By Jane
Heisel Brothers
Holiday 12th Ave.
Holiday 6th Ave.
Honkanen Law
ICO
Iron Range Rehabilitation
Jay’s Pac n Ship
Jensia’s Appliance & TV
Jue’s Restaurant
Ken Waschke Auto Plaza
Kunnari’s
La Cocina & Cattina
Lamppa Insurance
Laurentian Chamber of Commerce
Laurentian Divide Salon & Spa
Lucky Seven Hoover Rd.
Lucky Seven Northside
MB’s Little Gourmet Deli
Mariucci Video
Mary Eddy Insurance
Material Girl
Mesabi Range College
Mesabi Recreation
Natural Harvest Food Co-op
New Trendz
Newsette
Northeast Title
Northern Lights Survey
Northern State Bank
Northland Animal Hospital
Northwoods Surgery
Pace Analytical
Palm’s Auto Service
Pep’s Bake Shop
Pine View Inn
Pizza Hut
Plesha Chiropractic
Podpeskar Agency
Popper’s
Project Care
Quality Inn & Suites
Range Co-op
Range Foot & Ankle
Range Office Supply
Rock’s the Jewelers
Salvation Army
Sawmill Saloon & Restaurant
Seppi Bros.
Servicemen’s Club
Shoes & Things
Short Stop 12th Ave.
Short Stop 2nd Ave.
St. Louis County Schools
Sundell Eye Associates
Super One Foods North
Super One Foods South
Thifty White Pharmacy
Trent Law Firm
TWM Financial Services
Unclaimed Freight
Up North Dental
Uptown Virginia Mall
US Bank
Vermilion Land Office
Village Inn
Virginia Community Foundation
Virginia Dental
Virginia Family Dental
Virginia Fire Department
Virginia Floral
Virginia High School
Virginia Public Library
Virginia Senior Citizens Center
Virginia Surplus
Walgreen’s
Waschke Family Chrysler
Washington Manor
Wetview Pines
Wells Fargo

EDITORIAL
Tucker Nelson tucker@htfnews.us
Janna Goerd Janna@htfnews.us
Kirsten Reichel Kirsten@htfnews.us
Jill Pepelnjak Jill@htfnews.us

ADVERTISING
Evan Burchell evan@htfnews.us
Julie Asbach julie@htfnews.us
Scott Asbach scotta@htfnews.us

CELEBRATING 14 YEARS

401 6TH AVENUE NORTH | VIRGINIA, MN 55792 • 218-741-0106