

The Cove

Winter 2026



Exploring the Lakes Area Ever wonder what's happening at the Lakes while you're away or looking for something different to try in the area? Check out the list below for places/events to explore! (check socials/websites for info/hours)

- Goosefeather Books: This independent bookstore opened in July 2025 and is a cozy little bookshop with the nicest owner! Open 6 days a week,

Goosefeather is located at 1508 Hill Ave in Spirit Lake.

- Revelry: A new cocktail lounge brought to you by the owners of Burger & Co., *Revelry is located at 1601 Hill Ave in Spirit Lake.* Currently open Wed-Sat from 4-11 p.m.
- Lakeshore Center's Retreats & Silent Book Club: The second Tuesday of every month from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in Lakeshore's lodge, this book club is a must for those who enjoy community & quiet reading time. Bring a snack to share if you wish, a book to read (no assigned reading!) and enjoy socialization and an hour of independent reading time. *Visit the events tab at <http://www.lakeshorecenteratokoboji.org/> for dates and other offerings such as their Women's, Makers/Quilting, & other retreats. 1864 Hwy 86, Milford*
- Okoboji Summer Theatre: Operated by Stephens College, this summer stock theatre company on HWY 71 has presented more than 550 productions in the Lakes area since 1958. For tickets, *call 712-332-7773 or email boxoffice@okobojisummertheatre.org*
- Okoboji Writer's Retreat: A 2 ½ day retreat in late September for those who enjoy writing and want to improve their craft. Created by Julie Gammack (daughter of renowned Iowa reporter Gordon Gammack) and hosted by Lakeside Lab, OWR offers workshops in memoir, fiction, comedy, songwriting, & poetry led by accomplished, published, & award winning authors, poets, musicians, and more while offering support & encouragement to those who love writing. See okobojiwritersretreat.com for details, pricing, & registration.

TOP STORIES



Committees The MC Board is working to consolidate and streamline committees. We have already reduced the number of committees from fourteen to nine and hope to reduce the size of some committees that have become too large to manage. If you have not already received an email regarding committees, please be on the lookout. In this email, you will receive an attachment outlining the committees, as well as a survey. Please review this attachment before taking the survey and indicate if you wish to serve on a particular committee, or can no longer serve/do not wish to serve. *Every adult member of Monarch Cove should complete the survey.* This will help the board continue its work with committee consolidation, membership, and communication. All committee members need to be willing to communicate quarterly, with committee chairs reporting back at the board meetings.

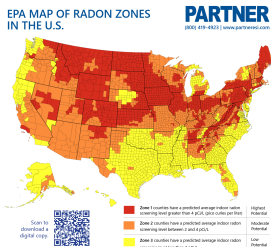
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For the Good of the Community



Shared Spaces Did you know that what happens in Monarch Cove not only impacts the Methodist Camp but also their insurance? As you know, Monarch Cove enjoys shared space with the Methodist Camp and a positive, decades-old partnership. Therefore, the MC Board asks all Monarch Cove residents to keep dogs on a leash at any time they are not in a fenced area. This is a Dickinson County ordinance, a Monarch Cove policy, and unleashed dogs in these shared spaces impacts the Methodist Camp's insurance. We all think our dog would never bite or otherwise hurt anyone, but the fact of the matter is, dogs can act unpredictably depending on the situation. So, *please respect the spaces we share with our neighbors and the Methodist Camp and leash your dogs.* Also, please pick up after them because no one wants to step in dog poo. 😊 Thank you!

An Ounce of Prevention...



Radon An invisible, odorless gas, Radon enters homes through foundation cracks, sump pits, crawl spaces, or gaps around pipes. Radon can become concentrated, especially in basements or first floors, and is the *second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S.*

- Iowa has some of the highest levels of radon, and all homes should be tested. This can be done professionally or with an at-home testing kit, preferably when your house is closed up (windows down).
 - Radon is measured in picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L). Below 2.0 pCi/L = Low risk. 2.0 to 3.9 pCi/L = Acceptable, but mitigation is worth considering for long-term health. 4.0 pCi/L or higher = Action *strongly* recommended at this level!!
 - Radon mitigation systems reduce radon levels significantly (by up to 99%), usually consist of a PVC pipe and fan that vents gases safely above the roofline, run continuously, and are low-maintenance.
 - Homes most likely to have a radon problem are homes with basements or crawl spaces, houses in high-radon zones (see map), have poor ventilation, & newer, energy-efficient homes (tighter sealing = more trapped gases!)
 - Radon can affect homes in any area, and two houses on the same street can have vastly different levels. Testing is essential—you can't rely on location or home age alone. Radon mitigation is common and effective, and most systems cost between \$800–\$1,500 to install. Retest after installation to ensure levels are now safe!
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Announcements



- Do you have an idea for the “spotlight” section of the newsletter? Email me!
- Check out monarch-cove.com for meeting minutes & newsletter archive.
- Board meetings - 9:00 a.m. 3/14/26, 6/13/26, 9/12/26, 12/12/26
- Annual Meeting 7/25/26

If you would like something included in the announcements, please send requests to mcbojinews@gmail.com