



WINDMILL MARINA ASSOCIATION, INC.

DOCK LINES

newsletter

SPRING EDITION 2024

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Spring Launch



Click [HERE](#) to sign up for summerizing and spring launch services

Happy spring, Windmill boaters. It's almost time to get your boat summerized and launched!

Remember, Windmill Marina does not unwrap or launch your boat until you have signed up for spring launch services.

Boats are unwrapped one week prior to launch. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer same-day unwrapping services. Our process requires a one-week lead time between unwrapping and launching your boat.

The weekly launch list maxes out at 50 boats and launch weeks fill up fast! If the launch week you are looking for does not appear on the form, that means it has already been filled and you will have to choose another. You can find the launch and summerizing form on our website, or you can follow the link [HERE](#).

If you plan to leave your boat wrapped and on land for summer storage, call the office at **651-436-7744** to make arrangements **BEFORE May 3rd**. After that, all boats will be uncovered unless we've heard from you.

All boats in the marina must be launched or moved to summer storage by May 24th. If you fail to make arrangements to either launch or move your boat by this date, you will be charged a daily land storage fee at \$8.00/day.

If our service department winterized your boat last fall, we will automatically summerize it in the spring before launch. If we don't do the summerizing service in the spring, we cannot guarantee last seasons winter work.

Remember: all customer accounts must be paid in full prior to spring launch!

Letter from the General Manager

Scott Baken



Hi everyone.

There's been a lot of change here at Windmill over the past year. I have quite a few plans in the works to update the grounds and boost the atmosphere here at the marina but keep in mind that these things take time and we need to get all of you in the water before we can focus on the improvements in the harbors and the boatyard.

We've spent the winter making upgrades and updating our processes so things run a little more smoothly for the 2024 boating season.

The gas dock project was completed last fall and is ready for operation this season. Make sure you come down and check it out!

When you take a look around the grounds, you will start to notice updates to the harbors, flower gardens, marina signage and landscaping, ramps and docks.

The abnormally warm winter has allowed us to do more in the yard and prepare for early dock returns. We hope to get an early start on launch and summerizing services for a longer boating season we can all enjoy.

All in all, I'm happy with our progress and where things are headed. Here's to a great boating season!

Hope to see you all at the spring party on Saturday, May 18th.

Regards,

Scott Baken

Letter from the Service Department

Mike Hurley



Hi Boaters!

We are excited to see you all back down here for spring launch. Keep in mind that service work can get pretty backed up during launch. We will complete oil changes and tune-ups after launch is complete.

Our plan is to have you all in the water by Memorial Day weekend.

You can give us a call at 651-436-7744 or email me at mike@windmillmarina.com to set up any services or repairs needed on your boat.

Remember to get your batteries, tie lines, fenders and hull plugs on your boat before you are scheduled to launch.

See you soon!

Mike

Letter from the Office and Store

Kelly Little



Hello from the Office!

We've been busy this winter getting things ready for the 2024 season. Be sure to check out all the work we've put in to our new gas dock and updated signage throughout the marina.

Stop in and see us! We have the ships store stocked with all your summer boating needs.

As always, we are looking for ways to improve our billing processes and customer experience. We are working towards implementing an online payment option on our website and a customer portal so you can monitor your account information and access bills and payment status remotely.

While we don't expect to have a flood this year, you can check the river level and no wake status using the link on our website to the NOAA hydrograph. [HERE](#)'s a quick link to the hydrograph if you want to save it to your computer.

We hope to see you all at the spring party in May.

Cheers,

Kelly

Afton Summer Events

JUNE 22ND & 23RD

SAT.
10-5

STRAWBERRIES
VENDORS
GREAT MUSIC

AFTON TOWN SQUARE

AFTON STRAWBERRY

FESTIVAL & MARKETPLACE



SUN.
10-4

INFLATIBLES
ENTERTAINMENT
YUMMY FOOD

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Annual 4th of July Parade

Parade starts 1:00 PM

Afton Main Street

Stop in for the festivities and enjoy food, drinks, music and local vendors.
Trolley rides will run along Main Street from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Boaters: Keep in mind that Main Street closes during the parade and preparations. Access to the marina will be limited from around 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM when the parade ends. If you plan to spend the day at WMA, be sure to get here early!



AFTON **ART** in the **45th** **Year**
PARK

SEPTEMBER
23rd & 24th
SAT. 10-5 SUN. 10-4

The poster features a stylized illustration of a park with a blue path, a brown ground area, and several colorful trees in shades of green, red, orange, and grey. The text is arranged in a clean, modern layout with a mix of bold and regular fonts.

New Gas Dock at WMA

We listened to your concerns and built an entirely new gas dock for our harbor. The production did have some significant delays last season but is now fully operational!

The new gas dock is 155 feet long, allowing easier access for those of you with larger boats and hopefully eliminating some of the issues with launch traffic on weekends.

The new gas dock building is equipped with larger bathrooms and more space for merchandise. Be sure to stop by and check it out!

Emergency Response Equipment

WMA has an automated external defibrillator device located in the hallway of the Ships Store bathrooms for use in case of emergencies.

Buoy Marker Update

New Information from US Coast Guard



As per the US Coast Guard, the buoy markers just outside of the marina have been removed. As of right now, there are no plans for the buoys to be returned. The Coast Guard cites severe shoaling as the reason for the buoy removal. Due to these conditions, they cannot maintain a navigational channel in the area that meets the necessary requirements of the Coast Guard.

Invasive Species Reminder

Clean in, Clean out

Remember to protect our river's ecosystem by following MN DNR's Clean in, Clean out regulations.

As per the Minnesota DNR website:

1. CLEAN all visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other prohibited invasive species from watercraft, trailers, and water-related equipment before leaving any water access or shoreland.

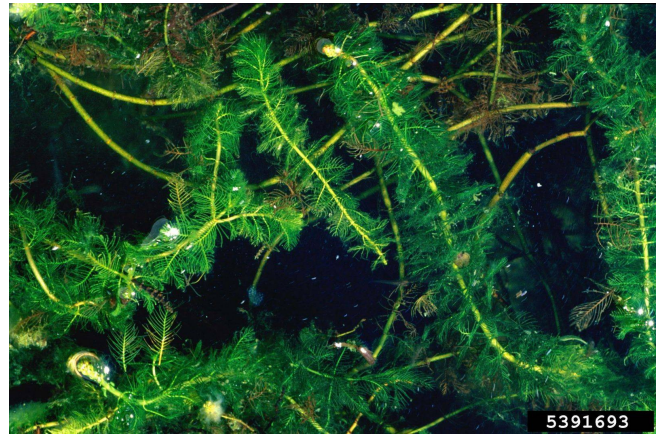
2. DRAIN water-related equipment (boat, ballast tanks, portable bait containers, motor) *and* drain bilge, livewell and baitwell by removing drain plugs before leaving a water access or shoreline property. **Keep drain plugs out** and water-draining devices open while transporting watercraft.

3. DISPOSE of unwanted bait, including minnows, leeches, and worms, in the trash. It is illegal to release bait into a waterbody or release aquatic animals from one waterbody to another. If you want to keep your bait, you must refill the bait container with bottled or tap water.

KNOW THE LAW: You may not...

- Transport watercraft without removing the drain plug.
- Arrive at lake access with drain plug in place.
- Transport aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or other prohibited species on any roadway.
- Launch a watercraft with prohibited species attached.
- Transport water from Minnesota lakes or rivers.
- Release bait into the water.

Invasive species plaguing the St. Croix River include: Zebra Muscles, Eurasian Watermilfoil, Asian Carp and Rusty Crayfish



You can find more information on how to prevent the spread of MN invasive species at the MN DNR website [HERE](#)

WMA Annual Survey



2024 Windmill Marina Survey Results

Survey Committee: Todd Witt, Scott Baken, Bill Burkhardt

Twenty-five years ago, *Customer Satisfaction* in the 2000 Marina Survey reported *Very Satisfied* at 75% and *Satisfied* at 25% of responses. That's one-hundred percent *satisfied* member-customers! Twenty-five years later, amidst the turmoil of marina renewal, gas dock replacement, sheet piling, harbor cleanup, management changes, etc., our 2024 Survey shows *Very Satisfied* 61.3% and *Satisfied* at 30.7% of responses – 92% member-customer satisfaction in a period of greater member-customer service expectations.

As the chart below shows, responders are most satisfied with marina facilities and staff performance and least satisfied with their slip area. We appreciate your comments in our annual survey and use them to give direction to staff and make both service and facility improvements at our marina.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Appearance	4.3	4.2	4.2	3.9	4.5
Rest Rooms	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.2
Ships Store	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2
Customer Service	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.6
Boat Service	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.2
Gas Dock	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.2
Slip Area	4.0	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.8
Security	4.5	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.1

Acknowledgement from the General Manager

The Survey Committee has read your responses carefully and we will be addressing those concerns. We are in the process of making improvements to the marina grounds and will continue working on those improvements in the 2024 season. We are also making plans to upgrade the docks and slip areas throughout the marina, but keep in mind that this is a major undertaking and will be an ongoing project.

Thank you in advance for your patience during this process.

Scott Baken, *General Manager*

2024 Employee Roster



<i>General Manager</i>	Scott Baken	<i>Summer Staff</i>	Nick Banker
<i>Office Manager</i>	Kelly Little		Amelia Brower
<i>Office Assistant</i>	Shelby Kearns		Wesley Balsimo
<i>Service Manager</i>	Mike Hurley		Tucker Giambrone
<i>Service Technicians</i>	Broc Leslie		Brooke Hanselman
<i>Yard Foreman/ Fabricator</i>	Sean Davis		Kalia Helgesen
<i>River Foreman</i>	Levi Schoenecker		Chase Nickelson
<i>Yard Maintenance</i>	Troy Brown		Mila Nielsen
	Grayson McNew		Johanna Teegarden
	Lee Zimmerhaki		Addie Toland
<i>Security</i>	Steve Allen		Marin Vannelli
	Kevin Waldon		Donovan Weiss
<i>Gardener</i>	Tammy Waldon		

2024 Board of Directors

Todd Witt, <i>President</i>	Tom Bystrzycki
Marcus Peterson, <i>Vice President</i>	Jack Priest
Nicole Runge, <i>Treasurer</i>	Paul Schoenecker
	Jacob Riley



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Windmill Marina Association

16065 32nd Street South, Afton, MN 55001

651.436.7744

www.windmillmarina.com

info@windmillmarina.com

