

### Stillwater's old-fashioned feel blends seamlessly with a contemporary vibe.

Historic charm — that's the first thought that comes to mind when describing downtown Stillwater along the banks of the St. Croix River. With a closer look, it's clear the river town's old-fashioned tradition mixes well with contemporary finds for anyone spending an afternoon here.

Stillwater not only boasts some of the best antique hunting in the metro, it also is home to a string of trendy apparel and gift stores dotted mostly along Main Street. With more than 40 stores to choose from, it's best to decide what type of shopping you're in the mood for first. Fine jewelers, antique malls, boutiques as well as home and gift stores abound.

There are plenty of places to dine, as well. If you want to take it all in at a more leisurely pace, consider an overnight stay at one of the nearby cottages, cabins, historical bed and breakfasts or inns that have helped downtown Stillwater make a name for itself.

Planetrain Boution

**Sandy McKown, Elsie Esco and Sue Matz** of Minneapolis pose for a photo outside Mainstream Boutique during a recent outing to downtown Stillwater.

BY NANCY NGO PHOTOS BY JEAN PIERI

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### noon to three . SHOP AND LUNCH



Main Street in downtown Stillwater.

### **BOUTIQUES**

Several places offer apparel. Highlights include Mainstream Boutique, which moved into larger digs in the Brick Alley Building earlier this year. The women's apparel shop with several Twin Cities locations offers a mix of sophisticated clothing and accessories at mid-range prices. In the same building, style mavens will find Betty June's, which recently moved out of its New Richmond, Wis., digs to its current downtown spot. It's worth a stop for the variety of tasteful jewelry, bags, jewelry and gift items. Note that the front of the store now houses Trade Winds Spice Company, which in the past year moved from its nearby spot to share the Betty June's space.

Continue north to the St. Croix River Exchange Building, where a few more shops await. The designer-inspired Lori's New York Fashions offers a more affordable, fast-fashion version of handbags, jewelry and other accessories seen on runways. The shop is big on pre-pack-

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aged matching necklace and earring sets, making piecing your outfit together that much easier. In the same building, Jade's Addiction apparel for women and men emphasizes pieces that are upcycled, recycled or produced by local artists. New clothing and accessories are in one room, while consignment items are in another.

A few doors down, bargainhunters should stop at **Bronze**, which prides itself on the fact that every item in the store cost less than \$10. The shop also offers beachwear, but the best steal is the pretty handmade jewelry from India.

Outdoor enthusiasts looking for some style won't want to miss **45 Degrees** for its quality active wear as well as coveted brands such as Prana clothing and Uggs footwear.

Life is Good feels like you've just walked into a store while on spring break, thanks to the casual and colorful offerings of sundresses, beach-themed shirts, sun hats and jewelry.



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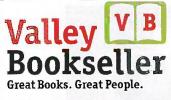
Rivertown Art Fair RivertownArtFair.com

### **IUNE**

Rockin' Ribs on the River RockinRibsOnTheRiver.com

### **OCTOBER**

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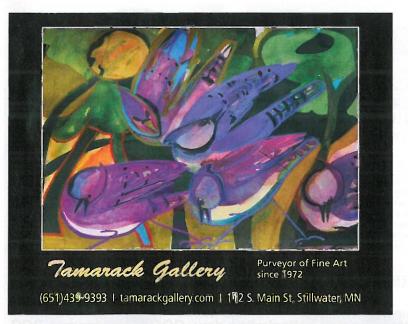
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### noon to three . SHOP AND LUNCH







On the northern end of downtown, you'll run across **Katydid's/Stokes Jewelry**, offering an eclectic mix of women's clothing, jewelry and accessories as well as a few gift items.

On the other side of the street, you'll find Janna's Hides & Rides consignment, specializing in leather goods such as jackets, skirts, pants, belts and hats. Camy Couture offers trendy clothing and accessories for the young at heart. On the same block, River Jeans offers men's and women's apparel. Of course, the store stocks plenty of denim.

As you head south on Main Street, take a slight detour onto Chestnut Street, where two shops are must-stops for fashionistas. The darling **Urban Violet** bouAND THE STANFORM OF THE STANFO

tique offers a fashion-forward selection of youthful women's clothing and accessories at down-to-earth prices. Dresses are among the standouts. A few feet away, Karma Clothing Co. offers gently used apparel for both men and women and is big on designer denim.

Next, **The Shirt Factory** is big on T-shirts and souvenir items. Bring your favorite logo or design — you can get pieces custom made.

Continue south and you'll cross to **Britta's Boutique**, the newest addition to the downtown Stillwater boutique set. The quaint spot features contemporary women's clothing from popular brands such as Kerisma, as well as some lesser known names. Accessories and gift items are also part of the lineup.

If your timing is right, The Fun Sisters occasional store a few doors down may be open for clothing and accessories. In the Grand Garage building, the grown-up SASH boutique offers

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**Above: Spartina 449** brand watches and purses at Alfresco.

**Left: Vintage skis** were used to make chairs and a table, also for sale at Alfresco.

European-influenced clothing and accessories for women.

### **HOME AND GIFTS**

When you need that perfect home accessory or holiday hostess gift, you've got choices. A must stop on the southern end of downtown is **Alfresco**, which offers a quality and eclectic mix of kitchen, apothecary, baby, local artisan jewelry and other gifts in a pretty setting. The spot is also a place for home-design enthusiasts, thanks to a standout selection of rugs as well as custom and locally crafted furniture.

Continue north to the corner of Main and Nelson streets, where the colorful and contemporary Mari Mi awaits. The contemporary space boasts a stylish selection of cards, stationery and wrapping paper. A few gift items are also part of the line up.

It's hard to not be in a cheerful mood at **Kathe Wohlfahrt**, which always has one of the most festive window displays in downtown Stillwater. That's because the window décor incorporates hand-crafted Christmas items from Germany that the store specializes in, including figurines and ornaments.

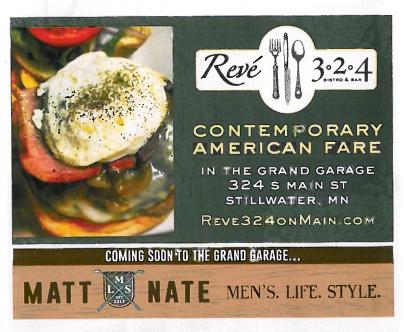
Finding a good book is breezy at **The Valley Bookseller**, thanks to the staff having done much of the editing for you. There's even a kids' play and reading area, so bring the little ones.

Across Main Street, several more home and gift shops await. In the historic Isaac Staples Sawmill building, you'll find the Stillwater Art Guild Gallery, a co-op featuring more than 60 artists offering paintings and more. In addition to regularly featured artists, a special-themed showroom changes monthly. Mama Luna, a shop that opened in the past year in the same building, offers apothecary and eco-friendly items, with an emphasis on baby gifts.

Just south of there, Tamarack Gallery boasts the oldest and largest fine art gallery in Stillwater. The spot features more

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### Stillwater Boat Club

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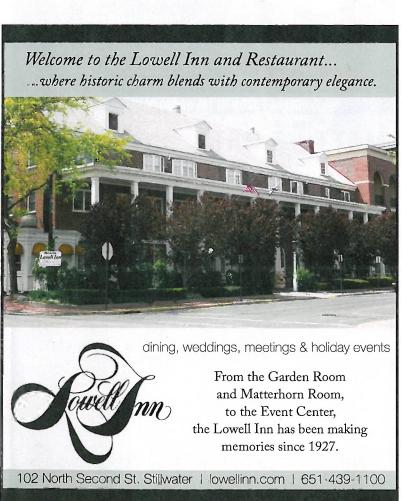


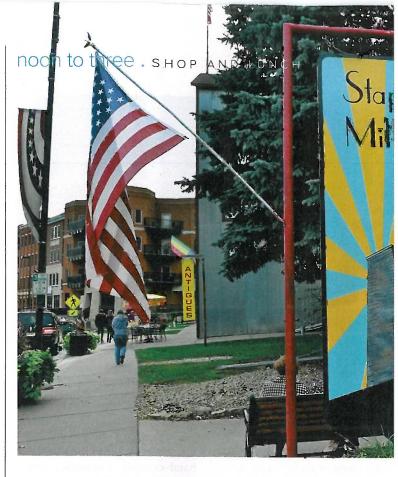
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than 50 artists specializing in everything from fiber art to pottery and sculptures to jewelry.

On the corner of Chestnut Street, **Art n Soul** offers gift items and is a hub for jewelry-making. So if you want to put your own personal touch on jewelry, head downstairs to the expansive bead shop. Make the piece of jewelry yourself or enlist a staff member to help customize a piece.

Next, make your way to Gallery 3Ten Fine Art, which features nearly two dozen local and national artists in media such as pottery, sculpture and jewelry. The store also offers gifts.

At Local Color on Main, find something for everyone, with a large variety of items, from jewelry to clothing and gifts to art. In the Grand Garage building, Fine Living of Stillwater features home pieces such as furniture and artwork and gift ideas including jewelry and candles.

Art lovers should detour to

The Little Parrot Art off Chestnut Street just west of Main Street. The quaint shop features paintings, ceramics, photography, textiles, glass and jewelry. Some wellness gifts such as botanicals are offered as well. Also off the beaten path is Camrose Hill Flowers, which features botanical gifts.

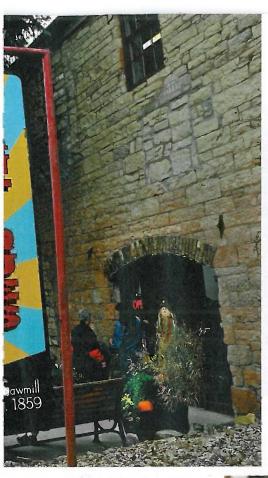
Cooking enthusiasts will want to stop by **Cooks of Crocus Hill** in the Grand Garage back on Main Street — a favorite destination for quality kitchen gadgets and top brands.

Past Grand Garage, Forget Me Not offers floral and home décor pieces with European accents.

### **ANTIQUES AND REUSED**

In addition to boutiques and gift stores, lovers of vintage, antique and reused merchandise will find plenty from which to choose. Antique malls are the main draw.

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Top: Staples Mill Antiques is known for vintage clothing.

Below: Colorful Gurgle Pots, which produce a whimsical sounds while pouring a beverage, at Cooks of Crocus Hill.

Near Nelson Street on Main Street, don't miss the expansive Midtown Antiques. The variety of offerings include quality vintage posters, Parisian hats, antique dressers, clothes and much more from the more than 100 antique dealers represented. The three-story antique mall includes a sizeable furniture gallery on the top floor.

Next, head north to Our Antiques for more antique furniture and home-décor items. Artwork, old-fashioned lamps and kitchenware are among the standouts. Continue to Stillwater Antiques Mall & Art Gallery in a former bank building on the corner of Myrtle Street, where you'll find an eclectic mix of furniture and home-decor pieces.

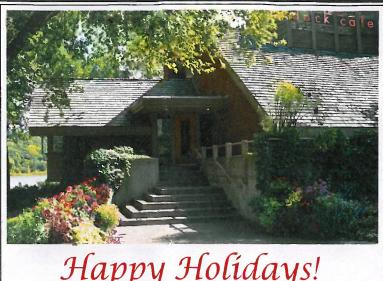
On the north end of downtown, the multi-story Staples Mill Antiques offers a maze of flashback finds. Fashionistas might want to take note of vintage fashion magazines offered



on the first floor and a quality vintage clothing area on the second level. Hobby items such as vintage skis and fishing poles are also part of the mix.

American Gothic Antiques offers a range of retro clothes and furniture. For those looking for unique lamps and light fixtures, Let There Be Light Antiques might be just the ticket.

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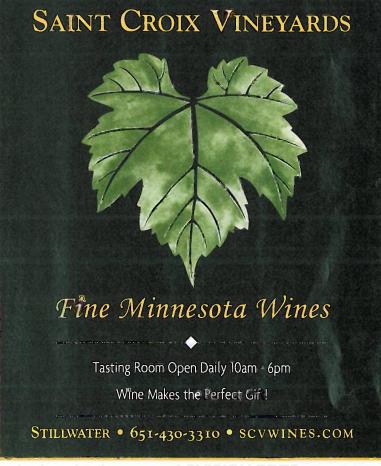


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noon to three . SHOP AND LUNCH



Kathe Wohlfahrt specializes in Christmas ornaments from Germany.

Country Charm Antiques is a blast from the past with offerings from more than 40 dealers, ranging from furniture to tableware and jewelry to clothing.

Downtown Stillwater is also known for its used bookstores. Black Letter Books on the corner of Myrtle and Main streets features second-hand rare and out-of-print books on a variety of subjects including classic titles, collector's volumes and bound antiquarian works.

St. Croix Antiquarian Book-sellers also features unique finds. Recently, the bookstore started dedicating a section of the store for apparel and accessories from Out of Print Clothing. Sales from the company's shirts, iPad covers, tote bags and more go for a good cause: With each item sold, a book is donated to Books for Africa.

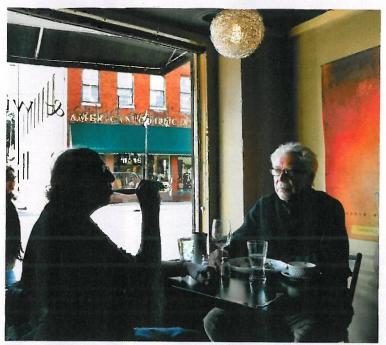
### **EAT**

When it's time for lunch, there's no lacking of places to go for burgers, pizza and comfort food. While there are too many dining options to name all of them, a few to keep in mind include **Leo's Malt Shop** — a draw not only for its flashback setting and American classics menu, but also for its variety of malts — and **Pub 112 Eatery.** It's one of Stillwater's newest additions and has a selection of Irish and craft beers.

In addition to comfort fare, other options include **Smalley's**, which has become a destination for its barbecue and tasty side dishes — but note that it's only open—for—lunch—Thursday through Sunday.

For atmosphere, try Marx Wine Bar, known for its friendly neighborhood vibe and its menu of worldly influences. The Green Room is another place where locals like to hang. The atmosphere is friendly, and the contemporary American and Indian menu is inventive and reliable. Great views of the St. Croix River and lift bridge from the back of the restaurant don't hurt its appeal either. Reve 324 wine bar is another cozy neighbor-

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Jim Harris, left, and Larry Nelson lunch at Marx Fusion Bistro.



Check out the specials on Shanghai Bistro's sidewalk chalkboard outside the popular lunch spot.



Pub 112 is a relative newcomer to downtown Stillwater.





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hood spot with a menu of contemporary American fare with European accents.

In Grand Garage, Shanghai Bistro has become a crowd-pleaser for its expansive stone patio and contemporary dining space, not to mention its menu of Asian dishes with a twist. For something more laid-back, Quickfire Pizza balances contemporary and casual. The shop Mari Mi also has a counter where you can order soups, sandwiches and cupcakes to snack on in a casual setting.

For something more formal, visitors head to **Dock Café** for a fancier menu as well as one of the closest restaurant views of the St. Croix River.

Make sure to save room for dessert: Downtown is home to several fudge and candy shops.

### PLAY

There are even more ways to enjoy what downtown Stillwater has to offer.

During warm weather, paddleboat rides on the **St. Croix**  Boat and Packet Co. are a way to package a scenic river tour and a meal into one. Stillwater Trolley Co. offers another way to see the river valley, including a tour of nearby mansions.

Visitors might like Northern Vineyards Winery and its wine tastings. Joseph Wolf Brewery Cave Tour is open on weekends and is a way to see the brewery that was once housed inside the limestone caves during the late 1800s.

For something relaxing, girl-friends may want to meet at Just for Me the Spa up the hill for a massage, facial, pedicure or other pampering. Couples massages are also offered. The spot also has three cottages available on the grounds, so consider an overnight stay to play longer in Stillwater.

After all, there will be no lacking of things to see and do.

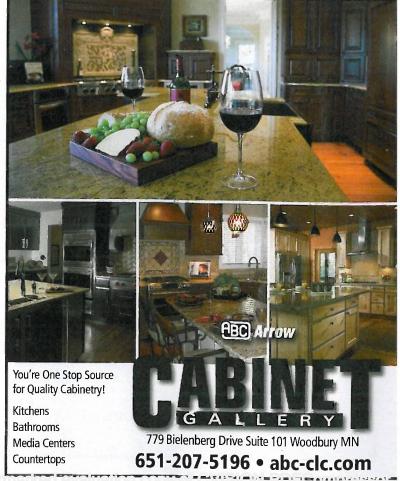
Nancy Ngo writes about shopping and style for the St. Paul Pioneer Press. She is a frequent contributor to Spaces.



**Just for Me Spa** offers a bit of pampering after all that shopping. The spa also offers couples massage.







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### SHOP > BOUTIQUES

Betty June's, 421 S. Main St.; 651-351-3194

Britta's Boutique, 204 S. Main St. Bronze, 229 S. Main St.;

651-342-1568

Camy Couture, 124 N. Main St.: 651-351-7051

Collaborations, 129 1/2 S. Main St.; 651-430-9100

Forget Me Not, 402 S. Main St.; 651-430-8113

45 Degrees, 209 S Main St.; 651-430-3609

Jade's Addiction, 317 S. Main St.; 651-353-0056

Janna's Hides & Rides, 218 N. Main St.: 651-472-9218

Life is Good, 324 S. Main St.; 651-430-1565

Lori's New York Fashions, 317 S.

Main St.; 651-705-6786

Karma Clothing Co., 224 Chestnut St. E.; 651-342-1004

Katydid's/Stokes Jewelry, 113 S.

Main St.; 651-439-0166

Mainstream Boutique, 421 S. Main St.: 651-351-2802

River Jeans, 118 N. Main St.; 651-342-0464

Urban Violet, 226 Chestnut St. E.; 651-342-0669

SASH, 324 S. Main St.; 651-430-1345

The Fun Sisters, 216 S. Main St.; 651-430-3134

The Shirt Factory, 126 S. Main St.; 651-351-0052

### SHOP > HOME & GIFTS

Alfresco, 321 S. Main St.; 651-439-0814

Art n Soul, 202 S. Main St.; 651-275-0255

Camrose Hill Flowers, 233 S.

Second St.; 651-351-9631

Cooks of Crocus Hill, 324 S. Main St.: 651-351-1144

Fine Living of Stillwater, 324 S. Main St.; 651-430-1565

Gallery 3Ten Fine Art, 310 S. Main St.: 651-439-6246

Kathe Wohlfahrt, 129 S. Main St.; 651-275-1072

Local Color on Main, 312 S. Main St.; 651-351-0558

Mama Luna, 402 N. Main St.;

651-491-0597 Mari Mi, 232 N. Main St.;

651-351-7700

Stillwater Art Guild Gallery, 402 N. Main St.; 651-689-0149

Tamarack Gallery, 112 S. Main St.; 651-439-9393

The Little Parrot Art, 116 Chestnut St E.; 651-472-5800

The Valley Bookseller, 217 N. Main St.: 651-430-3385

### **SHOP > ANTIQUES & REUSED**

American Gothic Antiques,

236 S. Main St.; 651-439-8202

Black Letter Books, 102 S. Main St.; 651-430-9805

Country Charm Antiques,

122 S. Main St.; 651-439-8202 Let There Be Light Antiques,

210 N. Main St.; 651-351-7580 Midtown Antiques, 301 S. Main St.; 651-430-0808

Our Antiques, 119 S. Main St.; 651-439-3889

Staples Mill Antiques, 410 N. Main St.; 651-430-1816

St. Croix Antiquarian

Booksellers, 232 S. Main St.: 651-430-0732

Stillwater Antiques Mall & Art Gallery, 101 S. Main St.; 651-439-6281

### EAT

Dock Café, 425 Nelson St.: 651-430-3770

Leo's Malt Shop, 131 S. Main St.; 651-351-3949

Mari Mi, 232 N. Main St.; 651-351-7700

Marx Wine Bar, 241 S. Main St.; 651-439-8333

Pub 112 Eatery, 112 N. Main St.; 651-342-0836

Reve 324, 324 S. Main St.;

651-342-1594 Shanghai Bistro, 324 S. Main St.; 651-430-9000

Smalley's, 423 S. Main St.; 651-439-5375

The Green Room, 215 S. Main St.; 651-342-0215

QuickFire Pizza, 116 S. Main St.; 651-439-7009

### PLAY

Joseph Wolf Brewery Cave Tour, 402 S. Main St.; 651-430-0560 Just for Me the Spa, 110 S.

Greeley St.; 651-439-4662

Northern Vineyards Winery, 223 N. Main St.; 651-430-1032

Stillwater Trolley Co., 400 E.

Nelson St.: 651-430-0352 St. Croix Boat and Packet Co.,

525 S. Main St.: 651-430-1234