

## Christmas 2017

Ok, it is the day after Thanksgiving, “Black Friday”, and Laurel has not been out Christmas shopping on that day for years. Her first stop – Lakeville Fleet Farm. She walks into the store and there is a Lakeville police officer. Gun and everything for crowd control. In Fleet Farm?!? Two things came to her mind: 1<sup>st</sup>) are Fleet Farm shoppers that out of control? 2<sup>nd</sup>) She now believes the military should be having combat training at Fleet Farm stores during Black Friday.

A few words on remodeling – Think twice about it! We decided that after 30 plus years it was time to upgrade our kitchen. Well, actually Laurel thought that. Mark just knew not to contradict her. The contractor said it would be 4 weeks from start to finish. After resolving a few issues (missing cabinets, cabinet not fitting properly, the vinyl wood plank floor shrinking, tile breakage, and a couple small tweaks to the plan) it took 5 months to complete the project. Poor Andrew. He suffered through the whole thing and did not even get a chance to enjoy very many home cooked meals in the house. Now that the work is complete, the kitchen does look good.

Now for the family in review: Erik and Lauren are still in their home in St. Paul with two cats and their dog (Peanut, our grand-puppy).

Diana and Clint are still living in Chicago with their dog, Malcolm (our first grand-puppy) and an assortment of reptiles and fish. We cannot forget Sabastian, part kitty and part Lynx. One Big kitty. Diana and Clint are in Costa Rico for Thanksgiving as we type this. They said it had something to do with retirement planning. We hope Laurel gets something “cool” from there, or Mark will have to learn how to use all those new kitchen appliances.

News on the soda business, we are now on the shelf with Coke and Pepsi at Shakopee Brewhall next to Turtles Restaurant in downtown Shakopee. Also if all goes well we will be in the new Prior Lake Brew House on Main Street by year’s end. We also pulled off selling at the Farmer’s Market in Farmington and Prior Lake and had 6 open house events with an array of great musical talents.

Andrew Jehle, Mark’s cousin from Switzerland, stayed with us this past summer. He was a big help with the soda business: selling soda, washing bottles and the making sodas. It was not all work. We took Andrew to Wisconsin to get fireworks and took him to Mystic Lake. Andrew seemed to have a lucky streak there. He won more than he spent! The rest of his family came over in July and we even coerced them into joining us in Duluth for the Duluth beer review called, “All Pints North”. We hope Andrew, his dad, Patrick and sister, Katlyn had a good time.

We did find some time to break away. One long weekend was spent in Wisconsin and the second in the Amana Colonies and Herman, MO. We did some wine and beer tasting and shopping. Next time you are in our neighborhood stop in and sample some of liquid souvenirs and see the new copper lawn ornaments we acquired to go along with our 7 foot big foot.

I believe we have rambled enough for this year. In parting we would like to share a saying we had on our bulletin board all year:

***“God is great, soda is good and people are crazy!”***

*Laurel (& Mark)*

