

# Life-long Hopkins resident Ruth Hazuka turns 100

## Hopkins police and fire departments throw surprise party

By **NATALIE CIERZAN**  
natalie.cierzan@apgecm.com

Hopkins police and fire departments secretly accepted life-long Hopkins resident Ruth Hazuka's invitation to celebrate her 100th birthday on June 9 and surprised her at her apartment complex.

Several officers and firefighters pulled up to the Chapel View Senior Living Community, bringing in a surprise birthday greeting, a cake from Driskill's Downtown Market, a vase of flowers and presents galore, including a tiara that made her "the Queen of Hopkins."

While Hazuka had a planned party for herself and other residents at 2 p.m., both the officers and firefighters arrived a few hours early to get their

surprise in first. She originally invited the officers to get coffee with her after they helped her following a recent fall.

"Well, it's definitely a celebration. Anyone who can turn 100 deserves some recognition," said Hopkins Police Chief Brent Johnson, joining others in applauding her.

Hazuka has a good sense of a humor. After seeing all of the officers and firefighters lined up in front of the apartment elevators, she said to a chorus of laughter, "If I were young, which one would I pick? I have a grand selection."

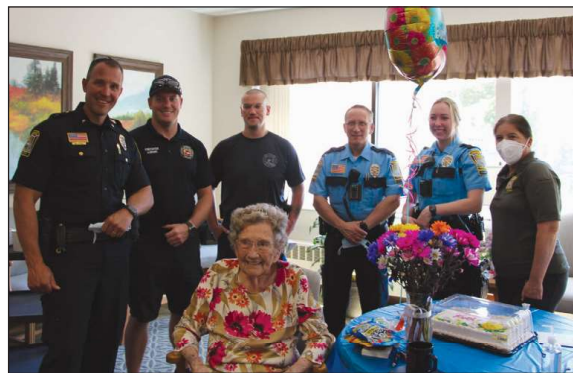
She said she never dreamed she would reach 100-years-old and didn't try to. The secret to living to 100 may be a mystery for many, but she attributed it to possibly never having drunk alcohol outside of communion and being a lifelong caregiver for others.

"I've always cared for other people. I've been a caregiver all my life. I'd come home from school, walk through the alley on 8th Avenue. I've lived here all my life," she said, speaking



(SUN PHOTO BY NATALIE CIERZAN)

One of Ruth Hazuka's 100th birthday gifts was a tiara, which led her to be called "the Queen of Hopkins."



(SUN PHOTO BY NATALIE CIERZAN)

Hazuka pictured with some of the officers and firefighters that surprised her.

about helping a neighbor who had terrible arthritis and had no one to help. Hazuka would do her dishes and help her in any way she could.

Even at 100, she wishes she could still take care of people.

"Not everyone turns 100 and so it's a big day to celebrate. (Hopkins police) was nice enough to invite us along so we thought it was necessary for us to come and just celebrate 100 years of her life," said Hassan Grams, the captain of Hopkins Fire Department.

Hopkins Police Officer Rachel Anderson used to volunteer at Chapel View before she

joined Hopkins Police Department.

"I thought it would be cool to come back and be able to talk to the residents... I always liked coming here," she said. "100-years-old. That's really rare to see, I feel like, so to see that she's well and healthy, I think that's really cool. Nice to be here and be a part of the team to show her that we appreciate her and that she's loved."

"I just love them all," Hazuka said to the officers before the party finished. "I'm so grateful and you're all in my prayers at night."

## Sota Clothing hosts backyard bash in St. Louis Park

Sota Clothing and OMNI Brewing Co. have teamed up for a benefit for Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity.

Sota Clothing, 6518 Walker St., in St. Louis Park will host the event in its back alley Saturday, June 18. It will include beer and food sales, lawn games and live music.

OMNI Brewery, based in Maple Grove, will debut a specialty craft brew in support of Sota Clothing's Minnesota Nice Project partner, Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity.

One dollar from each Sota Cream Ale sold will be donated to the nonprofit, which will have representatives on-site to discuss its work and volunteer opportunities. There is no cost for admission.

The Sota Clothing retail store will be open for shopping throughout the duration of the event.

The music lineup includes The Strohs 12:30-2:30 p.m.; Taylor Bongard & Friends 3-4 p.m.; and Erik Christenson & His Support Group 4:30-6:30 p.m.

The Little Blue Food Truck, The Smoke Shack and Droolin' Moose will provide food.

Sota Clothing has retail stores in St. Louis Park and Stillwater.

Info: McKenzie Veum, 952-451-6023 or mckenzie@sota-clothing.com

## MISSING

### Female Rhodesian Ridgeback

fawn color, 80 lbs. Wearing a purple collar with tags, and possibly still wearing a black vest.

Went missing from the Minnetonka/Minnehaha Creek area in January. Last sighted in Lake Minnetonka area, but also searching communities north, south, and all Western suburbs. Please search trails, parks & reserves, and wooded acreage.

Very possibly hiding under decks, in sheds, by heat vents or window wells.

Please check security cams.



**Do not yell or chase, instead please immediately call 612-616-4807**



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