

# 2025 Lakes EDITION

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- Lake Koskonong
- Lake Kegonsa
- Lake Ripley
- Rock River
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Published by  
**The Edgerton Reporter**

Edgerton, Wisconsin  
Summer 2025





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# Greetings, Summer Residents and Vacationers!



Welcome to our 49th Annual Lakes Edition, an award-winning publication featuring nine area lakes and the Rock River. This special edition is geared to summer life in our area, including great places to shop, dine, camp, play and explore. Highlighted in these pages you will find fairs, festivals, parks, area attractions, feature articles, calendars of events, area history and much more. In short, this publication is aimed at helping you have the most pleasurable, engaging experiences possible in our fun-filled region. Enjoy!

—Diane Everson, Publisher

Photos from Edgerton Reporter files and courtesy of Pike Pole Fishing (above, left).

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# Edgerton Hot Spots & Happenings

**The Sterling North Home and Museum**, 409 W. Rollin St., was the boyhood home of author Sterling North, who, among other popular titles, wrote the children's book "Rascal." Today the home serves as a literary center and museum with programs available to schools and the general public. The home has been restored to its 1917 setting and is furnished with authentic antiques, including North's desk and typewriter, and many family artifacts, photos, books and memorabilia. A restored barn and the grounds are also part of the tour. The museum, which includes a gift shop, is open Sundays, April-December, from 1-4 p.m., and by appointment. 608-884-3074, [www.sterlingnorthsociety.com](http://www.sterlingnorthsociety.com)

**Albion Academy Museum**, 605 Campus Ln., (in Town of Albion, two miles north of Edgerton) is located in the rebuilt Kumlien Hall. The museum showcases how life at the academy looked from the 1860s to the 1910s. An exhibit featuring the Albion Tigers baseball team memorabilia is also featured. Albion Academy was founded in 1854 as the first co-educational academy in the state. Also on the campus is Sheepskin School, a rural one-room schoolhouse that looks like it did when it was closed in 1959. The museum is open Sundays in June, July and August from 1-4 p.m. (excluding Edgerton's Tobacco Days weekend). The campus includes a park



Midwest Rodeo.



Tobacco Days Car Show.

with playground equipment, picnic shelter and bathrooms. 608-774-4339, [aahs50.wordpress.com](http://aahs50.wordpress.com)

**Happenings**  
**Ongoing-Saturdays, May-October—Edgerton Community Farmers Market:** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Central Park, 312 N. Main St. Seasonal, locally-grown or made fruits, vegetables, cheeses, berries, flowers, plants, herbs, soaps, eggs, honey, arts, crafts and more. 608-884-8504, [www.facebook.com/Edgerton-CommunityFarmersMarket/](http://www.facebook.com/Edgerton-CommunityFarmersMarket/)  
**Select Wednesdays - Concerts in the Park:** Central Park, 310 N. Main St., 6:30 p.m. Enjoy this series of free summer outdoor concerts sponsored by the Arts Council of Edgerton

(ACE). Located at Menhall Band Pavilion. The series is sponsored by contributions from local organizations and individuals. Dates and performers: June 11 - The Jimmys; June 25 - Driveway Thrift dwellers; July 9 - Main Street Big Band; July 23 - VO5; Aug. 6 - Mike Schneider Polka Band; Aug. 20 - Edgerton Community Band; Aug 27 - Make Up date (or additional concert) See story elsewhere in Lakes Edition for more details. [www.artscounciledgerton.com](http://www.artscounciledgerton.com).

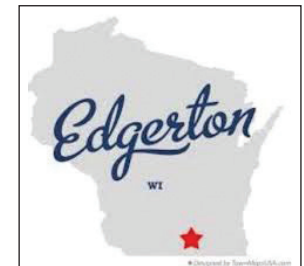
**TBD - Edgerton Lions Fest and Fireworks:** Musical entertainment, family entertainment, food, beverages and a spectacular fireworks display. The Edgerton Lions have provided Independence

Day fireworks and activities for the Edgerton area for more than 65 years. This Independence Day festival, running from 4 p.m. to midnight, typically features a petting zoo, local baseball and softball games, a bean bag tournament, a pie eating contest, a "Red, White and Blue" dress-up contest, chicken bingo, local talent on the stage starting at 4 p.m., live music at 7 p.m. and, of course, the thunderous spectacle of fireworks at dusk. Food and beverages will be sold at the concession stand. This is a fundraiser for the Edgerton Lions Club, so no carry-ins. Takes place in Racetrack Park (1KI Drive and Stoughton Road). Check websites to confirm details. 608-884-2862, [edgertonlions.org](http://edgertonlions.org), [edgertonfireworks.com](http://edgertonfireworks.com)

See **EDGERTON**, page 5



July 4 Fireworks.



# Summer Residents and Visitors

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**EDGERTON**

Continued from page 4

**Tired Iron Cruise Nights**

**Car Show:** Albion Park, 612 Albion Rd, Edgerton. Come out to beautiful Albion Park and see great classic cars and trucks, have good food, and meet wonderful people. Held on second Wednesday of the month, May through Sept. June 11, 5 p.m.; July 9, 5 p.m.; Aug. 13, 5 p.m.; Sept. 10, 5 p.m. 608-757-3171.

**July 18-20 - Edgerton Tobacco Heritage Days:**

Huge festival celebrating the city's heritage. Events will take place at various locations throughout the city, primarily downtown and at Racetrack Park. Events include massive car show Saturday downtown (see separate listing), big wheels race, lipsync contest, baseball, softball, city-wide rummage sale, Rascal Run/Walk, downtown parade on Sunday, live bands, food and much more. Arts in the Park is now being held in Albion Park in Albion (see separate listing). Also, Edgerton Clay Day and Art Festival will be held July 20 during Tobacco Days (see separate listing). There are fun activities for all ages all weekend long. Be sure to check out the website for a full, up-to-date schedule. www.edgerton tobaccodays.com

**July 18-20 - Great Midwest Pro Rodeo and Bull Riding:**

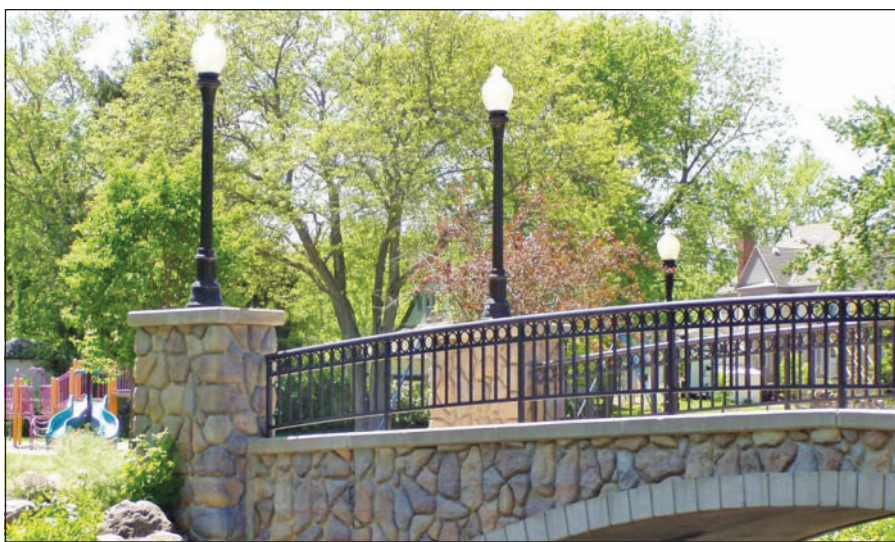
Thresherman's Park 332 E. County Rd. M, Edgerton. Experience action-packed performances at the Annual Great Midwest Pro Rodeo & Bull Riding featuring Bareback & Saddle Bronc Riding, Steer Wrestling, Cowgirls Barrel Racing, Team Roping, Girls Breakaway Roping and bull riding. You'll be thrilled by the

spectacular bucking horses and bulls, champion cowboys and cowgirls from across the US and Canada, hilarious rodeo clowns, great music, kids games, terrific vendors & more. 815-823-3245.

**July 19 - Tobacco Days Car and Truck Show:** Large annual show in Edgerton's downtown. Gates open at 7 a.m., with registration running from then until 11 a.m. Judging begins at 11 a.m. trophies presented at 2 p.m. Raffle will feature top prizes of \$250, \$500 and \$750. Raffle tickets can be purchased at Steve's 51 Repair, Newville Auto Salvage or from show committee members. tobaccodayscarandtruckshow.com

**July 19 - Edgerton Clay Day and Art Festival:** A hands-on pottery and art festival celebrating Edgerton's deep clay and pottery history. Attendees will have the opportunity to try throwing a pot on a wheel, hand build items from local clay, view local artists giving demonstrations and learn about the art of clay in general. Art vendors will be on site allowing attendees to shop and browse the booths along with musical entertainment. Food will also be available. Central Park, Swift Street Pavilion Area, 310 N. Main St., 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. 608-289-6084, www.artscouncil edgerton.com/events/pottery-fest

**July 19 - Albion Stroll Thru Arts in the Park Craft and Gift Fair:** This annual craft and gift fair is now in Albion Park in Albion, moving from Central Park in Edgerton. The fair offers many crafts and gifts, pie social, food, music and free parking. Albion Park, 605 Albion Rd. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Free admission. 608-289-1042, 608-884-6039



Bridge in Central Park

**July 19 - Albion Academy Historical Society's Pie and Ice Cream Social:**

Dessert and visiting with other people interested in the history of Albion and the Academy. Also featuring a silent auction on the grounds. There is a requested donation of \$2 per person or \$5 per family to tour the museum and the Sheepskin one-room schoolhouse. Confirm details on website. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Located at Albion Academy Historical Society (605 Campus Ln.), Exit 160 off I-90, two miles north of Edgerton in Albion. 608-774-4339, aaahs50.wordpress.com

**Aug. 29-Sept. 1 - 64th Annual Rock River Thresheree Reunion:** This annual living history festival features working antique steam engines and equipment demonstrations in the 200 acre park. Take a train ride on the Rock River Cannonball and watch an operating saw mill and pile driver. Check out the blacksmith shop,



Albion Historical Society hosts pie and ice cream social during the Arts in the Park.

File photo

File photo



Arts in the Park.

File photo

woodcarvers, antique cars and trucks, construction equipment display and demonstrations, steam calliope, kids activities and more. Shop the large flea market and take the opportunity to drive your first tractor, watch the daily Parade of Power at 2 p.m., and enjoy live music each evening. This year's marquee features are "The Farmall Frolic" and 100th anniversary of Janesville's Samson Company along with any other Janesville-built equipment. Concessions available. Use entrance on Highway M, just off Highway 51. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. each day. Thresherman's Park, 51 E. Cox Rd. (bordering Highway 51 between Edgerton and Janesville). 608-868-2814, www.threshere.org

**Sept. 5-6 - Chilimania:** A street festival featuring the upper Midwest's largest chili cook-off and salsa competition. An average of 60 chili cook booths fill the street with mouthwatering smells. Musical entertainment by top bands rock the festival stage all day and into the night. Games and activities for children make Chilimania a good option for families. Food vendors and a beer area round out this fun-filled festival. Admission is charged. 10:30 a.m.-midnight. Also, don't miss the Sept. 5 Country Edge concert (see above listing), an event that kicks off the Chilimania festival. Downtown. 608-561-7566 (days), www.chilimania.com

**Sept. 20 - Atomic Voodoo Rockabilly Meltdown Music and Car Show:** Rock County Thresheree Grounds, 51 E. Cox Rd., Edgerton. The annual Atomic Voodoo Rockabilly Meltdown features live music, a car show, raffles, prizes, food trucks, a fire show, and more. 608-757-3171.

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# Milton Roadhouse opens new venue, menu and atmosphere

By *Tristan McGough*  
Special to the Reporter

Traveling east towards Milton along State Highway 59 is the aptly named Milton Roadhouse, under new management since December 2024 and dedicated to serving up the best times alongside the best wings and edible things in our multi-lakeside community.

"It's been a learning curve," admitted business owner Cory Mayer, "but it's also been a lot of fun. I know there'll always be someone that you didn't please completely, but I'm going for the 99% that we are pleasing. Fun is what we're about, and that includes excellent food, good service and, above all else, a great time with family and friends that you'll always remember."

Milton Roadhouse is not only open seven days a week. It also accommodates large parties and events, such as the recent Lakeside Fire-Rescue Employee Appreciation Dinner on April 5, then hosting a dinner party at which longtime fire commissioner Dave Viney was honored for his decades of service to the community.

"That is one of several events we've successfully held and we have many more scheduled for this year. We just did a couple of birthday parties, and there's another one coming up next week. Done a couple of benefits and the next benefit is Sunday, July 6. We've got a lot of live music and people should check out our website for upcoming events, including Bike Night on Tuesdays, which is, also, Ladies Night. I know people will want to know that we're having a Corn Boil on July 26 starting at noon. We want it to be the biggest party ever! There will be tons of free boiled corn all day long, and we'll kick the music off at 1 p.m." The Milton Roadhouse event promo call-out, "Come hungry. Come ready. Come party!"

Returning to daily operations, Mayer stated, "We have a full-time chef, John Trader, who has 25 years' experience, his previous job being a cook at UW-Madison. We're always looking for good staff. Especially now, as business has picked up with the camping season, which always brings in more customers. It's kinda like a farmer: you gotta make your hay when you can."

"We got our liquor license on Dec. 10 of last year and we had a soft opening on Dec. 13. In fact, it was a very soft opening where I literally said on Facebook, 'We're open...shhhh.' I didn't want to be overwhelmed, because that's what I heard happened to the people before us. They announced a Grand Opening

and 200 people showed, and in no time they were out of product and, since they didn't know the kitchen well, service was slow. I didn't want to make the same mistake; you can learn from other people's failures. That day, we had about 40-50 people show, and it's steadily grown since.

"I'd say that we've got to the point where our team is very efficient. Now, what we are learning is how to become very efficient as the season ramps up. That means more efficiency on the floor and better communication...things you've done when there were fewer customers and things were less busy, but, now that there are more, you learn new efficiencies."

Mayer has been camping in the area for over 34 years, bivouacking at Blackhawk Campground. He also frequents local establishments during his four-to-five month stay in Wisconsin covering the summer months.

When not in Wisconsin, he and his family are centered in Georgetown, Texas, a suburb just north of Austin. "I run a bunch of businesses," Mayer said. "I own HVAC companies throughout Texas and have locations in three other states. Actually, before COVID, we were in 14 states, but we've narrowed our focus and have become more profitable in the process."

"Originally, I'm from Wisconsin, born in Racine but raised in the Birch - Rice Lake area.

My parents moved quite a bit, so we lived in Illinois, California and so forth. I met my wife, Debbie, in Rockford, Ill. I was on my way to Texas, 30 days before I was going to move down there to do HVAC work, because for air conditioning there's nine months of hot weather down there and only three, maybe, up here and I wanted to focus on that.

June 4 we'll be celebrating 31 years of marriage. We were married in 1994 and have four kids, the youngest graduating this May. My son literally runs my HVAC business in Texas.

"I've owned all my own businesses in HVAC all my life, and now I own about 23 different companies, though all my HVAC ones are under an umbrella company that has its satellite locations for service."

"But I also build retail stores, so, like last week, I took off and I flew my wife out with me, and my son from Austin met up with us in Sacramento, Calif. Did a job there that I thought would take two days, but it only took one, so we had a day to ourselves and went to Lake Tahoe, came back, and then flew back here. So, that's what I do: I make a lot of money



Proud Roadhouse owner, Cory Mayer.

Photo by Tristan McGough



The spacious hall is used for birthday parties, benefits, and all kinds of special events.

Photo by Tristan McGough



Milton Roadhouse is conveniently located between Milton and Edgerton.

Photo by Tristan McGough

elsewhere.

"I was looking for something of interest to invest in and when the former owners of Kosh Cabin wanted to sell the company and brand, I talked to them. They were, basically, selling equipment and we couldn't come to terms, so I went to Jake (Pettit) and said that if this came up for lease, I'd be interested. So, when it did, I came back immediately to what's my home here in Wisconsin at Blackhawk, where I've been for 34 years, growing up at Clear Lake, and feel absolutely comfortable."

"In 2008, I took the whole family and moved to Georgetown, Texas. The economy went bad and I decided the best HVAC move would be to a hot climate that needed a lot of air conditioning. The economy went to hell, I had four little kids, you know. I had to provide for them.

So, I packed everybody up - we looked like the Beverly Hillbillies - and went to Texas. As an air conditioning contractor, I made the right move. Of course, I should tell you, I spent a year as a high school student in San Antonio, Texas, when my dad took up a year-long contract there. I fell in love with Texas.

"But, when I got the call this place was up for lease, we moved on it fast."

Though he's been in the HVAC industry all his life, when it comes to the hospitality industry in general and restaurants in specific, Mayer is turning a longtime, partly suppressed vision into a concrete, local reality.

"I'd love to get this place to what it was some 30 years ago," he confided, "when Jim Peterson owned it for all those years. He ran it and built this addition onto it. He had it quite a while and made a helluva living here. Peterson had this place 'just-a-hoppin'."

Since that time, there have been, what? maybe, seven or eight owners, but none have taken it to the point Peterson had it at. But, that's exactly what I want to do. I needed a project and my 'people-fix,' so I leased this building and said, 'Let's see if we can bring it back up.'

"We held our own during the winter, thanks to Jake down there. I lease it from the Pettits, from the owners of Lakeview, who have been really good to me while we got our learning experience. Our Operations Manager is Brittani Williams, a local resident who is tuned-in to what's going on. She's helped by our Assistant Operations Manager Megan Dransfield of Janesville. They keep things running smoothly here and Brittani is charged with going out and finding the talent for live music, as well as she coordinates benefits, fundraisers and other community events."

"I want the atmosphere here at Milton Roadhouse different from other bar and grill venues in the area. We have a family-friendly attitude that's reflected in, for instance, our live music. If you want a loud sound, you can hear a full band at some other local place, but here, we want to keep it so you can hold a conversation. So, I focus on a solo act with, usually, a guitar. As well, we have games out in the back for kids, as well as a playground they can use. There's a brand new pool table, darts, and we're talking about getting a bounce-house for the kids. Friday nights we're doing

Fish Fries with a lot of kids and their parents, as well as some coming in on Saturday. It's family-friendly, absolutely. But, it's not a children's place. It is, after all, still a bar and grill.

"I've been finding new clientele by word of mouth, once they taste our food, as well as through Facebook, newspapers, and social media. We're probably best known for our wings and broasted chicken, and won an award for Best Wings and Chicken. And we're doing Chef Specials, too."

Milton Roadhouse features Jumbo Wings that are customized with all kinds of sauces and dry rubs, as well as Broasted Chicken from a two-piece to a 16-piece dinner that includes coleslaw, biscuit and choice of potato. Other Specialty Foods range from burgers to salads. There's a Breakfast Buffet on Saturday and Sunday, with Weekly Events for each day.

"I use only the best products. For example, let's just talk about burgers. Everybody sells a burger in town. I went with the best buns: Challah. The best meat you can get. I make sure everything is fresh and the best quality, including cheeses and veggies. With the Challah bun, you just put it on the griddle, let it sit a moment, take it off and it tastes like it just came out of the oven. It tastes really good."

"I want to be known for offering the best of the best, and to be known for being just a little bit better than the best! I want to be known for the food. Right now, we are updating our menu because we want to be a destination spot for residents, campers and visitors alike, with them wanting to come back for more."

Mayer concluded, "We're known for our burgers, wings, broasted chicken and classic comfort meals, and we want to become known for keeping the grill on past 9, serving up late-night bites in a laid-back atmosphere. We want people to feel totally comfortable and enjoy a casual dinner, catch the game, or simply to have a great night out with their special someone."

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# MILTON ROADHOUSE

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From sizzling steaks to our famous loaded fries, we're all about serving up hearty, scratch-made dishes that hit the spot. Whether you're here to unwind, celebrate, or just grab a bite, we're dedicated to keeping the grill hot, the drinks flowing, and the welcome genuine.

**Sunday:** 8am - Family Style Breakfast

(Pancakes, Donuts, Scrambled Eggs, Potato, Bacon Sausage, Ham and more)

- 11am - Meat Raffle
- 12pm - Roadhouse Lunch Counter (Salad Bar, Fruits, Hot and Cold Sandwiches)

**Monday:** 11am - Open

- 12pm - Roadhouse Lunch Counter (Salad Bar, Fruits, Hot and Cold Sandwiches)
- 6:30pm - Bingo

**Tuesday:** 11am - Open

- 12pm - Roadhouse Lunch Counter (Salad Bar, Fruits, Hot and Cold Sandwiches)
- 5:30pm - Bike

**Wednesday:** 11am - Open

- 12pm - Roadhouse Lunch Counter (Salad Bar, Fruits, Hot and Cold Sandwiches)
- 6:30pm - Lets Make a Meal Game Show in House (combination of meat raffle and bingo)

**Thursday:** 11am - Open

- 12pm - Roadhouse Lunch Counter (Salad Bar, Fruits, Hot and Cold Sandwiches)
- 6:30pm Vegas Trip Bingo Bingo with a chance to win a trip to las vegas

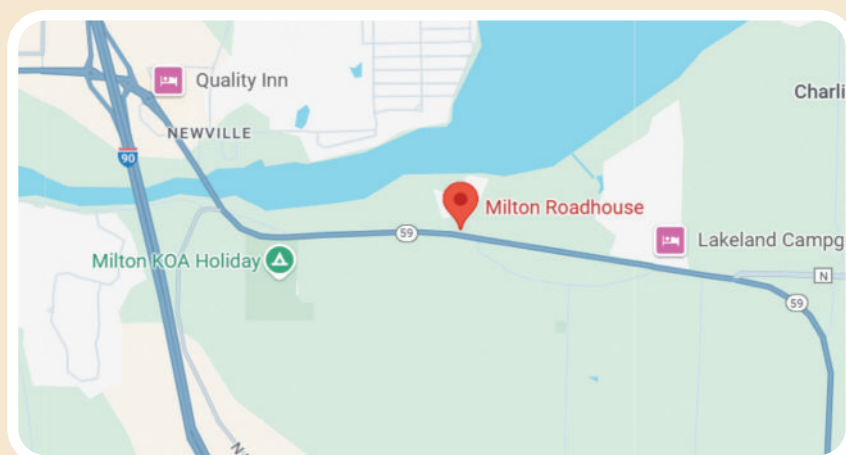
**Friday:** 11am - Open

- 12pm - Friday Fish Fry (All Day Long)
- Live Music (Check our Website)

**Saturday:** 8am - Family Style Breakfast (Pancakes, Donuts, Scrambled Eggs, Potato, Bacon Sausage Ham and more)

- 12pm - Roadhouse Lunch Counter (Salad Bar, Fruits, Hot and Cold Sandwiches)
- Saturday: Saturday Sizzle at the Milton Roadhouse - Check website for Chefs Special
- Live Music (Check our Website)

**Food Specialties:** Wings, Broasted Chicken, Burger Builder, Fish Fry, Frotchos, Saturday and Sunday Family Style Breakfast.



**Milton Roadhouse**

Monday - Sunday: 11am - 2am

[www.miltonroadhouse.com](http://www.miltonroadhouse.com)

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1801 E. State Rd. 59, Milton, WI

# Kenlyn Marquis Pet Resort offers local boarding kennels; Kenlyn Marquis German Shepherds breeds, trains, and shows national champions



Deep with experience, Liz and Kent in 2015 with Rumor, winner of Top Dog Awards at AKC Eukanuba Invitational defeating 4600 other dogs.

By *Tristan McGough*  
Special to the Reporter

Kent Boyles has built both a local and an international reputation with his two sister-enterprises: Kenlyn Marquis Pet Resort (formerly, Kenlyn Kennels) and Kenlyn Marquis German Shepherds.

Today, though he owns both, he gives a lot of credit to the success and continued growth of each enterprise to his two operating partners, Liz Oster and her daughter, Maria Oster. The combined expertise of Kent Boyles and Liz Oster totals over 60 years of experience, having bred more than 100 champions and finishing more than 400 championship titles in the German Shepherd Dog breed. And though they came from very different backgrounds, they were, ultimately, led to fuse forces and together breed, train, and show exemplary German Shepherds at local and national competitions.

Between Kent, Liz, and Maria they have campaigned 17 German Shepherds to the Grand Victor/Grand Victrix title, along with countless Select titles and Winners Dog/Bitch titles at both the U.S. and Canadian Nationals. Boyles states that, "our main client dogs come from all around the United States. At any time, we're training from 10 to 12 Shepherds; so, we're always busy. And that's why we hire the best professionals, whether they're training dogs for international championships or domestic companionship." Maria Oster is the Kennel Manager, but she, as mentioned, is a handler and regularly shows dogs, including

two of her favorites, Calvin and JuJu.

The trio is able to keep the kennels and dog shows in balance thanks to their talented staff, consisting of Anita Hernandez who has been our groomer here since we started in 1995. As well as Sydney Adams, Rita Burkhalter, Sue Hill, Emma Hove, Brianna Luhman, Lauren Stutika, and our trainer, Rolando Salvador.

K-M German Shepherds offers private training for this canine kind, as well as select breeding services and professional handling at both local and nationwide venues, such as the annual Westminster Dog Show. K-M Pet Resort, on the other hand (and juxtaposed just the other side of Interstate 39/90 north of Newville), provides dog and pet boarding services, dog daycare, grooming services, and training classes.

Boyles continued, "We've added Rolando Salvador—who is a world-class trainer with 40-years of training experience, 15 of those being involved with all aspects of the work and training of police dogs—to our team to provide well-rounded training classes of all needs."

"In 2006 Rolando and I had started an actual working dog club here at Kenlyn, and after that, the club relocated to McHenry, Ill., where Rolando is from. As of now, he is committed to helping our facility expand to include more types of dog training to fit the different needs of dog owners, such as different levels of obedience, reactive/aggressive dog training, STAR puppy classes, and so forth. So, we're really excited to have Rolando come on board."

Boyles has more training goals as well, stating, "In the past, I've donated several dogs to veterans and handicapped people, as well as for police work, and I'd like to see that continued; I'd like to get a program going for training service dogs to do these specialized "jobs" that are so beneficial, and sometimes life changing, for their owners."

Conducting a tour for The Reporter, Boyles stated as he strolled down the refloored hall going towards the kennels, "I decided to renovate the entire Pet Resort." Though he's had a crew come in to help with the remodel, Kent has done some of the work himself, as time allows between his demanding dog showing schedule.

"The remodel shows the gist of what we're doing: making it a facility that can get used for the community and from there we can, you know, take part of the profits as time goes on and apply it to expand different areas of the business, such as various types of training (i.e., training service dogs for veterans, diabetic-alert dogs, reactive/aggressive dog training, etc.), upgrades to play-yards in the daycare, new grooming equipment, and so on.

Boyles told The Reporter, "We built this boarding facility in 1995 for the public, knowing there was a need for dog boarding and other services, like grooming and doggy daycare. Altogether there are 73 kennels that allow indoor and outdoor movement in a safe, enclosed area. There are few additional kennels in the 'quiet room' for older or anxious dogs who need more specialized

care. We also have a cat room that's isolated and quiet for our feline guests."

With a facility of this size and an experienced staff, Kenlyn Marquis Pet Resort has the capacity to tend to dogs and cats of all varieties while providing keen and specialized care.

Meanwhile, alongside planning expansions and supervising Kenlyn Marquis Pet Resort, Kent, Liz and Maria take turns as handlers at dog shows across America, from coast-to-coast. "Just to give you an idea, over the last 27 days, we've been at 15 dog shows and covered over 6,700 miles. And that pace will continue throughout the fall, when competitions peak and there's the German Shepherd National Specialty, the National Dog Show on Thanksgiving Day (following Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade), the Royal Canin National Championship in December, and culminating with the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in February.

It was there that celebrated canine champion Rumor won the Herding Group 2 years in a row and was awarded "Best in Show" at the 141st Annual Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in New York City. At that February 2017 show, more than 2,500 dogs from over 200 breeds were competing for the top prize at Madison Square Garden. That show is the second-oldest sporting event in the United States, organized just a year behind the Kentucky Derby. There is a great deal of honored tradition in the once yearly Westminster dog show, with tremendous prestige accompanying winning the coveted awards for breed, group and, if fortunate, the "Best in Show" as ultimate prize at the apex of competition.

Their newest German Shepherd to campaign is currently being prepared for stiff competition next year. "We have another dog from the same breeder we've handled for before in West Virginia, sired by one of our dogs – Mathias – with Mercedes' sister. Incidentally, Mathias was sired by our dog Tony, who was the Top Herding Dog in 2019. Her name is Sassicaia, or Sassi, we call her, for short. That name refers to a French wine. Sassi is 2 years old and we're getting her primed for next year, by getting her used to all the traveling and shows now. Her mother is Mercedes'

sister and there are over 10 years of winning genes behind her. Actually, she displays a lot of the traits of Rumor-Boyles' 2017 Westminster Best In Show winner—basically in her overall looks and attitude."

"In the meantime, we have other clients all over that want to get their championships done, get dogs ready for shows and, particularly, the National Specialty during the fall." Mercedes, whom the Boyles/Oster trio campaigned for the last 2 years and garnered Reserve Best In Show at the coveted Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in 2024, won the Herding Group there 2 times in a row. Mercedes is back with her owner in Bethesda, Maryland, where she has now

started sheep herding as well as working on some other performance titles. Boyles continues, "We're waiting for her to come into season so we can have puppies that will hopefully continue her legacy."

Boyles said that "We're used to breeding, training and showing winners, as well as providing a local facility for boarding and caring for loved pets. And, we're happy to have provided service dogs to those in need in the past, and will, as I've said, be something I'll continue into the future." To learn more about Kenlyn-Marquis Pet Resort and/or Kenlyn-Marquis German Shepherds, check out their website or Facebook.



Rumor at Westminster Show.

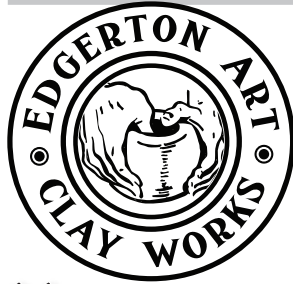
Photo courtesy.



Rumor in front of the Statue of Liberty.

Photo courtesy.

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Mercedes won Best of Show in Orlando



Rumor won Best of Show at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show



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Kent and Liz at the U.S. Capitol



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Liz with Sassy



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# Sterling North Home & Museum



Sterling North House.

File photo



Sterling North.

File photo



Sterling North book display.

File photo

From The Sterling North Society

The Sterling North Home and Museum welcomes visitors each Sunday from May 4 through Oct. 26. The museum will be open from 1 to 4 p.m. when visitors may tour the home, barn, and yard. Visitors may also enjoy shopping in our delightful gift shop with many Rascal-themed items ranging from clothing to books, to old-fashioned toys and plush raccoons.

This summer we will be coordinating activities with the public library and also some community events. For Tobacco Heritage Days we will open on Saturday, July 19 from 1 - 4 p.m. for tours. Watch for Rascal and friends walking in the Sunday parade.

Here at the museum one can take a step back in time and imagine what it was like when Rascal, "the ring-tailed wonder", lived for nearly a year with 11-year-old Sterling in 1918. This home is the setting for the wonderful book *Rascal: A Memoir of a Better Era*. Sterling North, an Edgerton native born in 1906, wrote the book *Rascal* in 1963. It was made into a delightful Disney movie in 1969.

The Sterling North Society was formed in 1989 by area teachers and historians. In 1992 they purchased the home at 409 W. Rollin St. which had belonged to Sterling's family so long ago. After renovations were made by dedicated Sterling North Society members, and a great amount of fundraising, the home was ready to open to the public

for tours in 1997. The society has continued to maintain the home and provide this amazing destination to visitors from Wisconsin and as far away as Japan, Europe, and Asia because they were introduced to *Rascal* through the Nippon Animation company's beautiful anime series of children's literature. "Rascal the Raccoon" has had tremendous popularity since the late 1970s. This beloved character brings people to Edgerton just to see where Rascal lived. And it is a thrill for them, but also for us, when they come to the house. In the museum, there is also a wonderful display of the anime "Rascal the Raccoon" items and memorabilia.

If you would like to help support the Sterling North Society in its work to continue the legacy of Sterling North and Rascal, and promote literature and the history of Edgerton, you can become a member or send donations to Sterling North Society at P.O. Box 173, Edgerton, Wis. 53534. Annual membership levels are \$10 for Single, \$25 for Family, \$30 for Business. Membership entitles you to one free tour ticket and two newsletters.

You can follow all the happenings at the Sterling North Home and Museum on our Facebook page at Sterling North Museum. If you would like to contact us for private group tours or information, you may send an email to [sterlingnorthmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:sterlingnorthmuseum@gmail.com) or call 608-561-3709.

We hope to see you at this beloved gem of local history during our 2025 season.

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## ELEMENTRIO - A THREE TENORS CHRISTMAS 12.20.25



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## PIANOMANIA - WITH JARED FREIBURG 4.18.26

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## ARE YOU READY FOR IT? A TAYLOR EXPERIENCE 2.7.26

Taylor Swift has been ranked by Billboard as one of the greatest artists of all time, alongside other legends like The Beatles, Michael Jackson, and Madonna. Swift has deservedly earned this spot, and is loved and adored by her fans, known to the world as "Swifties." Traci, a small-town theater girl from the suburbs of Chicago, grew up surrounded by musical talent. Throughout her career, she has opened for national touring artists like Tony Orlando, The Righteous Brothers, Chubby Checker, and has performed with Felix Cavaliere of The Rascals and Dennis Tufano of The Buckingham's fame. This former "Miss Congeniality" winner is also nominated for Tribute Artist of the Year (2024) for the Josie Music Awards.



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# Sheepskin School History

Submitted by Nancy Durgin

The Sheepskin School was established in 1865. At least, that is the earliest that the building appears on a Wisconsin plat map. It was District 6 in Fulton Township in Rock County, Wis. A Janesville Gazette article from September, 1972, indicates that a 10-rod-square parcel of land was set aside on Oct. 16, 1856, for a school "to hold for such length of time as the trustees for the school district deem necessary for school purposes."

Eleanor Carrier, long-time secretary of the Albion Academy Historical Society, stated at the August 1979, dedication of the Sheepskin School that "the state wanted schools within walking distance for all the children, so they had them every eight miles. There were eight or nine districts in this county [Rock] then."

Our earliest records are from 1867 when Thomas D. Hartzell, Treasurer of the School Board, began his book with a Sept. 24 balance of \$12.85. Jane Bevins taught four months of school, November through March. Then E.F. Smith taught school in June, and H. Kinney taught school in July. The earliest clerk's book that we have starts in 1880.

The school board consisted of a clerk, a treasurer and a director and each one received \$5 a year for their service starting in 1891. Wood was used for heating the school until 1909 when they begin using coal as well.

The clerk prepared an annual report of the board's activity to read at the school district meeting held every July with the residents of the district. Voters decided who would provide the wood, who would split the wood, how many months of school there would be, what the district school tax would be and what repairs needed to be done to the school buildings. The schoolhouse was thoroughly cleaned before school started in September and two or three other times during the year. Windows had to be washed and storm windows put up and taken down.

Then there was

the hiring of teachers. Apparently, the county superintendent gave a list of available teachers to each district. The contracts were signed by two of the School board members and the teacher. On April 2, 1937, Mrs. Danielson was hired to teach for a second year. Then she got a better offer, so the board hired Miss Odegaard on April 26. She would also be able to teach the children music.

By June 7, she had to cancel due to a positive x-ray exam for tuberculosis. The board had to choose a different teacher and found Miss Bertha Bansemer, a teacher who could also give music instruction to the students.

Often it appears that the school board members did the repairs and painting themselves. In 1884 Frank Herrick was paid \$90 for building a 12'x16' "schoolhouse." Since the school house is actually 20' by 40', we wonder if this building would be the woodshed/garage that was used for storage next to the actual schoolhouse. The 1888 annual meeting suggests keeping the wood in the wood house.

The money spent by the school board came from taxes assessed at the state, county and township levels. The board began to assess a district tax in 1889 based on their expenses. And there was a dog tax as early as 1872. In 1932 the school district received tuition payments from the Red Brick School District in Albion Township, Dane County. School choice was at work even then.

Two new outhouses were built in 1889, the schoolhouse was painted inside and out, a new flag was purchased and the schoolhouse was insured for the first time. The school was painted again in 1899 and the roof was shingled. The school started their own district library separate from the township system.

At first the books were to be kept in the possession of the clerk, but eventually, the books were housed at the school itself. A new stove was purchased for the 1900-01 school year and free textbooks were made available to students in 1902. A porch was added

to the schoolhouse in August 1904. A photo that Claude Stout included in his autobiography shows the Sheepskin School as it looked in 1905 when he was the teacher. The wood porch and wood shed are visible.

A belfry was added to the schoolhouse in 1907, and all the buildings were painted again. Hardwood floors were approved in 1909, a coal bin was added to the wood shed in 1910, and a cement platform was built in front of the schoolhouse in 1911. An undated photo of the children at Sheepskin School shows them standing on the cement steps. Doors, screen doors and padlocks were regular purchases for the buildings with painting done inside and out in 1912. The school board purchased an organ for the school in 1918. They also provided replacement kitten balls as the students wore them out.

In 1927 the schoolhouse was painted and the wood shed was remodeled. Then the annual meeting voters allowed the board to decide issues of repairs and wood contracts and redecorating schoolhouse at their monthly meetings. "Steel" ceiling and walls were added in 1930. The stove was replaced in 1932, and a fence was built in 1933. A stage was built in the school in 1935 with the planks coming from Clifford H. Townsend. Perhaps he did the building of the stage as well?

Clara Snell remembers that the planks were brought in from the wood shed each Christmas season to make the stage. At the actual Christmas program the desks were taken out to the wood shed, and chairs purchased by the Mothers Club were brought in for the audience. In 1936, the school board purchased a merry-go-round and two pianos. The organ had been traded to Ernest North for a mailbox. Hazel Ford Jensen remembers that the merry-go-round was the only piece of playground equipment at the school. The Mothers' Club purchased a radio for the school this year also.

Speaking of the Mothers' Club. It began in 1924, and the mothers met every three weeks during the time school was



Sheepskin School can be seen in the Albion park. Photo submitted by Nancy Durgin

in session. They started at 2 p.m. with a business meeting, adjourned to cards ("500" usually) or bunco, then had supper at 4 p.m. When school got out, the teacher would join the mothers and so would some of the pupils.

The club would provide popcorn balls or candy bars for all who attended the Christmas program. In later years they put together bags of candy and fruit instead. They provided ice cream for the school picnic, helped fill the medicine cabinet at the school and made curtains for the windows.

At a special meeting held Feb. 25, 1948, the district voted to close the Sheepskin School, by a vote of 15 to 11. This was probably due to the fact that there were only 12 students enrolled for the 1947-48 school year. Desks and other property would stay in the school building.

Then at the annual meeting in July, business proceeded as usual after a vote to keep the school open, 12 to 5. If a teacher could not be found at this late date, the district would pay for the children to ride the bus into Edgerton. They also agreed to pay for the high school students to ride the bus. Voters continued with setting the length of school, keeping free textbooks, setting the district tax levy, electing a clerk, filling the vacancy for treasurer and appointing the audit committee. The school census must have increased, but we have no record for that year. We do know that Mrs. Dorothe Disrude was hired to be the teacher.

September 1945 brought a new stove into



Sheepskin School plaque stands in front of the school in Albion. Photo submitted by Nancy Durgin

the school. A special school board meeting was held on Feb. 27, 1950, to hear the Rock County Superintendent of Schools explain the pros and cons of closing Sheepskin School. The vote after much discussion was 24 to stay open against 2 to close. The rest of the meeting talked about repairing the toilets and water pump, sanding the schoolhouse floor, and painting the inside of the building.

Fuel oil was purchased for the first time in October, 1950, and the Mothers Club removed their property from the school wood shed. The club continued to provide some books, games and balls for the school. They even gave Mrs. Josephine Ronde \$8 in 1950, so she could buy a projector for the school. They also donated to the Red Cross and American Cancer Society each year.

Attendance at school was dependent on work at home, weather, sickness of the student or the family and moving out of the district during the school year. The most students registered for one year was 31 in 1895. Louisa M. Raymond taught from September through December that year, and


Ella Keller taught from January to June. Did Louisa feel overwhelmed with so many students? Or did she leave to get married?

The average number of registered students was 25 through the 1930s, then 21 to 1940 and finally 16 to 18 through 1956. Sheepskin School's final attendance was 14 for 1958-59.

The school was slated to be destroyed so an electric substation could be built. However, the Albion Academy Historical Society offered to buy and move the building to the Albion Academy Campus. The price of \$25 was agreed on by the society and the Edgerton School District, so in January, 1960, the building was moved to Albion. It now helps the society showcase the education available to Wisconsin students in the late 1800s — one-room school to Academy.


In December 1965, the Albion Academy's Kumlien Hall burned to the ground. The Sheepskin School was saved and was used as a staging area when the hall was rebuilt. Today both buildings are open to the public showing early Wisconsin education.

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# Stricker gears up for AmFam Championship



Steve Stricker, of the United States, raises the Bourne Trophy after winning the Senior PGA Championship golf tournament at Fields Ranch East at PGA of America in Frisco, Texas, Sunday, May 28, 2023. Stricker defeated Padraig Harrington, of Ireland, in a playoff. **Eliás Valverde II/The Dallas Morning News via AP**

By Mikey Rottier  
Special to the Reporter

Despite lingering back and neck issues throughout the 2025 season, Edgerton native Steve Stricker is hoping to return to competition ahead of the most anticipated event on his calendar, the American Family Insurance Championship.

The tournament will take place June 6-8 at a new venue in 2025, as the newly remodeled

TPC Wisconsin takes over as the host. This is a shift from University Ridge Golf Course, where the event has been held previously. The remodel of TPC Wisconsin was heavily influenced by Stricker as he continues to make strides to elevate the Wisconsin golf scene. This year's event will also see a format change. The field of 76 players will be split into 38 teams of two.

Sidelined since mid-January,

the 58-year-old has spent most of the season rehabbing, but has publicly stated his determination to play in this year's tournament.

"I will play AmFam if I've got one arm," he said recently on the Talking Golf radio show hosted by Mike Heller, Paul Braun and Dennis Tiziani. "I'll be there, but I'm hoping to get some reps under my belt before that."

Stricker has been competing professionally since 1990,

making 2025 his 35th season as a pro.

Over that time he's collected a number of accolades including 12 PGA Tour wins, participation in many major championships and has developed into a consistent competitor on the PGA Tour Champions.

In 2021, Stricker served as the captain of the U.S. Ryder Cup team that won the event in a decisive victory, considered by many as the height of his career.

Beyond the athletic accomplishments, Stricker has dedicated himself and his success to the Wisconsin community by giving back and making efforts to grow the game of golf in Wisconsin, hence his creation of the American Family Insurance Championship in 2016.

As host, Stricker has played a central role in organizing the tournament, which has become an annual event on the PGA Tour Champions schedule.

Edgerton natives and golf enthusiasts across the state will be on the edge of their seats as they await Stricker's 2025 return to play. Whether he's at full strength or not, his presence alone is likely to be a highlight at the event. With a fresh new venue and format, the tournament will have a brand new feel in its ninth year, but Stricker's dedication to the American Family Insurance Championship and golf in Wisconsin remains constant.

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# So, Why A Healing Garden?



well. A recent study indicates that for every \$1.31 spent on garden care in these settings, there is a savings of \$6.56 in expenses for traditional care. Famous landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted was quoted as saying, "Beautiful scenery employs the mind without fatigue and yet exercises it, tranquilizes it and yet enlivens it, and thus,

through the influence of the mind and body, gives the effect of refreshing rest and re-invigoration to the whole system." We invite everyone in Edgerton, and the surrounding communities and campgrounds, and visitors just traveling by, to stop in and enjoy the public space that is the Edgerton Hospital Healing Garden.

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By Mark Dwyer, Edgerton Hospital Healing Garden Manager

Granted, we are always excited to offer a wide range of colorful plant material with a strong sensory focus and will continue to develop plant collections with our visitors in mind. In addition, our garden is focused on providing support for area wildlife, particularly pollinators. With a focus on accessibility and sensory engagement, this particular garden offers more than just beauty. It is a space for calming, reflection, gathering, sensory engagement, rehabilitation, anxiety reduction, and exercise and is also an escape from the stresses of the adjacent clinical areas (for patients and staff alike). Research has shown that proximity to a healing garden, experienced both passively and actively, reduces recovery times, lessens medication needs, improves the patient experience and so much more.

This is not an unusual question and is certainly warranted when you consider the space, time and funding involved with creating, maintaining and improving a dynamic space such as our 3-acre healing garden. Originally envisioned as part of the new campus in 2010, the garden was intentionally nestled in the embrace of the medical-surgical wing recovery rooms and therapy wing. While "rooms with a view" was certainly a goal in terms of passive use, the intention of more active immersion out in the garden was envisioned and continues to be a primary focus in the garden, now going on 13 years old!

So, why bother having an intensive garden when a couple of trees and benches will do? It is important to mention that, while the intention of the garden revolved heavily around patient use, there has always been strong encouragement for staff, visitors and the general community to also come and enjoy the space.

While it's tough to quantify the value of a healing garden, a beautiful, engaging space certainly benefits not only spiritual and emotional health but physical and neurological health as

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# Summer Fun

Events and Happenings Near You!



## ONGOING EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

### Ongoing-Crafting Excellence: Pauline Pottery and Pickard China-JANESVILLE

Exhibit at Helen Jeffris Wood Museum Center, 426 N. Jackson Street. Pauline Pottery and Pickard China have long been recognized nationally as some of the finest pottery and china, both for its functional use and as highly sought-after artwork. Selected artists and their distinct style are showcased, telling the story of their unique contribution to each medium's success and growth. Hours are Thurs.-Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 608-756-4509, www.rchs.us

### Weekly on Fridays-BELOIT

**Friday's in the Park free summer concert series:** 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., May 23-Aug.29, State Street and Grand Avenue. Listen to live music, kick off your shoes, soak up the sun and enjoy a picnic lunch prepared by one of Beloit's local eateries. 608-365-0150, www.downtownbeloit.com

### Saturdays, May-Oct.-BELOIT

**Downtown Farmer's Market:** Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., State Street, Grand Avenue and Mill Street parking lot. An award-winning community tradition spanning over 50 years, the market continues to grow with more than 100 vendors weekly, selling local produce, organics, baked goods, honey, jams and

jellies, herbs, bedding plants, fish, meat, eggs and cheese, fresh flowers, artisan crafts, scents and skin care. 608-365-0150, downtownbeloit.com/us/farmers-market-2/

### Saturdays and Sundays-RURAL BELOIT

**Tours At Beckman Mill:** 1-4 p.m., May-October, Beckman Mill County Park, 11600 South County Road H. Enjoy weekend guided tours of the Historic Beckman Mill, one of Wisconsin's only restored working grist mills. Visit the Mill Museum housed in the Beckman family home and check out the unique gift shop. 608-751-1551, www.beckmanmill.org

### Saturdays, May-Sept.-FORT ATKINSON

**Fort Farmer's Market:** Saturday mornings 8 a.m. to noon. More than 30 local vendors each Saturday. Organic cheese, cheese curds, grass-fed beef, organic chicken, local elk, sausage and fish, speciality breads, honey, jam, syrup, arts, crafts and more. Across from post office on Milwaukee Avenue. 920-563-3210, www.fortfarmersmarket.com

### Memorial Day-Labor Day-JANESVILLE

**Rock Aqua Jays Waterski Shows:** The highly decorated and successful Rock Aqua Jays water ski team performs shows twice weekly between Memorial Day and Labor Day at RAJ Stadium in Traxler Park (600 N. Main St.) along the Rock River. Watch as the talented skiers present themed performances featuring gravity-defying pyramids, ballet moves, jumps and barefoot skiing. Admission is free to the 70-minute shows; donations are encouraged. Shows are Wednesday and Sunday nights at 7 p.m. through mid-August and 6:30 p.m. for show dates thereafter. 608-757-3171, www.rockaquajays.org

### Select Mondays-FORT ATKINSON

**Fort Atkinson Community Band Concerts and**



**Ice Cream Socials:** Dates include June 16, June 30, July 14, July 28 and Aug. 11. The events begin at 7:00 p.m. with an ice cream social beginning 1/2 hour before the concert. Founded in 1960, the band is a volunteer group of around 45 musicians. Barrie Park bandshell, 210 Robert St. In case of inclement weather, the social and concert moves across the street to Trinity Lutheran Church. 920-563-3210, www.fortatkinsoncommunityband.org

### Saturdays, May-Oct.-JANESVILLE

**Janesville Farmers Market:** Located at 67 Dodge St. Towne Square, Janesville. 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. A completely local outdoor market featuring fresh produce, meats, cheese, eggs, honey, baked goods, plants, cut flowers, soaps, hand cream, jewelry, herbs, seasonal products, art and more. 608-289-9292, www.janesvillefarmersmarket.com

### Sundays, mid-May-late-Oct.-RURAL JANESVILLE

**Rock County Farmer's Market:** At Nature's Touch Garden Center, 5013 Hwy. 11 West. 9 a.m. to 1

Continued on next page

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# Color Our World with Edgerton Public Library

By Beth Krebs-Smith  
Edgerton Library Director

Although the Edgerton Public Library was built in 1906, the services it offers today are anything but old-fashioned. People of all ages are invited to visit the library this summer to make use of the wealth of services available, as well as to participate in a robust Summer Reading Program.

In addition to the tens of thousands of books, DVDs, ebooks, and audiobooks available through the library, patrons have access to vital services, including free use of computers with internet access, wi-fi, low-cost printing and faxing, and scanning to email.

Community members also have free use of online resources through BadgerLink, a database that contains a wide variety of information, including historic newspapers, encyclopedias, and information for consumers. In addition, library card holders can access Ancestry.com (inside the Library) to complete genealogical research, attend free online classes from LinkedIn and Mango Languages, or create a resume using Got Resume Builder.

Regular programming for all ages, such as book clubs, storytimes, and craft classes, also take place each month. All of these services and more are available throughout the year, but it's during the summer that the library really shines with a multitude of offerings during the annual Summer Reading Program.

This summer's theme is Color Our World, which celebrates all things art. People of all ages, from birth to 100+, are invited to participate in the reading challenge, which begins with a Kick

Off Party on June 9 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. The challenge offers small prizes along the way and a chance to win bigger basket prizes at the end of the summer through raffles, many of which are sponsored by local businesses and organizations. Because the challenge is for people of all ages, families can read and do activities together toward earning their prizes, allowing parents to model good reading habits for their children.

The fun doesn't end with a reading challenge, though! Edgerton Public Library also steps up their usual programming schedule to add even more fun and exciting programs for everyone. Thanks to funding from the Prairies Lakes Library System, summer includes the Storywagon series of performances for children and teens.

There are also many craft, activity, and storytime programs for children. Teens will enjoy extra programming including a series of Magic the Gathering workshops. Adults can expect visits from Wisconsin authors Kristen Whitson, Jenny Kalvaitis, and Sally Collins, as well as workshops on visible mending with embroidery and cell phone camera photography.

Edgerton Public Library is located at 101 Albion St. in Edgerton. It is a member of the Prairie Lakes Library System and one of 26 libraries in the SHARE Consortium. Library hours are: Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Contact the library at 608-884-4511. Follow the Library on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/EdgertonPublicLibraryWI>. Visit the website at <https://edgertonpubliclibrary.org/>.



## Edgerton Summer Concert Series kicks off June 11

Submitted by Kirsten Almo  
ACE member

The Arts Council of Edgerton is thrilled to announce the lineup for the 2025 summer Concerts in the Park series.

June 11 - The Jimmys - Powerhouse blues band from Madison, Wis.

June 25 - Driveway Thriftedwellers - Old school country

July 9 - Main Street Big Band - 18 piece Jazz and Swing Big Band playing a healthy course of classic swing music

July 23 - VO5 - 9 piece disco/funk band playing all your dance favorites

August 6 - Mike Schneider Polka Band - Award winning, Slovenian style polka band from Milwaukee, Wis.

August 20 - Edgerton Community Band - Local musicians performing a wide variety of concert band music.

August 27 - Make Up Date (or additional concert)

Bring a lawn chair and get ready to relax and tap your feet as you enjoy six evenings of wonderful music. Concerts will be held at the Menhall Gazebo in Central Park as they have in past years. Various local non-profit organizations will be offering food concessions at all of the concerts from 5:30-7:30 p.m., so come early and enjoy a picnic dinner.

The Concerts in the Park series is sponsored by the Arts Council of Edgerton (ACE). ACE has been dedicated to promoting the arts in the Edgerton area for over 20 years. With the generosity of so many volunteers and sponsors, these events are able to happen at no cost to the community. A special thanks to the Wartmann Endowment for the Performing Arts for their especially generous contribution. Hope to see you at the park.

### EVENTS

continued from previous page

goods, crafts and more. 608-449-4900, [www.rockcountymarket.com](http://www.rockcountymarket.com)

#### Early April-Early Sept.-BELOIT

**Beloit Sky Carp:** The Sky Carp present the grassroots of America's Pastime at Pohlman Field, 2101 Cranston Rd. Located just minutes off of Interstate 43 and 90, the 3,500-seat stadium is the home of Major League Baseball's Miami Marlins Class A affiliate. The stadium features amenities such as a multi-level picnic deck along the first base line, children's play area and a walk-in gift shop. Check website for home game dates and times. 608-362-2272, [www.milb.com/beloit](http://www.milb.com/beloit)

#### Select dates-RURAL MILTON

**Lobster Boil at Buckhorn Supper Club:** 2025 dates include May 28, June 24-25, July 29-30, Aug. 26-27, Sept. 23-24 and Oct. 28-29. Advance reservations and payment required. Space is limited. Bar opens at 5 p.m., boil-over and dinner at 6:30 p.m. On Lake Koshkonong, 11802 N. Charley Bluff Rd. 608-868-2653, [www.thebuckhorn.net](http://www.thebuckhorn.net)



#### 1-FORT ATKINSON

**Wings & Wheels Fly-In Breakfast:** Municipal airport on Highway K, 8 a.m. to noon. Featuring a traditional all-you-can-eat country breakfast, 50/50 cash raffle, raffle baskets, airplane and helicopter rides for



purchase and car show. All proceeds support BASE critical out of school time programs in Fort Atkinson that serve nearly 500 kids each year. [www.https://www.basefortatkinson.org/wingswheels](http://www.basefortatkinson.org/wingswheels)

#### 7-STATEWIDE

**National Trails Day:** Meander through the Aldo Leopold Legacy Trail System holding Wisconsin's 42 state trails offering a variety of surfaces, open to a wide variety of activities throughout all seasons. National Trails Day has grown to inspire nearly a million trail enthusiasts to flock to their favorite trails to discover, learn about and celebrate trails while participating in educational exhibits, trail dedications, gear demonstrations, instructional workshops and trail work projects. 800-972-8608, [americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/](http://americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/)

#### 7-8-STATEWIDE

**Free Fishing Weekend:** Fish without a license in Wisconsin. All waters in the state are open, including state waters of the Great Lakes and rivers bordering Wisconsin. Residents and non-residents of all ages can fish over these two days. All other regulations (length limits, bag limits, etc.) apply. 608-266-2272, [dnr.wi.gov/topic/Fishing/AnglerEducation/FreeFishingWeekend.html](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Fishing/AnglerEducation/FreeFishingWeekend.html)

#### 7-8-STATEWIDE

**Wisconsin State Parks Open House Day:** No charge for admission to state parks, forests, recreation areas and trails. Special activities at most locations. Camping fees are not waived. Parks open 6 a.m.-11 p.m. 608-266-2621, [dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/)

#### 14-15-CAMBRIDGE

**Midwest Fire Fest:** An art exploration of all things forged in fire. It will be an event that is heavy in demonstrations. Artist in residence will demonstrate iron pours, pit fired pottery, and a clay sculpture that will be fired during the event and revealed Saturday night in a performance style art event. A lasting sculpture will be created for the community. A master artist level art show, fire performers, live music and on site concessions will complete the festival atmosphere. West Side Park and around Cambridge. Lasts roughly 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 608-423-3780, [www.midwestfirefest.com](http://www.midwestfirefest.com)

#### 19-22-FORT ATKINSON

**Fort Atkinson Generals Baseball Festival:** A Home Talent League tournament is the highlight of this event hosted by the Fort Atkinson Generals. Festival also includes a carnival and concessions. Jones Park, 615 Janesville Ave. 920-563-7811, [www.fortgenerals.com](http://www.fortgenerals.com)

#### 24-25-RURAL MILTON

**Lobster Boil at Buckhorn Supper Club:** Advance reservations and payment required. Space is limited. Bar opens at 5 p.m., boil-over and dinner at 6:30 p.m. On Lake Koshkonong, 11802 N. Charley Bluff Rd. 608-868-2653, [www.thebuckhorn.net](http://www.thebuckhorn.net)



#### 28-JANESVILLE

**Star Spangled Saturday:** The Rock Aqua Jays Water Ski Show Team presents this annual festival celebrating Independence Day. The fun begins at noon with food trucks, a beer tent, kids' games, pontoon rides, live music, and more throughout the day. In the evening, enjoy a fantastic fireworks at dusk sponsored by Festival Foods. The show is free and open to the public (donations welcome). Traxler Park, 600 N. Main St. 608-757-3171, [www.rockaquajays.com](http://www.rockaquajays.com)

#### 28-JANESVILLE

**Freedom Fest:** Freedom fest started as a "backyard BBQ" in 2002 and has developed into one of the largest community events in the area. Between 25,000 and 30,000 people attend each year, with its attractions, food, carnival rides, stage performances and incredible fireworks display. There is no cost for admission, parking, rides, concert or fireworks. There is also a children's area with a petting zoo, face painting and balloon animals. Presented as a family-friendly, Christ-honoring, patriotic event. New Life Assembly of God, 2416 N. Wright Rd. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. 608-756-4175, [www.freedomfestnewlife.com](http://www.freedomfestnewlife.com)



#### 2-6-STOUGHTON

**Stoughton Fair:** Midway rides, commercial exhibits, tasty treats, Kiddie tent with baby farm animals, and 4-H/FFA exhibits. Great grandstand entertainment including rodeo, tractor and truck pulls, and demolition derby. Fireworks Sunday night. Mandt Park, 400 Mandt Parkway. 608-873-4653, [stoughtonfair.com](http://stoughtonfair.com)

**JULY EVENTS**

continued from previous page

**TBD-Edgerton Lions Fest and Fireworks:** Annual 4th of July celebration typically featuring Little League All-Star Game, family activities/entertainment, chicken bingo, food, beverages and spectacular fireworks display at dusk. The Edgerton Lions have provided Independence Day fireworks and activities for the Edgerton area for more than 65 years. 4 p.m.-midnight, Racetrack Park. [edgertonlions.org](http://edgertonlions.org), [edgertonfireworks.com](http://edgertonfireworks.com)

**TBD-JANESVILLE Patriotic Concert in the Park:** The Beloit Janesville Symphony Orchestra presents a traditional July Pops concert honoring our servicemen and women and celebrating the anniversary of our nation's independence. Enjoy favorite classics, such as the Armed Forces Salute, the Star Spangled Banner, The Stars and Stripes Forever, and The 1812 Overture. Bring your own chairs. Food vendors will be on site. 6:30 p.m., Janesville Courthouse Park. 608-313-1200, [www.beloitjanesvillesymphony.org](http://www.beloitjanesvillesymphony.org)

**4-BELOIT Pops on the Rock:** 7:15 p.m., Harry C. Moore Pavilion, Riverside Park, 1240 Riverside Dr. in Beloit. Celebrate the Fourth of July with an outdoor concert on the riverfront. The Beloit Janesville Symphony Orchestra's patriotic performance is followed by a spectacular fireworks display at dusk. Free family event. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. 608-365-4838, [www.beloitjanesvillesymphony.org](http://www.beloitjanesvillesymphony.org)

**9-13-JEFFERSON Jefferson County Fair:** Midway rides, grandstand entertainment, tractor and truck pulls, dem, demolition derby, exhibits, demonstrations and live music. Jefferson County Fair Park, 503 North Jackson Ave., 8 a.m.-11 p.m. 920-674-7148, [www.jcfairpark.com](http://www.jcfairpark.com)

**18-19-JANESVILLE Pistons & Props:** We're back and ready to make 2025 even bigger & better! Annual celebration of aviation, classic cars, and community spirit. We will have expanded exhibits, more aircraft, and new family-friendly activities. New for 2025: Friday 5pm-9pm, an evening to salute veterans during the All Veterans Reunion Night. Saturday 9am-5pm is Pistons & Props Family Day. From vintage planes to stunning cars, it's a chance to honor the past while fueling curiosity and connection. Food and ice cream vendors. Southern Wisconsin Regional Airport, 1716 W Airport Rd. Janesville, 608-757-3171, [www.jvl20.splashthat.com/](http://www.jvl20.splashthat.com/)

**18-20-EDGERTON Edgerton Tobacco Heritage Days:** Huge festival celebrating the city's heritage. Events will take place at various locations throughout the city, primarily downtown and at Racetrack Park. Events typically include massive car show Saturday downtown, big wheels race, lip-sync contest, baseball, softball, city-wide rummage sale, Rascal Run/Walk, downtown parade on Sunday, live bands, food and much more. Arts in the Park is now being held in Albion Park in Albion from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Also, Edgerton Clay Day and Art Festival will be held during Tobacco Days. Friday live music featuring Montgomery Gentry at Racetrack Park. There are fun activities for all ages all weekend long. Be sure to check out the website for a full, up-to-date schedule. [www.edgertontobaccodays.com](http://www.edgertontobaccodays.com)

**19-EDGERTON Edgerton Clay Day and Art Festival:** A hands-on pottery and art festival celebrating Edgerton's deep clay and pottery history. Attendees will have the opportunity to try throwing a pot on a wheel, hand-build items from local clay, view local artists giving demonstrations and learn about the art of clay in general. Art vendors will be on site allowing attendees to shop and browse the booths along with musical entertainment. Food will also be available. Central Park, Swift Street Pavilion Area, 310 N. Main St., 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. 608-289-6084, [www.artscouncilledgerton.com](http://www.artscouncilledgerton.com)


**19-RURAL EDGERTON (ALBION) Albion Stroll Thru Arts in the Park Craft and Gift Fair:** This annual craft and gift fair is now in Albion Park in Albion, moving from Central Park in Edgerton. The fair offers many crafts and gifts, pie social, food, music and free parking. Albion Park, 605 Albion Rd. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Free admission. 608-289-1042, 608-884-6039

**22-27-JANESVILLE 96th Annual Rock County 4-H Fair:** The oldest 4-H fair in the United States. Midway rides, exhibits, demonstrations, grandstand entertainment, great food and family fun. Main stage entertainment on several evenings. Rock County Fairgrounds, 1301 Craig Ave. 7 a.m.-11 p.m. 608-755-1470, [www.rockcounty4Hfair.com](http://www.rockcounty4Hfair.com)

**26-CAMBRIDGE Cambridge Lake Ripley Ride:** The Cambridge Lake Ripley Ride offers three great route options: family-friendly 18-mile route, scenic and slightly hilly 40-mile route, and challenging 62-mile metric century route. Enjoy riding along quiet country roads while passing through Cambridge, Rockdale, Deerfield, and Lake Mills. Registration includes a map, scenic rest stops, a sag wagon for support, access to a sandy swimming

beach, and a FANTASTIC post-ride celebration with live music, refreshments, and a delicious dinner provided by the Cambridge Lions Club. Vegetarian and gluten-free options available. T-shirts are available for purchase at an additional cost of \$10. Lake Ripley Park, Park Road, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. 608-423-8108, Addtl. race info. can be found at <https://cambridgecap.net/programs/special-events/lrr/>.

**29-30-RURAL MILTON Lobster Boil at Buckhorn Supper Club:** Advance reservations and payment required. Space is limited. Bar opens at 5 p.m., boil-over and dinner at 6:30 p.m. On Lake Koshkonong, 11802 N. Charley Bluff Rd. 608-868-2653, [www.thebuckhorn.net](http://www.thebuckhorn.net)



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Continued on next page

**JULY EVENTS** continued from previous page**31-Aug.10-WEST ALLIS**

**Wisconsin State Fair:** The state's largest annual event blends Wisconsin agricultural traditions with the excitement of a contemporary, urban event. International Bazaar, midway thrills, blue ribbon livestock, 30 stages of top name entertainment and world-famous cream puffs. Among this year's acts are Midland with Southall on July 31, Boyz II Men with Bobby V on Aug. 1, NE-YO on Aug. 2, We The Kingdom & Josiah Queen on Aug. 4, KIDZ BOP LIVE on Aug. 5, Gabriel "Fluffy" Iglesias on Aug. 7, Darius Rucker with Uncle Kracker on Aug. 8, Lynyrd Skynyrd on Aug. 9 and The "Happy Together" Tour on Aug. 10. Wisconsin State Fair Park, 640 S. 84th St. 414-266-7000, www.wistatefair.com

**1-3-UTICA**

**Utica Festival:** Horse pull, live music, bingo, Badger State Super Farm & Hot Farm Tractor Pull, mini-rod pull, spectator truck pull, kids' sawdust money dig, softball tournament, food and concessions. Friday opens at 5 p.m., Saturday opens at 8 a.m., Sunday opens at 9 a.m. Utica Community Association Park in Utica, located between Cambridge and Stoughton. 608-764-8480, www.uticapark.org

**3-4-JANESVILLE**

**67th Annual Tallman Arts Festival:** The Rock County Historical Society hosts this annual festival on the grounds of the historic Lincoln-Tallman House, 440 N. Jackson St. The festival is juried and draws more than 100 artists from throughout the Midwest to display fine arts and studio crafts in a variety of media and styles. The festival includes music, food trucks, a beer garden with a variety of beverages, a silent auction, exhibits and a free family activity area. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 608-756-4509, www.rchs.us

**1-2-BELOIT**

**Celebrate Weekend-Downtown Beloit Sidewalk Sales and Street Dance:** On Aug. 1, sidewalk sale 8 a.m.-1 p.m. with children's activities. Also on Aug. 1, street dance runs from 5:30-11 p.m. on the 300 block of State Street. Sidewalk sales continue Aug. 1 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. 608-365-0150, www.visitbeloit.com/street-dance/

**8-10-BRODHEAD**

**Covered Bridge Days and Wildflower Art Festival:** The festival features native plant tours and educational programs as well as a juried, high-quality art festival in downtown Veterans Park; the exploration of the historic Mill Race by pontoon boat at the "Embrace the Race" event; and a regional garden tractor expo that brings hundreds of vintage and refurbished garden tractors to town. Among the many long-standing Covered Bridge Days activities are a kids' fun run, garden displays, tractor show with a thresheree and tractor pull, horse show with pony rides, toy tractor pull, flea market, vendors on the square, Model A antique car display and classic car show, historical tours, volleyball and softball tournaments, a street dance, a parade, food stands and beer gardens. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Downtown Square and south Brodhead. Check website to confirm details. 608-897-8411, 608-558-1967 (art festival), www.brodheadchamber.com

**9-22-STOUGHTON**

**Stoughton Chamber Music Festival:** celebrating its 7th season, presenting chamber music experiences artfully programed with compositions spanning 300 years, performed by brilliant early-career classical musicians for Stoughton WI and the surrounding communities. <https://stoughtonchambermusicfestival.com>

**16-STOUGHTON**

**Coffee Break Festival:** Small town fun in the place where the coffee break was born. Sample coffee from a host of coffee vendors, arts and crafts show, the Cup O' Joe Car Show, children's activities, music, food and beer. Also participate in the 1-mile fun run or 5k Java Jog. Mandt Park, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. 608-873-7912, www.stoughtonwi.com/coffee-break-festival

**17-MILTON**

**Milton House Museum's Arts and Crafts on the Lawn Fair:** Showcases more than 80 authentic arts and crafts vendors at a juried craft show. Now featuring Ezra's Treasures Vintage Row, guests will also see a selection of boutique vintage and upcycle vendors. Guests are invited inside the Milton House for an ice cream social and craft raffle. The Milton House will also offer special reduced rate admissions to those who would like to take a tour. Held in conjunction with the Milton Chamber's Chicken BBQ and Gathering Place's Concert in the Park. 18 S. Janesville St., 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. 608-868-7772, www.miltonhouse.org

**26-27-RURAL MILTON**

**Lobster Boil at Buckhorn Supper Club:** Advance reservations and payment required. Space is limited. Bar opens at 5 p.m., boil-over and dinner at 6:30 p.m. On Lake Koshkonong, 11802 N. Charley Bluff Rd. 608-868-2653, www.thebuckhorn.net

**29-Sept. 1-RURAL EDGERTON**

**64th Annual Rock River Thresheree Reunion:** This annual living history festival features working antique steam engines and equipment demonstrations in the 200 acre park. Take a train ride on the Rock River Cannonball and watch an operating saw mill and pile driver. Check out the blacksmith shop, woodcarvers, antique cars and trucks, construction equipment display and demonstrations, steam calliope, kids activities and more. Shop the large flea market and take the opportunity to drive your first tractor, watch the daily Parade of Power at 2 p.m., and enjoy live music each evening. This year's marquee feature is "Orphans and Oddballs," highlighting equipment that was manufactured by short-lived companies. Use entrance on Highway M, just off Highway 51. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. each day. Thresherman's Park, 51 E. Cox Rd. (bordering Highway 51 between Edgerton and Janesville). 608-868-2814, www.thresheree.org

**7-JANESVILLE**

**Janesville Lions Club Chicken Roast:** 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Traxler Park, Janesville. Janesville Noon Lions will offer a grilled chicken dinner for lunch in the park, carryout or drive-thru. We're also working with several community-based organizations and businesses to have additional activities and information booths available throughout the day. Rain or shine. 608-752-0085, <https://janesvillelions.org/chicken-roast/>

**7-RURAL BELLOIT**

**Heritage Sunday at Beckman Mill:** Enjoy historic demonstrators, mill tours, food, classic cars and a fascinating timeline of soldiers defending America. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Beckman Mill, 11600 S. County Rd. H. 608-751-1551, www.beckmanmill.org

**5-7-JEFFERSON**

**Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival:** Family event featuring stock dog trials; sheep, Shetland, Border Collie, fleece and hooked rug shows; auction; art classes and giant country store. Food and beverages served all day. Jefferson County Fair Park, 503 North Jackson Ave. 920-674-7148, www.wisconsinssheepandwoolfestival.com

**5-6-EDGERTON**

**Chilimania:** Featuring the upper midwest's largest chili cook-off and salsa competition. An average of 60 chili cook booths fill the street with mouth-watering smells. Musical entertainment by top bands rock the festival stage all day and into the night. Games and activities for children make Chilimania a good option for families. Food vendors and a beer area round out this fun-filled festival. Admission is charged. 10:30 a.m.-midnight. Also, don't miss the Sept. 5th Country Edge concert, an event that kicks off the Chilimania festival. Downtown. 608-561-7566 (days), www.chilimania.com

**13-JANESVILLE**

**Rock River Valley Carvers of Wisconsin Show and Sale:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Craig Center, Rock County Fairgrounds, 1301 Craig Ave. Admission is free (donations accepted). Woodcarvers from the local club will be joined by others from throughout Wisconsin and Illinois for an extensive display of many different types of wood carvings, as well as demonstrations throughout the day. Vendors will have wood and tools available for purchase, and attendees can vote on



their favorite carvings and enter the raffles. Food will be available. For more information call 608-868-4522, www.rockrivervalleycarvers.com

**12-14-JEFFERSON**

**54th annual Gemuetlichkeit Days:** Gemuetlichkeit is German for "good times, good fun, good fellowship." Enjoy great music, German food, German costumes and enter the contests going on throughout the weekend. The parade is Sunday at noon in downtown Jefferson. Jefferson County Fair Park, 503 N. Jackson Ave. Friday 5 p.m.-midnight, Saturday 9 a.m.-midnight, Sunday 12-7 p.m. 920-674-4511, www.gdays.org

**20-BELOIT**

**Annual Oktoberfest:** Dancing, cold German beer, live music all night. 5:30-11 p.m. State Street, downtown. 608-365-0150, www.downtownbeloit.com

**20-MILTON**

**Milton House Twilight Tours:** 5:30pm-8:30pm, Milton House, 18 S. Janesville St. Discover what the hotel would have looked like to travelers in 1854 on a special twilight reenactment tour of the Milton House Inn, where guests will witness the secrets the inn held as it served as a station on the Underground Railroad. While on tour, interact with members of the Goodrich family, other stagecoach passengers, some prominent Miltonians and one of the most significant of the Goodriches' guests – an escaped slave seeking shelter at the Milton House on her path to freedom. Twilight Tour is conducted by candle light. Due to the nature of the event, parental discretion for those under 13 years old is encouraged. Tours every 15 minutes. 608-868-7772, www.miltonhouse.org

**21-BELOIT**

**Autorama:** 49th Annual car show, swap meet, car corner, as well as an arts and crafts sale. One of the largest automotive one day events in the Midwest for classics, collectibles, street rods and trucks. Preservation Park. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. 608-290-3628, www.beloitautorama.com

**26-27-JEFFERSON**

**Fall Jefferson Car Show and Auto Swap Meet:** Swap meet, car corral and car show for classics, collectibles, street rods and trucks. Covers 99 acres. More than 3,100 vendor stalls and over 1,000 cars for sale. Swap and car corral both days; car show Saturday. Friday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday 6 a.m.-4 p.m. Jefferson County Fair Park, 503 N Jackson Ave. 608-244-8416 [www.madisonclassics.com/events/fall-jefferson/](http://www.madisonclassics.com/events/fall-jefferson/)

**23-24-RURAL MILTON**

**Lobster Boil at Buckhorn Supper Club:** Advance reservations and payment required. Space is limited. Bar opens at 5 p.m., boil-over and dinner at 6:30 p.m. On Lake Koshkonong, 11802 N. Charley Bluff Rd. 608-868-2653, www.thebuckhorn.net

**25-26-CAMBRIDGE AREA**

**Earth, Wood & Fire Artist Tour:** Prepare yourselves for new experiences in pottery, wood, textiles, painting, rural scenery, creative people, vivid culture, and big inspiration on this self-guided driving tour from 10 am to 5 pm. Each artist works to present their personalities, stories, and craft to you in exciting and new ways. 608-423-4507, www.earthwoodandfiretour.com

**28-29-Rural Milton**

**Lobster Boil at Buckhorn Supper Club:** Advance reservations and payment required. Space is limited. Bar opens at 5 p.m., boil-over and dinner at 6:30 p.m. Also a costume party on this date. On Lake Koshkonong, 11802 N. Charley Bluff Rd. 608-868-2653, www.thebuckhorn.net

**25-BELOIT**

**Halloween Parade and Party:** Children show off their costumes in a parade down Grand Avenue visiting downtown Beloit businesses for treats during the last farmers market of the season. The fun includes live music and activities. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. 608-365-0150, www.downtownbeloit.com

# Wet Bottoms at Newville Offers a Delightful Experience

By Janice Redford  
Special to the Reporter

Wet Bottoms is located on the scenic banks of the Rock River by the bridge in Newville and offers excellent food and entertainment six days a week (Wed. - Mon.) from 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

The owners of Wet Bottoms for the past 4 years are brothers Trevor and Brandon Kinnett. They have a lifetime of experience in the food and hospitality industry, as their parents John and Dawn Kinnett, owned Anchor Inn for 22 years, and they learned from them.

The Wet Bottoms building is a revitalized venue that offers a wide view of the Rock River. It Has outside and inside service of food and beverages; carry-out and delivery within 15 minutes of Newville; and live music on weekends.

The newest offering is Sunday Brunch from 8 a.m. until noon. Boat rentals are also available.

The owners of Wet Bottoms are local, and live in Newville. Trevor Kinnett is a 2010 graduate of Edgerton High School. He said that he especially enjoys the beauty of the water as it flows and changes throughout the seasons. Boating on the water is one of his favorite pastimes. Brandon Kinnett is a 2012 graduate of Edgerton High School. He



A Wet Bottoms welcome with Karly Drees and Brandon Kinnett.



Brothers and Owners Trevor and Brandon Kinnett with Manager Karly Drees.

says that he likes working with his brother, as they are a team on all segments required of the business.

Karly Drees is a major employee of Wet Bottoms who graduated from Milton High School in 2018 and UW-Whitewater in 2022. She adds zest and a joyful spirit to any visitor's experience.

Brandon explained that their patrons are boaters, bikers, campers,

neighbors and always exciting new people who come from many areas of Wisconsin and Illinois. He said, "Anybody is welcome, and being busy makes the days go faster!"

Customers who were enjoying Wet Bottoms during this writer's visit had come from Madison and said they like the wonderful food better than anything they can find in Madison.

# The Lake Koshkonong Monster

Written and contributed by Ben Feld

Watertown Republican, November 1887

When Watertown first learned of the famous Scottish Loch Ness monster in 1933, they had been talking about the monster in Lake Koshkonong for at least 46 years. For nearly half a century skeptics and believers alike had enjoyed telling and retelling the tale of the alleged sighting by two storytellers on a duck-hunting expedition long ago.

To be sure, the Koshkonong monster was not the size of the Loch Ness monster. It couldn't be, given the shallowness of the lake. No aquatic beast of any great size could find an area of sufficient depth to conceal itself in that reed-filled pond. But it was sighted, not once, but six times, albeit the other five sightings were in Red Cedar Lake a few miles away. Strangely, the Red Cedar Lake sightings were not mentioned in the newspapers until quite some time after the fact.

The one sighting which did find its way into the Watertown Republican took place in early November,

1887, when two men, A. I. Sherman of Fort Atkinson and his cousin, Charles Bartlett of Milwaukee, were duck hunting on Lake Koshkonong. While rowing down the south edge of a bay in the northeastern part of the lake, they both spotted, about 150 feet away, a huge snake-like object swimming toward the center of the lake. It swam with the head raised about two feet above the water, and about ten feet of the trunk, which appeared to be eight inches thick, was partly visible. The water being very calm at that time, the highly visible wake left by the creature indicated it was about thirty or forty feet long.

Without a thought about the wisdom of their actions, and following the instincts of the inveterate hunters they were, Sherman and Bartlett put their oars into the water and began rowing at top speed toward the animal hoping to kill it and examine it at close range. But the creature, for it could not truly be called a snake, a fish, or a lizard, spotted them and at once slipped under the surface leaving the pair befuddled, astonished, and thoroughly disappointed at having to abandon the chase.

Forever after, the two



nimrods stoutly maintained they were in no way under the influence of the ardent spirits and they never failed to remind the skeptics that at least six times a similar sighting had been reported in Red Cedar Lake only a few miles away.

One wonders, were A. I. Sherman and Charles Bartlett still around when the newspapers announced the sighting of the Loch Ness monster 46 years later? Was their veracity doubted any less? Did they feel they had finally been vindicated?

Or did the skeptics conclude that the sighting of a strange creature in Lake Koshkonong and a monster in Loch Ness, in Scotland, prove that hallucinations are not limited by national boundaries?



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# When Lake Koshkonong was a Marsh

By Lauren Drapes

Although the area surrounding Lake Koshkonong is now home to the towns of Milton, Edgerton, and Fort Atkinson, the region looked very different before the middle of the nineteenth century.

The lake itself did not exist until 1851 when the creation of the first Indianford Dam, turned the marsh land into the lake of today. Before the lake, early European settler Lucien B. Caswell described the marshland as a flowing stream so densely packed with wild rice and celery that it was hard even to navigate in a canoe.

Before the lake was created by European settlers, several Native American tribes used the area that would become Lake Koshkonong. It provided tribes food, water, and shelter. There was fresh water for drinking, cooking, and attracting animals.

The area hosted an abundance of wild rice and celery, and these in turn brought a huge wild duck population for hunting. The reeds could also be used as a material to craft shelters and sleeping mats. The marshland allowed for easy transportation by boat. Because of the abundance of resources, the area became a meeting place for several Native American nations.

### Earliest Settlement

People have been living along the shores of Lake Koshkonong for a very long time. From archeological evidence, we know that several Native American cultures inhabited the area surrounding Lake Koshkonong. That evidence dates to roughly 10,000 B.C. Burial mounds in the area show that people from the Woodland and Mississippian cultures occupied the lake area and greatly valued the land. By the fifteenth century, several Native American tribes had strong roots in the Lake Koshkonong region. They included the Potawatomi, Sauk, Meskwaki, and Ho Chunk nations.

### A New Home After War

Over the several centuries before the treaty-making era,

control over the Lake Koshkonong region changed hands between native powers many times. However, the Ho Chunk and Potawatomi tribes are often most associated with the lake itself because they lived near the shores of the marsh during the first European settlement in the region.

The Potawatomi were relative newcomers to the Lake Koshkonong area. Originally living in northern Michigan, the Potawatomi settled in the region after the end of the French and Iroquois Wars. The French and Iroquois Wars, also known as the Beaver Wars, were a series of wars during the seventeenth century in which the Iroquois tried to take control of the lucrative fur trade.

After a series of defeats, the Potawatomis, like many other Algonquin-speaking tribes such as the Ojibwe, fled the conflict. They moved west into the upper Great Lakes region. By 1820, it is estimated that around 10,000 Potawatomi people lived in the region that would become Jefferson County.

Meanwhile, the Ho Chunk also called Lake Koshkonong home. The lake played a large role in the Ho Chunk peoples' traditional food practices. Members of the nation visited the lake annually to hunt and gather. The Ho Chunk established one permanent settlement on the shores of Lake Koshkonong, White Crow Village at Carcajou Point. This village was a place of permanent residence, but had a varying amount of residents at any given time and was a gathering place for the tribe.

French fur-traders recorded the first European accounts of the region that would become Lake Koshkonong. Charles Gautier de Verville arrived first in January of 1778. He traveled there from what is now Green Bay, looking for potential sites for new fur trading posts. Joseph Thiebeau Cavelle, Charles Poe, and Elleck de Mar followed his path in 1785 and established cabins along the shore of Lake Koshkonong. These early settlers were primarily interested in fur trading.

After the Revolutionary

## Species in Lake Koshkonong



Aerial view of current Lake Koshkonong. File Photo

War, the newly-formed United States gained control of the region. The states attempted to govern settlement and trade in the territory through The Northwest Ordinance of 1787. Though fur trading continued to play a part in the regional economy, the fur trade had begun a sharp decline and was replaced by settlers interested not in trade but in acquiring land.

### Cultural Persistence and Lake Koshkonong

For these new settlers, land was their primary focus instead of fur trading. One early settler, Lucien B. Caswell, described the land "as a vast meadow" and declared that "no more

beautiful landscape was ever painted." Apart from the beauty of the land, it also held important potential for the establishment of towns and the utilization of important resources, like the wildlife and water resources.

A Treaty in 1829, known as the Third Treaty of Prairie du Chien, ceded most of the Wisconsin land claimed by the Ho Chunk and other native peoples to the United States, including the land around Lake Koshkonong. In exchange, the United

States promised the Ho Chunk yearly annuity payments for 30 years, an immediate payment of \$30,000 dollars (\$813,374 in 2018 dollars), and an agreement to maintain the Fox and Wisconsin river portage. A law from 1895 further barred the Ho Chunk from returning to the shores of the lake.

Despite such laws, however, many Ho Chunk people continued to make pilgrimages to Lake Koshkonong. They came after the land of lush reeds had been transformed into one of the largest lakes in Wisconsin with creation of the larger Indianford Dam in 1932. Maintaining practices like an annual visit to Lake Koshkonong

to hunt and harvest food is an important way for indigenous knowledge and culture to be passed-on to the next generation.

To learn more about plants, foodways, and Native American cultural revitalization, listen in on Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer's interview with Wisconsin Public Radio about her book Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teaching of Plants.

Dr. Kimmerer is a member of the Potawatomi Nation. Her interview touches on many of the historical events discussed in this post and their consequences for subsequent generations.

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# Albion Tigers gearing up for season

By Matt Towns

For millions of Americans, the summer sunshine means one thing - baseball. But while major league turnstiles spin and little league fields echo with the yells of youngsters, baseball fans in the Edgerton area have been visiting the quaint little ballpark in Albion for generations to see something a little different - Home Talent baseball, amateur baseball at its best.

Making their home in the idyllic setting of Albion Park, the Albion Tigers are part of the 42-team Home Talent League, the oldest and largest amateur baseball league in Wisconsin. As the name suggests, clubs in the Home Talent League primarily draw their players from their local communities. This creates a unique connection for their players and supporters, one not often found at other levels of sport.

Drawing their talent almost exclusively from the successful baseball program at nearby Edgerton High School, the Tigers currently compete in the Southeast Section of the league. There are also Home Talent League ballclubs in nearby Fort Atkinson, Jefferson, Cambridge, Stoughton, and Utica.

The Southeast Section schedule, consisting primarily of Sunday afternoon games, starts in May and runs through August. In addition, Albion plays an Eastern Night League game most Thursday nights.

Built on the campus of the old Albion Academy, Albion Park is truly a unique place to spend a day in the park and catch a ballgame. Without an outfield fence to obstruct their view, many fans sit under the shade trees beyond the outfield. Those who like to be closer to the action congregate nearer the infield on bleachers or lawn chairs and avail themselves of the concession stand. The stand serves bratwurst, hot dogs, cold



Charlie Hatlen and the Albion Tigers kicked off the 2025 home talent season with an 8-2 win over visiting Poynette. Photo by Jeff Brown



drinks, and other items. Indoor restrooms, a playground for the kids, and the overall relaxed atmosphere of the small village park add to the attraction for Tiger fans young and old.

### Not-so-humble Beginnings

The original Albion Tigers ballclub was a semi-professional organization in the 1930s. These were some heady times for the little hamlet, as Albion was able to attract players from as far away as Madison, Milwaukee, and Rockford. The farmers and merchants of Edgerton and the surrounding area were no different than most places in America at the time -- they loved and supported their local baseball club, and the weekly games were known to draw up to 2,000 fans on a Sunday afternoon. Unfortunately, the ballclub was disbanded in the early 1940s as the country turned its focus to World War II.

### A long run of success

In 1946, the Albion Tigers were reborn as an amateur outfit, and a year later they joined the Home Talent League. Under the leadership and management of

Albion tobacco and dairy farmer Wally Olstad, Albion established themselves as a lasting power, winning sectional championships and reaching the league's Grand Championship Series in 1953, 1957, and 1976.

The 1953 Tigers, in celebration of Edgerton's centennial, grew out their beards and went down in legend as "The Bearded Tigers" as they pounded their way to the Eastern Section championship. Many of those stars were still around in 1957 when Albion ran through the Eastern Section undefeated only to fall in the league title game 2-1 to Middleton. Wally told an Albion manager many years later that "I had 22 ballplayers on that team. Nobody could beat us."

Wally Olstad would stay with the club until 1985, at which point longtime Tiger standout Larry Buhrow would take over the reins. Olstad compiled 319 wins in his 39 seasons, and was named Manager of the Year twice (1976 and 1981) in addition to his three sectional championships. Wally's name still appears on the hand-operated scoreboard and a concrete memorial bench

in Albion Park.

### A new millenium

The Tigers of the early 2000s again established themselves as a perennial contender in the Southeast Section. After a lengthy postseason drought, they returned to the Southeast playoffs in 2002 and have been back 13 times since, most recently in 2023. Jim Eastman (2002), Matt Towns (2004), and Ben Towns (2012) have all been recognized as HTL Manager of the Year for their efforts in keeping Albion near the top of the Southeast Section standings.

2011 provided a high point - a Southeast Section title and Albion's fourth trip to the Home Talent League's Grand Championship Series. 2012 brought a 24-4 overall record but saw the Tigers fall one game short of a title repeat. In 2014, the Tigers found themselves one strike away from the Series, only to lose the sectional final to archrival Utica in extra innings.

### Champions!!!!

Albion broke through again in 2016, and in a big way. Winning their division with a 13-3 record in the Southeast Section, the Tigers dispatched Clinton with a 4-0 decision in



Garrett Revels (shown here batting) and three other Albion pitchers combined to three-hit Lake Mills in a 9-3 road win on Saturday, May 10. Photo by Jeff Brown

Albion Park. One week later, the Tigers exploded for 8 runs in the last three innings at Fort Atkinson to win a sectional title for the fifth time in their history.

However, the 2016 Tigers were far from satisfied with a trip to the Home Talent League Grand Championship Series. The three-week, round-robin tournament of sectional champions included Albion (Southeast), Monona (East), Wiota (West), and Sauk Prairie (North).

After consecutive 4-1 victories against Monona and at Sauk Prairie, the Tigers had set the table for the biggest and most important game in their 71-year history: a home game against Wiota to win an undisputed Home Talent League title. The Tigers would ultimately win a back-and-forth game by the score of 6-5 to set off a celebration in Albion Park that still has not been forgotten.

### Today's Albion Tigers

The 2025 season will be the 80th season of Albion Tiger baseball, and promises to be as entertaining as any of the previous 79 seasons.

Albion's current roster includes no less than four former or current collegiate players. While

many long-time veteran players have retired, a new batch of recruits has committed to playing for their hometown club. Some of the players key to the success of the last few seasons include Beloit College outfielder Drew Hanson, Winona State fireballer Peyton Lee, slugging infielder Steven Olson, and speedy shortstop Shane Kisting.

Veteran support and reliability comes from pitcher/outfielder Brian Rusch, left-handed pitcher Charlie Hatlen, and outfielder Matthew Klubertanz -- all of whom are former Edgerton High standouts.

A batch of recent Edgerton High graduates including Ethan Stengel, Tyler LaSchum, and Marcus Richards will surely contribute to any success that Albion may have in 2025 and in the coming years.

A full copy of Albion's 2025 schedule is available below, or by visiting the Tiger facebook page. Whether you're a die-hard baseball fan or simply looking for an enjoyable day in the park, there are plenty of reasons to make the trip to Albion for a unique baseball and community experience.

Sunday April 27	1pm	..... Poynette
Sunday May 4	1pm	..... Columbus
Saturday May 10	1pm	..... @Lake Mills*
Sunday May 18	1pm	..... Evansville*
Thursday May 22	7:30pm	..... @Jefferson
Sunday May 25	1pm	..... @Footville*
Monday May 26	1pm	..... Stoughton*
Sunday June 1	1pm	..... @McFarland*
Wednesday June 4	6pm	..... Columbus
Thur/Fri June 5/6		..... @FortAtkinsonTourney
Sunday June 8	1pm	..... Jefferson*
Tuesday June 10	6:15pm	..... @Stoughton
Thur/Fri June 12/13		..... @FortAtkinsonTourney
Sunday June 15	4pm	..... @Evansville*
Thur/Fri June 19/20		..... @FortAtkinsonTourney
Sunday June 22	1pm	..... Utica*
Wednesday June 25	6pm	..... Waterloo
Sunday June 29	1pm	..... @Stoughton*
Friday July 4	1pm	..... Lake Mills*
Sunday July 6	3pm	Cambridge*(@FortAtkinson)
Thursday July 10	6pm	..... Utica
Sunday July 13	1pm	..... @Utica*
Wednesday July 16	6pm	..... Cambridge
Sunday July 20	2pm	..... Footville*(@T-Days)
Thursday July 24	7:30pm	..... @Fort Atkinson
Sunday July 27	12:30pm	..... Fort Atkinson*
Thursday July 31	7pm	..... SunPrairie(@Marshall)
Friday August 1		ALL-STAR GAME ..... @Fort

*Red = Albion \* = Southeast Section*

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Renae & Jamie Becker, with children, Travis and Payton.

— The Beckers





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# Cooking the Koshkonong Catch...



By: Lettie Smith

What's in a name? So the novice angler is apt to ponder when he or she surveys row upon row of Maribou Jigs, Mepps Spinners, Dardevle Spoons, Rapala Plugs and their relatives hanging in the modern bait shop. Whatever happened to the good old worm? After all, a fish is a fish.

But a catfish is not a carp, and neither is a crappie. Buffalo and bullheads are not to be confused with the four-legged variety. And while walleye and northern are called pike, walleye is actually perch. Each of these gourmets has its own culinary preference -- just as some anglers prefer walleye under glass, and others hunger for bluegill in the grass.

Here's hoping the following tidbits will appeal to both land and water dwellers of Lake Koshkonong.

Let's start with walleye, perhaps the best eating game fish in Wisconsin. Walleye is a long, narrow fish with mottled sides and translucent eyes, which give it its name. This fish is a predator, so watch out for the sharp teeth. It averages one to three pounds in Wisconsin waters, but catches of up to sixteen pounds have been recorded. Walleye likes deep cool water on a hot summer day, and returns to the shallows, reefs and bars at night. A deep-running plug might find one in the depths, but a more likely prospect is a medium-weight jig garnished with a minnow and dangled in the night shallows.

Then there is northern pike, the largest Wisconsin predator fish outside muskie territory. It looks a lot like the muskie, long and sleek with an elongated jaw and lots of teeth. It can grow to over forty inches and twenty pounds.

Medieval mythology knew pike as Luce, or waterwolf. The fish was said to attack men, and pike bones were worn as talismen against witchcraft. Nowadays, it only attacks live fish or bait resembling fish, such as spoons (not the kitchen variety). It lurks in weedy areas along the shoreline, watching for unsuspecting prey.

Channel catfish and carp abound in Koshkonong, and you can also find bullhead and buffalo fish. They're vacuum cleaners, so look for them on the bottom. When skinned, these fish can be eaten smoked. Catfish can also be stewed, and carp are occasionally boiled.

Channel catfish and bullheads, both in the catfish family, are scale-less and "whiskered". The channel variety is blueish color; the bullhead has sharp spiny fins. They both bite best in warm weather after dark, and their keen sense of smell will find most any smelly bait, from worms to cheese to chicken entrails. Catfish swallow the whole bait, so they'll need a hook extractor.

Carp and buffalo are suckers. You can recognize carp by its tubelike mouth and buffalo by its toothless grin. Doughballs are the basic bait, and can be most effective laced with cheese. Although carp is not a game fish, it will put up a good fight when hooked, and can be satisfying to catch.

## WALLEYE SUPREME

- |                           |                               |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2 pounds walleye filleted | 1/3 cup lemon juice           |
| 1/2 cup melted fat or oil | 3 T. soy sauce                |
| 1/2 cup sesame seeds      | 1 tsp. salt                   |
| 1/3 cup cognac            | 1 large clove garlic, crushed |

Cut fish into serving-size portions. Combine remaining ingredients, pour over fish and let stand for 30 minutes, turning once. Remove fish, reserving sauce for basting. Place fish in well-greased, hinged wire grills. Cook about 4 inches from moderately hot coals for 8 minutes. Baste with sauce. Turn and cook for 7- 10 minutes longer or until fish flakes easily when tested with a fork.

## BAKED WALLEYE WITH DRESSING

(Courtesy of Wisconsin Sportsman Magazine)

- |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| 4 top ends of celery                      | 1/4 cup sugar   |
| 2 juicy apples                            | 1 medium onion  |
| 2 slices of bread cut in small squares    | 1 T. leaf thyme |
| 1/2 cup raisins, washed in very hot water | 3 T. butter     |

Slice celery and apples. Mix in bread, thyme, raisins, sugar, onion and butter. Fill cavity of fish with dressing. Put toothpicks on sides of fish and lace with string to hold dressing. Spread butter over top of stuffed fish and bake in 375 oven until golden brown, approximately 45-50 minutes.

## For the angler's palate:



**Bullhead**

## BARBECUED FISH

(Chris Lagerman, formerly of Edgerton, hooked third place in a Wisconsin State Journal cooking contest for this recipe.)

- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| 2-3 pounds fresh fish steaks, or fillets | 1 T. sugar             |
| 1/2 cup salad oil                        | 2T. sherry             |
| 1/4 cup tarragon red wine vinegar        | 3T. soy sauce          |
| 1/2 tsp. ginger                          | 1/4 tsp. garlic powder |

Arrange fish in glass baking pan. Combine oil, vinegar, ginger, sugar, sherry, soy sauce and garlic powder. Pour over fish, and marinate for 1 hour. Place fish on well-oiled grill or in a well-oiled hinged grill over glowing coals. Barbecue for 10-15 minutes, brushing frequently with marinade. Turn carefully with spatula or turn the hinged grill. Continue barbecuing for 10-15 minutes or until fish is done. Lift carefully onto hot platter and brush well with remaining marinade.



**Walleye**



**Northern Pike**

## FRESH BLUEBERRY SAUCE FOR FISH OR CHEESE

- You'll need:
- |                   |                                  |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| 200g blueberries  | 1 tsp grated fresh ginger        |
| 25g red onion     | scant 0.5 tsp salt (or to taste) |
| 2 tsp lemon juice |                                  |

**The Steps:**  
Whiz the ingredients together in a food processor or blender until well combined.  
Serve as a sauce to accompany some baked or steamed white fish or try with some brie or camembert or whatever else takes your fancy.

**The Variations:**  
If you want to add a little bit of a kick, you could throw some fresh green chili into the mix.

**The Results:**  
If you're serving with fish, this probably makes enough for about 4 portions.

## PRAISEWORTHY PIKE

(Courtesy of Wisconsin Sportsman Magazine)

- |                               |                                 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2 medium tomatoes             | 1/2 cup American cheese         |
| 1 cup finely cubed raw potato | 8 slices cooked bacon, crumbled |
| 1/2 cup chopped green pepper  | 1/2 tsp. black pepper           |
| 1 T butter                    | 3 strips uncooked bacon         |
| 1 cup stale bread crumbs      |                                 |

Split fish lengthwise, clean carefully and dry. Head may or may not be removed. Sprinkle inside of fish with salt. Dice tomatoes, mix with potatoes, green pepper, bread, cheese, bacon and pepper. Place stuffing inside fish loosely, leaving room for expansion, and sew opening with strong thread. Lay a piece of cheesecloth in bottom of large baking pan and place fish on it. Brush fish with butter and place bacon strips on top. Bake in 325 oven for 1-1/2 hours. When done baking, fish may be lifted out intact on cheesecloth and transferred to serving platter. Garnish platter with thick tomato slices topped with little mountains of coleslaw.

Now to the small fry. Lake Koskonong holds a number of tasty panfish -- crappie, white bass, sunnies, and the delectable bluegill. Panfish are short and saucershaped with upturned nose and small mouth. Crappie are silver marked with black, and white bass are silver with dark horizontal stripes. Bluegill are green under a purple luster, and sunnies are the familiar gold.

Look for these little delicacies at dusk in the shallows under some kind of cover, such as weeds or the branches of a fallen tree. Tempt them with lightweight jigs, artificial flies, spinners, tiny minnows, and small plugs or poppers. If you catch one, you'll probably catch more -- they hang out in schools.

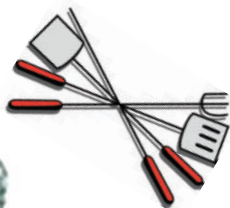
**Bon appetit!**



**White Bass**



**Crappie**



**FISHERMAN'S DELIGHT**

- |                          |                                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 6 pan-dressed small fish | 1/4 cup yellow cornmeal        |
| 1/4 cup evaporated milk  | and/or 1/4 cup bread crumbs    |
| 1-1/2 tsp. salt          | and/or 1/4 cup parmesan cheese |
| dash pepper              | 1 tsp. paprika                 |
| 1/2 cup flour            | 12 slices bacon                |

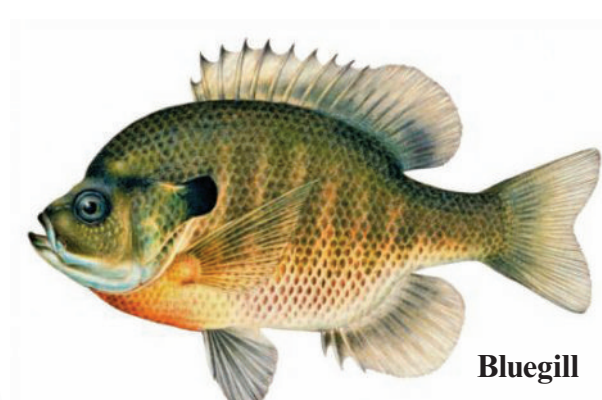
Clean, wash and dry fish. Combine milk, salt and pepper. Combine flour, paprika and any combination of cornmeal, bread crumbs and parmesan cheese. Dip fish in milk mixture and roll in flour mixture. Fry bacon in a heavy fry pan about 4 inches from hot coals until crisp. Remove bacon, reserving fat for frying. Drain bacon on absorbent paper. Fry fish in hot fat for 4 minutes. Turn carefully and fry for 4-6 minutes longer or until fish is brown and flakes easily. Drain on absorbent paper and serve with bacon.

**CRAPPIE IN THE GRASS**

(Courtesy of Wisconsin Sportsman Magazine)

- 6 crappie carefully cleaned and scaled with heads and tails on
- 6 strips of bacon
- 12 slices of raw onion
- salt and pepper

Take each cleaned fish and insert strip of bacon and 2 slices of onion in body cavity. Put a little salt and pepper on each fish. Dig a trench about 10 inches deep and wide enough to hold fish. Build a charcoal fire in trench. When coals are good and hot, remove half of them with a shovel. Smooth out remaining coals, then cover with 1 inch of grass. Put fish on grass, cover with more grass, and add remaining coals and cover with warm earth. In 1 hour fish will be done.



**Bluegill**



**NEIL HESSELMAN'S SECRET FISH FRY RECIPE**

Lay the fillets out and lightly salt and pepper them. (You can use Mrs. Dash's table blend also.)

Dip in a beaten egg.  
Roll in a mixture of 1/2 white soda crackers crushed and 1/2 regular potato chips crushed.  
Make sure you roll several times until well coated.

Deep fry in 1" vegetable or peanut oil.  
For larger batches use fish fryer.



**PICKLED BLUEGILL**

- |                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 12-15 bluegills       | 1/4 tsp. whole allspice |
| 2 cups vinegar        | 2-3 bay leaves          |
| 1 cup water           | 3 tsp. sugar            |
| 1 medium onion sliced |                         |

Salt fish as for frying and keep refrigerated 12 hours. Combine remaining ingredients and bring to a boil. Add fish and boil 7-8 minutes. Pack fish in fruit jar, pour liquid to top of jar and seal--or serve as soon as chilled.



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Edgerton, Wisconsin  
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Monday - Friday: 6 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Saturday & Sunday: 6 a.m. - 2 p.m.



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Hours Mon-Fri 3-10 • Sat-Sun 12-10

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**Outdoor Patio & Tiki Bar**  
Shared with 2 Brothers  
Open daily 3pm-Close



**1/2 Price pizza Monday**  
Dine in only

**Live Music**



**Bar Hours M-F 3 p.m. - 2 a.m.**  
Sat-Sun 11-2  
124 W. Fulton St., Edgerton  
WI 608-884-0211



**Live Music Weekends**

## Enjoy summer here with your friends!

**Spacious Patio with Outdoor Tiki Bar**

Prime Rib on Fri and Sat



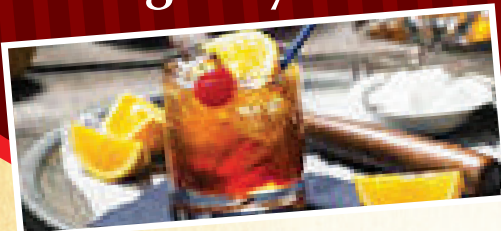
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**Live Band every Friday and Saturday all summer**

**Happy Hours 3 - 5 p.m.**  
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**\$3 Tall Double Rail Mixers**  
**\$2 Domestic Bottle/Taps**  
**1/2 Price Apps**

116 W. Fulton St., Edgerton • 608-884-3088

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**Please contact**  
**Urim for Bookings 609-718-1545**

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# AFFORDABLE FAMILY FUN



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## APRIL

1	2	3	4 6:05	5 1:05		
			SB	SB		
6 1:05	7	8 6:35	9 6:35	10 6:35	11 6:35	12 1:05
SB		CR	CR	CR	CR	CR
13 1:05	14	15 1:05	16 11:10	17 6:05	18 6:05	19 1:05
CR		QC	QC	QC	QC	QC
20 1:05	21	22 7:05	23 7:05	24 7:05	25 7:05	26 4:05
QC		SB	SB	SB	SB	SB
27 2:05	28	29 11:05	30 6:35			
SB		PEO	PEO			

## MAY

				1 6:35	2 7:05	3 7:05
				PEO	PEO	PEO
4 2:05	5	6 6:05	7 11:10	8 6:05	9 6:05	10 1:05
PEO		CR	CR	CR	CR	CR
11 1:05	12	13 6:40	14 12:10	15 6:40	16 6:40	17 1:10
CR		WIS	WIS	WIS	WIS	WIS
18 1:10	19	20 6:05	21 11:10	22 6:05	23 6:35	24 6:35
WIS		QC	QC	QC	QC	QC
25 1:05	26	27 6:05	28 11:05	29 7:05	30 7:05	31 7:05
QC		LAN	LAN	LAN	LAN	LAN

## JUNE

1 1:05	2	3 6:05	4 6:05	5 6:05	6 6:05	7 6:35
LAN		FW	FW	FW	FW	FW
8 1:05	9	10 6:30	11 6:30	12 6:30	13 6:30	14 5:30
FW		QC	QC	QC	QC	QC
15 1:00	16	17 6:05	18 6:35	19 6:05	20 6:05	21 6:35
QC		CR	CR	CR	CR	CR
22 1:05	23	24 6:35	25 12:05	26 6:35	27 7:05	28 7:05
CR		PEO	PEO	PEO	PEO	PEO
29 2:05	30					
PEO						

## JULY

		1 6:35	2 6:35	3 6:35	4 6:40	5 6:40
		WIS	WIS	WIS	WIS	WIS
6 1:10	7	8 6:05	9 1:05	10 6:05	11 6:05	12 6:35
WIS		DAY	DAY	DAY	DAY	DAY
13 1:05	14	15	16	17	18 7:05	19 7:05
DAY					SB	SB
20 2:05	21	22 7:05	23 7:05	24 7:05	25 7:05	26 7:05
SB		GL	GL	GL	GL	GL
27 1:05	28	29 6:05	30 6:05	31 6:05		
GL		PEO	PEO	PEO		

## AUGUST

				1 6:05	2 6:35	
				PEO	PEO	
3 1:05	4	5 6:30	6 6:30	7 6:30	8 6:30	9 5:30
PEO		QC	QC	QC	QC	QC
10 1:00	11	12 6:05	13 6:05	14 6:05	15 6:05	16 6:35
QC		SB	SB	SB	SB	SB
17 1:05	18	19 6:05	20 6:05	21 6:05	22 6:05	23 6:35
SB		WIS	WIS	WIS	WIS	WIS
24 1:05	25	26 6:35	27 6:35	28 6:35	29 6:35	30 6:35
WIS		CR	CR	CR	CR	CR
						31 1:05
						CR

## SEPTEMBER

		1	2 6:05	3 6:05	4 6:05	5 6:05	6 6:35
			PEO	PEO	PEO	PEO	PEO
7 1:05							
PEO							

- CR CEDAR RAPIDS KERNELS
- DAY DAYTON DRAGONS
- FW FORT WAYNE TINCAPS
- PEO PEORIA CHIEFS
- QC QUAD CITIES RIVER BANDITS
- SB SOUTH BEND CUBS
- WIS WISCONSIN TIMBER RATTLETS
- TWINS REDS
- PADRES
- CARDINALS
- ROYALS
- CUBS
- BREWERS

HOME AWAY

# THEME NIGHT HIGHLIGHTS

MAY 24 DRONE SHOW

JUNE 6 HAWAIIAN SHIRT GIVEAWAY

JUNE 7 DINO NIGHT

JUNE 20 PRINCESS NIGHT

JUNE 21 THE ROCK NIGHT

JULY 3 FIRST RESPONDERS NIGHT

JULY 12 CHRISTMAS IN JULY

AUGUST 1 JOCKO BOBBLEHEAD

AUGUST 2 HARRY POTTER NIGHT

AUGUST 16 STAR WARS NIGHT

AUGUST 3 A HOUSE DIVIDED NIGHT



CHECK OUT OUR WEEKLY PROMOS

LET'S GET SOCIAL





# Lake Koshkonong Fun Begins Here !!!



## MUSIC SCHEDULE

### JUNE

1. Rainbow Bridge 3-7, Dan Witt 12-3
5. 2 guys and Guitars 5-9
6. That Gurl 6-10
7. There and Back 6:30-9:30, DJ Karaoke 9-1
8. Dan Witt 12-3, Moth 3-7
12. Junkyard Kings Duo 5-9
13. Bad Habit 6-10
14. OTL Boys 6-10, Dj Karaoke 9-1
15. Dan Witt 12-3, Night Fire 3-7
19. Back to Back 5-9
20. Whiplash 6-10
21. Audio Drive 6-10, Dj Karaoke 9-1
22. Jimmy Z 12-3, MTVS 3-7
26. Frank and CO 5-9
27. Marcie and the Highlights 6-10
28. Planet Rocks 6-10, DJ Karaoke 9-1
29. Dan Witt 12-3, Roxstar 3-7

### JULY

3. Jestin Jay Trio 5-9
4. Blue Steel 6-10

5. Bree Morgan and the CHiiiBillies, 2:30-6:30 The remedy 6:30-11, DJ Karaoke 9-1
6. Dan Witt 12-3, Breaking Cadence 3-7
10. Matt Kaye Music 5-9
11. Junk Yard Kings 6-10
12. OTL boys 6-10, DJ Karaoke 9-1
13. Dan Witt 12-3, Matt and Sadie 3-7
17. 2 Guys and Guitars 5-9
18. Stereotype with Kevin and Greg 6-10
19. Back to Back 2-6, End Fight Scene 6-10, DJ Karaoke 9-1
20. Jimmy Z 12-3, That 70s Band 3-7
24. Matt Andrus 5-9
25. Rough Riders 6-10
26. Rat Baxter 6-10, DJ Karaoke 9-1
27. Dan Witt 3-7, Marcie and the Highlights 3-7
31. Jason D Pettitt 5-9

### AUGUST

1. Junk Yard Kings 6-10
2. Honey Fingers 6-10, DJ Karaoke 9-1

3. Dan Witi 12-3 Buck Necked 3-7
7. Mati Jaye Music 5-9
8. Jason Petiti Band 6-10
9. Planet Rocks 6-10
10. Dan Witi 12-3, 90 Proof 3-7
14. 2 Guys And Guitars 5-9
15. Jestin Jay Trio 6-10
16. End Fight Scene 6-10, DJ Karaoke 9-1
17. Dan Witi 12-3, That 70s Band 3-7
21. Mati Andrus 5-9
22. Night Fire 6-10
23. Audio Drive 6-10, DJ Karaoke 9-1
24. Dan Witi 12-3, Marcie and The Highlights 3-7
28. Junk Yard Kings Duo 5-9
29. That Gurl 6-10
30. DJ Karaoke 9-1 Rough Riders 5-9
31. Bree Morgan and The Chill Billies W/Dem Horny Funkers 2:30-7 Blue Steel 7-11

### SEPTEMBER

1. Breaking Cadence 3-7
4. Jimmy Z 5-9
6. Cherokee Rose 6-10
7. Rainbow Bridge 3-7
12. Whiplash 6-10
13. Audio Drive 6-10 DJ Karaoke 9-1
14. Bad Habbit 3-7
18. Two Guys and Guitars 5-9
19. Bree Morgan and Dem Horny Funkers 6-10
20. Marci and The Highlights 6-10, Karaoke DJ 9-1
21. Mati and Sadie 3-7
26. 2 AM Band 6-10
27. Madd Ladders 6-10, DJ Karaoke 9-1
28. Leaving Scarlet 3-7

### OCTOBER

3. Party Marty 6-10
4. Buck Neck Ed 5-9, DJ Karaoke 9-1
11. Rough Riders 5-9

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Open 7 days a week, music Thursday through Sunday and DJ every Saturday after the band

Saturday Night  
Prime Rib,  
Lobster

Friday  
All-Day Fish Fry!  
Featuring Walleye, Salmon,  
Bluegill, Lobster Tails & Cod



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[www.lakeviewcampgroundandbar.com](http://www.lakeviewcampgroundandbar.com)

1901 E. Hwy. 59, Milton, WI • Directions: from I-39/90 - Exit 163 Milton/Edgerton.

Take WI 59 east toward Milton - 1 mile. Turn left into Lakeview Campground Bar & Grill driveway

Monday - Steak Special • Tuesday - Steak Special • Wednesday - BBQ Ribs & Wings • Thursday - Build your own tacos • Friday - Fish Fry All Day-Cod, Bluegill, Walleye, Grilled Salmon, Lobster and expanded Salad Bar

# Milton Hot Spots & Happenings

The 15-acre **Tails 'n' Trails Dog Park** features a separate fenced area for large dogs and another for small dogs, a small playground outside the fenced area, offstreet parking, trails and a clean water source. Located at the corner of John Paul Road and Vincent Street, the park is open and free to the public, but donation bins are found there for supportive dog owners looking to help the park become self-sufficient. A site plan is found on the city's webpage for the dog park. 608-868-6900, ci.milton.wi.us/index.aspx?nid=262



the Milton College Preservation Society, which is dedicated to the preservation of the college's historic memorabilia and records, as well as the maintenance of the Main Hall. Founded by a group of early Milton settlers, including Milton House owner Joseph Goodrich, Milton College existed between 1844 and 1982. The buildings on this historic site were built in the mid-1800s. Milton College was the first co-ed liberal arts college in Wisconsin. 608-868-2354, www.miltoncollege.org

Looking for a convenient place where the kids can get a quick cool down on those dog days of summer? Try **Milton's Goodrich Square Splash Pad**. Located on the southwest side of South Goodrich Park (corner of Parkview Drive and East High Street), the splash pad is open from 10 a.m. to

8 p.m. daily, Memorial Day through Labor Day. The splash pad is generally staffed during regular operating hours. Concessions are sold at a pavilion there from noon to 5 p.m. Depending on the weather, the splash pad may open or close earlier or later for the season. The splash pad, which opened in 2013, is primarily geared toward children 1 to 13 years of age. When visiting, all children under age 7 should be accompanied by an adult.

**Happenings**  
**Various dates-Concerts on the Lawn:** hosted by The Gathering Place on the Rogers Street property. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets or enjoy a picnic table. The grills will be hot, serving hamburgers. Water, soda, beer and wine coolers will also be available. Concerts are free to the public. Thursdays. www.gathering

placemilton.com, www.visitmilton.com

**June 7 - Milton Citywide Rummage Sale**

**July 2-6 Milton 4th of July Celebration with Rhythm & Booms:** Free Admission. Schilberg Park, Milton. Milton's annual 4th of July celebration includes live music, softball tournament, car show, a parade, and the Rhythm & Booms fireworks show. See the website for a full schedule of events. https://www.opendoorsmilton.org/events-1/milton-4th-of-july-festival

**Aug. 17 - Milton House Museum's Arts and Crafts on the Lawn Fair:** More than 100 vendors of authentic arts and crafts offer their wares to the approximately 10,000 people that attend the event each year. Ice cream social, discounted museum tours, craft raffle, Lions Club Car Show, dunk tank, nonprofit food booths and country store. Held in conjunction with the Milton

Chamber's Chicken BBQ. 18 S. Janesville St., 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. 608-868-7772, www.miltonhouse.org

**Aug. 17 - Milton Annual Chicken BBQ:** Stop by North Goodrich Park in Milton to enjoy a chicken bbq meal, hot dogs or brats from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Music and raffles are also part of the afternoon fun. Across the street, the Milton Historical Society will host their annual arts and crafts fair starting at 9 a.m. 608-868-6222, www.visitmilton.com

**Sept. 20 - Milton House Twilight Tours:** 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Milton House, 18 S. Janesville St. Discover what the hotel would have looked like to travelers in 1854 on a special twilight reenactment tour of the Milton House Inn. Guests will witness the secrets the inn held as it served as a station on the Underground Railroad. While on tour, interact with members of the Goodrich family, other stagecoach passengers, some prominent

Miltonians and one of the most significant of the Goodriches' guests - an escaped slave seeking shelter at the Milton House on her path to freedom. Twilight Tour is conducted by candle light. Due to the nature of the event, parental discretion for those under 13 years old is encouraged. Tours every 15 minutes. 608-868-7772, www.miltonhouse.org

**Oct. 11 Junction Function:** 1 to 5 p.m. 144 Merchant Row, Milton. Enjoy the familiar flavor of Good Neighbor Community Fun with a BBQ competition, a bakeoff, a beer tent, music, and family activities. Sponsored by Hometown Ace Hardware and the Junction Pub. 608-868-6222.

Information compiled from internet sources, including local chamber of commerce websites, municipal websites, the Wisconsin Department of Tourism's www.travelwisconsin.com, and other websites, unless noted.

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**9 - 12**

**2209 E. Vincent Road, Milton**  
Hours: Monday-Friday 11am-Close  
Saturday and Sunday 9am-Close

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- Carry Out/Delivery
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<p><b>"New" Smash Burger</b> <b>\$5.00</b> no limit <small>not valid with other offers Expire 10/1/2025</small></p>	<p><b>Friday Fish Fry</b> 2 or 3 piece Cod, Coleslaw, French fries, Tartar sauce, Roll <b>\$11.99 - 2</b> <b>\$14.99 - 3</b> <small>not valid with other offers Expire 10/1/2025</small></p>
<p><b>2 Gyros for</b> <b>\$12.00</b> <small>not valid with other offers Expire 10/1/2025</small></p>	<p><b>\$3.00 Off</b> Delivery only <small>not valid with other offers Expire 10/1/2025</small></p>

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# Pistons & Props Returns to Janesville with History, Horsepower, and High-Flying Fun

From Sandi Walton  
Operations Director  
Janesville Area  
Convention  
& Visitors Bureau

One of southern Wisconsin's most dynamic summer events is back for its second year. Pistons & Props, held Friday and Saturday, July 18 and 19, 2025, at the Southern Wisconsin Regional Airport in Janesville, promises a weekend full of roaring engines, soaring history, and family-friendly fun.

Hosted by the nonprofit Propel Forward and presented by Corporate Contractors Inc., the event blends aviation, classic cars, live music, and military appreciation into one unforgettable celebration.

The weekend kicks off Friday with Veterans Night – All Vets Reunion, a free community-wide event honoring military veterans and active-duty service members. The evening features a vibrant



mix of entertainment and tribute, including a bike show, historic aircraft, supercar rides down the runway, hot air balloon tethered rides, vendors, a beer garden, and a fireworks finale.

Veterans and military members receive free admission on Friday with proof of service. The night wraps up with a high-energy concert by End Fight Scene, a genre-bending trio that mixes rock, country, pop, and hip-hop—entirely live, with no backing tracks.

Saturday is Family Day, offering something for all ages to enjoy. The airport transforms into a hub of activity featuring classic car displays, rare aircraft, local vendors, and an impressive lineup of live music.

Families with young children will especially enjoy the dedicated Children's Educational Area, featuring five bounce houses and a wide variety of hands-on, STEAM-themed activities designed to inspire learning through play. From science experiments to aviation-inspired games, it's a fun and meaningful space for kids to explore.

One of this year's most anticipated highlights is the appearance of the B-29 Superfortress "Doc," one of only two still flying in the world. This historic aircraft will be on display and available for tours and limited rides.

Also returning is "That's All, Brother," the C-47 that led the D-Day invasion—offering a powerful, up-close look at a piece of living history. These rare aircraft connect guests to the legacy of the Greatest Generation in a tangible and moving way.

The day's musical entertainment is included with admission and starts at 10:00 a.m. with The Cash Box Kings, delivering award-winning Chicago blues. At 12:30 p.m., regional favorite SuperTuesday takes over the stage, offering an energetic set of rock, country, and pop favorites that get the crowd dancing and singing along.

Pistons & Props is more than a festival—it's a mission. Organized by Propel Forward, a Janesville-



our community in a meaningful way."

Admission includes access to all live music, displays, and most activities. Veterans receive free admission on Friday with ID. Parking is free Friday, thanks to the All Vets Reunion, and just \$5 on Saturday. Tickets and full event details can be found at pistonsprops.com.

Whether you're drawn by the rumble of classic engines or the awe of vintage warbirds, or you're simply looking for a meaningful and fun-filled weekend with the family, Pistons & Props is set to deliver.

Come celebrate Janesville's heritage, honor our veterans, and experience the joy of community at full throttle.

based nonprofit, the event supports veteran recognition, youth education, and community development.

Proceeds help fund local initiatives such as career exploration for students and the development of a full-scale airshow

in the future. Event director Joshua Gowey emphasizes the deeper purpose behind the celebration: "Our mission is to celebrate the past while building toward the future. It's not just about the sights and sounds—it's about inspiring people and connecting

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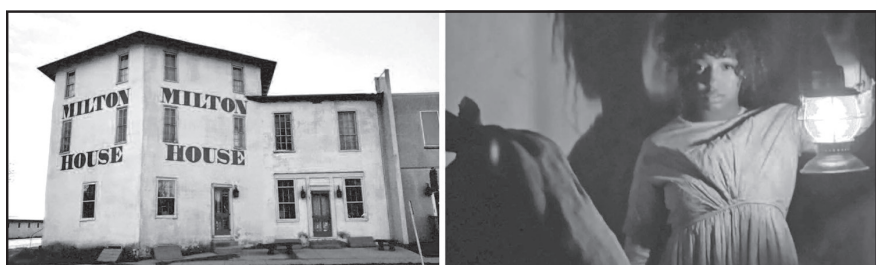
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# Janesville Hot Spots & Happenings

## Hot Spots

**The Janesville Performing Arts Center** (408 S. Main St.) is a 633-seat theatre found at the former site of the original Janesville High School. Construction on the center concluded in 2004, when a 1920s architecturally-styled facility was unveiled featuring Prairiestyle stained glass, ornate plaster molding and original light fixtures. A wide variety of shows and performances are offered, including a series of family-oriented events. 608-758-0297, www.janesvillepac.org

The highly decorated and successful **Rock Aqua Jays** water ski team performs shows twice weekly between Memorial Day and Labor Day at RAJ Stadium in Traxler Park along the Rock River. Watch as the talented skiers present themed performances featuring gravity-defying pyramids, ballet moves, jumps and barefoot skiing. Admission is free to the 70-minute shows; donations are encouraged. Shows are Wednesday and Sunday nights at 7 p.m. through mid-August and 6:30 p.m. for show dates thereafter. 608-757-3171, www.rockaquajays.com

**The Helen Jeffris Wood Museum Center** (426 N. Jackson St.) and nearby Lincoln-Tallman House (440 N. Jackson St.) showcase Janesville and Rock County's intriguing history. See story elsewhere in this section of the Lakes Edition. 608-756-4509, www.rchs.us

**Rotary Botanical Gardens**, 1455 Palmer Dr., offers a breathtaking 20 acres of themed botanical gardens showcasing 4,000 varieties of plants. Some gardens have an international focus, such as the Japanese, Scottish, French, Formal, Italian and English Cottage Gardens. Also on-site are a visitor center, gift shop and a beautiful facility that may be rented for wedding receptions, reunions, meetings, etc. Hours from May 15 through Sept. 15 are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. From Sept. 15 through October, hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. 608-752-3885, www.rotarybotanicalgardens.org

## Happenings

**Saturdays, May-Oct.-Janesville Farmers Market:** Located at 67 Dodge St. Town Square, Janesville. 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. A completely local outdoor market featuring fresh produce, meats, cheese, eggs, honey, baked goods, plants, cut flowers, soaps, hand cream, jewelry, herbs, seasonal products, art and more. 608-289-9292, www.janesvillefarmersmarket.com

**Sundays, Mid May - Late Oct. - Rock County Farmers Market:** At Nature's Touch Garden Center, 5013 Hwy. 11 West. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fresh produce, meat vendors, flowers, baked goods, crafts and more. 608-449-4900, www.rockcountyfarmersmarket.com

**Ongoing-Crafting Excellence:** Pauline Pottery and Pickard China: Exhibit at Helen Jeffris Wood Museum Center, 426 N. Jackson St. Pauline Pottery and Pickard China have long been recognized nationally as some of the finest pottery and china, both for its functional use and as highly sought-after artwork. Selected artists and their distinct style are showcased, telling the story of their unique contribution to each medium's success and growth. Hours are Thursday - Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 608-756-4509, www.rchs.us

**Various summer dates-Walk Across Rock County:** Series of hikes of various lengths taking hikers across portions of the trails throughout the county with the Rock County Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance. Various starting points. Carpooling is utilized. 608-302-1885, www.janesvillecvb.com

**June 14 - Janesville Morning Rotary's Annual Pie Ride:** This bicycle event features a 20K, 50K,

100K, and Century Route through scenic southern Wisconsin. Serious riders can choose a longer ride, while the 20K ride is perfect for a fun family activity. Enjoy wellmarked, paved and low traveled bike routes and multiple rest stops supplied with food and beverages. All riders receive a long sleeve t-shirt and a pie at the finish line. Registration opens at 6 a.m., the 100 mile and 100K rides begin at 6:30 a.m., and the 20K and 50K rides begin at 8 a.m. Lions Beach, 1401 Palmer Dr. 608-290-3161, www.pieride.org

**Classic Cruzers Downtown Car Show:** June 14, 2025, 5-9 p.m. July 12, 2025, 5-9 p.m. and Aug. 9, 2025, 5-9 p.m. Downtown and Town Square, 65 S. River St., Janesville. Enjoy an evening of great music, great cars and fabulous people. With hot food served up by the Marine Corps League, and 50/50 drawings. Cruise nights are June 14, July 12 and Aug. 9. 608-757-3171.

**Movies in the Park:** Free admission. At Optimist Park, 4201 Ruger Ave, Janesville. Bring your blankets and lawn chairs to enjoy a free movie under the night sky, with concessions and pre-movie barrel rides beginning at 7 p.m. All movies are rated PG or G. Sponsored by the Optimist Clubs and City of Janesville. 608-755-3030

June 20, 2025: Despicable Me 4 - movie begins at dusk (approximately 8:30 p.m.)

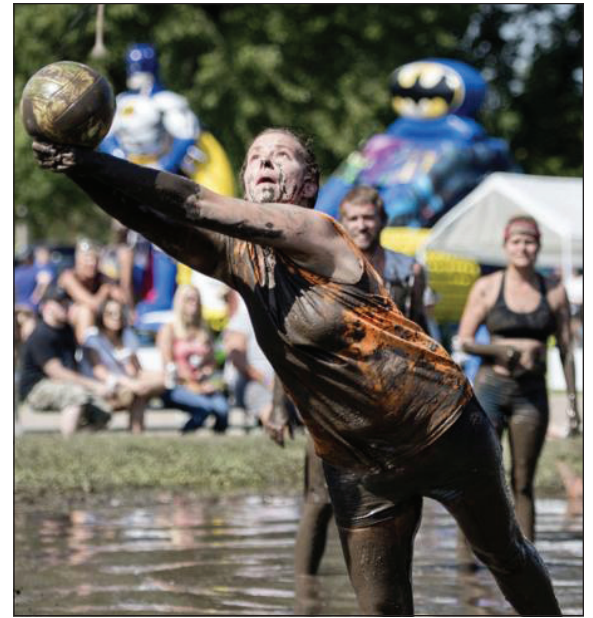
July 18, 2025: Inside Out 2 - movie begins at dusk (approximately 8:30 p.m.)

Aug. 15, 2025: Moana 2 - movie begins at dusk (approximately 8:30 p.m.)

**Veterans Benefit Car Show:** June 28, 2025 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Janesville VFW, 1015 Center Ave., Janesville. Join the Classic Cruzers Club for their 8th Annual Veterans Benefit Car Show. Featuring plenty of parking, hot food, a DJ playing music, a full bar, and a shaded pavillion. Over a dozen beautiful trophies will be awarded to participants, plus dash plaques for the first 100 cars. A portion of the proceeds from the event will go toward helping veterans. 608-754-4342.

**June 28 - Freedom Fest:** Freedom Fest started as a "backyard BBQ" in 2002 and has developed into one of the largest community events in the area. Between 25,000 and 30,000 people attend each year, with its attractions, food, carnival rides, stage performances and an incredible fireworks display. There is no cost for admission, parking, rides, concert or fireworks. There is also a children's area with a petting zoo, face painting and balloon animals. Presented as a family-friendly, Christ-honoring, patriotic event. New Life Assembly of God, 2416 N. Wright Rd. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. 608-756-4175, www.freedomfestnewlife.com

**June 28 - Star Spangled Saturday:** The Rock Aqua Jays Water Ski Show Team presents this annual festival celebrating Independence Day. The Fun begins at noon with food trucks, a beer tent, kids' games, pontoon rides, live music, and more throughout the day. In the evening, enjoy a fantastic fireworks at dusk sponsored by Festival Foods. The show is free and open to the public (donations welcome). Traxler Park,



600 N. Main St. 608-757-3171, www.rockaquajays.com

**June 29 - Mercury Open Water Ski Tournament:** See the best water ski teams in the country compete in the first ski show tournament of the season. Each team will present a one-hour show and be judged by a panel of experts in such areas as doubles, barefoot, ballet line and pyramids. Concessions, beer tent and vendor booths throughout the day. Free admission. Traxler Park - RAJ Stadium, 600 N. Main St., 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. 608-757-3171, www.rockaquajays.com

Continued on next page

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**JANESVILLE** continued from previous page

**TBO - Patriotic Concert in the Park:** The Beloit Janesville Symphony Orchestra presents a traditional July pops concert honoring our servicemen and women and celebrating the anniversary of our nation's independence. Enjoy favorite classics, such as the Armed Forces Salute, the Star Spangled Banner, The Stars and Stripes Forever, and The 1812 Overture. Bring your own chairs. Food vendors will be on site. 6:30 p.m., Janesville Courthouse Park. 608-313-1200, www.beloitjanesvillesymphony.org

**Sip & Shop Market Craft Fair:** July 5, 2025, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free admission. Fermenting Cellars Winery, 2004 W. Manogue Rd, Janesville. Join in this holiday weekend to browse and shop talented crafters and artists (NO direct sales vendors) in an open air pavillion in a tranquil country setting. Enjoy a glass of wine, refreshing wine slushy, soda or beer while you shop. Food available on site for purchase. 608-201-8217.

**July 13-Fast Feet for Families 5K run/2-mile walk:** Rock County Health Care Center, 3530 N. Cty. Rd. F. This annual event offers a great opportunity to get out with your family and friends, enjoy the fresh air and exercise while still supporting two great causes in your community. Proceeds from this event support the Rock County Foster Care Program. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. www.fastfeetforfamilies.webs.com

**JPAC's Outdoor Shakespeare:** Macbeth - The Janesville Performing Arts Center is proud to produce thier annual Outdoor Shakespeare production: Macbeth by William Shakespeare. Macbeth receives a prophecy that one day he will become King of Scotland. Consumed by ambition, Macbeth murders the King and soon becomes a tyrannical ruler. This performance is Pay-What-You-Can with a suggested ticket price of \$15. Lincoln-Tallman House, 440 N. Jackson St., Janesville. 608-758-0297.

July 17, 2025, 6 p.m.

July 18, 2025, 6 p.m.

July 19, 2025, 6 p.m.

July 20, 2025, 4 p.m.

**July 18-19 - Pistons & Props:** We're back and ready to make 2025 even bigger & better! Annual celebration of aviation, classic cars, and community spirit. We will have expanded exhibits, more aircraft, and new family friendly activities. New for 2025: Friday 5-9 p.m., an evening to salute veterans during the All Veterans Reunion Night. Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. is Pistons & Props Family Day. From vintage planes to stunning cars, it's a chance to honor the past while fueling curiosity and connection. Food and ice cream vendors. Southern Wisconsin Regional Airport, 1716

W. Airport Rd., Janesville, 608-757-3171, www.jvl20.splashthat.com/

**July 22-27 - Rock County 4-H Fair:** The oldest 4-H fair in the United States. Midway rides, exhibits, demonstrations, grandstand entertainment, great food and family fun. Main stage entertainment on several evenings. Rock County Fairgrounds, 1301 Craig Ave. 10 a.m. - 11 p.m. 608-755-1470, www.rockcounty4Hfair.com

**Aug. 3 & 4 - Tallman Arts Festival:** The Rock County Historical Society hosts this annual festival on the grounds of the historic Lincoln-Tallman House, 440 N. Jackson St. The festival is juried and draws more than 100 artists from throughout the Midwest. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 608-756-4509, www.rchs.us

**Aug. 8-10 - National Water Ski Show Tournament:** Janesville hosts the Division I National Water Ski Show Championships, featuring its own renowned water ski show team, the Rock Aqua Jays. Individual event competition begins Friday. Team competition begins Saturday and continues Sunday. Concessions available. Free admission, on-site parking available for a fee. 608-757-3171, www.rockaquajays.com

**Aug. 16 - Rotary Corn Roast & Mud Volleyball:** 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Traxler Park, 600 N. Main St. Family-

friendly festival with all the free sweet corn you can eat, a mud volleyball tournament, children's games and activities, live music, food vendors and more. Tickets available at many local business sponsor locations. 608-756-4591, portal.clubrunner.ca/7396

**Sept. 11-14 - Parade of Homes:** Visit new and remodeled homes and outdoor living spaces in the Rock County area for building and remodeling ideas. Watch the SCWBA website for parade home addresses and an online Parade book. All Parade tour homes will have tickets available for purchase onsite. 608-752-8075, scwba.com

**Sept. 13 - Rock River Valley Carvers of Wisconsin Show and Sale:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Craig Center, Rock County Fairgrounds, 1301 Craig Ave. Admission is free (donations accepted). Woodcarvers from the local club will be joined by others from throughout Wisconsin and Illinois for an extensive display of many different types of wood carvings, as well as demonstrations throughout the day. Vendors will have wood and tools available for purchase, and attendees can vote on their favorite carvings and enter the raffles. Food will be available. For more information, call 608-868-4522. www.rockrivervalleycarvers.com




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# Summer Movie Guide

By The Associated Press



Shults, co-starring Jenna Ortega and Barry Keoghan.

“Love” (Strand Releasing): This Norwegian film about two health care workers discussing relationship philosophies closes out Dag Johan Haugerud’s “Sex, Dreams, Love” trilogy.

“Sister Midnight” (Magnet Releasing, theaters): This black comedy about an unhappy arranged marriage and a series of chaotic events was a Cannes selection in 2024.

“The Ruse” (Seismic Releasing, theaters): This thriller centers on a caregiver and the mysterious patient she’s caring for in a remote home on the sea.

## May 23

“Lilo & Stitch” (Disney, theaters): This live-action reimagining of the 2002 classic about orphaned Hawaiian sisters who unknowingly adopt an alien was directed by “Marcel the Shell with Shoes On” filmmaker Dean Fleischer Camp.

Sydney Agudong, who plays older sister Nani, said, “The beauty of this movie is that it highlights the idea of Aloha and Ohana and the family dynamics that happen here along with the aliens and the Hawaiian roller coaster ride.”

“Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning” (Paramount, theaters): Nothing ever really ends in the land of franchise filmmaking, but the “final” in the title suggests this could actually be Tom Cruise’s last ride as Ethan Hunt. Even if it isn’t, audiences can trust it’ll be full of death-defying spectacles worthy of the big screen.

“Fountain of Youth” (Apple TV+, streaming): Natalie Portman and John Krasinski play siblings on a dangerous quest for the fountain of youth in this globe-trotting adventure from Guy Ritchie.

“Pee-Wee As Himself” (Max, streaming): This riveting two-part documentary about the life of Paul Reubens was crafted from some 40 hours of interviews and thousands of hours of archival footage.

“Jane Austen Wrecked My Life” (Sony Pictures Classics, theaters): A Parisian bookseller gets invited to the Jane Austen writers’ residency in this contemporary Austen-inspired romantic comedy written and directed by Laura Piani.

“Fear Street: Prom Queen” (Netflix, streaming): Prom queen candidates begin to vanish in this latest “Fear Street” installment, set in 1988.

“The Last Rodeo” (AngeStudios, theaters): Neal McDonough plays a retired cowboy who decides to return to the ring in a bid to pay his son’s medical bills.

## May 30

“Karate Kid: Legends” (Sony Pictures, theaters): Jackie Chan and Ralph Macchio unite for the newest “Karate Kid” film, set three years after “Cobra Kai” and focusing on a new kid, Li, played by Ben Wang. “It kind of harkens back to the previous entries in the franchise,” Wang said. “It’s a kid who is a fish out of water who comes to a new city and has to face down bullies.”

“Bring Her Back” (A24, theaters): “Talk to Me” filmmakers Danny and Michael Philippou return with this creepy new movie about death, resurrection and the arrival of an adopted kid who is not quite right. Sally Hawkins plays the mother.

“The Phoenician Scheme” (Focus Features, theaters): Benicio del Toro stars as one of the richest men in Europe, and father to nine sons and one daughter (Mia Threapleton), in Wes Anderson’s newest film, featuring a typically starry ensemble including Tom Hanks, Michael Cera, Scarlett Johansson, Riz Ahmed and Benedict Cumberbatch.

“Ghost Trail” (Music Box Films, theaters): Jonathan Millet directed this revenge thriller about a Syrian man in France who is in pursuit of the man who tortured him at an infamous military prison.

“Tornado” (IFC Films, theaters): K ki, Jack Lowden, Takehiro Hira and Tim Roth star in this revenge thriller set in 1790s Britain.

## June Movie Releases

### June 6

“Ballerina,” (Lionsgate, theaters): Ana de Armas leads this “John Wick” spinoff about a deadly (and classically trained) assassin.

“The Life of Chuck” (Neon, theaters): This is not your typical Stephen King adaptation. Mike Flanagan directs the sentimental and supernatural story about the life of an ordinary man named Charles Krantz, told in three chapters. Tom Hiddleston, Mark Hamill, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Mia Sara, Benjamin Pajak and Karen Gillan are among the large ensemble cast.

“The Ritual” (XYZ Films, theaters): Al Pacino and Dan Stevens as men of the church performing exorcisms? Sure, why not.

“Dangerous Animals” (IFC Films, theaters): Jai Courtney plays a serial killer who feeds his victims to sharks in this bonkers-sounding movie.

“I Don’t Understand You” (Vertical, theaters): Nick Kroll and Andrew Rannells are a couple vacationing in Italy in this dark comedy with an escalating body count.

“Straw” (Netflix, streaming): Taraji P. Henson leads this Tyler Perry drama about a single mother.

“Dan Da Dan: Evil Eye” (GKIDS, theaters): More adventures of Momo and Okarun in this series based on the popular manga by Yukiinobu Tatsu.

### June 12

“Deep Cover” (Prime Video, streaming): Bryce Dallas Howard plays an improv comedy teacher recruited by an undercover cop (Sean Bean) for

a mission for which she enlists two of her students (Orlando Bloom and Nick Mohammed).

## June 13

“How to Train Your Dragon” (Universal, theaters): Unlike most live adaptations of animated movies, filmmaker Dean DeBlois is behind both. DeBlois said their goal was to make the film “really immersive,” to dial up the sense of urgency and peril and “to just pull the audience in and make them feel like these dragons are real, that you could own one, you could fly on the back of one.” Mason Thames plays Hiccup and Nico Parker takes on the role of Astrid in this epic fantasy sure to enchant a new generation (and the one who grew up on the original).

“Materialists” (A24, theaters): Dakota Johnson plays a matchmaker torn between two prospects (played by Chris Evans and Pedro Pascal) in love story from “Past Lives” filmmaker Celine Song. “It’s a modern love story that’s set in New York City and it’s inspired by the brief time that I worked as a professional matchmaker,” Song said. “I really tried in this film to be really honest about the marketplace of dating, as the people actually experience it and live it today.”

“Echo Valley” (AppleTV+, streaming): Claire (Sydney Sweeney) shows up on her mother’s (Julianne Moore) doorstep covered in someone else’s blood in this thriller from Brad Ingelsby.

“The Unholy Trinity” (Roadside Attractions, theaters): Pierce Brosnan and Samuel L. Jackson lead this Western, set in 1870s Montana.

“Prime Minister” (Magnolia, theaters): This documentary follows Jacinda Ardern through her tenure as prime minister of New Zealand.

## June 17

“Sally” (NatGeo/Disney+, streaming): Blue Origin who? Sally Ride, the first American woman to go to space, is the focus of this new documentary that chronicles her professional accomplishments and her lesser-known personal life.

## June 20

“28 Years Later” (Sony Pictures, theaters): The original team behind “28 Days Later,” including director Danny Boyle and writer Alex Garland, return with a new entry featuring Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Jodie Comer and Ralph Fiennes.

“Elio” (Disney/Pixar, theaters): This intergalactic adventure centers on an 11-year-old earthling (Yonas Kibreab) who is abducted by aliens and assumed to be a world leader. Oscar-winner Zoe Saldana is part of the voice cast.

“Marlee Matlin: Not Alone Anymore” (Kino Lorber, theaters): Marlee Matlin gives an unflinchingly honest account of her experiences as a deaf actor in this funny and revelatory documentary, directed by Shoshannah Stern, who also is deaf. The film is closed captioned and includes verbal translations for hearing audiences.

“Sovereign” (Briarcliff, theaters): Dennis Quaid, Nick Offerman and Jacob Tremblay lead this crime thriller about anti-government extremists and a police standoff.

“Bride Hard” (Magenta Light Studios, theaters): Rebel Wilson is a secret agent whose skills come in handy at her friend’s wedding when a hostage situation emerges in this Simon West-directed comedy.

“Everything’s Going to Be Great” (Lionsgate, theaters): Bryan Cranston and Allison Janney are lifelong actors in regional theater trying to raise their very different sons.

“Alma and the Wolf” (Republic Pictures, theaters): Ethan Embry and “Sinners” breakout Li Jun Li star in this psychological horror about a mysterious wolf attack and a police officer’s missing son.

“KPop Demon Hunters” (Netflix, streaming): An animated action comedy about K-pop superstars who also hunt demons on the side.

## June 27

“F1” (Warner Bros./Apple, theaters): Brad Pitt plays “the best that never was,” F1 driver Sonny Hayes, who’s recruited to mentor a young up-and-comer (Damon Idris) in this high-octane film from “Top Gun: Maverick” filmmaker Joseph Kosinski. Real racing cars were used, driver Lewis Hamilton consulted and a new camera system was developed to give audiences an immersive experience. “It’s a story about a last-place team, a group of underdogs, and Sonny Hayes in his later years having one more chance to try to do something he was never able to do, which is win a race in F1,” Kosinski said.

“M3GAN 2.0” (Universal, theaters): The creepy, dancing doll is back — as is an even more dangerous version on a killing spree whom she has to stop. Any questions?

“Sorry, Baby” (A24, theaters): One of the big breakouts from this year’s Sundance Film Festival, the debut feature of writer-director-star Eva Victor follows Agnes, a grad student, in the aftermath of a sexual assault. “I wanted to make a film that was about feeling stuck when everyone around you keeps moving,” Victor said. “I really think the thing it’s about is trying to heal and the slow pace at which healing comes and how it’s really not linear and how there are joys to be found in the everyday and especially in very affirming friendships and sometimes, like, a sandwich depending on the day.”

“Hot Milk” (IFC Films, theaters): Things heat up on the Spanish coast, where Sofia (Emma Mackey) and her mother (Fiona Shaw) have gone in hopes of helping her mysterious illness. There Sofia meets a beguiling stranger (Vicky Krieps). This Berlin selection is based on a novella by Deborah Levy.

## July Movie Releases

### July 2

“Jurassic World Rebirth” (Universal, theaters): Filmmaker Gareth Edwards (a

“Jurassic Park” superfan and the director of “The Creator”) is ushering in a new era of “Jurassic” movies and harkening back to the Steven Spielberg originals in this film with Scarlett Johansson, Mahershala Ali and Jonathan Bailey. Much about the film is being kept top secret, but Edwards said David Koopp’s script read like a love letter to Spielberg’s early work. “It’s basically a mission story where these military types go to this island to get this DNA, then there’s a twist,” Edwards said. “This family ends up involved and it becomes a story of survival. It’s like one giant roller coaster ride and once it gets going, it sort of doesn’t stop.”

“The Old Guard 2” (Netflix, streaming): Charlize Theron is back with her immortal team for a new mission. KiKi Layne, Matthias Schoenaerts, Marwan Kenzari and Luca Marinelli also reprise their roles.

“Heads of State” (Prime Video, streaming): Heads of state get a glow up in this action comedy, in which Idris Elba plays the British prime minister and John Cena is the U.S. president who are forced to work together (along with Priyanka Chopra Jonas’ MI6 agent) to defeat a foreign adversary.

“40 Acres” (Magnolia, theaters): Danielle Deadwyler and Michael Greyeyes lead this post-apocalyptic thriller about a plague that has caused worldwide famine.

## July 10

“Brick” (Netflix, streaming): In this German horror, a couple wakes up to find they’re trapped in their apartment.

## July 11

“Superman” (Warner Bros., theaters): James Gunn is ushering in a new era of Superman, with a fresh face in David Corenswet and the promise that he’s a different Superman than what audiences have seen before. Gunn told the AP that this is “a Superman that’s both more grounded in his own personality and his relationship, which is much more complex than has been in the past. And then also the big magic world of Superman being in the world of the DCU with flying dogs and robots and giant monsters.” There’s romance with Rachel Brosnahan’s Lois Lane, and a “pretty scary” Lex Luthor in Nicholas Hoult. “He’s actually going to kill (Superman),” Gunn said. “And that’s cool to see.”

“Don’t Let’s Go to the Dogs Tonight” (Sony Pictures Classics, theaters): Actor Embeth Davidtz directs and stars in this critically acclaimed adaptation of Alexandra Fuller’s bestselling memoir of growing up on a farm in the former Rhodesia before and after the 1980 election, as the colonial system crumbles. The story is told through the eyes of 8-year-old Bobo (Lexi Venter).

“Tyler Perry’s Destination Wedding” (Netflix, streaming): Madea goes to the Bahamas.

“Skillhouse” (Fathom, theaters): 50 Cent stars in this horror about influencers who are lured into a “content house” and forced to compete in deadly challenges.

## July 18

“I Know What You Did Last Summer” (Sony Pictures, theaters): Jennifer Love Hewitt and Freddie Prinze Jr. reprise their roles from the 1997 slasher in this new installment featuring an eerily similar situation and a cast of pretty young up-and-comers including Madelyn Cline, Chase Sui Wonders, Jonah Hauer-King and Tyrq Withers.

“Smurfs” (Paramount, theaters): Rihanna produced and stars as Smurfette in this new musical adventure. “There’s a purity to the Smurfs mythos,” said Nick Offerman, who voices Papa Smurf’s brother Ken. “That, I think, is what makes their appeal so timeless. They’re a benevolent group of wee blue villagers who, you know, want to love one another and lead productive lives while fending off the world’s forces of evil, usually represented by the machinations of some wizards out for ill gotten gains.”

“Eddington” (A24, theaters): Ari Aster re-teams with Joaquin Phoenix for this film about a standoff between a small-town sheriff and a mayor in the early months of the COVID-19 lockdowns.

Pedro Pascal, Emma Stone and Austin Butler also star.

“Unicorns” (Cohen Media Group, theaters): A young, single father from Essex (Ben Hardy) is disarmed when he falls for a drag queen.

## July 25

“The Fantastic Four: First Steps” (Disney, theaters): Pedro Pascal, Vanessa Kirby, Joseph Quinn and Ebon Moss-Bachrach unite to play “Marvel’s first family” in this retro-futuristic world set in 1960s New York. Director Matt Shakman (“WandaVision”), “It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia”) said they are the only superheroes in their world and are the leading lights of their age. While the scale and world building were on another level, Shakman said, “it’s also no different from all of the great comedies and dramas that I’ve done — in the end, it comes down to character, to relationships and to heart and humor.”

“Happy Gilmore 2” (Netflix, streaming): Adam Sandler returns to the green (and one of his most beloved roles) after almost 30 years, along with Shooter McGavin (Christopher McDonald), Hal (Ben Stiller), Virginia (Julie Bowen) and Doug (Dennis Dugan) and an army of newcomers, including some Gilmore offspring. “The first one is so iconic, we all kind of knew the world that we were stepping into,” said Conor Sherry, who plays one of his sons. “We were like the newest additions to a long, long, long family.”

“Oh, Hii!” (Sony Pictures Classics, theaters): Molly Gordon and Logan Lerman lead this dark romantic comedy about a married couple’s first romantic weekend getaway.

“Diciannove” (Oscilloscope, theaters): Luca Guadagnino produced this coming-of-age film about a 19-year-old’s journey of self-discovery.

## July 30

“Together” (Neon, theaters): Real life couple Dave Franco and Alison Brie play a frighteningly codependent couple in this inventive body horror that had Sundance crowds raving.

## August Movie Releases

### Aug. 1

“The Bad Guys 2” (Universal, theaters): Sam Rockwell, Marc Maron, Craig Robinson, Awkwafina and Anthony Ramos return for another animated heist, but this time they’re teaming up with a new squad called the Bad Girls (voiced by Danielle Brooks, Maria Bakalova and Natasha Lyonne).

“The Naked Gun” (Paramount, theaters): Liam Neeson flexes his particular set of comedy skills as Frank Drebin Jr. in this irreverent new entry from Lonely Island veteran Akiva Schaffer, featuring Paul Walter Hauser and Pamela Anderson.

### Aug. 6

“Sketch” (Angel Studios, theaters): This horror comedy about a girl’s drawings that come to life stars Tony Hale and Darcy Carden.

### Aug. 8

“Weapons” (Warner Bros., theaters): Children are disappearing in filmmaker Zach Cregger’s eerie follow-up to “Barbarian,” starring Josh Brolin, Julia Garner and Alden Ehrenreich.

“Freakier Friday” (Disney, theaters): Jamie Lee Curtis and Lindsay Lohan are back as the body-swapping mother and daughter duo.

“My Mother’s Wedding” (Vertical, theaters): Kristin Scott Thomas directs and stars in this drama about a woman getting married for the third time, which is an occasion for her three daughters (Scarlett Johansson, Sienna Miller, Emily Beecham) to come home.

### Aug. 13

“Fixed” (Netflix, streaming): An adult animated comedy from Genndy Tartakovsky about a dog’s quest for one last adventure before being neutered.

### Aug. 15

“Nobody 2” (Universal Pictures, theaters): Bob Odenkirk’s former assassin Hutch Mansell can’t catch a break. This time, Keanu Reeves joins the bloody fun.

“Clika” (Sony Pictures, theaters): A small-town musician (Jay Dee) goes viral in this drama set in the world of Mexican American music. It’s the debut feature of Rancho Humilde CEO Jimmy Humilde’s production company.

“East of Wall” (Sony Pictures Classics, theaters): Kate Beecroft’s debut film about a young horse trainer grappling with financial insecurity and grief in the South Dakota Badlands won the audience award in the NEXT section at the Sundance Film Festival.

“El! Roth Presents: Jimmy and Stiggs” (Iconic Events, theaters): A low budget “splatter fest” for horror devotees, Joe Begos wrote, directed and stars.

“Witchboard” (Atlas, theaters): “Stranger Things” Jamie Campbell Bower stars in this supernatural horror set in New Orleans (a remake of a 1986 cult classic).

## Aug. 22

“Lurker” (MUBI, theaters): Another Sundance gem, this paranoid thriller is the feature debut of “The Bear” and “Beef” writer Alex Russell, about celebrity, fandom and being very online, featuring a buzzy young cast led by Théodore Pellerin and Archie Madekwe.

“HONEY DON’T!” (Focus Features, theaters): Margaret Qualley, Aubrey Plaza, Charlie Day, Billy Eichner and Chris Evans star in this dark comedy from Ethan Coen about a small-town private investigator and a string of mysterious deaths.

“Americana” (Lionsgate, theaters): This Sydney Sweeney-led crime thriller, a revisionist Western set in South Dakota, debuted at South by Southwest in 2023 and concerns the theft of a valuable artifact.

“Eden” (Vertical, theaters): Ron Howard directs Jude Law, Ana de Armas, Vanessa Kirby and Sydney Sweeney in this survival thriller set in the Galapagos after the first World War.

“Relay” (Bleecker Street, theaters): Riz Ahmed plays a corporate fixer in this contemporary riff on the paranoid thriller from “Hell or High Water” filmmaker David Mackenzie.

“Grand Prix of Europe” (Viva Pictures, theaters): “F1” for the preschool set? This animated film is also set in the world of car racing.

## Aug. 28

“The Thursday Murder Club” (Netflix, streaming): Helen Mirren, Pierce Brosnan, Ben Kingsley and Celia Imerie play retirees who spend their time solving cold cases in this adaptation of Richard Osman’s bestseller, directed by Chris Columbus.


## Aug. 29

“Caught Stealing” (Sony Pictures, theaters): Filmmaker Darren Aronofsky’s film is written by and based on the Charlie Huston books about an ex-baseball player (Austin Butler) who gets tangled up in New York’s criminal underworld in the 1990s. Zoë Kravitz, Regina King, Liev Schreiber, Matt Smith and Bad Bunny also star.

“The Roses” (Searchlight Pictures, theaters): The modern reimagining of “The War of the Roses” stars Olivia Colman and Benedict Cumberbatch as the feuding couple. It was written by Tony McNamara, the Oscar-nominated screenwriter of “Poor Things” and creator of “The Great,” and directed by Jay Roach.

“The Toxic Avenger” (Cineverse and Iconic Events Releasing, theaters): Peter Dinklage stars as the titular superhero in this supremely gory and graphic film, which sat on the shelf for a few years in search of a distributor. Elijah Wood, Jacob Tremblay, Kevin Bacon and Tylour Paige also star.





# ROCK RIVER THRESHERE INC.

## Get ready for the 69th Rock River Threshere. August 29, 30, 31 and September 1, 2025.

# This year's feature will be the 100th Anniversary of Caterpillar.


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You won't want to miss this one. Our goal is to have at least **100 Caterpillar** units on the grounds for you.

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**2025 is going to be an exciting year that you'll definitely want to be here for.**

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**Daily Parade of Power at 2:00 p.m.**

**Friday is Seniors Day, \$8 Admission • ATMs available on the show grounds**

**Many Food Stands • Ample Parking with Shuttles • Admission \$10, Children 12 and Under Free**

**Contact: www.threshere.com • For general info call: 608-868-2814 • Flea Market: 608-728-3407**

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# Discover The Bodacious Shops of Block 42

Located in a beautifully restored historic building in downtown Janesville, The Bodacious Shops of Block 42 offer four unique, interconnected experiences—all under one roof. With exposed brick, loft seating, scenic balconies, and a cozy patio with a firepit, it's the perfect destination to sip, savor, and stay awhile!



We also offer stunning spaces for **private events, meetings, and celebrations.**



## The Bodacious Brew

Start your day with premium house roasted coffee, tea, and chef curated breakfast, then transition to shareable appetizers, craft beer & wine by afternoon. Enjoy live music on Friday nights (May–September) hands-on classes and more. Whether you're meeting friends, hosting a group, or just unwinding, the Brew offers a relaxed yet refined atmosphere with the best river view in town!

**Hours:** Mon–Sat 7am–5pm  
Sun 8am–2pm

## The Bodacious Olive

Take your taste buds on a journey in our olive oil and balsamic tasting

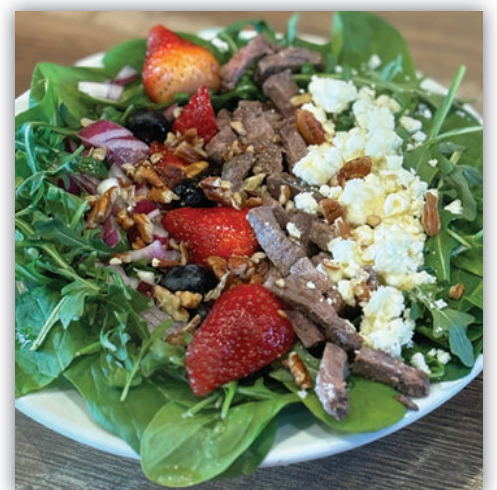
room. Sample infused and fused oils and vinegars known for their premium quality, delicious flavor and important health benefits. Explore gourmet seasonings, local specialties, kitchen tools & savory samples.

**Hours:** Mon–Sat 10am–5pm | Sun 10am–2pm

## SoChopped

Build your perfect salad or wrap with dozens of fresh ingredients—or choose a house favorite. All dressings are made with Bodacious oils and balsamic vinegars, and soups and sandwiches are crafted fresh daily. Great for lunch meetings or a quick, healthy bite. Dine in, order ahead, or **ask about our catering options!**

**Hours:** Mon–Sat 11am–2pm



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Whether you're joining us for coffee, live music or a special celebration, The Bodacious Shops of Block 42 deliver exceptional flavors and memorable experiences. Follow us on Facebook @BodaciousShopsOfBlock42 or visit **\*\*<https://bodaciousshops.com/janesville>\*\*** – or better yet, come see it for yourself!



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BODACIOUS SHOPS OF BLOCK 42



119 N. Main Street  
Downtown Janesville  
608-563-5566

# Beautiful, historic Beckman Mill Park

*Adapted from past submission from Sheri Disrud*

When profiling Beckman Mill County Park – a jewel of an historical attraction that is a favorite of area photographers – it is best to start at the very beginning, some 150 years ago.

The year was 1868. In Newark Township west of Beloit, Wis., a man by the name of William How built a new grist mill along Raccoon Creek. It was later mortgaged to Louis Hyde and, in turn, sold to William T. Kelley.

In 1882 Catherine Beckmann bought the property, and her husband August became the miller. August operated the mill until his death in 1908, at which point his sons, Henry and

Charles (Charlie), took over. The Beckman Mill was known for its buckwheat flour.

Henry died in 1939; his brother Charlie ceased milling operations in 1954. Charlie died in 1966, but his wife Bessie continued to live in the house until 1978.

Rock County purchased the Beckmann property for use as a park, with the intention of restoring the mill. However, no work was done so the buildings deteriorated.

In 1990, a group of concerned residents along with the Beckmann family formed the Friends of Beckman Mill and began extensive renovations. After the mill was restored, it was necessary to get the breached dam rebuilt in order to operate

the original mill stones as they had in 1868. The dam was built, along with a fish ladder.

The house was renovated to serve as a museum and a barn was built. A building that replicated the creamery that once stood on the property was built to house a gift shop, meeting room, blacksmith shop and restrooms. The county constructed a shelter which is available for rent by calling 608-757-5450. This project has been done in cooperation with Rock County Parks. The group continues its preservation efforts which have been accomplished by volunteers and their expertise in building, construction and engineering. The site is listed on the National Register of Historical Places.

Opening day this year for the historic mill, was May 4. Summer and fall special events set for the park include an Ice Cream Social and Artists in the Park on July 21 and "Heritage Sunday" on Sept. 8.

The Ice Cream Social runs from noon to 4 p.m. Ice cream, root beer floats and cake are served for donations. Artists will be available for questions while they are painting throughout the park. Some of their art work will be available for sale. Special artistic activities for the kids will add to the excitement for the day. As with all of the events, the mill, museum and gift shop will be open for tours.

Heritage Sunday runs from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is Beckman Mill's largest event. It includes



Historic trade demonstrations are part of the fun at Beckman Mill County Park during the annual "Heritage Sunday" event, which is held this year on Sept. 8.

File photo

## Welty Environmental Center Has Been Welcoming Visitors to Big Hill Park for 10 Years

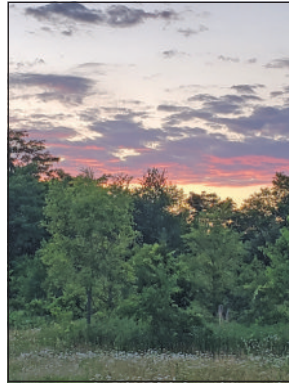


Big Hill bonfire.



BHC from bike path.

From Brenda K. Plakans Executive Director



June 14, 2021 sunset.

these trails is a set of interpretive signs created to highlight the social and natural history of Big Hill Park, which was opened in 1926 as a memorial park for World War I veterans. Each sign includes information and photos of significant aspects of the Park's history, including: the ski jump; woodland ecology; human use of the woodlands (including details of the 1930s WPA projects); geology; the founding of the park; prairie ecology and restoration; and pollinators.

During the summer, Welty also sponsors day camps and public programs for youth ages 6-12, as well as workshops for the family and even volunteer workdays, for folks interested in helping with ongoing prairie restoration efforts. Details and sign-up for all these programs can be found on Welty's website: <https://weltycenter.org/>.

The plans for a nature center in Beloit, predate Welty by 20 years. The Beloit Junior Women's Club adopted Big Hill Park in the late 1970s, and began working with the City to develop an improvement plan for the grounds. These plans came to include building a nature center at the entrance of the park (which, in 1991, was still just the wooded area of the grounds). In 1995, the City purchased the Kopplin farm adjacent to the woodland, and let it revert back to prairie-like conditions; the Badger Council Girl Scouts built their service center in this space in 1997 and included an environmental education room in their plans.

Concurrently, plans for a Welty Environmental Center were laid in the later 1990s with a generous gift from a former student of Beloit College biology professor J. Carl Welty. Beloit College faculty members Richard Newsome and Fred Mathews were the founders of this effort and conveners of a Steering Committee in 1998, which ultimately led to the incorporation of Friends of

Welty Environmental Center in 1999. In 2001, Welty took up residence in Beckman Mill Park, which would be its home for the next 14 years. In 2015, the City of Beloit invited Welty to be a full-time tenant in the Big Hill Center, which the Girl Scouts sold back to the City in 2014. Welty has been at Big Hill Park since September, 2015, runs all its programming from the Center, and helps manage various restoration efforts in the park.

For more information about the Welty Center and its programming, visit the website ([www.weltycenter.org](http://www.weltycenter.org)), email [info@weltycenter.org](mailto:info@weltycenter.org), or phone 608-361-1377. Hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., most days.

historic trade demonstrators such as basket weavers, wood carvers and broom makers. Soldiers representing several different wars that the United States has been involved in will be there. Brats, hot dogs, and desserts will be available for purchase. It is a fulfilled day for the whole family.

Admission is by donation for all of the events, which are greatly appreciated. Your donation helps maintain the buildings and keep this historical site available to the public to learn about past history.

Mill tours are offered on Saturdays and Sundays, May through October, from 1-4 p.m., or group tours can be arranged by appointment. Grinding demonstrations are presented the first Saturday of every month and on special events days.

Beckman Mill County Park is located six miles west of Beloit at 11600 S. County Road H. For more information, call 608-751-1551, visit [www.beckmanmill.org](http://www.beckmanmill.org) or email [info@beckmanmill.org](mailto:info@beckmanmill.org).

The Friends of Beckman Mill (FBM) is celebrating their 35th Anniversary this year. COVID prevented FBM from celebrating their 30th, so it was decided to celebrate the 35th. In 1990, the group was formed to renovate the mill that was in need of major renovations. Since that beginning, the volunteer group has renovated the mill to working condition. They also rebuilt the dam, built a DNR required fish ladder, renovated the family home into a museum, built a footbridge and barn, and built a replica of the creamery that once stood on the property to host the blacksmiths and gift shop. Mind you this was all done by volunteers, grants, monetary and material donations, and memberships. The park and buildings are owned by Rock County and FBM maintains the buildings and dam. We think that this is quite the accomplishment for a group of volunteers.



Join us for these great events in 2025

**Friends of Beckman Mill offers guided tours of the mill and museum on every Saturday and Sunday from 1-4. Demonstrations of corn being ground on the mill in operation on the first Saturday of the month and at our special events along with blacksmiths demonstrations**

Tour times are 1 to 4 pm. In addition to the weekend tours, there are a number of special events as described below. Group tours by appointment, please call 608-751-1551. Donations appreciated! Thank you for your support.

**Ice cream date July 20 Ice Cream Social and Artists in the Park 12:00 - 3:00. and First Brigade Band 3:00 - 4:30**

Enjoy delicious ice cream, cake and beverages in the picnic shelter. Local artists will be at work in the park along with displays of their art. The mill, cooperage, visitor center & gift shop will be open as well. And, be sure to take a leisurely stroll through the nearby oak savanna to enjoy its native plants and wild flowers.

**Heritage Sunday Sun., Sept. 7 11 am - 4 pm**

Visit the past at Friends of Beckman Mill's Heritage Sunday. There'll be guided tours of the mill and the Cooperage/Beckman Home Museum as well as historic trade demonstrations of vintage crafts. Other attractions include antique cars, tractors, machinery, horse drawn wagon rides, live music, great food and more. To honor all our veterans there will be a military timeline display. Before departing, be sure to stop by the Visitor Center to see the creamery and blacksmith shop displays and to purchase neat gifts.



**Beckman Mill County Park**

11600 South County Road H, Beloit - 6 miles west of Beloit, South off of HWY 81  
608 751-1551 • [beckmanmill@gmail.com](mailto:beckmanmill@gmail.com) • [www.beckmanmill.org](http://www.beckmanmill.org)



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# Stoughton Hot Spots & Happenings

## Hot Spots

**The Stoughton Area Veterans Memorial Park**, located on approximately three acres at the intersection of Dane County Highway. B and Country Club Road (just north of Stoughton), was unveiled to the public in an open house in November 2016. In October 2017, it was officially dedicated. The park features an impressive, elegant set of displays commemorating all of the Stoughton-area service men and women from the Civil War until the present. The park was constructed as a joint project between Stoughton's Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 328 and the city's American Legion Post 59. [www.facebook.com/SAVMP2015/](http://www.facebook.com/SAVMP2015/)

**Lake Kegonsa State Park**, 2405 Door Creek Road (three miles north of Stoughton), offers a natural, peaceful setting beside a glacier-hewn lake. Covering 340 acres, the park offers camping, swimming, hiking, nature study, boating, sailing, fishing and waterskiing opportunities. The lake covers 3,209 acres and is more than 30 feet deep. The park, which also features playgrounds, is open year-round from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. 608-873-9695, 888-947-2527, [dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/lakekegonasa](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/lakekegonasa)

**The Stoughton Historical Museum** (324 S. Page St.) is located in a former church built in 1858 on land donated by Luke Stoughton. The building is on the National Registry of Historic Places. Museum hours are Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mid-May through Labor Day weekend. The historic Luke Stoughton home (315 Division St.) is open during special events and by appointment only. The historic Stoughton depot (532 Main St.) is open for self-guided walk-through tours Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; guided tours are by appointment. 608-873-4797, [www.stoughtonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.stoughtonhistoricalsociety.org)

## Happenings

**Thursdays, May 29-Sept. 4 - Gazebo Musikk:** Series of free outdoor concerts in Stoughton Rotary Park (381 E. Main St.) every Thursday evening from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Everyone is sure to get a lesson in music appreciation, as attendees are exposed to a wide array of music genres. Bring your own lawn chairs or blanket, and relax while listening to music as the sun sets over the renowned Stoughton Opera House.



Local nonprofit groups offer food and beverages for purchase each week. See sidebar with full schedule. [www.facebook.com/gazebomusikk](http://www.facebook.com/gazebomusikk)

**Saturdays, May 24 to Oct. 11 - Stoughton Community Farmers Market:** Quality produce, raw honey, farm-raised fish, soaps, salves, sheep pelts, grass-fed beef, eggs, local artists, non-profit and community groups, and more. 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., downtown on Forrest Street. 608-0628-5587, [www.stoughtoncommunityfarmersmarket.org](http://www.stoughtoncommunityfarmersmarket.org)

**July 2-6 - Stoughton Fair:** Midway rides, commercial exhibits, tasty treats, Kiddie tent with baby farm animals, and 4-H/FFA exhibits. Great grandstand entertainment including rodeo, tractor and truck pulls, and demolition derby. Fireworks Sunday night. Mandt Park, 400 Mandt Parkway. 608-873-4653, [stoughtonfair.com](http://stoughtonfair.com)

**July 3-6 - Catfish River Music Festival:** Annual Stoughton Opera House fundraising event. The festival features free live music at the Stoughton Rotary Park gazebo just outside the theater (381 E. Main St.). Food and drink vendors will be on-hand, as well as artists, sellers of goods and local non-profits. All proceeds will go toward keeping the opera house operating. 608-877-4400, [www.catfishrivermusicfest.com](http://www.catfishrivermusicfest.com)

**Aug. 16 - Relay For Life of Stoughton/McFarland/Oregon:** The American Cancer Society Relay For Life movement symbolizes hope and our shared goal to end a disease that threatens the lives of so many people we love. If cancer has touched your life, participating in a Relay For Life event is a way to take action and help finish the fight. This is your opportunity to honor cancer survivors, remember those you have lost, and raise funds and awareness to fight back and

## Gazebo Musikk schedule

May 29 - All That Jazz  
June 5 - Tall Paul and the Naughty Cats  
June 12 - Yard Dogs  
June 19 - Gin, Chocolate and Bottle Rockets  
June 26 - The McCloskey's  
July 10 - Mathew Haefel Trio  
July 17 - The Rotation  
July 24 - 2AM Band  
July 31 - Mark Croft Band  
Aug. 7 - Common Chord  
Aug. 14 - The Grouvin' Bros  
Aug. 21 - Mannish Boys  
Aug. 28 - The Rusty Hearts  
Sept. 4 - Incidental Contact

Every Thursday (No concert July 3) 6 to 7:30 p.m. Rotary Park, 324 S. 6th St. Stoughton, Wis.

help end cancer forever. 5 p.m. at Race Track Park, 1247 Race Track Road, Stoughton.

**Aug. 16 - Coffee Break Festival:** Small town fun in the place where the coffee break was born. Sample coffee from a host of coffee vendors. Check out the art and craft show, car show, children's activities, music, food and beer. Also participate in the 1-mile or 5k run. Mandt Park, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. 608-205-3182, [www.stoughtonwi.com](http://www.stoughtonwi.com)

Information compiled from internet sources, including local chamber of commerce websites, municipal websites, the Wisconsin Department of Tourism's [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com), and other websites, unless noted.




## Great Food & Fun

### on Beautiful Lake Kegonsa in Stoughton

Whether you come by car or boat, you'll enjoy the great food, bar and beautiful views of Lake Kegonsa at Springers. Conveniently located close to Interstate 90 and County Hwy. N on the northeast shore of Lake Kegonsa in Stoughton, Wisconsin, Springers features an exciting dining menu with many of your traditional favorites including a great Wednesday & Friday Fish Fry and some of the best prime rib and shrimp you'll find anywhere. Our casual bar menu features excellent burgers, sandwiches and appetizers as well as tasty homemade pizza.












**For some of the best lake views, food and fun in Dane County, be sure to stop in soon at Springers!**  
**Call or check our website for hours.**

3097 Sunnyside St, Stoughton, WI  
**608-205-9300**  
[www.springersonthelake.com](http://www.springersonthelake.com)



**Come by boat, car or UTV!**

# Coachman's Golf Resort Is a Wonderful Venue "Where Everything is on Course"



Evening at Coachman's Inn.

Photo by Robbie Sonnemann



Coachman's Banquet Hall.

Photo by LP Photography Krawczyk



Coachman's Greens.

Photo by Bryan Green



Coachman's Head Chef Francisco Rojas Ramos has worked there 4-years.

By Janice Redford  
Special to the Reporter

All are all graduates of Edgerton High School and local residents. When asked about her amazing range of duties at Coachman's, she said, "It's way more than a job."

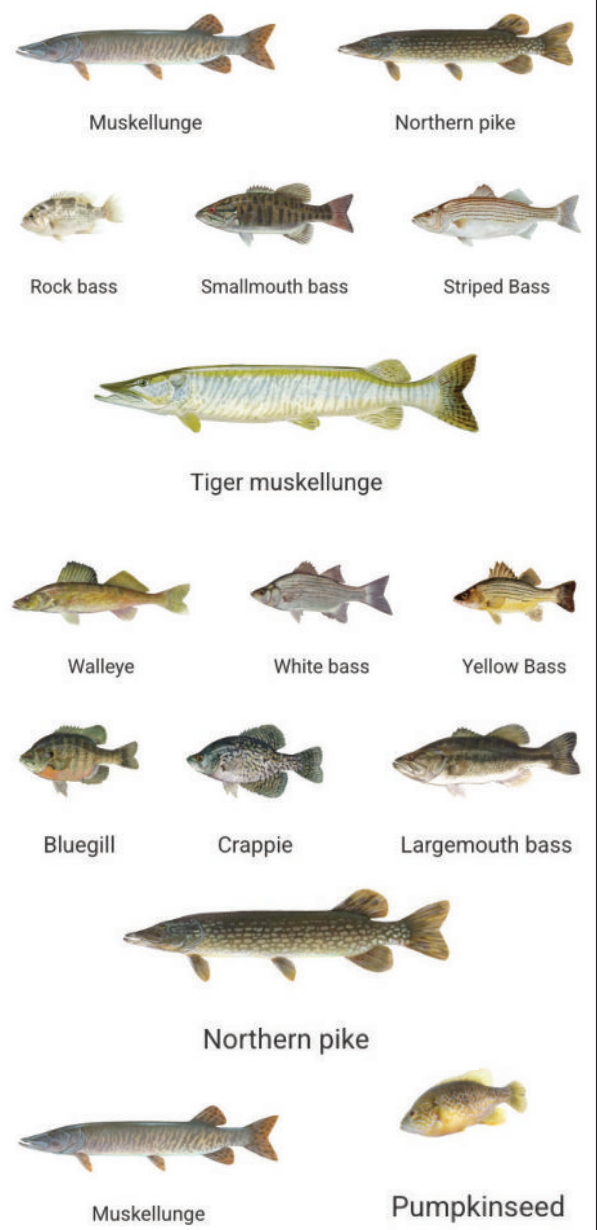
During summers, there are 72 employees. She explained that of all the employees she works with, she receives compliments every day from guests about the excellent food that is prepared by Chef Francisco Rojas Ramos.

Ramos has been the executive chef for the past 5 years. She added, "I love coming to work" and "We are very fortunate to have loyal staff that come back year after year."

Coachman's is open 7 days each week with food from 11 a.m. until 9 p.m. They have 27 holes of golf. There are memberships and numerous golf packages. The Pro Shop has merchandise of all kinds for golfers and for gifting to others.

The Johnson family has been running the business for three generations. They have built a lively group of clientele that includes locals and many families from the Chicago area. Before I-90 was built; the location was just a bar by the roadside called "The Curve." It has expanded into a place for weddings, business meetings, leisure and sporting events. It is much loved and appreciated.

## Species in Lake Kegonsa



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**Oregon Urgent Care Clinic**  
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**McFarland Urgent Care Clinic**  
5614 US HWY 51

**Cottage Grove Urgent Care Clinic**  
110 Limestone Pass, Suite 103



stoughtonhealth.com



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- Saturday Night Prime Rib Buffet
- Sunday Brunch served 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Daily Lunch & Dinner Specials
- Steaks, Chicken, Seafood, Pasta
- Award-winning California Wine List

**New Out-door venue seats up  
to 300 people  
On & Off Site  
Full Service Catering**

## 61 Unit Motel

**Includes Whirlpool & Fireplace Suites**



Coachman's  
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# Kegonsa Castle still exists

Submitted by Phil Bilzor

This castle still exists. The columns you see toward the lake (and the roof they support) are gone now. I suppose the winter weather and the lake conditions took them away years ago.

It is on the south shore of the lake on Barber Drive. I don't know the exact address. The land on either side of the castle is now well built up with houses, but the castle still looks pretty much like it does in the picture shown. There are some local rumors that Al Capone either had it built or owned it at one time. I don't know if this is true, but I do know that Al Capone owned some land on Lake Kegonsa and may have owned a speakeasy there.

No one ever seems to be around this house. I had an opportunity once, about 12 years ago, to peak in the windows. The place is rather dusty and rundown. There is still furniture inside and

some newspapers, that kind of thing. I don't know who owns it, but when I was there, it was largely unmolested.

Later, I received email that said:

"My great-grandfather and his partner built the castle in the early 1900s. Their names were Gunder Anderson (my great grandfather born in Norway) and Peter Sorensen (from Denmark). Both were carpenters and decided to build this castle on Lake Kegonsa together. They made forms for the bricks themselves.

Peter Sorensen bought out my great-grandfather's interest in the property when he married his wife Hanna, just as they were finishing construction. They lived there for over 40 years before selling and moving into town, about 1941."

I don't know who bought the property in 1941, but several years later, they put on an addition.

The site was selected

because of the solid rock shore, and the proximity to what was the main highway. When the interstate system was put in during the 50's, they changed the roads around the lake.

The balcony on the photograph was destroyed by a fire around 1950, which also damaged the back part which was added.

My aunt and uncle grew up in Stoughton and have no recollection of Al Capone ever being in the area, but I can say with a fair degree of certainty that he never had anything to do with this castle.

My aunt (Gunder's daughter) says that the person sitting on the rock in the photo is probably Peter's brother-in-law, Frank Sargent, who was a frequent visitor.

The castle is still considered a major landmark in Stoughton, and there are still many fond memories shared by many members of my family who spent time



there.

Later, I received email that said,

"This castle is much renovated now, and it is almost funny to see such an old picture of it. Many years ago there was an addition put on, an entire second floor. The turrets that are shown overlooking the lake are accessible from either bedroom.

"It is proper to refer to the castle as the side of the lake being the front and the back being the inland side. The master bedroom overlooks the backyard in that case, and the way it is modeled now it does look like a castle from all sides. There is an inaccessible balcony off the master bedroom. The columns and porch that overlook the lake have been fixed and it is now an indoor porch with windows on all sides.

"There was a fire years ago that led to the castle not being used

for many years. That is probably why people say it looked rundown. The property to the left was used instead for those years, it is referred to as the «dollhouse» and to the right of the castle is the boathouse, with a garage entrance for the boat and an apartment above.

The castle also has its own fresh water springs under ground. They are not in use anymore but

were for many years. Inside the castle is all hard wood floors, and there is a motif of 40s and 50s lifestyle with a number of antique chandeliers and antique furniture.

It is a wonderful place to spend time away from the hassles of life in the city (Chicago). It's current owner realizes everything that she has and this landmark will stay in the family forever.



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# Livsreise: Showcasing the journey, heritage of Norwegian immigrants

Submitted by the Norwegian Heritage Center (Livsreise)

In 2011, the board of trustees of the Edwin E. and Janet L. Bryant Foundation, Inc., conceived the idea of a Norwegian Heritage Center whose purpose would be to create a meaningful experience for Stoughton, Wis., residents and others to learn about Norwegian cultural heritage. The name chosen for the facility was Livsreise.

Approximately three-and one-half years later the facility was completed and opened to the public in time for Stoughton's annual Syttende Mai Celebration in May of 2015.

The Bryant Foundation's founder and benefactor was Janet L. Bryant, widow of Edwin E. Bryant. Mr. Bryant was one of three founders of the Nelson Muffler Corporation, a corporation established in 1939 that later became known as Nelson Industries, Inc. Mrs. Bryant formed the Foundation to honor her late husband and show her love for, and support of, the Stoughton community.

Livsreise (Lifs - rye -sa) means "Life's Journey." It is a generational journey, encompassing not only the physical journey

Norwegian emigrants traveled, but also the continuing journey as generations embrace their Norwegian heritage in Stoughton, the rest of Wisconsin and across the nation.

The mission of Livsreise is to create an experience that allows visitors to explore Stoughton's Norwegian identity and relate this to the culture that Stoughton and the surrounding area have long embraced.

A visit to Livsreise includes interpretations of the journey from Norway from the period of about 1825 to 1910 and features the cultural heritage brought to Stoughton. Stories of individual immigrants are also shared. Visitors can immerse themselves in the stories of immigrants' personal journeys by turning the pages of digital volumes, compiled from firsthand accounts, letters and family interviews.

Livsreise guests can explore the cultural roots of Norwegian-American heritage from performing arts and traditional customs to industrial entrepreneurs and the Norwegian language. They can also discover daily immigrant life within these interactive kiosks. Browsing through the culture and history of Norway shows the influence on today's

Norwegian-Americans.

Visitors can experience the journey that the early immigrants made by choosing a vocation, packing a trunk, and buying a ticket to America by selecting items on the interactive table. This experience allows the visitor to encounter the landscape and history of Norway as he/she prepares for the journey across the Atlantic to embrace a new life in America.

Also featured are changing exhibits and displays highlighting Norwegian heritage and arts organizations that currently includes a traveling exhibit from Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum located in Decorah, Iowa, with whom Livsreise shares a curator.

Additionally, Livsreise is home to a genealogy center that operates in cooperation with the Norwegian-American Genealogical Center and Naeseth Library. The genealogy area features a "Getting Started Guide," Norwegian naming patterns, genealogical terms along with additional tools. Visitors can also review online databases that include marriage records, emigrants, Norwegian-American birth records, cemetery records, and U.S. Census data. A trained staff is on site to assist visitors with their

personal searches.

There is also a beautiful 68-seat, handicapped-accessible, hearing loop-enabled auditorium where visitors can view any of many videos focusing on Norwegian culture, history, folk art, music and delightful Norwegian humor. Live presentations by local, national and international speakers are also held periodically in the auditorium.

Norwegian immigrants were best described by Rev. Adolph Bredesen, a Lutheran clergyman on Oct. 10, 1894:

*"Our Norwegian pioneers were poor, but they were not paupers. It was not their ambition to be organ-grinders, peanut-vendors, or rag-pickers. They had come to make, by the sweat of their brows, an honest living. They possessed stout hearts, willing hands, and robust health."*

Since its opening, Livsreise has attracted thousands of visitors from local communities, the Midwest, and Norway, as well as dozens of other states and foreign countries.

The Board of trustees of the Edwin E. and Janet L. Bryant Foundation, Inc. operates Livsreise as a cultural and educational center.

Livsreise is located on the corner of South Page Street and West



Inside the center. (Photo courtesy of Livsreise)



Exterior of Livsreise. (Photo courtesy of TKWA)

Main Street in downtown Stoughton. Free parking is located across the street.

Livsreise is open Tuesdays through Saturdays between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., or for special occasions such as Syttende Mai.

Admission is free to the public. For further information call 608-873-7567, or visit the Livsreise website or Facebook page.

2025 is the 10th Anniversary of Livsreise. We invite you to join us in the celebration.

Norwegian Heritage Center



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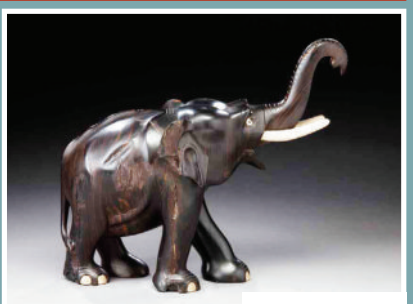


Photo by: TKWA





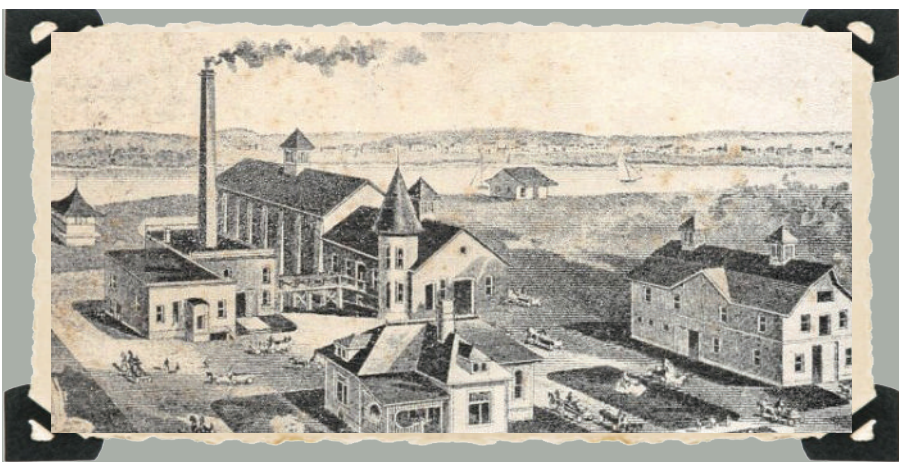

We invite you to explore our state-of-the-art building. The hands-on technology showcases different facets of Norwegian culture. See the new Vesterheim display, "200 years of Norwegians in America", featuring 20 objects that range from living traditions to citizenship and migration of skills. Students from Luther College helped select the artifacts. You can learn more about the artifacts from podcasts on the Vesterheim website.



• Tues-Sat 9:30-noon & 12:30-5pm • [livsreise.org](http://livsreise.org) • 608-873-7567  
 • Free Admission and Free Parking across the street • 277 W. Main St. Stoughton, WI 53589  
 • See upcoming events on our website or Facebook page



# Back in time with vintage postcards of Fort Atkinson, Rock River and Lake Koshkonong



## Race into action at Jefferson Speedway this summer

By Mikey Rottier  
Special to the Reporter



Jefferson Speedway in Cambridge, also known as Wisconsin's Action Track offers stunning action for the whole family this summer.

Each Saturday, the Jefferson Speedway offers their regular program with races from a mix of their seven stock car divisions, Late Model, Hobby Stock, Sportsman, Legends, Bandoleros, Bandits and Internationals. Qualifying laps begin at 4 p.m. each Saturday with racing beginning at 6 p.m.

The track also offers special events like Tournament of Destruction (TOD), a demolition derby style night of racing with different events such as spin to win, chain race, trailer race and donut bubble race.

TOD will be held on select Sundays throughout the summer including July 3, Aug. 2 and Aug. 31.

Track Attack is another of Jefferson Speedway's special events, which gives fans the opportunity to take their own modified car on the track and navigate their way through a time trial course. Track Attack will also take place on select Fridays, July 11, Sept. 5 and Oct. 3.

Depending on the event, admission ranges from \$15-20 for adults, \$12-14 for seniors 62+ and students ages 12-15, \$8-10 for ages 8-11 and kids under 8 get in free.

Enjoy stock car racing at Jefferson Speedway every weekend this summer, located at W8135 US-18 in Cambridge.



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A regional history museum telling the story of Fort Atkinson and the surrounding area.

Discover the mystery of the area's effigy mounds built by early inhabitants and the 12,000 years of human history around Lake Koshkonong.

Learn about the Sauk warrior, Black Hawk, the 1832 Black Hawk War, and its role in our history.

Explore the contributions of William Dempster Hoard, the 16<sup>th</sup> governor of Wisconsin and the father of American dairying.

Find out how Lake Koshkonong inspired Lorine Niedecker, a world famous poet from Fort Atkinson.

Visitors will also enjoy the National Dairy Shrine's museum, dedicated to dairy farming: past, present, and future.

**FREE ADMISSION:**  
There is no admission charge to visit the museum

**Exhibits include:**  
Mystery of the Mounds effigy mound exhibit, Duck Hunting on Lake Koshkonong, the Lincoln Era Library, and more.



The Lincoln Era Exhibit

Lorine Niedecker Exhibit

The Bird Room

**Museum Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 9:30am – 4:30pm**  
**Hoard Historical Museum**  
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 Phone: 920-397-9914 • [www.hoardmuseum.org](http://www.hoardmuseum.org)

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# Cambridge Hot Spots & Happenings

## Hot Spots

Built in 1906, the **Cambridge Historic School** (213 South St.) is now a museum. It was once home to eight grades as well as the four-year high school. When a new middle school opened in the city in the early 1990s, a citizens group organized to turn the historic school into a museum, and in 1997 the Cambridge Historic School Foundation, Inc. opened its doors to the public and later that year the building was accepted and listed on the Wisconsin Register of Historic Places. Today the museum houses seven rooms of historic collections, including a Far East exhibit, Cambridge and surrounding area artifacts, an African collection, farming community collection and a room dedicated to the school history of Cambridge. The museum is open mid-May through mid-October, Wednesdays and Saturdays, 12:30-3 p.m. Also open by appointment. Admission is free. 608-423-2630, [www.cambridgehistoricmuseum.org](http://www.cambridgehistoricmuseum.org)

Covering 422 acres, **CamRock Park** is located in eastern Dane County along Koshkonong Creek between the villages of Cambridge and Rockdale. This park has three separate use areas with shelter facilities and play areas. Section 1 is found at 68 Cty. Hwy. B, Cambridge; section 2 at 136 Cty. Hwy. B, Cambridge, and section 3 at 2334 Highland Rd., Cambridge. The trails are suitable for hiking and cross-country skiing. CamRock Park III has a singletrack mountain bike trail. 608-423-4438, [www.danecountyparks.com/park/CamRock](http://www.danecountyparks.com/park/CamRock)

Covering 420 acres of sparkling waters, **Lake Ripley** offers fine fishing for panfish, largemouth bass, northern pike and walleye. Accessible by taking Park Road east of Cambridge's downtown, the lake also features a public beach, a playground, concessions, two tennis courts, a basketball court, volleyball courts, disc golf and more.

## Happenings

**Tuesdays - Cambridge Open Air/Farmers' Market:** Held on Tuesdays in downtown Veteran's Park, 100 E. Main St., from May to Oct. In addition to the fresh fruits and vegetables, you'll find artists, crafters and entrepreneurs. 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. 608-423-3780, [www.cambridgewi.com](http://www.cambridgewi.com)

**Select Fridays-Summer Concert Series:** The Cambridge Arts Council presents the free concerts from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. in downtown Veteran's Park, 100 E. Main St. This summer's dates include June 6, June 20, July 11, Aug. 1 and Aug. 8. 608-423-3780, [enjoyjeffersoncounty.com](http://enjoyjeffersoncounty.com), [www.cambridgewiarts.org](http://www.cambridgewiarts.org)

**June 2-Battle at CamRock WORS Bike Race:** Day of off-road racing competitions, picnics and fun events at CamRock Park. The trails are waiting. CamRock Park III in Rockdale. [wors.org/schedule/camrock](http://wors.org/schedule/camrock)

**June 14-15 - Midwest Fire Fest:** An art exploration of all things forged in fire. It will be an event that is heavy in demonstrations. Artist in residence will demonstrate iron pours, pit fired pottery, and a clay sculpture that will be fired during the event and revealed Saturday night in a performance style art event. A lasting sculpture will be created for the community. A master artist level art show, fire performers, live music and on site concessions will complete the festival atmosphere. West Side Park and around Cambridge. Lasts roughly 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. 608-423-3780, [www.midwestfirefest.com](http://www.midwestfirefest.com)

**July 26 - Cambridge Lake Ripley Ride:** Featuring three distances: family friendly 22-mile (mostly flat) route, a longer and slightly hilly 40-mile route, and a more challenging 62-mile metric century route. You will ride quiet country roads and visit Cambridge, Rockdale, Deerfield and Lake Mills. Registration includes a shirt, map/cue sheet, scenic rest stops, sag wagon, a sandy swimming beach, and a post-ride celebration featuring live music, refreshments and dinner provided by the Cambridge Lions Club. 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Proceeds benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and Cambridge Community Activities Program. Lake Ripley Park, Park Road. 608-423-8108, [www.cambridgecap.net](http://www.cambridgecap.net)

**Aug. 1-2 Art on Main, Art Market:** Both Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. opening Reception: Friday, Aug. 2, 6-8 p.m. Awards Ceremony: Saturday Aug. 3, 4 p.m. Art Hub, 145 W Main St., Cambridge. Join Art Hub Friday evening for the opening reception of our \$100 & under Art Show. Local artists will be in business up and down Main St, vending handmade artwork and goods both Friday and Saturday. Artists will be painting up and down Main St. Friday and Saturday with judging and sale of work on Saturday afternoon. 608-423-2022.

**Aug. 1-2 - Maxwell Street Days, Maxwell Street Days, Book Sale and Summer Garage Sale Days:** Get the best deals of the year in Cambridge at the sidewalk



sales overflowing with goodies, plus a community-wide garage sale. Get your favorite book at the Friends of the Library Book Sale, plus a Friday night concert in the Park. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., book sale 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 608-423-3780, [www.cambridgewi.com](http://www.cambridgewi.com)

**Aug. 1-3 - Utica Festival:** Horse pull, live music, bingo, Badger State Super Farm & Hot Farm Tractor Pull, mini-rod pull, spectator truck pull, kids' sawdust money dig, softball tournament, food and concessions. Friday opens at 5 p.m., Saturday opens at 8 a.m., Sunday opens at 9 a.m. Utica Community Association Park in Utica, located between Cambridge and Stoughton. 608-764-8480, [uticapark.org](http://uticapark.org)

**Aug. 17 - Try Cambridge Tri:** This sprint distance triathlon will take you along the shores of Lake Ripley, traveling scenic country roads and through beautiful downtown Cambridge. The event will start and end at Ripley Park. It features a 1/4 mile swim, 15 mile bike and 5k run beginning at 7 a.m. Lake Ripley Park, 4310 Park Rd., Cambridge, 608-423-8108, [www.cambridgecap.net](http://www.cambridgecap.net)



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# Lake Ripley Park

From Travel Wisconsin

Ripley Park, located on the west shores of Lake Ripley, is an 18-acre park privately owned by the Cambridge Foundation and managed by CAP. Ripley Park is open seasonally from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day.

This beautiful park has something for everyone! Bring your family and friends to the park and enjoy a day at the beach. Ripley Park is home to two tennis courts, a basketball court, a children's play structure, 9-hole disc golf course and volleyball courts.












The Ripley Park address is N4310 Park Rd, Cambridge WI, 53523.

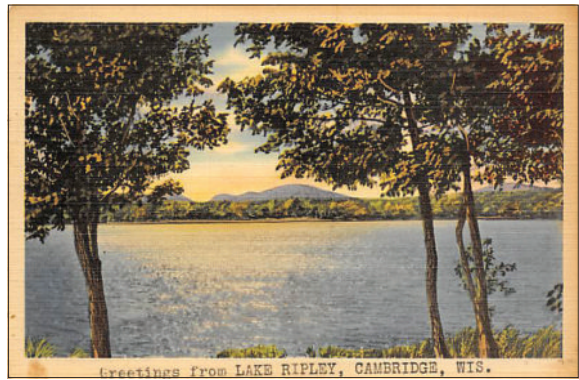
Information: 608-423-8108

Ripley Park is open 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. Outside of the normal season the park is available for anyone to come in and enjoy during daylight hours, but all of the facilities are closed and staff are not on duty.

Read more about Lake Ripley at <https://www.lakesedition.com/lake-ripley>

## Species in Lake Ripley

 Bluegill	 Catfish	 Crappie	 Largemouth bass	 Northern pike
 Perch	 Pumpkinseed	 Rock bass	 Smallmouth bass	 Walleye
 White bass				



# Silverwood Park



## 2025 events, offerings, and needs

### Book Discussion - June 26, 6 PM

The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Books are available through interlibrary loan at the Edgerton Public Library

### Silverwood Harvest Fest - August 23 10 AM to 2 PM

Educational garden tours, Oak Savannah restoration tours, live music, good food and drink, Silverwood growers selling their produce, Children's events.

### Silverwood's Lucky Spud Produce Stand - Sundays 10 AM to 2 PM

July - November

Silverwood Wreath making public event in November

Candlelight hike, public event, January or February

Silverwood offers organic garden rental plots

Currently renting the Historic Stone House for weddings, reunion's, graduation's, birthday parties, etc.

Volunteers needed for:

- Flower garden seasonal upkeep
- Farmstead restoration handyman
- Forest restoration and removal of invasive

For more information:  
Info@silverwoodpark.org

[www.silverwoodpark.org](http://www.silverwoodpark.org)



The Friends of Silverwood Park, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the development and maintenance of Silverwood Park.

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