



# THE SPIRIT of Geneva Lakes

Vol. 28 No. 11

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NOVEMBER 2016

How  
about  
some pie?

Rebirth  
at Wilmot  
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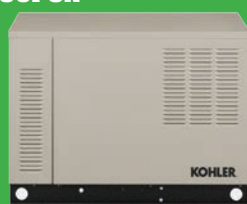
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# Contents



▶ November events calendar .....	6
▶ How 'bout some pie? .....	7
▶ Coloring feeds the adult soul .....	13
▶ Inclusive dance at Young Auditorium .....	17
▶ Wilmot Mountain goes big time .....	19
▶ Dining Directory .....	20
▶ The power of alpacas .....	25
▶ Holiday Gift Guide.....	31
▶ Memories in the mail .....	39
▶ Beauty on the back roads.....	43
▶ Symphony to perform Mahler .....	48
▶ Through the lens .....	49



## AUTUMN'S LONGING

Perhaps no season begs to fulfill the longing for home like autumn. Whether it's coming home for a traditional Thanksgiving meal, the annual deer hunt or to tailgate in support of your favorite team, Geneva Lakes area residents find comfort in the sights, sounds and colors of home – like those reflected in this photo of a well-decorated home near Burlington.

PHOTO BY JACQUELINE NADOLSKI  
*Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



# IT'S COMIN' UP

## NOVEMBER EVENTS

### 1 Geneva Lake Museum Tuesday's@

**Two** series, 2 to 3 p.m. Peg Reedy will discuss the local barn quilt popularity and where they can be viewed. 255 Mill St., Lake Geneva, (262) 248-6060, [www.genevalakemuseum.org](http://www.genevalakemuseum.org)

### 2 AXIS Dance Company performance

7:30 p.m. at Young Auditorium, 930 W. Main St., Whitewater, (262) 472-2222, [www.uww.edu/youngauditorium](http://www.uww.edu/youngauditorium). Free, but tickets are required. AXIS is one of the world's most acclaimed and innovative ensembles of performers with and without disabilities.

### 2, 16 Limber Timbers Square Dance

**Club** – dancing from 7:30-10 p.m. at the Elkhorn Area Middle School, 627 E. Court St. Cost is \$5 per adult, \$2 per child. (262) 275-6373 or [www.limbertimbers.org](http://www.limbertimbers.org)

### 4 O'so Brewing Beer Dinner – 6 to 8:30

p.m. at Grand Geneva Resort and Spa. Beer lovers rejoice for an evening inspired by culinary and craft beer pairings. Four courses paired with Central Wisconsin's O'so Brewing beers.

### 4 First Fridays: Art Walk - East Troy

at Village Square Park, 2881 Main St. and surrounding businesses. The event will feature local artists showcasing their work at shops and businesses in downtown East Troy from 5 to 8 p.m. In addition to the art exhibits, there will be workshops, temporary pop-up projects, children's activities, theater art performances, music experiences and other displays designed to promote and celebrate fine arts.

### 4 Speakeasy @ Maxwell Mansion,

**Lake Geneva** – 9 p.m. to midnight, 421 Baker St., Lake Geneva, (262) 248-9711, [www.historichotelslakegeneva.com](http://www.historichotelslakegeneva.com). "Shhh..." our subterranean Speakeasy has clandestine openings with passwords shared only with hotel guests and Facebook followers.

### 5 Old Tyme Radio Show – Lake Lawn

**Resort**, Delavan. "The Kane Shadow: Rear Window Murder." Orson Welles returns to that nasty town and fears he may be witnessing a murder. On station WGTD of Kenosha The show recreates the old time radio show of the 20's, 30's, and 40's complete with actors and sound effects. Show will air at 11 a.m. Breakfast and show package is \$20 and show only is \$10. Lake Lawn Resort, 2400 E. Geneva St., Delavan, (262) 728-7950, [www.lakelawnresort.com](http://www.lakelawnresort.com)

### 5-6, 12-13 Cornerstone Shop

**Holiday Open House**, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Features the latest on-trend holiday and tabletop décor, special guests including artist Karen Didion making a return appearance on Nov. 5; personalized gifts; gift with purchase offers and specials; drawings, giveaways and raffles; children's activities; and more. Cornerstone Shop & Gallery, 214 Broad St., Lake Geneva, (262)

248-6988, [www.cornerstoneshoppe.com](http://www.cornerstoneshoppe.com)

### 6 Holiday Shopping Event, Craft & Vendor

Expo at Hawk's View Golf Club, 7377 Krueger Rd, Lake Geneva, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. \$45.00

### 12 Holiday Affair Craft Show – from

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Walworth County Fairgrounds, Highway 11. (262) 248-4655

### 13 Thanksgiving Inspired Wine and

**Dine** featuring The Black Sheep (a five course meal paired with Staller Wines), 12 p.m.; \$45 per person. RSVP by Nov. 6. Staller Estate Winery, W8896 County Hwy. A, Delavan, (608) 883-2100, [www.stallerestate.com](http://www.stallerestate.com)

### 15 Tuesdays @ Two: The Great

**Chicago Fire Of 1871**. Bob and Millie McCormick and Helen Brandt guide us through "The Great Fire" and how it affected Lake Geneva and the surrounding areas; 2 to 3 p.m. Geneva Lake Museum, 255 Mill St., Lake Geneva, (262) 248-6060, [www.genevalakemuseum.org](http://www.genevalakemuseum.org)

### 18 Christmas at the Farm opens

**at Northwind Perennial Farm**, 7047 Hospital Rd., Burlington, (262) 248-8229, [www.northwindperennialfarm.com](http://www.northwindperennialfarm.com). The Christmas Shop Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The barn is filled with a collection of unique gifts, holiday decor and Christmas ornaments. Many of the items are one-of-a-kind, created by local artists.

### 19 Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra:

Mahler 1 concert. LGSO's first performance of a Mahler symphony. In addition, Sophie Engerman, talented singer and 2016 Young Artist Competition winner, makes her orchestral debut performing Puccini's "O mio babbino caro." 7:30 to 9 p.m. Calvary Community Church, N2620 Wisconsin 50 & Harris Rd., Williams Bay, (262) 359-9072, [www.lakegenevaorchestra.org](http://www.lakegenevaorchestra.org). Tickets: \$12 Per Person; K-12 students free.

### 25 Lutherdale Fish Fry – 4:30-7:30 p.m. at

Lutherdale Camp, N7891 Highway 12. Ticket cost for adults is \$12, \$7 for children 12 and younger. (262) 742-2352

### 26 Hugh Jass Fat Tire Bike Series at

the Moutaintop at Grand Geneva Resort – 10 a.m. registration opens; 11 a.m. race start; 1 p.m. awards and prizes. Hugh Jass is a winter series that gets you outside and makes racing fun again. Each "race" includes Hugh Jass fun, fat bike demos, tech service by Wheel & Sprocket, beer, games and contests, toasty fires, and our favorite live DJ! Rental bikes are readily available if you want to race on a fatty too.

*Although we attempt to provide accurate information regarding area events, dates and times may change or events may be cancelled. We suggest you confirm events before you finalize your travel plans.*

## THE SPIRIT

IS A PUBLICATION OF



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## THE SPIRIT

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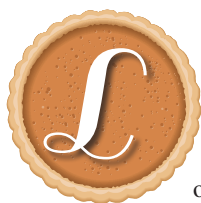
Lake Geneva Pie Company owner John Adams displays some of his cream pies – chocolate, coconut cream and banana cream.



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

# How 'bout some *pie*?

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**  
CORRESPONDENT



ong before dawn breaks, the pie-making crew at Lake Geneva Pie Company is at work assembling and baking the day's supply of pies – anywhere from a few in the slower days of January, when all are recovering from the festive overeating of the holidays, to more than 500 each day during the summer and the holiday season.

The process is a smooth one even when making large numbers of pies. The pie baking crew works together with each person aware of not only their job but also willing to pitch in if another station gets behind.

## *Assembly line ~*

When I arrived to view the process, the pie shells were already in the pie tins and Robin was beginning to fill them with fruit. Huge bowls of Individual Quick Frozen fruits were at her station as she chose between apples, peaches, strawberries, rhubarb, raspberries and blackberries to fill the shells. And fill the

LAKE GENEVA  
PIE COMPANY  
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THE RECIPE

A variety of quiches made in-house are available to be taken home or eaten on site for a brunch or lunch entrée.



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*We don't use  
sweetened syrups,  
just fresh high-  
quality sugar to  
sweeten our pies.”*

JOHN ADAMS,  
owner of Lake Geneva  
Pie Company

shells she did. No skimping on the filling.

“We use the Individual Quick Frozen fruits because they are the highest quality. Picked at the height of ripeness then quickly individually flash frozen. They retain their flavor,” said John Adams, owner of Lake Geneva Pie Company, as he added some of his special flavorings to the pie. “We don't use sweetened syrups, just fresh high-quality sugar to sweeten our pies.”

They also produce some pies with no sugar added. “We prefer the flash frozen fruit because the fresh fruits are usually picked before they are ripe and all are in a different state of ripeness which will affect consistency in the flavor. The additional labor needed to cut and peel to prepare for pies increases the cost and doesn't improve quality.”

### *A choice of tops ~*

The pies move on to the next station to have their tops added – either a traditional crust or a crumb top. The crumb top is added then evened out so that it cooks and browns uniformly. The pastry top is fluted at the edges to seal and a few slits added to the top to allow steam to escape. Each pie that has a pastry top has an initial stamped on it to let you know what kind of pie it is. Once the tops are completed, the pies are ready for the oven.

As the pies begin to bake, it doesn't take long for the rich aroma of freshly baked pie to permeate the air. If you weren't hungry for pie before, once you inhale you will be ready for a piece.

Finishing with the fruit pies is only the beginning of the morning's work. There are still the quiches, cream pies, muffins, cookies, and the sandwiches of the day that need to be prepared before lunchtime



The pie-making process includes (from top) the use of quick frozen fruits; commercial mixers to prepare the crust; and sugar for sweetness, resulting in the finished product.



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ PHOTOS  
Spirit of Geneva Lakes



First step in completing a pie is to fill the shell with fruit. Here employee Robin prepares to fill a shell with strawberries.

customers arrive.

The Lake Geneva Pie Company is a family-owned business at 150 E. Geneva Square (just off Highway 12 at exit 328) in the Geneva Square Shopping Center. The company was started in 2001 by John and Martha (Marty) Adams. John, who had spent 30 years in the hotel and hospitality business, looked to start a business that would allow him to pursue his interest in baking. With his wife, who had a background in accounting, they made a good team.

Marty recalled the delicious pies especially the cherry pies that were baked by her grandmother with the freshly picked cherries from the area. They opened the Lake Geneva Pie Company and began to bake pies that would equal and hopefully exceed grandma's standards. It seems that they have. For just as Marty's grandmother had done, they use top quality ingredients and make them with love.

### *Decisions, decisions ~*

With a wide variety of fruit pies offered, it is difficult to choose one. For those of us who have difficulty making such a decision, there are some pies that make the choice easier. Strawberry or rhubarb pie? That's an easy one, try the strawberry-rhubarb. Often in strawberry-rhubarb pies the strawberry overrides the rhubarb, but I can assure you, that in this one the flavors are equally present.

The Lake Shore Pie is another one that combines the best of the berries. Strawberry, raspberry, blackberry, and apples are combined for a special taste. If berries are your favorite this pie will be a real treat. For a truly interesting combination try the Garbage

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A morning customer arrives at Lake Geneva Pie Company for a muffin and coffee – and a sandwich to take with for lunch.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Pie. This one is a combination of seven fruits – everything except apples.

Not every flavor is available on a daily basis but any can be ordered for a specific day. Pies also can be ordered with no additional sugar added. Those who must curtail their sugar intake for medical reasons or who just wish to limit sugar intake to control their weight may find the no-sugar-added pies fit their dietary needs. For those who must avoid gluten, gluten-free pies may be ordered. The gluten-free pies are made from a blend of non-wheat flours such as tapioca or rice flours.

### ***Egg-cellent choice ~***

The quiches are another specialty item available to purchase and take home or to enjoy in the café.

“The basic and unique recipe was the original recipe from the Hollander House in Cleveland, Ohio, that featured the internationally renowned Marie Schriver’s recipe. It was combined with a recipe given to Marty by her neighbor Mrs.

Burns for Quiche Lorraine,” according to the Lake Geneva Pie Company’s website. This combination of recipes is now the basic quiche recipe used.

There are several quiches offered, giving customers a choice of flavors. The House Quiche is prepared with bacon, artichokes and Swiss cheese with a touch of red pepper and a hint of nutmeg. Other varieties include a ham and cheddar cheese quiche, an asparagus, tomato and mozzarella quiche, broccoli and cheddar quiche, and a sausage, onion, and chipotle jack cheese quiche. There is sure to be a combination for most any taste preferences.

Throughout the morning customers enter the café – some to pick up a coffee and a muffin or a sandwich to carry out. Others enjoy the cozy café as a place to meet with friends for morning coffee or lunch.

With soups, the deli style sandwiches, and salads there is a wide variety of choices –but remember to save room for dessert (or buy some pie to go).

# Grand Geneva gets top-10 rating

Grand Geneva Resort and Spa was recently recognized as the No. 8 top resort in the Midwest by Condé Nast Traveler.

The Lake Geneva resort was recognized in the magazine's 29th annual Reader's Choice Awards with a score of 91.11.

"It is a privilege to be recognized by the discerning readers of Condé Nast Traveler and we are honored to be ranked among the top 10 resorts in the Midwest on this esteemed list," said Managing Director Steve Magnuson. "This is a true testament to the skill and dedication of our staff which strives to provide the ultimate guest experience."

Over 300,000 readers – nearly twice as many as last year – cast votes for 7,394 hotels, 606 cities, 500 cruise ships, and 236 islands, in an average survey time of 8.4 minutes. The result? The 1,402 best travel experiences in the world.

Grand Geneva Resort and Spa, an AAA Four-Diamond resort owned and managed by Marcus Hotels and Resorts, is an all-seasons resort set on 1,300 acres.

The property features 355 guest rooms; the award winning WELL Spa and Salon; two 18-hole golf courses; The Mountain Top, a three-chair, 18-run ski and snowboard facility; 62,000 square feet of



Grand Geneva Resort and Spa, Lake Geneva, was recently recognized as the No. 8 top resort in the Midwest by Condé Nast Traveler.

meeting and convention space and three restaurants.

The Readers' Choice Awards were announced in the November issue of Condé Nast Traveler.

The full list is published exclusively online, at [www.CNTraveler.com/rca](http://www.CNTraveler.com/rca).

For more information on Grand Geneva Resort and Spa, visit [www.grandgeneva.com](http://www.grandgeneva.com).



## HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

**November 5 & 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with refreshments & specials.**

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# Outside the Lines

## COLORING FEEDS THE SOUL AND QUIETS THE MIND

by **Tracy Ouellette**

STAFF WRITER

For most kids, there's just something special about getting a new box of crayons and a coloring book. Almost everyone can relate to the excitement of getting the "big box" of crayons – the 64-count one, with the sharpener in the back. It's an almost universal memory.

So, when the adult coloring craze hit a couple of years ago, clinical counselor Kathy Bandstra wasn't surprised, she had been using coloring therapy in her practice for some time.

"I have been (using it) for about 20 years now because it has a calming benefit for people," she said. "I used to copy sheets off the internet and bring them to my clients and suggest they use them, especially if they were anxious and/or depressed."

Bandstra said the calming nature of coloring and the remembrance of youth help her clients talk about what's bothering them. She often colors right along with her clients.

"Everyone tells me how much it helps," she said. "I sometimes use it in the session, when they're really stressed – too stressed to talk about something – and then we color and they're able to tell me what's going on."

Bandstra said using her creative side in her practice helps her too. As an artist, she said the synergy of combining her two passions brings peace.

"When I use my creative side when I go home I'm all balanced out," she said.

The general public seems to have figured out the benefits of the activity in recent years. Adult coloring books take up entire isles at local department, drug and grocery stores. Many of the public libraries in the area have adult coloring sessions.

Deborah Grunow, of East Troy, regularly attends the Thursday afternoon sessions at the Mukwonago Community Library.

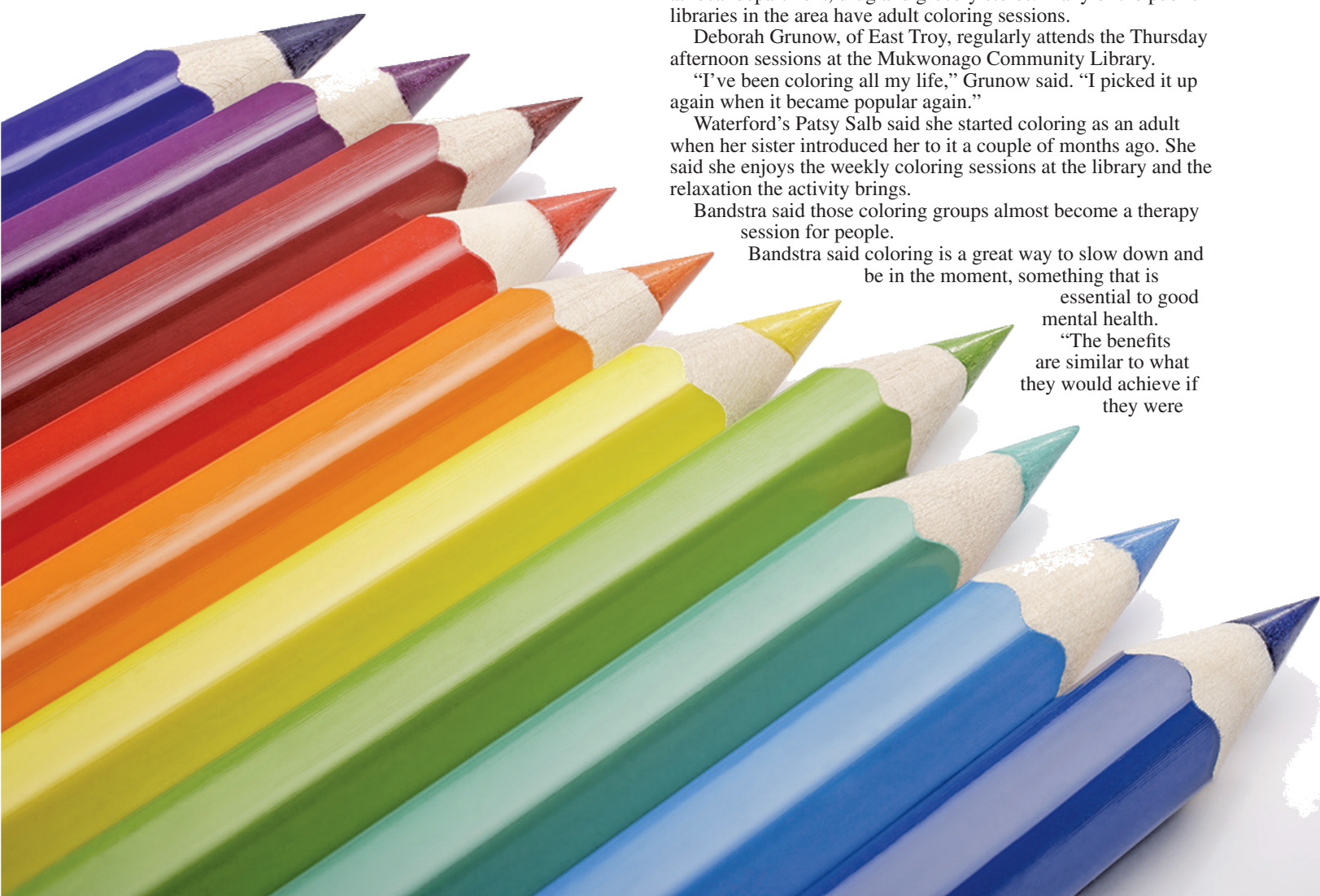
"I've been coloring all my life," Grunow said. "I picked it up again when it became popular again."

Waterford's Patsy Salb said she started coloring as an adult when her sister introduced her to it a couple of months ago. She said she enjoys the weekly coloring sessions at the library and the relaxation the activity brings.

Bandstra said those coloring groups almost become a therapy session for people.

Bandstra said coloring is a great way to slow down and be in the moment, something that is essential to good mental health.

"The benefits are similar to what they would achieve if they were





# The power of pencils

"Coloring is another method of practicing mindfulness, which has therapeutic and health benefits. This can help us replace negative thoughts with positive and pleasant ones. Doing therapeutic artwork can help reduce feelings of anxiety and unpleasantness associated with lengthy medical treatments. Using focus for the project at hand, and on an object we are coloring can replace negative and unhelpful thoughts from entering our minds. The step of acting and doing vs. observing is a powerful deterrent to focusing on physical or emotional pain."

*Excerpt from "Coloring You Way to Health"  
By Kathy Bandstra Clinical social worker*

mediating," Bandstra said. "It helps individuals to switch off their brain and thoughts, organize emotions, generate wellness, reduce anxiety and stress, helps with quietness and to focus on the moment."

While it shouldn't be considered a replacement for therapy if someone is really struggling, Bandstra said it can be used in conjunction with therapy.

"Almost everyone can relate to the fact they did it as children and found it helpful," she said. "Even people who didn't remember that much about it – men especially – find they're enjoying it."

In Bandstra's article "Coloring You Way to Health" she credits psychologist Carl Jung for coming up with the idea of a "prescription" of adult coloring.

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“Jung used it thinking it would help his patients access their subconscious and new self-knowledge,” Bandstra wrote in the article.

Bandstra said there are cases where coloring might not be the best idea for someone. For example, people with Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder might not be OK with coloring outside the lines and start obsessing about making the picture perfect, Bandstra explained.

However, she did have one client with OCD who she didn't think would benefit from coloring and much to her surprise, the activity helped with his disorder and he became more creative. She wrote about him in her article.

“One gentleman obsessed about the past, but with coloring he was able to think only of the project he was completing then,” she wrote. “This opened a whole new world of creativity for him.”

Bandstra's advice to anyone considering picking up one of those adult coloring books and a pack of colored pencils, is to give in to that inner child and do it. For a couple of dollars, they might find a new way to deal with the stress of everyday life and have a bit of fun doing it. For an hour, be a kid again.

“Don't worry about coloring outside the lines,” she said. “They don't have to be perfect like they were taught in school.”

*Bandstra is dually licensed as a*

“Everyone tells me how much it helps. I sometimes use it in the session, when they're really stressed – too stressed to talk about something – and then we color and they're able to tell me what's going on.”

KATHY BANDSTRA, Clinical social worker



TRACY OUELLETTE *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

With the popularity of coloring as a relaxing pastime there has been a proliferation of the types of coloring books available. An area therapist even uses coloring in her practice.



Pat Lewandowski spends an afternoon coloring at the Mukwonago Community Library. Many area libraries offer regular adult coloring sessions.

TRACY OUELLETTE *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

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clinical social worker and marriage and family therapist. She is also certified as an alcohol and drug counselor. She is trained in Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing therapy.

She treats adults and older adults. Her areas of experience include depression, anxiety, phobias, bipolar, chronic illness, grief and loss, family of origin issues, survivors of sexual abuse and other trauma, couples, women's issues, and substance abuse and addictions.

Bandstra works out of the Aurora Behavioral Health Center, 12225 71st St., Kenosha. Her telephone number is (262) 948-4870.

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Axis Dance Company, which blends performers with and without disabilities will perform at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater's Young Auditorium Nov. 2.

# Inclusive artistry

## DANCE COMPANY BLENDS PERFORMERS WITH AND WITHOUT DISABILITIES

AXIS Dance Company is bringing its talents to Young Auditorium on the campus of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Nov. 2 at 7:30 p.m.

AXIS Dance Company is one of the world's most acclaimed and innovative ensembles of performers with and without disabilities. Under the artistic direction of Judith Smith, AXIS has collaborated with leading contemporary choreographers and composers.

AXIS was featured on the Fox television program "So You Think You Can Dance." At Young Auditorium, AXIS will perform its 2015 theater work, "To Go Again," which brings to light the issues facing our nation's veterans and addresses their resilience following severe life changes.

Based in Oakland, Calif., AXIS Dance Company was founded in 1987. They are pioneers of the powerful contemporary dance form called physically integrated dance. For this and their continually impressive dance programs, AXIS has

been awarded seven Isadora Duncan Dance Awards.

Additionally, they stay true to their mission, which is to change the face of disability and dance. AXIS has created education and outreach programs such as Dance Access for Adults and Dances Access/KIDS!

Through these and other programs, AXIS brings physically integrated dance to schools, community centers, independent living centers, and to countless organizations seeking to learn more about dance, disability, and collaboration.

Tickets to AXIS Dance Company are free, but must be reserved in advance. To reserve tickets, go to the Greenhill Center of the Arts Box Office (located in the Greenhill Center of the Arts atrium on the UW-Whitewater campus) or call (262) 472-2222. To reserve tickets online, go to [www.uww.edu/youngauditorium](http://www.uww.edu/youngauditorium). Tickets ordered online can also be printed at home (a small fee is charged for this service).

For more information go to [www.youngauditorium.com](http://www.youngauditorium.com).

AXIS will lead a training session in physically integrated dance at UW-Whitewater on Nov. 3 from 5 to 9 p.m. and Nov. 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Troupe members will be working with Barbara Grubel, UWW interim associate dean, College of Arts and Communication and professor of dance, who has implemented her own Wheelchair dance class.

Here's a look at Young Auditorium's other November shows:

### David Pendelton Anything Can Talk

Friday, Nov. 11, 7:30 p.m.

Ever since he was six years old, David Pendelton has had a passion for ventriloquism and performing. Today, he's a seasoned professional, an in-demand comedian, and expert ventriloquist whose unique brand of family-friendly humor has won audiences over throughout the

world. His flawless technique as a ventriloquist sets him apart. He will not only amaze you with his ability to make you believe that anything can talk, but his comedy act will also keep you laughing from start to finish.

Pendelton brings to his show a cast of comedic characters including lovable but blunt Aunt Tilly, a 94-year-old spinster; the classic quick-witted trouble maker, Mack Elroy; the dopey yet adorable hound dog, Buford; and the slightly misguided albino vulture, Vern.

Of course no show would be complete without a few surprise appearances from members of the audience as well.

## Pro Arte Quartet

Wednesday, Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m.

The Pro Arte Quartet was founded in 1911-12 by students at the Brussels Conservatory, and considered to be an exponent of modern music at the time.

Pro Arte played their American debut in 1926, performing at the inauguration of the Hall of Music in the Library of Congress, Washington D.C. Pro Arte became the faculty string quartet at UW-Madison in the late 1950s, an appointment that continues to the present day. Today, in addition to widely acclaimed performances of standard classical repertoire, Pro Arte continues its tradition of championing new music.

The Pro Arte Quartet performs throughout the United States, Europe and Asia, and has performed at the White House.



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## Vail Resorts launches \$13 million in upgrades at Wilmot Mountain

by **Jason Arndt**

STAFF WRITER

When Colorado-based Vail Resorts bought Wilmot Mountain in January, there were two questions raised by some people along the Rocky Mountains, where snow skiing thrives.

Where is Wilmot? And why?

But, according to General Manager Taylor Ogilvie, who took over the role after the January purchase from Stopa LLC, Vail has done it before.

"Out west, people ask, where is Wilmot? And why would you buy a place in the Midwest?" said Ogilvie. "We have done it twice before, we have one in Minneapolis and one in Detroit."

The two Midwest outlets, unveiled in 2013,

along with Wilmot Mountain, 11931 Fox River Rd., Wilmot, are part of Vail Resorts' mission to deliver the same quality of service to local customers.

Quality service includes the use of the Epic Local Pass, priced at \$649 annually, which also grants access to 11 other Vail Resort properties that include Vail, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge and Park City.

"The strategy is about being able to ski at home," Ogilvie said. "It allows people to have a great guest experience at the service that they would expect at our western resorts."

The guest experience, and service, includes \$13 million in upgrades at the 79-year-old property.

Upgrades consist of three new ski lifts,

PHOTO COURTESY  
OF WILMOT MOUNTAIN  
*Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

# Goin' Big Time

With a new emphasis  
on family activities,  
Vail Resorts, the owner  
of Wilmot Mountain,  
is creating a separate  
Kids Ski School.





Danny Smeckenn applies a coat of paint to the new Kids Ski School building at Wilmot Mountain.

JASON ARNDT Spirit of Geneva Lakes

more efficient snowmaking equipment, a fully renovated base lodge, a children's ski school and an improved terrain.

Ogilvie, formerly of Lincolnshire, Ill., states the improvements are dramatic compared to when he was a child visiting the ski hill.

## ● OGILVIE RETURNS HOME

Before Vail Resorts took over Wilmot Mountain, Ogilvie held the same position at the Detroit property in Mount Brighton, and the new venture brings him closer to his hometown roots.

"It's been over 20 years since I have been this close," said Ogilvie, who lives near Crystal Lake, Ill., with daughters Meghan and Sarah and wife, Susan. "My kids get to see my mom more. It is neat, this is a place where I skied when I was a kid."

The transformation, he said, will take past customers by surprise when Wilmot Mountain holds its tentatively scheduled grand re-opening reception Dec. 10.

## ● MORE CHILD-FRIENDLY

New to Wilmot Mountain is a Kids' Ski and Snowboard



# Dining Directory

**HERNANDEZ EL SARAPE - RESTAURANT & CATERING** • 212 S. 7th St., Delavan. 262-728-6443. [www.hernandez-restaurant.com](http://www.hernandez-restaurant.com). L, D, \$ ¥

**SPRECHER'S RESTAURANT & PUB** • 111 Center St., Lake Geneva. 262-248-7047. [www.sprecherspub.com](http://www.sprecherspub.com) Online ordering now available. Happy hour specials Sun.-Fri. Craft beers and gourmet sodas. America's favorite family brew pub. L, D, FF \$-\$\$\$ ¥ ☺

**PRINCESS CAFE** • 2695 Main St., East Troy. 262-642-5905. B, L, D, FF \$ ¥ ☺

**DADDY MAXWELL'S** • 150 Elkhorn Rd., Hwy. 67, Williams Bay. 262-245-5757. [www.daddymaxwells.com](http://www.daddymaxwells.com). B, L, D (Fri.), FF NC \$ ¥ ☺

**GINO'S EAST OF CHICAGO** • 300 Wrigley Dr., Lake Geneva. 262-248-2525. [www.ginoseastlakegeneva.com](http://www.ginoseastlakegeneva.com). Chicago's original deep dish pizza, Italian sandwiches, salads and entrees. L, D, \$-\$\$\$ ¥

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Key

B: Breakfast L: Lunch D: Dinner NC: No credit cards accepted \$: Mostly under \$10 \$\$: Mostly under \$20 \$\$\$: Mostly under \$30 FF: Fish Fry ☎: Reservations requested ¥: Alcohol served ☺: Kids menu

Information is subject to change. Please contact individual restaurant for more information.

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School, housed in a previously unused building, which has a lunch and break room.

"The way that it was before, there really was nowhere for kids to take a break," Ogilvie said. "The ski school was a building that was used for something totally different, it wasn't a public building."

Near the newly restructured 4,000-square foot open space building lies a learning terrain at the base of the hill for children still learning to ski.

While children have their own building, families have two options – the base lodge and Iron Kettle with structural improvements.

### ● BASE LODGE TRANSFORMATION

Citing structural barriers, contractors tore down unneeded walls, creating open space to hold more customers.

"The main lodge sat just under 300 people, and a very old style cafeteria. Any time it was busy, it could not handle the volume," Ogilvie said.

"We are putting in more of a food

court feel with close to 800 seats in the lodge, opening it up, making the bar more integrated with the rest of the lodge."

Along with increased accommodations, WiFi capabilities and enhanced menu options are expected.

The transformation is not limited to the base lodge, however, with an upgraded Iron Kettle geared towards parents.

"It was a table service restaurant in the '70s, and since then, it was commonly used when a big group comes, they just put them in there," said Ogilvie. "That is being revived as a tavern with a really big, beautiful bar and table service."

Plans call for the Iron Kettle to have a new lounge, where parents can supervise their children at the ski and snowboard school, therefore, creating a well-rounded family atmosphere.

### ● EXPLORING THE TERRAIN

With improved amenities comes faster service on the slopes, where Vail replaced outdated equipment with four miles of new snowmaking pipe, more than 50

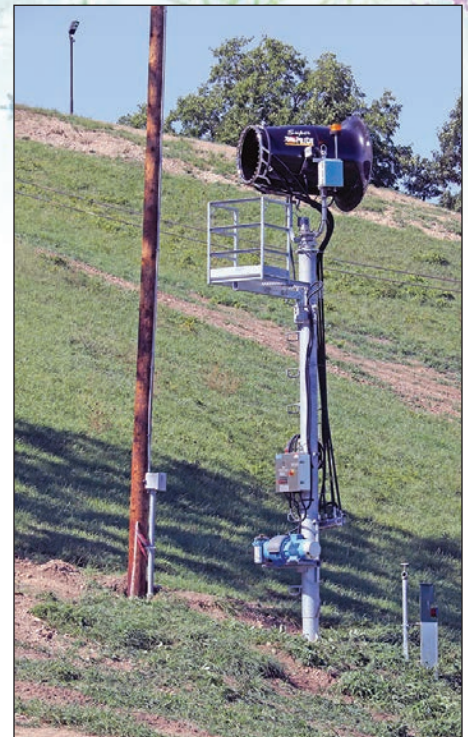


PHOTO COURTESY OF WILMOT MOUNTAIN Spirit of Geneva Lakes

A snowmaking fan is installed in the middle of the terrain at Wilmot Mountain.

A new ski-lift terminal and snowmaking fan sits at the terrain base of Wilmot Mountain.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WILMOT MOUNTAIN Spirit of Geneva Lakes



Vail Resorts is looking to give patrons of Wilmot Mountain the same type of experience they receive at the firm's world-famous ski resorts in Colorado.

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“

The strategy is about being able to ski at home. It allows people to have a great guest experience at the service that they would expect at our western resorts.”

snowmaking guns, 30 low-energy fan tower guns, six portable fan guns and 20 air water guns.

The original snowmaking equipment came in the 1950s, when it was state-of-art, but it slowly degraded after decades of use.

The plan, Ogilvie explained, is to open Wilmot Mountain earlier in the season and improve ski surfaces.

“The goal is to make more snow, faster,” Ogilvie said, noting the new equipment can fill the terrain in 2-3 days, compared to a week. “It is much more efficient from an energy consumption perspective.”

Ogilvie reports work on the snowmaking equipment has been completed.

Efficient snowmaking equipment is not the only upgrade. The resort has three new chairlifts replacing three existing lifts, and is refurbishing the rest.

The three new lifts, combined with a new high-speed towrope and two new surface conveyer lifts in the ski school area will increase uphill capacity by 45 percent and give skiers more time to enjoy the terrain.

The high-speed towrope, as well as an expanded terrain park, were inspired by staff at Colorado-area resorts.

Another upgrade is the addition of LED lighting, offering “more consistency throughout the park and less dark spots,” Ogilvie said.

### ● INFLUX OF CUSTOMERS EXPECTED

Noting upgrades, Ogilvie expects more customers from Chicago and Milwaukee, and result in a personnel increase at the park.

“I think we are going to see more people coming to Wilmot during the ski season,” Ogilvie said. “There is also the impact of we are definitely adding to the workforce with more jobs in the area.”

In early October, Wilmot Mountain held a job fair, which drew positive reviews.

“We had a great response and it was very busy with lots of people,” Ogilvie said.

### ● MEMBERSHIP AT A GLANCE

Wilmot Mountain offers three base membership options, depending on a customer’s plans – Epic Pass, Epic Local Pass and Wilmot Pass, along with short-term alternatives.

Some memberships include access to Vail Resort’s other facilities: Vail, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge, Keystone and



Construction crews lay down concrete outside the new Kids Ski School at Wilmot Mountain.

JASON ARNDT *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



A separate tubing run at Wilmot Mountain makes the facility accessible to those who don't ski or snowboard.

Arapahoe Basin in Colorado along with Park City, Utah.

Additionally, there are three in Lake Tahoe – Heavenly, Northstar and Kirkwood.

For the Midwest, Vail has Mt. Brighton in Michigan and Afton Alps in Minnesota. Internationally, they have Perisher in Australia.

Here's a closer look at the membership

options:

- Epic Pass (Unlimited Local and Western Resort access): Membership starts at \$809, and includes access to Wilmot Mountain and 12 other resorts extending 32,000 acres. For children 5-12, cost is \$419.

- Epic Local Pass (Unlimited Local with some Western restrictions): Membership starts at \$649, and includes unlimited

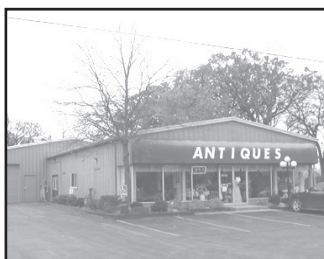
access to all but six resorts, Park City, Heavenly, Northstar, Kirkwood and a 10-day restrictions at Vail and Beaver Creek. For children, cost is \$339.

- Wilmot Pass: The Wilmot Pass, solely for local use, costs \$319 annually and a discounted family rate of \$809 for three members.

For more information, visit [EpicPass.com](http://EpicPass.com).

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A group of alpacas stand out against a background of freshly fallen snow at Earthcare Suri Alpacas in Rochester.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

# Alpaca Love

Local couple share their devotion for animal with the public

by **Dave Fidlin**  
CORRESPONDENT

A dozen years ago, Ed and Darlene Geiser decided to make a monumental professional change in their lives. They traded lawn treatment for the close cousin of the llama.

The Geisers' business, Earthcare Suri Alpacas, is situated on their 20-acre property in Rochester. In addition to raising Suris — one of two alpaca breeds — the couple has transformed Earthcare into a business offering tours and talks. They also sell an assortment of knitted and crocheted items that come straight from the alpacas.

As the Geisers contemplated retiring

their lawn care business, Darlene said she and her husband mulled over bringing animals onto their land.

"Since we have a large piece of property, we thought we should look at having animals," Darlene said, reflecting on that pivotal moment.

A light bulb went off in 2003 when they had the opportunity to interact with alpacas at a town festival. They immediately began researching the species, visiting farms and attending seminars. In short succession, they began raising 20 of the animals on their land.

"They're so easy to take care of and interact with," Darlene said, pointing out

People gather around an alpaca pen during an educational tour at Earthcare Suri Alpacas. Owners Darlene and Ed Geiser are dedicated to spreading the word about the animals benefits.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

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why she and her husband have an affinity for the four-footed wonders. “If I come home from a bad day, they’ll bring a smile to my face. I just melt inside.”

### Building a business

The Geisers’ love affair with alpacas has been evident by the evolution of their business. They have forged close ties with a number of organizations, including the Alpaca Owners Association and the Texas-based North American Coop, where a portion of their knitted, woven and crocheted products are sold.

The Geisers’ Suris also have gone on tour, visiting such disparate venues as nursing homes and children’s centers. The animals’ appearances have included stops at the Discovery Barn within the Walworth County fairgrounds.

Darlene said the reason she and Ed take their Suris out on the road is simple: “They’re great therapy animals because of their gentle ways. They’re good for so many things.”

Knowing that animals have a profound

way of enriching humans’ lives, Darlene said, she and Ed have made it a mission to use their animals as a mechanism toward promoting peace, harmony and similar virtues. The couple are quick to point out they happily open their doors to persons of all walks of life, and their diverse Suri herd is a reflection of this mantra.

“We have alpacas in almost all colors,” Darlene said. “They are animals for all income levels and interests. If you have a group that is interested in a special learning class, we will accommodate most anything you wish.”

The breed’s general temperament also lends to the on-the-road visits, as the Geisers have learned over the years.

“Alpacas are easy to handle and transport in a van,” Darlene said. “This livestock animal promotes a stress-free lifestyle. Their easy-going nature relaxes even the most stressed person.”

In addition to their on-the-road adventures, the Geisers’ 20 Suris take part in a number of activities on their Rochester property, which is open to the

public throughout the year. The couple has created a series of alpaca-themed activities, including obstacle courses for children and adults, as well as costume contests.

Through their affiliation with the Alpaca Owners Association, the Geisers also offer fleece and halter classes for persons interested in learning more about both practices, which are possible from the fibers that make up alpacas’ coats.

### New generations

As Earthcare has come into its own the past decade, the Geisers have used the business and their land as a springboard for birthing new Suris. As with so many aspects of their operations plan, Ed and Darlene have allowed the public to have a bird’s eye view into this fascinating process.

Earthcare features a birthing room. It serves as a place of sanctuary for mother and the baby, which is more technically referred to as a cria. While both roam freely in optimal conditions, Darlene said, the birthing room is especially useful in the winter and when bad weather strikes.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Alpacas graze under a blooming tree in this springtime scene from Earthcare Suri Alpacas.



They're so easy to take care of and interact with. If I come home from a bad day, they'll bring a smile to my face. I just melt inside."

Commercially, the Geisers sell their Suris as the new cria morph into young adults. The couple also offers custom breeding for persons seeking out a specific type of Suri, which is noted for its varying appearance.

For would-be owners with the available land or appropriate accommodations, Darlene said it is not difficult listing alpacas' many virtues, which have become strong selling points over the years.

"They are clean, quiet, intelligent, safe and disease resistant," Darlene said. "They have soft, padded feet that are earth-friendly."

Anyone who has raised animals knows all too well that waste management can be a messy part of the process. But Darlene said alpacas stand out from their peers because of their innate, instinctive behavior.

"Their manure does not have a strong odor, and they deposit it in one main spot," she said. "It's on a community dung pile."

### Behind the scenes

While the Suris themselves take center stage at Earthcare, there is quite a bit going on behind the scenes. In addition to their gentle persona, alpacas have another notable selling point: their fibers. For centuries, textile manufacturers have adored alpacas because of the many ways the species' coats can be used to create

high-quality articles of clothing.

"Alpacas produce one of the world's finest and most luxurious natural fibers," Darlene said. "It is soft as cashmere, and is warmer, lighter and stronger than wool and by nature water repellent."

The fibers also provide great value, Darlene said, pointing out, "We use every part of our alpacas' fiber — even the rough stuff."

The Geisers' herd is sheered once annually, and the outgrowth of the culled fiber is sold through a variety of outlets, most notably through Earthcare's partner, the North American Coop. That relationship means the alpacas' fibers are available to merchants and consumers in far-reaching locales.

A small shop is also situated on the Geisers' farm. The couple sells a variety of products made entirely of Suris' fibers, including socks, rugs, horse saddle pads and blankets, hats, gloves, fur-created toys, sweaters and vests. Raw materials made of the fibers are also available, including skein, roving, felt and raw fleece.

Suri alpacas have a life expectancy of about 20 years. They stand about 36 inches tall and weigh around 150 pounds. They largely subsist on a diet of grass. They also chew cud, which is a portion of digested food that is consumed for a second time.

Females' gestation periods range from 11 months to a year, and one cria is born amid the birthing process. Cria weigh between 17 and 19 pounds.

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Earthcare Suri Alpacas sells items ranging from hats to socks that are made from the fibers of the alpacas raised on the farm.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

## A breed apart

There is one additional breed of alpaca beyond Suris, the Huacayas. Attempting to delineate between the two breeds, Darlene said with a laugh, “Suris are the ones that look like they have dreadlocks. They also have a silkier kind of fiber.”

Suris and Huacayas are both domesticated variants of the South American camelid. Their origins are traced back to a number of countries on the continent, including Peru, where they have been known to graze along the Andes Mountains, in addition to Bolivia, Chile and Ecuador.

Darlene said Earthcare’s Suris have what she considers “top lineage,” as evidenced by roots that can be traced to a number of South American locales.

Alpacas and llamas are commonly confused with one another. Both are traced to camelids and are considered cousins of one another. The two species have a number of distinct differences, however, including some of their bodily features.

Alpacas, for instance, have short, spear-shaped ears, while llamas have longer, banana-shaped ears. The overall size of the two species is another strong differentiator. Llamas are significantly heavier than their cousin, weighing 400 pounds, on average.

Another notable difference is their overall purpose, from the standpoint of the breeder. From their earliest days, alpacas have primarily been bred for their fibers, while llamas have largely been

bred for their meat.

Additionally, alpacas have long been noted for their herd-like mentality, while llamas, by contrast, have a more independent streak embedded within their disposition.

## Looking ahead

As she and Ed consider the future, Darlene said she looks forward to Earthcare’s continued evolution, although the couple does not intend to alter their business’ overall mission statement.

“We are a small farm with a big heart,” Darlene said.

Earthcare is open year-round by appointment. The farm also is open at times during general days and times for public tours and information sessions. In the months ahead, the Geisers are holding a series of open houses this fall and early winter. Snacks will be served, and special deals will be offered.

The farm will have the open houses from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5 and Sunday, Nov. 6 and again on Saturday, Dec. 3 and Sunday, Dec. 4.

In November, Earthcare also will have general public hours from 4 to 7 p.m. Fridays, Nov. 4-18 and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays Nov. 12 and 19 and Sundays, Nov. 13 and 20.

Earthcare is at 146 N. Honey Lake Rd., Rochester. For information, visit the company’s website at [www.earthcaresuri.com](http://www.earthcaresuri.com), call (262) 534-4091 or email [earthcare@wi.rr.com](mailto:earthcare@wi.rr.com).

# Beer and Spirits Fest is Nov. 5

The seventh annual Beer and Spirits Festival will take place on Saturday, Nov. 5, at the Grand Geneva Resort and Spa, 7036 Grand Geneva Way, Lake Geneva.

The event, which runs from 1 to 5 p.m., will feature unlimited beer tastings from 35 craft breweries. Guests can also sample specialty liquors out of their commemorative tasting glass and enjoy food and beer pairings while supporting Never Say Never, Inc., a newly formed nonprofit that is building an inclusive playground for kids of all abilities. New this year, the event will also offer a cash bar and Bloody Mary bar, featuring an alternative for the non-beer drinkers. Music and a photo booth will round out the popular Halloween season event.

General admission tickets are \$45 and include unlimited beer, spirits and food samples plus a commemorative tasting glass.

Music will be provided by DJ Felix Entertainment and a photo booth will also be present at the festival. Designated driver tickets are available for \$15 and include unlimited gourmet soda, food sampling, entertainment and photo booth pictures.

Skip the lines and enter the festival an hour early as a VIP while tasting special reserves not available to the general audience. VIP Ticket holders also receive a festival souvenir, food samples, unlimited beer and spirits tastings, entertainment and photo booth pictures.

VIP tickets are \$80 per person, with a limited quantity available.

Guests must be 21 or older to attend. A photo ID is required upon entrance.

For more details on this event, visit [www.lakegenevabeerandspirits.com](http://www.lakegenevabeerandspirits.com).

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THE SPIRIT'S

# *Holiday*

GIFT GUIDE





Whether to decorate your own home or as a gift to a valued friend or family member, handmade wreaths such as this are available at Breezy Hill Nursery in Salem.

# They've got the gifts

## Local merchants offer one-of-a-kind holiday shopping experience

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT



With the holiday shopping season upon us, it is time to give some thought to choosing exciting gifts for holiday giving and those important host or hostess gifts when sharing holiday celebrations.

The goal is always to find that special gift that will delight the recipient – always on the lookout for something not found in every store along the way. If

you are ready to begin that process of shopping we have some tips to aid you in your quest for the perfect gift.

Shopping local is always a great idea and when looking for special gifts it is fortunate to be in the Geneva Lakes area where there are many specialty and boutique shops with items to please even the most difficult friend or relative.

Jewelry is always a favorite gift and there is a variety of jewelry available from high-end gold and sterling silver set with diamonds or precious stones to costume items with a funky look.

### Fontana Jeweler

553 Highway 67, Fontana, Wis.  
(262) 275-6363

There are always great gifts from Fontana Jeweler for the man or woman who loves and appreciates fine jewelry. A favorite line of jewelry that Fontana recommends for a holiday gift is the Waxing Poetic Line from California. Their pieces are interchangeable from bracelets to pendants. The pieces are contemporary, yet will be enjoyed for years.

Give the gift of Geneva Lake. Experience the Geneva Lake Collection with over 75 different designs that range from necklaces to accessories. Geneva Lake charms are available in both men's and women's items. There is sure to be a design to please anyone on your gift list. The beautiful Geneva Lake charms

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are handcrafted in sterling silver, 14K or 18K gold and even platinum. They can be accented with a diamond or gemstone. Like a point on a map, a gemstone or diamond can be placed at a Geneva Lake location with special meaning for you. See the full collection at [Fontanadiamonds.com](http://Fontanadiamonds.com) or in the showroom.

*Looking for a gift more in the area of room décor? Here are some suggestions:*

### Paper Dolls Home Furnishings and Design

138 Geneva Square, Lake Geneva, Wis.

Making the table the centerpiece begins with fine quality placemats and napkins. Coordinate your colors to the season. Fine dinnerware, and flatware is available for completing that beautiful look. Don't forget candlesticks and tapered candles. Consider the battery-powered candles to maintain an even light and avoid wax on linens and tables.

Bring the Christmas season in with the Line by Thymes of Frazier Fir scented items including the reed diffuser, candles, dish soap, and lotions – a welcome gift this holiday season.

### Rustic Realm

N4522 Highway F, Elkhorn, Wis.

For anyone who loves Northwoods décor, one of the friendly, sign carrying, chainsaw-carved bears are a must. These classic bears will add to the flavor of your Northwoods retreat or bring a taste of the Northwoods home with you.

A mug with an antler for the handle is sure to please the hunter on your list. This large well-designed antler mug has hand-painted artwork on the outside. It's the perfect gift for the outdoorsman who has everything.

For that special person in the house who enjoys time in the rocker or recliner, consider the rocker recliner with cloth seats and backs depicting a rustic theme.

If you are not sure what they would like, there is always a gift certificate.

### Breezy Hill Nursery

7530 288th Avenue, Salem, Wis.  
(262) 537-2111

Give a beautiful gift inspired by nature when you choose a wreath, swag, or centerpiece from the garden center. Pick up one that is already made and waiting for you, or request a custom decorated piece.

Staying warm is important as we move into the cold Wisconsin winter. For the feeling of warmth in your home add unique holiday themed décor. To keep the person on your list physically warm pick up scarves, gloves, or sweaters. A gift that will provide warmth and keep them looking good.

*Do you have someone on your list that would like a gift of clothing? There are plenty of local options:*



This outfit from Oh My Gauze in Lake Geneva is comfortable yet fashionable in lightweight gauze. Coordinating colors are available in a variety of pieces.



Chainsaw-carved bears with welcoming signs will add that touch of northern Wisconsin to a cabin or the man cave. These carvings are available at Rustic Realm in Elkhorn.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

What better reminder of your time at Geneva Lake than a Geneva Lake charm, bracelet or necklace? They are available at Fontana Jeweler in sterling silver, 14-karat or 18-karat gold or Platinum.



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## Oh My Gauze!

227 Broad St., Lake Geneva, Wis.

For the woman on your gift list who likes style and comfort, Oh My Gauze fashions fit the bill. Made of 100 percent cotton these clothes are easily washed and dried in the machine. Many items are hand painted. A variety of colors and styles can be put together to create a custom look. Pair it with some of the costume jewelry, especially the Fickelsticks line which will add a splash of color.

## Cornerstone Shop and Gallery

214 Broad St., Lake Geneva  
(262) 248-6988

Cornerstone is the store that seemingly has something for your entire gift list. A Michael Aram Ring Catch is a perfect item for women who remove their rings while doing household chores and then don't remember where they left them. But Cornerstone has more, ranging from boutique fashionable clothes for women to jewelry and other accessories.

The store has an extensive home décor department and accent pieces for your home. Is anyone on the list the proud parent of a new baby? Check out the children's section for unique gifts. Cornerstone is also the place to pick up books by local authors.

## Earthcare Suri Alpacas

146 N. Honey Lake Road, Burlington, Wis.  
(262) 534-4091

Looking for a really unusual gift?

Consider a gift made of Suri Alpaca yarn. Items available at the farm for gift giving include sweaters, baby sweaters, scarves, mittens, gloves, hats, rugs and purses. Or purchase the yarn and allow your recipient to make her own scarf, mittens or socks. The person on your list will be grateful when the weather gets cold and they are warm in their hats, gloves and socks made from Alpaca.

*The holidays are a time for celebrating with fine wines and special foods. Here a just a few of your choices:*

## Staller Estate Winery

W8896 County Road A, Delavan, Wis.  
(608) 883-2100

Cork cages not only hold your used corks but most will hold a bottle of wine, making it an all-in-one gift. Wine clutch bags or an insulated wine clutch that comes with a corkscrew also make great gifts. It's an elegant way to carry your wine. The wine clutch can also be used as a lunch bag or a purse. They are available in various colors.

## Bruno's Liquors

524 Broad St., Lake Geneva, Wis.  
(262) 248-6407

With the largest supply of wines and craft beers in the area, there is sure to be that special bottle to bring to a host or hostess. For that special someone, consider a bottle of Dom Perignon to celebrate an important day. For the beer lover on your list, an assortment of locally brewed craft beers is sure to be a hit.

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SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Any wine lover would enjoy this Magnum of Cabernet Sauvignon from Bruno's Liquors in Lake Geneva.



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Looking for a whimsical statement piece? These tables made from pieces of glass and available at Always Remember That antique mall will add color to a room.



Embarrassed to carry your wine bottle to a friend's home in a paper sack? Then these beautiful wine carriers from Staller Estate Winery – complete with corkscrew – are just the perfect gift.

SUBMITTED PHOTO  
*Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



Always misplacing rings? Then this Michael Aran ring catch is available at Cornerstone Shop and Gallery. Placing the rings on the catch when removing means never having to panic searching for them.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

### Sorg's

N4290 Hwy 14 Darien, Wis.  
(262) 714-5554

For the meat and cheese lover, an assortment of homemade sausages and Wisconsin cheeses is sure to please. Papa Woody's BBQ Sauce and Plan B Seasonings make a great gift for aspiring cooks.

### Hill Country Market

7510 288th Avenue, Salem, Wis.  
(262) 537-4867

Looking for a gift that is absolutely delicious? Check out the gift baskets filled with a variety of local, organic, and gluten-free products from this market. Choose one that is already made or have one put together with things especially picked out for the person on your gift list.

Looking for wine, beer, craft beer, and or even local liquor as a holiday gift? Check out the large selection available here.

*Every woman wants to look her best and here's one suggestion that makes it easy:*

### Permanent Makeup Designs by Mary

235 Broad St., Lake Geneva, Wis.  
(262) 248-3303

A gift card from Permanent Makeup Designs by Mary is perfect for the person on your gift list who has always desired to have permanent makeup applied. Permanent makeup reduces morning preparation time as makeup application is all ready complete. Whether this person desires this as a time saver or for medical reasons, the gift will certainly be appreciated.

*Antique malls and resale shops are often great places to find interesting and unusual gifts:*

### Always Remember That Antique Mall

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beautiful ornaments for the tree or to be displayed on a stand. For the Radko ornament collector on your list or the person who just loves unusual Christmas decorations check out the large collection available. You could purchase one as a hostess gift for that holiday party or for the newlyweds on your shopping list that are just beginning to collect their Christmas memorabilia. Howard Miller Clocks add a look of elegance to the home. Is there a clock lover on your list? Check out the five Howard Miller standing clocks available.

Need a whimsical gift for a lighthearted friend? Tables, stools, and wall hangings made from pieces of colored glass will add a colorful accent to any room.

### The Shy Violet

125 E. Chestnut, Burlington, Wis.  
(262) 767-8390

What little girl would not enjoy taking her doll for a ride in a circa 1930s carriage?

Or maybe there is an adult toy or antique collector who would love this carriage for use as a decorative item? The place to look for estate jewelry is often in antique shops. With several large displays of silver jewelry and cameos this may be the place for picking out the perfect gift for that person who loves the antique look in jewelry.

*Give the gift of a getaway or relaxation:*

### Lake Lawn Resort

2400 E. Geneva Street, Delavan, Wis.  
(262) 728-7950

A gift card from Lake Lawn Resort is sure to please anyone on your list. They can be used at the resort for overnight stays, a round of golf, services and treatments at the Caladora Spa, boat and water sports rentals. Or enjoy a dinner at the Frontier Restaurant or one of the other restaurants on site. You could also shop in the General Store for collectibles and other interesting items.



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

**TOP:** Every hostess enjoys preparing a beautiful table when entertaining. Placemats, napkins, china, flatware all make perfect gifts and are available at Paper Dolls in Lake Geneva.

**ABOVE:** An antique doll buggy, available at The Shy Violet, is sure to please a child with a doll to take for a walk.

Gift cards are available at the resort's front desk.

## Doheny's Water Warehouse

5102 Green Bay Road, Kenosha, Wis.  
(262) 654-3311

Looking for a small gift or an exceptionally large one? Doheny's has them all. For the person with a spa, an array of relaxing scents to add to the water are available. For the children on the list how about some water goggles or pool toys? These are especially good if your family is planning a winter getaway to warmer climates. For the ultimate gift consider a spa. It is an investment that will be enjoyed for years.

*Everyone enjoys a meal out: no cooking; no cleaning up. Here are some great local restaurants that would be a place for a relaxing romantic dinner or a light afternoon meal. Consider a gift card to some of our favorites:*

**Binanti's Taste of Italy, 101 S. Second St., Silver Lake, WI** – Known for their homemade Italian foods. Everything, including their sausages, are

made in house.

**Colony House, Highway JF, Trevor, WI** – Experience the feel of the old time Wisconsin Supper Club. Famous for their steaks, prime rib and duck.

**Fitzgerald's Genoa Junction Highway B, Genoa City, WI** – Famous for bringing the Door County fish boil to the Lake Geneva area.

**Lucke's Cantina Food and Spirits, 220 Elkhorn Road, Williams Bay, WI** – Enjoy Mexican food, fresh guacamole made in house and great margaritas

**Moy's Restaurant, 5 N. Wisconsin St. Elkhorn, WI** – Chinese and American cuisine, but I would recommend the Chinese items on the menu.

**Sprecher's Restaurant and Pub, 111 Center Street, Lake Geneva, WI** – Famous for their German and American entrees and craft beers.

**Gino's East of Chicago, 300 Wrigley Drive, Lake Geneva, WI** – Chicago-style deep dish pizza.

**Riga-Tony's Delicatezze Italiano, 5576C Highway 50, Delavan, WI** – Italian style foods. Come to eat, shop the deli.



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Resale shops like the Shy Violet in Burlington are great places to look for jewelry. This silver grouping contains a variety of items.

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# Memories

## IN THE MAIL

Summer  
campers  
brighten the  
day of former  
director

by **Tracy Ouellette**  
STAFF WRITER

During a visit to her dad's home in Florida earlier this year, Mary Montavon, of Waukegan, Ill., noticed how much her father Donald "Don" Scherwhat loved his daily trip to the mailbox.

"Dad has dementia and doesn't get out a lot anymore, so when I noticed he was gone, I was surprised," she said. "I asked his lady friend, Annie, who he lives with, where he was and she said, 'Oh, he went to get the mail.' She told me he loves the mail and waits

for it every day. He just lives for it."

Montavon said she watched her dad when he returned and was touched by the care that went into going through the post and how he opened each piece and read everything.

"It got me thinking about how I could get lots of letters to Dad," she said. "I can't write every day and neither can my sister, but there had to be a way. I knew we were going to need some help."

Don Scherwhat opens one of the letters written for him by a camper at Camp Edwards in East Troy. Campers wrote almost 300 letters for Scherwhat, who is a former director of the camp (inset).



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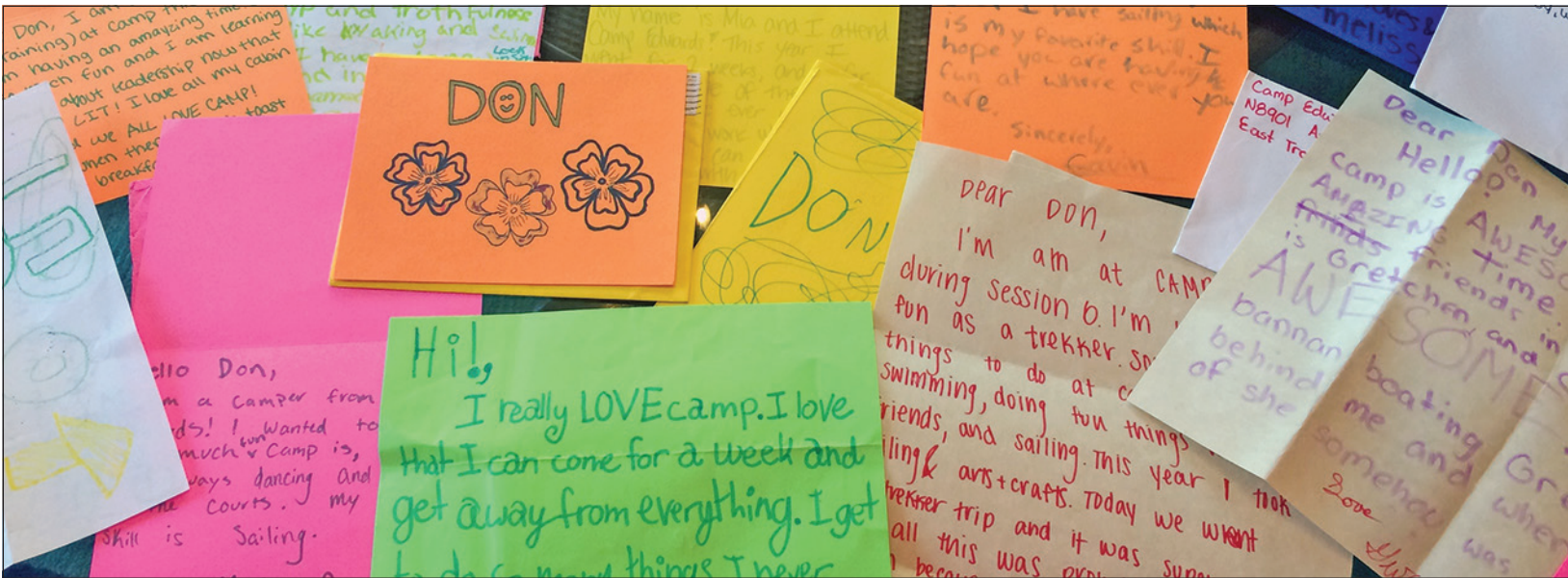
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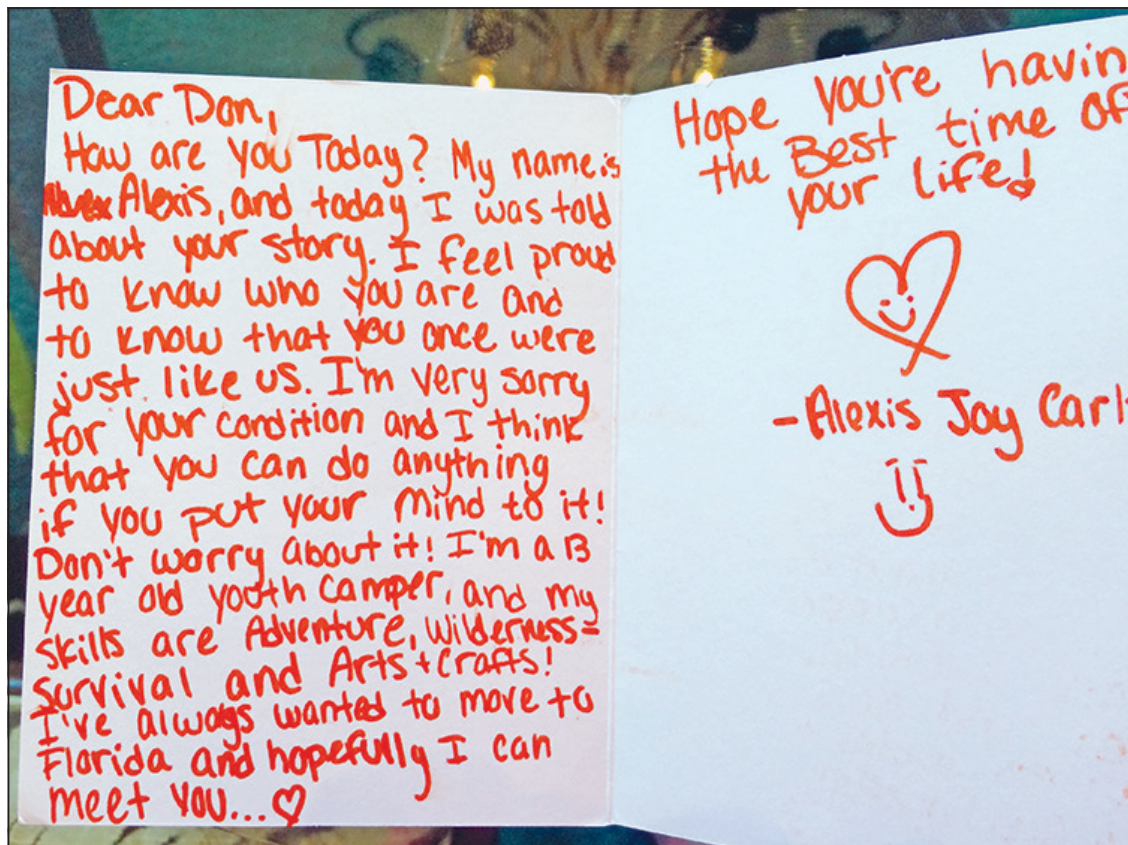
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Above: The “post office” at Camp Edwards had a special box for the letters to Don Scherwhat. Below, right: A camper named Alexis penned a heartfelt letter to the former camp director.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

## A BRIGHT IDEA

Montavon said her first thought was to contact the school district in North Chicago where her dad started out as a teacher and eventually moved into administration as the district's business manager.

“He was there for 35 years, so it was what came to mind first,” she said. “But it didn’t make sense because it was so long ago. Dad’s 89 now and no one at the school would remember him.”

So, she thought a bit more on it, hoping for some inspiration.

“And then I started to think about camp,” she said. “He was the director at Camp Edwards in East Troy in the late 1950s. I can remember how we’d all go up there each summer – Mom and us kids with Dad. We loved it up there and Dad loved his job there.”

With the memories of their time at the camp on Lake Beulah flooding back, Montavon began to wonder if she could ask

Camp Edwards for help.

“So, I wrote to Jody (Heimos) and asked if they would be interested in helping out,” she said.

Heimos, the camp’s executive director, responded immediately – and with enthusiasm.

“She contacted us and told me about her dad and how he loved getting mail and wondered if the campers would be willing to write letters over the summer for him,” Heimos said. “I thought it was a great idea and talked to our arts and crafts director,

Brigid Broderick, and she was all for it. She just ran with it and led the project at the camp.”

Heimos said Montavon provided all the supplies – paper, cards, envelopes, etc. – and the kids worked on the letters all summer long.

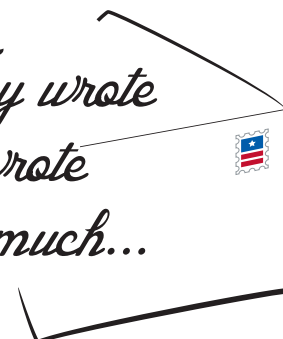
“We had staff members writing too,” he said. “It was one of those cool things all the kids and staff got into.”

## A LOAD OF LETTERS

Near the end of summer, when camping



*They wrote such beautiful things. They wrote about their camp experience. They wrote about their activities. They shared so much...*



season wrapped up, Montavon got a call from Heimos.

"Jody said it took us all summer, but we have 290 letters for you," she said.

He told her how much the kids loved the project and how invested they had become in it over their time at the camp.

"And how they learned so much from it," Montavon said.

"Some of them had never addressed a letter before and had to learn how to fill out an envelope."

Montavon went up to the camp after the call to pick up the box of letters and was moved to tears at the generosity of heart the young campers showed a man they had never met.

"They wrote such beautiful things," she said. "They wrote about their camp experience. They wrote about their activities. They shared so much."

After Montavon got the box of letters home, she began mailing them to her dad. She sends two or three a day and her father has been joyously opening the mail for a few weeks now.

"Annie has been sending me pictures of him opening the letters and it's just so heartwarming," Montavon said. "She said he's been reading them so carefully and is treasuring them."

She said her dad wants to write everyone who sent a letter back, "But we talked about it and since we really don't have a way to get a letter back to every child, he's going to write a letter to Jody and the camp."

Montavon said she and her family were so grateful to everyone who wrote her dad and wished they all could see the smile on his face when he gets the mail now.

"He gets all these fun letters and it just makes his day," she said.

## ABOUT CAMP EDWARDS

Edwards YMCA Camp and Retreat Center is on the shores of Lake Beulah in East Troy. The camp, established in 1929, is a branch of the Golden Corridor Family YMCA.

The camp's mission statement reads: "Camp Edwards is governed by the same Mission the YMCA established all those years ago, 'To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy mind, body and spirit for all.' Through the general make up of camp, we encourage exercise, creativity and peaceful reflection in the environment that God has created."

For more information, visit [www.campedwards.org](http://www.campedwards.org).

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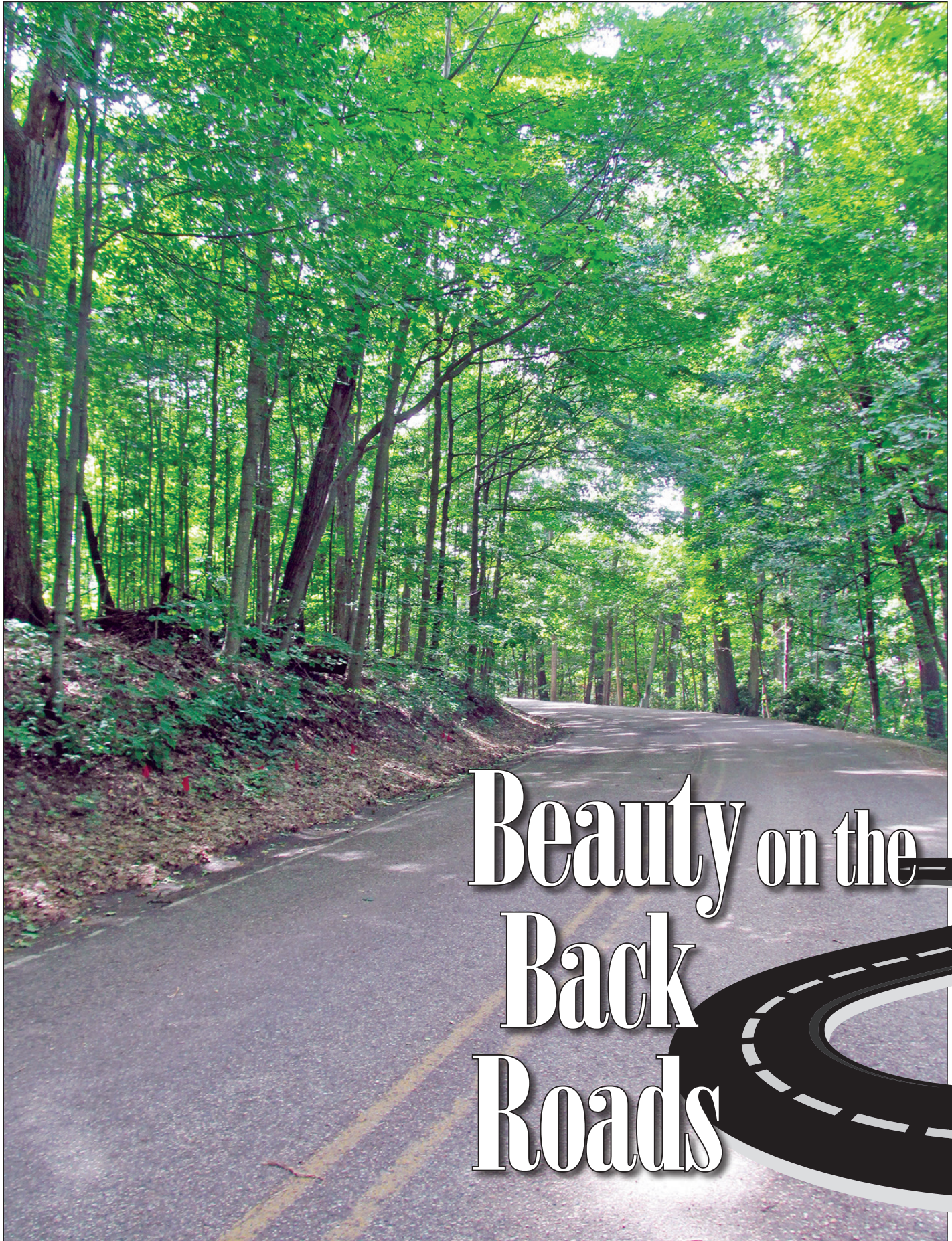
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# Beauty on the Back Roads

# Area rustic roads make travel an adventure



here's still time to catch a flash of autumn color as it fades from the trees and one of the best ways to see it is a trip on one of the area's rustic roads.

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**  
CORRESPONDENT

How many of us have traveled or even know where Snake Road, South Road, Cranberry Road or Back Road are located and where they lead?

These less commonly known roads are a part of the Rustic Road System, which was created by the Wisconsin State Legislature in 1973 as a way to preserve some of the scenic, smaller, and less-traveled roads that represent the spirit of Wisconsin's countryside.

## SOME HISTORY

The first Rustic Road, designated in 1975, was appropriately called Rustic Road 1, and is just north of Medford in the northwest quadrant of the state. Rustic Road 1 crosses through hills and valleys that were created by the last Wisconsin glacier nearly 12,000 years ago.

Since that first designation, the number of Rustic Roads has increased to 115 as of 2014. The roads cover a total of 665 miles and are found in 59 of the state's 72 counties. They tend to be short from two miles to a maximum of 37 miles, but most in our area are approximately 6 to 10 miles in length.

The roads are marked by brown and yellow signs with an outline of the state and the words Rustic Road. The route itself is designated by a number with an R in front to prevent it being confused with regular state highways. The distance the route covers is also listed.

I first noticed Rustic Road signs a few years ago while driving along Highway 50. Unaware of what they meant, I planned to do some research and as often happens, life got in the way. Finally after passing the sign three or four times, I decided to take the time to at least drive a short way down the route.

I found myself on a back road appropriately named Back Road. Following a curving route of hills and valleys, through a peaceful countryside, I was finally motivated to learn more about the Rustic Roads.

## WHAT QUALIFIES AS RUSTIC?

In order to qualify as a Rustic Road, there are criteria that must be met. It must have outstanding natural features along its borders such as rugged terrain, native vegetation, or wildlife. It must be a lightly traveled local access road. It cannot be scheduled for any major improvements, which would change its character.

Rustic Roads may be dirt, gravel, or paved and are open to automobiles, motorcycles, bicyclists, and hikers looking for a scenic country ride or walk. Maximum speed limits are 45 miles per hour but local jurisdictions may lower them. Many are posted at 30 mph.

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation oversees the rustic roads program but the roads themselves remain under local jurisdiction. It is a partnership between the state and local authorities that focuses on preservation and promotion of these country roads.

A special program for motorcyclists encourages them to travel the Rustic Roads. Those who complete a tour of 10 roads receive a patch. After completion of 25 roads a special state certificate is given. Participants must take a photograph in front of each Rustic Road sign, if riding alone a photograph of the motorcycle will suffice. The photos should be submitted at once and there is no time limit to complete the tour.

## YOUR TOUR GUIDE

I recently revisited four of the Rustic Roads in the Geneva Lakes Area. I began with R-29, then made my way to R-12, R-11,

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With small hills and curves, this serenely wooded area presents a quiet route from Highway 50 to Highway 36.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ Spirit of Geneva Lakes

and R-36. Each of these is an interesting road, with a rural flavor even though they are just a few miles away from the businesses and busyness of Lake Geneva.

### RUSTIC ROAD 29

R-29 is on Snake Road, an aptly named road as it twists and wiggles through the countryside. It is accessed in Lake Geneva off of Highway 50. Driving west through town, continue until you pass the visible edge of Geneva Lake and then watch the little side roads very carefully for the small street sign announcing Snake Road. It is easy to pass it as you look onto Snake Road, the Rustic

Road sign R-29 is seen on the right side of the road.

A paved road, R-29 is 2.7 miles stretching from the intersection of Snake Road with Highway 50 on the western edge of downtown Lake Geneva. It heads west to where it rejoins Highway 50 in the Town of Geneva.

This loop of countryside is a place of natural beauty as the road twists and turns and the elevation changes. It is also the most populated of the four roads that I visited both for the houses on the side and the amount of traffic going through. While not a traffic jam, I did see eight to 10 cars and one motorcycle traveling this Rustic Road.

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Rustic Roads are marked with special brown signs with yellow printing. Each road has a designated number with an R preceding it. Each road is relatively short and has the mileage listed at the beginning of the route.

The homes along the road are beautiful with well-landscaped lawns. Split rail fencing is found in some areas and, like all the Rustic Roads, the natural vegetation presents a beautiful sight.

Once I rejoined Highway 50, I headed east through Lake Geneva with its busy summertime visitors, passing through the construction area around Highway 12 and continuing to the east watching for the Rustic Road sign along Highway 50 warning of the need to turn.

### RUSTIC ROAD 12

R-12 begins on Highway 50 with its intersection at Back Road and continues through Sheridan Springs Road, Spring Valley Road and Church Road taking you from Highway 50 to Highway 36 in the Town of Lyons. This Rustic Road is also paved and travels 5.7 miles.

This route is somewhat like R-29 in that it squiggles through the countryside with many curves and turns. It is more open with views of rich green hills and valleys and pine and spruce plantations. White fences dot some of the countryside. Views of Kettle Moraine formations, pine and spruce plantations, a tamarack swamp and several ponds can be enjoyed as you travel this route.

A beautiful spot to stop and stretch your legs and take in the view is at the White River County Park, which appears suddenly as you round a turn. The huge barn looms larger than life. It is a place to return to on a day with more time to wander the trails.

R-12 ends in the quaint community of Lyons a typical small town in Wisconsin. Lyons is a great place to take a walk and enjoy the small-town flavor of the Wisconsin countryside. The ending of R-12 is near the R-11 Rustic Road and so it was easy to switch to R-11 as I continued on my journey.

### RUSTIC ROAD 11

R-11 is similar to R-12 in that it links Highway 50 to Highway 36, but the routes are very different. The route is a rectangle as it travels along South Road, Spring Valley Road, Knob Hill Road and Steele Road over paved surfaces for a length of 10.3 miles. Like

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R-12, there are excellent views of Kettle Moraine topography. It passes through large wooded areas where one can view oak, maple and hickory trees and as well as open agricultural land.

On my trip, I was unable to cover the Spring Valley Road section due to road construction. While driving the Steele Road portion of R-11, another decision had to be made. At the intersection with Berndt Road, R-36 joined R-11. Should I continue straight and finish the R-11 route or abandon it for a ride along R-36? The choice was simple, finish R-11 route then turn around and join R-36.

### **RUSTIC ROAD 36**

R-36 is a short, but interesting, route. Only 3.6 miles in length, it travels along Berndt Road and Cranberry Road. It is a scenic narrow hilly route that winds through farmland, and glacial marshes. Trees and shrubs are plentiful. Along Cranberry Road I noted several horse farms. Cranberry Road received its name from the early settlers who harvested cranberries from the nearby marshes.

As Cranberry Road rejoined Highway 50, I ventured back to the reality of fast roads and traffic after a very relaxing time wandering a few of Wisconsin's special roads.

I have now ridden these roads in spring when the grasses are just beginning to sprout and the trees are beginning to show budding as they awaken for the summer. Now in summer, the green canopies of leaves hang over the road from the trees lining the sides and flowers are in full bloom.

Fall and winter are my favorite seasons and I will again drive these routes as the leaves change from green to the crimson, oranges, and yellows of fall. Lastly, I will travel these roads after a snowfall when everything glistens in the light of newly fallen snow.

For many these scenic roads are often the ones not taken. To quote Robert Frost's poem "The Road Not Taken":

"I took the one less traveled by, And that has made all the difference."

Perhaps a ride on the roads not taken will make a difference in your life as you relax and enjoy the beauty and simplicity of nature instead of fighting the noise, traffic and pollution of the roads more frequently traveled.

# State offers new interactive guide to...



Visitors planning trips to Wisconsin's 119 Rustic Roads have more information than ever.

The 2016 Rustic Roads Guide has been converted into an interactive guide. This interactive guide provides detailed maps and highlights items of interest such as historic markers, native plants and hiking and biking trails. Each Rustic Road also has a dedicated webpage, which includes a Google map to make travel planning easier.

Wisconsin's Rustic Roads program was started more than 40 years ago to preserve scenic, lightly traveled country roads for the leisurely enjoyment of hikers, bicyclists and motorists. Rustic Roads range from less than a mile to 37 miles in length and have a maximum speed limit of 45 miles per hour.

Brown and yellow signs mark the routes of all officially designated Rustic Roads. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation oversees the Rustic Roads program; however, the roads remain under local government jurisdiction.

Many of the photographs in the Rustic Roads Guide and on the web pages were submitted for a photo contest held in recognition of the 40th anniversary of the program.

Travelers on the Rustic Roads are encouraged to share their own photos by using #RusticRoads or @WisconsinDOT in social media posts.

There is also a Rustic Roads Motorcycle Tour program. Bikers who travel at least 10 of roads and document their travel with a photo in front of a Rustic Roads numbered sign are eligible for a Rustic Roads Motorcycle Tour patch. Traveling on 25 Rustic Roads or more qualifies a motorcyclist for a special state certificate. More information is available on the Rustic Roads website.

The Rustic Roads system now includes nearly 720 miles of Rustic Roads through 59 counties.

For more information on the Rustic Roads Program, including the new Rustic Roads Guide interactive guide, visit [wisconsindot.gov/rusticroads](http://wisconsindot.gov/rusticroads).

# LGSO to perform Mahler's Symphony No. 1

The Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra will perform Mahler's Symphony No. 1 "Titan" on Nov. 19 at Calvary Community Church, N2620 Harris Rd., Williams Bay.

Doors open at 7 p.m. and the concert is slated to begin at 7:30 p.m.

In addition to Mahler's symphony, the orchestra will welcome 2016 Young Artist Competition winner Sophie Engerman. The soprano will make her orchestral debut performing Puccini's "O mio babbino caro."

The orchestra will round out the evening's performance with Sibelius' "Finlandia."

Tickets, at \$12 each for adults, may be purchased through the symphony's website at lakegenevaorchestra.org.



FILE PHOTO BY TOM GANSER *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

The Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra will perform at Calvary Community Church, Williams Bay, on Nov. 19 at 7 p.m.



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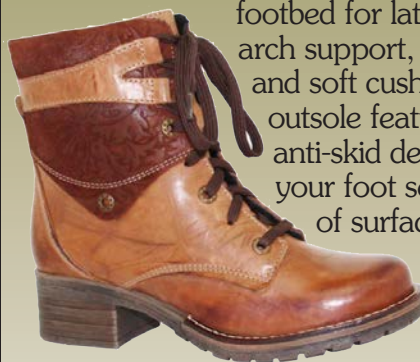
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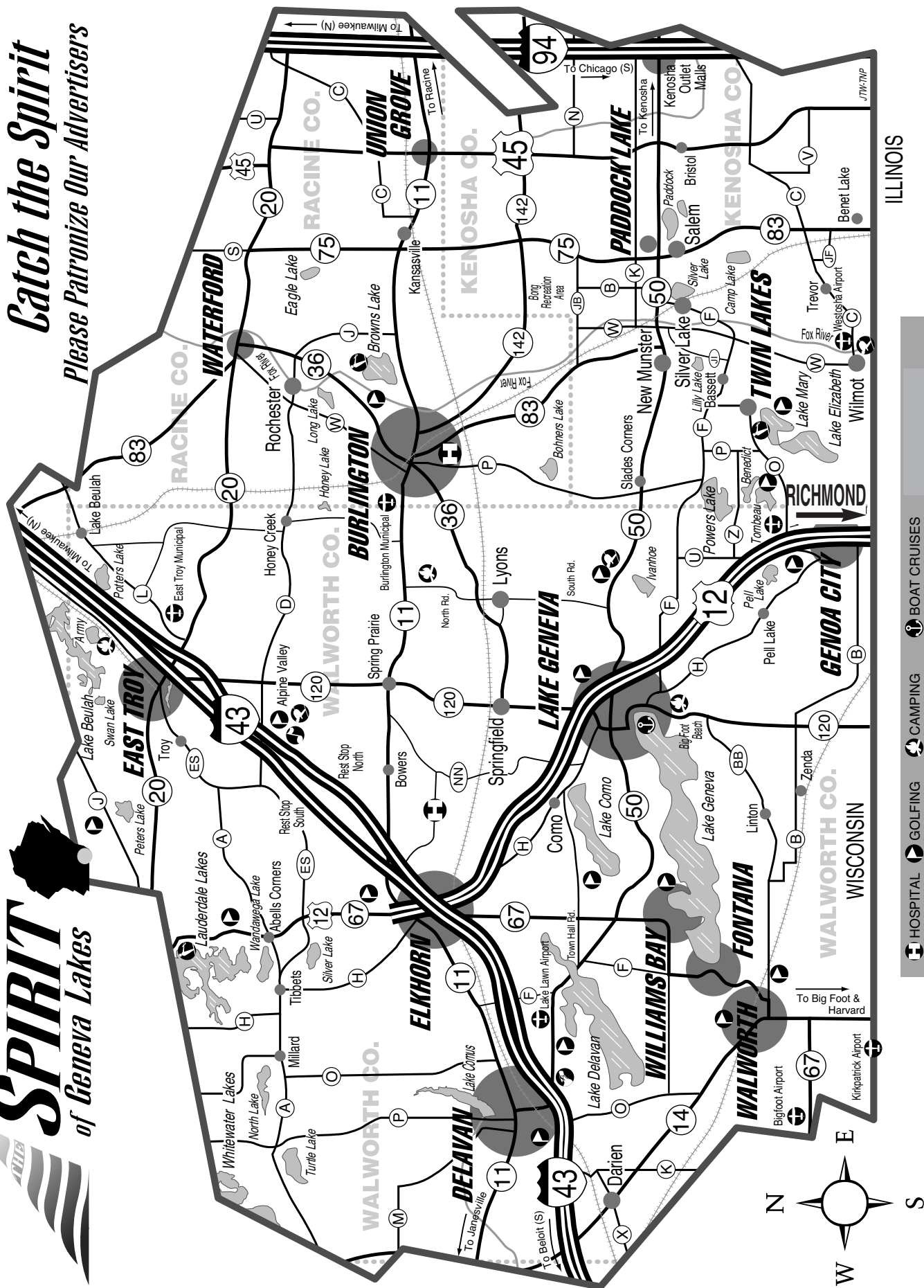
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Apple Barn Orchard and Winery .....	2	Komfort Heating & Cooling .....	40
B&J Tree & Landscaping Inc. ....	34	Lake Geneva Pie Company .....	28
Binanti's Taste of Italy .....	20, 54	Lake Lawn Resort .....	56
Breezy Hill Nursery .....	54	Lucke's Cantina .....	20, 18
Brightonwoods Orchard .....	44	Luisa's Restaurant .....	38
Bruno's Liquors .....	10	Midwest College of Oriental Medicine .....	48
Burlington Chamber of Commerce ..	50	Moy's Restaurant .....	20, 30
Burlington Footwear .....	50	Nick's Upholstery .....	30
Cedardale Pet Resort .....	28	Oh My Gauze .....	53
Champs Sports Bar & Grill .....	20	Paper Dolls .....	10
Circle of Friends .....	14	Pats Services Inc. ....	46
Colony House Restaurant .....	20, 16	Peck and Weis Heating .....	4
Cornerstone Shop & Gallery .....	8	Pete's Tire .....	40
Countryside Trees .....	24	Princess Cafe .....	20
Custom Craft Carpentry .....	34	Riga-Tony's .....	20
Daddy Maxwell's .....	20	Sandy's Upscale Consignment .....	14
Derek's Plumbing .....	36	Sophisticatering .....	45
Doheny's Water Warehouse .....	18	Sorgs Packing, Inc. ....	53
Earthcare Suri Alpacas .....	12	Sprecher's Restaurant & Pub .....	20
Elkhorn Chamber of Commerce .....	40	St Vincent De Paul .....	14
Evergreen Acres Christmas Tree Farm ..	45	Staller Estate .....	42
Fitzgerald's Genoa Junction .....	20	Steve's British Connection .....	18
Foley's Irish Woods .....	36	Stinebrink's Piggly Wiggly .....	26
Fontana Jeweler .....	3	Swiss Maid Bakery .....	32
Ginger Blossom .....	42	T.P. Pines .....	50
Gino's East Pizzeria .....	20	The Chalet .....	20
Hafs Road Orchard .....	22	The Christmas Barn .....	22
Happy Consignment .....	40	The Rustic Realm .....	32
		The Shy Violet .....	50
		Twin Lakes Area Chamber .....	30
		Verlo Mattress .....	55
		Walworth County Fair .....	12
		Wells Spiral Stairs .....	44
		West 20 Ranch & Saddle Co .....	16
		Wilmot Auto Service .....	38
		Zenda Tap .....	20

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# Breezy Hill Nursery

...More Than Just A Nursery

- HOLIDAY & HOME DECOR •
- CHRISTMAS TREES, WREATHS & CENTERPIECES •
- HOLIDAY LIGHTING •
- GIFT CARDS • GARDEN GIFTS • & MORE

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- WINE & BEER
- GIFT BASKETS & MORE!

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**OPEN CHRISTMAS EVE FOR CATERING ONLY  
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**OPEN NEW YEAR'S EVE & NEW YEAR'S DAY  
SPECIAL MENU SELECTIONS AVAILABLE  
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**LET US TAKE THE WORK OUT...  
SO YOU CAN RELAX & ENJOY**

**binantiscatering.com**

Our Quaint Dining Room is Available Afternoons for Private Use up to 40 People. Gift Certificates and Wine Gift Baskets Available.

Restaurant Hours:

**Dinner Everyday at 4pm  
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A Country Drive on Hwy 50 ~ 15  
Minutes East of Lake Geneva &  
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**CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR A TASTE  
OF ALL WE HAVE TO OFFER**

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# MISMATCH

## MATTRESS EVENT



### WHY MISMATCH?

We use mismatched or discontinued fabrics to cover your high-quality Verlo mattress. Put a sheet on it and the only difference you'll notice is the price.

### Lifetime Comfort Guarantee



Take the rest out of mattress shopping with the assurance of adjustable comfort for the lifetime of your mattress.



**TWIN \$89**  
MATTRESSES  
STARTING AT



**BED ON A BUDGET | v1 FIRM**

QUEEN SETS **\$269**

Twin \$359 • Full \$399 • King \$539

COMPLETE SET PURCHASE REQUIRED. ONE COUPON PER TRANSACTION. MAY NOT BE USED ON PREVIOUS PURCHASE.

EXPIRES 11/30/16. #15021029A



**DURABLE CONSTRUCTION | v3 FIRM**

QUEEN SETS **\$689**

Twin \$449 • Full \$599 • King \$899

COMPLETE SET PURCHASE REQUIRED. ONE COUPON PER TRANSACTION. MAY NOT BE USED ON PREVIOUS PURCHASE.

EXPIRES 11/30/16. #15021029B



**REDUCE PARTNER DISTURBANCE | v5 FIRM**

QUEEN SETS **\$949**

Twin \$599 • Full \$849 • King \$1219

COMPLETE SET PURCHASE REQUIRED. ONE COUPON PER TRANSACTION. MAY NOT BE USED ON PREVIOUS PURCHASE.

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260826

# FALL INTO FUN AT LAKE LAWN RESORT



LAKE LAWN  
RESORT



## HOLIDAY PARTIES

DECEMBER, JANUARY AND FEBRUARY DATES

Bustling with activity and trimmed with dazzling décor, the holiday season is Lake Lawn's most joyful time of year. Festively decorated banquet rooms and lavish special holiday menus offer endless opportunities for groups of 25-350 to celebrate the holidays. Join in the merriment and book your holiday party now. For dates and information call group sales at 800-338-5253.



FRONTIER  
RESTAURANT

## THE THANKSGIVING FEAST

NOVEMBER 24 | 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM (FINAL SEATING AT 6 PM)

Enjoy traditional roasted tom turkey, smoked sea salt and mushroom crusted roast beef, peach cider roasted pork loin, an abundant appetizer/salad bar and dessert table.

Adults \$40.95 | Children 4-12 \$16.95 | Children 3 and under free

## TURKEYS TO GO

A complete Thanksgiving dinner hot and ready to eat on Thanksgiving. Call 262-725-9155 for information and reservations.



## BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

NOVEMBER 26

SEATINGS AT 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

DECEMBER 18

SEATING AT 11:00 AM

Santa Claus is planning to visit for Breakfast on two different dates this year at Lake Lawn Resort, November 26th and December 18th. Children will get a chance to sit on Santa's lap and share their wish list. A life-size gingerbread house will be on display in our garden courtyard for scrapbook-worthy photos.

Adults \$16.95 | Children 4-12 \$8.95  
Complimentary for children 3 and under

Limited Seating - Reservations  
Recommended by calling 262-725-9155



## BIG BAND TRIBUTE TO OUR VETERANS

NOVEMBER 11 | 6:30 PM - 11:00 PM

Join us as Lake Lawn honors those who have served our country with a special USO style Big Band Tribute to our Veterans. Doors open at 6:30 PM and dinner begins at 7 PM. The evening will conclude with a Big Band Dance featuring the band "Ladies Must Swing".

\$50 Veterans | \$65 Non-Veterans

Overnight packages are available starting at \$259

