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Vol. 29 No. 4

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COME OUTSIDE AND PLAY

The peace and serenity of the outdoor season in the Geneva Lakes area is captured in soft watercolor by local artist Ruth Kayser. Kayser and a group of friends from the artist group known as The Gathering visited Northwind Perennial Farm near Lake Geneva for a day of plein air painting when her muse emerged. "I settled by the fish pond with the water lilies and the slab-rock steps when my fellow artist came to sit on the steps," Kayser said. "I was taken by her yellow hat and her bare feet, with her sandals cast off. I changed my point of interest." Springtime is a muse that calls to all of us...What are you waiting for?

PAINTING BY RUTH KAYSER *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



IT'S COMIN' UP

APRIL EVENTS

1 Indoor Rummage Sale, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Hawk's View Golf Club, 7377 Krueger Road, Lake Geneva. Rummage, some furniture, craft stuff, kitchen wares and more. For more information, call (262) 348-9900 or visit www.hawksviewgolfclub.com.

1 and 2 Lake Geneva Festival of Wine at the Grand Geneva Resort & Spa, 7036 Grand Geneva Way, Lake Geneva. An entire weekend of vintage entertainment planned for all wine enthusiasts, from social wine drinkers to sommeliers. For tickets and more information, go to www.lakegenevafestivalofwine.com.

5 Mix & Mingle, 5 to 7 p.m. at the Geneva Inn, N2009 S. Lakeshore Drive, Lake Geneva. Drinks, hors d'Oeuvres and networking. Mix and mingle while enjoying specials such as 1/2 price wines by the glass; 25 percent off bottles of wine (valued up to \$75), \$5 well cocktails; \$4 bottled beer selections, BOGO small plates selections and business card drawing for weekly giveaway. For more information, visit www.genevainn.com.

6 Shoe La La Exhibit Opening, 5 to 7 p.m., Geneva Lake Museum, 255 Mill St., Lake Geneva. The history of shoes, tiny shoes, ooh la la shoes and shoes from far away places. For more information, call (262) 248-6060 or visit www.genevalakemuseum.org.

8 Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra: Triumphant Return of David Newman, 7:30 to 9 p.m., at Calvary Community Church, N2620 Highway 50 and Harris Road, Williams Bay. The all Russian program includes works of Shostakovich, Borodin, and Rachmaninoff, and will feature popular Beloit pianist David Newman. Tickets for the performance are \$12 for adults and can be bought online at www.lakegenevaorchestra.org, by calling (262) 359-9072, or at the door. Students are admitted free. For more information, call (262) 359-9072.

8, 9 and 15 East Troy Railroad Museum Bunny Train, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Museum Depot, 2002 Church St., East Troy. Enjoy face painting and coloring at the East Troy depot before departure. Then take a 10-mile round trip train ride to the Elegant Farmer, where live bunnies and chicks will be on display by local 4-H students. Visit with the Easter Bunny for photos, enjoy a treat and a special gift before returning to East Troy aboard our heated train. Boarding is only done at the East Troy Depot. Advance reservations are required. Price: Children 2 and younger are \$6. Children 3 to 14 are \$12.50. Adults are \$14. For more information, call (262) 642-3263 or visit www.easttroyrr.org.

9 Big Cup Breakfast Scramble, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Hawk's View Golf Club, 7377 Krueger Road, Lake Geneva. Three-person scramble (three-somes will be paired up to play as a six-some w/ three carts). Hot and hearty breakfast buffet at 8:30 a.m. Shotgun Start at 10 a.m. Golf Outing prizes for first, fifth, and 10th places. Cost: \$55 plus tax per player. For more information, visit www.hawksviewgolfclub.com.

9 Theoretical physicist and author Brian Greene will speak from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in the Beasley Campus Center at George Williams College, 350 Constance Blvd., Williams Bay. For more information, call (262) 245-8501.

30 Spirit of the Lakes Chorus of Sweet Adeline's presents "A Cappella Then and Now," 2 p.m. at Sperino's Monte Carlo Room, 720 N. Wisconsin St., Elkhorn. Event includes raffle baskets and silent auction, including a one-night stay at Harbor Shores, wine tasting package and more. Advance tickets are \$12 at the door. Food and drink will be available for purchase. For more information, visit www.singingstartshere.org.

20 Remarkable Women Of Geneva Lake, 6 p.m. at Big Foot High School, Room W8, 401 Devils Lane, Walworth. Meet some of the remarkable women who helped to shape the history, not only of this area, but of this country. Cost is \$5. Register at (262) 275-2117.

22 Brews & Blues Festival, 1 to 5 p.m., at Geneva National Golf Club, 1221 Geneva National Ave. South, Lake Geneva. Walworth County's ultimate beer tasting and music event, featuring unlimited sampling of craft beer from around the country, live blues music, photo booth and concession stand. Cost: \$15 to \$80. For more information, visit www.brewsandbluesfestival.com.

23 Geneva Lakes Burger Throwdown, 12:30 to 3 p.m., at The Ridge Hotel, W4240 Highway 50, Lake Geneva. Enjoy Custom Burger Samples from more than 10 area restaurants and establishments. Music, cash bar, and more. General admission tickets are for ages 6 and older. Kids younger than 6 are admitted free of charge with an accompanying paid general Admission. Cost: \$18 to \$35.

25 U.S. Navy Band Sea Chanters Chorus, 7 to 8:30 p.m., at Lake Geneva Middle School, 600 N. Bloomfield Road. Free admission. For more information, call (262) 348-3000.

29 Valley Of The Kings Tour, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Valley of the Kings, W7593 Townhall Road, Sharon. Educational tour of the private sanctuary. Advance registration required at (262) 275-2117. Cost is \$12.

THE SPIRIT

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THE SPIRIT

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A store for the ages

Bradley's gets
facelift as it
celebrates
165 years

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

For 165 years, Bradley's has been a fixture in Delavan.

In 1852 William Wallace Bradley started the business as the Bradley Knitting Mill. It is hard to believe that Bradley could have envisioned that this business would remain a fixture in Delavan for all these years.

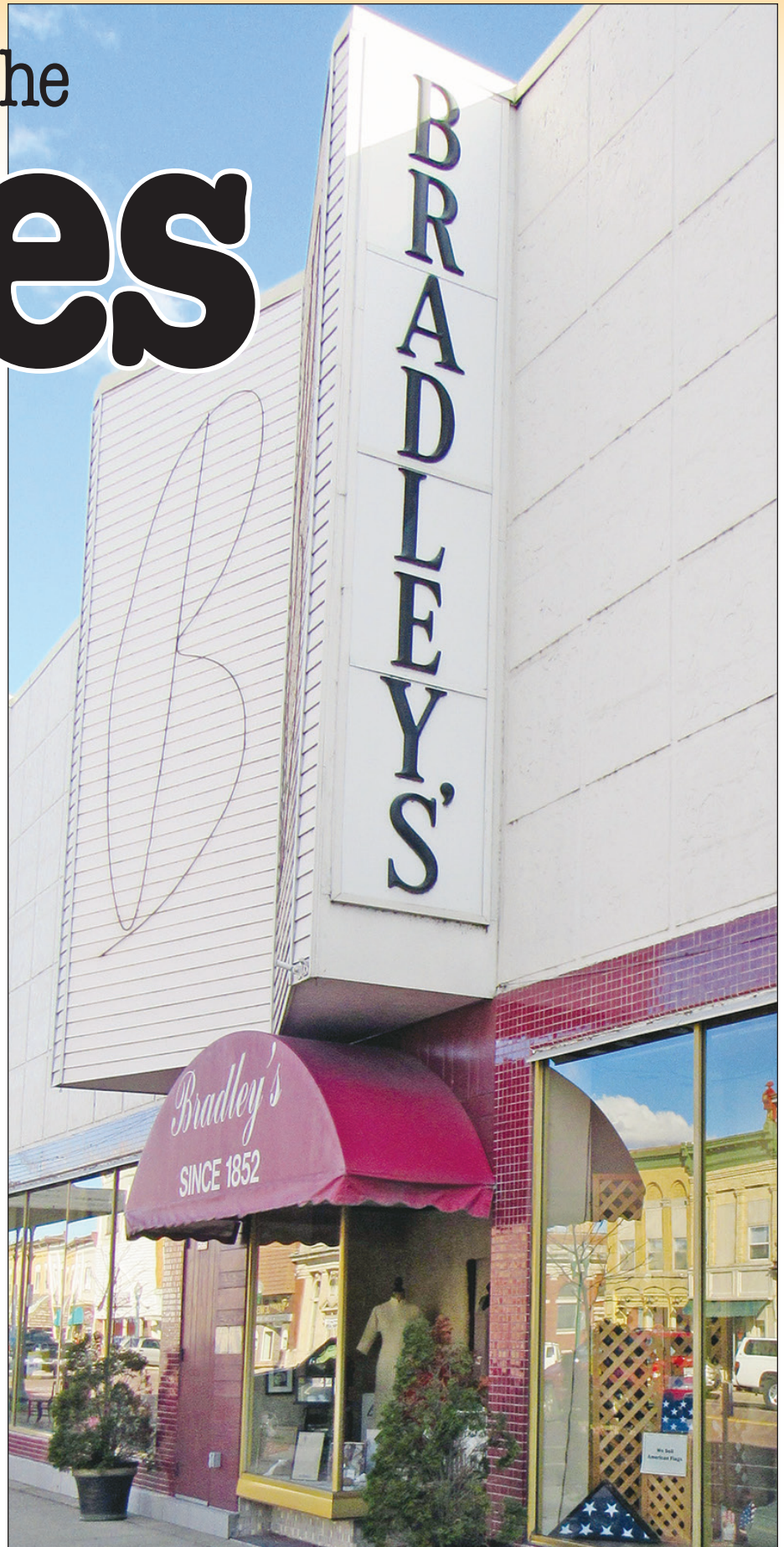
In 1874 William Wallace Bradley purchased the building at 222 E. Walworth in the midst of downtown where Bradley's continues to make its home. The knitting mill manufactured sweaters and even bathing suits. Can you imagine a woolen knitted bathing suit these days?

The name of the business was changed to Bradley's of Delavan as products offered were more than just knitted clothes. The store has survived all these years, even through the great depression and through the numerous wars when fabrics were in limited supply. Among the keys to survival was providing sweaters for the military.

Bradley's of Delavan was the first store in the area to sell ready-made clothing. Customers came in to see the latest in colors, fabrics and styles.

Many of the early customers had never

Bradley's Department Store has made its home at 222 E. Walworth Street in Delavan since 1852, providing fine quality clothing for men and women.



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

A selection of Woolrich's plaid summer shirts for men are available in a variety of colors.



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Antique furniture pieces such as this armoire are used to display merchandise. Here small dress purses to complete the summer look are arranged in a variety of colors and styles.

purchased a finished piece of clothing. Instead they would purchase fabric and they or another female member of the family would sew their own clothes. The idea of going shopping and coming home with a completed outfit was the beginning of a new trend.

A labor of love

Current owner Lois Stritt worked part-time at Bradley's for eight years when she and her husband, Jack, decided to purchase the business from friends and longtime owners Bill and Diane McKoy, who were ready to retire. That was seven years ago. Jack was already retired and Lois was at an age when many consider retiring or at least cutting back on work, but they charged into the job with enthusiasm. Then Jack passed away just five days before the closing on the store, but Lois went ahead and took on ownership and management of the store.

"It was not difficult. I knew I had a good support group from my co-workers," she said with a laugh. "After all, collectively we had over 100 years of experience in the store."

She went on to explain that they did not plan any major changes in operating the store. They would carry the same high-quality merchandise and personal service, just as they had always done. Changes, if needed, would come slowly.

Now, seven years later, this petite,

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The Bradley Girls, Joan, Linda, Jan and owner Lois, gather outside the store in downtown Delavan. These longtime employees of Bradley's are always ready to help customers find the perfect fashion look.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

exuberant octogenarian is still as excited about her store, as she had been when she first took it over. She beamed as she began to explain the changes that are occurring.

Store gets a facelift

"About four years ago, Dale Bradley (no known relation to the original founder) purchased the building, and that has been a blessing," Lois said. "He bought it partly because the building had his name. We were fortunate because he is a wonderful landlord."

Bradley decided the store needed a facelift and a little step into today's world and was willing to help provide it. Lois agreed and was surprised when Bradley hired Jean Kruzan of Kruzan Construction and Remodeling to work with Lois on a subtle update.

"We wanted a new look, one that was clean and crisp but still maintained the history of the past," she said.

And so they have. The new look includes soft, neutral colors, removal of the wood coverings around support posts and clean white display racks and shelves.

"We also brought in some antique items – an armoire, a steamer trunk and a heavy wood table and heavy club chairs – to keep the memories of the past alive."

Clothing remains focus

Construction and painting are done when the store is closed so as not to interfere with customers.

While the store is in the process of being renovated, one thing hasn't changed – the fine quality clothing in current styles can be seen displayed throughout the store.

At a time when many people choose the big box stores or lower quality department stores, Bradley's of Delavan continues to attract customers from throughout the area. With over 4,000 customers on their mailing lists, it is not just local shoppers who turn to Bradley's for their clothing needs.

"Many of our customers come from Madison, Chicago, Janesville, and Rockford," Lois said.

At one time Bradley's sold children's clothing and Girl Scout uniforms. Now

they limit themselves to women's fashions and accessories and men's clothing.

Lois recalled one woman who came into the store and reminisced about coming in with her grandmother when she was young. She specifically recalled riding a hobbyhorse while her grandmother shopped.

"She was very surprised when we brought down the hobby horse she remembered. It had been stored upstairs," Lois said.

Spring is a time of year when people leave behind the heavy, darker clothing of winter. A walk into Bradley's reveals the pop of the new spring colors and patterns. As always there is a great display of clothing by many well-known manufacturers.

"Pink is one of the favorite colors this spring," Lois said. "We have ordered a lot of pieces in that color."

The latest styles

Bright colors lead the way this season and prints are still the most popular. Prints with pinks, purples, blues and greens dot



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAL Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Vera Bradley accessories in a variety of the latest colors and patterns will make it difficult to choose a new purse.

the racks. Brands such as Pendleton, Karen Hart, and Tribal are on display waiting to make their new home in the customer's closet. Many of Karen Hart's pieces are made in the United States, a plus for those who prefer to purchase domestic clothing.

According to Lois, the tunic style is still popular. It is a great look, especially for tall and slender women. While over the past couple of seasons the "fringe look" with blouses, skirts, jackets and even purses decorated with fringe has been popular, this season it seems to have died out, according to Lois.

So what does a woman look for when shopping for her spring and summer wardrobe?

"This year it is the ankle-length pants that have become the most popular for the season," Lois said. "Skirts are much less popular and we have not ordered many for the season."

What woman doesn't love jewelry, especially jewelry that is affordable? Bradley's has a variety of costume jewelry, including the popular Brighton line. Almost every fashion-conscious woman has at least one piece of



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“ We wanted a new look, one that was clean and crisp but still maintained the history of the past. We also brought in some antique items – an armoire, a steamer trunk and a heavy wood table and heavy club chairs – to keep the memories of the past alive.”

Brighton in her jewelry box.

Items on display include a large choice of earrings – from hoops to smaller styles. Necklaces include fine chains with spaced small pearls and starfish charms for the softer look and the chunkier necklaces for a different look. Bracelets, too, range from the finer charm bracelets to the wider look.

While many people think that smaller women should wear the finer jewelry and the chunkier style should be saved for taller women, in reality either style will work for any woman. Lois, in spite of her petite stature, wears distinctive wide silver bracelets.

No woman's outfit is complete without a fashionable handbag. While there are various brands of fine handbags on display, among the most popular are the Vera Bradley lines. Bright and colorful, they are perfect for summer and can compliment your fashion color scheme. What better place to purchase a Vera Bradley item then here at Bradley's of Delavan?

Men are not forgotten

Bradley's has not forgotten the men. Although they have a little less floor space than women's selections, there are racks of Pendleton, Nautica, and Woolrich shirts and top-quality Levis jeans along with other fine clothing choices.

A wide variety of shirts display the



For the fisherman in the family, a variety of T-shirts with fishing logos are popular.

High quality women's clothing is something Bradley's prides itself in.



SANDRA
LANDEN MACHAJ
Spirit of Geneva Lakes



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

New pieces of Brighton jewelry are introduced regularly and Bradley's has many on display to accessorize with new clothing purchases.

colors that are popular these days. Their casual graphic T-shirts with fishing themes are very popular among the fishermen in the area.

For Lois, the store is as much her home as her place of business. Her close relationship with her co-workers, whom she has dubbed the Bradley Girls, is a testimonial to the friendships forged by members of the group.

"The store is my reason for getting up each day. It keeps me busy," Lois said.

With her strong work ethic it is what she craves. Lois, who has four sons and no grandchildren, chuckles and says, "The

store is my grandchildren. It takes up all my time."

The Milwaukee Public Television program "Around the Corner with John McGivern" featured Delavan and, of course, included a visit to Bradley's.

"McGivern said I was his shortest interview," she said, referring to her short stature, not the length of the interview.

Bradley's continues to be the favorite shopping place, especially for those who like quality, style, and a friendly shopping environment. Perhaps this is the main reason that they continue to bring in loyal

customers from near and far.

A visit to Bradley's offers a wonderful selection of clothing and accessories and a chance to meet Lois and the other Bradley Girls, who will make you feel welcome and help you find the perfect clothing and accessories. It will quickly become your favorite store.

Bradley's of Delavan is in the Bradley Building, 222 E. Walworth St., Delavan. Visit the store's Facebook page or call (262) 728-3405. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. The store offers expanded summer hours.

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275242

On the rise

Real estate market continues to improve in area

by **Ryan Spoehr**

STAFF WRITER

Houses up for sale are now selling at a pace not seen since prior to the Great Recession of 2008, according to real estate agents in the Geneva Lakes area.

Joe Busch of Bear Realty in Burlington said he is seeing houses being sold within 90 days of being listed, and a total of 120 days to closing, on average.

"This market is very, very typical, other than 2004 to 2008, which is something I think we've never seen before, and we saw that from 2008 to 2011," Busch said.

Greg Greenwood, the owner of Century 21 Affiliated Greenwood in Whitewater,

said he is seeing similar trends.

"In Walworth County, things are starting to pick up, and some of it has to do with the weather. It has been nicer, so people are starting to get out and are becoming interested in buying."

Busch started seeing improvement around 2012, and the market has been on a steady incline since, he said.

One of the reasons for growth is the state of interest rates in the country, Greenwood said.

"With interest rates starting to go up, people want to go out and buy before they get too high. In our area, there is a need for more inventory," Greenwood said, adding

“There has been an increase this year of 13 to 15 percent over last year for this quarter. That increase in the first quarter is a sign that things will be popping for the rest of the year.”

— Real estate agent
Greg Greenwood



FILE PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

The pace of home sales in the area has returned to levels that were considered normal prior to the economic recession of 2008.

that if interest rates go up, so will mortgage rates.

Greenwood said there are good buyers in the market, which is what Busch is seeing in Racine County. He also sees interest rates fueling the market.

Busch said 30 percent of first-time buyers in his market are putting anywhere between 10 and 20 percent down for their first home.

However, with so many sales, both agents report there is a low inventory of houses and brokers have been continuously looking for houses to be put on the market.

"There are good buyers, but there is low inventory. So, the ones here are going fairly quickly," Greenwood said.

Both agents look for strength and stability in the housing market in 2017.

"It's going to be a very strong market this year. All the brokers I've talked to in the state are very optimistic," Greenwood said. "There has been an increase this year of 13 to 15 percent over last year for this quarter. That increase in the first quarter is a sign that things will be popping for the rest of the year."

"Our market is very stable right now. The job market is strong and interest rates are strong. People are more prepared to buy houses," Busch said.

The Century 21 Affiliated Greenwood office is at 202 East Main Street in Whitewater. Bear Realty is at 565 Milwaukee Avenue Suite 1 in Burlington.

Setting the stage: Clearing clutter is key

People who live in their homes from day to day – and everybody does – often don't realize how many items they own that they don't use regularly, said a local real estate agent.

Getting a home ready to sell can be as simple as decluttering, putting away personal items and rearranging furniture, said Bernie Weiss, sales director of the Delavan Shorewest office.

Sellers can hire staging companies to make their houses look picture perfect, but those services are often pricey and the cost falls to the seller, Weiss said. She said some real estate agents have staging certification, and nearly all can share tips

by **Vicky Wedig**
STAFF WRITER

about making a home appealing for sale.

"It's oftentimes things that we can advise them," Weiss said.

The No. 1 piece of advice, she said, is to declutter – put away personal items, clear countertops and get rid of distractions such as knick-knacks and excess books and pictures.

"Pack up everything they don't need on a regular basis," she said.

The homeowners are moving anyway, Weiss said. They should pack up things they're not using that they might not consider clutter but that potential buyers might not be able to see past.

Agents might also advise sellers to rearrange furniture if it interrupts the

flow of the room or if every piece of furniture is backed up against a wall, Weiss said.

The second bit of advice is to touch up paint and move anything that blocks a view such as light-blocking curtains or drapes closed over windows, she said.

"Anything that makes a house look heavy," she said.

If homes need more work than the sellers can do themselves or the homes are vacant, Weiss said she absolutely recommends hiring a stager.

"Staged homes sell so much faster than unstaged homes," she said.

However, she said, in today's low-inventory market, all well-priced homes are selling quickly.



Dining Directory

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CHUCK'S LAKESHORE INN • 352 Lake St., Fontana. **262-275-3222**. www.chuckslakeshoreinn.com On the lake in Fontana. Kitchen open: 11am-9pm. Bar open: 11am-Close. L, D, FF \$ ¥ ☺

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

THE CHALET • W6904 County Rd. A, Elkhorn. Known for our fresh fish, oysters & salmon. Open Thurs., Fri. and Sat. 5pm-9pm. D, FF \$\$

COLONY HOUSE • Hwy. JF, Trevor. **262-862-2076**. Full service restaurant. www.colonyhouserestaurant.com Dinner is served Tues., Wed., Thurs. 4-9:30; Fri. & Sat. 4-10; Sun. 3:30-8:30; closed Mon. D, FF \$\$\$ ¥ ☺

FITZGERALD'S GENOA JUNCTION • Hwy. B, Genoa City. **262-279-5200**. Featuring famous fish boils all year 'round. Open Wed.-Sun. (summer), Thurs.-Sun. (winter). D, FF \$\$

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MOYS RESTAURANT • In the historic square, 3 N. Wisconsin St., Elkhorn. **262-723-3993**. Chinese and American cuisine. Open 6 days a week, closed Monday. L, D, \$\$ ¥

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EGG HARBOR CAFE • 827 W. Main St., Lake Geneva. **262-248-1207**. www.eggharborcafe.com Featuring gourmet breakfast and lunch. Open daily 6:30am-2pm. B, L \$ ☺

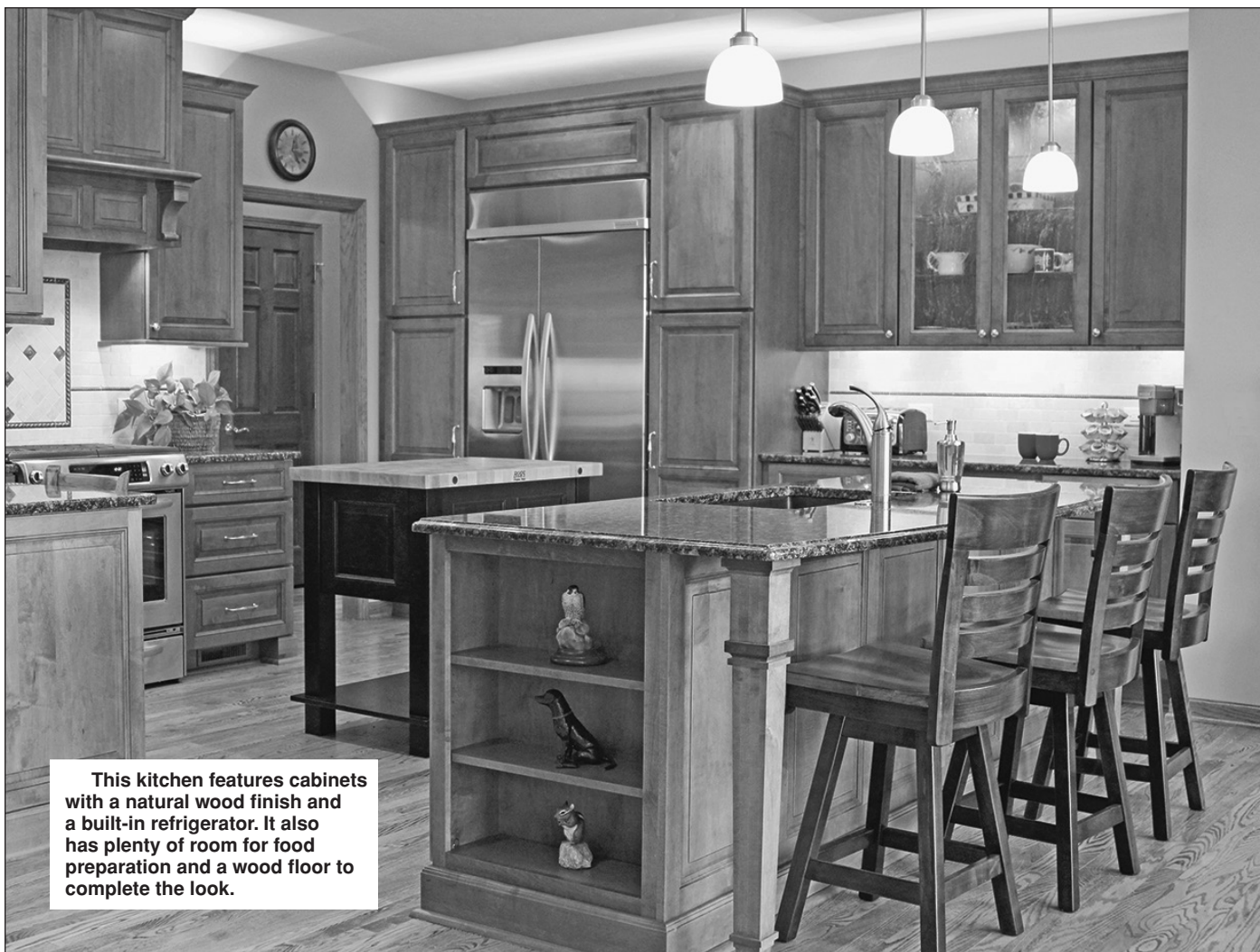


Key

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.

269150



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Do your homework before hiring a contractor

STEBNITZ SAYS LISTENING IS KEY TO GOOD RESULTS

Is it time to move to a larger home? Or is there a way to put an addition on the house and be able to remain in the same neighborhood and not uproot children from their friends and school?

Chris Stebnitz, owner of Stebnitz Builders, a full service residential remodel and design firm located at 204 Commerce Court, Suite 3, Elkhorn, offered his tips on how to arrive at a sound decision for the future of your family's home.

So where does one start? Talking to a contractor who can listen to your ideas and work with you to make them not only a reality, but the home of your dreams is the start of the journey. To this end, Stebnitz has a proven way of hearing all the customer has to share.

Using a program that they have developed after years of feedback from customers, called Procedural Listening, ensures that all the customers' ideas are

heard.

"Research shows that we only hear and retain about 30 percent of a conversation," Stebnitz said.

"Procedural Listening teaches one to ask specific relevant questions about your project and then completing documentation so that every response is shared with all associates working on your project."

Stebnitz recommends interviewing contractors before making a final choice. Be sure that you are working with someone who is compatible with your needs and style. Get recommendations from family and friends who have had



Chris Stebnitz



This bathroom was added as a second-floor feature to an arts and crafts style home built in 1912. It maintains the vintage look of the home but allows for modern amenities such as the double sink.

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Spirit of Geneva Lakes

successful work completed.

When you do select a contractor, be certain you understand the contract. If not, bring someone with you who does, he advised.

The state of design

According to Stebnitz, there is not just one popular style of remodeling. Many of those remodeling their homes redo them in the original style of the house but with modern amenities. This will provide a clean updated look while still retaining the charm of the house.

“Design is much different today. There was a time when all finishes had to match. Woods couldn’t be mixed,” Stebnitz said.

He went on to explain that now various woods are often used together. Distressed woods may be paired with painted pieces.

Using websites and social media sites it is easier to put together a portfolio of looks that reflect personal style to aid in

presenting those desires to a contractor.

Kitchen and bath remodels are still the most requested, according to Stebnitz. Everyone wants a spacious kitchen with all the amenities. Room for family and friends to gather around while cooking – making it a friendly gathering place is also at the top of the list.

Bathrooms with roomy showers, and a large family room with a fireplace to gather the family on cold winter days are also dreams for some families. Other homeowners may be looking for an outside facelift to make their home more attractive from the street.

Stebnitz Builders will work out a package price for completion of the entire project. Each item to be used will be listed, including such things as number of 2-by-4s and brand of fixtures. The package contract will be detailed so customers are aware of exactly what they will receive.

Stebnitz advises homeowners to be well

prepared for an addition or renovation.

Such projects set off an emotional roller coaster experience with highs and lows along the way. Ask questions about what is the next step and how long will it take?

Drywall takes a long time, as many coats of “mud” must be applied to fill the spaces between sheets of wallboard and each must be allowed to dry before being sanded. Sanding is messy and creates a lot of dust but is important for a smooth finished wall. Ask about dust barriers. They do help keep the dust down but don’t eliminate it completely.

The more you know what to expect the smoother the ride.

Stebnitz Builders takes on projects large and small – from replacing a window, to major renovations and additions. The firm can be reached at (262) 723-7232. Readers can find out more at stebnitzbuilders.com, or on Facebook, Twitter, Houzz, and Instagram.



Justin Koch sits with his dog, Dora, at the office of Koch Kuts in Burlington. He started his business as a humble lawn cutting service when he was in grade school. Now he services hundreds of yards each year and offers a full range of landscaping services.

JENNIFER EISENBART *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Kut out for the job

Justin Koch has been cutting lawns and landscaping yards since he was a kid

Once upon a time, Justin Koch was just a high school student, looking to earn a little extra money. “(When) he started he was, like, nine, 10?” said Sandi Koch, Justin’s mom. “Just our house, and the neighbor’s house.

“And then he got a little bit more adventurous, and made flyers, and took them up and down the street,” she added.

From that humble beginning, Koch Kuts has grown into a thriving lawn care and landscaping business. It was officially named and incorporated in 1996, when

by **Jennifer Eisenbart**
STAFF WRITER

Justin was just 13 years old. Now 34, with his mother as the office manager and 13 other employees, Justin Koch has stayed the course with a vision that began as a way to earn some pocket money as a kid. “Basically? I needed something to do,” Justin said. “When you could generate a little bit of revenue and put a little money in your pocket, it’s a bonus.

“I don’t think that was all of it, but it was a motivator,” he added. “It was rewarding.”

The business started on Kendrick Avenue in Burlington, “just going up and down the sidewalks,” Justin said.

Justin Koch started Koch Kuts when he was just a kid looking to earn some extra money. Now, it is a full-service, profitable landscaping company.

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A pro's tips for a healthy lawn

Justin Koch of Koch Kuts offers the following advice for keeping your lawn happy and healthy.

Regular upkeep

Simply put, the best way to keep your lawn beautiful is to work on it regularly. That means cutting it on a consistent basis so you aren't taking off more than a third of the growth, as well regular application of fertilizer and weed control products.

Also important is keeping the lawn aerated to prevent disease and soil compaction, as well as getting more air to the roots of the lawn.

"The longer you let it go, the harder it is to bring it back," Koch said.

Koch said that you don't need a lot of chemicals on your lawn, "but they do help a lot."

Water

Koch said that regular watering needs to be done – or

that homeowners need to allow the lawn to go with the season's flow of rain.

Otherwise, he said, "it's more stress on the grass" to go from the occasional watering and cutting to dry lawns or rainy season.

High traffic areas

Koch said lawns that receive heavy traffic should be core-aerated – the process of pulling out soil plugs – and overseeded to allow for more grass to grow.

Don't leave the leaves

One of the items Koch sees the most damage from is people either trying to mulch too many leaves or leaving fallen leaves on the grass.

In either case, he said, the leaves then contribute too much acidity to the soil, starving the lawn.

"It causes your lawn to thin out," Koch said.

Just a few years later, though, he had a truck and equipment ... with his parents driving him to appointments because he didn't yet have his driver's license.

By the time he and his parents had moved to Honey Lake Road, Justin was renting space and driving himself to lawn care appointments.

But when Justin graduated from Burlington High School in 2000, he knew he had a decision to make.

He chose to stay dedicated to the business he'd started when he was just a child – and it's matured ever since. Now, about 30 to 40 percent of the Koch Kuts business is lawn care, while the rest is landscaping.

"It's profitable, but it's very stressful," Justin explained. "There's days you think about doing something different, but I'm not sure what that would be."

With Sandi serving as office manager, Koch Kuts handles about 300 to 400 landscaping jobs each season, ranging from simple mulch delivery to patios and brick-paved driveways.

The work that Justin Koch does can be seen at his own home on Academy Road, which is also the site of his business. He bought his home, along with 14 acres of land, in 2006. The intention was to move his entire business there from the space he

 I do enjoy the outcome of the hardscapes projects. (It's) the ability to make people's lives more enjoyable by their landscaping."

was leasing in Kansasville.

"I was going to buy something that had enough acreage to build a shop," Justin said. The current operation opened in 2008, and Koch's work is evident on the land.

He put in a brick-paved driveway and pillars out front, and the back of the property is devoted to the business with various trucks, trailers, and other landscaping vehicles.

Koch's winter equipment for plowing snow is also on site. He rents a storage facility in Kenosha for work done there, so employees can report there and go out to jobs in the area without coming to

Burlington.

Right now, there are several different "crews," with a foreman for each group – hardscapes, softscapes and lawn maintenance.

Justin is normally on the job at about 5:30 a.m. most days, setting work schedules and loading trucks. He typically isn't finished until after 7 p.m. – and that includes weekends.

In the spring, the business is swamped with the early work of the season – estimates for work and getting the first projects of the season done.

"Some projects could be a month long," he explained.

The hardest part of the job is finding the help to get all the work done.

"It's very labor intensive," Justin explained. "It seems to be harder and harder. And it's not just this industry. It's every industry."

But he remains committed to the final product.

"Right now, I'm invested," Koch said. "I do enjoy the outcome of the hardscapes projects."

"(It's) the ability to make people's lives more enjoyable by their landscaping."

For more information on Koch Kuts, call (262) 534-9509, or visit the company website at www.kochkuts.com.



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Pet resort joins chamber

The Geneva Lake West Chamber of Commerce welcomed Cedar Dale Pet Resort as a new member. Pictured are (from left) Stacy Vanhoorn and Abby Grenus, of Cedar Dale, chamber Executive Director Cherie Setteducate, chamber Director Kate Bishop, Kelly Everson, of Cedar Dale; chamber President David Barnet, and Logan Farrar with Jaxon the dog, and Nicole Bailey, of Cedar Dale. The pet resort is at the Pell Lake drive exit off Highway 12 and is celebrating its one-year anniversary under new ownership with Kelly Everson.

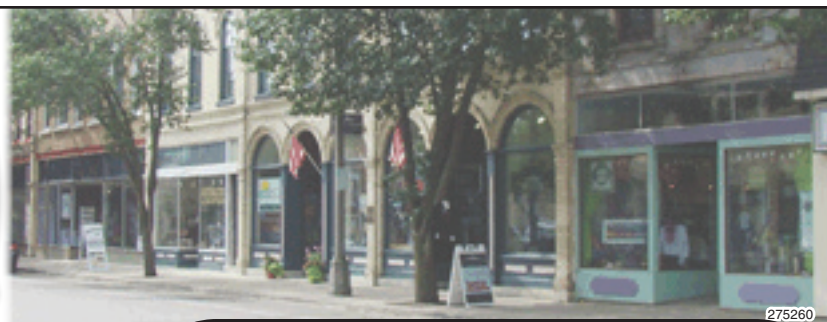
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Thinking spring

Area firms have
the right stuff
to create lush
outdoor spaces

As spring arrives a homeowner's thoughts turn to the outdoors – more specifically, the lawn and landscape.

Whether you're simply looking for ways to improve your lawn or looking to build a grand backyard living space defined by decorative trees, several area firms offer the expertise homeowners need to do it right.

Here's a closer look at Spirit magazine's preferred local lawn, tree and landscape service providers:

B and J Tree Landscape, Lake Geneva

Offering distinctive landscape design and complete tree service, B and J Landscape offers award-winning service.

The company serves residential and commercial accounts in Southeastern Wisconsin year-round with services that include landscaping, trees and snow-removal needs. Our crews have the experience to complete each job to perfection.

Starting in 1959, specializing in only trimming, removal, and planting of trees, B and J Tree and Landscape has advanced over the years to a company that offers the full scope of lawn care and landscaping services.

Among them are:

- The company's landscape designer can draw clients a plan suitable for any budget, while the landscape team will install retaining walls, patios, planters, brickwork and more.

- The lawn maintenance crew will take care of weekly mowing, weeding and raking, as well as spring and fall cleanup.

B and J's arborist and tree crew are experts in tree trimming and removal as well as fertilization, moving trees, and disease control.

The firm operates under the motto:

Distinctive by design.

B and J Tree and Landscape Service is at W2795 Krueger Rd., Lake Geneva. The company can be reached by phone at (262) 248-3653, email at office@bandjtree.com and is on the web at www.bandjlandscape.com.

Breezy Hill, Salem

After more than 35 years in business, Breezy Hill Nursery, along Highway 50 in Salem, Western Kenosha County, has become known throughout the area as a premier design and build landscape and nursery business.

Owners Jerry and Colleen Epping have maintained the original family business atmosphere through Breezy Hill's regular expansions.

Breezy Hill now also operates two satellite facilities. The newest is in Menomonee Falls just west of Highway 45 on County Line Road, and 680 acres of prime farmland, which the Eppings bought in Clinton in 2003.

These two satellites allow Breezy Hill to serve the Janesville, Rockford and Milwaukee areas in addition to southeast

Yardscapes like this retaining wall with waterfall at Breezy Hill Nursery, Salem, are becoming more commonplace at area homes as homeowners turn backyards into living spaces.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes



Today's customers want a great look but at the same time want easy installation and low maintenance."

Wisconsin and Northern Illinois.

Container-grown perennials and flowering shrubs are cultivated on the Salem property. Balled and burlapped nursery stock is harvested from the Clinton farm as well as from other holdings. The locally grown flora has helped Breezy Hill build a reputation for providing hardy stock.

Currently, there are nursery, garden center, landscape design and build, irrigation, maintenance, snow plowing, and lighting divisions. The company acts as the general contractor for any landscape-related work a homeowner or business needs. All labor is performed by Breezy Hill staff.

The Garden Center is a one-story wood and stone building with much to offer visitors needing an unusual gift, or those who want to find the designs and colors currently in vogue for sun rooms, gazebos, screened porches, and family rooms.

Various bulk bark and stone mulches are available for pick up or delivery. Gardening gloves, resin garden plaques, tools, outdoor statuary, jewelry, custom floral arrangements and others are also available.

Two of Jerry and Colleen Epping's children and their spouses have joined them working at Breezy Hill, or one of its sister businesses. Their son, Bradd, is a landscape architect. His wife, Megan, takes care of payroll. The Eppings' daughter, Carli, is the owner of Wild Roots salon. She is a certified exercise therapist in yoga and Pilates, and also a hairstylist. Carli is married to Joe Schmaling, who serves Breezy Hill as assistant manager.

The company is perhaps best-known for its showcase waterfall on the north side of Highway 50. The waterfall and pond are accented by mature trees, shrubs and flowers that Jerry Epping and his landscaping crew built in front of the Epping residence.

Breezy Hill Nursery is at 7530 288th Ave, Salem, (262) 537-2111.

High Prairie Landscaping, Genoa City

"Before beginning any major landscape project, spend some time researching what you like," advises Dennis Habernicht of High Prairie Landscaping, a company based in Genoa City that provides landscaping construction products to both contractors and homeowners.

According to Habernicht many of the materials used today in outdoor landscaping are far different from those previously used. Pavers are no longer the fragile stones found in the past. Today they are often made of face mix in which an extra durable surface allows a clear color finish that won't fade.

"Today's customers want a great look but at the same time want

easy installation and low maintenance," Habernicht said. "So many of our customers are replacing their natural wood decks either with synthetic wood products or with pavers or flagstone to make maintenance easier."

Picking out a new landscaping design, is a time-consuming project. Habernicht advises people start by looking at magazines and pull out photos of what goes along with the look they desire. Then with a file of ideas, visit some local landscape businesses that have materials, which allows customers to see what things really look like. The next step is to meet with a contractor who will look at the site and ideas and work to determine what will fit with your site and budget.

Most important, Habernicht said, is to pick a contractor who has been in business long enough to have a good record of satisfied customers. A good contractor will do the work correctly starting with good base work, which is the key to a good installation.

High Prairie Landscaping is at W363 Walworth St., Genoa City, (262) 279-6500.

Paul Swartz Nursery, Wilmot

Paul Swartz Nursery is just two miles north of Wilmot and is now owned by Ross Swartz, son of the original owner. Ross has been vice president of the Wisconsin Nursery and Landscape Association and a board member of the Wisconsin Green Industry Federation.



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Ornamental prairie grasses like these provided by Paul Swartz Nursery have become a popular addition to home landscapes.

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Here in Wisconsin because of the prevalence of deer, it is important to choose plants that are deer resistant to prevent them from using your landscaping as their feeding grounds.

“Surprisingly, alum plants – which are ornamental green onions – are deer resistant. Hostas, which have been so popular with homeowners the past several years, are like lettuce to the deer,” Ross Swartz said.

In spite of this homeowners love hostas, especially the big leaf hostas.

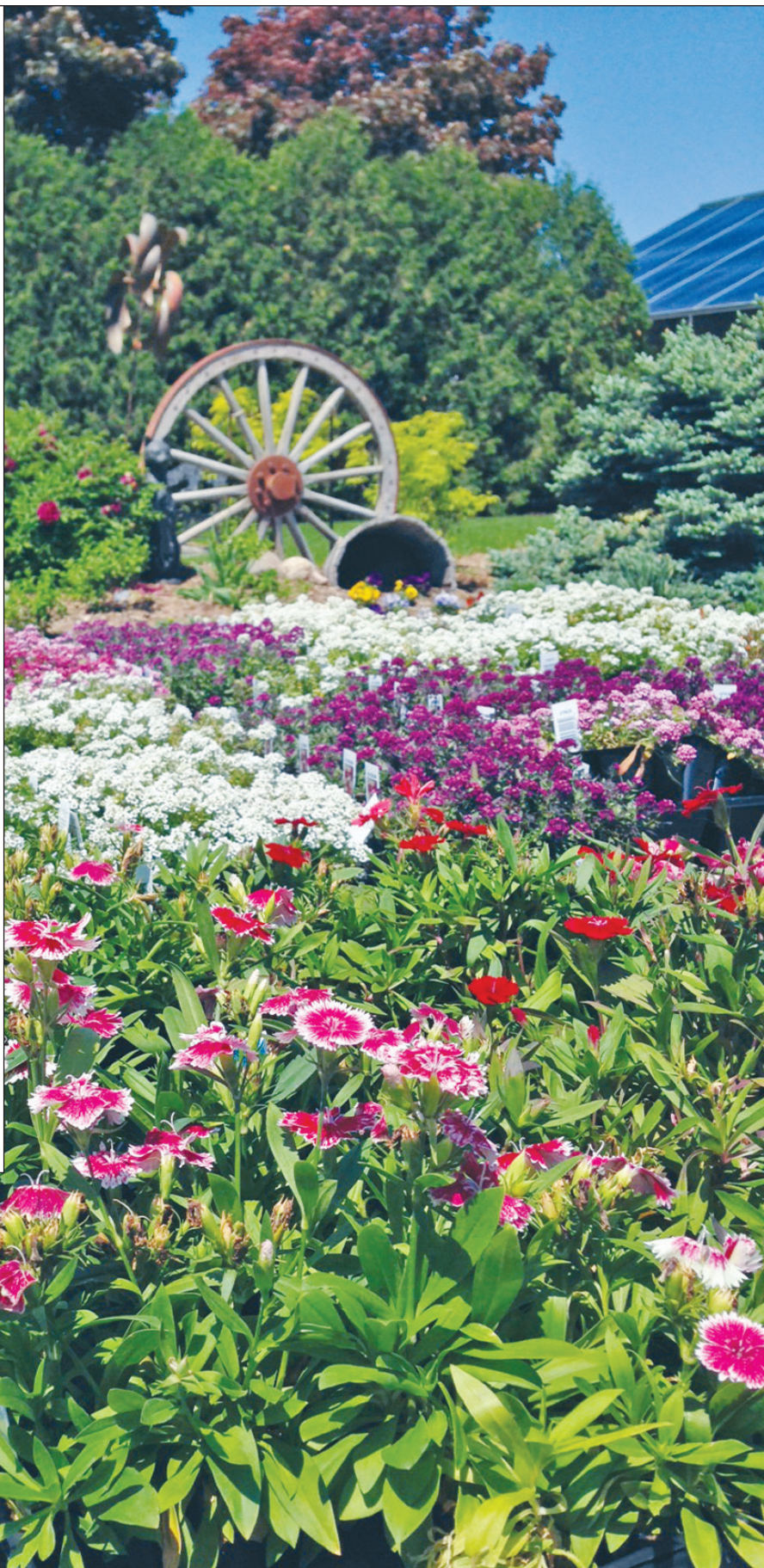
Diversity is important when choosing plants and trees. “Plants will be healthier when they are not competing for the same nutrients,” according to Swartz. The variety also gives the property a more appealing look. And if one species of tree is attacked all is not lost.

In addition to plants, a well-designed outdoor landscape gives an impressive look. Bringing in a variety of materials that work together are important. No longer is the plain wood deck the optimum look in backyard landscaping. Natural stone walkways, patios, stairways add a more finished look to outdoor décor. Retaining walls and freestanding walls of brick and boulders and terraced flowerbeds are just some of the possibilities.

One of the popular items being installed in back yards is a fire pit. Paul Swartz Nursery offers the latest in fire pits and how to fit one into a landscape design. Sitting by the fire on a spring, summer, or fall evening is the perfect way to end the day. For the hardy Wisconsin resident, sitting by the fire pit in winter is also a great experience.

Planning is most important to provide a finished professional look and the best way to achieve that look is to visit a professional landscape company.

Paul Swartz Nursery is at 30728 93rd St., Burlington, (262) 889-4301.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Breezy Hill Nursery's outdoor garden center provides numerous annuals and perennials to enhance residential landscapes.

Proper planting is key to the survival of new trees, according to experts with the Tree Care Industry Association.



FILE PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

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Tree planting tips for Arbor Day

Arbor Day, an April holiday that celebrates the planting and caring for trees, is a popular time for homeowners to add new trees to their landscapes. Before doing this, however, homeowners should consider advice from expert arborists to ensure the trees' longevity. "Too often, consumers waste hundreds of dollars on trees that will die because they were planted too deep," cautions Tchukki Andersen, staff arborist with the Tree Care Industry Association.

"Proper planting is absolutely essential for the success of a transplanted tree," says Andersen. "Using quality plants and following up with good tree care practices, such as watering, pruning and fertilizing, will not save a poorly planted tree. The most common mistake is planting the root ball too deep."

Andersen advises consumers to follow these planting guidelines:

- Measure the height and diameter of the root ball or

root spread.

- Dig the hole just deep enough to allow the first structural root to be at level grade. The diameter of the hole should be two to three times the diameter of the root ball or root spread.

- Set the tree on undisturbed solid ground in the center of the hole. The tree should be planted so that the root flare, the base of the tree trunk where the roots begin to "flare-out," will be visible above grade.

- Backfill with soil from the planting hole, using water to pack or settle the soil around the root ball. Do not tamp soil by stepping on it.

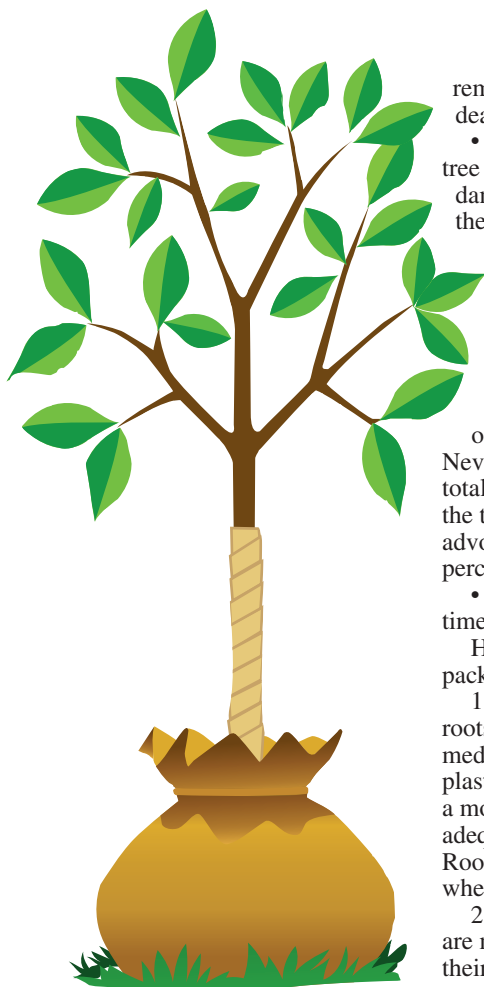
- Mulch the planting area with two to four inches of an organic, composted mulch such as wood chips. Do not mulch up to or against the trunk. Start the mulch six inches away from the tree trunk.

- Trees should be pruned after planting to

The most common mistake homeowners make when planting new trees is setting the root ball too deep, according to the Tree Care Industry Association. When in doubt, hire an arborist or tree service to handle the task or risk losing the money invested in the nursery stock.



FILE PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes



remove broken, damaged, diseased or dead branches.

- Stake and/or protect the trunk of the tree if there is a real potential for wind damage or lawn mower injury. Remove the guy wires (string, rope, wire or other ties used with supports) when the staking is no longer needed or the tree could be injured or even killed from girdling by the wire.

- Prune to develop a good branch structure once the tree has become established in its new home, usually one to three years after planting. Never remove more than 25 percent of total foliage in one year. (Depending on the tree and its condition, some arborists advocate capping pruning at an even lower percentage.)

- Fertilizing is not recommended at the time of planting.

Homeowners can purchase trees packaged in three common forms:

1. Bare-root plants may be sold with the roots tightly packed in a moisture-retaining medium that is wrapped with paper or plastic, or with roots loosely covered by a moist packing medium. Roots must be adequately moistened prior to planting. Roots are spread out evenly in the hole when planting.

2. Balled-and-burlapped (B and B) trees are moved with balls of soil protecting their root systems. Soil balls are heavy,

so professional arborists who have proper equipment should be hired to plant large trees. Smaller B and B trees should be carried with a hand under the ball. Carrying a B and B tree by the stem or branches can result in serious root damage. When planting, carefully remove the top layer of soil on the root ball down to the first structural root. Set the root ball in the hole, position the tree, then remove twine and nails. Remove or fold back burlap from the upper third of the root ball, and cut any wire caging.

3. Container-grown trees have the advantage of a root system that is relatively undisturbed at planting, but beware of "pot-bound" container trees. Do not buy container trees that have a large amount of roots completely circling the inside of the pot. These trees will take a long time to get established after planting because the roots have difficulty growing beyond the thick ring of circling roots. Immediately before planting container trees, prune any circling roots. Root pruning can cut up to 50 percent of the roots in container trees but this is still sufficient to permit plant establishment. This compares with pruning about 10 percent or less of the root system being transplanted with B and B trees. Always remove the container prior to planting.

For more information, visit www.tcia.org or www.treecaretips.org.

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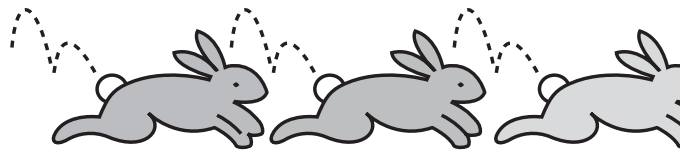
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Bunny Train

Annual Easter-themed train has a destination of fun

The East Troy Electric Railroad's Bunny Train returns for another run April 8, 9 and 15.

Face painting and coloring will be available at the East Troy depot before departure. Then riders have a chance to enjoy Easter-themed activities aboard a 10-mile round trip to the Elegant Farmer, where children will see live bunnies and chicks on display by local 4-H students.

Children are also invited to visit with the Easter Bunny for pictures, enjoy a treat and a special gift before returning to East Troy on board the full-size train.

The historic railroad cars are heated and restrooms are available at the East Troy depot.

Tickets can be purchased online anytime at www.easttroyrr.org and cost \$14 for adults, \$12.50 for children age 3 to 14, and \$8 for children 2 and younger. Reservations are required.

Trains depart at 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., noon, 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturdays, April 8 and 15 and Sunday, April 9.

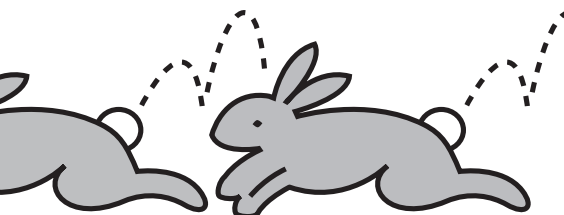
The East Troy Railroad Museum operates 14-mile round trip train rides from its historic East Troy depot and museum to Indianhead Park in Mukwonago, with a stop at the Elegant Farmer store and deli. The railroad is celebrating 110 years of riding the rails through Southeast Wisconsin's Kettle Moraine countryside. The not-for-profit museum is operated, maintained and managed by more than 130 volunteers committed to preservation rail history in Wisconsin and America.

For more information, visit the website or call (262) 642-3263.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

The East Troy Railroad's Bunny Train will ride the rails April 8, 9 and 15. Those who wish to ride the holiday-themed train may visit www.easttroyrr.org to reserve a spot.



Resort hosts wine festival weekend

The Lake Geneva Festival of Wine returns to Grand Geneva Resort and Spa for a weekend of wine-centric entertainment, tastings, wellness activities, and seminars March 31 through April 2.

The marquee event of the weekend is the Grand Tasting from 3 to 6 p.m. Saturday afternoon featuring wineries from around the country.

Representatives from national names like Hess Family Wine Estates, Banville Wine Merchants, Frederick Wildman and Sons, Duckhorn Vineyards, Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits, Delicato Family Vineyards and more will be on hand to share sips and enrich guests' wisdom.

Samplings from Sartori Cheese, Lake Geneva Country Meats and Indulgence Chocolatiers will also be available.

Additionally, attendees can support the United Way of Walworth County by participating in the Cork Pull, where guests draw a cork for \$20 and win a bottle of wine. A portion of proceeds will also go towards the local charity.

Seminars, yoga classes, nature hikes, painting classes, and chef demonstrations round out a full weekend of events.

"We're excited to once again host the Lake Geneva Festival of Wine at Grand Geneva Resort and Spa after such



a successful event last year," said Steve Magnuson, managing director of Grand Geneva. "By bringing experts from a wide variety of wineries, guests will go home with a deeper appreciation for the art and science of wine making while enjoying the beautiful destination of Lake Geneva this spring."

Individual tickets for the many events

are available. For information call (800) 558-3417.

A wine lover's experience weekend package is available.

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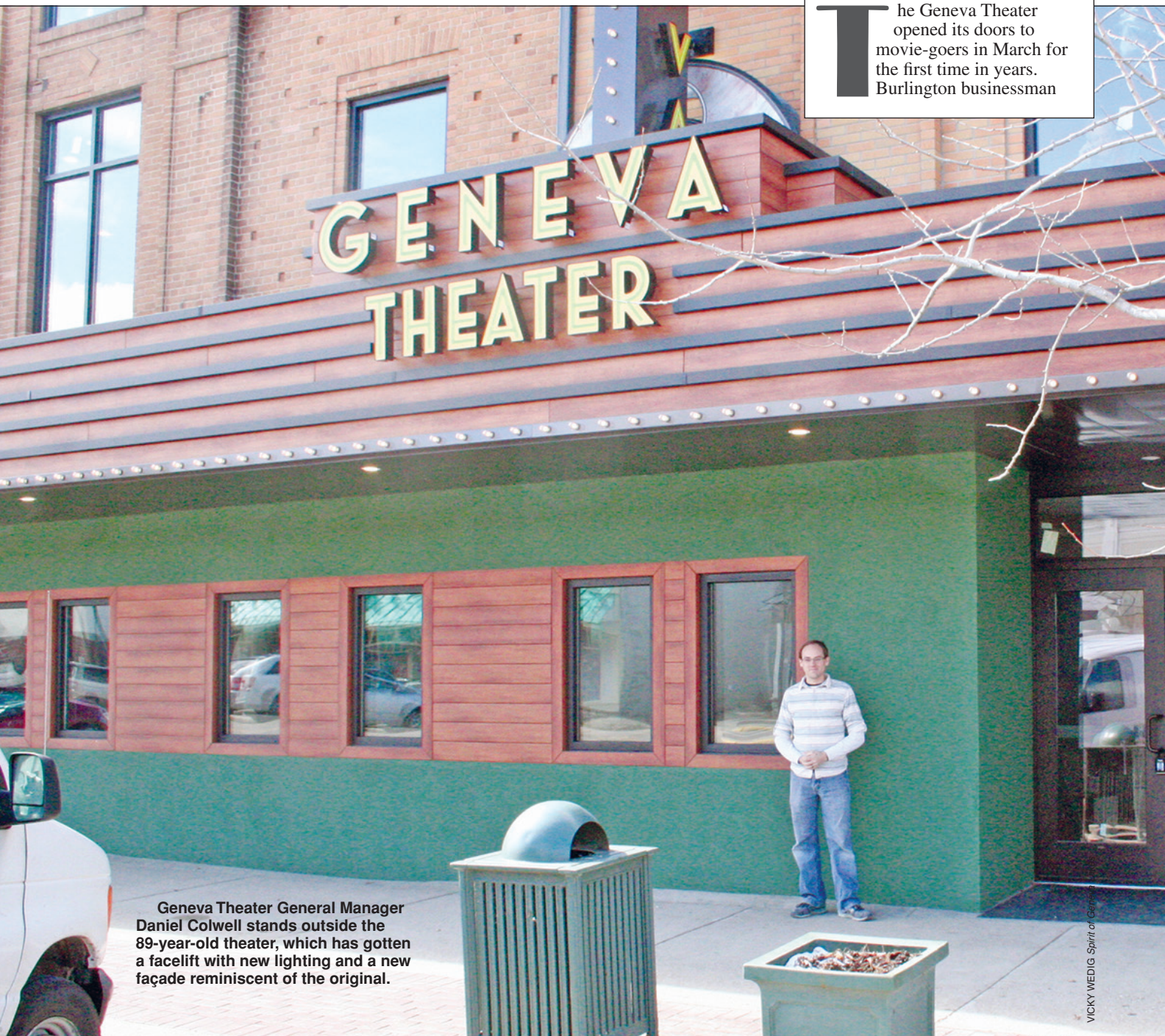
THE SHOW GOES ON

Geneva Theater is back in business after seven years of darkness

by **Vicky Wedig**

STAFF WRITER

The Geneva Theater opened its doors to movie-goers in March for the first time in years. Burlington businessman



Geneva Theater General Manager Daniel Colwell stands outside the 89-year-old theater, which has gotten a facelift with new lighting and a new façade reminiscent of the original.

VICKY WEDIG Spirit of Geneva

Shad Branen bought the 89-year-old theater on Broad Street a year ago and began \$2 million in renovations.

Ontario native Daniel Colwell was brought on as the theater's general manager in November.

The theater was built in 1928 by Community Theaters and has gone through several owners through the years, said Ken Etten, of the Friends of the Geneva Theater group, which formed in 2011 to restore the venue.

In the 1970s, Standard Theaters owned the site and built an addition on the north side in 1975, Etten said. In 1985, Esseness Theaters split the venue into four theaters – a main theater and balcony theater in the original part of the building and two theaters in the north addition, he said.

From 2004 to 2007, the parent company of the Showboat of Lyons, the other movie theater in town, operated both venues, Colwell said. After the Showboat company

stopped operating the downtown theater, a Chicago businessman operated stage productions in the theater until around 2009, he said.

In 2010, the building was vacated, and some Lake Geneva area residents formed the Friends of the Theater in 2011, Etten said. The group's aim was to convince the city to help buy the building and restore it as community arts center, he said.

Branen bought the building and restored it to the four-theater model created in the 1980s.

Colwell said Mother Nature had wreaked havoc on the building as it sat vacant for about seven years.

"The water damage was horrendous," Colwell said.

The building was gutted, mold remediated, heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems replaced and four theaters created inside, he said. Colwell said when he was hired, old movie projectors

from the 1970s were still inside the building rusted together. The old marquee was removed from the outside and a new sign and lighting – reminiscent of the original – were erected along with a new façade.

The new theaters hold 214, 101, 92 and 78 spectators, respectively. Special seating with larger seats and stainless steel tables can be rented in the back of the theaters. Three of the theaters are on the main level, and a balcony theater on the second floor boasts the largest screen and a 92-person capacity.

A party room upstairs with a view of Broad Street can be rented, and a dance studio has expressed interest in rehearsing in another second-floor space, Colwell said.

The theater passed inspections in early March and began business with one feature – "Logan," a superhero movie featuring the character Wolverine played by Hugh Jackman.

Eventually each of the four theaters will

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VICKY WEDIG *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

The concession area of Geneva Theater, with a never-before-used popcorn machine, will feature items from the menu at Sprecher's Restaurant and Pub in Lake Geneva.

“We have a location advantage being right in the downtown and so close to all the hotels.”

feature a different movie with “Beauty and the Beast” arriving as the first blockbuster, Colwell said.

The lobby of the new theater has an area where historical artifacts from the venue will be displayed, a “selfie” room with movie posters where movie-goers can photograph themselves with movie display, and concessions with the usual movie fare along with pizza and items from the menu at Sprecher’s Restaurant and Pub in Lake Geneva.

The theater opened with a core staff of six employees, and Colwell said the venue’s brand new seating, state-of-the-art sound

system and location will make it attractive compared with the larger Showboat theater.

“We have a location advantage being right in the downtown and so close to all the hotels,” he said.

The \$2 million renovation included \$195,000 in tax incremental finance funds and \$30,000 from the Friends of the Geneva Theater for lighting. Colwell said he expects residents to become involved with the theater just as supporters did for its renovation.


“This is really going to be a vibrant place for the community,” he said.



Daniel Colwell shows one of four theaters inside Geneva Theater, which opened to moviegoers last month.

VICKY WEDIG Spirit of Geneva Lakes





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The Dinosaur Museum is housed in this renovated Beaux Arts Building at 5608 10th Avenue in the Historic District of Kenosha. Opened in 2006, it is the home of dinosaurs large and small.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

A day at the museum

Kenosha has much to offer history buffs

By **Sandra Landen Machaj**
CORRESPONDENT

Visiting a museum is an interesting way to learn about the past. Fortunately for those located in the Chain O'Lakes Area and Southern Wisconsin there are many museums, each with its own unique displays and programs. Here are three of the popular museums in Kenosha that will appeal to all members of the family.

Dinosaur Discovery Museum

Brontosaurus, Tyrannosaurus Rex, Allosaurus, Triceratops the names roll off the tongues of children as they explain their favorite dinosaur. Children, even five and six year olds, have no trouble naming dinosaurs despite their difficult names and they are well aware of the many details associated with these prehistoric animals.

With children so interested in dinosaurs, it is not surprising that the majority of visitors to the Dinosaur Discovery Museum, at 5608 10th Avenue in the Civic Historic District

are families with children. The museum, which opened in a renovated Beaux Arts Historic Landmark in 2006 has quickly become the place to learn all things dinosaur.

In the main gallery of the museum, a large display of dinosaur skeletons takes the visitor through the history of dinosaurs, answering such questions as to their appearance, diet, and how they became extinct. While dinosaurs are usually considered to be very large creatures, as one makes their way around the display, it is apparent that dinosaurs came in many sizes and shapes.

The Dinosaur Discovery Museum is the only known museum which focuses on the evolution of meat eating dinosaurs known as theropods to modern day birds. The many skeletons on display come from throughout the world and are casts of the original bones. On some of the specimens there are light colored bones and dark bones. The light bones are casts of the actual bones that have been unearthed.

"Usually it is only the large bones

which are found and many of even the large bones are found in pieces. They have to be removed carefully and pieced together back in the lab," Mike Kehoe, an interpreter of the exhibit, said.

He went on to explain that in the lab on the lower level many such projects are currently under construction.

Visit the lower level of the museum where The Carthage Institute of Paleontology is engaged in current ongoing research of the study of dinosaurs. Also located on the lower level is a special hands on learning center for children where they can enjoy coloring dinosaur pictures, work on dinosaur rubbings, or enjoy the many dinosaur books available. Parents are welcome to share the books with their children. Perhaps their children will teach them about dinosaurs.

What child does not love to play in the dirt? On Saturdays and Sundays a hands-on learning experience that is sure to be fun is the Dino Dig. In this simulated excavation site, children over the age of 3 years dig for dinosaurs wearing safety glasses and using paleontologist tools that are safe for children. Imagine the joy of finding your own "dinosaur bone."

A visit to the Dinosaur Discovery Museum can be a short visit or an all day affair for those truly interested in Dinosaurs. There are many placards with information about the dinosaurs on the walls. The exhibit interpreters are glad to answer questions and explain details of the exhibit. Watch the movie of the Hell Creek Expedition for a better understanding of the work involved in recovering these bones.

The Dinosaur Discovery Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday noon to 5 p.m. Closed on Mondays and holidays. Visit their website www.kenosha.org/wp-dinosaur for further information and to check on current programs.

There is no entry fee but donations are gratefully accepted. Suggested donation is \$2.

Kenosha Public Museum

Located several blocks away from the Dinosaur Museum, the Kenosha Public Museum should be the next stop on a



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Civil War re-enactors demonstrate the firepower of the cannons that were used to fight that war. The sound of the explosion was so loud that the soldiers would shield their ears to protect their hearing.

museum visit day. A trip to a museum is always interesting and even more so when the displays depict local history. This museum, which focuses on natural science, fine art, and decorative art will continue a visit to the giant beasts of the past with the Woolly Mammoth exhibit and then will lead the visitor into fine art displays and other exhibits which change seasonally.

Standing 10 to 12 feet tall at its shoulders and weighing 6 to 8 tons, this gigantic prehistoric animal is best described by its name – Mammoth. Yes the woolly mammoth this giant of an animal at one time roamed freely throughout this area. Today however we are left with just its skeleton on display at the Kenosha Public Museum, a mammoth that was unearthed here in the area. The Schaefer and Hebior mammoth exhibit is the centerpiece of the first floor exhibit.

While viewing the mammoth is the highlight of the visit to the exhibition, it is the journey through time that will bring one there. Before you arrive at the mammoth, you begin by entering a softly lit tunnel that walks you through time back thousands

of years when this area of Wisconsin was a glacier. As you move through time and through the tunnel, you will reach the display of the first people to arrive in the area following the end of the last glacial period. That time was thought to be around 14,500 years ago. Life size statues of these early peoples depicting scenes of their lives in these early days begin to appear. The walk through the displays of the village covers all four seasons of the year in a North American village.

While this exhibit takes up much of the first floor, it is not all that there is to see and do at the museum. Located on the first floor is the Field Station where children receive hands on experience in art. Call for the schedule of classes.

The second floor contains an ever changing art exhibit and other displays of fine art and decorative arts. Check the museum website for current displays.

Visit the Kenosha Public Museum at 5500 1st Avenue, Kenosha. Hours are Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. They can be reached by phone at

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262-653-5140. Or visit them on the web www.kenosha.org/wp-museum. Ample free parking is located across the street.

Civil War Museum

When finished with the Kenosha Public Museum, if the family has any energy left, meander next door to take in the Civil War Museum. This very interactive museum will hold the interest of visitors of all ages. If energy is not high save this Museum for a separate day as there is much to see, learn and experience.

The Civil War was one of the most important periods in the history of the United States for it was the first test of the unity of the nation. This museum will take one through the troubling times of that era.

A visit to Civil War museums in other areas of the country, will present a lot of information about the Civil War, but a visit to the Kenosha Civil War Museum will be an experience unlike any other museum visit. For this museum not only looks at the war as a national war but focuses on the contributions of individual soldiers and that of the residents of the Midwest who

supplied much of the supplies and foods for our soldiers

The movie "Seeing the Elephant," is especially unique in that it is filmed in a 360-degree format, a format that is found in only a few places. The unique movie uses sight, sound, and ground motion to give the viewer the feeling of being part of the experience. Seeing The Elephant, is a term the Civil War Soldiers used to describe their first combat experience. The film is narrated by Bill Kurtis.

The museum displays not only soldier related displays but through the use of personal stories and narratives, provides a look into the way the Civil War impacted the Western home front before, during, and after the war.

The residents of the Middle West: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin provided more than 750,000 men to serve in the Union Army. These soldiers were not the only contribution made to the war effort as these states, known for its rich farm land, produced much of the food necessary to feed the troops throughout the war. Many of the supplies needed to wage the war were

also supplied by our Midwest states.

The Fiery Trial exhibit tells the story of those affected by war and their effect on American history.

A very special exhibit is to be found in the Veterans Memorial Gallery. This permanent display depicts a group of Civil War soldiers as they sit around a campfire. In the muted light, these life sized statues are surrounded by soldiers from all the conflicts that the United States has been involved in as a nation. Along the walls of this room are displays from each of the wars. It is hard to not be overwhelmed with emotion at this display.

Along with the many exhibits, the museum also hosts many special programs pertaining to the Civil War many of which are conducted by well-known historians.

Located on the lakefront at 5400 First Avenue, Kenosha, the Civil War Museum is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. The Resource Center is open Monday through Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. There is an admission charge for this museum. Check them out on the web at www.kenosha.org/wp-museum.



Lifelike displays such as this depicting life in the Kenosha area in prehistoric times. Follow the trail of history through the display.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Food for a cause

Restaurant Week will again benefit charity

Lake Geneva will host its third annual Restaurant Week June 2 through 11 featuring the diverse restaurant offerings available in the Lake Geneva area.

The 10-day event that attracts thousands of residents and visitors who take advantage of special fixed price menus, also gives diners an opportunity to participate in a community charity program. At the end of each meal, diners are presented with a ballot to cast a vote in the Charity Check program. The local non-profit organization that receives the most votes will receive a \$5,000 Charity Check donation.

The Lake Geneva Restaurant Week \$5,000 Charity Check is sponsored by Lake Geneva Country Meats.

"We are proud to sponsor this program for the third year, said Nick Vorpagel, sales manager, Lake Geneva Country Meats. "It has been an unbelievable opportunity to partner with local organizations doing amazing things in our community. We look



FILE PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Several restaurants throughout the Geneva Lake area will offer fixed price food deals during Lake Geneva's Restaurant Week set for June 2 through 11. The annual event also benefits local charities.

forward to having another great group of charities participating this year."

Five charitable organizations are chosen to participate in the charity check program by the Restaurant Week organizing committee.

In 2016, the participating charities represented a variety of causes ranging from historical education to providing equine therapy to those with special needs. The 2016 winner was Agape House, of Walworth, a charity that provides assistance to young women in need.

In addition to the winner receiving

the \$5,000 Charity Check, all five non-profits chosen to participate in the Charity Check receive exposure to the thousands of Restaurant Week patrons. Representatives from VISIT Lake Geneva and Lake Geneva Country Meats said they are proud to use this program to shine a light on the good work done by non-profit organizations in the Geneva Lake and Walworth County area.

To learn more about Lake Geneva Restaurant Week and the Charity Check program visit the Restaurant Week website at: LakeGenevaRestaurantWeek.com.



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This group dressed in the fashions of the '70s enjoys the welcome party at a past Women's Weekend. This year the theme is "Luau on the Lake."



WOMEN

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gal pals

Are you ready for a weekend away from the stress of everyday life? How would you like to spend a weekend in Lake Geneva with your best girlfriends?

For the past several years, the Lake Geneva Rotary Club with the help of the business community has put together a fun and interesting weekend for women who enjoy some quality time with their best female friends.

By **Sandra
Landen Machaj**
CORRESPONDENT

This year that event will be held April 28 to April 30. The Rotary Club works with a variety of other sponsors, including the Martin Group, Mill Creek, Harley Davidson, Cornerstone Gallery and Harbor Shores, to set up this event.

Many other merchants are involved in various ways to ensure a fun weekend for all. This year the group has engaged the services of the University of Wisconsin Whitewater's American Marketing Association to handle the special events. This group gives

SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes



COURTESY OF ELIZABETH WAGNER *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

(Above) Painting parties where participants sip drinks and create art are popular, but many women can't find the time to attend one. Here is a chance to join local artist Elizabeth Wagner and create a special memory of your time at the Women's Weekend. (At right) This pendant is the result of a coloring project and a basic jewelry making class presented by Art Movz. Sign up for the class at the Women's Weekend and make your own design.



COURTESY OF ART MOVZ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

college students real-world business experience.

According to Kaitlyn Hart, of American Marketing's Creative Marketing Division, organizers have worked hard to provide interesting and new experiences for the women attending the event. Hart recommends signing up for the weekend as soon as possible before the individual activities reach their limits. Some of the more popular venues are likely to sell out long before the event.

Lake Geneva always has a lot of fun and exciting things to do but coming in the spring before it is overloaded with summertime visitors will make the experience even better. In addition to the planned activities there is that one activity that every woman enjoys – shopping! Participants will get a chance to see all the new spring merchandise on display and some winter bargains that can still be picked up.

There will be a chance to browse a variety of boutique stores with merchandise not found in department and big box stores. Whether looking to add to your wardrobe with boutique clothing not readily found in your usual shopping areas or on the hunt for some new accent piece for your home, there are plenty of options in Lake Geneva.

If the weather cooperates, participants have the option of a walk along the Geneva Lake shore path. This path, left from times when the native Americans made their home here, winds around the entire shore of the lake – approximately 26 miles. Maybe it's a little too much to complete the whole path but a short section will give great views of the lake, the mansions, and the city.

It will also help to work up an

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appetite. There are many fine restaurants with a variety of foods whether you are ready for a quick sandwich or a more formal meal.

The weekend begins with registration at the Harbor Shores Hotel, 300 Wrigley Dr., on Friday, April 28, from 1 to 6 pm. Participants will receive a goody bag filled with interesting surprises and the Passport of Savings for discounts from various local businesses. An entry ticket for the evening's welcome party at the Riviera Ballroom is also included.

The registration fee of \$60 includes the Friday night kickoff party. The party is themed Luau on the Lake. There will be themed drinks and a vast array of appetizers provided while participants enjoy music and dancing.

Raffles will be held for prizes such as gift certificates and the rental of a Harley Davidson motorcycle for a weekend.

The next two days will be filled with a variety of activities that can be booked at the Harbor Shores or registered in advance. Each of the special events has a limit on the number of participants, so people are advised to sign up early.

The events are designed to appeal to many with special prices to make them affordable. Visit Lake Geneva Women's Weekend 2017 on line at www.lakegenewawomensweekend.com to register or for more information.

Here is the schedule for the weekend events:

● FRIDAY, APRIL 28

3 to 4:30 p.m.

Corks and Canvas ~ The Bottle Shop
617 W. Main Street, Lake Geneva, WI

Begin the weekend with a relaxing afternoon enjoying a paint and sip party

at The Bottle Shop. Local artist, Elizabeth Wagner will lead participants through all the steps to produce a beautiful painting while you sip a glass of wine or a glass of local beer. Gift items are also available. All supplies are included. You may find you are more creative than you thought. Class is limited to 35 and the fee is \$45.



COURTESY OF STUDIO WINERY *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

The wines produced in Lake Geneva by Studio Winery are award winners as noted in the above photo. The winery has also received an award for its label design. Enjoy the wine tasting and you may choose to shop for a bottle of your favorite to take home.

Illusion and magic offers an exciting show. Enjoy a performance by Tristan Crist in his intimate Tristan Crist Magic Theatre as part of the Women's Weekend 2017.



COURTESY OF TRISTAN CRIST *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Board The Lady of the Lake and relax as you begin a cruise around Geneva Lake and observe the changing sky colors as the sun slowly sets.



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● SATURDAY, APRIL 29

8 to 9:30 a.m.

Sunrise Yoga ~ The Yoga Place
613 W. Main Street
Lake Geneva ~ (262) 248-3202

For the early risers, start the day with a good yoga stretch. Room for 20 participants at \$15 each.

11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Musician Series Wine Tasting
Studio Winery
401 Sheridan Springs Road
Lake Geneva ~ (262) 348-9100

Join Doug Jackson, owner of the Studio Winery, for a wine tasting of their award-winning wines. Wines are made on site from locally grown grapes. The Musician Series includes a variety of wines including red, rose, and white that range from sweet to dry. There is sure to be one to please your palate as you enjoy a tasting of the award winning Musician Series and other fine wines. You may need to pick up a bottle or two to take home and share with your significant other. 60 places available at a cost of \$30 each.

3 to 4:30 p.m.

Art Movz ~ Wearable Coloring for Grown-ups
Harbor Shores
300 Wrigley Drive, Lake Geneva
(414) 939-3789

Have you been bitten by the coloring bug? It has become a popular way of relaxing but then what do you do with it? Have you ever considered turning your coloring into something wearable? Leah and Tiffany, artists and teachers, will lead participants through a jewelry-making experience that will begin with a coloring project and continue through jewelry making 101 as they help participants turn artwork into jewelry. All supplies included. 15 students in a session at a cost of \$30 each.

As the day moves into evening there are two great choices but, unfortunately, due to time conflicts only one can be chosen.

5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Sunset Cruise ~ Lake Geneva Cruise Line
812 Wrigley Drive, Lake Geneva

No trip to Lake Geneva is complete without a tour of Geneva Lake aboard one of Lake Geneva Cruise Line's famous boats. One of the most popular is this Sunset Cruise aboard The Lady of the Lake. Enjoy the sight of the setting sun as you sip on a complimentary drink and let the weariness and tension of the day fade away. The ship holds 200. Cost is \$20 each.

6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The Tristan Crist Illusion Show
Tristan Crist Magic Theatre
609 W. Main Street
Lake Geneva
(262) 248-0505

Magic and illusion attracts young and old. In this intimate setting, Master illusionist Tristan Crist will present a magical extravaganza that is up-close and personal. With seating for approximately 50 guests, every illusion will be more intense. Watch the lady get cut in half and levitate into the air and be prepared for the real helicopter to appear on stage. The cost \$35 per person.

● SUNDAY APRIL 30

8 to 9:30 a.m.

Sunrise Yoga ~ The Yoga Place
613 W. Main Street, Lake Geneva

Start the final morning with another round of yoga before heading off to breakfast. 20 places available. Cost is \$20 per person.

9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Brunch at Tuscan Tavern
430 Broad St., Lake Geneva

Full breakfast selections, a signature pasta dish and a complimentary Mimosa will leave you satisfied as you sit and reminisce about your Women's Weekend in Lake Geneva. 75 places available. Cost \$25 per person.



FILE PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Participants may enjoy a walk along the shore path during their Women's Weekend stay. While you may not want to undertake the whole 26-mile path, a short walk along the path will give you a unique view of the lake and downtown Lake Geneva.

Staying the night?

Check out the deals offered by these participating hotels

Looking for the perfect hotel for your Women's Weekend stay? Here is a list of hotels participating in the event, offering great accommodations, some with lake views and reasonable prices.

- The Cove of Lake Geneva, 111 Center St., Lake Geneva (262) 249-9460
The Anchor Suite, \$139 per night plus fees and taxes; The Belle Loft \$189 per night plus fees and taxes.

- Harbor Shores on Lake Geneva, 300 Wrigley Dr., Lake Geneva, (888) 746-7371
Parkview Room, \$99;
Lakeview room \$129

- The Geneva Inn, N2009 S. Lakeshore

Dr., Lake Geneva, (262)248-5680
Deluxe Room \$99;
Lakeside Room \$129

- Millcreek Hotel, 123 Center St., Lake Geneva (877) 624-5494
Call for rates and availability

- Lake Geneva Motel, 524 South Wells St., Lake Geneva, (262) 248-3464
Call for rates and availability

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Dog walk a rare opportunity

Proceeds from event support heritage animals at Old World Wisconsin

If stepping back in time sounds appealing to you, now you can do it with your furry friend by your side on one special day this year.

The Old World Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and funding of Old World Wisconsin, is hosting the third annual Dog Walk for the animals at Old World Wisconsin on Saturday, April 29 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Old World Wisconsin, the largest of Wisconsin's 12 historic sites and the Midwest's premier living history museum, is home to 100-plus animals with 62 of them being heritage breed animals. Several of the heritage breed animals are rare and Old World Wisconsin works diligently to help preserve these breeds.

"The animals at OWW are just like any other...they require food and veterinary care...so it's important that we help provide for their well-being," said Gwen Griffin, Executive Director for the foundation. "The Dog Walk is a fun way to help fund the animal program while giving people an opportunity to explore the beautiful grounds at OWW and get a bit of exercise with their pooch," she added.

Griffin explained that this year's event will be expanded from the two previous years.

"We moved it from the fall to the spring, extended it by an hour, and we're adding many new features to really enhance the entire experience," she said.

New features this year include dog-related vendors, an opportunity to have your photo taken with your dog by a professional pet photographer, and an agility course sponsored by Agility Possibilities from Milwaukee.

Admission to the Dog Walk is just \$10 per person (dogs are free) if you are registered by April 24. After April 24, admission is \$15 per person, with proceeds helping to fund Old World Wisconsin's animal program.

Additionally, the first 100 people to register will receive a string backpack filled with surprises for participants and their dogs, sponsored by the Animal Clinic of Elkhorn.

Participation in the agility course has an additional \$5 suggested donation. Proceeds from this feature will be split between



SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Pet lovers will have a chance to stroll the grounds of Old World Wisconsin, a living history museum in Eagle, during the third annual Dog Walk on April 29. The event benefits the care and maintenance of heritage animals at the site.

Lakeland Animal Shelter of Walworth County and the Humane Animal Welfare Society of Waukesha County, which will both have booths at the Dog Walk.

This event will be held rain or shine and registration fees are non-refundable. All dogs must be on a leash at all times.

If participants want to help the animal program at Old World Wisconsin further, the foundation has an Adopt an Animal program. Complete details will be available the day

of the Dog Walk and information is on the foundation's website at www.friendsoww.org.

Registration for the Dog Walk can be done completed online or by calling the foundation office at (262) 594-2922 weekdays between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Complete details are also available on Old World Foundation's Facebook page.

Old World Wisconsin is at W372 S9727 Highway 67, Eagle.

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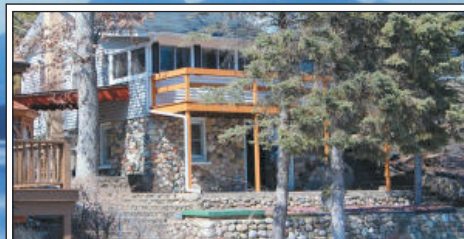
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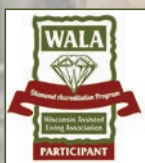
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