

*June
Bride*
inside
→



THE SPIRIT of Geneva Lakes



Vol. 29 No. 6

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JUNE 2017



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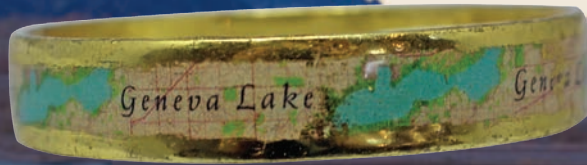


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IT'S FINE IN JUNE

The poet Nathaniel Parker Willis is credited with writing: "It is the month of June; The month of leaves and roses; When pleasant sights salute the eyes and pleasant scents the noses." Flowers – like these peonies along the Geneva Lake Shore Path – bloom, birds sing and blue skies prevail. June is also the month of brides and weddings. When it comes to all things June, we've got you covered.

ED NADOLSKI PHOTO
Spirit of Geneva Lakes



IT'S COMIN' UP

JUNE EVENTS

2-11 Lake Geneva Restaurant Week will celebrate 10 days of delicious dining throughout the area. The Lake Geneva culinary scene gives food aficionados and visitors an opportunity to enjoy specialty priced two and three course prix fixe lunch and dinner menus and special events at locations throughout the area. Organized by Visit Lake Geneva. See page 11 for more.

3-4 Wisconsin DNR Free Fun Weekend – Free entry to state parks and forest, free DNR trails, free fishing on all Wisconsin waters and free ATV/UTV vehicle riding on public trails open to such uses. No license required.

3 Historic brewing at Old World Wisconsin – Old World Wisconsin and the Museum of Beer and Brewing are partnering and bringing to life 19th-century brews. See the brewers use equipment and techniques from the late 1800s and heirloom hops and barley grown at Old World Wisconsin. The brewing process will begin by 10 a.m. and conclude by 5 p.m. Today we will be brewing American cream ale. \$19 adults; \$16 seniors; \$10 children (5 to 17); children 4 and younger are admitted free. W372S9727 Highway 67, Eagle.

9 Rock Baby Rock – concert featuring Lance Lapinsky and the Lovers at the Belfry Music. Celebrating classic artists like Elvis Presley, Buddy Holly, Chuck Berry, and more, this show invites listeners to embrace the roots of rock and roll. 7 to 9:30 p.m.

9 Night Under the Lights – a free, community event hosted by the Elkhorn Parks and Recreation Department, featuring baseball games under the lights, concessions and raffles, inflatable fun, face painting and a variety of child-friendly activities. 5 p.m. at Harris Park, Wright Street. (262) 741-5114 www.nuttfest.com.

9-10 Elkhorn City Wide Rummage – explore and shop area rummage sales. Maps of rummages that place ads will be available at the Elkhorn Area Chamber of Commerce. Businesses may also be offering specials. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (262) 723-5788 info@elkhornchamber.com.

10 Lake Geneva Paint-in – Local artists demonstrate and sell their artwork on the downtown sidewalks of Lake Geneva. Sponsored by Visit Lake Geneva.

10, 17, 24 Walworth County farmers market – Veterans Park on the downtown square, Elkhorn, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. (262) 723-7733.

12 Chip in Fore Kids Golf Outing, 11:30 a.m.-7 p.m., Evergreen Country Club, Elkhorn. Four-person scramble and shotgun start at \$90 a person includes: golf, cart, lunch, dinner and prizes. Dinner only for \$25. (262) 741-1440 www.wcac4kids.org.

15 Legends and Landmarks – A 90-minute

walking tour of downtown Lake Geneva and the historic Maple Park neighborhoods. Participants will learn which buildings were designed by famous architects (including Daniel Burnham, Frank Lloyd Wright and William Le Baron Jenny), which have a colorful past and which significant structures were lost to neglect or the wrecking ball. Tickets are \$8 per person (or two tickets for \$15) and can be purchased in advance by calling (262) 248-1888 or directly from the tour guide day of the walk.

16 Holton-Elkhorn Band Concert, a free open-air concert at Elkhorn's historic band shell in Sunset Park, 7:30 p.m. (262) 741-5114.

16-18 Community Days of Elkhorn – a celebration of all things Elkhorn featuring a water ski show by the Lauderdale Aqua Skiers, a movie in the park, a car show and more. (262) 723-5788 elkhornchamber.com.

17 Walworth County Farm Bureau Dairy Breakfast, 6-11 a.m. at the Walworth County Fairgrounds, 411 E. Court St., Elkhorn. Event features full breakfast, crafters, live animals and a tour of a Walworth County farm. (262) 723-3228.

17 Annual Elkhorn Firefighters Street Dance, 6-11:55 p.m. at the Elkhorn Fire Station on South Broad Street. The street dance features raffles, food, drinks and live music. Cost is \$10 for entry.

18 Pride and Joy Car Show, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. across from the Elkhorn Area Chamber of Commerce, 203 E. Walworth St., at the Elkhorn Garage. There is no entry fee, though donations will be accepted for the Elkhorn Food Pantry. Goodie bags and dash plaques will be available for the first 75 cars. (262) 723-5788 elkhornchamber.com.

21 Pork Chop Cookout, 4-7 p.m. Walworth County Fairgrounds, 411 E. Court St., Elkhorn. (262) 723-3228 walworthcountyfair.com.

25 Antique Flea Market – at 7 a.m. at the Walworth County Fairgrounds, Highway 11, Elkhorn. Cost is \$5. (414) 525-0820 www.nlpromotionsllc.com.

30 Star Spangled Celebration – 5-10 p.m. at Sunset Park, 200 Devendorf St., Elkhorn, featuring music from the Holton Band, food and snacks, and a fireworks show at dusk. (262) 723-5788 elkhornchamber.com.

30-July 1 Twin Lakes Libertyfest – Two days for music, food and fun featuring fireworks, a waterski show, parade and live music. See page 20

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

THE SPIRIT

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THE SPIRIT

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*Following
her...*

Dreams

Genevieve Heyward, a Lake Geneva Badger High School senior, is determined to make a music career for herself. She describes her music as a little pop, folk, alternative and piano pop art.

Local teen
pursues music
career with
album release

by **Michael S. Hoey**

CORRESPONDENT

Lake Geneva Badger High School senior Genevieve Heyward is determined to make music her career and she took a big step in that direction with the release of her first album, "It's Not Like Anyone's Listening," on April 30 – her 18th birthday.

Heyward has been performing locally

and regionally for years and has grown as a musician with the help of the Rock Central performance-based music school in Lake Geneva and Steel Bridge Songfest in Sturgeon Bay.

Heyward lives in Pell Lake with her parents Kim and Ed and said their support has been crucial to her development. Kim Heyward said she recognized at a very



Genevieve Heyward plays at the Taste of Wisconsin festival in Kenosha last summer.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

early age that Genevieve had talent and she supported her daughter by signing her up for piano and voice lessons and voice therapy so she could learn how to best use her voice.

"It has been proven that music helps children in school and makes them happier," Kim Heyward said.

Kim also was there to push Genevieve when she wanted to quit piano lessons.

"We always taught her that when you start something you finish it and she is glad we never let her quit," Kim said.

Genevieve's parents also showed their support when they learned their daughter intended to pursue a music career rather than go to college after high school. Not all parents would be so understanding.

Parental support

"While in high school, I spent a lot of time trying to decide if I wanted to go to college or not," Genevieve said. "During the

past year, I became positive school did not feel right after high school—I didn't want to wait (to pursue music)."

Heyward said once that decision was made, she sat down with her parents and defended it.

Kim Heyward originally thought her daughter had to go to college and get an education, especially since she would receive Veteran's Administration benefits that would help pay for it because her father is a Vietnam veteran. She eventually came around to the opinion that college will always be there for her daughter if and when she is ready for it.

"She made a lot of valid points, so we will let her do what she wants to do," Kim said.

"How could we tell her she can't do what she loves?" Kim Heyward said. "We need to let her follow her dreams."

Heyward has a long list of places she has played including the Coffee House at Chestnut and Pine in Burlington, the Taste of Wisconsin and the Brat Stop in Kenosha, Rock the Lake in



Fontana, The Mars Resort in Como, Potbelly in Lake Geneva, Summerfest, the Walworth County Fair and the Wisconsin State Fair. Heyward has been nominated twice for Wisconsin Area Music Industry awards for Rising Stars for performers younger than 18 years old.

Diva quest winner

Heyward won the 2017 Riverport Chorus Diva Quest on Jan. 28 in Burlington, won a contest to open for Little Big Town at the 2016 Walworth County Fair and has opened for Cereus Bright in Burlington. She has also collaborated with Pat MacDonald of Timbuk3 and one of the artists who contributed to a tribute album to MacDonald called "Begging His Graces."

Heyward said MacDonald works with the Steel Bridge Songfest in Sturgeon Bay. She said he listens to young artists and then works with them to make their work better. Heyward's family has a summer home in Door County and, along with Rock Central, Heyward has been greatly influenced by Steel Bridge as she has matured from a karaoke singer to a singer-songwriter.

"Song writing is difficult," Heyward said. "Writing a song people want to listen to is difficult."

Heyward said she has participated at Steel Bridge the past three summers and has been heavily influenced by MacDonald and singer-songwriter Melanie Jane.

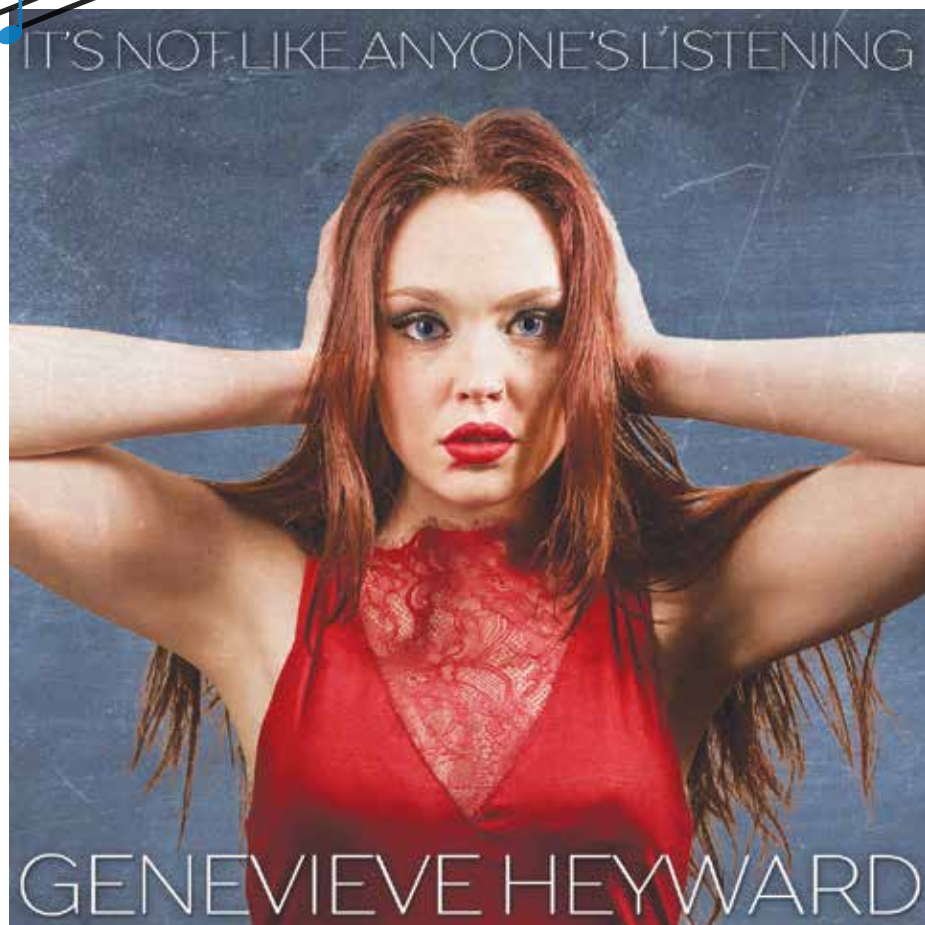
"I have had the opportunity to collaborate with amazing musicians," Heyward said about her time at Steel Bridge. She said her time there helped her realize she wanted to make music her career regardless of how famous she may or may not get.

"I am not doing it to be famous, though that would be nice," she said. "A lot of people make a great living without being famous."

Heyward said Steel Bridge has helped her move from being just a cover artist singing other people's songs to writing and singing her own music and creating a distinct sound people would recognize as hers. She also said she has learned about branding and clothing as she has become a well-rounded performer.

Challenges ahead

Heyward said her music career has faced some challenges but none of them have been scary enough to make her not want to pursue her dream. She said she loves the travel, meeting people and sharing her



SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Genevieve Heyward's first album, "It's Not Like Anyone's Listening," was released on April 30 – her 18th birthday.

music with people in performances that have an emotional effect on them.

"I love seeing the reactions to my music," she said. "It is so cool to be able to control a room with the music I play."

Heyward said she enjoys playing cover songs people sing along to, but she prefers singing her own music.

"I share my own personal music with a lot of emotion," she said. "I share personal stuff with a room full of strangers."

Heyward, who describes her music as a little pop, folk, alternative and piano pop art, said she has written about things from past break-ups to deeper human existence topics. She said her inspiration has come from artists like Fiona Apple, Beth Hart, Andrew Bird and Amy Winehouse. She said she was even turned on to older rock like the Beatles while at Rock Central. Jazz has also had a big influence on her art.

Heyward said Tallan Noble Latz, a gifted guitarist and friend, competed on "America's Got Talent" in 2009 and showed her someone her age could make

it in music. Ever looking to expand her repertoire, Heyward has learned to play the piano and guitar and hopes to learn the banjo.

Heyward has worked closely with Vincent Gates, lyricist Greg Seibold and Jackson Mankowski in her writing. Mankowski will open for her at her release party at Rock Central. Dan-O Stoffels on the drums and Matt Spotel on base accompany her and have helped make her first album a reality.

No safety net

Being a do-it-yourself musician, while scary because there is no safety net, is also nice, Heyward said, because she can be independent and do what she wants to do. She said she has always been apprehensive about signing a manager because the industry has its share of "shady" people.

Producing an album independently, however, was a lot of work. Heyward said months went into finishing all of the songs for the album, all of which she wrote or co-



When someone has passion that strong, they can succeed, I am excited to see what the future will bring for her."

wrote with Gates and Liv Mueller. Then the album was recorded including mixing and mastering. A website had to be created, and art design had to be done. Heyward said Stoffels was integral in making all of that happen.

"Dan-O always believed in me," Heyward said.

Despite some serious troubles with scheduling the different elements of the process, things started moving more quickly in January when the recording of the songs actually began, leading to eight-hour work days on top of going to school.

Heyward said a good friend brought his recording studio down to Lake Geneva

from Madison and some of the recording was done at Badger High School and in her living room.

The whole process has not been cheap, so Heyward's web site, www.genevieveheyward.com, has a fundraising element to it. Donors can receive a T-shirt, poster, signed drum head, personalized denim jacket, dinner party performance and a personalized song. The album can also be pre-ordered on the site.

A serious statement

Heyward said the album is cool because it shows people who know her that she is serious about her career. She also

remembers her Steel Bridge days and how inspired she has been to one day be as good as the artists she has worked with there.

Heyward's mother said she is very proud of Genevieve.

"Her father and I are so used to Genevieve's music, it's nothing new to us," she said. "Other people are blown away by her singing, writing and stage presence."

Kim Heyward says her daughter can go as far as she wants to go with her career.

"She has the potential, the drive, the passion, and an old soul," she said.

"When someone has passion that strong, they can succeed," she said. "I am excited to see what the future will bring for her."



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RESTAURANT WEEK OFFERS A REASON TO DINE OUT

Foodies, families and fun-seekers will be treated to the best food and atmosphere the Lake Geneva area has to offer during the annual Restaurant Week event June 2 through 11.

Participating restaurants will serve special prix-fixe meals for breakfast at \$8, two-course meals for \$10 at lunch and three-course

meals for \$25 or \$35 at dinner. With 25 participating restaurants, there will be plenty of options for food and libations to combine with a long list of indoor and outdoor activities and events held during Restaurant Week.

Participating restaurants include:

240 West

269 Fontana Boulevard, (262) 275-9000.

Bernie's Pub & Grill

39 N Wisconsin St., Elkhorn, (262) 743-1822.

Cafe Calamari

10 E Geneva St, Williams Bay, WI 53191 • (262) 245-9665

Champs Sports Bar and Grill

747 Main St., Lake Geneva, (262) 248-6008

Crafted Americana

W4240 Highway 50, Lake Geneva, (262) 249-3832

Frontier Restaurant

2400 East Geneva St., Delavan, (800) 338-5253

Geneva Chophouse

7036 Grand Geneva Way, Lake Geneva, (262) 249-4788

Gino's East

300 Wrigley Dr., Lake Geneva, (262) 248-2525

Gordy's Boat House

336 Lake St., Fontana, (262) 275-6800

Harpoon Willies

10 E. Geneva St., Williams Bay, (262) 723-5722

Hawk's View Golf Club

7377 Krueger Rd., Lake Geneva, (262) 348-9900

Hunt Club Steakhouse

555 Hunt Club Ct., Lake Geneva, (262) 245-7200

Mars Resort and Restaurant

W4098 S. Shore Dr. Lake Geneva, (262) 245-5689

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411 Interchange North, Lake Geneva, (262) 248-9551

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351 Peller Rd., Lake Geneva, (262) 248-3644

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393 N. Edwards Blvd., Lake Geneva, (262) 248-3637

Ristorante Brissago

7036 Grand Geneva Way, Lake Geneva, (262) 248-8811

Simple

525 Broad St., Lake Geneva, (262) 248-3556

The Geneva Inn

N2009 S. Lakeshore Dr., Lake Geneva, (262) 248-5690

The Waterfront

269 Fontana Blvd., Fontana (262) 275-9000

Tuscan Tavern and Grille

430 Broad St., Lake Geneva, (262) 248-0888

Waterfront Pub and Grill

408 Highway 50, Delavan, (262) 728-4700

For more information on the Lake Geneva Restaurant Week, call (800) 345-1020 or go to www.visitlakegeneva.com.

Here are some tips offered by VISIT Lake Geneva for getting the most out of Restaurant Week.

- **Spice it up** – More than two-dozen restaurants throughout the Lake Geneva area are participating in Lake Geneva Restaurant Week. So celebrate the areas talented chefs and try something new. Chefs will be offering popular menu items as well as creating new culinary delights to enjoy. Between meals, participate in some of the events offered during Restaurant Week including oil and balsamic tastings, cooking classes, escape room mysteries, zip line and dine, golf, live music, and more.

- **Share the experience** - The only thing that makes a delicious

meal better is sharing it with the special people in your life. Lake Geneva Restaurant Week is the perfect time to connect with old and new friends and family.

- **Pick your view** – From restaurants set in luxury resorts to those overlooking the lake to those in the walkable downtown area and everything in between, the choice is yours when it comes to view and ambiance. Check the detailed list of participating restaurants and their menus for a variety of fine dining, family friendly, bistros, and pub and grill options.

- **Plan ahead** - Reservations are highly encouraged as this event attracts thousands of residents and visitors. Some restaurants will take reservations by phone, website and OpenTable, whereas others do not take reservations. Details are available in the restaurant profiles on the Restaurant Week website.

- **Stay for a night or two** – Several area resorts and hotels are offering special packages that include savings or extra amenities during your Restaurant Week stay. This is a reason for a long weekend or arrive mid-week for less competition for your restaurant reservations.

- **Support Your Favorite Cause** - Lake Geneva Restaurant Week features a charitable aspect to the dining experience, the Charity Check, which allows diners to vote for a participating charity to receive a \$5,000 donation. At the end of each meal, cast your ballot to support your favorite cause.

Sponsored by Lake Geneva Country Meats, this year's non-profit organizations are Black Point Estate and Gardens, Lakeland Animal Shelter, Lake Geneva Youth Camp, Never Say Never, Side by Side, and United Way of Walworth County.

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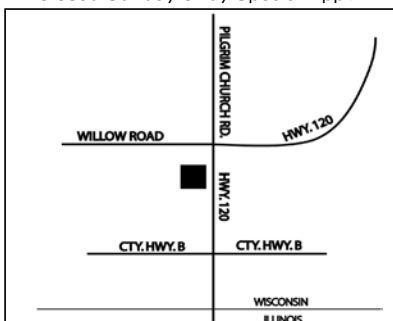
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Beer, brats *and* supper clubs

Mary Bergin's supper club cookbook will be part of the discussion during "Old Fashioned: The Story of Wisconsin Supper Clubs" from 4 to 6 p.m. June 4 at Horticultural Hall.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Black Point to host two events in support of restaurant week

Black Point Estate will present two programs – "Old Fashioned: The Story of Wisconsin Supper Clubs" from 4 to 6 p.m. June 4 and "Beer and Brats in the Biergarten" from 1:30 to 3 p.m. June 11.

The supper club program will be presented at Horticultural Hall, 330 Broad St., Lake Geneva. Cost is \$5 per person. Reservations can be made by calling Black Point Estate at (262) 248-1888.

The beer and brats program will take place at Champs Sports Bar and Grill, 747 W. Main St., Lake Geneva. Cost is \$15 per person. Reservations can be made by calling Champs Sports Bar and Grill (262) 903-0793.

"We are thrilled to be part of this year's

Lake Geneva restaurant week," said Dave Desimone, director of Black Point Estate and Gardens. "When Visit Lake Geneva asked us if we could come up with a few events in support of restaurant week, we immediately thought of two Wisconsin culinary traditions: supper clubs and craft beer!" Supper clubs are a Wisconsin taste tradition that can conjure up feelings of nostalgia for a bygone era. The supper club program is part author talk and part film presentation. Author Mary Bergin will talk about some of her favorite supper clubs from her "Wisconsin Supper Club Cookbook." Following her talk, Holly De Ruyter will show her film "Old Fashioned: The Story of the Wisconsin Supper Club."

"We are very pleased to be bringing both Mary and Holly back to the Lake Geneva area to talk about Wisconsin Supper Clubs. The event sold out in a few days when we offered it as part of Winterfest earlier this year," Desimone said.

During the beer and brats program, participants will learn about five historic beer barons that have connections to Geneva Lake and sample Lake Geneva Country Meats brats paired with Wisconsin craft beers. The program combines storytelling and the culinary arts in an outdoor setting sure to conjure up feelings of a biergarten.

More information can be obtained at www.blackpointestate.org.

Golf outing to benefit Twin Oaks Shelter

The 19th annual Twin Oaks Golf Outing, a four-person charity scramble that benefits the Twin Oaks Shelter for the Homeless, is scheduled for June 12 at Abbey Springs Golf Course in Fontana.

Twin Oaks is Walworth County's only 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week homeless shelter. The scramble is followed by a dinner, program and auction.

The golf outing is the shelter's largest fundraiser of the year and provides a portion of the roughly \$200,000 in private donations needed to operate the shelter every year. Twin Oaks served 159 homeless people in 2016, 71 of whom were children.

Twin Oaks provides a professional case manager who works one-on-one with residents to resolve their crises and find stable housing and employment. During their stay, residents have use of a community kitchen and food pantry,

laundry room, library and outdoor playground for children.

Twin Oaks also offers workshops to build residents' knowledge and skills in areas such as employment, landlord-tenant relationships, budgeting, alcohol and drug awareness and mental health issues.

Community support makes the services possible. Miniature Precision Components, First National Bank and Trust, Alder Scherer LLC, Stinebrink's Piggly Wiggly, and Thrivent Financial are presenting the 19th annual Twin Oaks Golf Outing.

The outing will begin with registration and lunch at 11 a.m., a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. and cocktails, dinner, a program and auction at 6 p.m.

Information is available by calling Beth Tallon, public relations manager, at (608) 313-1319 and also on Community Action's website at www.community-action.org.



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SUBMITTED PHOTO *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

The Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra returns to Music by the Lake June 25 with an afternoon celebration of American music – including the songs of popular 20th-century American composers such as Leonard Bernstein, Aaron Copland, John Williams and Duke Ellington. Tickets for the performance are \$15.

Something for everyone

MUSIC BY THE LAKE BEGINS JUNE 25

The 17th annual season of the Music by the Lake on the campus of George Williams College of Aurora University in Williams Bay presents a range of musical genres and shows, including orchestral music, contemporary and nostalgic pop/rock, country and jazz.

The summer series features weekend events from June 25 through Aug. 13.

All events are in the Ferro Pavilion on the campus. Performances take place rain or shine.

Free parking and shuttle service for all events is located close to campus at

Williams Bay High School at 500 W. Geneva St. Tickets may be purchased at musicbythelake.com or by contacting the Music by the Lake ticket office at (262) 245-8501. Music by the Lake does not charge a service fee on ticket orders.

This year's performances include:

An American Celebration

Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra
Sunday, June 25, 4 p.m. • Tickets: Reserved \$15

America

July 8, 7:30 p.m.
Tickets: Reserved \$80-\$65; Terrace \$45; Lawn \$25

Preservation Hall Jazz Band

July 16, 4 p.m. • Tickets: reserved \$45 to \$60; lawn \$20

The Tenors

July 22, 7:30 p.m. • Tickets: reserved \$60 to \$75; terrace \$45; lawn \$25

Speaker Richard Louv

July 23, 4 p.m.

The folk-rock duo America is scheduled to perform July 8 at George Williams College of Aurora University in Williams Bay as part of the Music by the Lake concert series.

The Berenstain Bears LIVE! in "Family Matters, the Musical"

July 30, 4 p.m. • Tickets: adults \$20; children 4-10 \$10; children 3 and younger, free

An Evening with Lyle Lovett and His Large Band

Aug. 5, 7:30 p.m. • Tickets: reserved \$85 to \$100; terrace \$45; lawn \$30

Fascinating Gershwin

Chicago Philharmonic
Aug. 12, 7:30 p.m.
Tickets: reserved \$65 to \$80; terrace \$45; lawn \$25

Speaker Ray LaHood

Aug. 13, 4 p.m.

Setting it straight

A story in the May edition of the *Spirit of Geneva Lakes* regarding the 2017 Music by the Lake series incorrectly stated that some free tickets would be available for the June 25 Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra show.

All tickets are \$15.

The staff of the *Spirit* regrets the error.



VISIT Lake Geneva director leaving

Schaefer praised for work with tourism agency

After three and a half years as the president and CEO for VISIT Lake Geneva, Darien Schaefer is leaving the organization to become the CEO of the Big Bear Visitor Bureau in Big Bear, Calif.

The move will bring Schaefer and his wife closer to their two daughters and their families residing in Palm Springs and San Francisco. Schaefer's last day will be June 2.

"Darien provided the energy and leadership to merge the Lake Geneva Chamber of Commerce, Inc. and the Lake Geneva Area Convention and Visitors Bureau into VISIT Lake Geneva, the most innovative and respected destination marketing organization in Walworth County," said David Lindelow, VLG Board Chairman.



Darien Schaefer

"His passion for improving the organization and giving it a solid foundation for success has resulted in a dedicated and professional team that serves more than 400 partners in the Lake Geneva area."

Under Schaefer's direction, room tax receipts in the City of Lake Geneva have increased 39.7 percent in the last three years (2014 through 2016) compared to 2.9 percent growth the previous three-year period.

Major accomplishments include merging the two boards of directors, relocating the

office, renaming the organization, building a professional staff, upgrading the technology, implementing partnership tiers, adding new events while making the existing events financially viable, and raising the bar for marketing Lake Geneva with a new website, visitor magazine, videos, social media, and Lake Geneva App.

"I've accomplished what I set out to do three years ago and I leave knowing this organization is positioned to do great things in the future," said Schaefer. "Big Bear shares many of Lake Geneva's best attributes and with a \$1.9 million budget and focus on event development, it will be an exciting next step in my career."

The search for Schaefer's replacement is underway.

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Competitors in the 2016 East Troy Cycling Classic race for top honors as part of the Tour of America's Dairyland series. The 2017 race is June 16.



FILE PHOTO
Spirit of
Geneva Lakes

'Tour de Troy'

CYCLING CLASSIC IS BACK FOR SIXTH YEAR

The largest competitive cycling event in the United States, the Tour of America's Dairyland, will make its sixth stop in East Troy on Friday, June 16.

The East Troy Cycling Classic begins at 10:15 a.m. with nearly 10 hours of high-energy professional cycling around East Troy Village Square Park and nearby streets.

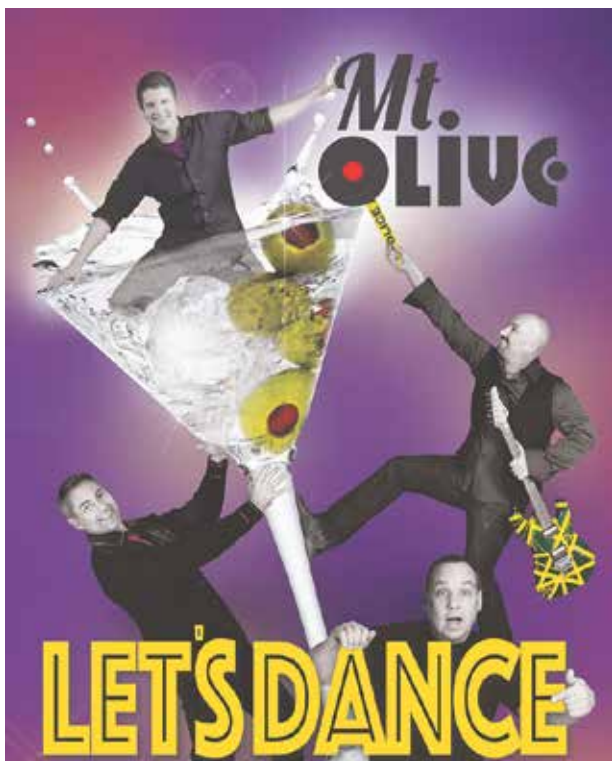
East Troy's third annual Slow Ride Bike Race is back at 5:40 p.m. and the popular Tour de Square Kids

Fun Races will begin at 6 p.m.

East Troy's race is one of three venues that will mark the debut of handcycling at the Tour of America's Dairyland. The country's finest will battle for individual prize money and, overall, for the three-race championship, beginning at 5:10 p.m.

A beer tent will feature music by the Mt. Olive from 7:45 p.m. to 10:45 p.m.

The East Troy Cycling Classic will also feature the East Troy Farmers Market, an ESPN radio broadcast and local vendors offering a variety of food items and beer, soda and water. Many



FILE PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

surrounding businesses get in on the action with race day specials and bike themed items.

East Troy will be the first stop on the 11-day tour, which kicks off in Kenosha June 15 and concludes in Wauwatosa on June 25.

The East Troy race starts and finishes on the east side of the square (2096 Church St.). The cyclists will ride laps around the half-mile course between 10:15 a.m. and 8 p.m. for timed races that range from 40 to 90 minutes.

The race will shut down streets on the course, but local businesses will remain open. Parking will be available in the Chester Byrnes lot, 2031 Division St., and a golf cart shuttle will be available.

Admission is free and spectators may watch the cyclists whiz by once every three minutes from anywhere on the racecourse.

The title sponsor for the East Troy Cycling Classic is the Dennis and Janice Klumb Family Foundation, which put up half of the bid fees to host the race. The East Troy Area Chamber of Commerce serves as the local host, with funding for the balance of the fees donated by other local and regional sponsors.

The race series, produced by Midwest Cycling Series, LLC, is now in its ninth year.

In 2016, the Tour of America's Dairyland, presented by Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board, hosted roughly 1,000 racers of multiple categories from junior to pro level, from 42 states and 16 countries.

Mt. Olive will perform in the beer tent beginning at 7:45 p.m. during the 2017 East Troy Cycling Classic on June 16.

More than \$175,000 in cash and prizes was awarded before an estimated crowd of 175,000 dasher-board banging and cowbell-clanging fans.



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FILE PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

The kids' bike race is a big hit with the younger crowd.

Sign up for East Troy's Slow Ride Bike Race

Each rider competes to be the slowest rider without stopping, putting a foot or arm onto the ground. Last place comes in first! Find details at easttroy.org.

Kids Fun Races

The Tour de Square Kids Fun Races will give children the chance to compete like the pros as they pedal their two-, three- or four-wheel bikes fast and furiously toward the finish line.

The first race starts at 6 p.m. All racers must meet at the East Troy municipal parking lot, on the corner of Church and Austin streets, by 5:45 p.m.

The first 100 entries will receive goodie bags, courtesy of Kids Race sponsors KS Energy Services and The Elegant Farmer. There is no entry fee, but registration is required.

Medals will be awarded to the top three places in three age categories, tricycles/big wheels (age 4 and younger), training wheels/two wheels (ages 4-7) and two wheels only (ages 8-11). All children must wear helmets.

Entry forms are available at easttroy.org or pre-register the day of the race at the Chamber information booth on the east side of East Troy Village Square Park.



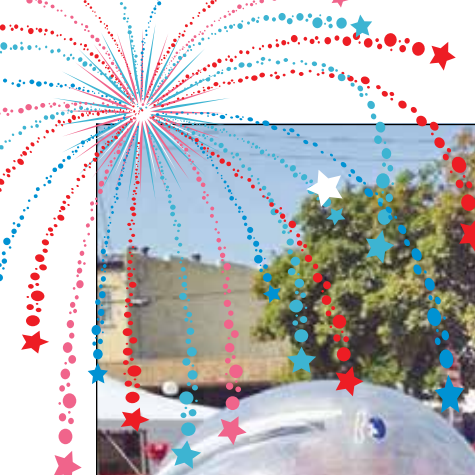
FILE PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

The Men's Pro racers circle the East Troy village square as part of the 2016 East Troy Cycling Classic.

Race Day Lineup • Friday, June 16

10:15 a.m.	Cat 5 Citizens
10:45 a.m.	Women Cat 3/4/5
11:35 a.m.	Cat 4/5
12:25 p.m.	Cat 3/4 Elite (40+, 50+, 60+)
1:25 p.m.	Cat 2/3
2:45 p.m.	Masters 1/2/3 (40+, 50+, 60+)
4 p.m.	Pro Women 1/2
5:10 p.m.	Handcycle Races
5:40 p.m.	Slow Ride Bike Race
6 p.m.	Kids Race
6:30 p.m.	Pro Men 1/2
7:45-10:45 p.m.	Beer Tent featuring Mt. Olive





SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

People attending the 2017 Libertyfest in Twin Lakes will have a chance to try out the Sea Hamsters – giant inflatable balls suspended in a pool of water. The event is June 30 and July 1.

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Starting off with a **BANG**

LIBERTYFEST RETURNS TO TWIN LAKES JUNE 30-JULY 1

While Libertyfest brings back several favorites to the annual celebration, the Twin Lakes Area Chamber and Business Association has announced new features for the event held June 30 through July 1, a press release states.

Libertyfest, a two-day event, is free to families and offers several entertainment options – a Libertyfest parade, Saturday night Aquanuts Water Ski Show and children’s activities.

“As always there will be a food and beverage court offering a variety of goodies, from brats by the Cub Scouts to hot dogs, ice cream, snow cones, cotton candy funnel cakes, fried Snickers and Twinkies,” the release adds.

Meanwhile, as the food court and other entertainment makes a return, new to Libertyfest is Euro Bungee Jump for all ages and a Sea Hamster activity.

For the Euro Bungee Jump, attendees are equipped with a harness and lifted to a Bongo trampoline, where they are launched up to 25-feet into the air.

Attendees with a fear of heights are encouraged to try the Sea Hamster, the release states, noting people can step into an inflated ball and be placed in a pool of water.

“The Hamster Balls will accommodate up to 200 pounds,” the

release states.

Another new feature to Libertyfest is a shuttle to Lance Park, making the rounds in 30-minute increments from area parking lots, including Lakewood School, Associated Bank/Keller Williams Realty, Ace Hardware, Allied Plastics and Hope Lutheran Church.

Country night opens fest

On opening night, Country Heat, a dance class workout class, kicks off the event schedule at 5:30 p.m.

“This is a country music inspired workout set to chart topping country music,” the release states. “The moves are so easy it’s like walking but way more fun.”

After the 45-minute workout, Tim Castle and Young Southern,



The Now, a rock band out of Milwaukee, will play multiple sets over a four-hour period on July 1 as part of Rock Night at Libertyfest in Twin Lakes.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

a local band, takes the stage from 8 p.m. until midnight.

Additionally, the Genoa City Lions Club plans to have its Bingo game on June 30 from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. and again on Saturday, when the Twin Lakes Area Chamber and Business Association has a full slate of activities.

Parade is Saturday

Before Lance Park opens at noon, the annual Libertyfest parade kicks off Saturday's schedule, starting at 11 a.m.

Other activities and events in the afternoon include a performance by The Kenosha Academy of Dance, Music and Drama at 2 p.m. followed the fourth annual Duck Races at 4 p.m.

Duck Race winners will to receive cash prizes, but to participate, contestants are required to purchase a ticket for \$5 or \$10 for three tickets at several local outlets.

Those include the Chamber office, Associated Bank, Town of Randall Fire Department or from any Chamber Board member.

Also, Richter's Marketplace plans to have tickets available on June 16 from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. and again on June 17 from 9 a.m. through 2 p.m.

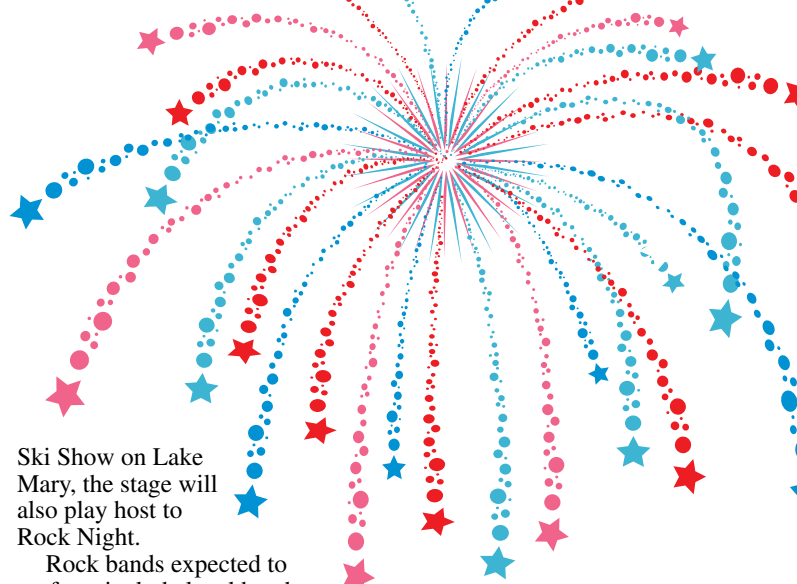
Rockin' entertainment

Along with a scheduled 7:30 p.m. Twin Lakes Aquanuts Water

Ski Show on Lake Mary, the stage will also play host to Rock Night.

Rock bands expected to perform include local band Dirty Canteen at 5 p.m. followed by four-hour performance by The Now Band from Milwaukee at 8 p.m.

Adding to the mix of water ski shows and rock entertainment is the first fireworks show in the area, set at dusk, the release states.



Dining Directory

MARS RESORT • W 4098 S. Shore Dr., Lake Geneva. **262-245-5689**. A classic Wisconsin Supper Club on the shores of Lake Como. Newly updated Piano Bar, live music in the summer. Open daily: 11am. Out of this world ribs and spectacular sunsets! L, D, FF, \$\$ ¥

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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 \$\$

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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.

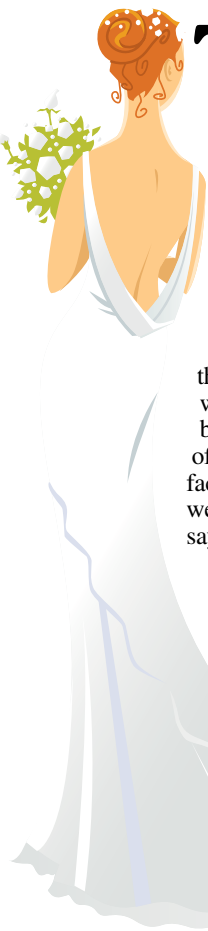
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June Bride



THE FIRE OF LOVE BURNS
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The tricks of a wedding planner



Planning your wedding is one of the most important management jobs you'll ever take on. A professional wedding planner could help make the day go smoothly, but you can also achieve the same effect yourself for less money. According to TheKnot.com, the average cost for a professional wedding planner is just under \$2,000, but many couples don't have that kind of wiggle room in their budgets. In fact, 74 percent of couples didn't hire a wedding planner in 2015, the website says. You can still pull off a polished wedding if you borrow a few tactics from a wedding planner's bag of tricks.

Make rental store your playground

Professional wedding planners don't stockpile wedding items, they rent what they need

to make a wedding run smoothly and look great. From tents and outdoor heaters, tables and chairs, to glassware, dishes, dance floors and décor, rental stores supply the wedding industry with the basics, luxuries and everything in between.

When a professional planner rents items, he or she typically passes on the rental cost to the clients, on top of fees for professional services. You can rent the same items yourself through a rental store.

Emphasize organization

Professional wedding planners use their organizational skills to ensure weddings go smoothly despite any surprises that arise. You can employ many of the same organizational tricks they use to help yourself manage the numerous details that go into a wedding, including:

- Create an inspiration board. Gathering your color choices, theme elements and inspirations in one spot can help your decision-making process.
- The budget can be the most challenging aspect to manage, so be sure to talk with your partner about your

budget before you sign any contracts. Set a budget and use a budgeting worksheet to help control costs.

- Numerous types of planning helpers are available, from online worksheets to apps, books and old-fashioned paper planners. Find one that's easy for you to use and stick with it. Your planner should include a checklist with a timeline, and allow you to store all pertinent information, including estimates and contracts, in one place.

Work your connections

Professional wedding planners have networks of vendors to choose from. You can also network to find vendors for your wedding. Ask family, friends and co-workers for recommendations. Talk to any couples whose wedding you recently attended to see who they recommend.

Another trick is to find one professional with whom you really connect – a photographer, florist or entertainer – and ask for referrals to other quality professionals he or she likes working with. Check out their websites and feedback on social media to get an idea of their work. (BPT)



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FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO
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191153

A full-page background image of a bride and groom standing on a wooden pier. The groom is on the left, wearing a white tuxedo with a black bow tie and a boutonniere. The bride is on the right, wearing a white strapless wedding dress with a lace train. They are both looking towards the right, away from the camera. The pier is made of wooden planks and extends into a calm lake. In the background, there are hills with autumn-colored trees and a few buildings under a soft, hazy sky.

A DESTINATION WEDDING



Close to home

The Ridge is revamped and offers a full spectrum of wedding options

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

For many couples who are planning a wedding, the destination event is a dream. But destination weddings can have their drawbacks. Increased cost due to traveling across or out of the country can be an expense that friends and family are unable to afford. Unfortunately the dream destination wedding may end up being a wedding not shared by friends and family.

What if there was a way to have a destination wedding, where a couple would be surrounded by beautiful flowers and natural greenery – and a lakeshore in the background – held in a beautifully updated hotel with an upscale look and located close home? There is. The destination wedding of your dreams can be found in Lake



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Geneva at the newly renovated Ridge Hotel.

The Ridge Hotel, contemporary and very inviting, is dedicated to helping provide the perfect destination wedding. The Ridge Hotel is just five minutes west of Lake Geneva on Highway 50 – close enough to enjoy the activity and amenities in town before or after the wedding. Or you may prefer to stay away from the hustle and bustle of downtown Lake Geneva and enjoy the ambience of the Ridge Hotel and its environs.

The wedding venue, like the rest of the Ridge Hotel (see separate story in this edition), has been revamped and updated to provide the high-end look for your event. With space indoors and out and food and drink packages to meet most budgets, the first venue to check out – The Ridge Hotel – will most likely be the last one you need to visit before making your decision.

Possibilities abound

Michele Grasser, events manager for The Ridge Hotel and its sister property Geneva National, recently shared information on the wedding room layouts and various possibilities for wedding festivities.

“The Aspen Ballroom with its 12-foot tray ceilings can accommodate 300 at tables for a sit-down dinner. But that isn’t the only space available for your wedding,” she said.

Just outside the main ballroom is the Fireside Room with a warm inviting fireplace. It is also a part of the space included for the reception. This room may be decorated with photos placed on the mantel and may be used for the cocktail hour, especially in the case of inclement weather.

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COURTESY OF THE RIDGE *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

The Ridge Aspen Ballroom is a beautiful setting for a wedding reception.
With its tray ceiling highlighted by colored lights and soft lighting along the walls it adds a special glow.

Outside there is a dedicated patio for use only by wedding guests where cocktails can be enjoyed along with the view.

The view is spectacular. It includes a wooded area with deep green grasses and trees that opens to Lake Como. The area is the perfect setting for a wedding ceremony under the beautiful wooden bridal pergola.

Even though the ceremony is outdoors, the bride is still able to walk down the aisle with her bridal party. White chairs are placed on either side of the aisle for guests to enjoy the ceremony comfortably. Up to 300 can be seated.

The pergola can be decorated to suit the style of the wedding. Many use yards

of white tulle to give the pergola a soft finished look and may also add flowers to enhance that look.

Keeping it simple

For many, planning a big wedding is a onetime occurrence, and as such, couples may not be aware of all that needs to be

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A full-time wedding coordinator ... will not only walk couples through the steps needed to have the wedding of their dreams but will also be on site for the reception to help solve any last minute glitches.”



considered.

“One of the advantages of booking your wedding and its reception here is that everything that is included in the wedding package is listed,” Grasser said. “Many do not know that (at other venues) there is often a charge for items that the bridal couple may think would come with the rental of the room or food package.

“Items such as table linens, silverware, and sometimes even the glasses for cocktails and table service may be an additional charge. Here at the Ridge Hotel, these items are included in the package fee.”

A full-time wedding coordinator is assigned to each couple that plans to hold a ceremony at The Ridge. This coordinator will not only walk couples through the steps needed to have the wedding of their dreams

but will also be on site for the reception to help solve any last minute glitches. The Ridge holds about 40 weddings each year and has dealt with most problems that may arise.

So when is the best time to book a wedding?”

“It is never too early or too late to do so,” Grasser said. “We still have people who call now for a wedding this year and while we may not have a variety of dates available there will be some. On the other side we are now booking into 2019.”

She went on to say that for smaller weddings the Fireside room can be booked for receptions held on Friday or Sunday evenings.

Stay and play

One of the advantages of celebrating a

wedding in a mid-size hotel (146 rooms and suites) like The Ridge is that it often feels as if the entire place is part of the wedding celebration. A discount is offered on blocks of rooms for guests. Often the bridal party reserves one or more of the suites for members of the bridal party to prepare for the wedding.

A full array of services including those for, hair and nails is available on site. Guests may come to the hotel a day or two early to unwind, relax and enjoy a massage or a facial.

The Ridge offers a complimentary wedding night stay for the bride and groom in a traditional room. This room may be upgraded to one of the suites for an additional charge.

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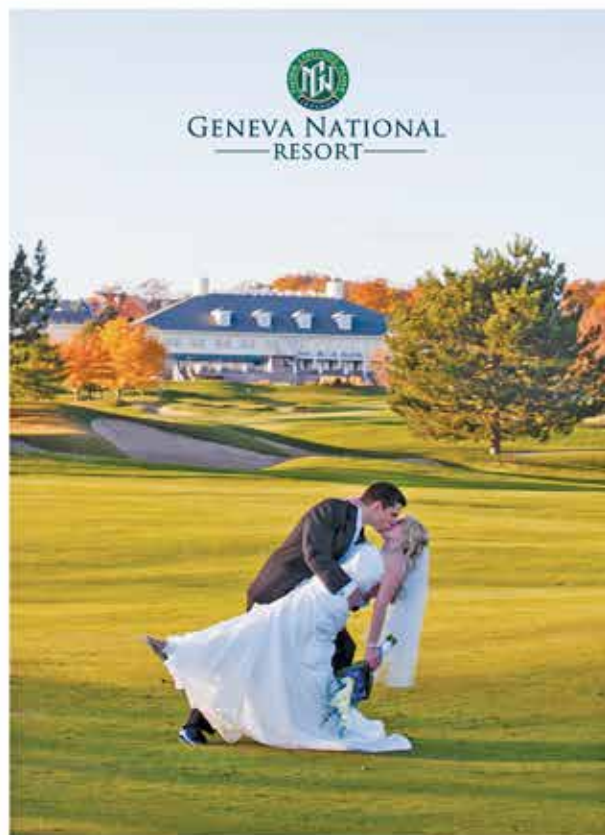
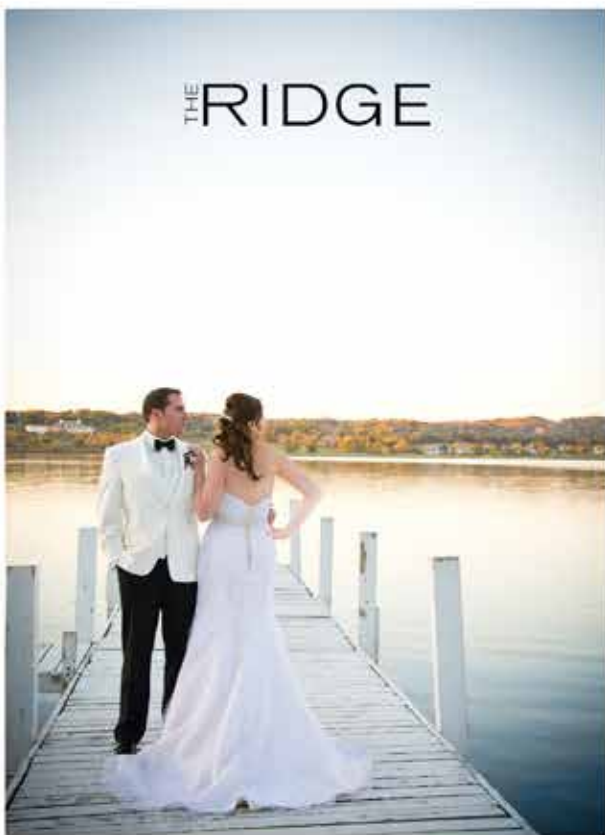
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The Ridge Hotel is at W4240 Highway 50, Lake Geneva. To learn more, visit RidgeLakeGeneva.com or call (800) 225-5558.



Hidden expenses that can sink your budget

In the days of yore, the responsibility of paying for a wedding fell to the bride's parents. But that tradition has largely fallen by the wayside in recent years, when more and more couples have used their own savings to finance their weddings.

Few couples enter the process of planning their weddings unaware of just how expensive weddings can get, but costs can easily begin to escalate if couples are not careful.

Couples know that certain wedding expenses, such as the cost of booking a reception hall, will eat up a large portion of their budgets. But there are some hidden expenses that couples must build into their budgets to avoid finding themselves in debt as they walk down the aisle as husband and wife.

Taxes

Sales tax might not seem so significant when you're buying everyday items, but the taxes add up quickly when paying for a wedding. Depending on where you live, state and local sales tax can exceed nine percent in the U.S., and some Canadians pay as much as 15 percent in combined sales taxes depending on where they live.

Before signing contracts with any vendors, couples should get the price

including sales tax written into their contracts, as failing to do so may result in a several thousand dollar surprise when the time to pay up arrives.

Gratuities

Gratuities are another potentially hefty expense that often takes engaged couples by surprise as they start to plan their weddings. Some reception halls build gratuities for staff into their estimates, and these tips for the staff can be as high as 25 percent at some venues. But even if gratuities for reception hall staff are already accounted for, don't forget to include tips for additional vendors the day of the wedding.

Couples may be expected to tip the florist, photographer, band or DJ and even the reception hall maître d' if his or her gratuity is not included in the aforementioned staff tip. Brides-to-be typically tip their hairstylist and makeup artist on the day of the wedding as well.

Postage

Couples who plan to invite guests via email or online invitations can skirt the cost of postage. But many couples still prefer traditional paper invitations, which include return envelopes that tradition suggests, should also be stamped. Save-the-date cards

have grown in popularity as well, and these cards must also be stamped and mailed.

Depending on the size of your guest list, postage can cost several hundred dollars before you mail your last invitation. And don't forget to save some money for postage to mail thank-you cards once the big day has come and gone.

Overtime

Overtime fees for reception hall staff and additional outside vendors are typically written into contracts, but few couples imagine needing more than the predetermined allotment of time noted in their contracts.

But it's better to be safe than sorry, as unanticipated events such as a misplaced wedding license or heavy traffic on the way to the venue can force the party to start late and thus extend past its deadline.

Set aside some money for overtime so you don't find yourselves scrounging for dollars or charging the extra few hundred dollars on your credit cards.

Weddings are expensive, and even more so when hidden fees start to make their presence felt. Couples who build such fees into their budgets will find it easier to avoid breaking the bank than those who don't.

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Happy moments such as these can be maximized by brides and grooms who learn to include hidden wedding expenses in their budgets.

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Floral terms every bride needs to know

Before discussing table settings for their weddings, many couples find it helpful to brush up on some floral terminology before visiting florists.

It can make you appear more knowledgeable and prepared if you understand what will be discussed and are able to choose what you want. It also helps to ensure your money is being spent in the best way possible.



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Here are some common and some lesser-known florist terms that can be advantageous to know.

Biedermeyer – A nosegay arranged tightly with concentric circles of differently colored flowers. The flowers are wired into a holder with only one type of flower in each ring.

Bouquet – A dense bunch of blooms that are kept together in a bouquet holder, wired or tied with ribbon.

Crescent – One full flower and a flowering stem wired together to form a slender handle that is held in one hand.

Garden – A centerpiece featuring wildflowers.

Nosegay – Small, round bouquets composed of densely packed round flowers and fill.

Oasis – Specialized foam that is used in bouquet holders and centerpieces to retain water and keep blooms fresh.

Pomander – A flower-covered ball that is suspended from a ribbon. It is often carried by child attendants.

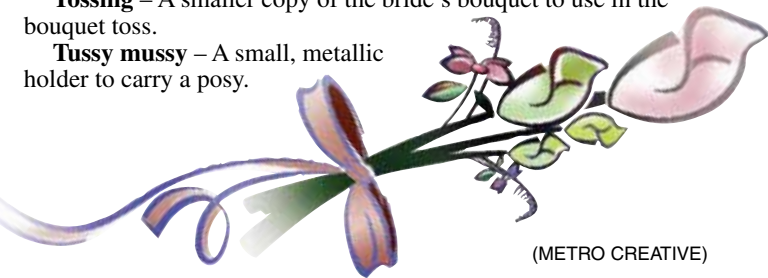
Posies – Smaller than nosegays but similar in design.

Presentation – A bunch of long-stemmed flowers cradled in the bride's arms. It's sometimes known as a pageant bouquet.

Topiary – Flowers trimmed into geometric shapes.

Tossing – A smaller copy of the bride's bouquet to use in the bouquet toss.

Tussy mussy – A small, metallic holder to carry a posy.




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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE RIDGE Spirit of Geneva Lakes

A popular place to gather with friends and enjoy the beauty of the area is on the outdoor patio at The Ridge Hotel. In summertime live music adds to the enjoyment of the evening.

Transformed

The Ridge Hotel gets contemporary update

On Highway 50 about 5 miles west of downtown Lake Geneva, stands the newly renovated Ridge Hotel. The hotel has stood on this site from at least the 1970s under different names including Interlaken, and most recently as the Geneva Ridge Resort.

After a multimillion-dollar renovation, which began in 2011 and ended in 2016, the new face and updated name, The Ridge Hotel, has been brought to the public. For those who have previously visited The Ridge, the new look is a far cry from the old. The Ridge has been transformed into a sleek, contemporary, upscale hotel with innovative spaces that will please visitors.

Under the management of Paloma Resort Properties,

by **Sandra
Landen Machaj**
CORRESPONDENT

the Ridge has become affiliated with Geneva National, which is known for its elegance and excellence in the Lake Geneva area. These adjoining properties on the shores of Lake

Como allow visitors to share many of the amenities such as the three golf courses on the Geneva National Property.

Upon entering the lobby of The Ridge Hotel, the open contemporary look makes the space appear even larger than it is. The former registration desk has been replaced with three custom reception pods doused in a peaceful amber light. Visitors are greeted with a warm welcome and registration is easily completed.

The reception area is very impressive. A 3-D perforated panel on the ceiling allows light, meant to depict river



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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE RIDGE *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Crafted Americana, the new restaurant in the Ridge, offers a variety of fine entrees such as this halibut with lump crab and Beluga lentils.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE RIDGE *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

The Ridge Aspen Ballroom is a beautiful setting for a wedding reception or other formal events. The room has glass doors that open onto the patio and accent lighting that adds a special glow.

stones, shine through and cascade onto the floor. The comfortable furniture in earth tones of greens, and tans bring the look of the outdoors inside.

● Upscale experience

According to Barbara Karabas, public relations manager for Paloma Resorts, the new look – which has changed the facility from a more rustic lodge into a contemporary and upscale hotel – is sure to please most guests. The Ridge looks to appeal to visitors of all age groups to the area. From millennials to families and for those just wishing to get away from their



The Bean + Vine Café is a new version of the traditional coffee shop found in most hotels. Specializing in fine coffee and wines, the café is contemporary with a warm glow from the fire feature.

hectic lives.

Every hotel seems to offer a coffee shop or café but The Ridge Hotel has its own unique take on that. Instead of being in a small corner, their café is large with many group seating areas and even a spot to gather around the television with friends to enjoy a favorite show or sporting event while enjoying coffee or a glass of wine or beer.

This cafe is not limited to coffee – although they do serve excellent high-end brews from Collectivo and Rishi fresh organic teas. The café with the unique name of Bean + Vine offers a selection of breakfast and lunch sandwiches and flatbreads and various muffins. And don't forget the vine. Their wine choices include a variety of special Geneva National branded wines. In these days of popular craft beers, many of the local Wisconsin brews are also available.

Adjacent to the reception area, the Bean + Vine is a meeting place. A favorite for those wishing to work with their electronic gadgets, is the countertop seating with multiple USB ports and WIFI availability. With its central location between Lake Geneva and Fontana, it is a convenient place to meet not

only for guests of the hotel but also for local residents as well.

The updated fireplace in the reception area and the fire feature in the café, with wood or stone accents, add a look of warmth and encourages gathering around with friends. The Bean + Vine, as its name suggests, encourages sipping wine or enjoying coffee with friends.

● **Crafted Americana**

The full-service restaurant, renamed Crafted Americana, will quickly become a favorite spot for a flavorful meal, elegantly plated, and served at tables overlooking the outdoor patios and Lake Como. The Crafted Americana reflects the look of the new hotel, clean lines, contemporary design and it takes advantage of the beauty of the property.

The restaurant serves a variety of interesting and unique meals, crafted in house. The chef uses premium ingredients – many of them fresh, local products. They will cure and smoke their own bacon from pork belly. Homemade cheese curds battered with Spotted Cow beer batter (very Wisconsin

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and very tasty) are a popular appetizer.

Among some of the popular items found on the menu are the house smoked bourbon barbecue ribs and the organic Irish salmon, as well as the halibut with crabmeat and lentils.

Two special evenings at the Crafted Americana are Friday for the fish fry and on Saturday for the slow-roasted, cut-to-order prime rib. So stop in for dinner any night. The restaurant in addition to being open for dinner also serves breakfast and lunch.

Thirty craft beers rotate through the bar. At any given time there are six on tap. The popular craft bourbons and custom infused vodkas are also available. For a real taste treat, try the dirty black cherry martini – the house's signature spirit.

Crafted Americana is one of the Lake Geneva restaurants that is participating in Lake Geneva Restaurant Week June 2 to June 11. The participating restaurants will offer special meals at reduced rates: \$8 for breakfast, \$10 for a two-course lunch, and \$25 to \$35 for a three-course dinner. Visit LakeGeneva.com/RestaurantWeek to view participating restaurants and menus.

● Updated amenities

Amenities are important when choosing a resort. Enjoy a swim in the spacious indoor pool and on warmer days in the outdoor pool. The outdoor pool is next to Bar 55 on the outside decks. New high-quality workout equipment is available in the fitness center.

Guests may also enjoy the sauna, spa whirlpool, and the eucalyptus steamroom at the Ridge Hotel. Saturday morning's guests may join in the fun of the complimentary stretch yoga classes and guided lakeview walks. Check with the front desk for current schedules.

The salon and day spa, which specializes in hair and nail care and offers massages, and wraps, is available for



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

The junior suite provides more room than the standard guest room. With a king-sized bed and a pull out sleeper sofa there is room to sleep four. The ambience of the fireplace and the small living room with a table and chairs makes this room comfortable for a family.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE RIDGE *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

The Aspen ballroom is often used for large business meetings and can be easily transformed into a comfortable classroom.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE RIDGE *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

The updated fitness room at The Ridge provides modern workout equipment in an efficient space.



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

With views of Como Lake and the golf courses of Geneva National, The Ridge's renovated hotel is situated away from the bustle of downtown Lake Geneva, but it's still close enough to make visiting quick and convenient.

individuals and also caters to bachelorette parties, bridal parties and other group events.

This year the LGPA Women's Senior tour was held on the Geneva National grounds. Approximately 60 professional golfers participated with 2,000 spectators enjoying the event. Some of these visitors made the Ridge Hotel their home. This was the first time the event was held at the Paloma properties.

While the Ridge does not have its own golf course, guests of the Ridge may purchase a package to allow for golf on one of the three, 18-hole courses at Geneva National. The courses were designed by golfers Arnold Palmer,

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**Even if the weather is inclement, swimming in the indoor pool is still on the agenda.
If the weather is nice, the outdoor pool may be your first choice.**

Lee Trevino and Gary Player. Guests may pick up tokens at the Pro Shop and spend some time on the public putting greens.

Looking for a place to hold a business meeting? Whether looking for a small room to hold 30 or 40 participants, or for a large educational meeting, there are rooms that can be transformed to meet your business needs. The large Aspen ballroom used for wedding receptions can be transformed into a comfortable classroom. Whether you are looking for a space for an anniversary party, a significant birthday, a bachelorette party, or the wedding itself, there is plenty of space at The Ridge.

● **Suiter suites**

While all the amenities that have been described are important in a hotel, the one most important room is the guestroom. The newly renovated rooms with new mattresses and high-end linens help assure a good night's

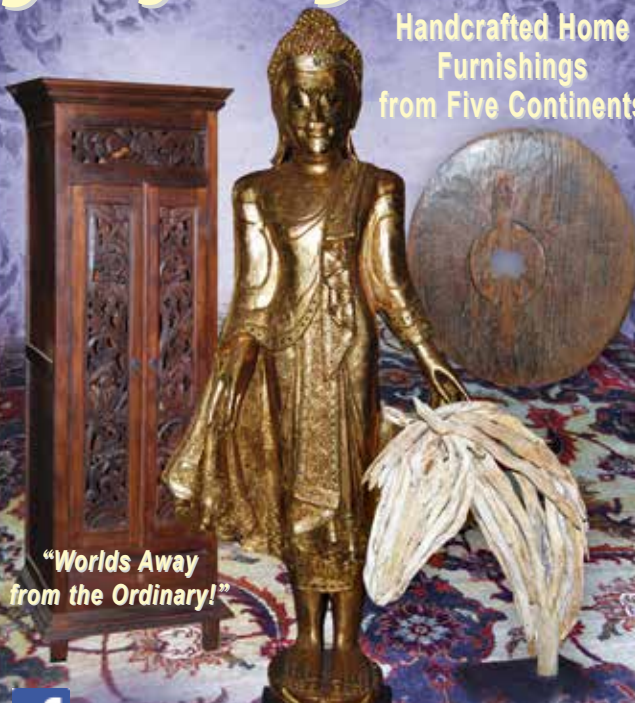
sleep. Guests may choose from a standard room or upgrade to one of the four available suites. The suites provide extra beds, a sitting area, and a kitchenette.

The Ridge Hotel has already received awards. The coveted Impact Award from Visit Lake Geneva, the city's Chamber of Commerce, was awarded to The Ridge Hotel for its positive influence on tourism in the area in 2016. It also was awarded the Business Innovation Award from the Walworth County Economic Development Alliance acknowledging The Ridge Hotel's appeal to millennial travelers.


To learn more about The Ridge Hotel visit RidgeLakeGeneva.com or call (800) 225-5558. Prospective guests may also stop in and enjoy a cup of coffee, breakfast, lunch or a glass of wine at the Bean + Vine and see for themselves the beauty of The Ridge Hotel. The hotel is at W4240 Highway 50, Lake Geneva.

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by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

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Morels have been a favorite of fine chefs and their diners for many years and are a favorite ingredient in high-end French cuisine. Food epicureans and chefs look forward to this time of year when these mushrooms make their appearance, albeit for only a relatively short season.

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Above: Visitors gather on the patio at the Trout House at Rushing Waters to enjoy a cocktail before heading out in search of morel mushrooms. At right: Peter Frisch, an owner of Rushing Waters trout farm and restaurant, speaks to a group of prospective morel mushroom hunters to prepare them for the job ahead.

participants at the door and directed them to the outside patio where he would introduce us to the pleasure of hunting the morels.

There was time to stop at the bar and order a cocktail for those who wished to do so. A popular choice was the Old Fashioned, a favorite of supper clubs in Wisconsin. The Lux Old Fashioned is the Wednesday \$5 special. So some with their favorite beverages in hand and others without made their way to the patio where Frisch began by placing a large platter of morels on the table.

Morel mushrooms have a far different appearance than the button mushrooms that are commonly seen on the shelves in grocery stores. Morels are a conical shaped with a cap that appears to have a honeycomb or sponge-like appearance.

Frisch said, pointing out the different morels on the platter, "The morels come in tan, yellow blonde, and some in a gray that is almost black. It is hard to mistake them because of their distinctive look. But the old adage applies – Don't eat what you aren't sure of."

There is a pseudo-morel that is poisonous



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but it has a very different look. The cap is flatter and has more compressed wrinkles not the honeycomb appearance of the true morels.

A fleeting moment

Fritsch, who runs the seafood plant at Rushing Waters, said, "I have been hunting morels in our woods here on the property for the past four years. I don't claim to be an expert on morels but I am pretty good when it comes to knowing about morels and finding them."

The morel season usually begins in April or sometimes early May, depending on the weather.

"It is dependent on weather but usually morels may be found around Mother's Day in May," Fritsch added. When the asparagus are emerging from the ground, so too are the morels.

"Another indicator of the morel's appearance is said to be the lilacs. Lilacs in bloom, time to hunt mushrooms."

And so the group under the leadership of Fritsch began its trek into the woods. As we tramped down the trail, Fritsch continued to talk about the morels, beginning with where to look for them and how to pick them.

"If you see a dead Elm tree, head for it. They are often found near them," he said. "Old apple orchards and cherry orchards are also good places to spot the morels."

Having said that, Fritsch stopped in a large, open clearing where he said he had



SANDARA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Morels are collected in a mesh bag to protect them from being squashed or bruised. Lillian Roy, of Whitewater, is trusted with the morel collection.

found morels the day before, then pointed to some areas further in the woods that he also found to be good for morel hunting.

We spread out to begin the search for the morels until someone found one tucked under some green foliage.

"When you find one like this," Fritsch said, "watch where you step for there will likely be others in the area, in fact you may be stepping on one."

A gentle twist

After allowing time for the photographers in the group to take a picture of the first one found, Fritsch demonstrated how to harvest it. "Take your fingers around the stem and twist gently. Do not pull as you do not want to disturb the roots. If you accidentally pull out the roots, as may happen when the soil is wet, put them back in the ground. Remember, use your fingers. Don't bring knives into the woods."

After traipsing through the woods for about an hour, we returned with our community-harvested morels in a black net bag to The Trout House where Chef Jonathon Cross had prepared a four-course dinner featuring morels in each course. Actually that isn't completely true. The fourth course, cheesecake with salted caramel, did not contain any morels but

did make a delicious end to a wonderful dinner.

Chef Cross, who has been at the Trout House since last September, picks a different menu for each morel foray. How does he decide on the menu?

"Whatever I manage to dream up that works well with morels," Cross said.

He enjoys designing interesting meals and in addition to the trout for which Rushing Waters is famous, he enjoys creating special presentations of Chilean Sea Bass and Halibut.

Time to eat

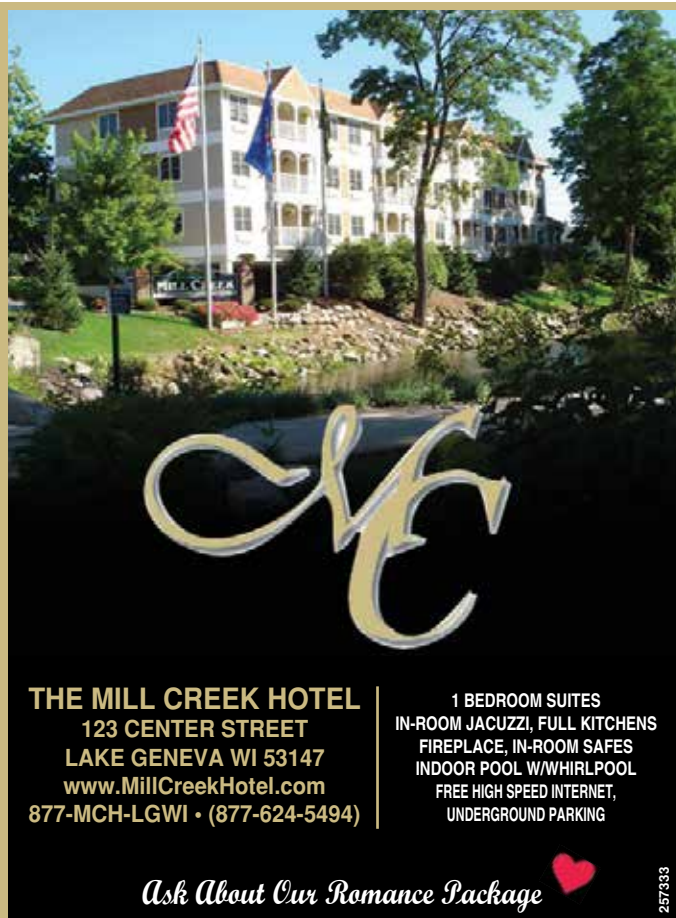
We all made our way back to the restaurant and found a table, and soon the wait staff began to deliver the first course – a delicious flatbread topped with asparagus, artichokes, Vidalia onion, drunken goat cheese and morels. The bar staff was available to serve wine, beer, or mixed drinks for those who wished to have them. If one was unsure what would go best with the morel driven courses, the staff was willing to make suggestions.

Once the flatbreads were finished, they were followed with a spring pasta dish. Cappelini pasta was tossed with fresh, sweet sugar peas in the pod, morel mushrooms, gulf shrimp and fresh garden herbs topped by a light cream sauce.




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Hunters have to watch where they step to avoid destroying one of these special mushrooms. Where there is one morel, there are usually others nearby.



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It would have been difficult to outdo the third course of a pan-seared Rushing Waters' Rainbow Trout served almandine and topped with heirloom tomatoes, morel mushrooms, sweet lemon basil, and oregano and finished with a dill citrus beurre blanc sauce.

Chef Cross made rounds to each table between courses answering questions that diners may have and accepting their praise for a meal well done. Everyone left satisfied and many of us brought much of the meal home as there was too much to eat in one sitting.

Serving suggestions

For those interested in serving morels at home, here are some suggestions: First never eat them raw. They need to be cooked even if it is a quick sauté to bring out their flavor. Members of our morel hunt recommended some simple ways of cooking. Washing is important as dirt collects in the stems and hollows of the mushroom. Always check inside the hollow stems for small bugs and remove them before cooking.

A simple way to prepare morels for a side dish or to top a steak or fish, is to dredge them in flour and fry in butter. Another simple preparation is to dip in an egg wash and cover with panko bread crumbs before frying.

The morels will keep in the refrigerator for 5 to 6 days according to Fritsch. Morels are an expensive treat. They may cost upwards of \$25 per pound. Joyce Havens, who lives in Fontana, recently purchased a half pound of morels for which she paid \$30.

While the morel foray dinners have ended for the season, there will be other interesting dinners served, including a walk through the woods identifying edible plants. For bird watchers there will be a bird walk and dinner. The monthly four-course dinners with wines are a favorite of many of the restaurant's regular customers.

For information, check the Trout House website and Facebook for dates.

Many of those who took part in the morel foray are frequent visitors to The Trout House for lunches and dinners. And all complimented the restaurant on their great food.

"I have never had a bad meal here" was heard from many of the visitors. Others are just morel lovers who are always looking for places that have special morel dinners.

First a trout farm

Rushing Waters Trout Farm has been a fish farm since the 1940s. According to Fritsch, it was purchased by Bill Graham in 1994 and he began selling trout to



The casual and open dining room of The Trout House at Rushing Waters, Palmyra, overlooks the surrounding woods. Known for its trout, which is farmed and caught on site, the Trout House is a destination spot for many from the Geneva Lakes area.



Left: The meal begins with a flatbread topped with morel mushrooms, asparagus, artichokes, Vidalia onions and drunken goat cheese.

Below: The main dish, trout almandine, is presented with heirloom tomatoes and morel mushrooms, and finished with a beurre blanc sauce.



SANDARA LANDEN MACHAJ PHOTOS Spirit of Geneva Lakes

restaurants. The trout are raised in a chemical-free environment with no antibiotics and the farm has used sustainable fishing practices since 1999. Rushing Waters trout are served at many restaurants around the country.

Visit The Trout House for their Hook and Cook meals. You catch them, they cook them, Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. On Thursday all you care to eat crab legs are served from 4 to 9 p.m.

While many Wisconsin restaurants serve a Friday fish fry, The Trout House serves one on both Wednesday and Friday. It offers a choice of trout or cod from 4 to 9 p.m.

The Trout House at Rushing Waters is at N301 Highway H, Palmyra. Hours are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. It's open Sundays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Closed Monday and Tuesday. Call (262) 495-2089 for reservations. Visit them on Facebook or at www.rushingwaters.net

Crab Stuffed Morels

This recipe was shared by morel hunter John Hocking. Like many recipes the amount of each ingredient is approximate.

- 1-2 lbs. of morels
- 1/4 cup of thinly sliced shallots
- 1 cup bread crumbs
- 1-1/2 sticks of butter
- Blue Cheese
- 1 small to medium can of king crab (Fresh may be substituted)

Clean morels. Cut stems and chop finely.

Sauté in butter the shallots, morel stems. When soft add breadcrumbs. Add more butter if too dry. Mixture should be moist. Add crab meat and mix. Adjust bread crumbs and butter to taste.

Take the morels and slice in half lengthwise. Add crab mixture into each morel half and top with bleu cheese. Take a sheet of aluminum foil and crinkle it then straighten and place on cookie sheet. Place filled morels on crinkled aluminum. (Crinkling the foil allows the heat to spread under the morels for more even cooking.)

Place in 350-degree oven and check after 10 minutes. Morels are done when cheese has melted and is slightly browned and morels are soft to the touch.

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