



THE *SPIRIT* of Geneva Lakes



Vol. 30 No. 5

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MAY 2018

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#1570183 - ELKHORN: Stunning is the approach & the design of this 5 BR, 3 1/2 BA home that sits on 1.88 AC. Owners have put a lot of equity in this home & building it for this price is unimaginable. **5328GladhurstLn.com \$540,000 Connie Poggensee 262-215-7644**



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#1557903 - WILLIAMS BAY: Newly renovated home in the wonderful Willabay Woods neighborhood on a corner lot walking distance to beach & Geneva Lk Shore Path. 4 BR, 3 BA, office, dining, family rm w/ fireplace, & screened-in porch. **\$415,000 Bob Rauland 262-949-5494**



#1575006 - FONTANA: Turn-key custom 2 story contemporary style home located at end of cul-de-sac- 4 BR w/ 2 master suites on 1st flr- Kitchen w/ granite tops & beautiful wood flr- Living/dining rm has vaulted ceiling w/ stone FPL! **\$549,000 Becky Merwin 262-215-4000**



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PLUMBING

Matt Roberts

Matt Roberts is from Elkhorn and has been with Peck & Weis for 3.5 years. Matt has a daughter named Lizzy that he loves spending time with. Some of his favorite hobbies are hunting and fishing. The daily variety of jobs that Matt encounters is what he enjoys best working at Peck & Weis.



HEATING

Dustin Shaw

Dustin has been employed with Peck & Weis 2 years and in the HVAC trade for 7 years. He is from Elkhorn, has two boys ages 2 1/2, and 2 months old. Dustin enjoys spending time farming, four wheeling and most of all spending time with his family. What Dustin likes most about his work in HVAC at Peck & Weis, is helping our customers when they don't have heat in the dead of winter.



ELECTRIC

Nick Suttman

Our Employee, Nick Suttman has been employed with Peck & Weis for 6 years. He has a total of 17 years' experience as an electrician. Nick enjoys ice fishing, hunting and spending the weekends on his boat with his wife of almost 13 years, their two boys and little girl.



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Blooming beautiful

May is the month of flowers and Spirit magazine has you covered with sage advice from area greenhouses that will help make your garden the envy of your neighborhood. In this month's edition you'll also get a low-down on the local real estate market and a preview of the area's sweetest festival – Burlington's ChocolateFest – and a look at a new restaurant in a familiar Como Lake location.

PHOTO BY SANRA LANDEN MACHAJ
Spirit of Geneva Lakes



IT'S COMIN' UP

MAY EVENTS



1 Open Auditions for Summeround Performances, 5 p.m., University of Wisconsin-Whitewater – Greenhill Center of the Arts, 950 W. Main St., Whitewater. People who audition should practice material on website. Info: www.visitwalworthcounty.com

1 Tuesdays @ Two: Columbian Exposition 125th Anniversary, 2 p.m. at the Geneva Lake Museum, 255 Mill St., Lake Geneva. Info: www.genevalakemuseum.com

2 Dancing Horses Show, 1 p.m. at The Dancing Horses Museum, 5065 Highway 50, Delavan. Info: www.thedancinghorses.com

2 America's Pub Quiz Hosted Trivia, 8 to 10 p.m., at Sprecher's Restaurant and Pub, 111 Center St., Lake Geneva. Trivia is free to play. Info: www.sprecherspub.com

3 Mix and Mingle, 6 to 8 p.m., at the Geneva Inn, N2009 S. Lakeshore Drive, Lake Geneva. Info: www.genevainn.com

4 Cinco de Mayo Weekend Celebration, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., at Lake Lawn Resort – Lookout Bar and Eatery, 2400 E. Geneva St., Delavan. Info: www.lakelawnresort.com

4 Friday Fish Fry 4:30 p.m. Stefana's Lakeside Dining, W4190 West End Road, Lake Geneva. All-you-can-eat fried or baked cod, homemade potato pancakes or steak fries, coleslaw, applesauce and tarter sauce. Info: www.stefanaslakeside.com

4 Lake Geneva Festival of Wine, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Grand Geneva Resort and Spa, 7036 Grand Geneva Way, Lake Geneva. Info: www.grandgeneva.com

4 Opening Weekend Outdoor Laser Tag, 4:30 to 6 p.m., CMP Tactical Lazer Tag, 2567 State Road 120, Lake Geneva. Sessions are \$20 per person during opening weekend. Info: www.visitlakegeneva.com

4 Lake Geneva Arts Festival, 3:30 p.m., Downtown Lake Geneva. Live mural paintings start at 3:30 p.m. Info: www.visitlakegeneva.com

5 Opening Weekend Outdoor Laser Tag, 4:30 to 6 p.m., CMP Tactical Lazer Tag, 2567 State Road 120, Lake Geneva. Sessions are \$20 per person during opening weekend. Info: www.visitlakegeneva.com

5 Lake Geneva Arts Festival, 10 a.m., Downtown Lake Geneva. Live mural paintings start at 10 a.m. Info: www.visitlakegeneva.com

6 Lake Geneva Arts Festival, 10 a.m., Downtown Lake Geneva. Live mural paintings start at 10 a.m. Info: www.visitlakegeneva.com

11-12 Sugar, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., at Sprague Theater, 15 W. Walworth St., Elkhorn. Tickets: \$15. Info: www.lakeland-players.org

12 Victorian Tea and Historic Home Tour, 2 to 4 p.m., at Baker House, 327 Wrigley Drive, Lake Geneva. Cost: \$28 per person. Info: www.historichotelslakegeneva.com

13 Champagne Brunch, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Baker House, 327 Wrigley Drive, Lake Geneva. Cost is \$32 for adults and \$18 for children ages 12 and younger. Info: 262-248-4700

13 Sugar, 4 to 6 p.m., at Sprague Theater, 15 W. Walworth St., Elkhorn. Tickets: \$15. Info: www.lakeland-players.org

22 Whitewater City Market, 4 to 7 p.m. Whitewater Train Depot, 301 W. Whitewater St., Whitewater. Info: www.downtownwhitewater.com

23 America's Pub Quiz Hosted Trivia, 8 to 10 p.m., at Sprecher's Restaurant and Pub, 111 Center St., Lake Geneva. Trivia is free to play. Info: www.sprecherspub.com

25 Prime Rib and Seafood Buffet, 5 to 10 p.m. at Grand Geneva Resort and Spa – Grand Café, 7036 Grand Geneva Way, Lake Geneva. Cost: \$32 for adults, \$18 for children ages six to 12, \$11 for children ages two to five, \$11 for soup and salad bar only and \$11 for dessert buffet only. Info: www.grandgeneva.com

26 Starlight Festival, Yerkes Observatory, 373 W. Geneva St., Williams Bay. For all ages. Info: www.starlightfestival.com

27 Starlight Festival, Yerkes Observatory, 373 W. Geneva St., Williams Bay. For all ages. Info: www.starlightfestival.com

28 Memorial Day Parade, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Downtown Elkhorn. Special service will follow in Veterans Park. Info: 262-203-2434.

THE SPIRIT

IS A PUBLICATION OF



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THE SPIRIT

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The calendar of events is compiled from a variety of sources including Visit Lake Geneva and the Walworth County Visitors Bureau and contains events available as of press time.

Although we make every attempt to provide accurate information regarding area events, dates and times may change or events may be cancelled. We suggest you go to visitlakegeneva.com or visitwalworthcounty.com prior to making travel plans.

Lawn seats offer a chance for concert-goers to relax with friends and a picnic basket while listening to the sounds of summer during the Music by the Lake series.

Music



Among Friends

LINEUP SET FOR 2018 MUSIC BY THE LAKE SERIES

The 2018 Music by the Lake summer season will feature weekend entertainment from June 24 to Aug. 11 on the shore of Geneva Lake in Williams Bay.

Events include the Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra showcasing film soundtracks; Bruce Hornsby and The Noisemakers; a family show with Ralph's World; Wynonna and The Big Noise; international superstar baritone Nathan Gunn with the Chicago Philharmonic presenting an evening of love songs; and Three Dog Night.

The outdoor concerts take place at George Williams College of Aurora University and are in their 18th season.

Genres include orchestral music, contemporary and nostalgic pop and rock, country and family programming.

Tickets for all events go on sale to festival donors at 9 a.m. April 10. Donors who support the festival at the Friend level or above receive early access to tickets.

Donations can be made at musicbythelake.com/support. Public ticket sales begin at 9 a.m. April 24. Patrons can purchase tickets exclusively 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.

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2018 SUMMER EVENTS



Sun., June 24, 4 p.m.
COMMUNITY SHOWCASE WITH THE
LAKE GENEVA SYMPHONY
LAKESIDE MATINEE

Sat., July 7, 7:30 p.m.
**BRUCE HORNSBY &
THE NOISEMAKERS**



Sat., July 21, 7:30 p.m.
**BARITONE NATHAN GUNN
CHICAGO PHILHARMONIC**
AN EVENING OF LOVE SONGS

Sat., July 14, 7:30 p.m.
**WYNONNA &
THE BIG NOISE**



Sun., July 29, 4 p.m.
RALPH'S WORLD

Sat., August 11, 7:30 p.m.
THREE DOG NIGHT

312530

2018 MBTL at a glance

Here's the schedule for the 2018 Music by the Lake concert series on the campus George Williams College of Aurora University in Williams Bay.

- **4 p.m. June 24 – Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra.** Tickets are \$15 for reserved pavilion seats or for lawn seats. The campus will open at 2:30 p.m.
- **7:30 p.m. July 7 – Bruce Hornsby and The Noisemakers.** Tickets are \$65 to \$80 for reserved seats, \$45 for terrace seats and \$25 for lawn seats. The campus will open at 6 p.m.;
- **7:30 p.m. July 14 – Wynonna and The Big Noise.** Tickets are \$65 to \$80 for reserved seats, \$45 for terrace seats and \$25 for lawn seats. The campus will open at 6 p.m.;
- **7:30 p.m. July 21– “An Evening of Love Songs” with baritone Nathan Gunn and the Chicago Philharmonic.** Tickets are \$65 to \$80 for reserved seats, \$45 for terrace seats and \$25 for lawn seats. The campus will open at 6 p.m.;
- **4 p.m. July 29 – Ralph's World.** Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for kids 4 to 10 years old and free for children 3 years old or younger. The campus will open at 2:30 p.m.
- **7:30 p.m. Aug. 11 – Three Dog Night.** Tickets are \$65 to \$80 for reserved seats, \$45 for terrace seats and \$25 for lawn seats. The campus will open at 6 p.m.



Bruce Hornsby

Singer, pianist, composer and band leader Bruce Hornsby will make his festival debut with his band, The Noisemakers.

Hornsby has built a career in contemporary music in genres including pop, jazz, bluegrass and soul. He takes the stage at 7:30 p.m. July 7.

Hornsby's hits include "The Way It Is," "Mandolin Rain," "Look Out Any Window" and "Every Little Kiss." His three Grammy wins include Best New Artist in 1986, Best Bluegrass Recording in 1989 and a shared award with Branford Marsalis in 1993 for Best Pop Instrumental for "Barcelona Mona," a song written and performed for the 1992 Olympic Games.

Hornsby's albums have sold more than 11 million copies worldwide.

Hornsby participated in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame opening concert in September 1995; Farm Aid IV and VI; and Woodstock II in 1994 and Woodstock III in 1999. He performed the national anthem at an NBA All-Star game, four NBA finals, the 1997 World Series Game 5 and on the soundtrack to "Baseball: A Film By Ken Burns." He also had a long involvement with the Grateful Dead, performing as a member of the group on tour for two years. Most recently, he was a special guest of Bon Iver for its set at the Coachella Festival in April 2017. Hornsby has composed and performed for projects with a long-time collaborator, filmmaker Spike Lee. His latest score, for Lee's Netflix production "She's Gotta Have It," was completed last year.

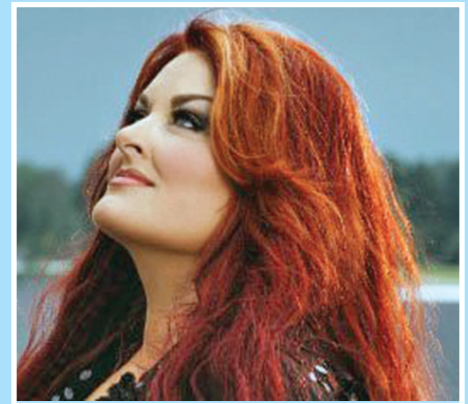
Wynonna Judd

Wynonna Judd and her band, The Big Noise, will bring country, Americana, blues, soul and rock music to the stage at 7:30 p.m. July 14.

Wynonna has sold more than 30 million albums spanning a 34-year career from her time with mother-daughter duo The Judds to her latest sound with her band, The Big Noise. Wynonna has received more than

60 industry awards including charting 20 No. 1 hits such as "Mama He's Crazy," "Why Not Me" and "Grandpa." During her time with The Judds, Wynonna was dubbed by Rolling Stone as "the greatest female country singer since Patsy Cline." In August, the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum will open an exhibit exploring the lives and careers of the famous duo.

Wynonna and her band the Big Noise, led by her husband, drummer and producer Cactus Moser, released their debut album in 2016. The album features special guests Derek Trucks, Jason Isbell, Susan Tedeschi and Timothy B. Schmit. Wynonna has described the new sound as "vintage yet modern" and a "return to the well."



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As day turns to night, concert-goers take in a show during the Music by the Lake concert series on Geneva Lake in Williams Bay.

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Three Dog Night

Three Dog Night will perform classic rock at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 11. With a legacy spanning close to five decades, the Grammy-nominated group Three Dog Night will make its Music by the Lake debut to close out the 2018 summer season. From 1969 through 1974, no other group received more Top 10 hits or sold more concert tickets than Three Dog Night. The group has 21 consecutive Billboard Top 40 songs such as “Shambala” and “One” and No. 1 singles “Joy to The World,” “Mama Told Me” and “Black and White.” Tens of millions of Three Dog Night records have been sold through the years. Three Dog Night recorded music of the best new songwriters of their time including Harry Nilsson, Randy Newman, Elton John, Laura Nyro, Paul Williams and Hoyt Axton. Since 1986, these music icons have performed more than 2,200 shows including two Super Bowls.

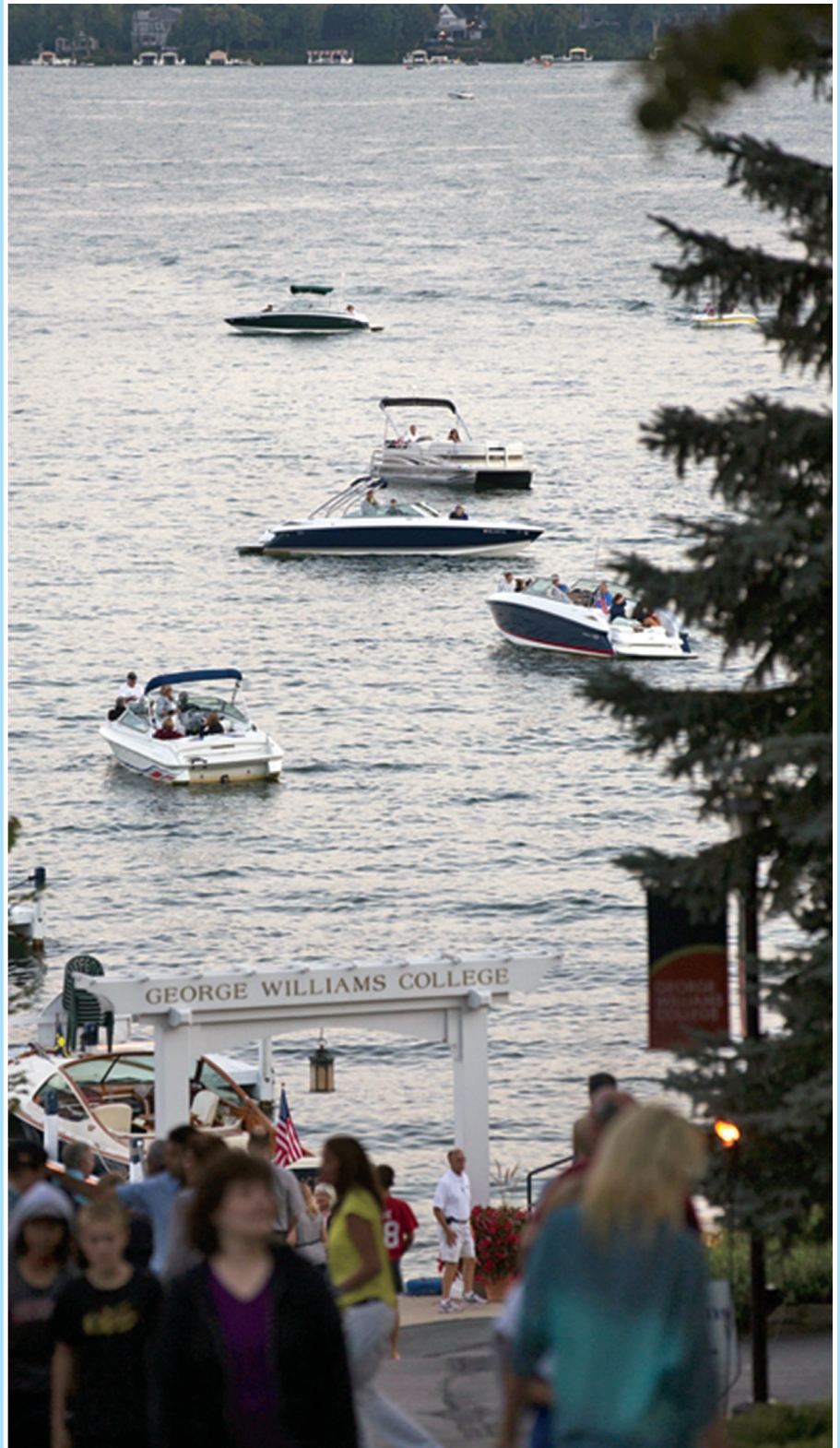


Nathan Gunn

Baritone Nathan Gunn will perform love songs with the Chicago Philharmonic at 7:30 p.m. July 21.

Gunn is billed as America’s leading in-demand baritone and Grammy Award-winning superstar. He will present “An Evening of Love Songs” with the Chicago Philharmonic under artistic director Scott Speck. Gunn has performed in international opera houses and as a distinguished soloist with symphony orchestras worldwide.

The New York Times writes: “Nathan Gunn commands an operatic baritone whose mighty heft and richness confer an



Boaters linger on the shoreline to catch the music coming from Ferro Pavilion at George Williams College of Aurora University.



The Ferro Pavilion at George Williams College in Williams Bay plays host to the summer concerts series **Music by the Lake.**

COURTESY OF MUSIC BY THE LAKE *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

outsize authority on everything it touches.” Gunn has appeared in opera houses such as the Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Royal Opera House and Paris Opera. He supports new works and has created roles in 21st century operas most recently collaborating with teams at the Pittsburgh Opera, with Beth Morrison Projects and with some of today’s leading and cutting-edge composers.

The Chicago Tribune calls the Chicago Philharmonic “one of the country’s finest symphonic orchestras.” It is a collective of more than 200 musicians of the highest level performing in the Chicago area today. Through a community of musicians and community members, the Chicago Philharmonic aims to excite, engage and transform diverse audiences with the beauty and power of great music.

Family events

Events for the family include Ralph’s World at 4 p.m. July 29 and a community showcase with the Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra at 4 p.m. June 24.

Ralph’s World features indie rocker Ralph Covert and his band with high-energy tunes and a silly atmosphere. Covert transforms his former band’s original songs with fun, age-appropriate lyrics that will have the kids dancing and laughing. Before venturing into the kid-friendly music circuit, Covert was a member of the Chicago-based rock ‘n’ roll band the Bad Examples. In addition to making music and touring his live children’s show, Covert is a songwriter, playwright and children’s book author.

The Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra will present an afternoon of movie music for the entire family. The orchestra performs the scores to award-winning films such as “Pirates of the Caribbean,” “Forrest Gump,” “Superman,” “Lord of the Rings,” “Frozen,” “Gladiator” and “Star Wars.” Now in its 18th season, the Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra, under the leadership of music



Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra

director David Anderson and concertmaster Lisa Gauslow, boasts musicians from southeastern Wisconsin and northern Illinois.

Location

All events are performed in the Ferro Pavilion on the campus of George Williams College of Aurora University in Williams Bay. Performances take place rain or shine. Free parking and shuttle service for all events are located close to campus at Williams Bay High School at 500 W. Geneva St., in Williams Bay.



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Artist to make 'mobile' art

Kinetic artist Kevin Reese will work hand-in-hand with the public to design and construct a large, locally inspired mobile to be permanently installed in the Young Auditorium lobby at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in early May.

The installation is the culminating event of the auditorium's 25th anniversary season. Reese will help Young Auditorium celebrate by leading a large scale, community-based art project to design and construct five unique mobiles to be showcased throughout the community.

The art will include a large, main piece to be permanently installed in the Young Auditorium lobby.

The public is invited to several mobile-making events to play a part in creating a piece of art to be seen by all Young Auditorium patrons for years to come.

Here's a look at the upcoming events:

OPEN HOUSE - Tuesday, May 1, 1 to 2 p.m. and 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Stop in to cut and sand mobile shapes with Kevin Reese. The event is free, but open only to adults who register in advance.

WINE & PAINT NIGHT - Wednesday, May 2, 5 to 7 p.m. Bring a group to help paint



Artist
Kevin
Reese

mobile shapes that will become part of the main lobby installation. Adults only. Cash bar. No registration required.

DEDICATION and RECEPTION -

Friday, May 4, 5:30 p.m. Members of the community are invited to attend a reception and mobile dedication in the Young Auditorium lobby. Desserts will be provided by The Sweet Spot, with

music from the LINC'S World Drumming Ensemble, and artwork created by Lakeview Elementary students as part of the 2018 Big Read project. The event is free and not RSVP is required.

For more information on this project, or to register for one of the open house events, contact Shannon Dozoryst at 262-472-1432 or dozoryss@uww.edu

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Show to feature shore path

Discover Wisconsin episode focuses on Lake Geneva area

Discover Wisconsin, the state's tourism TV show, will shine the spotlight on Lake Geneva's shore path during an episode airing in May.

"Lake Geneva – Along the Beaten Path" premieres Saturday, May 5, at 10 a.m. on Fox Sports Wisconsin and on Sunday, May 6 at 10 a.m. on WITI TV 6, Milwaukee. The episode will also be available for online streaming at discoverwisconsin.com after May 6.

The show kicks off along the Lake Geneva shore path, where host Mariah Haberman walks with local historian, Jim Beloian, and learns about the path's beginnings. Later, the Discover Wisconsin crew heads to the Geneva Lake Museum for more information on the area's history, including the retreat of the last glacier, Native American heritage, and The World's Fair of 1893.

"The Geneva Lake shore path gives visitors a very unique way to experience our region, and this episode is the perfect taste of what awaits people," said Joe Tominaro of VISIT Lake Geneva.

Haberman continues her walk along the shore path by taking in the area's historic lakeside mansions, including Black Point Estate and Gardens, a Wisconsin Historic Site. The segment wraps up at Baker House 1885 for a sunset toast.

The episode continues on Geneva Lake, where Haberman takes to the water for some flyboarding, the Lake Geneva Cruise Line, and ice boating. The Discover Wisconsin crew features the downtown



areas of Lake Geneva, Williams Bay, and Fontana, by highlighting the shops, restaurants, and accommodations. Haberman closes out the episode with stops at Gordy's Marine and Chuck's Lakeshore Inn, two iconic lakeside spots.

"The Lake Geneva area has a fascinating history. I love that the shore path fuses history and fun all in one – I learned so much filming the episode," Haberman said. "We're thrilled to name Lake Geneva an official 2018 Discover Wisconsin Choice Destination."

"Lake Geneva – Along the Beaten Path" will reach Discover Wisconsin's broadcast network of 600,000 viewers across the upper Great Lakes region, including Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Northern Illinois, and Upper Michigan.

The episode was produced by Jennifer Ingish. To learn more, visit discoverwisconsin.com.

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This angel is surrounded by a variety of spring flowers in containers Burlington Garden Center. Customers may browse all the yard art on display and find one that fits their garden design.



Get your Green On!

PHOTO COURTESY OF BURLINGTON GARDEN CENTER Spirit of Geneva Lakes

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fter a long winter and a spring that has been unusually cold, it is good to feel warmer temperatures and see the grass turn green and trees sprout leaves.

At the same time, bits of color find their way into our homes as spring flowers begin to bloom.

As we enter May, everyone begins to envision planters, hanging baskets and flowerbeds coming to life.

It is a time when homeowners and apartment dwellers alike are anxious to turn their properties into colorful displays of beautiful flowers. Gardeners who planted tulip, hyacinth or daffodil bulbs in the fall are

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**
CORRESPONDENT

enjoying the results of their early work.

When these harbingers of spring appear, gardeners realize it's time to begin working on their summer plantings of annuals and perennials.

"Start with some frost- or cold-resistant flowers such as pansies, cabbage or kale and plant them in containers," said Cathy Seitz of Breezy Hill Nursery. "If the weather dips too low, the pots can be moved indoors overnight or covered."

These will provide an early touch of color to brighten up your home's entryway. Containers on the patio also bring that touch of summer in early.

"Pansies and violas, while planted early in spring for their ability to resist cold, also may come back in the fall if it has not been too hot in the summer," Breezy Hill flower specialist

Marianne Fischer said. "To encourage all summer blooming, be sure to continue pinching back and move them to a shady spot."

Burlington Garden Center General Manager Tracy Hankwitz said plants depend on you for watering because pots dry out faster than plants in the ground.

"Containers are more manageable, especially in early spring," Hankwitz said. "Planting in containers gives the gardener more control over the quality of the soil and makes fertilizing more specific."

● Where to begin?

It always is an overwhelming experience to walk in and see a rainbow of colors and beautiful hanging baskets when supplies of flowers arrive at local nurseries. Where to begin?



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For a bountiful display, gardeners are advised to plant flowers tightly together and enjoy the bright colors throughout the growing season.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ PHOTOS *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

We want them all, but more realistic shoppers begin to narrow their choices to those plants they have enjoyed in the past and colors that are aesthetically pleasing. Most of us are creatures of habit and often return to the same flowers and colors each year. While that is not entirely bad, it is good to try a few new varieties and colors.

For container plantings and hanging baskets, it is possible to pick out beautiful and unique versions at garden shops such as Breezy Hill, Burlington Garden Center and Northwind Perennial Farm, plus at many other fine nurseries in the Southern Lakes region.

Don't forget to pick up planting soil and fertilizer as needed. Garden store staff will recommend what is best. Use a variety of plants to fill the containers. Add taller and trailing plants in a variety of colors.

For anyone who wants the beauty of container plantings or hanging baskets but is not inclined to do the work, consider those already planted by the professional staff.

"Each year we have up to 25 new annual combinations for our beautiful hanging baskets and annual planters," said Breezy Hill's Fischer. "We carry many different types of containers in a variety of sizes."


Northwind offers a large selection of annuals and perennials that are disease-resistant and low maintenance. It also carries a variety of containers and yard art in its garden shop.

● Gorgeous annuals

Some of the favorite and recommended annuals include petunias, angelonia, coleus, begonia and geraniums.

The Burlington Garden Center's Hankwitz said petunias are one of her favorites.

"They are a wonderful landscape plant because they are hardy and bloom consistently during the growing season," Hankwitz said. "There



When space is scarce, container plantings – like this rose – are a great way to welcome visitors to a home.



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are many new varieties and colors of petunias available, and many of the newer ones do not need dead-heading."

Deadheading is the removal of flowers that have finished blooming.

"Angelonia are available in a variety of colors, including purples, pinks, reds and white," Fischer said. "They tolerate most soil conditions and are profuse bloomers. They love the sun but will tolerate some shade."

Looking for a plant that is easy to care for is always blooming and tolerates sun and shade? The new begonia hiemalis tolerates more sun than the traditional begonia and still loves the shade.

"It is truly a care-free plant," Fischer said.

Annuals instantly beautify yards with their vibrant colors, but perennials return year after year as part of the permanent landscape. Have a design plan in place for your perennial beds, and add plants each year.

● Lasting perennials

Roy Diblik of Northwind is known as a perennial and design expert. He said gardens should be highly aesthetic and sustainable. Gardens should be thoughtful and ecologically directed, yet personal. By planting a combination of annuals and perennials, gardens will offer variety. Northwind grows its own annuals and perennials.

Meanwhile, the Perennial Plant Association has chosen the allium millenium as the 2018 Plant of the Year. Mark McDonough of Massachusetts developed this hybrid, which is a mid to late summer bloomer. The globe-shaped, purple flowers add bright color to a garden when some plantings are through blooming. The plants grow up to 18 inches and enjoy full sun. They are a perennial but can be planted in the garden or in pots.

Over the past several years, butterfly gardens have become popular. Among the plants that attract butterflies are lantana, heliotrope and liatris.

"My favorite for a butterfly garden is the Seven-Son tree," Hankwitz said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BREEZY HILL, Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Hanging baskets with tightly planted annuals make a beautiful display of color on a porch or patio. These colorful petunias will bloom all summer if cared for properly.

"When it blooms in the fall it frequently becomes covered with Monarch butterflies."

It can be grown as a bush or trained into a small tree, growing about 12 to 15 feet tall.

To encourage birds, Hankwitz recommends planting tubular-shaped flowers such as penstemon, salvia, hollyhocks and fuchsia. Hummingbirds also will be attracted to the tubular flowers, but many people purchase a feeder to hang near a window to view them.

● Veggies too!

In addition to flowers, this is the time to plant vegetable gardens. Some vegetables work well planted in the flower garden because they have a beautiful ornamental look. Kale, lettuce and Swiss chard are a few of the edibles that add color to the flower garden all season.

Vegetable gardens can be planted from seeds or plants. Hankwitz recommends that if one wishes to plant tomato and pepper seeds, they should be started indoors about six weeks before they are planted outdoors. Because it often proves difficult to judge when the soil will be warm enough to plant,

many gardeners simply choose to purchase plants from a reputable dealer when planting time arrives rather than hope their seedlings are ready on time.

"The date we usually consider to be safe from frost and that the soil is warm enough is toward the end of May," Hankwitz said.

Many vegetables grow well in this area, including corn, tomatoes, green beans, lettuce, onions and squash.

If you have children or grandchildren, you may want to introduce them to gardening by planting a 3 Sisters garden, adopted from Native Americans who lived in this area.

They would plant a combination of corn, beans and squash in one hill. The corn stalks would provide a place for the beans to climb and the squash vines would cover the ground around the cornstalk to keep the weeds down. Thus they grew three crops in one space.

As with flowers, vegetable plants should be purchased at a nursery that specializes in plants and grows its own or only purchases high-quality plants. Most of the plants found in the nurseries or private garden centers are locally grown.

Remember, once the plants are in, your

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job is not finished. They will need to be watered, fertilized and weeded regularly. While there is work involved in keeping a healthy garden, it will be rewarding to have beautiful flowers and fresh vegetables.

For the finest in spring flowers and help designing your gardens, contact one of these nurseries where you will find healthy plants and unique planters to make your displays the best.

Breezy Hill Nursery

7530 288th Ave., Salem
262-537-2111

www.breezyhillnursery.com

Located several miles east of Lake Geneva, Breezy Hill offers a complete selection of annuals and perennials necessary to start this year's flower garden. It also carries plants and seeds for a vegetable garden and offers nursery stock at affordable prices.

It also possesses one of the largest selections of landscape supplies. It will tailor your landscape and outdoor living spaces to your tastes when designing and building arbors, decks, pergolas and gazebos.

It provides residential and commercial landscape services. Irrigation services and LED lights for outdoors are designed for your space. The garden shop carries a collection of attractive containers for your flowers, gifts and garden art. Check their website for special events and to receive their newsletter. Open 7 days a week.

Burlington Garden Center

5205 Mormon Road, Burlington
262-763-2153

burlingtongardencenter.com

The center carries a wide variety of annuals and perennials and other materials needed to make your outdoor flowerbeds, containers and hanging plants the best in the neighborhood. It carries ornamental edibles and a variety of garden art and containers. Purchase flowers to pot yourself or choose one of the many beautiful arrangements designed by flower experts. It offers a variety of seminars and workshops to help make gardening fun.

Sign up for the weekly email newsletter that will give tips for planting and caring for flowers and vegetable gardens. New flowers are introduced regularly. Garden seminars are held most Saturdays.

Burlington Garden Center will help with gardening needs and provide

Preparing the many combinations of colorful plants in hanging gardens and containers requires the work of many hands at Burlington Garden Center.



Red, pink, white, blue, or purple – customers of Breezy Hill may pick their favorite color palette to create a special unique display.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BREEZY HILL Spirit of Geneva Lakes

TOP PHOTO COURTESY OF BURLINGTON GARDEN CENTER Spirit of Geneva Lakes

advice from its horticulturists and master gardeners. Open seven days a week.

Northwind Perennial Farm

7047 Hospital Road
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Northwind Perennial Farm specializes in growing regionally hardy perennials and offers landscape design services. Visit its unique garden shop filled with art, garden accents and home décor items.

Located on an early 1900s farmstead, visit Northwind to see the serene display gardens. Discuss your plant needs with knowledgeable staff and leave with unique and rare plants.

Its beautiful gardens are available for small weddings and receptions.

Go online for special events and information about products and services. The business is open daily.

The arrival of the first flats of annuals is a sign that spring is here. This display of plants at Breezy Hill includes a variety of plants to bring spring and summer into your landscape.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BREEZY HILL, Spirit of Geneva Lakes

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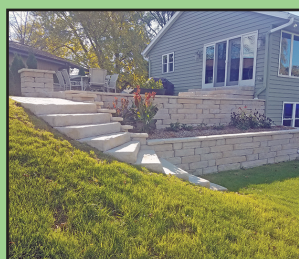
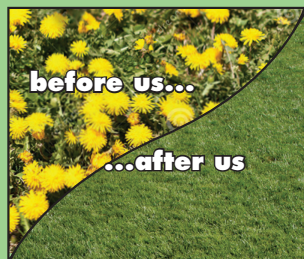
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He
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RESTAURANTEUR TURNS COMO LAKE LOCATION INTO STEFANA'S

Charles Dinolfo retired in March 2017 and made his way to the Lake Geneva area to search for a home to buy. While looking for that perfect home, he came across a closed restaurant.

That space was the former Kirsch's restaurant located in the newly remodeled French Country Inn on the shore of Como Lake.

He decided that running a single restaurant would not be as stressful as managing the two Dinolfo banquet halls in suburban Chicago that he and his family had owned. So, he began preparing the restaurant to become Stefana's.

"He found a restaurant but didn't find the house he was searching for," said Lara Perkins, director of operations of Stefana's. "Instead, he saw the restaurant space and

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**
CORRESPONDENT

fell in love with its history, location and ambience."

The French Country Inn was used as an icehouse, a hunting

and fishing club and the favorite vacation or hideout spot of several Chicago gangsters. One historically interesting item is the hand-carved oak staircase in the reception area of the boutique hotel, which was part of the Danish Pavilion at the 1893 World Exposition.

The restaurant's warm feeling is reminiscent of its early days, a time when Wisconsin supper clubs were the favorite place to go for dinner and interesting characters gathered in the bar and the restaurant.

Tables are set with spotless white tablecloths, giving the room an elegant look. With cozy fireplaces, warm wood trim, a baby grand player piano and a view

of Lake Como, it is a relaxing place to enjoy high-quality food while taking in the ambience and history of the area.

What's in a name?

For Dinolfo, naming the restaurant was a simple task.

"His oldest daughter's name is Stephanie, so he changed the spelling and ended it with an "a" to make it sound more Italian," Perkins said with a chuckle.

And so Stefana's was born.

Wanting to do things right and have a successful restaurant, the team agreed to a slow start. They opened for Thanksgiving 2017 to cook and serve a meal for family and friends. In early December, they began a soft opening with a partial menu. They used that time to train the staff properly and to receive feedback from their customers.

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On Feb. 2, the dining room opened with a full menu and has been open daily since then.

The menu definitely has an Italian flavor, featuring a variety of pasta dishes, but it also offers other entrees to suit any appetite.

"Just as in most fine, quality Italian restaurants, much of our pasta is made in-house by hand," Perkins said. "Our owner's favorite meal is the scallop pasta."

That dish is composed of seared scallops on a bed of capellini pasta with garlic, tomato and basil topped with a white wine sauce.

"He recently has been experimenting by adding shrimp to the dish," Perkins added.

Whether it is the variety of seafood pastas or the more traditional lasagna or spaghetti and meatballs that are calling, the made-to-order flavors are sure to please.

Yes, please!

For meat lovers, several steaks, including filet, bone-in rib-eye and New York strip steak or the bone-in pork chop, are prepared to please and cooked to order.

A specialty of Stefana's is almost everyone's favorite — a 10-ounce, hand-pressed Black Angus burger. What makes it special are the caramelized onions, mushrooms, cheddar cheese, bacon, lettuce and tomato with their own Stefana's sauce on a classic burger bun. And naturally, it is served with fries. Try it and you will be sure to return again as it becomes your favorite burger.

If you love meat and seafood and are having trouble making a decision, try their Surf and Turf or Strip and Shrimp.

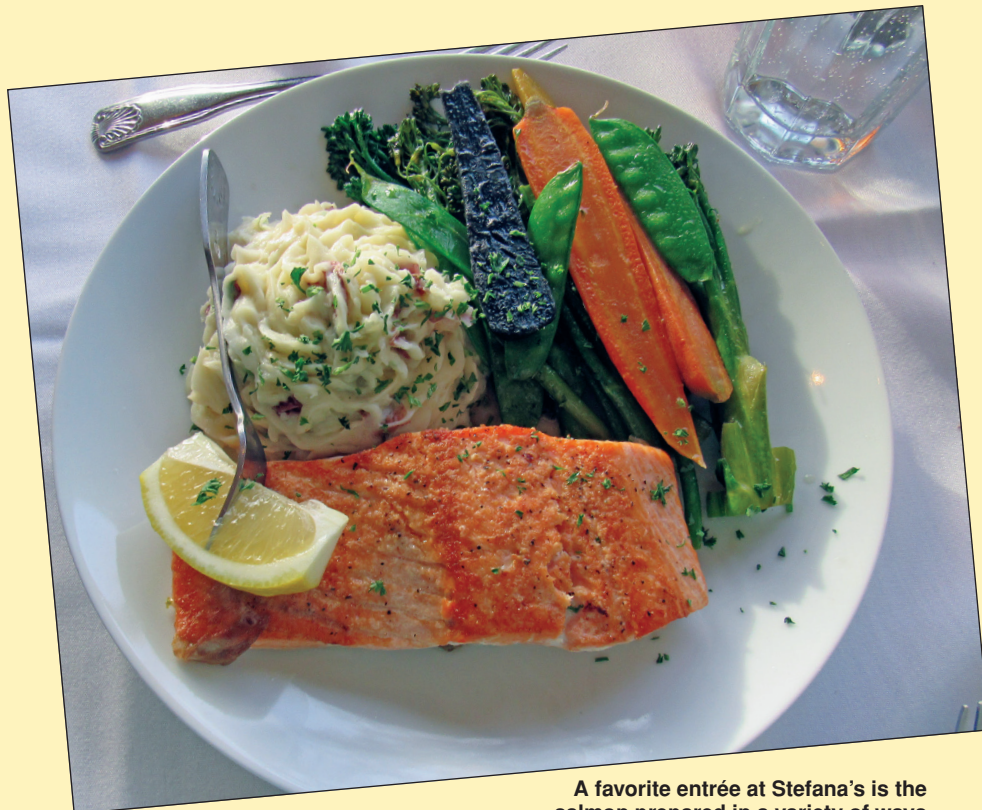
While the main menu features many appetizers, soups and salads, the restaurant offers a few surprises.

"Each day there are a variety of items that are specials of the day," Perkins said. "These items are chosen by the chef, offering a variety of choices for any meal."

Those who are not in the mood for a full meal can stop in the Copper Top Lounge and enjoy a drink and appetizers or small plate selections. The latter are smaller servings of items from the main menu and are available only in the bar on Mondays through Thursdays.

A drink in the lounge

The bar provides a step back into the days when mafia members mixed with weekend visitors. It's an alcove with leather



A favorite entrée at Stefana's is the salmon prepared in a variety of ways by Chef Oscar Romero.



Diners at Stefana's may enjoy an appetizer of fresh mussels specially prepared for them.

PHOTOS BY SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

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SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Head bartender Steve Fairchild greets customers in the Copper Top Lounge as he prepares a customer's beverage. The bar is known for a variety of special drinks linked to prohibition.

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furniture and a place to sit with friends to enjoy a special drink and appetizer while oversized copies of historical bad guys such as Bugs Moran, Baby Face Nelson and members of the John Dillinger gang and their exploits hang on the walls.

Steve Fairchild is the head bartender at the Copper Top Lounge.

"We have a list of drinks with ties to Prohibition," he said. "Each day we offer a special drink at a special price. Mondays it is Stefana's signature martini for \$9 instead of the regular \$12 tab. Tuesdays the margarita is on special to pair with the taco food special."

The Tuesday taco special includes three tacos filled with shrimp, fish or steak and served with chips, salsa and guacamole.

"We carry a variety of wines, mostly from California and some wines from local wineries," Fairchild said. "We are working on increasing and improving our selections as we learn what our customers enjoy."

Two items supper clubs were known for in the 1900s were cocktails and fish fries. Stefana's brings the best of both every Friday.

"Friday, our drink special is the handcrafted Old Fashioned for only \$5," added Fairchild.

Then sink your teeth into their fabulous all-you-can-eat fish fry. But fish fry may be a misnomer, because there is a choice of fried or baked cod with potato pancakes or fries, coleslaw, applesauce and tartar sauce for \$17. No one ever leaves hungry.

Music and summer

Patrons can listen to soft dinner music from the baby grand player piano tucked into a corner next to the fireplace or live entertainment.

"We are looking forward to summer when the outdoor tiki bar will be open on the multileveled decks," Perkins said. "Musical entertainment will be enjoyed while having a drink on the deck at the lakeshore. Pull up your boat and listen to the music."

She reminds visitors to save room for dessert.

"We have some of the best desserts," she said about offerings that are ordered from The Cheesecake Factory.

Stefana's values its senior customers and kids. A children's menu offers burgers, chicken tenders, cheese curds, grilled cheese and mac and cheese for \$6. This menu is available for children from 2 to 12 years of age. Senior citizens are offered a 20 percent discount on drinks and food all day Sundays and Wednesdays.

The Como Room provides the perfect location for those looking to hold a small party or event for up to 30 guests; contact



Those who enjoy dinner at Stefana's are treated to sunsets over Como Lake.

Below: This quiet little niche in the Copper Top Lounge is reminiscent of the history of the building when Chicago gangsters gathered here. Enlarged copies of pictures of noted gangsters such as Bugs Moran and Baby Face Nelson who often spent time there are displayed on the walls.

PHOTOS BY SANDRA
LANDEN MACHAJ
Spirit of Geneva Lakes





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Perkins to check availability.

Stefana's has made marvelous strides in becoming one of the fine restaurants in the Geneva Lakes area. Much of the credit goes to chef Oscar Romero, who works with the owner to create new and interesting dishes to please customers.

Even though Dinolfo and staff are working to make the restaurant unique, they are still involved in a variety of ways to give back to the community. One of their projects will be a benefit for Agape House.

Where to find it

Stefana's is at W4190 West End Road, Lake Geneva. It is open for lunch Thursdays to Sundays from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. With warmer weather on the way, its lunch hours will increase to include additional days. Dinner is served from 4:30 to 9:30 p.m. weekdays and from 4:30 to 11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. While reservations are not required, they are encouraged, especially during busy weekend hours. Visit them on Facebook or call 262-686-3127.



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MLS #1510938 - Log Cabin on Green lake w/80' of sand and gravel front and incredible views. 3BR, 3BA inviting LR w/beamed vaulted ceiling, ash floors, stone FP and deck access. Eat-in kitchen w/island and built-in window seat. MB suite w/vaulted ceilings, bath w/tub and separate shower. Loft area overlooking LR. FR walkout to deck, outside shower, game room or 4th BR. Large welcoming foyer w/lake views. Deck off kitchen w/covered dining area. Lakeside yard w/shed. Lake memories await! **\$939,000**



MLS # 1494443 - Charming 3BR, 1.5BA home w/50' of Mill Lake frontage. Rare location w/extended lake views w/Western exposure and view of Lauderdale Golf Course 2nd green. Inside you'll find vaulted beamed ceiling in LR w/stone FP and hardwood floors. Kitchen w/easy access to dining room. L-shaped porch w/wood floors. Master BR w/extended lake views. Property features guest cottage, wet boat house and lakeside cement patio. 2 car detached garage. Move-in ready in excellent condition. Short walk to golf course and easy access to Hwy 12/67. **\$629,900**



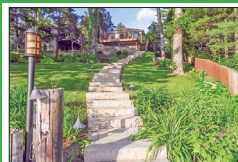
MLS#1564229 - Prime main floor unit location at the Delavan Club. Sit on your private patio off LR and enjoy endless views of Delavan Lake which is steps away from this 1BD,1 Bath unit. Living room features large sliding glass door which lets the lake views inside and warm yourself by the fireplace, eat-in kitchen w/breakfast bar and ample dining room, in unit laundry and 1car detached garage. Delavan club offers Clubhouse with workout room & sauna, outdoor pool & hot tub. Tennis courts, playground & boat launch. Boat slip available on wait list. Easy access to shopping and restaurants. **\$124,900**



MLS#1538145 - TO BE BUILT by RSB Construction! 3BR, 2BA ranch in the city of Elkhorn on treed line lot. Features cathedral ceilings in GR and MB. Eat-in kitchen w/dining room featuring hardwood floors. MB w/full bath and double closets. GR w/FP. 1st fl laundry. LL plumbed for future bath and escape window for expansion. White 6-panel doors and white trim. Exterior windows and doors in 4" wood trim w/vinyl siding. 2 car attached garage and paved driveway top off this beautiful home. **\$234,900**



MLS# 1572534 - Whitewater Lake privacy with lake views on 3.42 acres is where you'll find this 4BR, 3.5BA 3,952 sq.ft home featuring eat-in kitchen w/granite tops, breakfast bar w/sink and dining w/deck access, lake views and 2 sided fieldstone FP that opens to FR. LR w/vaulted ceilings. MB suite w/lake views, w/whirlpool tub and separate shower. Main floor laundry/craft room and office, screened porch w/vaulted ceiling. LL Rec/Media room, BR, full bath, work out room, workshop & ample storage. 2.5 attached garage w/basement access and 24 x 24 detached garage. Close to boat launch, State Park Beach. **\$399,700**



MLS#1568966 - Thoughtfully renovated and all the details have been taken care of; just move in and start entertaining on the lake! Since 2012, all new: GFA, C/A, lighting, water heater, water softener, kitchen appliances, septic system, stone retaining walls, patio and stairs. Sunny rooms w/gorgeous sunset views of the lake and gardens from new floor to ceiling windows and doors. Finished LL w/ walkout to screened porch & stone patio. Sleeping nook and FR on lower level. 4 car garage w/workshop. Professionally landscaped gardens w/ sprinkler system. Bring your kayak & pontoon. 50' water frontage. **\$379,900**

312580



MARKET *Matters*

This 10-room lakefront home located on Bluff Lane, Pier 653, in Linn was built in 2012. With a pier sized for entertainment it is a perfect place to enjoy lake views. It is priced at \$2,975,000.

COURTESY OF KEEFE REAL ESTATE
Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Whether looking for a primary or second home, be prepared to move fast



any Geneva Lakes area visitors have left dreaming of owning a vacation home.

After taking in the native beauty and enjoying the many recreational activities, most visitors fall in love and vow to return permanently or for another stay as soon as possible. The question becomes should they pursue the idea of a vacation home or consider relocating to the area?

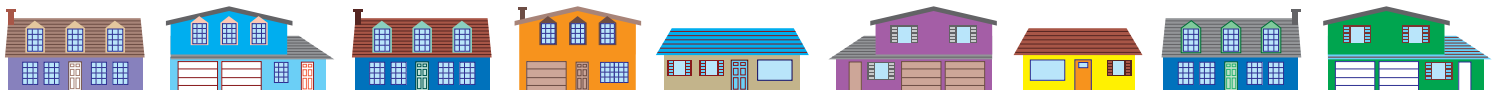
While the Lake Geneva area has been considered primarily a resort destination, it also is becoming a family- friendly place to live.

"Wisconsin placed third out of the 50 states in a quality of life study conducted by U.S. News and World Report," said Tom Keefe, president of Keefe Real Estate in Lake Geneva. "Many of the new residents are coming from Illinois, which placed 47th in the study. People are looking for lower taxes and good schools, both of which can be found in Wisconsin."

While property on the shores of Geneva Lake may not fit in the budget, 40 other lakes offer more affordable locales for a vacation home or a permanent residence. Areas such as Lake Delavan, Twin Lakes and Lauderdale Lakes provide lakefront

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT



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properties at a lower cost.

These alternatives also offer a different, quieter and more restful way to enjoy the outdoors than the busier Lake Geneva area.

From the mansions on Geneva Lake, which have stood since the late 1800s, to today's newer homes, there is always something for everyone. Historical homes and new construction can each be found. Waterfront, views of the water view and

homes off the beaten path are options that must be considered while contemplating purchasing a property.

You've got to move fast

"Today is a seller's market. Homes, especially those under \$500,000, move fast," said Bob Rauland, president of Rauland Realty in Walworth.

Keefe and Rauland recommended that

buyers act quickly when they find what they are looking for.

"Some properties receive multiple bids and are sold very quickly, sometimes above listing price," Rauland said. "Most properties, if priced right, will sell in 120 to 180 days. If it is on the market longer, it is not priced correctly and will need to be adjusted."

But in this seller's market, most in the middle price point don't last that long unless they truly are mispriced.

"One of the reasons the lower price point properties sell quickly is the shortage of these properties that are available for sale," Keefe said. "During the recession in the early 2000s, contractors stopped building spec houses and concentrated on only building homes that already had been sold. Now they are beginning to build more new homes."

"We are experiencing an increase in population growth, so it is a time to start producing more buildings," Keefe added.

More new homes means that buyers have more choices.

A different market

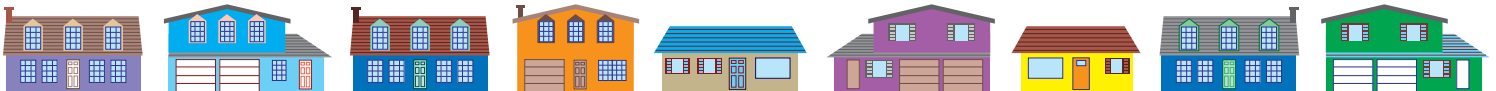
In addition to new homes being built in lower price ranges, there has been a change concerning the high-end properties on the lakefront.

Some of these high-end properties –

Located at 412 Harvard in Fontana, this cape cod home was featured in Distinguished Homes of America. The 4,000-square-foot four-bedroom, six-bathroom home contains many distinctive features including oak floors, granite fireplaces and a chef's kitchen. The screened porch (right) has a heated floor. It is currently listed for \$2,995,000.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KEEFE REAL ESTATE *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



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listed for several million dollars – may linger until the right buyer is found. Many original owners of the large estates are deceased and their children have inherited them. Sometimes siblings disagree about whether to keep or place the property on the market. Often that's because they are not conveniently located to use it on a regular basis or because the costs of maintaining the home are beyond the siblings' budgets.

Keefe said vacant lots were selling during the recession because prices were low.

"We also are seeing properties being purchased to tear down the structure on them and build something new," Keefe said. "Many of these are older homes in the 40- to 50-year range that may be in need of repairs or they just wish to build a more modern home in a desirable location."

It is important to find a reputable realtor who will work with you to find the perfect property.

Rauland Agency and Keefe Real Estate are reputable companies that have been in the area for years. Rauland is celebrating 62 years in business, while the Keefe family is celebrating its 75th year in Lake Geneva. They and their Realtors know the market and locations to help customers make the best choices.

Prospective buyers and sellers should select a real estate agent carefully. Just like picking other professionals, look at their experience and get recommendations from people you trust. The first interview will help the agent narrow the search for a property that will meet one's needs.

Buyers must know the price point they can handle and must be realistic on the amount of money they can spend. If \$300,000 is your top price, let the agent know so that appropriate properties can be found. Looking at homes that are way over budget only leads to disappointment.

Ready to buy

Before searching, buyers should get prequalified to determine what they realistically could afford. An open discussion should be held between the Realtor and prospective buyers to understand what they really want from the property.

Are they looking for a lakefront property because they enjoy water sports, boating and swimming? Do they want to see the sunsets from their deck? Are they interested in being in a busy place like Lake Geneva with its fine restaurants and shopping? Would they prefer a quieter location where they can "listen to the silence?" Is golf their game, so being on or near a golf course is important? Do they plan to use the house in the winter and want to be near



COURTESY OF RAULAND AGENCY Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Looking for a place to dock your boat? The Abbey Harbor Dockominium has a highly sought-after size AA boat slip available in the newly renovated harbor. Contact Rauland Agency for more information.



COURTESY OF KEEFE REAL ESTATE Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Enjoy a quiet location and an in-ground pool with a view of the lake in this five-bedroom ranch home on Delavan Lake. It is priced at \$629,000.

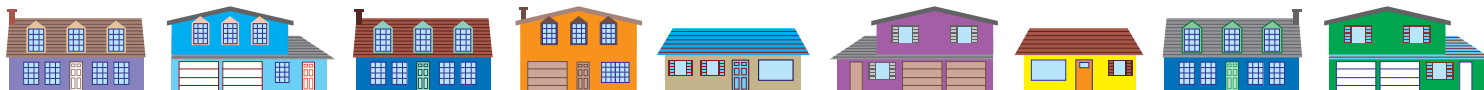
ski hills, snowmobile trails, cross-country ski trails and woodland trails? For families purchasing a primary home, school quality is important.

If the purchase will be a vacation home, it is important to be realistic about how far one wants to travel to get enough use out of it. If they only use it one or two weeks in the summer, it may not be the best

purchase. Renting may be a better option.

Today's buyers often have more information available to them because they have checked out listings online. They may have picked out the perfect property only to find that it is no longer available.

"Today's buyers are a healthy mix of younger buyers and those moving up," Keefe said. "The newer subdivisions are





COURTESY OF RAULAND AGENCY Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Located in the Prairie View Subdivision in Williams Bay, this new construction by Shodeen Homes has an estimated 2,670 square feet of living space and features 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths and, a 3 car garage. The list price is \$390,000

farther out of the center of town. Ranch-style, single-family homes remain popular.”

New homes can be purchased for \$395,000 to \$400,000 in the Williams Bay, Lake Geneva and Delavan areas. Of course, the more amenities added will bring up the price.

A rush to downsize

“The market is very active as seniors begin to downsize,” Rauland said. “As their needs change because of children leaving home, death of a spouse or health issues, their need for space changes. They want less upkeep. They no longer need the large home where they raised their family. They look to simplify their lives.”

So, knowing when it’s time to make changes is important. And when purchasing a vacation home, timing is important.

Most people will own a vacation home for five to 10 years. As the children get older and more involved in summer activities, there is less time to travel to the vacation home on a regular basis.

“Of course, there are exceptions as some families retain ownership of their vacation homes for generations,” Rauland said.

Whatever the dream, now is the time to pursue it. The majority of area visitors cannot afford one of the mansions on Geneva Lake, but plenty of properties are available and families just need to find the right one and make it theirs.

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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Key

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

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

A young model
in the 2017
ChocolateFest
candy wrapper
fashion show
strikes a pose with
his sweet lasso.



Unwrap your ChocolateFest

POWER!

Burlington's annual
ChocolateFest runs May 25 to 28

Burlington's celebration of all things chocolate returns to the ChocolateFest grounds Memorial Day weekend.

The annual festival, themed "Unwrap Your Chocolate Power" for 2018, is in its 32nd year. According to the website, the event began in 1985 when Bill Branen, Jack Berry and Dave Wright, of the Burlington Standard Press, along with Henry Spreaha and Henk Hasert of Nestlé, Mayor Marty

Itzin and the Burlington Area Chamber of Commerce, created the festival to draw tourists to Burlington and to celebrate Nestlé's 20th anniversary in the community.

With Nestlé's help, the original organizers planned and marketed a Chocolate Festival and gave Burlington the nickname of "Chocolate City U.S.A." The first festival was in May of 1987 and entertainment was hosted at local school

auditoriums and athletic fields.

Over the years, the event has grown to host tens of thousands of visitors each year on the ChocolateFest grounds in downtown Burlington.

This year's festival promises a sweet time with tasty treats, live entertainment and fun chocolate-themed contests.

The annual ChocolateFest fireworks are set for 9 p.m. on Friday, May 25, with



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rain date on Saturday. The fireworks are presented by Runzheimer.

Experience the chocolate

The heart of ChocolateFest is the Chocolate Experience Tent, where the star of the festival shines.

The Chocolate Tent hosts chef demonstrations throughout the festival run as well as fun, chocolate-themed competitions such as the Celebrity Chef Challenge at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 25, and the popular Chocolate Sculpting Competition on Saturday and Sunday, May 26 and 27.

The festival is also returning the Giant Chocolate Jenga contest along with several chocolate eating contests.

Kids have a blast in the Chocolate Experience Tent with several the activities geared to them. From cookie decorating to the sundae challenge to the Chocolate Chunk Dig, the younger crowd is never short of something to do at the festival.

And don't forget to enjoy a free Nestlé Tollhouse Chocolate-Chip Cookie, which are baked all day long and handed out to

visitors in the Chocolate Tent.

Chocolate Experience Taster Tickets can be purchased for \$7 for taste samples from multiple vendors in the tent.

On stage

Live entertainment can be found all weekend long at the festival. From headline acts like Bad Boy and Bella Cain, to local talent on the new Cafe Stage, to the annual Battle of the Bands, to the roaming acts throughout the grounds, music and fun are always on hand.

As in years past, the High School Battle of the Bands is from 6 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, May 24. The adult Battle of the Bands contest will be from 6 to 9:30 p.m. on Friday, May 25, on the Wanasek Stage.

Bella Cain headlines Friday night at the festival, performing on the Main Stage at 8:30 p.m.

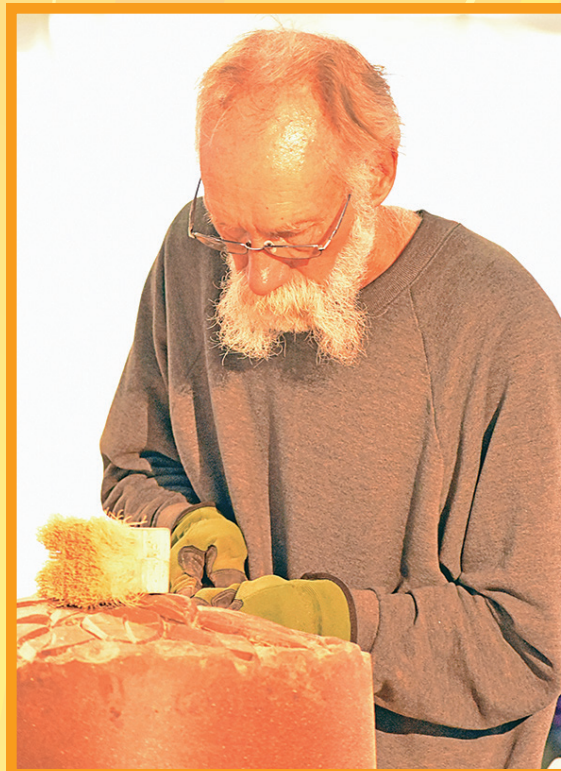
Saturday, the Wanasek Stage will host Strip*d at 4 p.m. and Rev. Raven at 7 p.m. Mad Bark will perform on the Main Stage at 12:30 p.m. and The Cheap Shots will take the stage at 5:30 p.m.

Headlining Saturday night is Bad Boy at 9 p.m. on the Main Stage.

Generation Z will perform on the Wanasek Stage

at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday. Squad 51 will be on the Main Stage at noon, Exit Plan at 5 p.m. and the Lunch Money Bullies at 8:30 p.m.

Memorial Day's live entertainment includes PF and the Flatheads at 2 p.m. on the Wanasek Stage. The Britins will perform at noon on the Main Stage



FILE PHOTO BY LAUREN HENNING Spirit of Geneva Lakes

A sculptor works to turn a block of chocolate into a work of art in the Chocolate Experience Tent at the 2016 ChocolateFest in Burlington.

and Bobby & Wayouts will be on the Main Stage at 3:30 p.m.

Memorial Day observance

ChocolateFest opens after the Burlington's annual Memorial Day observance. The Veterans Memorial Day Parade begins at 9 a.m. in downtown Burlington and is followed by a 10:30 a.m.



FILE PHOTO BY LAUREN HENNING Spirit of Geneva Lakes

The largest traveling midway in the country, North American Midway Entertainment, provides the thrills during Burlington's ChocolateFest May 24 through 28.

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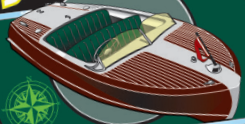


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WHAT:

ChocolateFest
- "Unwrap Your
Chocolate Power"

WHERE:

ChocolateFest
grounds, 681
Maryland Ave.,
Burlington

WHEN: Memorial
Day weekend, May
25 to 28

COST: Adults, \$8;
children 5 to 12,
\$5 (at the gate)

INFO: chocolate
fest.com

ceremony in Echo Park.

The festival will collect
non-perishable food
items for Love, Inc. in
the "Pack the Pantry"
entrance discount. Adults

may bring five non-perishable food items or
\$5 cash for admission. Regular gate tickets
will also be accepted.

A thrill ride

ChocolateFest features a midway with
rides and games that runs May 24 to 28.
The Burlington Rotary Carnival features
North American Midway Entertainment,
which is the largest traveling outdoor
amusement midway in the country.

For unlimited carnival rides, a Mega
Pass can be purchased for the carnival's
entire run at a cost of \$75. The Mega Pass
includes gate entry and parking on the
grounds. The pass is available until May 23
at Richter's Marketplace in Burlington from
7 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Fox River State Bank
during normal business hours.

The carnival is open from 5 to 10 p.m.
on Thursday, May 24; 4 p.m. to midnight
on Friday, May 25; 10 a.m. to midnight on
Saturday and Sunday, May 26 and 27; and
noon to 7 p.m. on Memorial Day, May 28.

A new ride band is needed for each day
unless a Mega Pass is purchased. Ride
bands are \$30 on the grounds.

For a full schedule of event during
Burlington's ChocolateFest, visit
chocolatefest.com.



FILE PHOTO BY LAUREN HENNING Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Veterans host a Memorial Day observation in Echo Park in conjunction with ChocolateFest. This year's event is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on May 28.



FILE PHOTO BY LAUREN HENNING Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Thousands line the streets of Burlington for the annual Memorial Day Parade, which is held prior to the community's solemn observance.

WARM UP WITH THE ANNUAL BIKE RIDE

The annual Chocolate City Bike Ride is set for Sunday, May 20, in the Burlington area.

The ride features carefully marked and mapped routes of 23, 40 and 62 miles on low-traffic roads through Racine and Kenosha counties. It also includes a 10-mile family ride on the White River Bike Trail.

The event starts at Burlington High School, 400 McCanna Parkway, Burlington.

The ride includes refreshments and bathroom rest stops cue sheet, sag wagon and a complimentary gift.

Registration is \$25 for the road events and \$30 for the family event. Riders can register the day of the ride or online at signmeup.com. Event day registration opens at 6 a.m.



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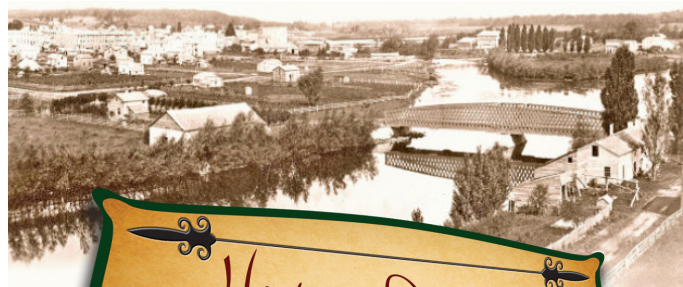
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FIRST LAND CLAIM

Burlington was located at the junction of the White River and Fox River in southeastern Wisconsin. The first land claim was made around December of 1835, when Moses Smith and William Whiting carved their names and date on trees near the present Standard-Press building on Pine Street. Returning with Lemuel Smith and Benjamin Perce weeks later, the four built a shanty on the east side of the Fox River in what is now Wehmhoff-Jucker Park.

EARLY SETTLEMENT

In 1836 Daniel Rork made a claim to land on which much of the early settlement was built. In 1837 Moses Smith was appointed postmaster of the settlement, then called Foxville. The name was changed to Burlington on July 15, 1839. After completion of the dam, sawmill and grain mill, the first bridge to span the Fox River was built. Since then the population has grown from two, to four, to today over 10,500 people.

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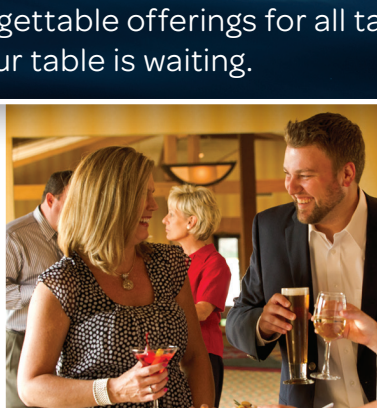
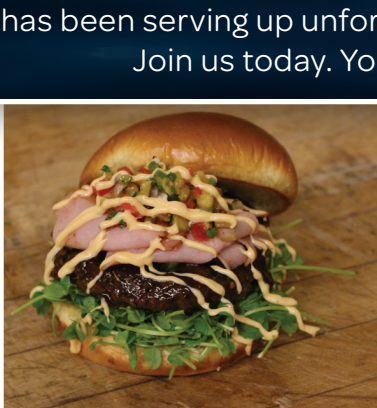


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