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Dear Readers,

Welcome to our summer issue — *finally*! It's been a long time in the making, interrupted in April to give everyone in our office the opportunity to stay home and stay healthy, and thankfully we all are. Because *At The Lake* is a quarterly publication, I typically reflect on the season that's upon us in this slice of the magazine, but I would be remiss if I didn't say a few words about the spring we just endured. The word "unprecedented" is probably overused, but how do you characterize stay-at-home orders, a shutdown of schools and most businesses, toilet paper shortages and endless Amazon deliveries? According to the CDC, we're not out of the woods, but for now it's good to be working again and to be publishing this issue of *At The Lake*.

From all of us, I'd like to thank our loyal advertisers who have supported our efforts and believed there would be a summer to celebrate — maybe not in traditional ways — but summertime at the lake, no matter the circumstances, is reason to raise a glass.

We have several stories in this issue that are cause for celebration. This year marks the 15th anniversary of the donation of Black Point Estate & Gardens to the state of Wisconsin by William O. Petersen. We revisit this treasure on page 32.

In addition, we document the success of Big Foot High School graduates Harry Melges IV and Finn Rowe who have been making their mark on the international sailing community and are continuing their quest for an Olympic medal. Read about their journey starting on page 60.

Tradition and history are always worth celebrating, and in this issue the 120-year-old former steam yacht *Matriark* is featured in our portfolio beginning on page 44. Like the *Matriak*, another constant on Geneva Lake is the Water Safety Patrol, which is marking its 100th anniversary. See page 135 for our Q&A with Ted Pankau, the Patrol's director for 30 years.

We hope you enjoy this issue. Even though you're picking it up a little later than normal, there's still a lot of summer left at the lake — so celebrate! (And stay safe.)

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barb".

Barb Howell, Editor



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28

## FEATURES

### 28 **PROFILE: KEEPER OF THE PAST**

BY LISA SCHMELZ

Patti Marsicano works to ensure Delavan's history is preserved and its stories told

### 32 **TIMELESS TREASURE**

BY JOHN HALVERSON

Fifteen years after its donation to the state, Black Point Estate & Gardens is deemed one of the 10-best home-estate tours in the country

### 44 **MATRIARK: GRAND DAME OF GENEVA LAKE**

BY ANNE MORRISSY

After two restorations, the 120-year-old former steamer is now a beloved piece of living history



60



70



44

### 52 **A PASSION FOR FARMING AND THEIR COMMUNITY**

BY JENNIFER BRADLEY

Grassway Organics connects food and people, sharing knowledge and a little fun

### 60 **INHERIT THE WIND**

BY ANNE MORRISSY

Local sailing phenoms set their sights on an Olympic medal

### 70 **A GATHERING PLACE**

BY SHELBY DEERING

A striking home on Geneva Lake's south shore serves as the hub for a growing family and lifelong memoirs

### 88 **THE BEST PART ABOUT THURSDAYS**

BY SHELBY ROWE MOYER

Foodies and friends flock to the farmer's market in Lake Geneva

### 93 **BACK TO OUR ROOTS**

BY AMANDA N. WEGNER

The Walworth County Fair still stands the test of time for thousands each year

### 102 **A FAIRY TALE**

BY SHELBY DEERING

A Lake Geneva resident displays her love for flowers and all things miniature in her fairy garden



93



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## 110 CUISINE: ONE-DISH WONDER-ARROZ CON POLLO

BY BILL TURNER,  
BRAVADO COOKING  
Flavorful and easy, this international favorite goes from stovetop to oven in no time

## 116 LAKESHORE LIVING: THE DESIGN COACH

Special Advertising Section

## 123 WELL BEING: SETTING TEENS UP FOR SUCCESS

BY AMANDA N. WEGNER  
Two local professionals share their insights on why part-time employment for teens has lifelong benefits

## 128 SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT: WHERE KIDS CAN JUST BE KIDS

BY LISA SCHMELZ  
Camp One Step brings joy, hope and healing to kids with cancer

## 135 Q&A WITH TED PANKAU

As Geneva Lake Water Safety Patrol Director for 30 years, Ted Pankau reflects on the organization that keeps the lake's waters safe

### IN EVERY ISSUE

EDITOR'S PAGE .....	6
CURRENTS .....	20
DINING DIRECTORY .....	136
ADVERTISER INDEX .....	144
LIFE AT THE LAKE .....	146

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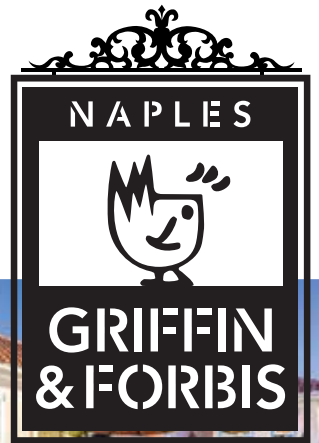
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At The Lake magazine is a publication of Nei-Turner Media Group, Inc. Gary E. Nei, Chairman; William Turner, President; Barbara Krause, Publisher. 400 Broad St., Lake Geneva, WI 53147.

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At The Lake® magazine is published quarterly by Nei-Turner Media Group, Inc., 400 Broad St., Unit D, Lake Geneva, WI 53147.

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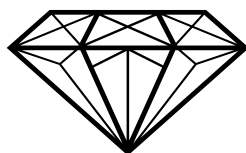
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## OPEN FOR BUSINESS WITH A NEW KIND OF NORMAL

Since mid-May when the Wisconsin Supreme Court overturned the state's "Safer At Home" order, businesses in the lakes area have been adapting their operations as they reopen to the public.

*At The Lake* polled a random sampling of popular local destinations and found a wide range of methods are being employed to ensure the safety of staff, customers and the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

At **Lake Geneva Cruise Line**, General Manager Jack Lothian says they're implementing pod seating arrangements instead of traditional rows. "This allows us to seat each group that purchases tickets together, with ample spacing between those groups," he explains.

In addition, Lothian says, "Customers are encouraged to purchase tickets online or over the phone and can go directly to the pier without checking in at the ticket window." Lothian adds, "Boarding is located at our center dock, while disembarking is on the west pier, separating the two tour groups. Plus additional time has been added between tours for disinfection.

"We are using social distancing as our primary defense against the spread of the virus," Lothian says. "Staff are encouraged to put on a mask when social distancing is not a viable option. We require all employees to take their temperature and complete a symptoms screening before each shift, following the appropriate [CDC] guidelines."

**Black Point Estate & Gardens**, a Wisconsin Historic Site, is working under the state's Badger Bounce Back Plan, according to Black Point Site Director Dave Desimone. This phased approach means certain restrictions may be eased if public health criteria are met. For example, Desimone says, masks are now required to be worn by Black Point staff but could become optional, and group sizes are limited to 10 or less but could be increased to 50.

Desimone says, "All staff and guests must maintain social distancing of 6 feet or more; hand sanitizer will be available at entry points; high-touch areas, such as door handles, railings, counter surfaces and credit card machines will be cleaned multiple times per day, as well as restrooms."

At **Safari Lake Geneva**, owner Jay Christie has implemented a whole new business model. In the past, visitors

would climb aboard a wagon and enjoy a guided tour of the property and its approximately 20 species of animals. As social distancing restrictions were put into place, Christie says the sanctuary pivoted away from its typical safari offerings and began allowing guests to drive around the park on their own.

The near touchless experience allows guests to book and pay for a reservation online, only coming into physical contact with staff if they order a bucket of grain to feed the animals. According to Christie, other changes include shuttering their gift shop and small animal walk-through. Restrooms are disinfected hourly and animal feed buckets are cleaned between each use.

Ryan Jonas, president of the **East Troy Railroad Museum** says, "We have taken extra time to plan a thoughtful reopening strategy. It's crucial that everyone takes an active role in maintaining each other's safety.

"We will be selling and scanning tickets electronically," Jonas says, "so there should be no need for anyone to exchange cash. We have replaced all our bathroom toilets and faucets with "touch-less" equipment and we'll have hand sanitizers



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Jonas explains all volunteers at the East Troy Electric Railroad will be wearing masks and the railroad will require visitors to wear masks while riding the trains. In addition, they are limiting the number of passengers, so family groups are seated more than 6 feet away from each other. Only train cars with operable windows will be used this season to ensure fresh air circulates, and cars will be disinfected manually after each train returns and before boarding a new set of passengers.

**Tristan Crist Magic Theatre**, another family-friendly attraction, is also limiting the number of visitors. They’re operating at 30% capacity, according to owner Tristan Crist, with each group having three empty seats on each side and an empty row in front and behind them.

Other measures such as markings on the floor to encourage social distancing in the lobby and the availability of a spacious outdoor patio, ensure visitors remain separated before entering the theatre. Employees are wearing masks, propping doors open for a no-touch experience, and a strict cleaning regimen has been put in place before, during and after every performance. Also, Crist says, they’ve eliminated onstage audience participation and the post-show meet and greet sessions.

This summer, **Belfry Music Theatre** is operating with a full set of public health guidelines for its live tribute band performances. According to a Belfry representative, their public health safeguards are fluid but in mid-June they were performing temperature checks and requiring all attendees to wear masks upon entry to the theatre.

Other operational changes include fewer seats in the theatre, empty seats between those that are occupied, open exterior and interior doors, no intermission, and complete sanitation of restrooms prior to each performance with CDC-approved disinfectant.

For those who may not feel comfortable attending a concert in person, the Belfry is trying a live streaming option for some of their performances.

On June 1, **Imagine Geneva Lakes** opened its doors to the movie-going public with a strategic public health plan. According to a press release by Troy, Michigan-based Imagine Entertainment Inc., the Lake Geneva complex underwent a thorough cleaning and disinfecting program and has instituted a variety of protocols to ensure the cleanliness of the venue.

Guests are encouraged to purchase tickets online, which allows seat selection and contact-free ticketing. In addition, guests are encouraged to respect social distancing guidelines and wear masks when in the lobby and restrooms. One-way aisle traffic for entering and exiting the theatre is in place, and an increased time frame between all showings is allowing for a thorough cleaning between show times.

In downtown Lake Geneva, the **Geneva Lake Museum** is welcoming back visitors seven days a week. They’ve installed hand sanitizing stations, social distancing marks on the floor and a Plexiglass barrier at the front counter. The staff is also implementing a regular disinfecting routine and online ticket/admission sales.

“We are now a hands-off museum,” says Janet Ewing museum director of administration. “We encourage visitors to look, but please don’t touch.”

“We plan to be flexible [in our guidelines] as these are uncharted waters,” she adds.

Just a few blocks away on Broad Street is **Gallery 223**, home to the Geneva Lake Arts Foundation. GLAF President Nikki Marsicano says before opening in mid-May they turned to the CDC and WEDC (Wisconsin Economic Development Corp.) guidelines. “As per these guidelines we’re limiting five people in the gallery at a time,” she says.

“We have signage at the entry of the gallery stating we require face masks — we also have masks available for guests who don’t have them. Upon entering, we have a touchless hand sanitizer system. We’ve also marked the floors with arrows and added signage for social distancing and a Plexiglass screen on the desktop for our volunteer’s protection,” she explains.

Marsicano says a simple thing like moving

the price stickers to the front of the art prints and cards to eliminate excessive touching of products was implemented.

Right across the street, **Cornerstone Shop & Gallery** co-owner Karin Bennett is taking similar steps to make customers and staff feel safe. A door greeter welcomes people through its Broad and Main street entrance — the other entrance is currently only being used as an exit — and is offering hand sanitizer and encouraging people to wear masks. For those that don’t have one, the shop is offering disposable masks and asking for a donation, with all proceeds being donated to the Lakeland Animal Shelter. Roughly 30-35 people are being allowed in at a time, less than the usual foot traffic numbers this time of year, Bennett says.

Maintaining a retail company during COVID-19 has been a game of creativity. “It’s definitely impacted us,” she says. “Not only because of a loss of revenue, but we also lost some of our employees that aren’t comfortable returning.”

A mainstay during the summer and fall is the **Lake Geneva Farmer’s Market**, which typically opens the first Thursday in May, but this year made its debut May 28.

Market manager Sean Payne says a handwashing station is positioned at the beginning of the market, and vendors are wrapped around Horticultural Hall, allowing for ease of flow.

All vendors are positioned 6 feet apart with tables in front of their booths to create a barrier between themselves and customers. Vendor staff have been asked to wear masks and gloves, with one person bagging merchandise and the other handling transactions to help prevent cross contamination, Payne says. When visiting a booth, customers can point to what they want, and the staff will assist them from there.

“We’re not going to enforce it, but we’re asking for 6 feet of social distancing and that customers wear a mask, and we’d prefer credit cards over cash,” he says.

“Public health measures are changing constantly, so it’s possible the market will change its approach as the season goes on,” says Payne.



Five of the original six artists gathered at the Green Grocer in Williams Bay for an exhibit of their work. From left: Kathy Walsh, Fontana; Sandy Kessel, East Troy; Jeanne Dyer, Lake Geneva; Lynne Railsback, Williams Bay; and Celine Lillie, Wheaton, Illinois.

### KNOW YOUR NATIVES EXHIBIT

What started as a group of friends enjoying coffee on Friday mornings, turned into a project to document native plant species found at Kishwaukee Nature Conservancy in Williams Bay. The group frequently hiked the Conservancy's trails in search of plants to paint, with their gathering of six expanding to 10 by 2019.

To date, they've created 48 paintings and 30 will be on display at Gallery 223, home to the Geneva Lake Arts Foundation, 223 Broad St., Lake Geneva. The exhibit, called "Kishwaukee: Know Your Natives," runs through July 26. The gallery will host a Meet the Artist reception from 1-3 p.m., July 12.

The group and their work were also recognized nationally in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, last fall when they were awarded the Esther Plotnick Artist grant for "Kishwaukee: Know Your Natives." Presented by the American Society of Botanical Artists, the grant is one of three awarded nationally, and will be used locally to stage future exhibitions and produce additional educational material for visitors to the Conservancy. The group and its art were also featured in the June 2020 issue of *The Botanical Artist, Journal of The American Society of Botanical Artists*.

For more information about the Geneva Lake Arts Foundation and its exhibits, visit [genevalakeartsfoundation.org](http://genevalakeartsfoundation.org).

### WSP BOAT GETS NEW LOOK

The Water Safety Patrol's legendary wooden boat, the *Richard W. Scherff*,



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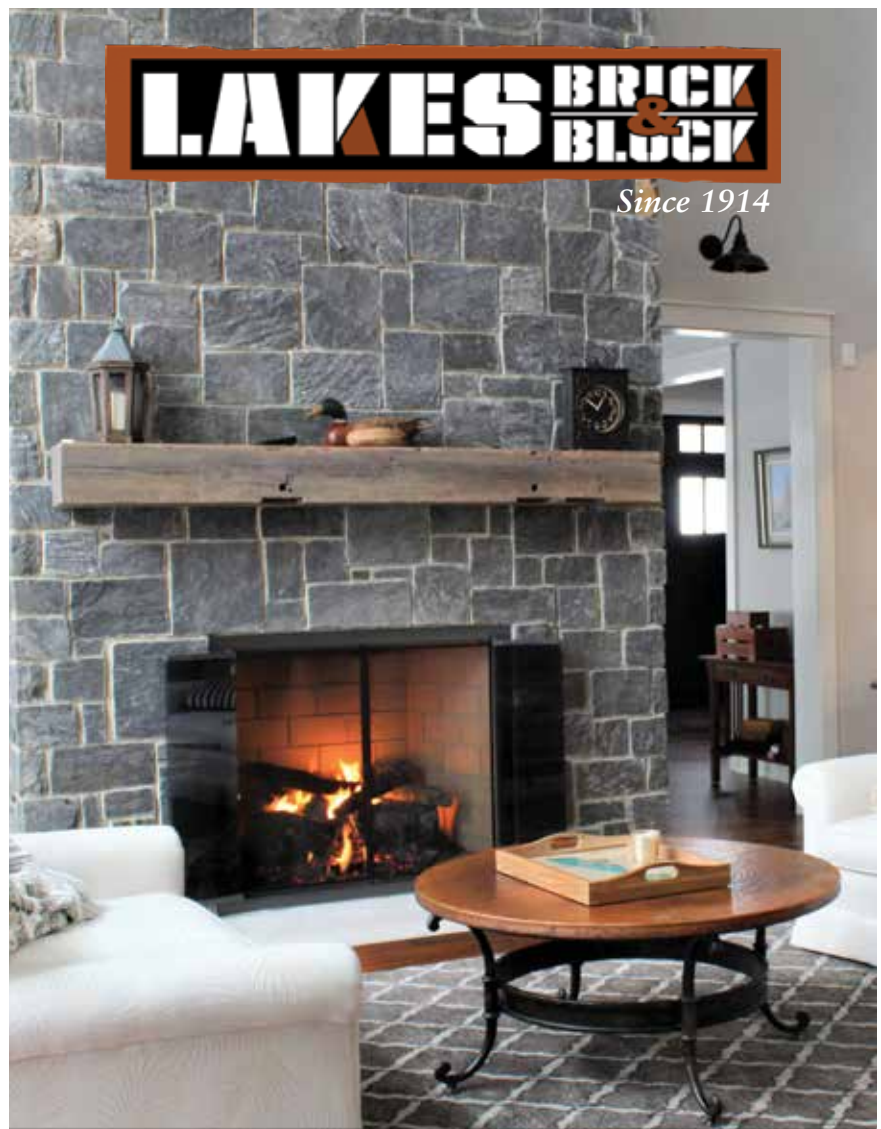
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known as Boat #1, is sporting a refreshed look this summer.

In fall 2019, Streblow Custom Boats in Lake Geneva began the most ambitious restoration project to Boat #1 in its history. The Streblow crew replaced transom boards and upholstery, added new white deck seams and painted the bottom sky blue to match the bow's deck. In addition, they sanded and painted the sides.

Since 1966, Boat #1 has patrolled the waters of Geneva Lake. It was built by Bill Budyck under the mentorship of Duane "Dude" Assman. Its design pays special attention to strength and durability with features such as extra reinforcement and thicker planking. Weighing 6,170 pounds, Boat #1 has towed nearly everything on the lake from large excursion boats to fireworks barges. It's not only a vintage icon of Geneva Lake, but an irreplaceable workhorse and lifesaving vessel.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Water Safety Patrol on Geneva Lake and to commemorate this milestone, the Patrol commissioned local writer Anne Morrissy to document its history in "Running the Reds: The First 100 Years of the Water Safety Patrol: 1920-2020." To order your copy, visit [watersafetypatrol.org](http://watersafetypatrol.org).

## LIBRARY HOPES TO LAUNCH STORYCORPS SOON

This spring, Lake Geneva Public Library and its foundation were on the verge of beginning a collaborative project with StoryCorps, a national oral history organization which records and preserves community stories, when COVID-19 began to sweep the country. Now, after months of delays, the program is closer to being up and running, albeit in a different form, according to Chris Brookes, project facilitator.

The award-winning nonprofit organization typically sends a training team from their New York office to work with local groups, in this case, a team of facilitators from the Lake Geneva Public Library. With travel from New York on hold, StoryCorps has developed a new digital platform that will give community members the chance to record interviews about their lives. StoryCorps will then preserve the recordings at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

Brookes says the program is "a wonderful way to preserve local stories that might be lost. We have a small town, but with a lot of interesting people and history," and she stresses, "you don't have to be famous to participate."

The program, she says, was founded on the premise that individuals would sit down, face-to-face at one of StoryCorps recording sites throughout the country and share a 40-minute conversation.

The new digital platform, StoryCorps Connect, enables recording conversations when individuals are unable to be in the same room. Using videoconferencing technology, StoryCorps Connect records and archives the audio from the conversation

in their online archive. Although the digital platform does not create the same experience as being in the same room while having a conversation or having a facilitator support it, this solution allows the project in Lake Geneva to move forward.

Brookes says they've been excited to get started with the StoryCorps project since early spring. The library's foundation, friends' group as well as trustees have overwhelmingly backed it, and the library has also obtained support from approximately 20 local businesses.

StoryCorps was founded in 2003 by radio producer David Isay as a way to build connections between people and create a more just and compassionate world. For updates about the program at the Lake Geneva Public Library, visit [lakegeneva.lib.wi.us/about/storycorps](http://lakegeneva.lib.wi.us/about/storycorps).

## BORG BUILDING REBORN AS INDUSTRIAL-INSPIRED APARTMENTS

A thread of Delavan's industrial past has been rewoven into an apartment building developed specifically with units listed below market rate for local, entry-level professionals, teachers and nonprofit employees.

The Brassworks Apartments have been constructed within the shell of the George W. Borg Corporation building, a significant building in Delavan's history that dates back to 1943. The building was recently granted a designation on the National Register of Historic Places.

Sig Strautmanis, a developer with General Capital Group, says when he saw the property in 2015, he knew it would be the perfect candidate for a





residential remodel. At the time, it was Bergmont Brassworks, which owns the building and manufactures anything from buckles to awards, but the company didn't need a factory of that scale and was looking to downsize.

"The first time I pulled up to what was Bergmont Brassworks and looked at it, I stood in awe that nobody had done this project," Strautmanis says.


Nearly unrecognizable from the inside, the Borg building now hosts 73 apartments in approximately 100,000 square feet, and roughly 1,000 square feet has been carved out for commercial space. Residential community spaces include a "networking lounge," business center, a fitness area and outdoor spaces with a pavilion and seating.

In order to maintain the integrity and character of the historic building, Strautmanis says his team worked closely with the Wisconsin Historical Society and the National Parks Service for historic preservation tax credits, approval of changes and the


preservation of historic elements. The original wood flooring, for example, was removed, refinished and reinstalled in the hallways and entries into the units. The window size was maintained and custom windows were installed, an element that really harkens to the building's past life. Even the staircase at the front entrance was preserved and takes guests to a space that feels akin to the original lobby.

The building, which was nominated by Strautmanis for historical recognition, has a history of manufacturing mechanical devices and textiles, according to the Wisconsin Historical Society.

During World War II, the Borg Corp. produced mechanical time fuses for anti-aircraft shells, later it would be home to the Borg Fabric division, and in 1982 Bergamot Brass moved into the building and manufactured its products there, until recent years.

For more information about the development, including floor plans, visit [brassworksapt.com](http://brassworksapt.com). 

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# KEEPER OF THE PAST

Patti Marsicano works to ensure Delavan's history is preserved and its stories told

BY LISA SCHMELZ

What would propel someone not native to a region to be one of its biggest historical preservation champions? If we're talking about Patti Marsicano of Delavan, the powerhouse behind the Delavan Historical Society, the answer is simple. Her paternal grandmother.

Overlook the fact that her paternal grandmother, Jean Dallas, was not from here and stay with us as Marsicano connects the dots.

"The interest in history came about through my interest in genealogy," she says. "Some people think that genealogy and history are two different things, but I think they are both tied together. There wouldn't be one without the other. When you're looking at family names and dates, you have to know what was going on then to know what records to search for and find out what life was like.

"[My interest] in history all comes down to a mystery I have not been able to solve yet: my grandmother. She said she was from Houston, Texas, but I can't find her [records] there. Everything that has ever referenced where she was born says she was born in Houston, Texas, but there's no record of her there."

So does Marsicano think there's more to the story of her grandmother, maybe even something that's been deliberately hidden all these years? "Oh, yeah," she says. "There's gotta be."

## A LITTLE BACKGROUND

Any story about Patti Marsicano and her

dedication to making sure local history is known to future generations, not to mention her dedication to civic life in general, would be wildly remiss without some background on Marsicano herself.

Born in Evergreen Park, Illinois, to Carl and JoAnn (Minnich) Ruth, Marsicano was one of four children. The family lived in Alsip, Illinois; her father was a sheet metal worker and her mother worked full time as a registered nurse. Marsicano was introduced to Walworth County by a girlfriend whose family had a cottage on North Lake in Millard. In 1978, she married and moved with her first husband to Delavan.

Delavan quickly became home, and she remained there after she and her first husband divorced. In 1993, she married Chris Marsicano, who co-owns The Village Supper Club with his brother, David.

How did she and Chris, who live on the Delavan Inlet, meet? "We don't know," she says, laughing. "That's a good question. We have no clue. We just kind of knew each other."

When did they start dating? "Probably after I'd been working at the restaurant for a year — at The Village — I bartended there," she explains.

But eight months after they started dating, she adds, they married. They have no children together, however, she has three from her previous marriage, seven grandchildren and her first great-

grandchild was on the way when this interview was conducted in April.

Being busy operating The Village Supper Club hasn't kept the couple from being active in Delavan township and in the city of Delavan. Over the years they've supported more causes than they can recall, including acting as hosts for an annual Thanksgiving dinner for the community and helping launch the Tavern League of Wisconsin's SafeRide program locally. Through it all, Marsicano was filling in the branches on her family tree. Eventually, local history came knocking.

"I got involved with the historical society in 2003," she recalls. "There had been incarnations of the historical society and 2003 was the fourth incarnation."

Why so many incarnations? "I'm not really sure. In the early days, I'm sure it was hard to keep it going. That's something I have no history of, those earlier incarnations, of why they didn't continue."

But the latest version of the Delavan Historical Society has not just continued under her leadership, it has thrived. As its president since 2003, she's led the group on a shoestring budget through a number of successful campaigns, including the installation of the Walldogs murals across the city and town. The 20 massive hand-painted artistic renderings on the sides of area buildings depict key moments and history of the community and were all extensively researched by Marsicano for



the participating artists. Like many historic downtown districts, Delavan struggles with empty storefronts. But the murals have breathed new life into the area.

Marsicano's leadership has also led to the establishment of the Delavan Historical Society Exhibit and Resource Center in the former fire safety building on Ann Street. The center houses artifacts, displays and extensive archives for the public to access.

Newly elected Delavan Mayor Ryan Schroeder says Marsicano's work touches a lot of lives. "I think she, and what she does, matters because we as a community want to preserve our history, and until she kind of came along and reopened the historical society — it had been closed a number of years — people didn't have a place to go to learn about the past or their family's past. But when she got more involved, this center was created."

Denise Pieroni, Delavan's city administrator agrees. "It was an enormous amount of work," she says of the Walldogs' project in particular. "She played such an integral

part in that coming together that I question whether or not it [the project] would have happened without her."

## BECOMING A HISTORIAN

Marsicano's quest to learn more about her paternal grandmother — and countless others in her family tree — has certainly honed her skills as a researcher. While many use the term amateur historian to describe local historians, Marsicano is proof that you don't need a Ph.D. to protect or uncover the past. She's a go-to source for this publication, always helpful with suggestions on which rocks to look under when a writer is researching a story of long ago.

In 2004 she published her first book with Arcadia Publishing. The title was aptly named "Delavan." A compilation of historical photos, and rich, descriptive captions, it remains popular in print. In 2014, she followed with the same publisher with a title "Forgotten Delavan." A trusted member of the community, she put both books together with access to private collections of

photos from longtime families and archival material from major employers, churches and schools.

Humble, she credits her success as an author and historian to others with the same commitment. In her "Delavan" book, she thanks many:

*"I am deeply indebted to Gordon Yadon, Franklin Stoneburner, Charles Spooner, and John Buckles for sharing their vast knowledge of Delavan's history and taking time to make sure it was written acceptably. My appreciation and respect knows no end."*

"Forgotten Delavan" was dedicated to the late W. Gordon Yadon, the former postmaster of Delavan, who lived there his entire life, except for the time he served in the Navy during WWII. Known in state historical circles as Delavan's historian, he died in 2013. His torch has since been passed to Marsicano.

Asked where she'd like to see the society head in the coming years, she doesn't miss a beat. "I would like the historical society to eventually be in a permanent location,"



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she says. "There has been talk about the historical society going into the library, when the library is remodeled, so that is something that is a possibility. If that didn't work out, I would really like to be someplace downtown in a more walkable location. I'd like to get to the point where we're able to provide more outreach to the schools. I know it's about fifth grade when they start working on local history, but I've never had anybody come to me and say 'Hey, we're teaching local history. Can we have someone come out to talk to us?' I'd like to get young people more involved."

And, of course, she'd like to find a paper trail on her paternal grandmother, who she says was "supposedly born in 1912."

"It's a much bigger story," she says of her grandmother's life. "Her father was supposed to have either been a lawyer or a judge. Her mother was supposedly a French immigrant and died of tuberculosis. She [my grandmother] was raised by housekeepers. But the story she spun, not all of it checks out. I'm curious. I will just keep hunting. She's my mystery woman." ▲

## TIME TRAVEL

We asked Patti Marsicano if she could meet any woman from history, who would she want to meet? As expected her answer was decidedly local: Anna (Fields) Mabie Phillips.

Anna hailed from New York and met and married Jeremiah Mabie there. Jeremiah and his brother, Edmund, owned the U.S. Olympic Circus. At the time, it was the country's largest traveling circus. When the brothers chose Delavan as their winter headquarters in 1847, a year before Wisconsin gained statehood, they used much of what is now Lake Lawn Resort property to support the needs of circus animals. Initially, Anna didn't join Jeremiah here. What is now Wisconsin was then frontier land and "a little rougher life than what they were living in New York" Marsicano explains.

Sometime in the 1860s, though, Jeremiah

brought Anna to Delavan. They had two daughters. When Jeremiah died, she remarried Chester Phillips and they had two sons. Anna and Chester, says Marsicano, set out to open a boarding facility.

"He ended up dying a couple of months before it was open, and she opened it on her own," says Marsicano. "She started the first Lake Lawn. She would intrigue me because of the timeframe that incorporates Lake Lawn and the circus. Shortly after it opened, Lake Lawn had the first steamboat on the lake. She lived in a time when there was so much going on here in Delavan that I can't think of another woman who would know the history better than her."

Indeed, but Marriscano certainly runs a close second. —L.S.

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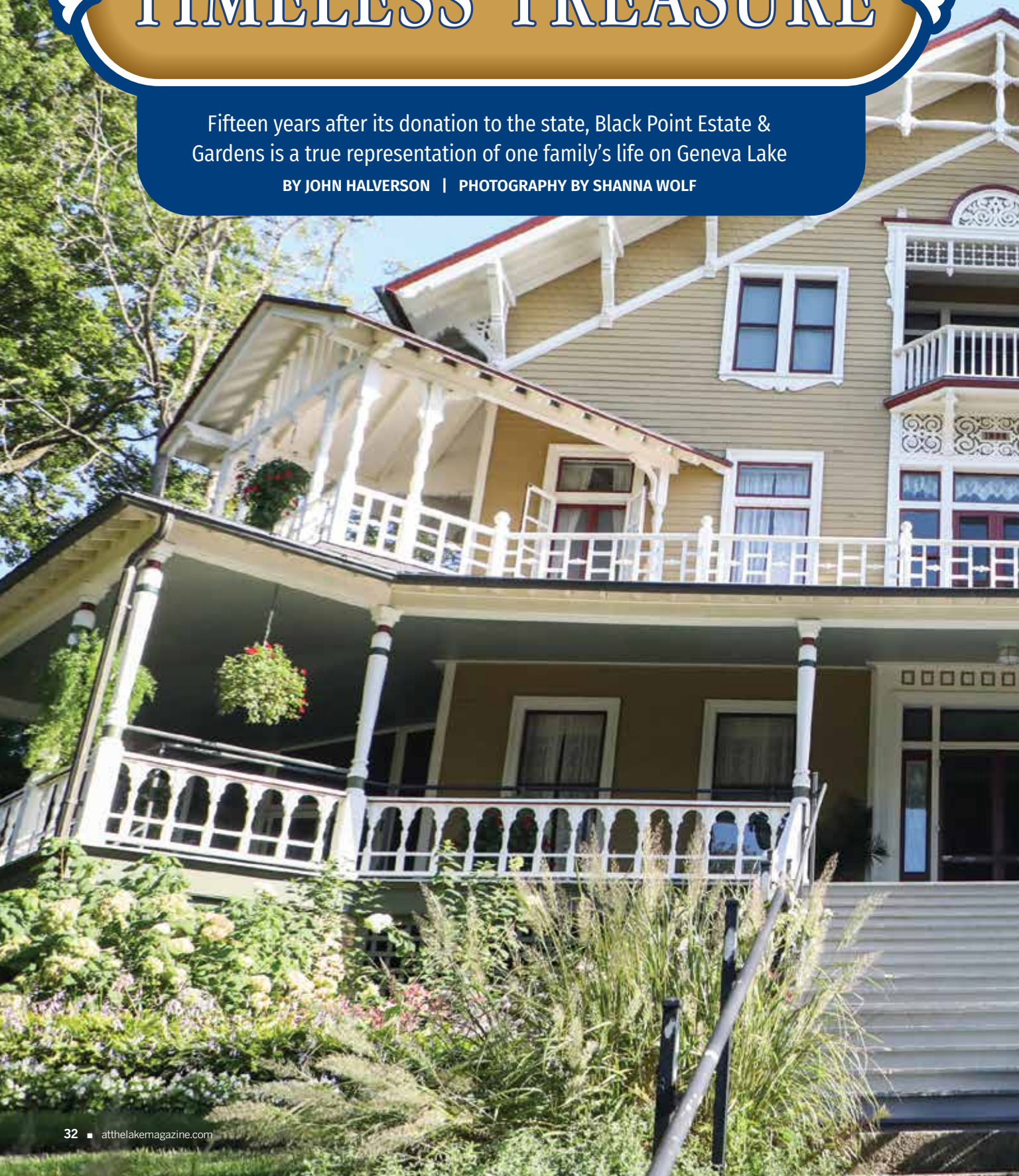
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# TIMELESS TREASURE

Fifteen years after its donation to the state, Black Point Estate & Gardens is a true representation of one family's life on Geneva Lake

BY JOHN HALVERSON | PHOTOGRAPHY BY SHANNA WOLF







“Our story is really more about the passing of time as experienced by one family in one location for more than 117 years,” says David Desimone, site director of Black Point Estate & Gardens.

Yet the mansion on the south shore of Geneva Lake, which has drawn tens of thousands of visitors, puts things in perspective. Reminders of past eras are scattered throughout — eras of great transitions and the overcoming of great challenges.

Black Point was built as a summer home by Conrad Seipp, a Chicago beer baron. It’s become one of the most attractive tourist destinations in the Geneva Lakes area. (Although this year, its opening date was delayed due to COVID-19.)





Catharina Seipp is surrounded by extended family in this undated photo. Black Point was used each summer by family members for 117 years until the Seipp's great-grandson, William Petersen, donated it to the state of Wisconsin in September 2005, for use as a historic site.



In 1887 Chicago beer baron Conrad Seipp and his second wife, Catharina, began construction of their 20-room cottage on Geneva Lake. Conrad would enjoy the home for only two seasons before his death in 1890.

Most historical sites, similar to Black Point, are stuck in time. Historians, like Desimone, call these “periods of significance.” But Black Point is unusual in that it represents generations. While it can be appreciated for its architecture and its grandeur and its grand view of Geneva Lake, it also shows how life was lived from one year to the next and how the events that shaped the Seipp family and the world made their mark on it.

#### IF THESE WALLS COULD TALK

Black Point was an active home before automobiles and electricity, through depressions and two World Wars, to John F. Kennedy's assassination, to Watergate, to 9-11 and beyond. And it's still here — a constant — in an everchanging world, with memories and a place in history that will outlive us all.

The objects in the house are as varied as the eras and the family members who called Black Point home. According to Desimone, the property includes books from the 1870s, “On the Road” by Jack Kerouac from the 1950s and the 1993 novel “Girl Interrupted.”

There is furniture and other household items from the 1860s to the 1920s and beyond, including brass bed frames that became popular after the 1918 influenza pandemic — because they could be more easily cleaned than wood — and a 1970s green shag rug.

There is clothing left behind from the 1900s, including a Victorian dress, a cocktail dress from the early 1950s,

1930's German lederhosen and a 1990's baseball cap.

There are toys — a collection from the 1870s comprised of a dollhouse, wooden dolls, wagons and animals, a 1930's Monopoly board, even coloring books from the 1960s. You'll also find linens from the 1890s, embroidery samplers, 1910 pillowcases and 1940's napkins.

On a personal tour for *At the Lake*, Desimone stopped at a closet and pulled out a magazine from 1996.

“Someone just threw it in here, figuring ‘I’ll finish it later,’” Desimone says. “I’m probably the first guy to move it since then.” On the shelf above, he noted a photo of Abe Lincoln from the mid-1860s.

Then there's an entire bookshelf, with common things spanning more than 100 years, all sharing the same family provenance.

#### AN ACTIVE SUMMER “COTTAGE”

“It doesn't feel like a showcase,” Desimone says of Black Point. “It feels more like my grandmother's house. People don't want to see more decorated bedrooms. They want to peek behind the curtain and see how people lived.”

The mansion was a playful place, where Seipp children played hide and seek in the home's many nooks and crannies and slid down the roof. There was even a 12-foot-long dragon on the property made with plaster of Paris.



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“And on a rainy Tuesday when they couldn’t go swimming, they’d open the closets and play dress-up,” Desimone says.

Every bedroom led to the balcony, he explains. The child most likely to be the most mischievous was placed next to grandma’s room, where she’d surely notice any culprit wanting to make a quick escape.

The 20-room Queen Anne-style “cottage,” designed by architect Adolph Cudell, was completed in 1888 for \$20,000. That’s about a half million dollars in today’s money. Still, it was a pittance compared to the cost of one of Seipp’s Chicago mansions, which had a price tag of \$250,000 — \$6 million now.

The estate included 13 bedrooms and only one bathroom. Since then, makeshift bathrooms were added in closets throughout the house.

“In the Victorian era women might only take one bath a week,” Desimone says. “Us hardy guys would go down to the lake with a bar of soap.”

The term “cottage” seems like a misnomer, but it fit the definition of a summer residence that was not used year-round. In fact, the estate is still not fit for year-round occupancy. In the off-

season, furniture and artwork are draped in sheets as protection against the cold.

Unfortunately, Seipp was able to enjoy the house and gardens for only two seasons before his death in 1890.

#### FROM ÉMIGRÉ TO WEALTHY BEER BARON

Seipp outlived many challenges in his own life, first escaping from Germany during a tumultuous time, when revolution in Europe was at a high point. Born in 1825, Seipp emigrated to the United States in 1849. Soon after, he was married and moved to the Chicago area, where he landed a job driving a beer wagon.

He saved enough to buy a brewery but within a year it burned to the ground. Unwavering, Seipp built a new brewery, this time constructed of brick. It flourished; then his wife of 18 years died. He married another German émigré (Catharina) within a year.

Much of Chicago burned in the fire of 1871. Seipp was lucky because his brewery was far enough out of the city to avoid the blaze that devastated so many. Seipp took a benevolent stance.

In “Black Point Legacy” by Anne Celano Frohna, Seipp states, “There were lots of people ruined at that time.” He goes

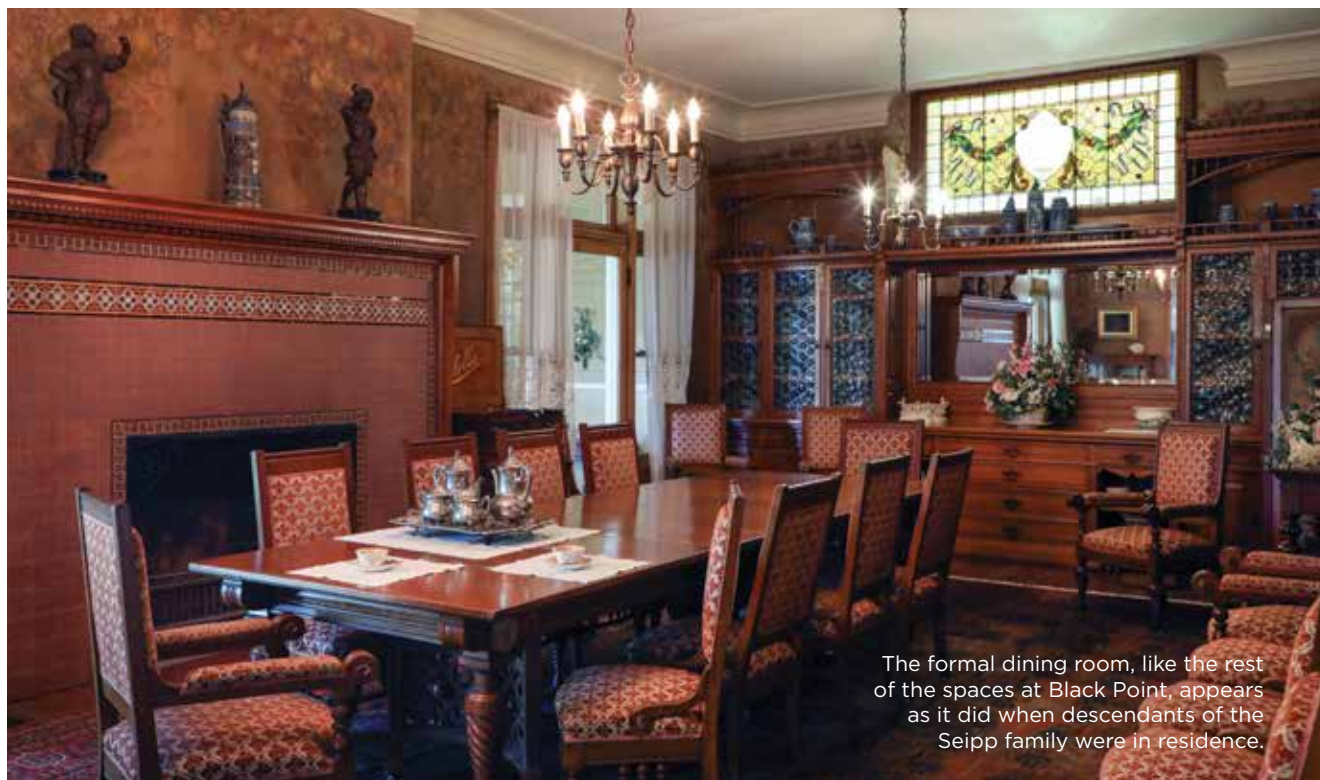
on to say, “I always think when I see a poor fellow in the street, if he has to all appearances [been] an honest man, maybe somebody has made money out of his misfortune. And if he chances to come to me, I can’t turn him away.”

Along the way, Seipp became one of Chicago’s richest men and built a grandiose home in the city, but he longed for a house “where I could see the bright green lake, instead of a palace where I can see nothing.”

Those longings led him to Geneva Lake, then a burgeoning spot for the Chicago elite, a jaunt made easier by a train connection to the small town of Lake Geneva. At first, he and his family visited Kaye’s Park Resort on Geneva Lake but eventually made a home on an adjacent property — a place that became known as Black Point.

#### A GENEROUS GIFT BRINGS YEARS OF DEBATE

Bill and Jane Petersen were the last family members to own the estate. “They wanted to make sure it existed long after they were gone and not sold to a developer and destroyed and the land subdivided,” Desimone explains. “They worked for more than 10 years to make that dream a reality, ultimately donating the property to the state of Wisconsin in 2005 so that it could be used as a museum.”

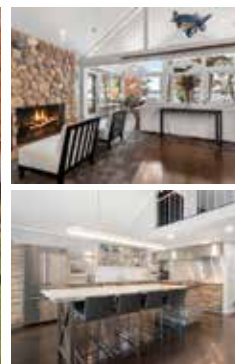


The formal dining room, like the rest of the spaces at Black Point, appears as it did when descendants of the Seipp family were in residence.



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The furnishings at Black Point are original to the house. Each of the four generations that enjoyed the property added their own touches and left behind items that provide reminders of past eras.

You'd think a donation of such a historic mansion would be welcome. But residents around the lake fought the Petersens with legal actions.

They worried that the property wouldn't be maintained and that tourists would overrun the neighborhood, and they feared property values would go down. Those fears didn't come to fruition.

The agreement limited the number of people who visit the estate at one time and meant that almost all arrived by the Lake Geneva Cruise Line or bus.

Would the transaction not have occurred if an agreement hadn't been reached with the Cruise Line? "Probably not," Desimone says. "As everyone knows around Geneva Lake, the Cruise Line is a top flight operation and while it does make a visit to Black Point one of the more expensive historic house tickets, the experience of the cruise and the house tour are truly unique, and in many ways helps us separate ourselves from the more than 10,000 other historic houses in the United States."

The estate is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It gained that status because the building was deemed architecturally significant and mostly unaltered and original. It's been named among the 10-best home-estate tours in the United States by *Fodor's Travel* alongside Biltmore Estate, Mount Vernon and Monticello.

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Black Point Estate & Gardens sits on eight acres and has 620 feet of Geneva Lake shoreline. Views of the lake are spectacular from many vantage points on the property, including from the home's third-floor tower, shown above left and right.



There have been changes, including a new roof, a restored exterior paint scheme, upgraded utilities, fire detection and security systems, and a rebuilt veranda. The hardwood floors on the first floor have also been restored. The estate has added a woodland garden and planted more than 1,200 plants on the hillside to help with soil erosion.

While improvements are done as needed, the home is kept as authentic as possible — visitors still want to see the estate as it was.

Attendance has varied between 2,500 and 10,000, with mostly steady growth since 2013 when the Wisconsin Historical Society took over. Those numbers are buoyed somewhat by an outreach program which brings the Black Point experience to others at nursing homes and libraries.

“We moved from tourist attraction to historical community resource,” says Desimone. “In other words, we needed to bring the programming to the community and not just wait for people to come and visit.”

Special events have been added, including beer tastings, a “Beer and Brats with Conrad” featuring a Conrad Seipp impersonator, and a Victorian funeral program. This broadens the appeal to those who have already visited.

The annual budget for Black Point is roughly \$300,000. “The economic impact is far more significant than that,” says Desimone. While Black Point doesn’t measure the exact impact on the local economy, the American Association of Museums uses a formula that would put it close to \$1 million annually.

Little did Conrad Seipp know that the cottage on the lake that he built so long ago would survive through so much history and still be available to so many today.

*Editor's Note: Black Point Estate & Gardens opened to the public for the 2020 season on July 1. Due to the fluid nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, please call the site at 262-248-1888 for the latest information regarding tours. ▲*

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# MATRIARK:

## Grande Dame of Geneva Lake Yachts

After two restorations, the 120-year-old former steamer is now a beloved piece of living history

BY ANNE MORRISSY | PHOTOGRAPHY BY HOLLY LEITNER

**IN THE LATE 1940s**, a teenager named Bill Gage begged his father, Russell, to let him drive the family motorboat. Instead, Russell made a deal with him: If Bill could find an older boat that needed some work, they could buy it and restore the boat together and then Russell would teach him to drive it. So Bill went out in a small outboard runabout and began scouting. The boat he found was probably not what Russell originally had in mind. Rusting away in Williams Bay, Bill discovered an 87-foot-long, turn-of-the-century steam yacht formerly owned by Richard Teller Crane, founder of Chicago's famous Crane Company. The boat, formerly known as the *Passaic*, was badly in need of restoration. Although initially skeptical, Russell stepped onto the once-grand yacht and discovered a life's passion.







## FROM PRIVATE YACHT TO WOULD-BE TOUR BOAT

Beginning in the early 1900s, the *Passaic* had been a familiar sight around Geneva Lake. The elegant yacht was built by the Racine Boat Company in 1899 and eventually launched in Williams Bay, with RT Crane's daughter, Dorothy Crane Maxwell, performing the christening honors. Like many families with homes on Geneva Lake during that era, the Cranes used the yacht for transportation from the train station in Williams Bay to their home on the lake. They also used it for trips to places like the Lake Geneva Yacht Club, the Lake Geneva Country Club and other private homes on the lake.

The *Passaic* was designed by marine architect George Warrington, who designed several of the steam yachts on Geneva Lake between 1890 and 1902. (The following year, President Teddy Roosevelt appointed Warrington Chief of the Division of Marine Engineering, a subsidiary of the Department of Commerce, a position he held through 1915.) Born in Chicago in 1856, Warrington went on to study mechanical engineering at the University of Illinois, and then worked in the family's iron works before launching a successful career as a marine architect. Through his social connections in Chicago, Warrington received commissions to design yachts for several of the Gilded Age resorters who built homes on Geneva Lake.

Warrington's design for the Crane family's *Passaic* featured a gracefully curved bow fitted with a bowsprit to evoke an old clipper ship. According to yacht historian Larry Larkin, author of two books on the history of Geneva Lake yachts, the design of the *Passaic* was one of the most elegant and beautiful boats that

Warrington designed during this era. "If you look at the deck line of the [*Passaic*], it rises at the back and dips down slightly toward the front of the cabin and then imperceptibly it begins to curve upward but it flattens out as you get toward the bow," he describes. "It's difficult to create and it's the most important line in the sense of the look of the bow. The [*Passaic*] is a wonderful example of that." The boat's metal hull was plated with quarter-inch-thick steel that was originally painted white. However, RT Crane requested that the smokestack be painted orange with a black band, the official colors of the Crane Company.

The Crane family used the boat through the 1930s, but as steam engines became obsolete and smaller gasoline-powered motorboats took over the lake, the Cranes sold the boat to the Delavan Lake Boat Company for use as a tour boat, at which time the name of the boat was changed to the *Clipper*. However, according to Larkin, the boat was not well suited to Delavan Lake and by the end of WWII, it was out of use. In the summer of 1945, a local businessman named AC Thomas who owned the Speedcraft Transportation Company in Williams Bay bought the boat with the intention of using it for tours on Geneva Lake. He replaced the steam engine with a lighter and safer gasoline engine, but again, Larkin says, the endeavor failed and the boat sat abandoned.

## THE FIRST RESTORATION

By the time Russell and Bill Gage found the boat in the late 1940s, years of neglect had taken a toll. Luckily, Russell Gage had a lot of contacts with knowledge of boats: he had previously been in charge of the Williams Bay-based, boat-building











division of the Globe Corporation, owned by George F. Getz Jr., another Geneva Lake summer resident. With the help of several friends and colleagues, Russell and Bill spent many months in 1949 rebuilding and restoring the boat. They sandblasted and reinforced the steel hull; installed new shafting, new bearings, a new 225-horsepower gasoline engine, an automatic fire extinguishing system and a fresh water system; replaced the deck, the cabin, the brass work and the smokestack; added a power plant and new wiring to provide electric power; and replaced the steering mechanism and the instrument panel, among other upgrades. They renamed the boat the *Matriark*.

Shortly after restoring the boat, Russell Gage took a job in California and put the *Matriark* into storage, but in 1953, he brought his family back to the lake for the summer and converted the *Matriark* into a living quarters for himself, his wife, their two children and the family dog. An article in the *Janesville Gazette* from that summer shows the family on the deck of the boat under the headline, “Geneva Family Lives in Summer Luxury Aboard Renovated Yacht, Matriark.” Five years later, the family moved back to the area permanently when Russell Gage purchased the Wisconsin Transportation Company, a Geneva Lake tour boat company, today known as Lake Geneva Cruise Line.

## A SECOND RESTORATION AND A THIRD GENERATION

Bill Gage eventually took over the family business, and according to Larkin, he became an avid student of yacht design and history. “Bill was a real intellectual for boat history and boat design, and he developed a passion for European boats,” Larkin explains. This deep knowledge of European boat design

influenced another restoration of the *Matriark* that began in 1980 and continued until 1991.

Using his vast research, Bill Gage, along with his son Bill Jr., completed a second significant restoration. “At that time, about 40% of the hull had to be replaced,” Bill Gage Jr., explains. “We changed everything: the engine, the generator, we basically stripped everything off the boat. We saved the original mahogany handrails, brass stanchions, a few other ornamental pieces, and then basically rebuilt everything from scratch.” During this restoration, the exterior of the *Matriark* was painted a deep navy blue inspired by the European yachts that Bill Gage admired, the color it still retains to this day.

Bill Gage has since passed away, and today, Bill Gage Jr., serves as the president of Lake Geneva Cruise Line as well as Gage Marine and popular restaurant and bar Pier 290 in Williams Bay. The *Matriark* is a familiar sight docked outside his family’s home on Geneva Lake’s north shore, and Gage says that he and his family primarily use the boat to enjoy the lake and entertain friends. In addition, Gage frequently makes the *Matriark* available for charity events and occasionally loans it out for private parties. He says the boat has inspired his family in other ways as well.

“For a little over 70 years now, we’ve been taking care of it,” Gage explains. “That love is something that’s been infectious with our family, and it’s extended to other parts of the business as well — whether it’s restoring old steamers for the cruise line or saving salvaged parts and collecting history for the interior of Pier 290. We’re always looking for ways to connect to the past and make it relevant in the current times.” ▲





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**F**or a man who never set foot on a farm until he was 19, Chaz Self says falling in love with organic agriculture may seem like an unlikely path, but it's one that has proven to be the perfect fit for his family. He and his wife, Megan, and their three young sons are celebrating their third season operating Grassway Organics, just 20 minutes from Lake Geneva, near East Troy.

Their 390 acres on Friemoth Road supports pasture-raised chickens, steers, turkeys and hogs. A farm store is open three days a week and offers organic bulk goods as well as the farm's meat products to the public. Their well-known Pizza on the Farm events have been a mainstay, even before the Selfs relocated Grassway Organics from New Holstein, Wisconsin, to East Troy.

Even though they're both lacking farming backgrounds, Chaz and Megan have been fortunate to be the benefactors of some good luck and good mentoring, which has allowed them to become proficient in the many skills it takes to successfully run a multi-animal farm, a store and agri-tourism attraction. Now that the summer season is in full swing, the family is excited to welcome their neighbors, friends and their community to their organic farm and share its bounty.

"The main reason we started farming was to support our local communities, because the rural communities are dying out faster than anyone ever thought," Chaz says. "Our model is to have people come to the farm, be a part of agriculture again, since many are so far removed from food in general."

Chaz, a California native, studied dairy science in college but realized the farming methods he was learning did not mesh with his beliefs. He explains he's always had a strong passion for animal welfare, natural foods and organic healing processes and sometimes those beliefs aren't in sync with traditional farming practices. For example, he thinks cows weren't meant to eat grain at the level in which modern agriculture recommends, and animals shouldn't be confined to cages their entire lives.





"It's common sense to me," he says. "A lot of people will show up on our farm and learn things, and then say: 'Yeah, that does make sense.'"

A year after he graduated from college, Chaz and Megan spent two years in Norway, where they worked on farms that milked 17 cows (the national average there) and learned how to farm on a grass-only system.

"We loved it," Chaz says. "We came to

Wisconsin and embarked on our journey to take over Grassway Organics in New Holstein. Three years later, in 2016, we purchased it, allowing Wayne and Kay [Craig] to retire from the operation."

A few years later, after a big farm move (an extensive undertaking considering animals, equipment and a family), they are enjoying their location in East Troy and the local community it surrounds. Walworth County is also closer to Beloit, where Megan grew up.



Chaz and Megan Self own and operate Grassway Organics.



## A COMMUNITY MISSION

To fully embrace their community mission, Chaz and Megan, and their three kids, welcome people on their farm with open arms. Chaz says that it's part of their goal and desire to connect the non-farming community with where their food comes from.

His organic approach has been appreciated and the growth of the Grassway Organics' family is proof of that. Those visiting, Chaz says, enjoy learning about the methods the farm is using, such as regenerative agriculture, which allows humans to heal the planet through feeding the soil.

Part of this method involves the rotational grazing model employed at Grassway Organics, which he says means they rotate the grazing cows up to four times a day, depending on the season. They milk about 35 Jersey cows, focusing on blood lines of A2A2 cows only, which produce a more digestible product, similar to goats' milk.

"We have 279 fenced-in acres and the rest is planted in forage (hay)," he explains. "My passion really is the cows. They mow the grass for us, produce milk and meat, they're part of the solution, not the problem."

The farm has a YouTube channel titled Grassway Organics, where Chaz posts "Farming with Chaz" videos that showcase their daily life, animal care and farming techniques. He's talked about haying in the summer, how to raise free-range chickens, milk cows and what rotational grazing involves.

## COOPERATIVE MODEL

The animals and the farm visits are a big part of the Selfs' business approach and that contributes to their farm store sales, too. The farm, according to Chaz, functions as a cooperative and for a one-time \$10 fee and \$1 annual subscription, customers can access all the farm goods and bulk grains, he explains.

"We're also a trash-free store, mimicking the European style for that," he says. "This is a low-impact model, where you bring your own jars. We weigh them and then fill them with bulk goods or herbs."

Grassway Organics offers herbs that he says are hard to find in traditional stores, which has been a popular draw for the local community.

Chaz explains that visitors are welcome in the store but must be a cooperative member to purchase items. Altogether, the farm works with more than 30 vendors, collaborating with other local farms, to provide high-quality, organic vegetables, grains, meats and more.

He says the farm's organic beef and poultry meats are the biggest sellers by far, but the main attraction in the warmer months is the pizza Chaz serves up every weekend.

## IT'S A PIZZA PARTY

Although COVID-19 is still very much a part of our daily lives, Chaz is still firing up the pizza ovens as planned for Pizza on the Farm events, with social distancing restrictions in place. The Selfs are also offering take-out and frozen pizzas in the store.

Chaz admits Pizza on the Farm was an idea they stole from other farmers, but says it's been one that has successfully brought the local community together on

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weekends, wherever the farm has been. When they began this venture a few years ago, he says each weekend they'd sell about 30 pizzas. Last year, it grew to 200 pizzas served over two nights.

All the pizza ingredients originate from a 15-mile radius of the Grassway Organics farm and they're baked in wood-fired ovens. An on-site food truck serves as the commercial kitchen.

This year, they expanded some infrastructure and Chaz's goal is to be able to prepare 200 pizzas a night, comfortably. He, Megan and a staff of eight part-time employees join forces each weekend to serve up hot pizzas on those nights.

"No matter how many people show up, everyone's going to get served," he says. "Our goal is to keep everyone happy."



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The other goal is to provide them with a fun night of farm life and entertainment. Musicians from all over come to perform. It's a bring-your-own blanket/chairs-type gathering that he says has been welcomed with open arms by the locals since they moved to East Troy.

Chaz says even though it can be extremely hot tending to the outside ovens in summer, this is a fun event for him and all those who attend. He shared a story of an older woman who approached him while he was baking one night, just to thank him. She was so happy because "it was the first place she'd been where no one was on their phone."

Chaz is hopeful that 2020 will bring another year of nights on the farm, gathering under the country sky with friends, neighbors and others who enjoy live music and a good, wood-fired pizza.

### A NEW BREW ON TAP

To complement their pizza offerings, this summer Grassway Organics will be offering a "homegrown" beer. Chaz says they partnered with Vennture Brew Co. and Proximity Malt, both in Milwaukee, to introduce a farmhouse ale. The beer's

Staff, including Victor Liles, join Chaz and Megan for their popular Pizza on the Farm events.



ingredients combine rye grown on the farm as well as honeycomb from their beehives that was used to cultivate yeast.

"It's called Vennture on the Farm," Chaz says, "and this year we're going to be selling it on tap and in cans to go. Creating this new offering for our customers has been really fun."

The beer was brewed at the end of March, and according to Chaz, they'd like to introduce a dandelion farmhouse ale as well as a red-clover farmhouse ale, perhaps this summer.

These new offerings are just another way to use the farm's resources and they're excited to be able to offer local customers another product. "The most important reason we're doing this [selling locally grown food] and why it really thrives is because of the people around us," Chaz says. "We are truly a community-focused enterprise and the money we make here we spend in our local community. It stays here. That's really important to us too. We wouldn't enjoy doing this if we didn't get to interact with our community." ▲



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# *Inherit the Wind*

Local sailing phenoms set their sights on an Olympic medal

STORY BY ANNE MORRISSY

PHOTOGRAPHY BY HOLLY LEITNER

When Harry Melges IV and Finn Rowe stepped off the plane in Melbourne, Australia, last winter to compete in a world championship sailing round, they could smell the smoke from the wildfires raging across the continent. “They were [in Australia] for six weeks,” explains Harry’s mother, Suzanne Melges, “and when they were heading down there is when the air quality was really starting to get bad.” Melges and Rowe were not about to let the air quality or the wildfires stop them, however. The recent Big Foot High School grads may be young, just 18 and 19 years old respectively, but they have already managed to establish themselves as elite, world-class competitive sailors, and they were in Geelong, Australia, to compete as U.S. Sailing team members in the World Championships for the 49er class of sailboat, one of several





qualifying regattas for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo (now postponed until 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic).

Harry Melges is the grandson of Olympic gold and bronze medal-winning sailor Harry “Buddy” Melges Jr., a Fontana resident and owner of Melges Performance Sailing in nearby Zenda. Inspired by his grandfather growing up, “Harry 4,” as he is sometimes known, says that his ambition as a competitive sailor is partly due to his relationship with his Olympic medal-winning grandfather. “I’ve always had a dream since I was a kid to win a medal at the Olympics,” he explains.

### SUCCESS AT AN EARLY AGE

A few years ago, the younger Melges teamed up with Rowe — a friend since childhood and a classmate at the Geneva Lake Sailing School. The Melges and Rowe families also enjoy a longtime friendship and witnessed early on how the kids worked together. “When they were about 13, Harry tried his hand at being the skipper of an E-scow,” Suzanne Melges explains, referring to a common racing boat on Geneva Lake that is designed for (and most commonly sailed by) adults. “Harry started steering that one, Finn crewed for him. They had some success in that class, and there’s some very good [adult] sailors in that class on this lake. They were just kids, and they were

doing really well. They got excited about the sport.”

Following that success, the two began a journey that would eventually lead to learning to sail a relatively new type of sailboat used in the Olympic trials — the 49er. In order to master that boat, which is not sailed competitively on Geneva Lake, they started sailing 29ers, a smaller youth version of the 49er intended to serve as a feeder class. “It took them just a little time to figure that one out,” Suzanne Melges continues. “And then they jumped into the 49er class at a young age.”

### LIKE RIDING A WILD ANIMAL

Rowe says that the 49er is an extremely athletic boat, both similar to and yet totally unlike any of the sailboat classes currently racing on Geneva Lake. “The [49er] is actually pretty similar [to the scows on Geneva Lake] when you sail them downwind,” he explains. “But the boat handling is a lot harder. You’re always on your feet and you’re moving all the time.”

Unlike traditional racing scows, 49ers feature a “double trapeze,” or harnesses with hooks. In order to achieve maximum speed and keep the boat upright, both the skipper and the crew stand on the deck of the boat, hook themselves into the harnesses and lean their body weight out



Harry Melges IV (left) and Finn Rowe gained early success sailing E-scows on Geneva Lake before mastering the 49er, a boat the Big Foot High School graduates now sail competitively throughout the world, with the ultimate goal of earning an Olympic medal.







Geneva Lake, long known as a location for high-performance sailing and talented sailors, is the perfect training ground for Melges and Rowe, who will continue to hone their skills here this summer before heading to California to train. Prior to the coronavirus quarantine, the Olympic hopefuls spent many months away competing as members of the U.S. Sailing team.

over the water to act as counterweight. “If you don’t get your weight out in time, you can easily capsize,” Rowe explains. The 49ers are extremely fast and prone to capsizing, providing an adrenaline rush and an “extreme sports” element to sailing.

Rowe’s father, Rob, compares the act of sailing the 49er to competing in a rodeo: “It’s like riding a wild animal,” he says.

Melges says he and Rowe initially spent countless hours learning to sail these exciting boats on Geneva Lake. “When you first start out, it’s hard to even sail the boat,” he explains. “You have to get used to how tippy it is. We probably spent thousands of hours of sailing it, just getting a feel for it.”

Rob Rowe credits the culture of elite competitive sailing on Geneva Lake with pushing them to the next level. “The fact that Lake Geneva is recognized around the world as a location for high-performance sailing, because of the legacy of Buddy

[Melges] and others ... it’s amazing the talent that has come out of here,” he says. “That’s why Harry and Finn are so fearless. They’ve been racing around here at high speeds with some of the best sailors around. That’s why they were able to step in [to the 49er] at such a young age.”

## DEDICATED TO THEIR DREAM

Training and competing in the 49er requires a serious commitment of time, energy and money. As members of the U.S. Sailing team, Melges and Rowe have spent much of the past year training in locations like Newport, Rhode Island; Long Beach, California; Miami, Florida; and even the Netherlands. Regattas and competitions take them even further around the world: Spain, Italy, England, Australia and New Zealand are just a few of the places they’ve traveled for competitions in the past.

Both sailors opted to graduate early from Big Foot High School to pursue their training full time. But this meant that during their



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To achieve maximum speed and keep the boat upright, both 49er skipper and crew stand on the deck of the boat, hook themselves into harnesses and lean their bodyweight out over the water to act as a counterweight.





final semester of high school, they were attending school Monday through Thursday, flying around the country and even the world to compete on weekends, and returning home late Sunday night to start the cycle over again. “We couldn’t have done it without the support of all of our teachers at Big Foot,” Rowe says. “They were very understanding. They would allow us to come in early or stay after school or work online. A lot of the time we were coming home at midnight on Sunday and getting up for school on Monday. It was definitely really hard.”

Since graduating in January 2019, Melges and Rowe have been able to focus solely on training and competing in the 49er. In preparing for the most recent World Championships, they worked with two international coaches — one provided by U.S. Sailing to work with four American teams, and Australian Ian “Bunny” Warren, a personal coach dedicated entirely to them.

Rowe says that the expertise of the coaches is extremely valuable as they set out to compete against some of the top sailors in the world. “One of Bunny’s biggest strengths is that he is an animal when it comes to understanding how to tune these boats,” Rowe explains. “They are



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The 49er is an extremely fast boat and prone to capsizing. According to Harry Melges, "You have to get used to how tippy it is. We probably spent thousands of hours of sailing it, just getting a feel for it."



incredibly well-tuned speed machines, with adjustments being made on the water just before the race. We go out an hour before the race starts, and Bunny checks the wave conditions and the water currents and then he meets back with us to help us adjust the boat. He's really good at keeping us organized, making sure we're doing the right thing before racing."

It's a system that seems to be working. At the World Championships in Australia in February, Melges and Rowe made the "Gold Fleet," finishing this premier racing event in 25th place overall, the youngest team to do so. "We were really excited about making the Gold Fleet," Rowe says. "We've learned how hard it is to sail at that top level, and we were proud to finish in the top 25." Though their performance in Australia did not automatically earn them a spot in the 2020 Olympics (now to be held next year), both Melges and Rowe say they are eager to start training for 2024. "I might take a short break from the 49er and do a few competitions in other boats, like the Melges 24 Class or the Moth Class," Melges explains. "But then we'll be looking to start up another [49er] campaign for the 2024 Olympics."

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The costs associated with training and travel for a goal of this magnitude are significant, and both Melges and Rowe credit the incredible goodwill they've received from the community around Geneva Lake with helping to get them where they are today. "We couldn't do it without the support of this area," Rowe explains.

"The whole Lake Geneva community and surrounding areas have been a huge help to these guys," Suzanne Melges adds. "We've had several [fundraising] events and people have been really supportive. We have just a huge amount of gratitude — we're proud to live here in an area where people are so supportive of sailing."

To expand their fundraising efforts, Suzanne Melges and Finn's mother, Suzette Rowe, have also coordinated a merchandising effort with local stores throughout the area. "We've seen so many people wearing the Melges Rowe-branded T-shirts or jackets, or carrying the water



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bottles,” Rob Rowe says. “A lot of local businesses have stepped up to help and the Melges Rowe gear is all over the place. That support mechanism is critical.”

Since March, coronavirus precautions have forced organizers to cancel all of the previously scheduled competitions and regattas. Instead, Melges and Rowe have remained close to their support network at home, continuing to train on Geneva Lake. “Lake Geneva is really one of the better spots to train in the world — we’re really lucky to call it home,” Melges says. “We started out wearing our dry suits to stay warm, and we can continue to work on our technique here where the wind is shiftier and more challenging.”

Beginning in July, Melges and Rowe will head to California to continue training with their U.S. Sailing coaches and teammates. Although no regattas are currently scheduled, Melges says they are eager to get back to their friends and coaches. “I feel pretty confident in saying that the rest of 2020 will be just training and small racing,” Melges explains. “Our biggest goal is to stay fit and in fighting shape to race and improve.”

When asked what he loves best about sailing in the 49er class, Melges says it’s the elite level of competition. “It’s the toughest class in the world to race in and excel in,” he explains. “We’re out there sailing against a lot of Olympic sailors, world champions, America’s Cup veterans.”

As they look to the next four years, both Melges and Rowe remain committed to their goal of ultimately winning a medal at the Olympics. “It’s a long-term commitment and the maturity level of these two can’t be overstated,” Rob Rowe says.

“At a young age, they just locked in on this dream. They have this unwavering attitude that they have what it takes and are going to make it happen.” ▲

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# A GATHERING PLACE

A striking south shore home serves as the hub for a growing family and lifelong memories

STORY BY SHELBY DEERING  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRIS KAYSER





For well over a century, families have flocked to Geneva Lake. Its crystal-clear waters and beaches offer fun-filled adventures, and the communities that surround it provide every imaginable amenity. It's truly a special place that many families find irresistible — and not just for a weekend visit.

The attraction of lake living is deep-seeded and multifaceted. Owning a lakefront home here most certainly comes with impressive views and quick access to the water, but most importantly it provides the opportunity to create a gathering place — a haven where extended family can congregate and relish in each other's company.

The owners of this exquisite home have done just that, crafting an oasis where their family can relax, reflect and make memories that will last a lifetime.





## AN IDYLIC LOCATION

This 11,000-square-foot residence is located on the lake's south shore. It's in good company with neighbors like the Wisconsin Historical Society's Black Point Estate & Gardens to the east and private estates such as Allegheny and Fair Lawn just a short distance away. These storied homes, which have graced Geneva Lake's shores since the late 19th century, give a glimpse into the early history of the area. This relatively new home, built in 2001, echoes the grandeur of these stately properties and boasts today's comforts and conveniences.

With a jaw-dropping view that overlooks a sweeping slice of the lake, the property serves as a family compound for the couple and their five children, who range in age from 30-39, plus spouses, grandchildren and two Portuguese water dogs named Sox and AJ.



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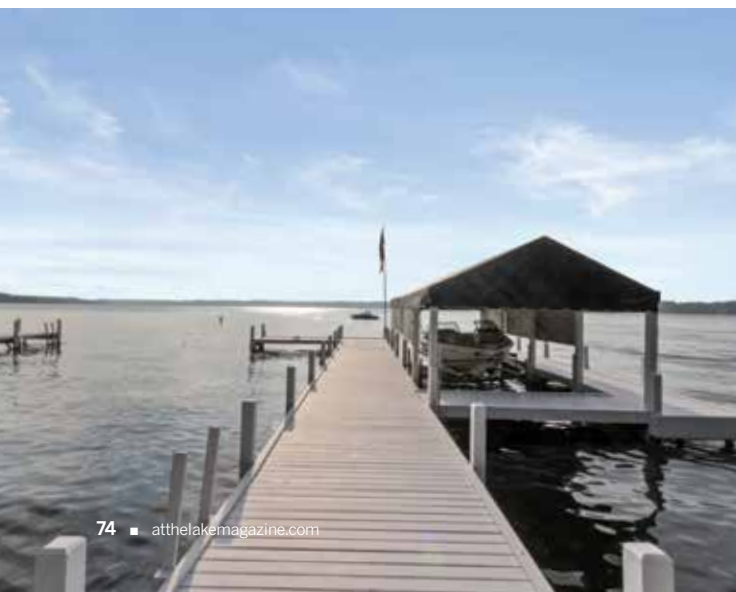
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The lakeside elevation of the three-story home shows its impressive array of decks and porches, and the hillside that is beautifully landscaped all the way to the water's edge.



Even though this is their second home (the couple's primary residence is in Naples, Florida), this dwelling is very close to the homeowners' hearts.

"In the summer of 2001, we were visiting close friends in Lake Geneva and happened to see the house when it was under construction," they explain. "It was during a sunset cruise and it was the view of the breathtaking sunset from the house that sealed the deal."

They continue, "Previously, we had summered in Harbor Springs, Michigan, and Nantucket, Massachusetts, while always visiting friends in Lake Geneva. While in Nantucket during a dinner, we asked our family where they would like a second home and Lake Geneva was the overwhelming choice. They wanted a place where the whole family could gather and visit friends already there."

Inspired, the couple ended up purchasing the home in 2002 after its completion.

### THOUGHTFUL RENOVATIONS

Since the home was built less than two decades ago, it hasn't require nearly the in-depth renovations that are sometimes required of lake homes. But with three floors featuring eight bedrooms, nine full baths and three half baths, there have been a few significant changes to this multi-level home over the years. "We always look at ways to improve the house and keep it current," the homeowners explain.





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The master suite includes a large bedroom, his-and-hers bathrooms and a sitting area, all overlooking the lake.

The couple has completed three separate remodeling projects throughout the home. During the first project, a new and improved master suite was constructed. Originally separated into two rooms with one closet, “it was too small for two people,” they say. This project entailed removing a wall and opening up the space to create one large suite with his-and-hers closets and his-and-hers bathrooms.

Next, the couple took on the kitchen, explaining that its original design incorporated three separate areas: the kitchen, the hearth room and a butler’s pantry. “We opened all that up and created one large space with the kitchen, sitting area and a full bar. Now it works well as a wonderful gathering place for our growing family,” they share.

When the grandchildren came along, it was time to make the home even more family-friendly. A bunk room and play space were added above the garage specifically with the grandkids in mind. “We call it ‘The Treehouse’ because you can see western lake views through trees that are visible from all the windows and you feel like you are in a treehouse,” they explain.

## WARM SURROUNDINGS

Much of the home’s décor reflects the couple’s desire for comfort with traditional style taking center stage.







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The homeowners redesigned the original kitchen space by taking down walls to create one large room that features this stunning kitchen, plus a sitting area and full bar.



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Comfortable is certainly an accurate word to describe the accessories throughout the home. Plush throw pillows and cozy linens soften nearly every room. The white and cream color palette is oh-so easy on the eyes. Rooms are arranged to encourage long conversations and joyful times spent with friends. While one dining room is intended for formal gatherings, another is set for casual meals made for fun, family dinners.

Lakeside living is illustrated with colorful paintings throughout the home. For instance, in one of the living spaces, you'll find Lake Geneva Cruise Line's *Lady of the Lake* gracing the wall. "Our family loves to charter the steam yacht *Louise* on an annual basis and we've chartered *Lady of the Lake* for special occasions," the homeowner says.

Other beloved lakeside locales are represented in the home as well. An oil painting showcasing a sailboat-filled lake and nearby garden is featured on a wall alongside a doorway.

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This particular painting, the couple explains, was done by the famous French impressionist Pierre Bittar and the subject is Harbor Springs, Michigan.

Even The Treehouse displays a bit of artwork. Amid reclaimed wood accents fashioned by Elkhorn's Heritage Beam & Board, the blue barn door sweetly shows off the grandchildren's initials.

To punctuate the home's charming interior, the outdoor spaces present equally delightful details. With its tranquil pool, comfortable lounge chairs, dedicated dining space and stone walkway that meanders to the water, the homeowners have created a lakeside paradise. Gorgeous landscaping dotted with perennial plantings is picture-perfect thanks to Mariani Landscaping of Lake Bluff, Illinois. In the summertime, fresh-from-the-garden flowers often make their way inside the house.


Last summer, the property was featured as part of the Lake Geneva Garden Club's biennial Lake Geneva Garden Walk. Although not a member, the homeowner says she "loves to go on the Garden Walk to see other homes and gardens on the lake," no doubt to gather inspiration for her own home.

#### FAMILY FUN



When asked about their favorite aspect of the home, the couple says, "Having plenty of room for the family to gather. There are large, comfortable areas where the family can hang out together



Although a comfortable and casual lake house, the traditional-style home has formal spaces as well, including those shown above and at right.

  
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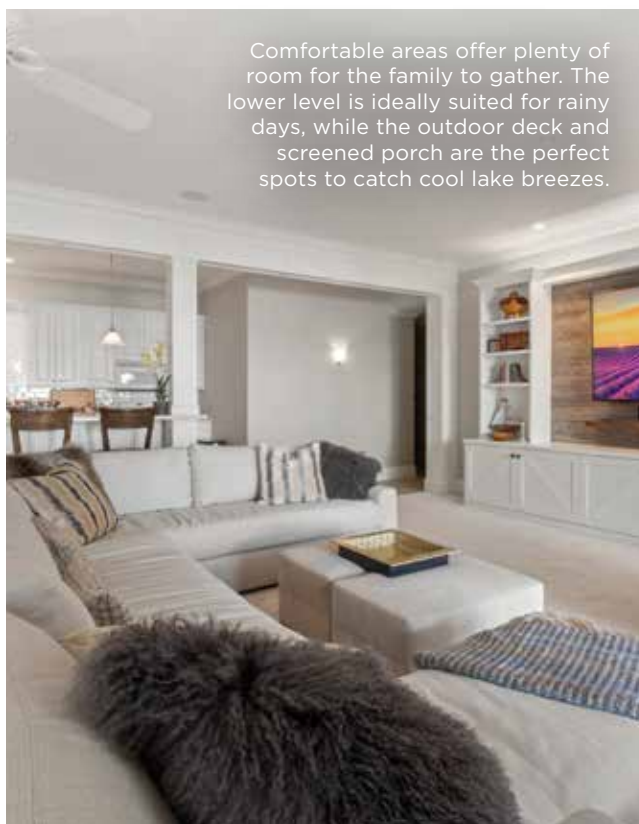
in addition to small areas where one can escape to quietly read a book or take a nap.”

These expansive areas include outdoor spots, like the spacious deck, airy patio and screened porch. Indoors, the family can lounge in the five living spaces while the little ones play the day away in The Treehouse.

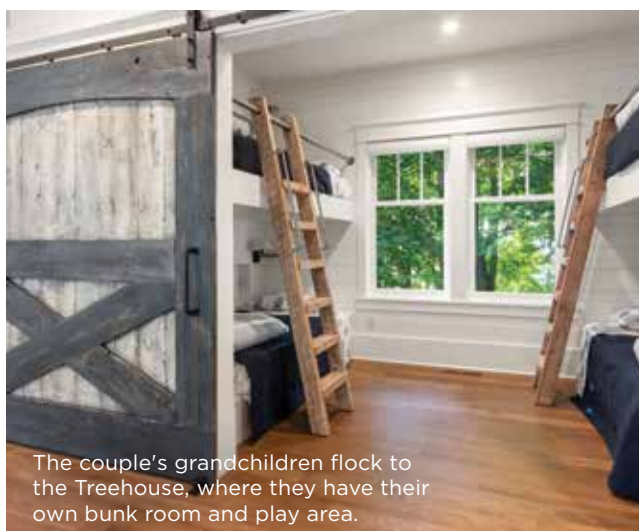
“They love the bunk beds and The Treehouse play area,” the homeowners say. “It accommodates the cousins getting together yet gives each one of them their own private space.”

Situated on the western shore of the Black Point Peninsula, family members travel from near and far to enjoy the spectacular views and sunsets. “It is convenient to Chicago for two of our children and their families, and it’s also convenient for our three daughters who live in New York. They can jump on a plane and fly to Milwaukee and be here in no time.”

At the end of the day, this home really is a utopia for sharing quiet, and at times not-so-quiet, fun family moments. “All five of our children live in big cities, so getting away to Lake Geneva is a treat for them and a way to decompress from the hustle of city life,” the homeowners note. “As our son-in-law has said, Lake Geneva is about food, sleep and golf, in that order.”



Comfortable areas offer plenty of room for the family to gather. The lower level is ideally suited for rainy days, while the outdoor deck and screened porch are the perfect spots to catch cool lake breezes.



The couple’s grandchildren flock to the Treehouse, where they have their own bunk room and play area.





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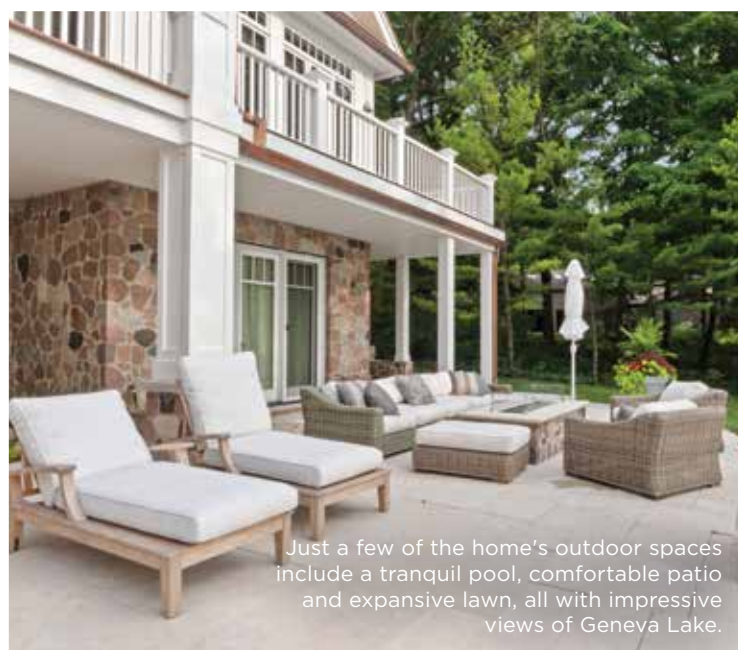
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Just a few of the home's outdoor spaces include a tranquil pool, comfortable patio and expansive lawn, all with impressive views of Geneva Lake.



The homeowners named the property Stone's Throw as a reminder that the lake is never far away.

And then there's the honorary title the home carries: "Stone's Throw," which is inscribed in the stone gate as you enter the driveway. The name offers a bit of whimsy, but it turns out it has special meaning for the family as well.

As the homeowners explain, "Stone's Throw is a metaphorical reference to how physically close the home is to beautiful Geneva Lake. It is also a reference to how easy it is for our family members to get to the lake and finally, it is a reference to how both those things help to keep our family close together."

Not unlike past families who traveled to Lake Geneva, the essentials have remained the same: soak up as much as you can of Geneva Lake; listen to the crickets sing on summer evenings; and create lifetime family memories. 🌿



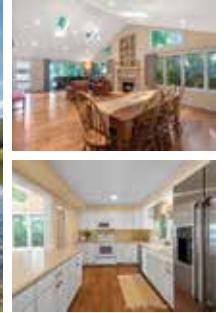


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Foodies and friends flock to the farmer's market

BY SHELBY ROWE MOYER | PHOTOGRAPHY BY HOLLY LEITNER







**“It’s unbelievable,” says Sean Payne of The Garlic Underground’s black garlic. It’s so good you can fry it up on the grill with a little olive oil and eat it all by itself.**

**That’s the beauty of the farmers market. It makes space for things you might never find otherwise, with the growers themselves right there to answer questions.**

**Payne, manager of the newly renamed Horticultural Hall’s Farmer’s Market in Lake Geneva, says the Thursday market is in full-swing with roughly 45 vendors of all varieties — from flowers to fresh produce to food fare that is ready to eat.**

**Aside from a delay in opening, the market has been minimally impacted by COVID-19. A walking route that easily moves visitors through the market is displayed on-site and hand sanitizing stations are available.**

**The market runs from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Thursday, now until Oct. 29.**









A legacy of pride in locally grown and handmade goods lives on each Thursday at Horticultural Hall, which was completed in 1912 for the Lake Geneva Horticultural Society and was notably used as a hub for exhibitions and trading florals and produce.





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# BACK TO OUR ROOTS

Walworth  
County Fair  
stands the  
test of time

STORY BY AMANDA N. WEGNER

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF WALWORTH COUNTY FAIR





Since its start in 1849, the Walworth County Fair has grown to become the largest county fair in Wisconsin in terms of participation.

“The Walworth County Fair is the largest in the state — and not by a little,” says Larry Gaffey, general manager of the Walworth County Fairgrounds, which is located in Elkhorn. “No. 2 is half the size in terms of the amount of participation from area kids who are entering. We have over 1,500 registered exhibits — that’s a lot. It’s even larger than the state fair!”

As of press time, the 2020 Walworth County Fair was still scheduled for its annual run, which for many represents the summer’s final hurrah, with the six-day event wrapping up on Labor Day. This year’s dates are Wednesday, Sept. 2-Monday, Sept. 7.

“The fair has been around for a very long time and has become a treasured event for many families near and far,” says Bill Thompson, a 17-year veteran of the Walworth County Fair Board, its current president and a longtime fair participant. “It really is a special event.”

Many of the first visitors to the Walworth County Fair arrived by train. According to the fair’s website, at one time, there were 19 special trains that unloaded daily at the fairgrounds and left each evening. Trains came from Libertyville, Rockford and Freeport in Illinois, and Walworth, Beloit, Madison, Janesville, Milwaukee and Waukesha in Wisconsin.







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## A UNIQUE AFFAIR

Unlike most other county fairs that are run by their county, the Walworth County Fair is owned by Walworth County Agricultural Society, a membership organization. The ag society also owns the 99 acres that comprise the fairgrounds, and Gaffey not only works on the annual county fair, but other events, such as Elkhorn Rib Fest and Holiday Affair Craft Show, and with individuals and organizations that rent the grounds and buildings for their own events. "Most [fairs] are owned by their county," says Gaffey, "so we are unique in that way. We have to earn our own living, so we approach the fair from a different perspective."

Gaffey came to Wisconsin from Wyoming five years ago to give the ag society his assessment on how to run the fairgrounds and the fair. Gaffey got his start in the fair industry in Waterloo, Iowa, where he turned around the city's historic yet struggling fairgrounds, the National Cattle Congress. (Fun fact: That site was home to the World Dairy Expo before it was moved to Wisconsin.)

"The very first day I fell in love with it," Gaffey says of his entry in the fair industry, "and since then, it's what I've done for a living. The people we work with are very focused in attaining their goal. Whether it's a wedding, a horse show or a concert, they are planning for their event for more than a year, and we help them fulfill their goals, while working on our own with our events." To sum it up: "It's a great job."

## CHANGING WITH THE TIMES

As is the case with other industries and events, the Walworth County Fair has had to evolve with a changing society and increased competition. That includes competition for people's entertainment dollars. Being centrally located in the Midwest, the competition is even more fierce with large festivals such as Milwaukee's Summerfest, Country Thunder held in Twin Lakes and Lollapalooza in Chicago.

Gaffey explains that when artists sign contracts to participate in these festivals, the promoters require them

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Sun. June 28 - 1PM**

**Dancing Queen - Fri. July 3 - 7PM**

**Celebration of Freedom -  
The Big Al Wetzel Band  
Sat. July 4 - 5PM**



**She-Gees - Sat. July 11 - 7PM**

**The Britins - Sat. July 18 - 7PM**

**An Evening at SUN -  
Sat. July 25 - 7PM**

**Joe 2.0 - Sat. August 8 - 7PM**

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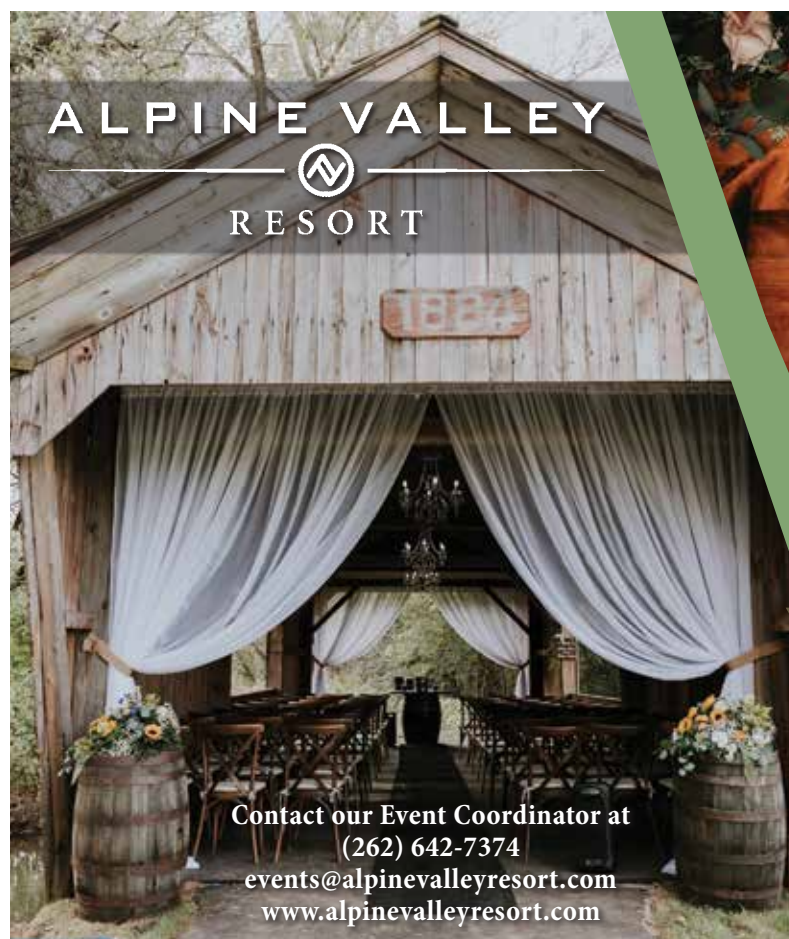


to sign a clause that prohibits them from performing within a 250-mile radius of that festival for a certain amount of time. “With where we are located, it’s hard to think of an artist who hasn’t performed in the area in the year. It really affects all county fairs.”

To get around that, Gaffey negotiates directly with promoters to release artists from that 250-mile-radius restriction. While he can’t announce the performers until July, Gaffey says there are three concerts scheduled: a country artist, a rock band and a Christian rock band. “We are super excited because these are big names. People will know we stepped it up.”

In addition to having to work harder to secure top-notch entertainment, artists are also charging more, which requires a balancing act to ensure the Walworth County Fair remains affordable.

“Keeping the fair affordable for families is a super big challenge, and I think we’ve done a pretty good job,” says Gaffey. “We try to hold the line



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as much as possible, and because of that, our ticket prices haven't really changed much.

Another challenge to county fairs, in general, is the transition away from traditional agriculture. As celebrations of farmers, ranchers and producers, of handmade goods and of the "authentic rural experience," some county fairs struggle with participation and maintaining their traditional roots.

"County fairs are really about the accomplishments of kids and adults in the community and the projects they work on. A lot of county fairs are based in agriculture, and a lot of attendees of the fair are looking for that authentic rural experience," says Gaffey. "But the challenge is that there are less and less farmers and ranchers producing livestock, and kids and adults in those professions have really diminished."

But Walworth County continues to stand strong, thanks to hobby farmettes and families committed to providing their children with avenues to care for animals and create goods. "I was just visiting one of our fair families that raises pigs to show at the county fair," says Gaffey. "For them, it's just a hobby on a few acres, but they are doing it so their kids can learn how to take care of animals and to teach them where their food comes from. There's a lot more of that, and fewer actual producers coming to and competing in the county fair."

#### BACK TO OUR ROOTS

Gaffey believes the opportunity to get back to our roots keeps people coming to the Walworth County Fair year after year. "It's the desire for people to have an authentic rural experience, to get close to and rub elbows with our roots in agriculture," he says.

Last year, the fair attracted about 135,000 attendees. About 40% of the visitors come from Milwaukee and the surrounding area, and about 27% from Illinois, particularly the northwest suburbs. The rest are local attendees.

"The fair really draws from about a 90-mile radius," says Chris Clapper,





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executive director of the Elkhorn Area Chamber of Commerce. “It’s such a great time, and you get to do so much from seeing the exhibits and getting up close to all the animals, to live entertainment in the evening in the grandstand, to the carnival rides, the fair food, the fair atmosphere. The Walworth County Fair offers everything for everyone in the family.”

And it’s not only a place to reconnect with agricultural roots, but to reconnect with people, says board president Thompson. “I think anybody who has grown up with the fair, they have so many friends at the fair and it’s a chance each year to renew relationships,” says Thompson. “You may only see them every year at the fair, but those relationships are really important.”

With three big grandstand concerts, a monster truck show that has sold out the last four years, the largest demolition derby in Wisconsin, a carnival, great food options, new contests, horse

shows, draft horse shows and tractor shows, there’s so much to do at the Walworth County Fair. But Gaffey would argue that the fair is less about the big names, big shows and bright lights and more about the exhibits that showcase the work and effort of local men, women and children, who put their work out for all to see.

“In reality, the carnival is a sideshow as are the concerts and grandstand. Instead, it’s about the kids and adults participating, who are brave enough to put something in competition against others,” says Gaffey. “There’s so much bravery and fellowship and encouragement; looking at the exhibits is a wonderful pat on the back and ‘Nice job [to the participants].’ And it becomes an experience that’s handed down generation to generation, because when you’re exposed to it, you have such a deeper appreciation for the fair. It really brings the community together that way.” ▲

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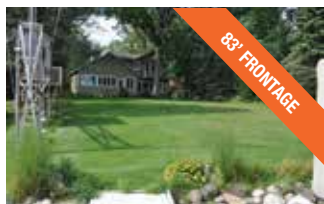
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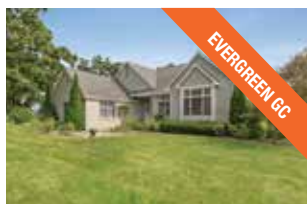
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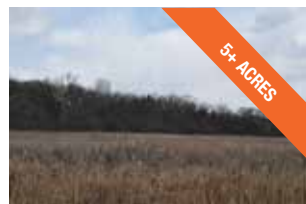
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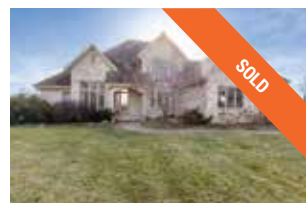
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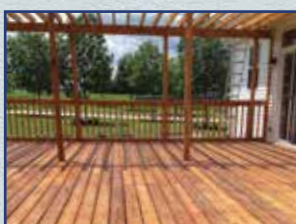
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# A Fairy Tale

With a love for flowers and all things miniature, a Lake Geneva resident displays an enchanting fairy garden

**STORY BY SHELBY DEERING**

**PHOTOGRAPHY BY HOLLY LEITNER**

You can imagine them quietly stepping into the garden every night, when the fireflies glow and the crickets begin their chorus. Maybe they tiptoe from house to house, taking a rest in an adjacent lounge chair. Perhaps they sip tea together at the toadstool table. Or, maybe they just breathe in the scents of all the surrounding flowers.

We're talking about fairies, of course, those mythical creatures we like to imagine flitting from flower to flower and enjoying their time in a fairy garden. These gardens have become popular in recent years, often showcasing diminutive buildings or scenes perfectly suited for magical fairies to dance and play. We happen to have a delightful fairy garden right here in Lake Geneva, thanks to the creativity of longtime resident Susie Kagel.

## SPARKS OF IMAGINATION

Although Kagel refers to her flowerbed as her "Fairy Garden," she also thinks of it as her miniature garden, saying, "It can be considered a miniature garden because I usually do not use fairy figurines in the garden. This allows viewers to use their imagination as to what the fairies of the garden look like or what they might be doing now."

Calling her scaled-down scenes "whimsical yet realistic," the garden has an interesting back story.

Kagel worked for 35 years as a window clerk at the Lake Geneva post office before retiring two years ago. "I do not



Long-time Lake Geneva resident Susie Kagel has created a fairy garden that takes up her entire front yard.





have any professional training in gardening,” she says. “I am just a creative person with a good imagination.”

That imagination has resulted in Kagel’s many hobbies, which include woodworking, painting, needle felting, sculpting and landscaping. “But my favorites are working with miniatures and gardening,” she adds. Kagel participates in a local group for miniature enthusiasts, meeting every few weeks to work on dollhouses and other projects. Some of these creations have even been donated to the silent auction benefitting Walworth County’s Open Arms Free Clinic.

Kagel’s love for fairy gardens started 25 years ago. Her children, Ally, Becca and Sam, were given a homework assignment to build

miniature houses similar to those in the fable “The Three Little Pigs,” Kagel says, “The pig houses turned out more like cottages fit for a fairy.” Outfitted in moss and bark and displaying tiny flower boxes, they became a beloved family memory.

“Later, we added them to a dish planter with little trees and a gravel path,” Kagel says. “We kept adding animals and furniture as we found them. It was a fun, family project.”

These moments shared with her family set the stage for a more elaborate garden for Kagel. When she moved into her current home with her husband, Bob, nine years ago, she took note of the sloped front yard and knew that she wanted to transform it into a magical garden.





## THE GARDEN'S ROOTS

First, Kagel and her husband started with the boulders and rocks that were discarded after the excavation of their home's basement. Using a Bobcat they moved them to the front yard, placing them in the perfect spots to create a retaining wall. Next, they brought in loads of dirt until the yard was flat, covering it in lavender granite pebbles from northern Wisconsin.

Kagel planted what she calls "a variety of sun-loving, low-growing perennials like sedums, creeping thyme, Irish moss, creeping phlox, and hens and chicks." She adds, "The rock garden was beautiful, but I felt it lacked a focal point."

That's when Kagel painted a miniature saltbox house in cream and green and added pint-sized flower boxes. "I tucked it in a corner of the garden and the inspiration hit," she shares. "It gave the rock garden the personality it was lacking."

She then got to work making more houses. Using materials that can withstand the elements like plastic, concrete, glass and



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metal, and then covering them in natural materials, including moss, rocks, tree bark and pine cones, she began to set the scene for her fairy garden. Then catastrophe struck — literally.

The next day after completing her first fairy garden, Kagel says, “I came home to see a dump truck right in the middle of my garden. The unattended truck had rolled down the hill because the driver did not set the brake before getting out. I was horrified and heartbroken.” Every fairy house had been “flattened like a pancake,” as Kagel describes. “Some things were buried in two-foot-deep ruts, never to be seen again.”

But this wasn’t the end of her fairy garden. She started from scratch the next spring.

### SWEET SCENES

Every year, you can expect Kagel’s garden to change. If she particularly enjoys a vignette from the previous year, she’ll include it in next year’s garden and add a few new scenes as well.

“It’s unpredictable when or where I will get an idea for a new vignette, but when I do, I can get very obsessed with it,” Kagel says. “I get a clear picture in my mind of exactly what I want something to look like and work towards that.”

Kagel is very devoted to the prep work that her garden requires. Often, her husband will come home to a kitchen covered in tiny houses that are being repainted or reroofed. She also uses the garage as a base of operations, storing all the pieces there.

“We have never been able to park our cars in the garage,” she jokes. “It’s all about priorities I guess!”

While Kagel does enjoy making the features for her garden, she explains that she purchases most of the accessories at miniature shows and dollhouse websites.

Kagel completes her tiny, dreamlike displays with a plethora of blooming flowers and vibrant plants. “I like to use a mix of annuals and perennials in

my garden,” she says. “Irish moss and creeping thyme are the workhorses for me. Every year, I pick out two or three new perennials to add and a variety of annuals. For annuals, I try to find plants that can withstand the full sun of my garden and have very tiny leaves to fit the scale of the fairy houses. I use these around the houses — they make up the homes’ mini gardens. Some of my favorite tiny annuals are verbena and lobelia and baby’s tears. I also planted little boxwoods and prune them to look like tiny trees. Other plants in my garden are salvia, lupine, foxglove, dianthus, lavender, grasses and others.”

And the best part of Kagel’s garden? It’s completely free and open to the public.

### STAY AWHILE

Kagel not only welcomes visitors to her fairy garden — she encourages it. She says, “My garden is in front of our house, right by the sidewalk, so it’s easy to view at any time. There’s even a little bench so you can sit down and rest while enjoying my fairy garden.”



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She says that it touches her heart when people stop to enjoy her garden. Neighbors often bring their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren to see the garden.

Area kids frequently stop by to hang out while Kagel is working in the garden, even offering ideas for new vignettes, like the golf course and campground that first appeared last year. "They forget about everything else while they are immersed in the magic of the garden," she reflects.

This year, a tiny Japanese garden and miniature vegetable garden are two new additions.

"I absolutely love to see people smile," Kagel says. "Maybe that's why I love my little fairy garden so much."

*Editor's Note: To see Susie Kagel's fairy garden, visit the front yard of her home, which is located at 944 Hudson Trail, Lake Geneva. 🚣*



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// CUISINE //

# ONE-DISH WONDER: ARROZ CON POLLO

Flavorful and easy, this international favorite goes from stovetop to oven in no time

BY BILL TURNER







**I**n the spring issue of *At The Lake*, pre-COVID-19, which seems like ages and ages ago, we started to look at some of the great recipes from around the world. In that case, it was butter chicken, arguably the most popular dish in India. Now we'll look at another great international recipe, arroz con pollo (rice with chicken).

This dish originated in Spain but has become one of the true classics of Latin America and the Caribbean. The recipe varies from one country to another: the Brazilians put black beans in the rice plus add sausage and the Puerto Ricans claim theirs is the only "true" recipe. Every country and every cook have a variation on this dish. The recipe lends itself to endless modifications and it's hard to mess up. I like the recipe we're presenting here because it is mild and has saffron. It reminds me of Spanish paella.

In the age of COVID-19, we are inundated with statistics and life can get tedious, so let's take a break from the usual dreary numbers and have some fun. There are over 650 million people in Latin America and the Caribbean, or about 150 million family units. The average family makes this dish at least once every 50 days. That means three million batches of arroz con pollo are made every day! Go ahead and check the math — that's a lot of zeros!

Some people like to buy a whole chicken and cut it up to make this dish. In our house, we've done it that way and we've also purchased every part of the chicken — breasts, thighs or tenders. Some like to keep the parts intact, like a whole leg, thigh or breast. Some dice the meat into bite-size pieces. Some prefer to leave on the skin for more flavor. If you want to save some time, buy a rotisserie chicken at a supermarket, cut it up and add it at the appropriate time in the recipe.

The basic idea is to cook the vegetables, brown the meat and add the spices, including saffron, while on the stovetop. You then add the rice and the chicken broth and put it in the oven to bake. The rice cooks beautifully and absorbs all of the great flavors. You end up with a great one-pot meal.





## WHAT IS SAFFRON?

Saffron has been used as a spice for over 5,000 years. It is the most expensive of all spices and can vary in price depending on quality. According to saffron.com, costs can range from \$3,500-\$160,000 per kilo. Saffron produces a rich floral, sweet aroma and taste, and is used primarily to flavor rice. It contains a pigment which gives rice a beautiful, golden yellow color.

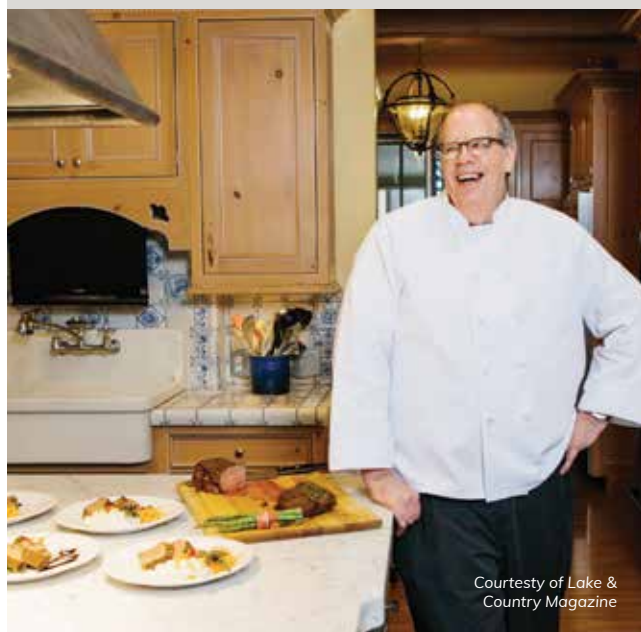
Saffron is sold as “threads,” which are the red stigmas of a fall blooming purple crocus that grows only in the Mediterranean region. It’s estimated that 90% of the world’s saffron is produced in Iran, so the supply chain may be impacted by politics and economic embargoes, but you can find saffron from Spain at Daniels Sentry in Walworth.

A stigma is like a silk on an ear of corn, which is the female part of the plant that receives pollen. As every Midwesterner knows, each ear of corn usually has about 800 silks or stigmas, each of which gives birth to a kernel of corn. The little saffron crocus has only three stigmas.

For our arroz con pollo recipe, see page 114.

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## ARROZ CON POLLO RECIPE:

### Ingredients:

2 lbs. of chicken (breasts, thighs, legs,  
tenders, in whatever combination you like)  
2 cups onions, diced  
2 cups red pepper, diced  
2 Tbsp. garlic, finely chopped  
2 Tbsp. pimento, chopped  
¼ cup black olives, chopped  
¼ cup raisins  
3 Tbsp. olive oil  
Salt and pepper  
½ tsp. saffron threads  
½ cup white wine  
2 cups jasmine rice  
3 cups chicken broth  
¼ cup cilantro, chopped

### Directions:

- Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
- While starting to cook, soak saffron in wine to "unlock" the spice.
- Pat chicken dry with paper towel and season well with salt and pepper.
- Heat olive oil over medium heat in a large, oven-safe sauté pan and cook chicken until golden brown —about 3-5 minutes. Transfer to a plate and set aside.
- Adding more oil if necessary, cook onions and red pepper until they start to soften.
- Add ½ tsp. of salt and pepper, the saffron mixture, garlic, pimento and black olives and cook for another 4 minutes.
- Add rice, raisins, the reserved chicken and chicken broth. Mix well, cover the pan and transfer to oven for 30-40 minutes until all liquid is absorbed.
- Remove from oven. Let sit for 10 minutes. Check seasoning. Stir in cilantro and serve.

Here are some variations to this recipe:

- Add thin slices of chorizo sausage along with the rice and broth before putting into the oven.
- Add 1-2 cups of frozen peas or corn along with the rice and broth before putting into the oven.
- Add some heat by including some paprika (maybe 1 Tbsp.), cayenne (no more than ½ tsp.) and cumin (1 tsp.).
- Reduce broth and add canned or stewed tomatoes.

If you have leftovers, they will keep well in the refrigerator for a week. Freezing does not work well. Give this great dish a try. Salud! 🍷





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"One of the interesting features of this Geneva Lake home is that its entire footprint runs lateral to the lakeshore," Sassano says. "Every room has a view. This hallway picture features our selection of custom lighting, millwork, cabinetry, tile and runners. Also of note are the old-school, recessed hallway doors that close off the mudroom from the main house for entertaining. There's another set at the end of the hallway that closes the first-floor master bedroom off as well."

## Reimagined and Renewed

Philip Sassano, owner of The Design Coach, translates personalities into homes and interior spaces that capture the essence of the owner with one-of-a-kind results.





## THE DESIGN COACH

Starline Factory Building: Suite 203 A & B  
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The exoskeleton of this 1980's Geneva Lake home was updated and left intact, while the interior was taken down to the studs for a neo-traditional-style total makeover, complete with custom features.



The home opens to a custom, crescent-shaped staircase with millwork by Lowell Custom Homes as the focal point, illuminated by a Ralph Lauren leather and brass light fixture.

An integral part and focal point of the kitchen design are the reclaimed French turnings that support the massive island.

**P**hilip Sassano grew up in a family of seven and, with four brothers to a room, his childhood bedroom felt more like a camp. Each of them got their own corner, a little slice of square footage all to themselves, and Sassano took full advantage. Obsessed with space exploration, Sassano organized news clippings and curated small shrines for this hobby and others.

"I was constantly decorating and designing my piece of foursquare, and I got tremendous joy out of doing that, he says. "I've been fixing everyone else's corner(s) ever since."

The Design Coach (originally Philip Sassano Design) — which Sassano launched in 1998, in Chicago, as a decorative contracting company, handling everything from painting and wallpaper hanging to decorative finish work and custom artwork — has evolved into a full-service interior design and creative service company with customers

nationwide. If it has anything to do with shape, color or lifestyle impact, The Design Coach does it, he says.

The scope of his work falls into three categories: decoration — cosmetic makeovers that refresh existing spaces with furniture and ornamental fixtures — and new construction and remodel consultation and design.

Remodels and new construction make up about 60% of the projects completed by the firm. Working with his team of painters, carpenters, cabinetmakers and more, Sassano likes to say that he's on any job site from the time they dig the hole to hanging the final drapery.

"When we say concept to completion, we mean it," he adds. "Beyond the architect, builder or remodeling team, our approach puts into focus the details that make the house a home. We're as full service as you're going to find."



A reclaimed furniture piece in the powder room was retrofitted into a vanity by The Design Coach's in-house workshop. The sconces bring additional glamour to the bold wallpaper and floor tiling.



## LAKESHORE LIVING: SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

The lake room was completely redesigned with custom furniture, wallpaper, window treatments, lighting and artwork installation. The millwork detailing on the ceiling adds drama and an additional focal point.



The guest loft leads to three guest rooms, named and labeled with hotel-style brass plaques that add a rare, elegant touch.

The Bay guest bedroom ties in the "new-school" part of the overall design of the home with an art deco-esque wallpaper. Each feature of the room feels like a focal point, but all the elements live together beautifully.

The Geneva guest bedroom has a traditional feel with wallpaper, custom furniture, lighting, window treatments and bedding selected by The Design Coach.





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In the bunk room, The Design Coach designed the bunk beds, the artwork and hand-detailed tin ceiling.



To reimagine and update this “Old School” lower level entertaining area, The Design Coach’s in-house workshop team designed and built the custom, nautical-inspired bar and hand-detailed over 500 pressed tin ceiling tiles to pull off a vintage pub aesthetic. Other custom elements include the lighting and cabinetry, and complementary tile was sourced locally through Bella Tile & Stone of Lake Geneva.

### HANDS-ON APPROACH

Think HGTV stars Chip Gaines from “Fixer Upper” and Jonathan Scott from “Property Brothers” — Sassano is the creative mind and the muscle. Being present for the full process and even assembling a lamp, if need be, is a crucial part of his process. Some designers take a step back while the actual decorating is being done, but Sassano thrives on the physical nature of the work, and says it keeps him connected to the project and helps ensure the homeowner’s vision is never lost in translation.

“Our design service is aimed at giving clients the creative confidence to find and design with their own visual voice,” explains Sassano. “I cannot imagine not being there when their ideas and selections take center stage.”

Take for example, the Geneva Lake home remodel shown on these pages. The once neglected 1980’s house has been reimaged into a neo-traditional dream home with custom interior architecture envisioned by The Design Coach and executed by Lowell Custom Homes.

While some designers have found success crafting a specific style, Sassano and his team excel at curating a blend of styles that feel idiosyncratic to the homeowner. Very few people are mid-century modern or rustic farmhouse purists, he explains. Most people enjoy a handful of styles, and Sassano’s specialty is marrying ultra-unique designs that work for the lifestyle of his clients.

He never wants clients to feel shoe-horned into one aesthetic. “To me, there’s nothing more sad than a pre-determined path,” he says. “What you’ll find when you work with us is that you’ll say, ‘Wow, I never would have chosen that, but I love it. It’s me.’”

No project he works on is ever the same as the one before, so the light fixtures or the kitchen island in one house will never be identical to those in another home he designed. The value he brings is decades of knowledge and access to materials and design combinations that can’t be found with a quick Google search.

For the Geneva Lake home, Sassano and his team worked with the homeowner to create a new school/old school aesthetic achieved with many custom accents, from the ornate runner on the curved front entrance staircase to the French botanical artwork in the dining room to the custom furniture dotted throughout the home.

“I don’t know that there are a lot of new ideas,” Sassano says. “The challenge with every project is to come up with new combinations of selections that create one-of-kind designs. The best moments are those when the client feels like they’ve nailed the perfect combination of materials that reflect their personal style. ... Our goal with every project, is to come up with new and inspiring combinations with the materials that matter most to the client.”

### COACHING FOR RESULTS

Sassano says the reason his firm is named The Design Coach not only describes his educational and client-centered approach, but also acknowledges that every project should reflect the style preferences of his clients, rather than his own.

“We do so much more than design and decoration, we actually coach people to amazing personal, creative outcomes that they live in everyday,” he explains.

And it doesn’t matter if it’s an entire home makeover or just the downstairs bathroom. Sassano believes everyone deserves to be surrounded by inspiring design, no matter the size of space.

“I just believe people deserve great ideas and the ability to confidently execute them with style,” Sassano says. “The scope of our service, national resources and dedicated team creates a collaborative atmosphere that is rare in the industry. Our true calling is the desire to help clients craft interiors as timeless as they are personal. And above all, design and decorate with uncompromising passion and incredible purpose.” ▲





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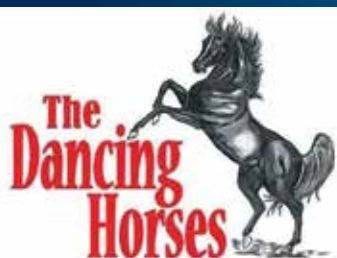
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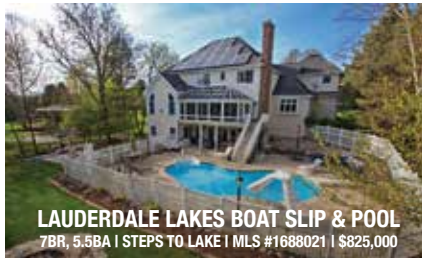
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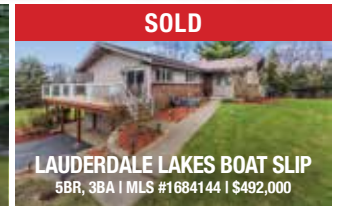


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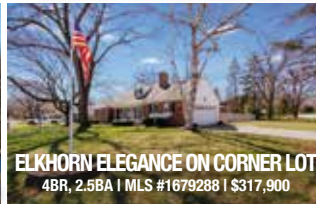


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# SETTING TEENS UP FOR SUCCESS

Part-time employment for  
teens has lifelong benefits

BY AMANDA N. WEGNER



**IT** used to be a rite of passage for teens to work part-time, whether that was bussing tables, working the checkout lane at a grocery store or any number of other jobs. While teen employment has dropped off through the years, regardless of time of year, having a part-time job offers innumerable benefits for this age group.

"The benefits of hiring teens for part-time work is that it's a lifelong teaching tool in task and time management. They still get to have a life to hang out with friends, but they also get a sense of responsibility and belonging," says Gertrude Suhajda, who hires many teens in her role as aquatics director for the Geneva Lakes Family YMCA.

What has kept teens out of the job market, and why should teens (and their parents) consider part-time employment? Here, two local professionals share their insight.

## WHAT KEEPS TEENS FROM WORKING?

According to the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 1979, about 58% of teens ages 16-19 were in the labor force, but by 2000, only 52% were. And by 2011, after the Great Recession, that percentage had dropped even further: Only about one-third of teens were in the labor force.

Suhajda has experienced this herself and has found it difficult to recruit teens for a few reasons, with sports being the biggest. "After-school sports take up all their time. Practice is every day after school, games or meets are usually on weekends, so it limits the amount of time they can work. Sometimes they can only work one shift a week or weekends, and sometimes they can't work at all for the session of that sport. I can lose staff up to two months at a time until the next sporting session starts."

David Booth, a life studies teacher at Lake Geneva Middle School, teaches financial literacy and the state-mandated academic and career planning curriculum. Through this program, students complete career inventories and research potential future careers. They also practice basic skills, such as how to complete job applications and interviewing skills. Like Suhajda, Booth has also found sports to be a barrier. "Sports has taken off, and there is such a commitment to them, and the commitment in a given sport is a lot

higher than it used to be due to club sports, travel sports and just after-school sports," says Booth. After-school clubs, he adds, can also make it difficult for youth to pursue employment.

For older students, academic workload is another reason, at least during the school year. Today, high school students preparing for college are taking tougher and more advanced courses.

For younger teens, not knowing what's available is also a problem, notes Booth. "For a lot of my eighth graders, they do want to work, they want to make money, but they don't necessarily know where to go," says Booth. "That's one of the barriers for them, not knowing who exactly will hire them and how the process works."

## BENEFITS TEENS EXPERIENCE

Part-time employment, says Booth, gives teens the opportunity to experience what good effort and a good work ethic looks like. "When you have a job, you understand you have responsibilities and deadlines," says Booth. "You learn that communication is huge; you learn that communication actually takes place face-to-face and not just by social media and devices. You see what it takes to be a good citizen, a good worker, to go into the workforce and be productive. The more we can give kids those experiences, the better." As someone who hires teens and as a mom

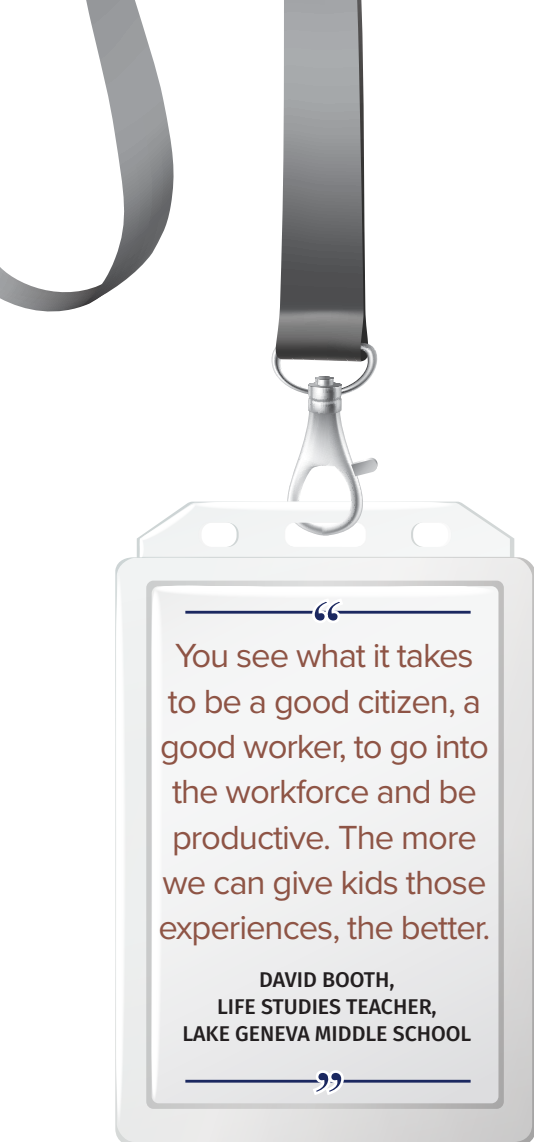
of a working teen, Suhajda agrees, adding that employment offers teens a sense of purpose and camaraderie, and it teaches them work ethic and job responsibilities. It is also the beginning point for many "first" teachable moments. "There are a lot of firsts for a teen," she says. "It helps them learn how to fill out applications, how to get references (most of them don't have professional references yet, so they are putting parents or friends as references), how to interview, how to fill out a timesheet, working as a team and hopefully some leadership skills. They are going to learn about tasks they like and some they don't, but that it all needs to get done. It teaches them how to interact with their peers, boss and upper management. It's setting them up for future successes or failures."

## FOSTERING TEEN SUCCESS IN THE WORKFORCE

For teens to be successful in the workforce, a good attitude is key, according to Suhajda. "If the teen goes into a job believing that this is a steppingstone, an adventure, a learning tool to get them to the next level of success, then it will be a much more positive, successful and fun experience."

When seeking out employment opportunities, Booth advises teens — and their parents — to consider positions aligned with their skills or interests. "Encourage them to look at what they are interested in doing. For





instance, swimmers are likely interested in lifeguarding,” says Booth. “Getting them pointed in the right direction, to something they would enjoy or a field they are interested in, helps them stay in longer and work harder.”

Parents, says Booth, can help their teens, particularly younger teens, pursue part-time employment by assisting them in the process, such as helping them complete applications or taking them to get a work permit.

Parents also have to make their teen responsible for their own job: “For the most part, parents understand that a part-time job is their child’s responsibility and a learning tool to help them be contributing members of society,” says Suhajda.

Employers can help teens be successful in the workplace by allowing them to fail. “I think our society doesn’t allow them to fail, so then it takes them longer



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I think teens are so tired of being treated like children that they thrive in an environment that gives them an opportunity to learn from their mistakes.

GERTRUDE SUHAJDA,  
AQUATICS DIRECTOR,  
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”

to learn how to correct their actions,” says Suhajda. “I think teens are so tired of being treated like children that they thrive in an environment that gives them an opportunity to learn from their mistakes. Don’t micromanage them; give them a job or task, explain how to do it and then allow them to do it, but be available and have patience. Teenagers have learned how to think outside the box, so they may see a different way of doing something. Be open to their suggestions; don’t just shut them down because they are young. If it’s a suggestion that doesn’t work, explain why as a learning tool.”

If you employ teens, empower them, says Suhajda. “They are thirsty for responsibility, connections and positive reinforcement. I’ve seen several of my staff that I hired as teens complete college and as they’re getting ready to move on to a job in their new field, they’ve kept one foot in our door, because I’ve created a positive learning atmosphere in our workplace, which gives me a feeling of success. A teen’s job is a revolving door; they want to try several things to find what they like, but if you keep the atmosphere positive and give them a chance to learn and build up their experience, then you are raising leaders for our future.” ▲



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// SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT //



## WHERE KIDS CAN JUST BE KIDS

CAMP ONE STEP BRINGS  
JOY, HOPE AND HEALING  
TO KIDS WITH CANCER  
BY LISA SCHMELZ





The Shell family of Joliet, Illinois, has made Camp One Step a regular part of their lives since 2015. Son, Jeremiah, is 13 and was diagnosed as a toddler with T-Cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Sisters, Amani, 18, and Jordan, 12, along with parents, Terrell and Danielle, consider Camp One Step, which has offered programming on Geneva Lake for 42 years, their second family.

Like a lot of kids, Jeremiah Shell was hoping he would still get to go to summer camp this year. Working on his math at the family dining room table in Joliet, Illinois, in early April, he was anxious to find out if COVID-19 restrictions would be lifted enough for him to once again make his way to Camp One Step on the shores of Geneva Lake.

Asked what the first word that comes to mind is when he hears “Camp One Step,” his reply is simple: “Friendship.”

“I play games with my friends,” says Jeremiah. “We love to play games with each other like gaga ball or kickball. I like to swim with my friends. Oh, and I like the bacon there. They have the best chefs at camp. The food is really good.”

Sadly, just before this publication went to press, Jeremiah learned there would be no camp this summer. For Camp One Step, the considerations for hosting its many programs came with bigger risk factors: All of its campers have a shared connection — cancer. Opening during a global pandemic, to medically compromised campers, just wasn’t possible this season. But virtual camping experiences will be offered for them to continue, in some way, to experience the community that is camp.

Since 1978, Children’s Oncology Services — an educational and recreational non-profit serving the needs of pediatric cancer patients — has been operating a camp each summer on Geneva Lake. For 35 years, they occupied seasonal space at George Williams College. Since 2013, they’ve held summer camps at Conference Point. Always, the aim is the same. To provide a

free camp experience to pediatric cancer patients, their siblings and families from June through August.

“We have a mix of kids,” explains Susie Burke, a pediatric nurse practitioner and the camp’s medical director. “We have many kids who have finished treatment and may now be living with survivorship issues. About two-thirds to three-fourths of children who undergo cancer treatments develop lifelong side effects. Some are visible and some are not. We also have some kids at camp who are still undergoing treatment.”

This would have been Jeremiah’s fifth season at Camp One Step. Diagnosed on April 9, 2010, with T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia, he went from being an active 3 ½-year-old to a seriously ill toddler. The battle to save his life was fought hard, and treatments were carried

## CAMP ONE STEP BY THE NUMBERS

**0:** Amount charged to campers

**7-19:** Ages of campers served, all of whom have experienced a recent or past diagnosis of cancer.

**11:** Programs throughout the Midwest, including its flagship camp on Geneva Lake

**42:** Years on Geneva Lake

**400:** Volunteers, many of whom are doctors and nurses

**16,500:** Campers served





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out for over three years. When an art therapist working with Jeremiah and his family encouraged them to attend Camp One Step, his parents, Terrell and Danielle, had no idea how life-altering it would be for all of their family. Today, camp is their second family. The Shells have attended numerous family camp sessions in the fall. Jeremiah attends camp on his own, and has bonded with his teenage counselors, who are also cancer survivors. His sisters attend a sibling camp. It's truly a family affair.

"We met so many beautiful families," reflects Danielle, a tax analyst. "And it was breathtaking for parents. We were able to share with each other, as parents with children in and out of treatment. We could actually express what was in our hearts. And there was programming for the siblings and for the kids who were cancer patients, and well, they just made them feel like regular kids. They didn't want to talk about their medications and their treatments. They just wanted to be kids."

Making kids feel regular, while caring for their very specific medical needs, is all in a day's work for Burke. A nurse since 1981, she's spent decades in pediatric oncology. When she heard about Camp One Step in the early '80s, she realized she wanted to be a part of her patients' lives outside of their hematology and oncology clinic visits. Today, she oversees a large volunteer medical team, who in turn oversee the unique medical needs of each camper. Camp, she says, is important medicine.

"Kids with cancer are resilient, but definitely go through a lot as they fight for their lives during treatment. Camp is transformative for them as it helps them make sense of their life and regain a sense of belonging after their cancer experience," she says. "This is important because when a child is being treated for cancer, they often become socially isolated from their peers as their treatment takes them away from school and social events. Camp provides a new normal for the child, allows them opportunities to establish new friendships with other kids who have been through similar experiences, develop new skills, while



overcoming new challenges — all in a safe, accepting environment.”

Camp isn't just transformative for campers and families, she adds. It also feeds the souls of those who work in pediatric oncology clinics. Burn-out in the field, she says, is understandably high. But at camp, a pediatric oncology nurse gets to know the kid — not the patient.

“Last summer, I had a nurse who came and worked at camp and said, ‘If it wasn’t for camp, I would have left oncology.’ It saved her,” says Burke. “Camp saved her.”

Not every camper who comes here leaps at the invitation. But when they finally do, they don't regret it and they often end up getting others to join in the camp's mission. “I had a teenager I treated at Children's [Hospital], and for years I tried to convince her to go to camp,” says Burke. “I think we did this about four years in a row. She always said no. But she finally decided on her own when she was ready. And then after she went, she said something like ‘I didn't know it was going to be that much fun!’ She's now a camp counselor and has been a counselor with us for four years and she got her sister to be a counselor, and her other sister who finished nursing school is joining our medical team. Everybody who is involved with Camp One Step really feels that connection, that close connection that comes from being a part of this.”

Those words are certainly true for Jeremiah's family. In early April, when Danielle and Jeremiah spoke with *At The Lake*, they were already figuring out how to beat the COVID-19 restrictions and get some of their camp spirit back. Thanks to the power of Zoom, they held a Camp One Step family reunion.

“It went really well,” says Danielle, a few days after the online gathering. “It was great to see everyone from camp. We had six or seven families and we played Camp One Step Bingo. It was amazing. They are our second family.”

To learn more about Camp One Step and its many programs for pediatric cancer patients, their siblings and families, or to support their work, visit [camponestep.org](http://camponestep.org). 🏔️

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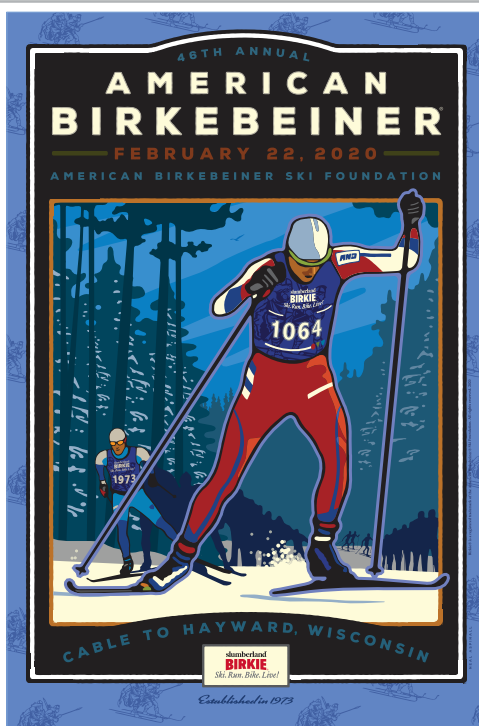
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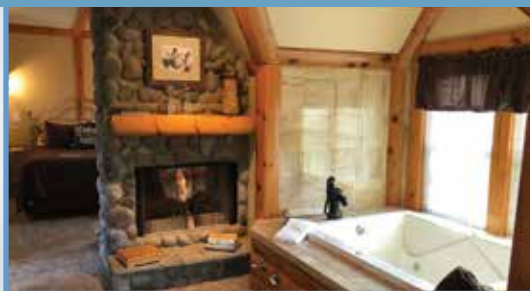
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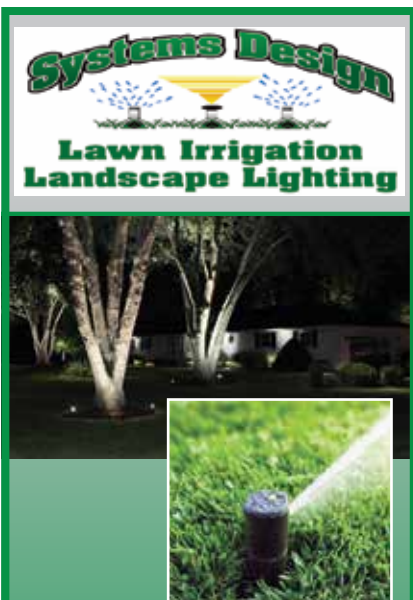
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# Q&A

## TED PANKAU

*This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Geneva Lake Water Safety Patrol, and At The Lake thought it was only fitting to shine a spotlight on longtime WSP Director Ted Pankau. Ted has served as the Patrol's director since 1990 and has overseen the upgrade of its boat fleet and the move to a new headquarters in 2001. His first jobs with the Patrol were lifeguard and boat crew member, beginning in 1980. Ted worked at WMAQ-TV, the NBC affiliate, in Chicago, and later for the Primex Corporation in Lake Geneva. He is a graduate of the University of St. Francis.*

### **Why is the Geneva Lake Water Safety Patrol still a vital part of the community 100 years after its founding?**

Safety remains a priority for people in and around the water. The people who started the Patrol 100 years ago recognized the large growth potential for Geneva Lake, and they put in place an organization (WSP) that could grow to meet the ever-changing needs of the lake community.

### **In 30 years as director, what has been your proudest moment and your greatest challenge?**

My proudest moments revolve around the many incidents in which our team members have been on the spot to rescue someone from a life-or-death situation. One moment in particular stands out, when one of our lifeguards (Meredith Diamond) was recognized as the Wisconsin Hero of the Year by the American Red Cross for saving a man from drowning at Fontana Beach. I was so proud of her, but also proud of the entire organization for putting in place a system that allows such life-saving measures to exist. As far as challenges go, it's always an effort to get the message out regarding our mission and trying to educate the public on safe boating practices and safety around the water.

### **Many equate the WSP with the boat crews that patrol the lake, but tell us about its lifeguarding and educational programs.**

While our Boat Patrol is probably our most visible branch, we also provide valuable lifeguard services for 10 beaches on Geneva Lake, and we offer swim lessons and boat safety classes throughout the summer months.

### **It doesn't appear as though other lakes in Wisconsin have organizations like WSP. Why is that?**

Geneva Lake is unique in many ways, not the least of which is the fact that it is the state's busiest body of water (in terms of usage per acre). Because of its size, its depth and its sometimes-treacherous conditions, Geneva Lake has the potential to be quite dangerous. I think the people of this community recognize this and understand the need for such an organization to help keep safety as a priority.



### **WSP employees have a lot of responsibility.**

#### **How can you tell if someone is right for the job?**

Choosing the right people for our team is the most important part of my job. We look for people who want to make a difference in the community. People who apply for a job with the Patrol are usually people who are already seeking a position of high responsibility. We make sure that they understand that responsibility, and they go through rigorous screening and training before they begin working.

### **After three decades of serving WSP, what is your vision for the future of the organization?**

My vision for the future of the Patrol is probably not that much different than Simeon B. Chapin's (WSP founder) was 100 years ago. That is to position the Patrol as an organization that can continue to grow and adapt to the changing safety needs of the Geneva Lake community. I would love to see the Patrol continue to grow as a beacon to which people can look to for safety and education. ▲





Restaurants are listed by category. Due to COVID-19, some restaurants may have reduced hours or dining options. Please contact individual businesses for details. Inclusion in this directory should not be considered an unqualified endorsement by *At The Lake*. Visit [atthelakemagazine.com](http://atthelakemagazine.com) to browse this directory online, and to view locator maps for each restaurant.

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**B.J. WENTKER'S** 230 Milwaukee Ave., Burlington; 262-758-6112. [bjwentkers.com](http://bjwentkers.com). Innovative menu. Extensive wine list. Bar open past 10 p.m. Closed Sun. L, D, \$-\$\$\$ ¥, 📞, 📞, 📞

**THE BLACK SHEEP** 210 W. Whitewater St., Whitewater; 262-458-4751. [eatatblacksheep.com](http://eatatblacksheep.com). Menu and specials are updated regularly to incorporate fresh, in-season, local foods presented in a delicious new way. Poultry, fish, pork, lamb, gluten-free, and vegetarian entrées. Closed Sun. L, D, \$-\$\$ ¥ 📞

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**BEIJING GARDEN** 464 S. Pine St., Burlington; 262-767-1188. Chinese. Closed Monday. L, D, \$, 📞

**CHINA GARDEN** 136 E. Walworth Ave., Delavan; 262-749-3111. [chinagardendelavan.com](http://chinagardendelavan.com) L, D, \$, beer and wine. Closed Monday. 📞, PR

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**LD'S BBQ** 2511 Main St., East Troy; 414-610-7675. [ldsbbq.com](http://ldsbbq.com). Roadside BBQ featuring slow smoked meats, including ribs, brisket, pulled pork, smoked sausage, chicken. Carry-out only. Open Wed.-Sun. \$-\$\$.

**NEXT DOOR PUB** 411 Interchange North (Hwy. 120), Lake Geneva; 262-248-9551. [nextdoorpub.com](http://nextdoorpub.com). Pizza, burgers, sandwiches, salads, soups, pastas. Dine-in, carryout, delivery. L, D, \$, ̶ ̺.

**PAPA'S BBQ PIT STOP** 502 Borg Rd., Delavan; 262-725-2389. [papasbbqpit.com](http://papasbbqpit.com). Apple and cherrywood smoked BBQ available for pickup, delivery or catering. Closed Sun. Open L, D, \$-\$\$.

**SMOKEY'S BAR-B-QUE HOUSE** Timber Ridge Lodge at Grand Geneva, State Rd. 50, Lake Geneva; 262-249-3400. [grandgeneva.com](http://grandgeneva.com). B, L, D (hours vary throughout the year), \$-\$\$, ̶ ̺.

## CASUAL/BURGERS

**ALE STATION FOOD & BREW** 2645 Main St., East Troy; 262-642-2739. [alestation.com](http://alestation.com). (Formerly the Grist Mill.) Pub food with 32 beers on tap. L, D, \$-\$\$, ̶ ̺ ̻.

**ANNIE'S BURGER TOWN** 645 N. Lincoln St., Elkhorn; 262-723-3250. [anniesburgertown.com](http://anniesburgertown.com). Burgers, salads, sandwiches, appetizers, soups, ice cream. Local delivery. L, D, \$-\$, ̶ ̺.

**BAR 55** The Ridge Hotel, W4240 State Hwy. 50, Lake Geneva; 262-249-3800. [ridgelake-geneva.com](http://ridgelake-geneva.com). Outdoor restaurant with fire feature overlooking Lake Como. Specialty sandwiches, appetizers, salads. Live entertainment on weekends. L, D, \$-\$\$, ̶ ̺ ̻.

**BAR WEST** The Abbey Resort, 269 Fontana Blvd., Fontana; 262-275-9034. [theabbeyresort.com/dining](http://theabbeyresort.com/dining). Featuring small plates, cocktails and musical entertainment Wed.-Sat. D, \$-\$\$, ̶ ̺.

**BARLEY'S HOPS AND MALTS** N8720 County Road N, East Troy; 262-642-7811. Sandwiches, pizza. Open daily. L, D, \$, ̶ ̺ ̻.

**THE BIG HOUSE BAR AND GRILL** N1320 S. Lake Shore Dr., Genoa City; 262-279-5700. [thebighouselakegeneva.com](http://thebighouselakegeneva.com). Burgers, wings, Italian beefs and more. L, D, \$, ̶ ̺.

**THE BOAT HOUSE BAR & GRILL** 2062 S. Lakeshore Dr., Lake Geneva; 262-812-4126. [theboathouselakegeneva.com](http://theboathouselakegeneva.com). Classic American dishes including burgers, pizzas, wraps, salads and more. Wrap-around deck and boat access. \$\$, ̶ ̺ ̻.

**BRASS RAIL** 130 W. Main St., Whitewater; 262-473-4038. Bar and grill. L, D, NC, ATM, \$, ̶ ̺.

**BRUISER'S** 689 Milwaukee Ave., Burlington; 262-763-6008. Subs, pizza, salads. L, D, NC, \$-̶.

**CHAMPS SPORTS BAR AND GRILL** 747 W. Main St., Lake Geneva; 262-248-6008. [champslake-geneva.com](http://champslake-geneva.com). L, D, \$, ̶ ̺ ̻.

**THE CHARCOAL GRILL AND ROTISSERIE** 580 Milwaukee Ave., Burlington; 262-767-0000. [charcoalgrill.com](http://charcoalgrill.com). L, D, \$, ̶ ̺ ̻ PR.

**CHUCK'S LAKESHORE INN** 352 Lake St., Fontana; 262-275-3222. [chucksakeshoreinn.com](http://chucksakeshoreinn.com). Open daily. Burgers and sandwiches. Live entertainment some weekends. L, D, \$, ̶ ̺ ̻.

**COFFEE CUP CAFE** 192 Baldwin St., Sharon; 262-736-4060. Broad menu, daily specials. B, L, D, \$, ̶ ̺.

**THE CORNER KITCHEN** 100 Lake St., Twin Lakes; 262-877-2456. B, L, D, \$, ̶ ̺.

**COUNTRYSIDE** W9695 Hwy. 14, Darien; 262-882-3224. B, L, D (Fri. only), \$, ̶.

**DELANAN FAMILY RESTAURANT** 505 S. 7th St., Delavan; 262-728-1715. B, L, D, \$, ̶ ̺.

**DJ'S IN THE DRINK** W3860 North Lake Shore Dr., Lake Como; 262-248-8855. View of Lake Como. L, D, Visa or Cash accepted, \$, ATM, ̶ ̺ ̻.

**EAST TROY BREWERY** 2905 Main St., East Troy; 262-642-2670. [etbrew.com](http://etbrew.com). Fresh, made-from-scratch menu items plus house-brewed beers. Closed Tues. L, D, \$-\$\$, ̶.

**841 BREW HOUSE** 841 E. Milwaukee St., Whitewater; 262-473-8000. [841brewhouse.com](http://841brewhouse.com). Full microbrewery. Open daily \$-\$\$, ̶ ̺ ̻ PR.

**ELK RESTAURANT** 13 W. Walworth St., Elkhorn; 262-723-4220. [elkrestaurant.com](http://elkrestaurant.com). B, L, D, \$, ̶.

**THE END ZONE BAR & GRILL** 4112 Blue Gill Rd., Delavan; 262-728-2420. Appetizers, burgers, sandwiches. L, D, \$, ̶ ̺.

**EVERGREEN GOLF CLUB** N6246 U.S. Hwy. 12, Elkhorn; 262-723-5722. Steaks, burgers, ribs. L, D, \$-\$\$, ̶ ̺.

**FITZGERALD'S GENOA JUNCTION** 727 Main St., Hwy. B, Genoa City; 262-279-5200. [fitzgeraldsfishboil.com](http://fitzgeraldsfishboil.com). Ribs, fish boil, and chicken. Closed Mon.-Tues. D, NC, \$, ̶ ̺.

**FLAT IRON TAP** 150 Center St., Lake Geneva; 262-812-4064. [flatirontaplg.com](http://flatirontaplg.com). Gourmet burgers, specialty sandwiches, soups and salads, over 100 beer and wine selections. Closed Mondays. L, D, \$-\$\$ ̺.

**FLIPPY'S** 401 N. Pine St., Burlington; 262-763-6754. [flippysfastfood.com](http://flippysfastfood.com). Casual fast food. L, D, \$, ̶ ̺.

**FORK IN THE ROAD** 215 N. Rochester St., Mukwonago; 262-363-7849. [forkintheroadrestaurant.com](http://forkintheroadrestaurant.com). A unique twist on American cuisine. Closed Sundays. L, D, \$-\$\$, ̶ ̺ ̻.

**FRANK'S** 272 Broad St., Lake Geneva; 262-729-5577. [franksoriginal.com](http://franksoriginal.com). Chicago-style hot dogs, Italian beef, hamburgers, gyros and ice cream. L, D, \$, ̶.

**FRED'S PARKVIEW** 596 N. Pine St., Burlington; 262-763-8370. [freds-burgers.com](http://freds-burgers.com). Meat and buns fresh from local grocer Gooseberries every day. L, D, \$, ̶ ̺.

**GABBY'S PALACE** 356 N. Pine St., Burlington; 262-763-4363. Sandwiches, daily specials. NC, \$, ̶ ̺ ̻ PR.

**GORDY'S BOAT HOUSE** 336 Lake Ave., Fontana; 262-275-6800. [gordysboats.com](http://gordysboats.com). Casual dining, Geneva Lake view. Steaks, pizza, seafood, sandwiches. Weekend Bloody Mary bar. Boat dock, valet parking. L, D, \$-\$\$, ̶ ̺ ̻ ̻ PR.

**THE GRAND CAFÉ** Grand Geneva Resort, Lake Geneva; 262-249-4788. [grandgeneva.com](http://grandgeneva.com). Contemporary American cuisine in a casual setting. Breakfast buffet seasonally; Fri. & Sat. night prime rib and seafood buffet. B, L, D, \$-\$\$, ̶ ̺ ̻ PR.

**GREENIE'S CLUBHOUSE** At Delbrook Golf Course, 700 S. 2nd St., Delavan; 262-728-1339. [greeniesclubhouse.com](http://greeniesclubhouse.com). Pasta, steaks and sandwiches. \$, ̶ ̺.

**HARBORSIDE CAFE** 100 Broad St., Lake Geneva; 262-248-3835. Late night happy hour. B, L, D, \$\$, ̶ ̺ ̻.

**HARPOON WILLIE'S PUB & EATERY** 10 E. Geneva St., Williams Bay; 262-245-6906. [harpoonwillies.com](http://harpoonwillies.com). Sandwiches, salads and house-smoked meats. L, D, \$, ̶ ̺.

**HAWK'S VIEW GOLF CLUB** W7377 Krueger Rd., Lake Geneva; 262-348-9900. [hawkviewgolfclub.com](http://hawkviewgolfclub.com). Sandwiches, homemade soups. L, D, \$-\$\$, ̶ ̺.

**HEART & SÓL CAFÉ** 264 Center St., Lake Geneva; 262-812-4035. Specializes in organic, non-GMO, locally sourced food, drinks and smoothies. L, \$-\$\$.

**HOGS AND KISSES** 149 Broad St., Lake Geneva; 262-248-7447. [hogsandkisses.com](http://hogsandkisses.com). D.J. and dancing. Closed Mon. L, D, \$, ̶ ̺.

**INN BETWEEN** 1522 Beckman Dr., Delavan; 262-728-9824. L, D, \$, ̶ ̺ ̻.

**ISLE OF CAPRI CAFÉ** Lake Lawn Resort, 2400 E. Geneva St. (State Hwy. 50), Delavan; 262-728-7950. [laketownresort.com](http://laketownresort.com). Choose from a variety of items including espresso drinks and made-from-scratch breakfast sandwiches in the morning, to gelato, Italian-inspired grilled sandwiches and sophisticated wood-fire pizzas into the evening. B, L, D, \$.

**JACKSON'S HOLE** 1798 Genesee Rd., Springfield; 262-248-1995. Pizza, sandwiches, appetizers, entrées. L, D, NC, ATM, \$, ̶ ̺ ̻ PR.

**JO JO'S PIZZA & PASTA** 308 State Hwy. 50, Delavan; 262-728-5656. [jojospizzadelavan.com](http://jojospizzadelavan.com). L, D, \$-\$\$.

**KC'S CLUBHOUSE** W3731 Club House Dr., Lake Geneva; 262-203-5320. Appetizers, sandwiches, steaks, ribs, fish. L, D, \$\$, ̶ ̺.

**LAGRANGE GENERAL STORE** W6098 U.S. Hwy. 12, Whitewater; 262-495-3327. Sandwiches, soups, salads, coffee, smoothies, ice cream. L, D, \$.

**LAKEHOUSE BREAKFAST BAR & GRILL** N7073 State Highway 12/67, Elkhorn; 262-742-3300. [lakehouseelkhorn.com](http://lakehouseelkhorn.com). Closed Tues. B, L, D, \$-\$\$, ̶ ̺.

**LAUDERDALE LANDING** W5625 West Shore Dr., Elkhorn; 262-495-8727. [lauderdalelanding.com](http://lauderdalelanding.com). Beautiful lake views, Waterfront Tiki Bar serving weekends and holidays. Access the restaurant via boat. Serving homemade pizza, sandwiches and burgers. Open 11 a.m. daily. L, D, \$-\$\$, ̶ ̺ ̻.

**LEFTY'S CHICAGO-STYLE HOT DOGS** N7033 U.S. Hwy. 12, Elkhorn; 262-215-8266. Hot dogs, beef, brats. Carry-out. L, D, NC, \$.

**LINDEY'S ON BEULAH** W1340 Beach Rd., East Troy; 262-642-2600. Pub fare. D, \$, ̶ ̺ ̻ ̻ PR.

**LOOKOUT BAR & EATERY** Lake Lawn Resort, 2400 E. Geneva St. (State Hwy. 50), Delavan; 262-728-7950. [laketownresort.com](http://laketownresort.com). Offering picturesque views of the lakefront, and serving classic pub fare in a relaxed atmosphere. L, D, \$-\$\$, ̶ ̺ ̻.

**LOPEZ'S ANCHOR INN** 1325 Racine St., Delavan; 262-728-2391. Burgers, Mexican food, ice cream. Carry-out only. Closed Mon. L, D, NC, ̶.

**LUKE'S MARKET STREET ITALIAN SANDWICHES** 117 W. Market St., Elkhorn; 262-723-4676. Sandwiches, shakes, burgers. L, D, \$, ̶.



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**PEDAL AND CUP** 1722 N. State Hwy. 120, Springfield; 262-249-1111. [pedalandcup.com](http://pedalandcup.com). Coffee, smoothies, beer, snacks. Bicycle rental. L, \$.

**PERKUP** 27 N. Wisconsin St., Elkhorn; 262-723-1287. [perkupelkhorn.com](http://perkupelkhorn.com). A variety of coffees, iced drinks, frappes, and smoothies. Colectivo and Door County coffee sold in bulk plus baked goods and cereals available. B, L, \$-\$.

**REMEMBER WHEN COFFEE BAR** 313 E. Walworth Ave., Delavan; 262-728-8670. [rememberwhenllc.com](http://rememberwhenllc.com). Serving coffee drinks, espressos, lattes & cappuccinos. Closed Wed. \$.

**STILLWATER COFFEE COMPANY** 1560 N. Country Club Pkwy., Elkhorn; 262-723-2301. [stillwater-coffeecompany.com](http://stillwater-coffeecompany.com). Fresh roasted coffee, sweet treats and savory bakery items plus other light menu choices. Open daily. \$

## DINER

**DADDY MAXWELL'S** 150 Elkhorn Rd., State Hwy. 67, Williams Bay; 262-245-5757. [daddymaxwells.com](http://daddymaxwells.com). B, L, D (Fri.), Closed Tues., NC, \$, beer. ☺☺

**ELIZABETH'S CAFE** 322 E. Walworth Ave., Delavan; 262-728-3383. Steaks, salads, sandwiches. Breakfast served all day. B, L, D, \$☺☺

**GUS'S DRIVE-IN** 3131 Main St., East Troy; 262-642-2929. [gussdrivein.com](http://gussdrivein.com). Cruise night with classic cars. L, D, \$.

**HARRY'S CAFE & PLACE** 808 W. Main St., Lake Geneva; 262-248-3494. B, L, D (Fri.-Sat. only), \$. ☺☺

**JESSICA'S FAMILY RESTAURANT** 140 W. Main St., Whitewater; 262-473-9890. Breakfast all day, daily specials. B, L, D, \$. ☺☺

**LAKE AIRE RESTAURANT** 804 W Main St., Lake Geneva; 262-248-9913. [lakeairelg.com](http://lakeairelg.com). Breakfast all day. Beer and wine, good selection of desserts. L, D, \$. ☺☺

**JONI'S DINER** 111 Wells St., Lake Geneva; 262-348-9565. [jonisdiner.com](http://jonisdiner.com). Full breakfast menu plus soups, salads, sandwiches and burgers. B, L, \$. ☺

**LUCKY STAR PUB AND EATERY** 864 Milwaukee Ave., Burlington; 262-763-2155. [eatatluckystar.com](http://eatatluckystar.com). American, Tex-Mex, Mexican and Italian food. B, L, D, \$-\$\$\$. ☺☺☺

**OLYMPIC RESTAURANT** 748 W. Main St., Lake Geneva; 262-248-6541. [olympicrestaurantlakegeneva.com](http://olympicrestaurantlakegeneva.com). Open 24 hours Friday and Saturday. B, L, D, \$. ☺☺

**PRINCESS CAFÉ** 2695 Main St., East Troy; 262-642-5905. B, L, D, \$, beer and wine. ☺☺☺

## FRENCH

**SOPRA: AN AMERICAN BISTRO** 724 Main St., Lake Geneva; 262-249-0800. [soprabistro.com](http://soprabistro.com). French, Italian and Spanish cuisine with the occasional Asian influence. D, NS, \$\$. ☺☺

## ICE CREAM/ FROZEN TREATS

**ADRIAN'S FROZEN CUSTARD** 572 Bridge St., Burlington; 262-763-8562. Homemade custard since 1974. Hot dogs, desserts. Carry-out. L, D, NC, \$☺☺

**BLUE HEAVEN ICE CREAM** 105 W. Main St., Fontana; 970-319-8911. Offering 24 flavors of hand-dipped, premium ice cream from Wisconsin vendors: Chocolate Shoppe and Purple Door. Open daily 11 a.m. - 9 p.m., \$.

**COLD STONE CREAMERY** 859 W. Main St., Lake Geneva; 262-248-4900. [coldstone-creamery.com](http://coldstone-creamery.com). Ice cream, ice cream cakes, shakes and smoothies. \$.

**DIP IN THE BAY** 105 N. Walworth Ave., Williams Bay; 262-607-3032. [dipinthebay.com](http://dipinthebay.com). Offering over 25 dairy fresh real hand-dipped ice cream flavors. \$.

**J. LAUBER'S ICE CREAM PARLOR** 2010 Church St., East Troy; 262-642-3679. Authentic 1920's-style ice cream parlor with old-fashioned ice cream treats. Accepts credit cards. \$.

**KILWINS CHOCOLATE AND ICE CREAM SHOP** 772 W. Main St., Lake Geneva; 262-248-4400. [kilwins.com/lakegeneva](http://kilwins.com/lakegeneva). Homemade fudge, candies and ice cream. Open daily. \$.

**YOGEEZE FROZEN YOGURT** 253 Center St., Lake Geneva; 262-203-5550. [yogeeze.com](http://yogeeze.com). Build your own yogurt creation using 15 changing yogurt flavors and over 40 different toppings. \$.

## IRISH

**FOLEY'S** W3905 State Hwy. 50 (at Hwy. 50 and Chapin Rd.), Lake Geneva; 262-245-6966. Full Irish fare Wed.-Sun. in the dining room, Pub open 7 days a week. L, D, \$-\$\$\$. ☺

## ITALIAN

**CAFÉ CALAMARI** 10 E. Geneva St., Williams Bay; 262-245-9665. [cafecalamari.com](http://cafecalamari.com). Upscale Italian. Extensive wine list. D, \$-\$\$\$\$, dressy casual attire requested. ☺☺☺☺

**CALI RISTORANTE ITALIANO** 10 W. Evergreen Parkway, Elkhorn; 262-723-1430. [caliristorante.wixsite.com](http://caliristorante.wixsite.com). Traditional Italian cuisine. D, \$-\$\$\$ ☺☺☺

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**FANATICO** 162 W. Main St., Whitewater; 262-472-0747. [fanaticowhitewater.wixsite.com](http://fanaticowhitewater.wixsite.com). Authentic Italian cuisine. Closed Mon., L, D, \$-\$\$\$ ¥

**GENOA PIZZA** 2678 E. Main St., East Troy; 262-642-9775. Dine-in, carryout, delivery. L, D, \$ ¥

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

**GUS' PIZZA PALACE** 139 W. Center, Whitewater; 262-473-3562. Pizza, chicken, gyros. Dine-in, carryout, delivery. D, \$-\$\$\$

**HOLI CANNOLI** N7065 U.S. State Hwy 12, Elkhorn; 262-742-2500. [holicannoli.com](http://holicannoli.com). Homemade, gourmet, Italian cuisine, brick oven pizza. Closed Tues. D, \$-\$\$\$ ¥

**LARDUCCI PIZZERIA** 20 S. Washington St., Elkhorn; 262-723-6668. [larducci.com](http://larducci.com). Carry-out only. D, NC, \$-\$\$\$

**LUIS'S PIZZA** W3410 S. Lakeshore Drive, Lake Geneva; 262-248-6810. [luisspizza.com](http://luisspizza.com). Carry-out or delivery of pizza, Italian beef, burgers, wings, and more. Open 7 days a week. (Hours may vary in winter.) L, D, \$-\$\$\$

**MAMA CIMINO'S** 131 N. Wells St., Lake Geneva; 262-348-9077. [mamaciminos.net](http://mamaciminos.net). Pizza, pasta, sandwiches and wings. L, D, \$-\$\$\$ ¥

**NAPOLI'S RESTAURANT** 132 N. Pine St., Burlington; 262-763-8390. [napoliburlington.com](http://napoliburlington.com). Dine-in, carryout, delivery. Closed Tues. L (Wed.-Fri.), D, \$-\$\$\$ ¥

**NEXT DOOR PUB** 411 Interchange North (Hwy. 120), Lake Geneva; 262-248-9551. [nextdoorpub.com](http://nextdoorpub.com). Pizza, burgers, sandwiches, salads, soups, pastas. Dine-in, carryout, delivery. L, D, \$ ¥

**OAKFIRE RESTAURANT & PIZZERIA** 831 Wrigley Dr., Lake Geneva; 262-812-8007. [oakfirelakegeneva.com](http://oakfirelakegeneva.com). Specializing in wood-fired Neapolitan-style pizza. Also serving paninis, flatbreads and salads. B, L, D, \$-\$\$\$ ¥

**PAISANO'S ON BROADWAY** 5614 Broadway, Richmond, IL; 815-678-4500. [paisanosonbroadway.com](http://paisanosonbroadway.com). Authentic Italian cuisine in a casual yet elegant bistro setting. Closed Mon. D, \$-\$\$\$ ¥

**PINO'S LAST CALL** 545 Kenosha St., Walworth; 262-275-6698. [pinoslastcall.com](http://pinoslastcall.com). Pizza, pasta. Dine-in, carryout, delivery. Closed Mon. L (Fri.-Sun.), D, \$

**PIZZA RANCH** 28 W. Hidden Trail, Elkhorn; 262-723-7880. [pizzaranch.com](http://pizzaranch.com). Our menu includes pizza, fried chicken, and a full buffet. L, D, \$

**RIGA-TONY'S** 5576 State Hwy. 50, Delavan; 262-740-2540. [rigatonydelavan.com](http://rigatonydelavan.com). Pasta, sandwiches, soups, breads and desserts. Deli. Open Wed.-Sun. L, D, \$

**RISTORANTÉ BRISSAGO** Grand Geneva Resort and Spa, Lake Geneva; 262-249-4788. [grandgeneva.com](http://grandgeneva.com). Upscale Italian. Extensive wine list. Open Tues.-Sat. D, \$-\$\$\$ ¥ PR

**ROMA'S RISTORANTÉ** N8416 County Rd. ES, East Troy; 262-642-5353. [romaswi.com](http://romaswi.com). Pizza and pastas. L, D, \$-\$\$\$ ¥ PR

**ROSA'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT** 180 W. Main St., Whitewater; 262-472-9857. [eatrosas.com](http://eatrosas.com). Italian entrees, pizza. Carryout or delivery. D, \$ ¥

**SOPRA: AN AMERICAN BISTRO** 724 Main St., Lake Geneva; 262-249-0800. [soprabistro.com](http://soprabistro.com). Contemporary American twist on Bistro classics. D, \$ ¥

**SPERINO'S** 720 N. Wisconsin Ave., Elkhorn; 262-723-2222. [sperinos.com](http://sperinos.com). Italian cuisine. Local delivery. Closed Sun. L, D, \$ ¥ PR

**SWEET AROMA RISTORANTÉ** W7404 County Rd. X, Delavan; 262-728-6878. Authentic Italian cuisine. Closed Mon.-Tues., D, \$-\$\$\$ ¥

**10 PIN PUB** 121 Kenosha St., Walworth; 262-394-4300. [10pinpub.com/pub](http://10pinpub.com/pub). Nostalgic 8-lane bowling alley with pub food and handmade pizza. Sat.-Sun. L, D; Mon.-Fri. D, Closed Mon.-Tues. \$ ¥ PR

**TOPPER'S PIZZA** 325 W. Center St., Whitewater; 262-473-4343. Grinders, pizza, salads. Carryout, delivery. L, D, \$ ¥

**TUSCAN TAVERN AND GRILL** 430 Broad St., Lake Geneva; 262-248-0888. [thetuscantavernandgrill.com](http://thetuscantavernandgrill.com). Specializing in Italian classics, mouth-watering charbroiled steaks and artisan brick oven pizzas. L, D, \$-\$\$\$ ¥ PR

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**ZUMPARNO'S RISTORANTE & PIZZERIA** 180 E. Chestnut St., Burlington; 262-767-0581. [zumpanospizza.com](http://zumpanospizza.com). Closed Tues. Sandwiches, ribs, pizza. D, \$-\$\$\$. ☹☹

## MEDITERRANEAN

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**HERNANDEZ EL SARAPE** 212 S. 7th St., Delavan; 262-728-6443. [hernandez-restaurant.com](http://hernandez-restaurant.com). L, D, \$, ☹☹☹

**LOS COMPADRES** 725 N. Milwaukee Ave., Burlington; 262-763-6018. [loscompadresburlington.net](http://loscompadresburlington.net). Mexican cuisine. L, D, \$, ☹☹☹ PR

**LOS TRES HERMANOS** 31 N. Wisconsin St., Elkhorn; 262-379-1658. [los3hermanos.com](http://los3hermanos.com). Authentic Mexican cuisine. L, D, \$\$\$ ☹☹

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**240° WEST** The Abbey Resort, 269 Fontana Blvd., Fontana; 262-275-9034. [theabbeyresort.com/dining](http://theabbeyresort.com/dining). Steaks, chops, seafood, BBQ, small plates and salads. B, D, Br on Sunday, \$\$\$\$☹☹☹☹ ☹☹☹

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## ADVERTISER INDEX

@properties . . . . .4-5	Dancing Horses Dinner Theatre & Animal Gardens. . . . .120	Keefe Real Estate	Newport West Shoppes. . . . .17
@properties	Delavan Business Association. . . . .97	Mick Balestrieri. . . . .121	Northrop-Awning Company . . . . .131
Martha Cucco. . . . .26	Elegant Farmer . . . . .114	Donna Brongiel. . . . .15	Oh My Gauze . . . . .133
The Krause Team. . . . .21	Imagine Entertainment . . . . .100	Tricia Forbeck. . . . .85	Paper Dolls Home Furnishings & Interior Design . . . . .83
Abbey Springs. . . . .56	Elkhorn Ribfest. . . . .144	Janis Hartley. . . . .7	Pier 290 . . . . .112
Advanced Coatings Plus LLC. . . . .134	Evr drygds. . . . .95	Jerry Kroupa. . . . .101	Rauland Agency Inc. . . . .57
Aepfelltrew Winery . . . . .55	Fiddlesticks Bistro. . . . .139	Mark Larkin. . . . .105	Reed's Marine. . . . .86
Alpine Valley Resort. . . . .98	Fire2Fork . . . . .137	Linda Tonge . . . . .37	Shodeen Homes LLC. . . . .125
Angelus - Home, Garden, Lifestyle . . . . .31	First National Bank & Trust . . . . .126	Bob Webster . . . . .30	Shorewest Realtors. . . . .122
Artistic Cleaners . . . . .6	Flat Iron Tap . . . . .141	Knoll Crane Inc. . . . .97	Shorewest Realtors
B & J Tree & Landscape Service Inc. . . . .106	Fontana Jeweler . . . . .16	Knoll Steel Inc. . . . .131	Christine Fox. . . . .8
Balsitis Contracting Inc. . . . .59	Foremost Electric LLC. . . . .109	Lake Ease Home Watch LLC. . . . .41	Sopra An American Bistro. . . . .140
Barrett's Technology Solutions . . . . .42-43	Geneva Cabinet Company. . . . .147	Lake Geneva Area Realty Inc. . . . .3	Stateline Surface Solutions . . . . .107
Belfry Music Theatre . . . . .11	Geneva Gifts . . . . .97	Lake Geneva Architects . . . . .19	Stebnitz Builders. . . . .50
Black Point Estate & Gardens. . . . .126	Geneva Lake Arts Foundation. . . . .127	Lake Geneva Beer & Spirits Festival . . . . .132	Stonetree Landscapes Inc. . . . .120
Bloomingbyrds . . . . .95	Geneva Lake Conservancy . . . . .145	Lake Geneva Cruise Line . . . . .27	Studio Winery . . . . .113
Breezy Hill Nursery Inc. . . . .80	Geneva Lake Dream Homes LLC. . . . .75	Lake Geneva Pie Company . . . . .142	Summer Made . . . . .125
Brick & Mortar Home/Home & Outdoor. . . . .51	Geneva Lake Museum. . . . .134	Lake Geneva Spice Company. . . . .114	Sunrise Gardens LLC. . . . .105
Bruno's Liquors . . . . .99	Geneva Lake Plumbing Co. . . . .23	Lake Geneva Window & Door. . . . .130	Systems Design Ltd. . . . .134
Budget Blinds of Walworth County . . . . .78	Gino's East. . . . .143	Lake Home Living - Lidia Design - Nick's Upholstery . . . . .108	Talisman Arts & Photography . . . . .145
C.R. Goodfinds. . . . .81	Gordy's Marine. . . . .139	Lake Life Catering. . . . .112	Tattered Butterfly . . . . .55
Caravelle Lighting Inc. . . . .14	Griffin & Forbis. . . . .13	Lakes Brick & Block . . . . .23	The Boat House . . . . .65
Cedar Roofing Company. . . . .18	Haberdapper . . . . .41	Lakeside Custom Cabinetry LLC. . . . .79	The Boat House Bar & Grill. . . . .65
Chuck's Lakeshore Inn. . . . .142	Hawk's View Golf Club . . . . .130	Lazy Cloud Lodge	The Design Coach. . . . .116-119
Consort Display Group . . . . .25	High-Prairie Landscape Supply . . . . .99	Bed & Breakfast. . . . .133	The Opal Man. . . . .14
Creative Edge Landscapes LLC . . . . .109	House Shampoo . . . . .9	Le Roux Construction . . . . .87	The Reesman Company. . . . .77
Curate LLC . . . . .73	Ideal Impressions Photography. . . . .132	Lowell Custom Homes . . . . .2	TLC Cleaning Service Inc. . . . .134
D & K Painting . . . . .101	J. Roberts Menswear . . . . .25	Marina Bay Boat Rentals . . . . .69	Undercover Canvas . . . . .63
	Jerry's Majestic Marine . . . . .67	McCormack & Etten Architects . . . . .92	Verlo Mattress Factory Store. . . . .127
	Keefe Real Estate . . . . .35	Munson Ski & Marine . . . . .148	Walworth Cellars. . . . .115
		Neal Aspinall. . . . .131	Water Safety Patrol . . . . .68
			William Nelson. . . . .39

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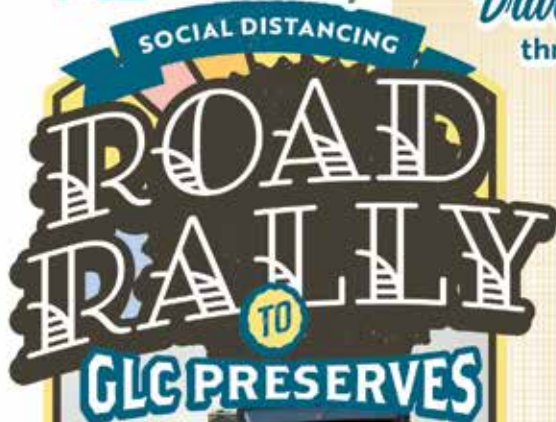
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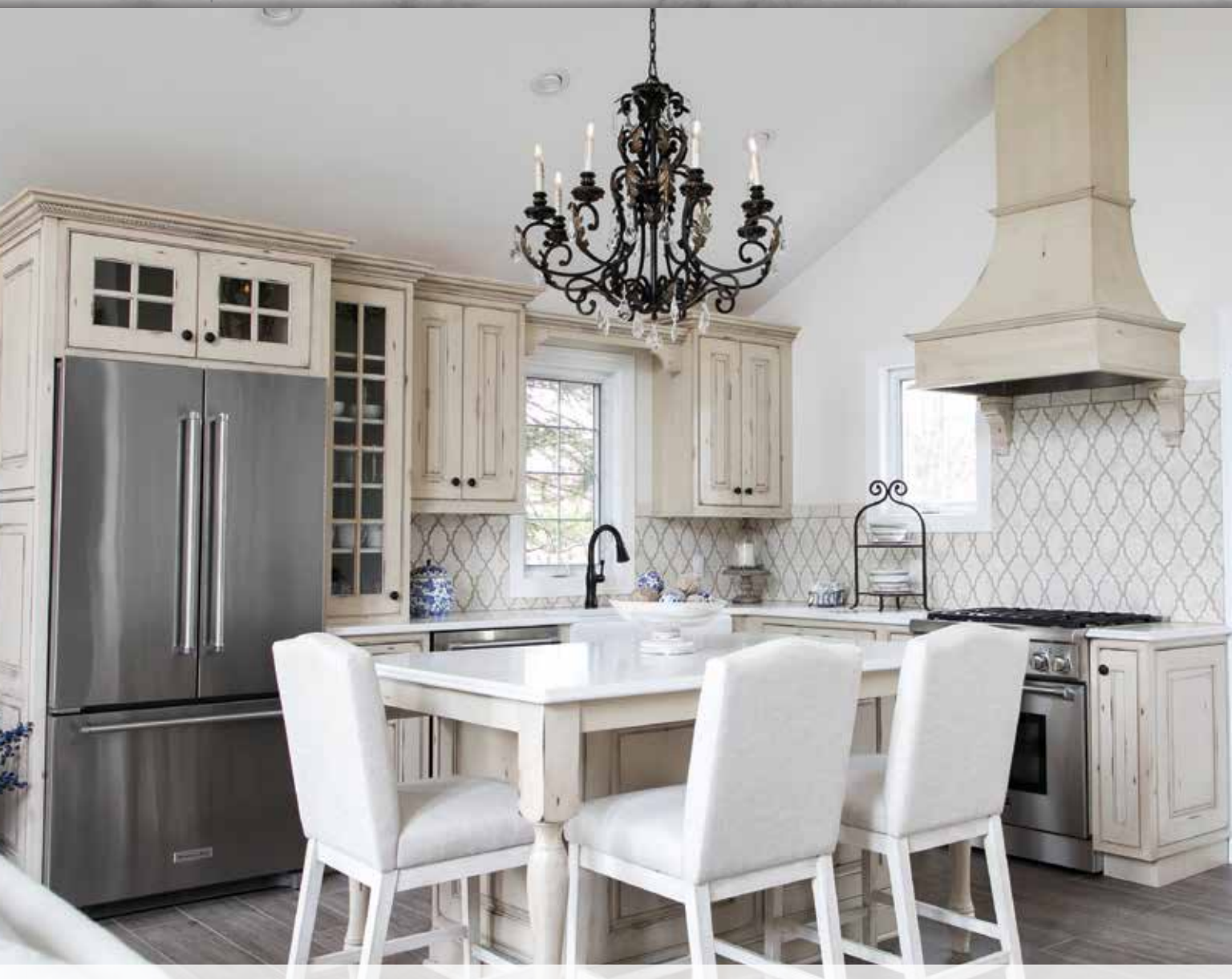




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