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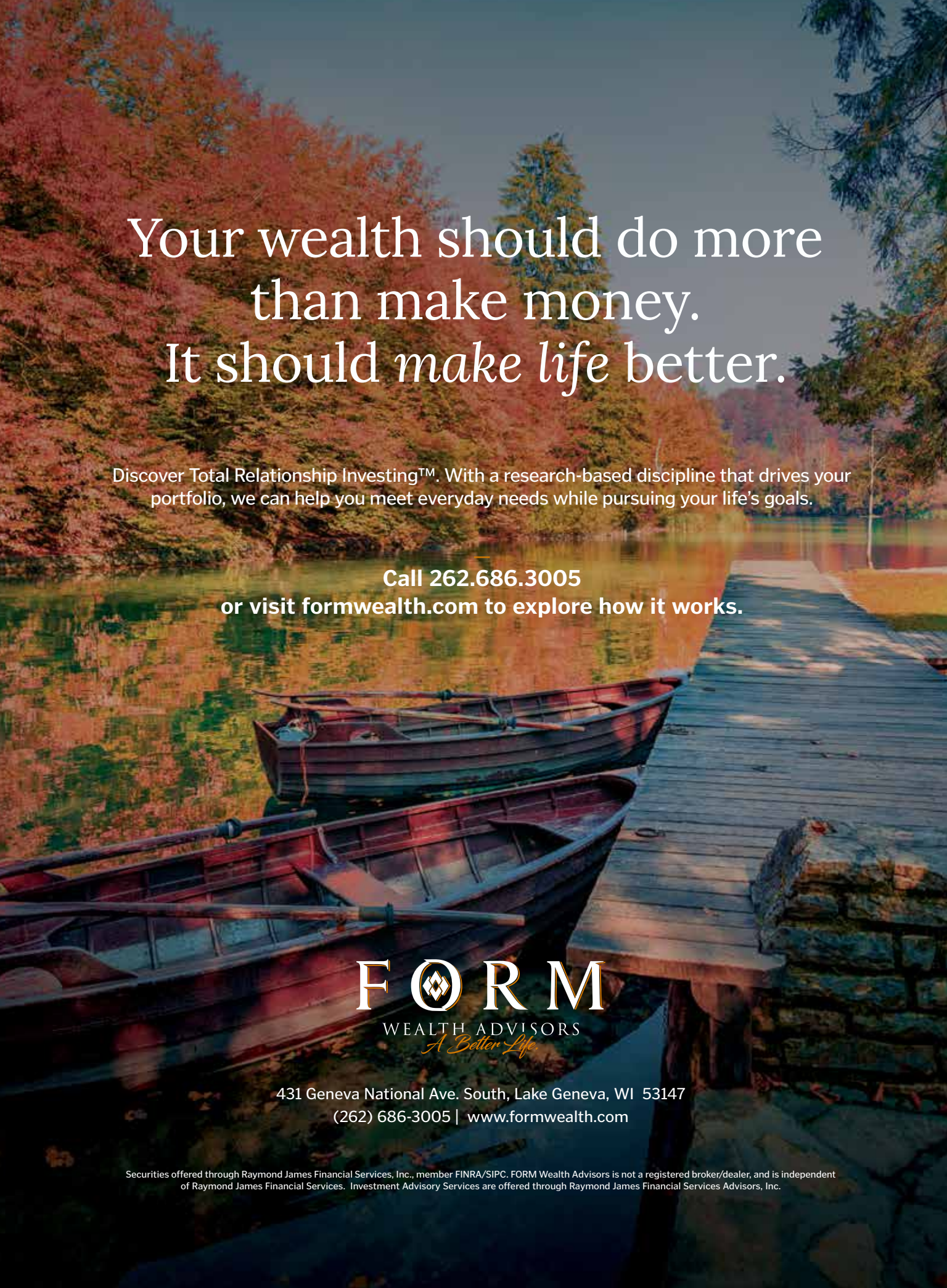
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Welcome to the new *At The Lake*!

Loyal readers of this magazine know that we are passionate about the Geneva Lake area and everything that makes this such a special place to live, vacation and visit. We are committed to shining a spotlight on the history, people, places and businesses that make up this unique community. That's as true today as it was 25 years ago, when the first issue of our magazine appeared on local stands.

To honor 25 years of producing the premier magazine of the Geneva Lake area, we are kicking off an entire year of celebration. Beginning with this issue, we're evolving our look with an ambitious redesign that puts the things we love most about the area on full display. First, you'll find a more luxurious layout that we hope allows for an even more engaging experience. We've also reorganized the magazine by adding four new departments: Food & Drink, covering all things cuisine in the Geneva Lake area; Out & About, spotlighting activities, events, and the movers and shakers who make them happen; Home & Garden, where we will expand our tradition of highlighting the most interesting and beautiful homes in the area; and Better Living, where we will focus on topics related to health and wellness, literature and charity activities.

Of course, some things transcend reinvention. As always, you will continue to find your favorite elements of *At The Lake* — deeply researched articles about the area's history, profiles of the people who make the community so special and, of course, the highest-quality photo portfolios, including the perennially popular "Lake Dogs" feature!

The new *At The Lake* continues our commitment to providing you, our loyal readers, with an exceptional, best-in-class magazine that we are confident you will enjoy reading, sharing and revisiting, just as you did when it launched in the autumn of 1997. Here's to the next 25 years of life *At The Lake*!

PS: Keep your eyes open this autumn for a very special 25th anniversary issue of *At The Lake*!

Anne Morrissy
Editor
anne@ntmediagroup.com



SUNFLOWER POWER

This fall, you'll find me picking up my favorite things at the area's local farm stands and farmers' markets. Turn to page 89 for the inside scoop.

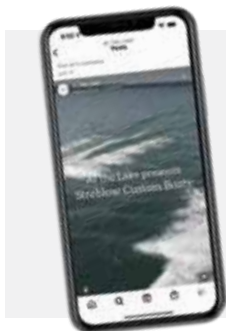
TOTE IT ALL

On page 40, we gathered a few of our favorite dog-themed accessories, including this handy tote made of genuine sail cloth!



COTTAGE CHARM

I love a classic Cape Cod, and the before-and-after with interior designer Theresa Hansen on page 37 provides me with plenty of inspiration.



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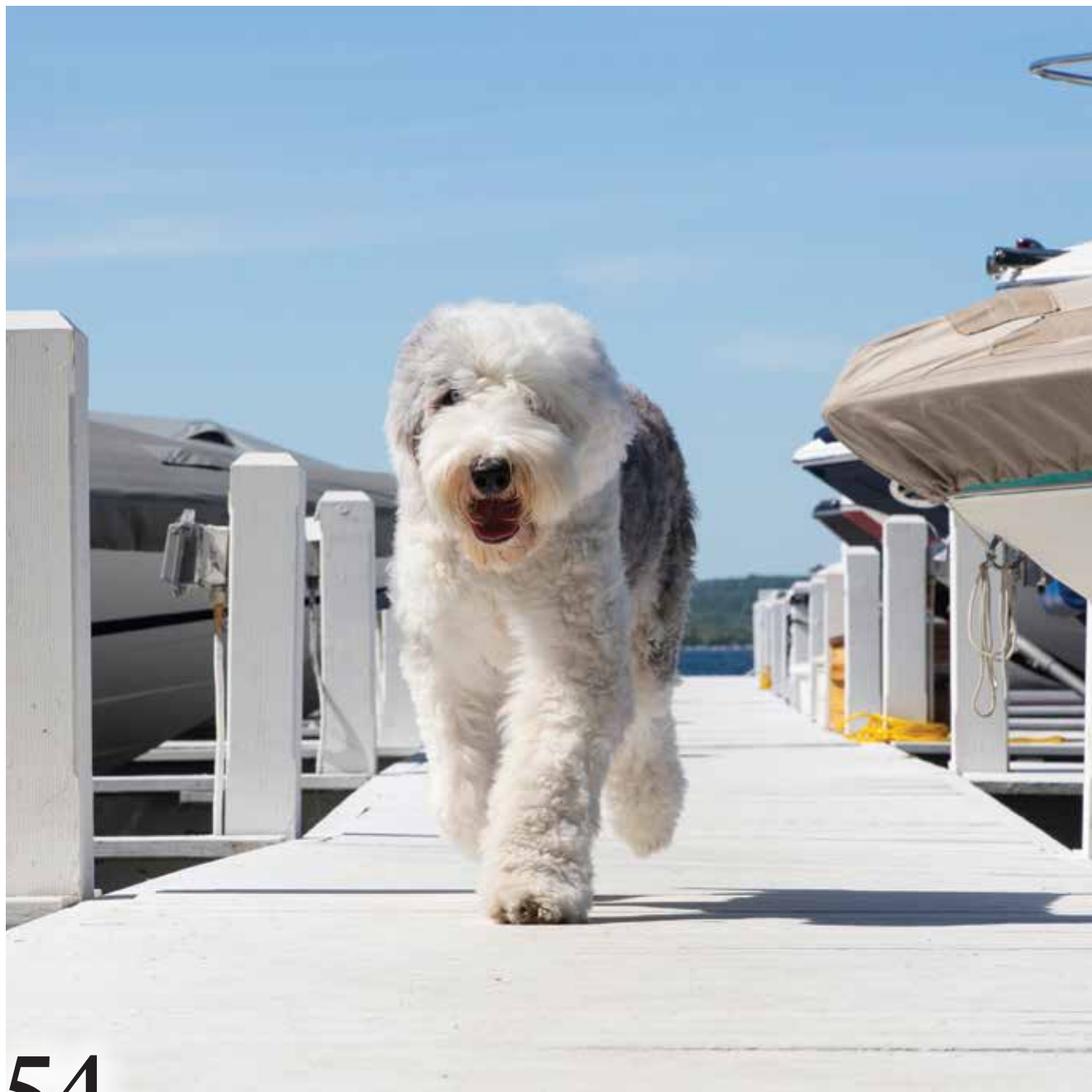
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ON THE COVER



Lake Dog,
Sage, posing
by Lake
Como on
a beautiful
autumn
evening.

Photo by
Holly Leitner

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Beginning in 1926, the Lake Ivanhoe community became a summer retreat for many generations of Black families.

Historic Lake Ivanhoe

The Wisconsin Historical Society recognizes Lake Ivanhoe with marker

BY ANNE MORRISSY

This year, the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) officially recognized Lake Ivanhoe with a two-sided historical marker celebrating its history as one of the first Black-founded communities in Wisconsin. The marker is the result of a partnership between the WHS and the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, which provides grant funding to celebrate and preserve community history. Over the next three years, the WHS will place 40 new historical markers honoring marginalized communities throughout the state, with the Lake Ivanhoe marker being one of the first.

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The Lake Ivanhoe community is located six miles east of Lake Geneva and was founded in 1926 by three Black men from Chicago — Jeremiah Brumfield, Frank Anglin and Bradford Watson — as a place to vacation safely with their families, free from the racial discrimination they experienced in majority-white vacation destinations. After securing investors, the three men purchased an 83-acre farm in Walworth County on what was then known as Ryan Lake, hiring a white real estate agent named Ivan Bell to broker the deal for them. They later renamed the lake in Bell's honor — Lake Ivanhoe.

Brumfield, Anglin and Watson platted the community into buildable home lots, and constructed a large pavilion overlooking the lake for community events, picnics and concerts, including one by jazz legend Cab Calloway. They named the streets after famous Black figures. Despite setbacks during the

Great Depression, the Lake Ivanhoe community continued to thrive as a majority-Black vacation community through the 1990s, when a housing program shifted the demographics in the area.

Current Lake Ivanhoe Homeowner's Association President Peter Baker first moved into the community in 1968, and today he is committed to sharing the history of Lake Ivanhoe with the world. He has given public talks on its history through local organizations including the Questers and the Lake Geneva Public Library, and in 2006, he began working with the Wisconsin Historical Society, undertaking the lengthy and diligent process of applying for a historical marker to commemorate the site's history. "I've been working on this for a long, long time," he explains.

Lake Geneva summer resident and historian Katie Green also wants to



Felicia and Tom Sawyer fishing in the 1950s.

ensure that Lake Ivanhoe's history is not forgotten, and she recently initiated a social media campaign to try to find and connect with former Lake Ivanhoe residents. "My hope is that people learn, share and work together to preserve the history of Lake Ivanhoe," Green says.

After many years of research and active advocacy, Baker was thrilled to receive the good news that Lake Ivanhoe would be one of the 40 sites recognized with the funds from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation. He says he plans to organize a Lake Ivanhoe reunion and celebration once the marker is installed. "It's very exciting that Lake Ivanhoe will be remembered this way," he says.

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Students in Williams Bay's ProStart class learn food preparation and restaurant management skills.

Serving up Education

Williams Bay High School culinary program receives national grant

The Williams Bay High School ProStart culinary and restaurant management

program recently received national recognition and grant funding through the Rachael Ray Foundation Grant Program in partnership with the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (NRAEF). Williams Bay was one of 38 schools throughout the country chosen to receive the grants. Only two other Wisconsin schools received the recognition.

Ray, a celebrity chef and host of the syndicated television shows "Rachael Ray" and "30 Minute Meals," announced earlier this year that her nonprofit foundation would contribute \$225,000 to the NRAEF to support ProStart Grow Grants. Schools were invited to apply for these grants and asked to demonstrate how the ProStart program positively impacted both their students and their wider communities.

The ProStart program is a national curriculum designed by the NRAEF to help students learn everything from complex culinary skills to proper food storage to restaurant management skills. Nationally, there are nearly 150,000 students enrolled in ProStart programs. Many of these students go on to successful careers in the restaurant industry, whether as managers, chefs or servers. The class culminates each spring with participation in the ProStart Invitational competition,



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where students compete in both culinary challenges and restaurant management challenges. Winners from the regional and state levels go on to compete at the national ProStart Invitational in Washington, D.C. Lake Geneva's Badger High School pioneered local participation in the program beginning in 2001, and has gone on to win the national ProStart competition twice.

Williams Bay's ProStart Program, now kicking off its fourth year, is a relatively new arrival to the area's ProStart landscape. ProStart teacher Christina Torres hopes to use the \$5,000 grant money from the Rachael Ray Foundation to purchase new kitchen equipment and increase participation in the career-track program. "The students can take the skills they have learned in the classroom and apply them in the real world to start their careers," she explains.

Poster-perfect Lake Geneva

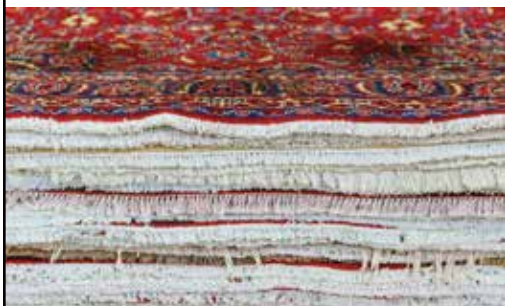
Local artist Neal Aspinall mounts his first show at the Geneva Room

Local artist and graphic designer Neal Aspinall has been creating memorable images of the Geneva Lake area for several decades — his work has graced everything from magazine covers to event posters to billboards. In July, Aspinall exhibited 25 of his original works in a show at the newly opened Geneva Room on the second floor of Lake Geneva's Landmark Center Building. The show, titled "Pure Genuine Lake Geneva: The Iconic Poster Artwork of Neal Aspinall," opened with a VIP reception and collectors' preview, including a live and silent auction and the unveiling of a new work of art,



Artist Neal Aspinall and event organizer Kristina Tarantino at "Pure Genuine Lake Geneva."

FROM TOP: NEAL ASPINALL, KRISTINA TARANTINO



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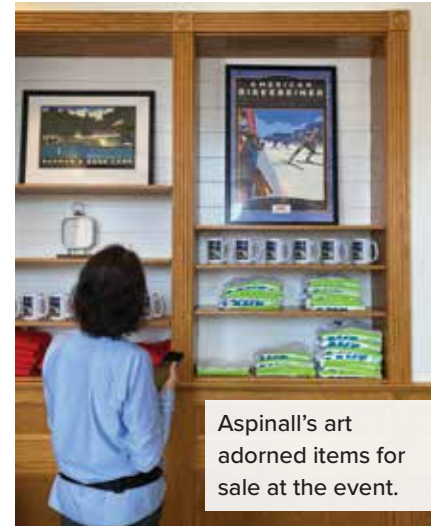
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as well as a meet-and-greet with the artist. Proceeds benefited the Geneva Lake Foundation, a local nonprofit organization facilitating education and the arts in the community.

Event organizer Kristina Tarantino says she approached Aspinall about a collaboration and received an enthusiastic response.

Aspinall attended Badger High School and graduated from the Art Institute of Colorado in 1985, where he was inducted into the hall of fame in 2007. He began working in his current role of freelance graphic designer in 1994, and has worked with a deep roster of national corporate clients, including Kona Brewing Company, Macy's and Nordstrom, among many others.

The show was Aspinall's first local, large-scale exhibition of work, as well as one of the first public events in the newly restored Geneva Room, an event and meeting space on the second floor of the historic Landmark Center building in downtown Lake Geneva. The building, originally called the Metropolitan Block, was designed in 1874 by the renowned Chicago architect William LeBaron Jenney. Over the years, the upper-floor space was used for hotel rooms and offices. The restoration has created a 975-square-foot event space for up to 75 guests, featuring lake views and full modern amenities. 🌊

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Pouring Creativity

Boxed and Burlap's John and Lindsay Neighbors on their life, their business and their newest coffee and art space

BY AMANDA N. WEGNER | PHOTOS BY LIZ HOFFMAN, UNLESS NOTED



Since opening the first location of their popular coffee shop Boxed and Burlap in a restored farmhouse north of Williams Bay in 2016, husband-and-wife team John and Lindsay Neighbors have gone on to add a second location inside the Lake Geneva Piggly Wiggly, incorporated a full event venue into their original location, and this fall they are opening a new Boxed and Burlap coffee shop and art studio/gallery in Delavan's historic downtown. The busy couple says that they are inspired by the past and driven by a desire to stay true to their faith while encouraging others.

"Boxed and Burlap is a feeling, fed to the soul with coffee, creative spaces and community," says Lindsay. "We aspire for our business to be a place that feeds the human soul with peace, comfort, hope and inspiration. We're all about people. Coffee is a connected piece." A dynamic duo, the Neighbors are committed to creating, ideating and exploring new possibilities.

A FAMILY ENDEAVOR

Family is a critical aspect of the Neighbors' story. Lindsay is originally from the Geneva Lake area and attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison, graduating with a degree in art education. Her first jobs as an art teacher brought her back home, working one year each in the Burlington and Delavan-Darien school districts before taking a job at Lake Geneva's Badger High School, where she was an art teacher for 11 years. John was born in Gary, Indiana, and raised in Texas. Eventually, he got a job in Chicago and moved to Elkhorn, where he met Lindsay. "Unbeknownst to me, my brother was friends with John," says Lindsay. "My brother is not the type to make introductions, but he decided I needed to meet John."

"I got the best of both worlds: a wife and a best friend, all in one family," John adds.

After the birth of their second daughter, they started looking for a way to eliminate John's Chicago commute and came up with the idea of starting a business of their own. "We talked about me changing careers and doing something we could build a family business around," says John. "My thinking was that I was still young enough, and if I don't do it now, it will be harder. And here we are."

PUTTING THE PUZZLE PIECES TOGETHER

John and Lindsay opened the first Boxed and Burlap in 2016 in a lovingly restored farmhouse and barn at the intersection of highways 50 and 67. Their original vision for the space was to open a garden center and nursery. Lindsay says the idea to add a coffee shop came from a friend. "When they suggested it, it felt like a natural pairing with the nursery," she says. "Plants and coffee, and the enjoyment of those spaces together at the same time made sense."

In a history of the property posted on the Boxed and Burlap website, John and Lindsay explain that the evolution of the first location didn't come easily. They initially opened on Mother's Day 2016, then closed again in June 2016 to finish projects around the property. But three months later, their



grand opening was a rousing success. “Like a work of art, Boxed and Burlap was a blank space with our team of two [working] as inspired students,” they explain. “Boxed and Burlap’s story was not planned; in fact, there were moments in the beginning when we had to stop and put all of the puzzle pieces together.”

John and Lindsay operated a nursery on the site for three years before phasing it out in order to develop the property into an event venue, which is now a popular spot for weddings. They converted the barn behind the coffeehouse into a full-amenity indoor venue, adding retractable glass doors, skylights, bar stations, dance floor space and a catering kitchen. A smaller structure on the property, known as the Batten House, provides additional prep areas for bridal parties. “Over the last three years, the event space has trended 100% toward weddings,” says John.

Then in 2018, John and Lindsay opened their second



location inside Lake Geneva’s Piggly Wiggly. From the beginning, the couple sought to offer a bespoke coffee experience in their coffee shop. In searching for the perfect espresso machine, they connected with Christopher Calkins, a coffee roaster in Brooklyn, New York. Calkins, who apprenticed with Alfred Peet of national chain Peet’s Coffee and also worked with the co-founders of Starbucks, shared his expertise with John and Lindsay, and in

2020, Boxed and Burlap began roasting its own coffee at the Lake Geneva location.

“We wanted more of a customized, artisan experience, and what Chris offered was attractive to us,” says John. “That piece ties to our desire to offer a high-quality, welcoming experience that you can’t get anywhere else.”

A NEW LOCATION AND A FOCUS ON ART

The newest Boxed and Burlap location inside the former

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Schultz Brothers five-and-dime store at 230 E. Walworth Ave. in Delavan brings an added dimension to John and Lindsay's vision: art. The new space, which contains more than 18,000 square feet, includes a coffee shop, art studio, gallery and classroom space, drawing on Lindsay's background as an artist and art teacher.

"With the new space, we've brought visual creativity into the mission," says Lindsay. The main level of the new location features an art studio space that will host classes in pottery, drawing and painting, led by local artists and teachers. John and Lindsay say that the front half of the art studio space, which sits toward the front of the building, can easily host drawing and painting classes, a gallery open house or an art show. The back half of the space will be dedicated to pottery. The art studio space and coffee shop are separated by glass walls so that café patrons can enjoy the creative process unfolding around them. "It's a way to share the experience," says Lindsay. "If a class is happening, customers can observe what's happening, even if they are not in the class."

The new location also features a few small, private, soundproofed rooms where people can hold meetings or even record podcasts. There will also be space for Lindsay to maintain an art studio for her own art, including watercolor, oil painting and photography, something she has missed since leaving her teaching job two years ago to focus on Boxed and Burlap.

In addition to the coffee shop and art studio and class space, Boxed and Burlap's roasting operation will move to the new facility as well. The café will offer food for the first time, including light breakfast and lunch options, such as breakfast sandwiches, avocado toast, soups and salads, flatbread pizza and charcuterie plates. And for those looking for something less caffeinated, the new location also features a speakeasy space, which will offer a full bar, though John says it will be more "cocktail- and bourbon-forward, with a large number of allocated bourbons."



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The new location can also double as an event venue, accommodating small events of up to 40 people. Whether you're looking to plug in to do some work, chat with a friend or curl up with a book from the space's new library of donated books, there's a bevy of seating options, including outdoor patio space. "We have just about every kind of seating — countertop, table, island, lounge seating," Lindsay says. "There is a little bit of everything, and you're almost guaranteed to find a space."

With the new Delavan location opening, Boxed and Burlap will close their space in the Lake Geneva Piggly Wiggly. At the time of publication, the Neighbors are hoping for a soft opening of the downtown Delavan location around Sept. 17 to coincide with the six-year anniversary of the business.

QUALITY CRAFTSMANSHIP AND GENUINE CONNECTION

In everything they do, John and Lindsay enthusiastically support the movement to bring back the art of "slow food" and quality American craftsmanship. When restoring the former Schultz Brothers space, John says they opted for a mid-century-inspired aesthetic that incorporates artisan woodwork and metalwork, and unique, hand-crafted design touches. This level of artisan detail extends to their food and drink options, and their approach to service in general. "We have nothing against drive-thrus, but we have built our business around quality and service that we do not want compromised for speed," says John. "That doesn't mean our staff is slower, but what we want is for people, in a world that has become so stressed or anxious, to feel comfort and be in a space where the quality and service stresses the human connection."

Lindsay concurs. "We want to offer a full human experience," she says. "We want people to come in and order coffee, and experience having it handed to you with a smiling face and the warmth of human connection. We've worked to create an environment you want to come into."

In addition to creating a welcoming environment for customers, the hard-working couple is also committed to giving back to the community through their charitable giving, donating a portion of the sales of select retail items to art therapy and mental health services in Wisconsin. This includes continued support of the Agape House of Wisconsin, which provides services to abused or distressed teenage boys and girls.

"We feel very blessed," says John. "The support of our business, our mission, has been overwhelming. We are so grateful for the loyalty of our customers and followers. Their love, patience and excitement help us keep focused, and moving forward." 🐾



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Before

A new door and windows, lantern sconces and landscaping updated the exterior of the Hansens' Fontana cottage.

Classic Cottage Before and After

How a local interior designer maximized indoor and outdoor living in her family's fixer-upper Cape Cod

BY LAUREN EVE

Pulling into the driveway of the cozy 1920's era, Cape Cod-style cottage felt like home right away to Theresa Hansen, owner of Theresa Hansen Interiors, and her husband Matt. At first glance, it was clear the house was a fixer-upper, and the Hansens decided they would live in the home for several months before beginning renovations in order to help them think more purposefully about each room. "The best way to design any home," she explains, "is thinking about what is needed in a space first. Function before aesthetics." Ultimately, they chose to focus on



maximizing indoor and outdoor living within the home's existing structure, drawing inspiration from the location of the house in the charming, historic Indian Hills subdivision on the south shore of Geneva Lake in Fontana.

Tackling the exterior of the home was one of the largest overhauls of the renovation. The entire home was wrapped in stucco that was in dire need of repair. The home's large windows also needed a refresh. The Hansens replaced most of the windows and installed LP SmartSide to the exterior to give the home a smoother finish. Deep windowsills were added to each window and custom millwork framed the windows inside. The Hansens also renovated the home's two existing outdoor decks, replacing the traditional wood with Trex decking material, and added more square footage in the process, including a unique, bird's-eye view of the neighborhood from the deck's upper level.



However, the interior renovations presented a bigger creative challenge. The large living room ceiling contained an off-center, load-bearing beam that could not be removed. The surrounding walls were cracked and would require extensive repairs. "You can make lemonade out of lemons," Theresa explains. "There's always a creative solution." They decided to integrate the beam into a beautiful

new coffered ceiling that is now one of the most eye-catching features of the room.

Next, they added white shiplap to the walls for texture and replaced the dated flooring with hickory floors, then opted for a large sectional sofa from Hansen's own custom upholstery line, Berhan Designs, to provide more seating for guests. In the bedroom, they swapped out a window for a large, sliding-glass door that now leads to the deck and lets in a lot more light. Theresa says that the decor throughout the home was chosen to reflect the natural environment, with a color palette of greens, blues and whites. "Every time I walk in the house, I feel like it's a sunny day on the water," she says.

In the kitchen, function and organization remained a top priority. "It's like solving a puzzle," she explains. "Plan your design around storage, making sure there's a place for everything." The Hansens removed a large wall between the kitchen and the dining area, expanding the space for improved flow, and replaced the kitchen cabinets with custom-built maple cabinets from Berhan Designs. Theresa opted for Calcutta subway tile on the kitchen counters and backsplash, extending it all the way to



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: VICTORIA MCHUGH; CHRIS KAYSER, KAYSERPHOTOGRAPHY; VICTORIA MCHUGH; CHRIS KAYSER, KAYSERPHOTOGRAPHY; VICTORIA MCHUGH

*“You don’t always
have to tear down
the history ...
instead you get
creative.”*

— Theresa Hansen



After



Before

the ceiling for a seamless aesthetic. A convenient coffee and wet bar area just off the kitchen also provides space for an ice maker and prep sink — all strategically concealed behind cabinets.

The Hansens feel their renovations have been a huge success. While the original home provided many challenges to navigate, they were able to design a space that allows their family and guests to enjoy both outdoor and indoor living spaces. “I’m happy that we got what we truly wanted,” Theresa says. “You don’t always have to tear down the history. When you face a design challenge, it’s not about eliminating — instead you get creative.” *—*

TOP: VICTORIA MCHUGH; BOTTOM: CHRIS KAYSER, KAYSERPHOTOGRAPHY

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One couple poured their hearts into building “The Lighthouse,”
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BY TASHA DOWNING | PHOTOS BY SHANNA WOLF, UNLESS NOTED

Chris and Lana first connected on the beautiful shores of Geneva Lake 25 years ago, and when they eventually married, they thought it only fitting to tie the knot on its blue waters. “Chris was in the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and he loves nothing more than boating,” says Lana. “That’s his happy place. We were married on the *Lady of the Lake*, and wherever they dock the boat is the municipality that you are officially married in, so we made sure that we came ashore in Fontana, where we had a vacation house.”

Now in their early forties and living the rest of the year in Illinois, the couple recently made the decision to upgrade their vacation home to one that would someday double as their ultimate retirement spot, enjoying it in the

meantime with their four children. Their Fontana home was a cozy two-bedroom ranch house, but it was not the large home they envisioned, with space for hosting many guests and future grandchildren. So they began to search for a new house around the lake. It turned out the ideal property was closer than they imagined. “Our next-door neighbor was downsizing,” explains Lana. “He asked if we would be interested in his place. We said ... do you want to swap houses? And he said, let’s do it!” Lana says she had always adored the huge oak trees on the property next door, and the pieces fell into place — the neighbors remained together, just on opposite sides of each other. “We agreed on the price difference, no realtors, just hired one lawyer, one mover and moved the same day. It was the easiest process ever!”



A uniquely textured herringbone backsplash in the dining room evokes a chunky-knit blanket but is made of multidimensional concrete tile.



The matter of building the house was a new project for Chris and Lana, who had initially hoped to preserve the original home, but ran into several challenges and eventually received the neighbor's blessing to start from scratch. After many interviews, much research and a couple of false starts, the couple found Kris Rhyner and Russ Wegner from Scherrer Construction Co., Inc., based in nearby Burlington. "They are a phenomenal homebuilder with everything in-house; the architect, the contractor, the engineers — it's a one-stop shop," says Chris. And even before Chris and Lana settled on Scherrer, they began working with interior designer Kelly Guinaugh of Interior Enhancement Group to ensure that the home they built was exactly what they dreamed of.

One of Lana's top concerns was preserving the integrity of the massive oak trees on the property, a process which required consulting arborists and assigning a dedicated supervisor to oversee the project. Chris had found a home plan online that he liked, which would allow for the preservation of the trees. Rhyner helped customize the design to the couple's specifications, even adding ADA-compliant features like three-foot-wide doorways and a zero-step entry into the garage to ensure this could be the "forever" home the couple desired. "We have



four kids, but we didn't want the house to feel too big when it's just the two of us up there," explains Lana. "So it's designed for us to live in half of the house when it's just us, but then there's another half for when everyone is here."

Chris and Lana brought in interior designer Guinaugh and her team very early in the process and found that she had insightful ideas about room layouts during the architectural phase that improved the home's functionality tremendously. "For example, [Guinaugh] noticed in the plans that the window above the kitchen sink started at five feet. I'm 5-feet, 2 inches," laughs Lana. "So that means when I'm at the kitchen



The open-concept kitchen, living and dining room make the house feel spacious, while glass walls separate the space from the sunny all-season room (top photo). The home's soothing exterior is painted in Benjamin Moore Classic Gray and accented in Sherwin-Williams Storm Warning (above).

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sink and I want to look at the lake, I can't see out the window! I'm very detail oriented and I missed that one." Guinaugh's elegant solutions helped create the ideal space Chris and Lana envisioned.

That vision was a Scandinavian-inspired retreat where Chris and Lana hoped to spend a lot of time in all seasons. Their top priority was to make the home feel cozy and inviting, but they also wanted a clean look with pops of greenery, and they were concerned about the decor looking dated over time. "We didn't want to have to redo it in 10 years," says Chris. "We tried to stay away from a lot of trendy things and really focus on a cozy feel, that's why we didn't go overly 'lake house-y.'"

Despite their love of boating, the pair shied away from a strong nautical theme because they enjoy spending as much time at their vacation home in the winter as they do in the summer, so instead they opted for a serene coastal vibe that

works year-round. The exterior of the home is painted with Benjamin Moore Classic Gray and accented with Sherwin-Williams Storm Warning, and that soft gray theme is carried throughout the interior, where Guinaugh helped them select peaceful shades like Sherwin-Williams Egret White and Agreeable Gray. Unexpected touches like a granite bar with a velvet finish, and quartzite countertops with a honed matte finish add to the luxe atmosphere.

With her eye on the upscale-lodge look featured in the hit TV series "Yellowstone," Lana set her sights on the ultimate, spa-like primary bathroom. "There is an amazing bathroom in the Dutton house in 'Yellowstone,' and I wanted a built-in



Details like the main stairway's driftwood light fixture infuse a calm, coastal aesthetic.



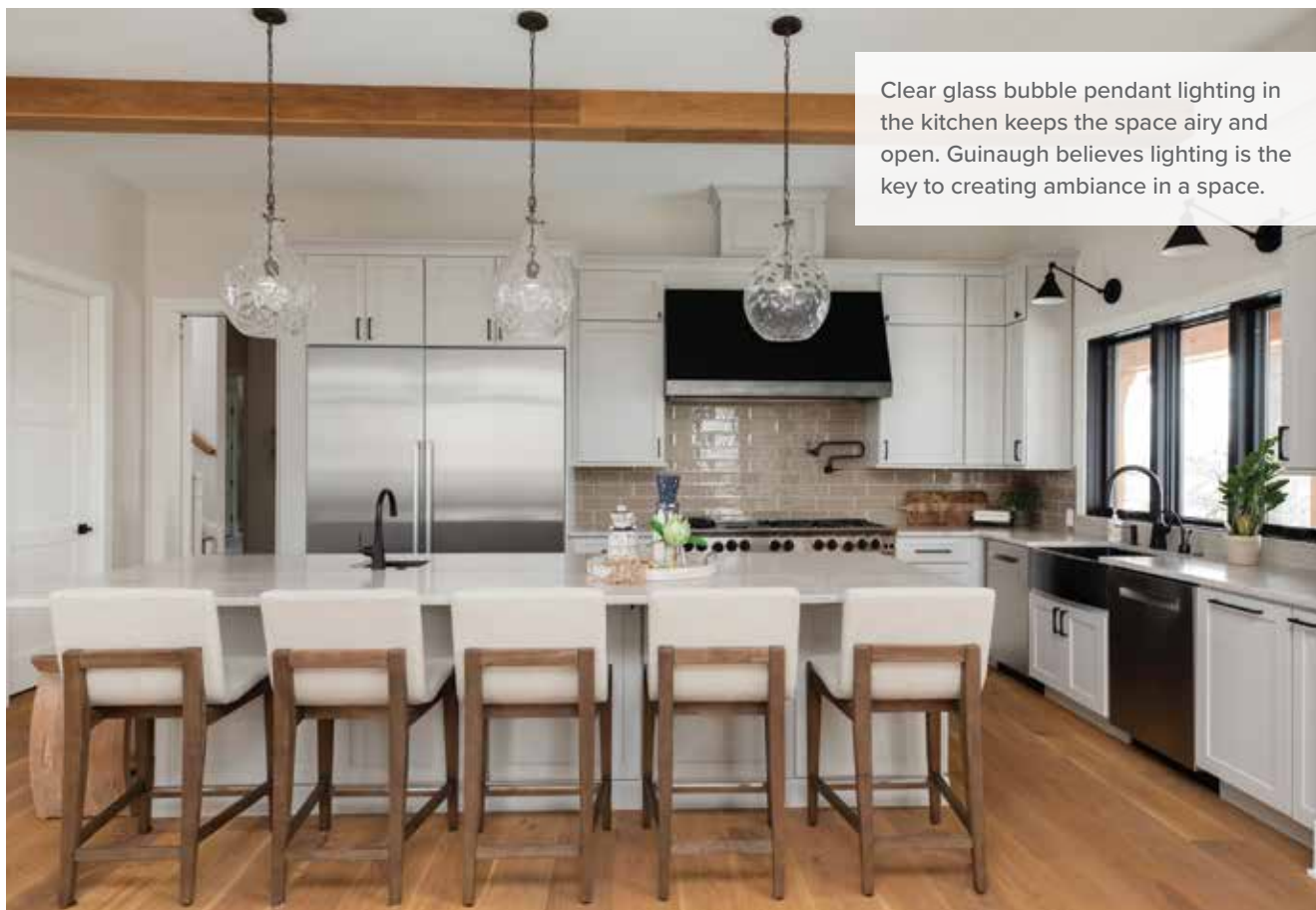
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Clear glass bubble pendant lighting in the kitchen keeps the space airy and open. Guinaugh believes lighting is the key to creating ambiance in a space.



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wood tub with flush mortar and stone around the tub. But stone is really expensive,” Lana says. “[Guinaugh] found these reclaimed wooden tiles to create a highlight wall behind the tub, which was a great solution and gave me the same feel.” Using the wooden tiles to incorporate Lana’s favorite chevron and herringbone patterns from the rest of the house into the wall in the primary bath completed the look.

Never having worked with an interior designer, the couple wasn’t sure what to expect. Lana says Guinaugh and her team typically offered several choices including at least one unexpected or unique option, which was often the choice that the couple fell in love with — like the two-piece wooden coffee table in the living room. On move-in day, Lana and Chris say their home was picture-perfect. “The house looks beautiful,” says Chris. “The workmanship was phenomenal, and we could not be happier.”



A custom-designed wall installation made of reclaimed wooden chevron tiles provides a stunning focal point behind the tub in the primary bath.



A sleek gas fireplace was elevated so Chris and Lana could watch the fire without leaving their cozy bed (above). Designed in a Scandinavian style, the first-floor sun room offers a cheerful spot for conversation (left).

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Stephanie Parent

AT THE LAKE

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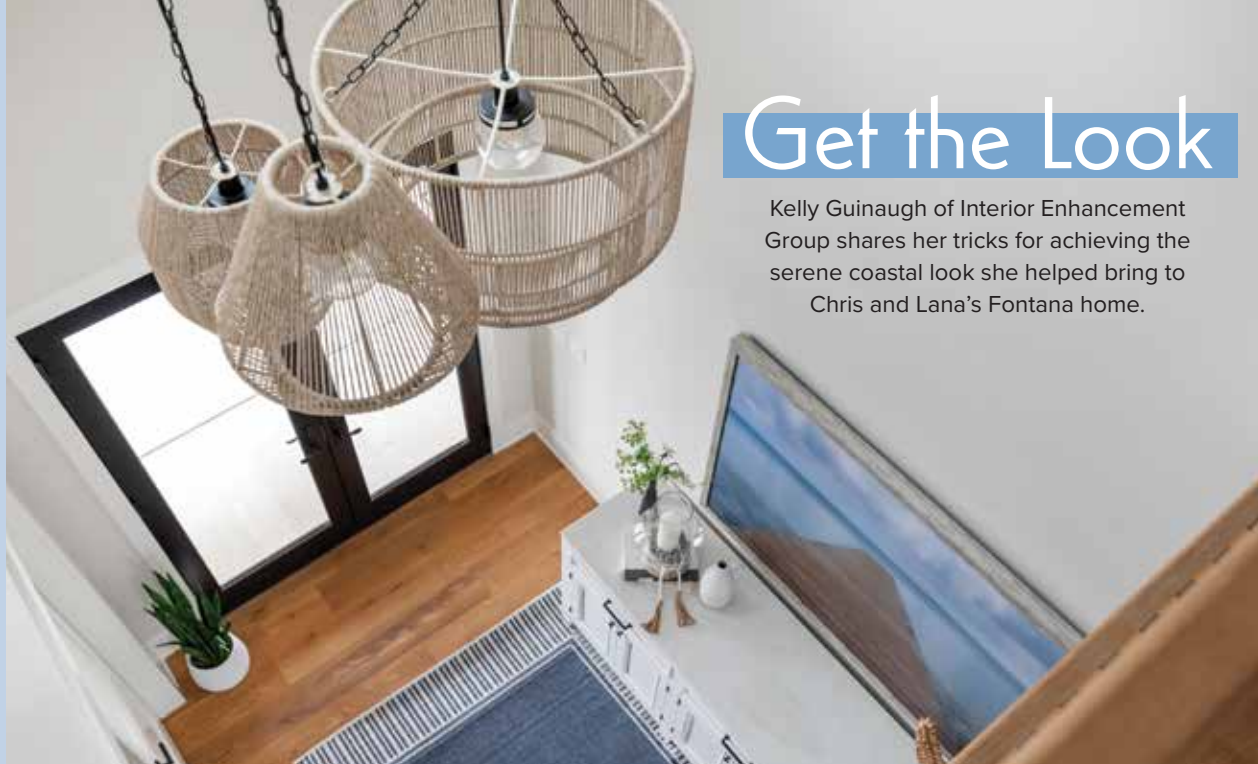
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Get the Look

Kelly Guinaugh of Interior Enhancement Group shares her tricks for achieving the serene coastal look she helped bring to Chris and Lana's Fontana home.

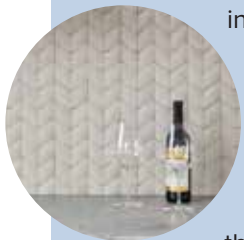


What is the secret to accessorizing a home? Accessories complete a home and give it personality. In this case, the framed paddles were a great choice for obvious reasons, given that Chris and Lana have a lake home. But they also fill a sizable space, add texture and a different element than a traditional painting or photograph. Our goal is to “mix it up” to create a curated look that fits the home.



The house features a lot of tile accents. Any advice about how to do that well? Layering, choosing a variety of finishes and textures for the walls rather than paint alone, adds visual interest. The white chevron

installation in the primary bath is made of individual pieces of wood (sized and applied to our specifications) and the concrete, multi-dimensional tile above the bar adds a lot of texture. Both are very organic, which also tie into the lake home setting.



What's worth a splurge? Examples of items worth splurging on would be elements like the chevron accent wall in Chris and Lana's primary bathroom, and the dimensional, concrete tile for their full-height bar backsplash — both of those are just fabulous!




Where can homeowners afford to save?

In furniture selections, we always recommend purchasing the best upholstered pieces the budget allows, as these are used over and over, and you want them to withstand heavy use as well as feel very comfortable. Case goods are a better place to save on your budget, including end tables. These don't take the wear and tear of daily usage like a sofa or sectional does. As long as the drawers operate well and the pieces have a durable finish, you can get away with spending less.



What is the most common interior design mistake homeowners make? First one that comes to mind is proper scaling of furniture and/or purchasing items that are not going to withstand the use that is required. Knowing the appropriate dimensions for placing furniture in a room is vital. Making the wrong choices can kill functionality — it's a very costly error.

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Lake Dogs

PHOTOS BY HOLLY LEITNER AND LAUREN HARRIGAN

As we kick off the yearlong celebration of our 25th anniversary of *At The Lake*, you may have noticed several exciting changes and updates to this issue, but one thing remains a constant: our shared love for “Lake Dogs.” In fact, this year we received a record number of submissions! Thank you for sharing your adorable, furry friends with us. It took much deliberation to narrow the incredible field down to the 21 dogs you see in this year’s “Lake Dogs” portfolio, and we are thrilled to share this year’s group with you.

For even more canine cuteness, you can order our book, “Lake Dogs,” featuring over 100 color photographs of dogs who call the Geneva Lake area home, available at atthelakemagazine.com. Lucky puppies!



Kona

7-year-old German Shepherd

Family: Grace Bush | **Personality Traits:** Loving, loyal and spunky. | **Favorite Lake Activities:** Jumping in after balls, sticks or her favorite humans. | **Pet Peeve:** Chipmunks! | **Naughtiest Deed:** Ruining gutters from chasing the poor chipmunks.



Gracie

4-year-old Yorkshire Terrier

Family

Milan & Emily Nesic

Personality Traits

Determined, feisty, playful, sometimes bossy, always affectionate.

Favorite Lake Activities

Taking her pontoon out on Geneva Lake.

Pet Peeve

1. Birds. 2. When her ball gets stuck under the couch. 3. That she always has to perform tricks for a treat.

Naughtiest Deed

When she jumped in a muddy lake after a frog right before her humans' wedding.



Tank & Beans

6-month-old English Bulldogs

Family: The Hausner family | **Personality Traits:** Tank is active, Beans is a lover. | **Favorite Lake Activities:** Splashing in the lake.
Pet Peeves: Beans doesn't like his vest, Tank doesn't like the vacuum. | **Naughtiest Deed:** Chewing everything!

Pepe

10-year-old Cunucu
(island street dog from Aruba)

Family
Amy Gorz

Personality Traits
Always goofy and happy, like
Sid the sloth from "Ice Age."

Favorite Lake Activities
He loves to swim and bite the water.

Pet Peeve
Squirrels.

Naughtiest Deed
Catching squirrels.

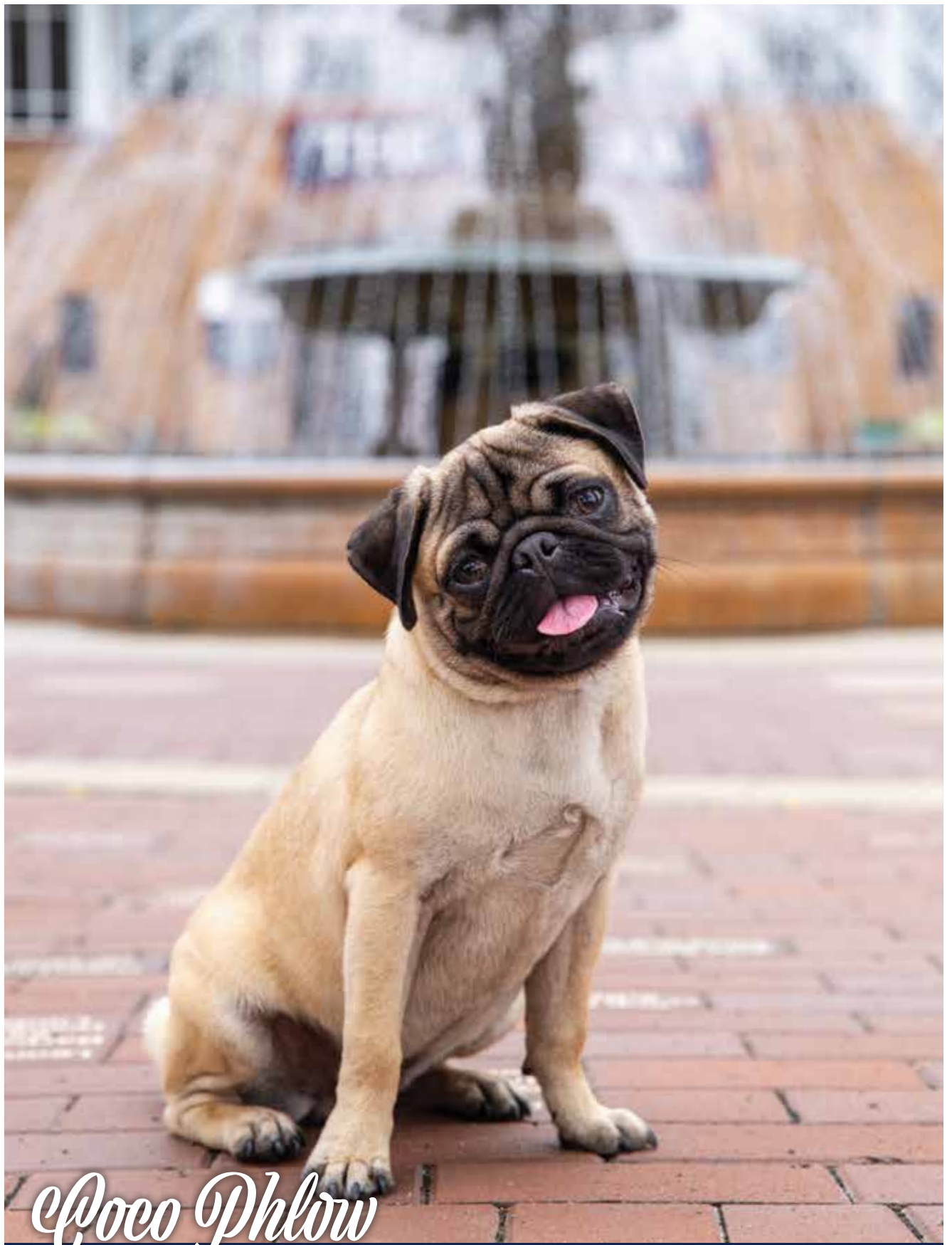


Strebbe

2-year-old Toy Goldendoodle

Family: Sean & Sarah Harrigan | **Personality Traits:** Playful, brave and bossy. | **Favorite Lake Activities:** Swimming and paddleboarding. | **Pet Peeve:** Being out of the spotlight. | **Naughtiest Deed:** Hid an Apple Watch for a month before returning it.

ABOVE: HOLLY LEITNER, LEFT: LAUREN HARRIGAN



Poco Phlow

5-month-old Pug

Family: Ms. Mae & Family | **Personality Trait:** Funny. | **Favorite Lake Activities:** Loves swimming!
Pet Peeve: Not getting attention. | **Naughtiest Deed:** Barking like a pterodactyl being tortured.



Bridger & Bolt

2-year-old & 4-year-old Golden Retrievers

Family: Gregg & Jes Christenson | **Personality Traits:** Korean street survivors, they're tough and so loving.
Favorite Lake Activities: Spotting for wakesurfers and swimming. | **Pet Peeve:** When the other dog gets to go for a car ride, or when they don't get a hug back. | **Naughtiest Deed:** Eating all the scraps of food in the Champs beer garden.

Louie

1-year-old Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

Family

The Duber Family

Personality Traits

Magnetic, charming, debonair.

Favorite Lake Activities

Boating and sunbathing.

Pet Peeve

Waiting in line at the boat launch.

Naughtiest Deed

Eating a perfectly good AirPods.



ABOVE & LEFT: LAUREN HARRIGAN



Chewy

9-year-old Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier

Family

Tom, Gretchen & Amanda Coulman

Personality Traits

Party animal, loves kids/people and being outdoors.

Favorite Lake Activities

Getting wet and wading in the water.

Pet Peeve

His feet being touched.

Naughtiest Deed

Visiting neighbors without an invite. We meet so many nice people this way!



Pancake

3-year-old Blue French Bulldog

Family: Bryan, Katie, Alex & Jack | **Personality Traits:** Crazy, funny and carefree | **Favorite Lake Activities:** Chewing on the tube ropes. | **Pet Peeve:** Not playing enough fetch. | **Naughtiest Deed:** Playing hide-and-seek with his ball.

Winston

Johnathon "Winston" Lennon

4-year-old Old English Sheepdog

Family

Nancy Abrams Family

Personality Traits

Chill, indifferent, extremely friendly, big hearted, unbothered and highly social.

Favorite Lake Activities

Watching his girls swim as he looks out over the Brookwood deck. Wading in the shallow water to cool off, and seeing his friends at the Yacht Club and Sybil Lane.

Pet Peeve

Not being allowed to swim anywhere he wants to on the lake front path ... which is everywhere and anywhere. Also that he can't play pool at The Owl.

Naughtiest Deed

Grabbing clothes out of the laundry room for attention while the family watches their evening shows.



Bolt

7-year-old German Shorthaired Pointer

Family: Victoria Gillio & Grandma Viva Gillio | **Personality Traits:** Crazy energy, alternating with loving lapdog

Favorite Lake Activities: Early morning lakefront walks in Edgewater Park in Williams Bay, where he meets dog friends and visits Harbormaster Jay's fun crew for treats. | **Pet Peeve:** Being on his own. He is a "Velcro" dog and wants to be near "his" people.

Naughtiest Deed: Running through his grandma's favorite canna lilies!

ABOVE: LAUREN HARRIGAN, LEFT: HOLLY LEITNER



Reuben

(Certified Therapy Dog)

2-year-old Norfolk Terrier

Family: Roger Barth, Ann Barth & Katrina Dennis | **Personality Traits:** Smart, spunky, goofy and cuddly.
Favorite Lake Activities: Loves lake path walks! **Pet Peeve:** When the fast-food drive-thru is out of dog treats.
Naughtiest Deed: Breaking loose and running to the front of the line of an AKC event.



Stella & Trecker (Stella Sunshine) (Trecker Balls)

3-year-old & 3½-year-old Goldendoodles

Family: The Hurley Family | **Personality Trait:** Stella is social, love-y and high energy. Trecker is loyal, grumpy and lazy.
Favorite Lake Activities: Stella loves chasing squirrels, Trecker loves people watching from his perch. | **Pet Peeve:** Stella dislikes rainy days. Trecker dislikes dog walks. | **Naughtiest Deed:** Stella escapes the dog fence to chase squirrels. Trecker eats shoes.

Deke

3-year-old Labrador Retriever

Family

Elizabeth & Henry Edwards

Personality Traits

Loyal, energetic, protective, comforting. Makes hearts happy and serves as his mom's therapist.

Favorite Lake Activities

Waking Mom up very early every single morning to go for a walk by the lake so that he can glide around the Fontana Boat Launch while looking at the sunrise. Also walking down every single pier in Fontana.

Pet Peeves

When his family leaves the house, and when Mom doesn't let him jump on visitors.

Naughtiest Deed

Most stubborn living thing.



ABOVE & LEFT: LAUREN HARRIGAN



Primrose & Juniper

4-year-old & 2-year-old
Miniature Goldendoodles

Family

Jordan & Darla Innis

Personality Traits

Primrose has attitude and is a deep thinker.
Juniper is very friendly and goofy.

Favorite Lake Activities

Riding along on paddle boards, and swimming
with the kids.

Pet Peeve

When their family leaves the house without
them.

Naughtiest Deed

Both are dinner table bandits. No unattended
plate is safe!



Sage (Cover Dog)

1-year-old Black Lab

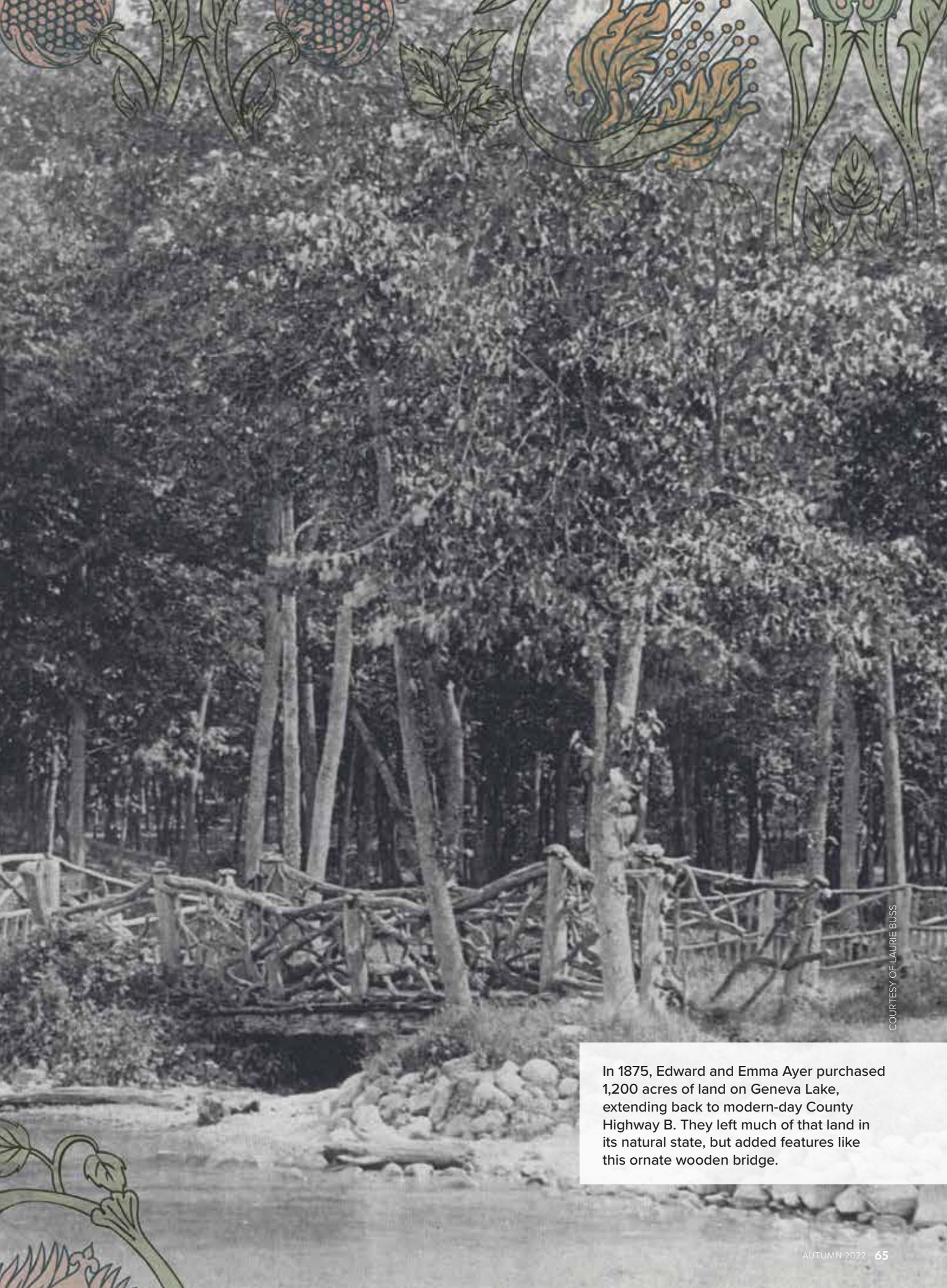
Family: Jordan & Darla Innis | **Personality Traits:** Works hard and will do anything for Dad, but when at home, she's the baby!
Favorite Lake Activities: Retrieving bumpers. She always wants one more thrown. | **Pet Peeve:** When we make a sandwich and forget to give her a little bit of turkey. | **Naughtiest Deed:** When she's not retrieving bumpers or birds, she's a toy thief. She raids the kids' room for something to bring to Dad.



THE LAY OF THE LAND

Before the development of Abbey Springs, intrepid Geneva Lake trailblazers Edward and Emma Ayer made these incredible 1,200 acres their own

BY SARAH T. LAHEY



COURTESY OF LAURIE BUSS

In 1875, Edward and Emma Ayer purchased 1,200 acres of land on Geneva Lake, extending back to modern-day County Highway B. They left much of that land in its natural state, but added features like this ornate wooden bridge.

Imagine for a moment that you are departing for a boat ride around the lake on a crisp fall afternoon, leaving from the Fontana Municipal pier and heading along the lake's south shore. Just a mile or so east of the Fontana Beach, you will pass the historic lakefront cottages of the Harvard Club subdivision, and then drift past the shared beach, yacht club and marina of the Abbey Springs subdivision. Incredibly, all of this lakefront property, plus an additional 1,200 acres of land stretching back from the lake, used to belong to one intrepid and fascinating couple: Edward and Emma Ayer.

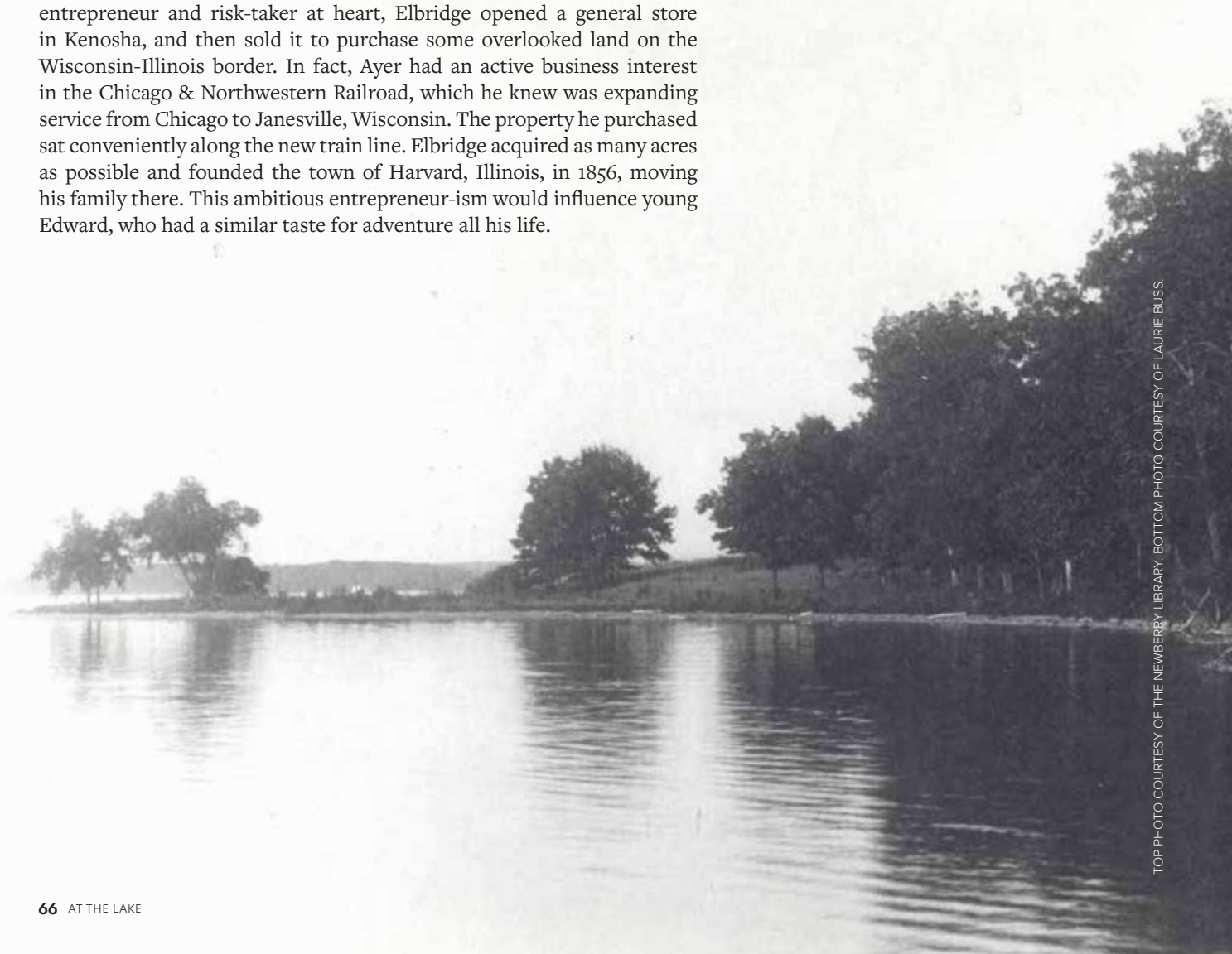
To give you an idea of the sheer vastness of 1,200 acres, the land that the Ayers owned at the end of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th century could have accommodated more than 900 modern NFL football fields. The Ayers used that land to establish two separate farms and more than five miles of walking paths. They also built a modest lakefront home called The Oaks, where they spent time in the summer when they weren't engaged in extensive, round-the-world travel. Despite their significant wealth, Edward and Emma Ayer did not want a grand mansion, so they built The Oaks as a relatively humble cottage near the water, and it remained standing on the site for nearly 100 years.

HARVARD ROOTS

Edward Ayer was the son of Elbridge Ayer, an early settler who arrived in the Midwest before Wisconsin even became the 30th state. An entrepreneur and risk-taker at heart, Elbridge opened a general store in Kenosha, and then sold it to purchase some overlooked land on the Wisconsin-Illinois border. In fact, Ayer had an active business interest in the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad, which he knew was expanding service from Chicago to Janesville, Wisconsin. The property he purchased sat conveniently along the new train line. Elbridge acquired as many acres as possible and founded the town of Harvard, Illinois, in 1856, moving his family there. This ambitious entrepreneur-ism would influence young Edward, who had a similar taste for adventure all his life.



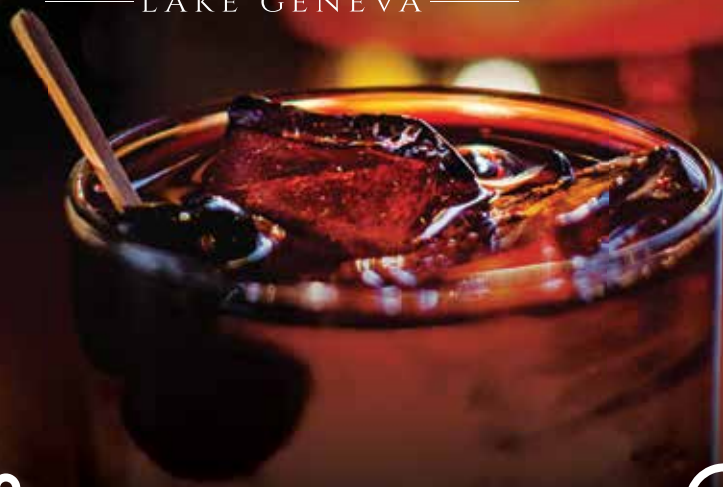
Portrait of Edward Ayer in his study, painted by his nephew Elbridge Burbank.



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THE WILD WEST

At age 19, Edward Ayer left Harvard to travel west, stopping briefly in Silver City, Nevada, where he worked in a quartz mill for 12 hours a day. In his memoir, Ayer described Nevada as “the roughest place on earth,” and he stayed only long enough to earn train fare to San Francisco. He arrived with 25 cents to his name and found work in a saw mill. At the start of the Civil War, he enlisted in the First California Cavalry Volunteers, remaining in military service until 1864.

As the story goes, during Ayer’s time in the military, he was invited into the private library of Colonel Samuel Colt of gun-making fame, where he stumbled upon a copy of Prescott’s “Conquest of Mexico” and became transfixed. The experience ignited in Edward Ayer a lifelong passion for history, and he went on to become an avid book collector, eventually acquiring his own copy of “Conquest of Mexico,” which was priceless to him and now resides in Chicago’s Newberry Library.

Returning to Harvard after the war, Ayer’s father gifted him one-third of his general store. This was a generous offer, but Ayer had other ambitions. Working in the California saw mill had inspired him to pursue the manufacture of railroad ties. The historical records do not indicate exactly how Ayer met early Lake Geneva resident George Sturges, but it was not long before Sturges financed the formation of Ayer & Lord Tie Company when Ayer was just 24 years old. By the time he was 30, the company was selling nearly a million railroad ties a year, and Ayer became a very wealthy man.

MEETING EMMA BURBANK

Only a rare woman could have captured the heart of Edward Ayer, and Emma Burbank was a rare woman indeed. Edward and Emma married in 1865, and from that moment forward, their lives were never dull. When she wasn’t setting records with long-distance swims, Emma was planning trips to Asia, the Middle East and Africa. An avid scholar, she always packed extra books instead of clothes for these epic journeys.



Edward and Emma Ayer’s lakefront home, The Oaks, was a modest cottage set into its natural surroundings (top photo). Summer activities at The Oaks included fishing, boating and walking the five miles of paths on the Ayers’ property (above). A portrait of Emma Burbank Ayer, painted by her nephew Elbridge Burbank (left).

TOP PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LAKE GENEVA PUBLIC LIBRARY; MIDDLE PHOTO COURTESY OF LAURIE BUSS; BOTTOM PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AYER FAMILY ARCHIVE.



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In fact, she was so frustrated that there were only two books available at the time about northern Africa that she published her own in 1911: “A Motor Trip Flight Through Algeria and Tunisia.” The book includes significant ethnological information, as well as hundreds of photographs taken by Emma Ayer herself. Very few American women traveled through Africa in the early 1900s, and even fewer wrote books about it. Stateside, Emma became one of the first non-native woman to descend into the Grand Canyon. A large butte, called Ayer Point, was named in her honor.

At Geneva Lake, Emma had always impressed people with her long-distance swims. As early as September of 1879, the “Lake Geneva Herald” observed that she — along with several other women — swam from Harvard Club across the lake to Camp Collie in Williams Bay in 2 hours and 10 minutes. Ever an athlete, Emma continued to swim from Harvard Club to Camp Collie well into her 70s.



BUILDING THE OAKS

With Emma by his side, Edward Ayer had found a partner for life — and after 10 years of marriage, the two decided that Geneva Lake provided the perfect respite from the business

of railroad ties. In 1875, they purchased a jaw-dropping 1,200 acres of property on the lake’s south shore: 700 acres of farmland and 500 acres of dense oak forest. They sold 14 acres of their lakefront property to a group of friends



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In addition to five miles of walking paths, the Ayers' property also included eight miles of driveways (this photo). Edward Ayer's sister Julia Minier and her husband ran the Hotel Minier on land adjacent to the Harvard Club (right).



ABOVE & RIGHT: COURTESY OF LAURIE BUSS

from Harvard, Illinois, who used a portion of the land as a campground. Early Lake Geneva historian Paul Jenkins noted in the 1920s that the original estate included eight miles of driveways and an estimated five miles

of walking paths, which the Ayers generously opened to the public.

The Oaks, the home they built for themselves on the lakefront, was much smaller than other lakeside "cottages"

of the era built by families like the Sturgeses, Fairbanks and Leiters. Still, the grounds included a rose garden, a pergola, an aquatic garden, a fountain imported from Italy and several greenhouses. Their steam yacht,

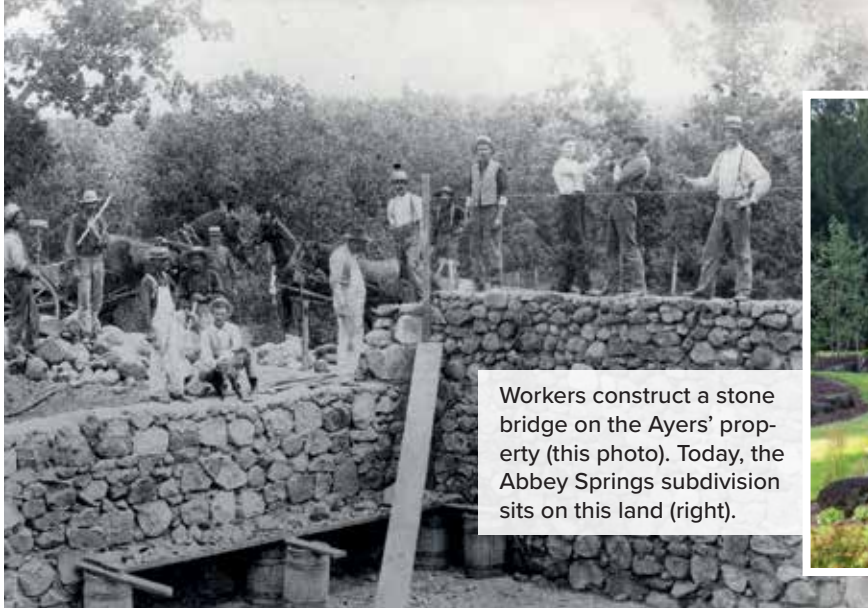
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Workers construct a stone bridge on the Ayers' property (this photo). Today, the Abbey Springs subdivision sits on this land (right).



the *Tula*, could carry as many as 60 passengers. The Ayers did not require a fancy home, but they enjoyed their property to the fullest.

TRAVELERS AND COLLECTORS

While indulging in life on Geneva Lake, the Ayers also spent a significant portion of their later years traveling. They became some of the first

Americans to travel through Europe by car — and according to Ayer's biographer, Frank C. Lockwood, even traveled through the Sahara Desert that way as well. Their travel during this era was impressive. By 1903, Edward had crossed the ocean a total of 24 times and Emma 28 times.

Throughout their lives together, the Ayers had become passionate

researchers of native cultures and they invested heavily in acquiring native artifacts. Over the years, they amassed a considerable collection of Native American artifacts (including several items they had discovered on their property on Geneva Lake), as well as antiquities from Egypt and Asia. In his 1912 "History of Walworth County," historian Albert C. Beckwith indicated that the Ayers'

TOP LEFT: COURTESY OF LAURIE BUSS
TOP RIGHT: LAUREN HARRIGAN

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collection included “ancient chests, Oriental furniture ... strange musical instruments and unique relics of various kinds.” In fact, historian Jenkins later claimed the Ayers owned the most spectacular collection of art and artifacts “in all America.”

GIVING BACK AND LEAVING A LEGACY

The Ayers were able to put this collection to good use through significant donations to historical and cultural institutions. In 1892, Edward Ayer became a charter member of the Newberry Library, and he donated over 17,000 items to its collection, including two letters from Christopher Columbus. The bulk of the items Ayer donated were related to American Indigenous Studies, and the library still maintains a collection in his name.

Ayer played a similarly integral role in the founding of Chicago’s famed Field Museum of Natural History. Aside from serving on the board, he convinced Marshall Field to contribute the \$1 million necessary to establish the museum. The Chicago Tribune claimed that Field relented only after the following comment from Ayers: “You can sell dry goods until hell freezes over, but in 25 years, you will be absolutely forgotten.”

Ayer went on to serve as the Field Museum’s first president from 1893 to 1898, and was also an active member of the Wisconsin Historical Society and the Chicago Historical Society, as well as a member of the U.S. Board of Indian Commissioners. He financed the travel of his nephew, Elbridge Burbank, for the purpose of sketching and painting Native American people, a trip that produced portraits of nearly 1,200 individuals from 125 tribes. Elbridge Burbank’s work now graces the halls of the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C.

Emma Ayer was an avid philanthropist as well. She was an early founder of the Lake Geneva Fresh Air Association and Holiday Home Camp, both of which provided lake access to disadvantaged urban children and families in need.

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The story of the vast collections amassed by Edward and Emma Ayer ends with an auction in 1934. After the death of Edward in 1927 and Emma in 1932, the estate became insolvent and their daughter, Elizabeth, was left to face the auctioneer. Items sold at the auction included Chippendale furniture, rare Oriental rugs, a 13th-century crossbow inlaid with ivory, Egyptian statues, an extremely valuable collection of ruby glass and Italian Renaissance artist Luca della Robbia's painting, "Madonna and Child."


In 1941, Elizabeth was forced to sell her family's Lake Geneva estate. This must have been a painful loss for her, as her wedding at The Oaks several decades earlier had been a veritable "who's who" of Lake Geneva society. At that time, the vast acreage surrounding The Oaks became a subdivision known as the Ayer Park Association, containing a handful of modest cottages, a chapel, tennis courts, croquet grounds and a lakeshore campfire site.

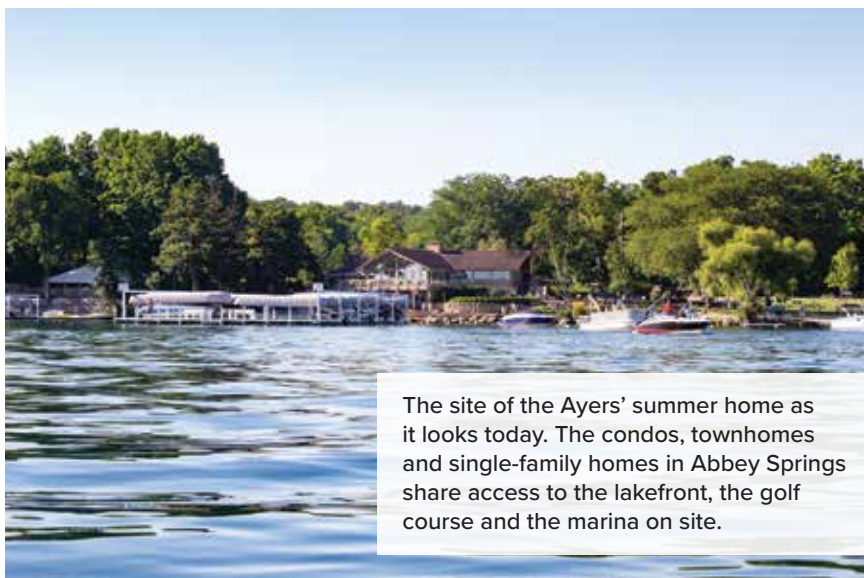
'YOU CAN LIVE HERE'

Today, the Ayer family legacy lives on through the Harvard Club and Abbey Springs subdivisions. Abbey Springs, in particular, demonstrates the incredible size of 1,200 acres. Driving through Abbey Springs today,

the winding roads are reminiscent of the miles of walking paths that the Ayers once opened to the public. At the waterfront, the Abbey Springs Yacht Club is rumored to rest on the original foundation of The Oaks.

With a grand opening in 1971, Abbey Springs advertised its lots with the slogan, "You can live here," a fitting motto for the Ayer property. Today, Abbey Springs offers the opportunity of lake living to many families, and contains over 100 houses and condominiums, all of which share

amenities and lake access. One hopes the Ayers would smile to know that so many families have lived on their property, experiencing lake life at its best. 



The site of the Ayers' summer home as it looks today. The condos, townhomes and single-family homes in Abbey Springs share access to the lakefront, the golf course and the marina on site.



TIES TO THE HARVARD CLUB

In 1875, Edward and Emma Ayer sold 14 acres of their vast property to a group of friends from Harvard, Illinois, who used four of those acres

to found Harvard Camp. The land was divided into 50 square lots (just the right size for each family to maintain a large tent). Later, as the camp transitioned to a "club," the members merged the camping lots to accommodate slightly larger cottages. However, the original homes at Harvard Club did not have kitchens; most residents ate their meals at the Hotel Minier, adjacent to the property, which was owned and operated by Edward Ayer's sister, Julia Ayer Minier.

Today, the Harvard Club is known for its iconic rows of parallel homes, all of which have been updated to include modern amenities. But back in 1920, the community was known for keeping a strict code of conduct: no parakeets, no radios to be played on porches and no noise during nap hour.



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A TIMELY FAMILY RETREAT

Matustik Builders makes one family's Delavan Lake dream home a reality with a quick turnaround

John Matustik knows how important it is for families to take advantage of the summer weather, especially in the Midwest. That's why it's his mission, as founder and owner of Lake Geneva-based Matustik Builders, to build custom homes on a strict schedule so clients have plenty of time to move in by the time school's out. The key is to get the client into their dream home on a timely schedule, while maintaining the highest industry standards, something Matustik Builders does time and time again. This was certainly the case when Matustik and his team helped the O'Leary family realize their dream home.



Nestled on the outskirts of Delavan Lake, off of Bay Road, Becca and Sean O'Leary's custom-built home features five bedrooms and five bathrooms as well as a taproom, bonus room and several notable outdoor elements. "The clients definitely envisioned what they wanted, and it's our job to get their character and personality in the project, and reflect it in the final product," Matustik explains.

To complement the home's panoramic views of the lake, the architectural design features a large porch, an outdoor grill and bar area, and an in-ground plaster pool and spa. There's also a screened-in porch with an outdoor fireplace,



infrared heaters and retractable screens that really draw the outdoor space inward, according to Matustik. “This house was fun,” he says.

Matustik adds that there’s a “coziness” to the home that allows the O’Learys to enjoy a quiet evening alone, though the space is also adaptable for entertaining and hosting larger groups. “I love the way the space interacts,” Matustik says. “It flows seamlessly from the inside to the outside. It’s a good design that’s adaptable; even with as many as 40 people for a party, it doesn’t feel crowded.”

Matustik and his team started conceptualizing the two-story home in late June 2021, and the project was finished in January. He says the O’Learys were open to new ideas and concepts, adding that one of the most rewarding parts of his job is working with younger families that have many years to create memories in their new home.

According to Becca O’Leary, the project was finished earlier than expected, and she credits Matustik for his efficiency and strong work ethic. “Our experience with him was incredible from start to finish,” she explains. “They were very efficient. Every promise was delivered on time, and they were really transparent as far as budgetary things went. There were no major surprises. In a world of everything being delayed right now, the project came in not only on time but ahead of schedule, by more than a month, which was phenomenal because we were anxious to get in.”





She says putting their trust in Matustik Builders made a world of difference, especially when it came to the team, a group she says worked extremely well together and were “super tidy.”

Matustik started the business in 2010 with a guarantee of quality craftsmanship and a high level of attention to detail with each project. The company completes a small number of homes per year, and Matustik says the process involves a constant flow of activity, which allows for a quick turnaround.

“It’s us meeting with the client and the architect, getting inside their head and getting their vision on paper,” Matustik says. “They may have ideas, but we’re going to ask the right questions and go through our design process to make sure we get all their needs, wants and desires, all their requests, and make their dreams and vision into a reality.” The most important part, according to Matustik, is that the home fits the family’s lifestyle. For example, the way the O’Leary family lives now may be different than the way they’ll live in 10 years, so the house needs to be able to adjust for that ever-changing cycle.



"He truly delivered on every last thing," Becca says. "Even now that the house is sealed up and the paper is signed, there may be little things that pop up that we want him to attend to, and he's not only immediately responsive, but he gets it all fixed and immediately taken care of." Becca doesn't even think twice about recommending Matustik Builders to others in the area, and says she will continue to do so for a long time.

"At the end of the day, the way John personally runs his business, the way he treats his clients and his responsiveness is a testament to not only him as a builder but him as a person," Becca says. "And the finished product is beautiful. We couldn't love our home more." 🐾

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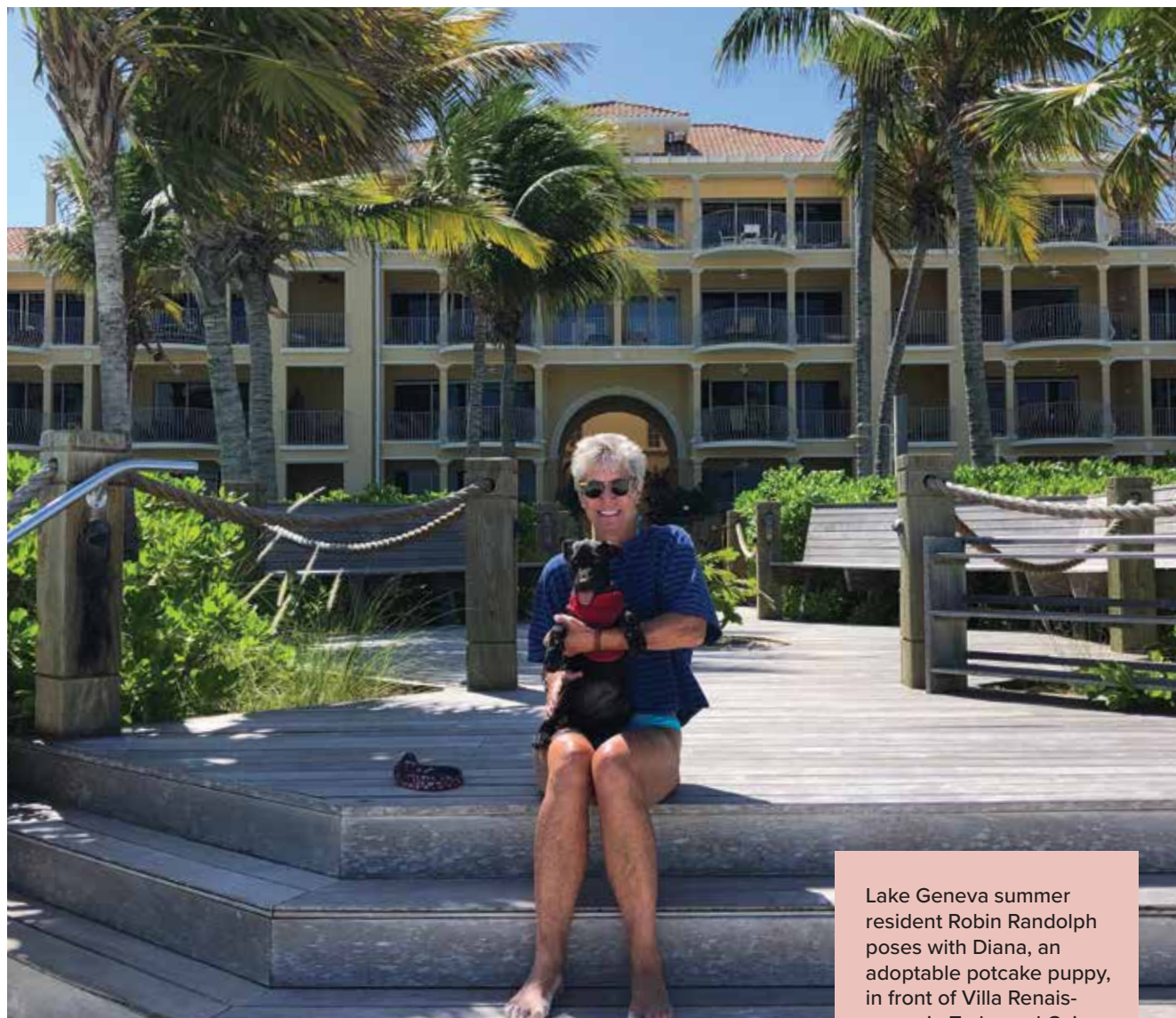
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Lake Geneva summer resident Robin Randolph poses with Diana, an adoptable potcake puppy, in front of Villa Renaissance in Turks and Caicos in 2021.

Puppy Love

A Turks and Caicos dog rescue has found strong local support

BY SHELBY DEERING

Dogs have a magical power to heal hearts and inspire empathy all over the world. Today, American dog-lovers can easily find videos all over the internet showcasing dogs being rescued in faraway places, stirring people to donate, send much-needed supplies or even adopt a rescue pup from a distant location. One such organization that has a strong support system in the Geneva Lake area is Potcake Place K9 Rescue, which is based in Turks and Caicos, a group

Adopting closer to home

For those looking to adopt a rescue pet a little closer to home, the Geneva Lake area has several places where you can meet your new best friend.

LAKELAND ANIMAL SHELTER

For more than 40 years, Elkhorn's Lakeland Animal Shelter has served as the area's primary rescue and adoption center for homeless pets, including dogs, cats, rabbits, pocket pets, birds and even barn animals.

lakelandanimalshelter.org

HOOVER'S HAUSE ALL DOG RESCUE

Based in North Prairie (north of East Troy) and Olive Branch, Mississippi, Hoover's Hause has an active fostering community in Walworth and Waukesha counties, with several dogs waiting for adoption.

hoovershaousealldogrescue.org

ALIVE RESCUE

Chicago's ALIVE Rescue is currently constructing "The Big Barn" in nearby Salem Lakes, where adoptable dogs will have more freedom to roam and socialize prior to finding their forever families.

aliverescue.org

of Caribbean islands popular with American vacationers.

Robin Randolph — whose golden retrievers Amos and Truman were "Lake Dogs" in the Autumn 2021 issue of *At The Lake* and graced the cover — believes wholeheartedly in this rescue group. She and her partner have been visiting Turks and Caicos for 25 years, and early on, Randolph says she noticed the many stray dogs on the island. Not long after they first began visiting, a Turks and Caicos resident named Jane Parker-Rauw identified the same challenge. She founded the nonprofit rescue organization Potcake Place K9 Rescue in 2004, deriving its name from the local mixed-breed dogs, nicknamed "Potcakes," from an earlier era when residents would cook their food over a fire on the beach, scraping what was left in the bottom of the pots to feed to the stray dogs. Potcake pups are generally medium-sized with a short coat and have a Lab-like build.

Parker-Rauw has enjoyed great success with her rescue organization.

Lines of people form at the door of the rescue organization every day to play with the puppies, take them on beach walks and help to socialize them. Randolph herself visits the islands two to three times a year and has acted as a courier for several Potcake puppies, bringing them back with her for adoption by families in Illinois, Indiana and California. Thanks to modern technology, Randolph has even video-chatted with a woman in Illinois while she was visiting the rescue organization, helping her to pick out a puppy, which Randolph then couriered home.

With top goals of spaying, neutering and finding homes for their dogs, Parker-Rauw says that Potcake Place adopts out roughly 500 pups a year to "fully vetted, approved homes." Even though the organization is located over 1,500 miles away from Lake Geneva, its ripples can be felt here. Another committed local supporter of Potcake Place K9 Rescue is Dr. Terry Johnson, a veterinarian at Clinton Animal Clinic.



Volunteers in Turks and Caicos can arrange to walk adoptable dogs on the beach.

COURTESY OF ROBIN RANDOLPH

“Potcake Place is close to my heart because, in short, they’re doing all they can to rescue and find homes for puppies who would otherwise have to fend for themselves,” Dr. Johnson says. “Jane and her staff rescue pups from dumpsters, the bush, highways — basically anywhere. They’re up to speed on government regulations, travel needs, vaccinations and parasite control.”



All potcake puppies are up-to-date on vaccination and travel documentation.

The rescue organization boasts over 32,000 followers on their Instagram profile (@potcakeplacek9rescue) and a large roster of dedicated volunteers and supporters who live not only on the islands, but around the world in places like Lake Geneva, as Randolph and Johnson demonstrate.

Randolph feels that adopting a Potcake as a rescue is a win-win: of course adopters make a huge difference in the life of each dog, but she feels that welcoming dogs

into the household is equally beneficial for humans’ health and well-being, and Potcakes are well-suited to this kind of international adoption, she says. “These are such precious dogs, and they adapt well to new homes.”

Potcake Place K9 Rescue operates on a strictly donation-based model, so Parker-Rauw says the best way to support their efforts is to make a donation directly through

their website, potcakeplace.com. Additionally, visitors to Turks and Caicos can arrange to volunteer to take the puppies for walks and to help with their socialization, and can even volunteer to act as a courier for a pup when returning to the United States, as Randolph has done. Randolph says she finds the volunteer work extremely rewarding: “Dogs ask for so little in comparison to all the love and attention they give us.” 🐾

COURTESY OF ROBIN RANDOLPH



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Q&A

with Molly Chanson



A yoga instructor shares how this mind-body practice has guided her through tough times

BY SHELBY DEERING

We talked with Molly Chanson, local yoga instructor and founder of online yoga studio The Practice, as well as the author of “Fallen Star: A Return to Self Through the Eight Limbs of Yoga,” which details her struggles with marriage, motherhood and divorce, and how yoga helped her cope.

ATL: What led you to yoga and inspired you to become an instructor?

MC: I started doing yoga with my mom in our living room after school. It was the 90s, and yoga certainly wasn’t around Lake Geneva. These strange postures calmed me down and did something that called me back. Yoga felt safe and loving, and I

continued taking yoga classes in my 20s and 30s until I eventually became certified to teach in my 40s.

ATL: What have been some of your greatest challenges?

MC: Getting sober and getting divorced were definitely the biggest challenges for me. They both occurred during the same year, and I don’t think that’s a coincidence.

ATL: What are your proudest achievements?


MC: My recovery and my two boys. I am very proud of the healing their dad and I have done despite being divorced, so we can still be the best

parents for our kids and show them there are endless versions of love and family.

ATL: What is it about yoga that has provided a path to healing for you?

MC: Yoga gives us access to what is true and real. Yoga does this by allowing us to be fully present with the body and the breath. It’s amazing how un-present we are in our day-to-day. We are often in our mind, thinking about the past or focused on the future. Yoga has taught me that the only thing that matters is what is happening right now.

ATL: What can yoga teach others about making it through a difficult time?

MC: If you are in the middle of a difficult time, the best advice I can offer is to stay on that wave. Don’t jump off, even when it gets uncomfortable. By riding the waves of life, we allow ourselves to be shaped by our experiences. Yoga is much more than a physical practice. Yoga teaches that we can stay with an experience and trust our body to feel everything fully. This is how we process and heal — when we feel something instead of locking it down. 



Yoga for Better Well-Being

Area studios offer a wide range of yoga practices

BY SHELBY DEERING

Yoga comes in many forms of practice, all with varying benefits, long-running histories and areas of focus. Yoga studios in the Geneva Lake area offer something for everyone.

Hatha, the more specific term for most common type of yoga, centers on poses and breathing techniques. It can be practiced at:


- Yoga Lake Geneva (The Ridge Hotel, W4240 WI-50, Lake Geneva, and outdoor locations in summer)
- The Yoga Place (613 W. Main St., Lake Geneva)
- Yoga on the Go (various area locations — visit socreative.club for upcoming dates and times)
- Indigo Yoga Center (1787 Walworth St., Lake Geneva)

- Geneva Lakes Family YMCA (203 S. Wells St., Lake Geneva)

Vinyasa, a streamlined form of yoga that moves easily and effortlessly from one posture to another, is available at:

- The Space (601 W. Main St., Lake Geneva)
- Yoga Hohm (323 E. Walworth Ave., Delavan)
- Grand Geneva (7036 Grand Geneva Way, Lake Geneva)

Bikram, a variation on Hatha yoga that's practiced in a room heated 105°F to improve flexibility, burn more calories and decrease stress, can be practiced at:

- Heatwave Hot Yoga Studio (90 N. Walworth Ave., Williams Bay) 



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**Mandy Anderson,
The Space**

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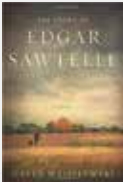
Lake Geneva Public Library Community Engagement Librarian Ellen Ward-Packard offers some spooky Wisconsin reads to keep you company this autumn as the days grow shorter.

THE BEAST OF BRAY ROAD: TAILING WISCONSIN'S WEREWOLF BY LINDA S. GODFREY



The seminal work on Walworth County's very own werewolf, Godfrey's book offers a thorough and entertaining investigation of the rash of "Beast" sightings that occurred in the 1990s in nearby Elkhorn. Recommended for creature fans, readers of local history and anyone who enjoys an unsolved mystery.

THE STORY OF EDGAR SAWTELLE BY DAVID WROBLEWSKI



David Wroblewski's debut novel is a retelling of Hamlet set in rural Wisconsin in the 1970s. Edgar, a child who cannot speak, lives an idyllic life raising a highly intelligent (fictional) breed of dogs with his parents. When tragedy strikes, Edgar is exiled to the wilderness near Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. A compelling read for dog lovers and fans of Midwestern Gothic alike.

WISCONSIN DEATH TRIP BY MICHAEL LESY



Lesy's anthology combines striking 19th century photographs taken in Black River Falls, Wisconsin, with newspaper clippings from the Badger State Banner, the 19th century Black River Falls paper of record. Focusing on bizarre and tragic incidents, "Wisconsin Death Trip" paints a dramatic picture of a harsh time period.

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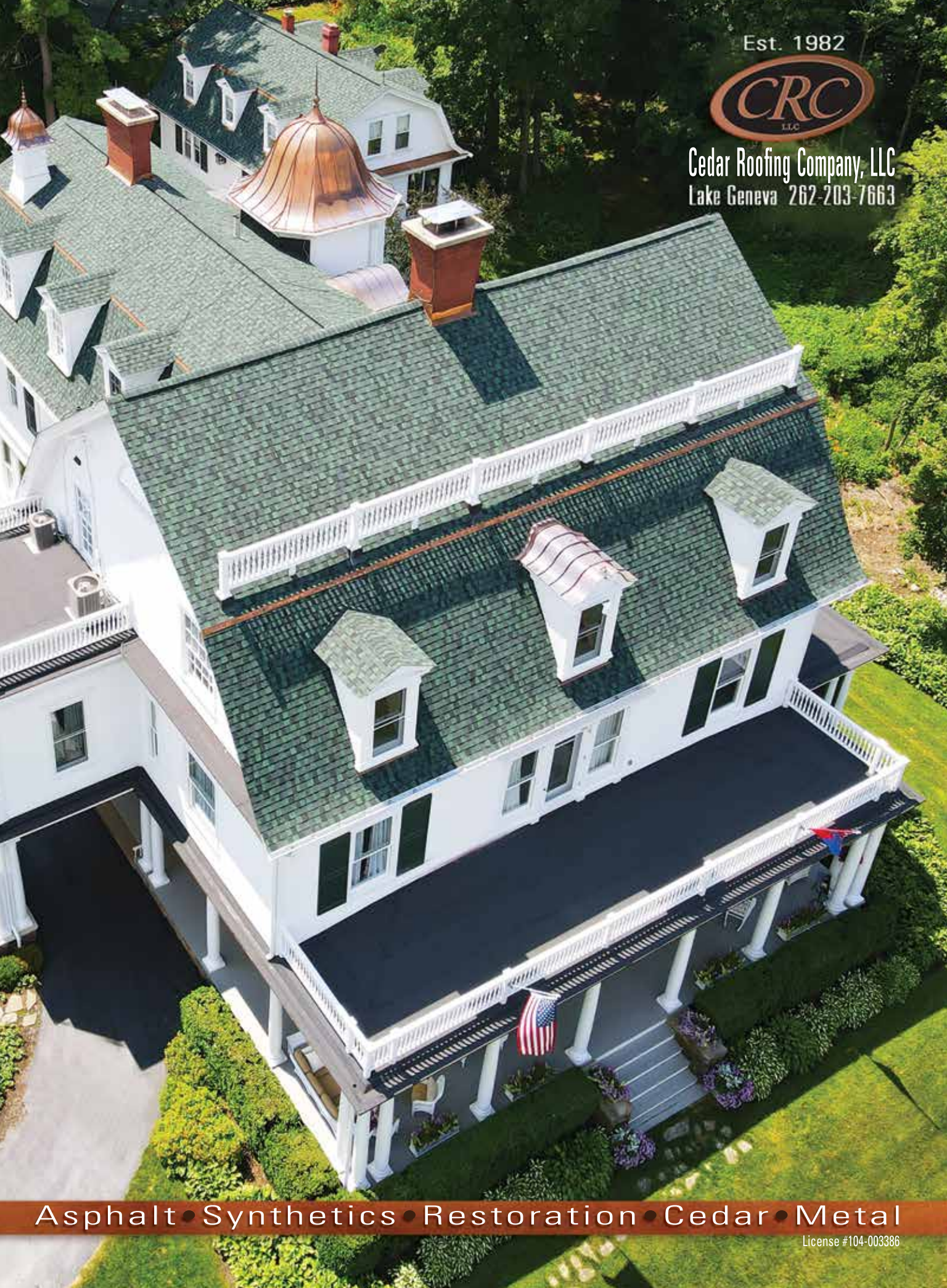
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Visitors browse the autumn selection of locally grown produce, herb and flower options at Lake Geneva Farmer's Market.

Locally Grown

How to make the most of your trip to the farmers' market or farm stand this fall

BY MAURA KELLER

For both locals and tourists alike, autumn in the Geneva Lake area often includes several trips to the area's many farmers' markets and farm stands, where locally grown produce can be purchased directly from the hard-working people who grow it. But the appeal of a farmers' market doesn't stop there: it often includes entertainment like live music, yoga classes, corn mazes, hay bale playgrounds and children's games and activities, as well as prepared food options from apple cider



donuts to authentic Mexican tacos, all perfect for a morning or afternoon outing in the bright autumn sunshine.

The Lake Geneva Farmer's Market welcomes thousands of visitors each Thursday from May through October to enjoy the sights, sounds and delicacies the farmers' market offers. Sean Payne, manager of the Lake Geneva Farmer's Market, says the setting at Horticultural Hall, built in 1912, is the ideal location. "The Great Hall, as well as its stunning courtyard with a water fountain and the ivy on the outside walls make it just an amazing venue for a market," he says. "We have over 60 vendors, live music, yoga class in the courtyard, library story time and kids' activities in the courtyard too."

As Payne explains, the Great Hall was always meant to be a community gathering space. Horticultural Hall was built more than 100 years ago to show off the vegetables and flowers grown by the foremen and gardeners on the opulent estates surrounding Geneva Lake. Today, featuring over 60 vendors, the Lake Geneva Farmer's Market teems with unique foods that can be eaten right at the market or taken home to be enjoyed later. Visitors can find flowers, plants, fruits and vegetables at every turn.

Pearce's Farm Stand, at the intersection of Highway 67 and County Road F, between Williams Bay and Fontana, offers visitors a full produce shopping experience seven days a week through the end of October. The Pearce's team says that for most autumn visitors, apple cider donuts are some of the "must have" foods. They are made fresh daily on site and frequently sell out. Pearce's kettle corn is another crowd favorite thanks to its salty and sweet flavor.

As the autumn vegetable harvest comes in, Pearce's matriarch and

founder Mary Ann Pearce freely hands out cooking tips for the fall bounty, including suggestions for leafy greens, root vegetables and squashes. "My biggest tip to customers is that you don't have to cut winter squash to cook it," she explains. "This can be an almost impossible feat for some people, not to mention dangerous, because of the tough skin on many winter squashes." She suggests poking the squash and cooking it in the oven instead, just like you would a baked potato. "It is so much safer and easier to cut the squash open that way to scoop out the insides," she adds.

Karen Pearce also suggests boiling and mashing cauliflower as a mashed-potato substitute, or slicing zucchini into julienne-style pieces for a healthier version of potato pancakes. And of course, pumpkins and gourds are big sellers in the fall. "We grow a wide variety of colors, sizes and shapes of pumpkins," says Michelle Pearce. "From miniature ones that fit in the palm of your hand to the monster, 100-plus-pound giants. We have pumpkins that are orange, white, red, blue, green, pink and mixtures of colors. Some are traditional, smooth round pumpkins

"One of our hidden gems is our own homemade maple mustard."

— Bob Pearce

but we also have uniquely shaped apple gourds, swan gourds, pumpkins and gourds with 'warts' on them and others with what looks like peanut shells stuck to the skin."

Lots of visitors use the opportunity of autumn farmers' market and farm stand shopping to stock up on unique or locally made pantry items like honeys, mustards, syrups and dips. "One of our hidden gems is our




And don't forget about dessert. "Our other hidden gem is our homemade caramel," Bob Pearce continues. "We have multiple recipes that we use to make melt-in-your-mouth caramel candies, the most amazing caramel apples, and our favorite caramel sauce, perfect for ice cream, dessert toppings or dipping apples in."

Visitors who are looking to enhance their exterior fall home decor turn to farmers' markets and farm stands for chrysanthemums, gourds, dried

food & drink *locally grown*

flowers and autumn ornamental plants.

Ultimately, the area's farmers' markets and farm stands are an ideal spot for families who are looking to celebrate the season and who want to support the hard work and bountiful harvests of local farmers and gardeners. "We see a lot of families pushing their stroller or walking with the dog," Payne says. "Everyone can find something at the market — even Fido. It's just another great way for a family to have fun in Lake Geneva. You can't buy happiness, but you can go to the Farmer's Market and that's kind of the same thing."

The Lake Geneva Farmer's Market is open every Thursday, 8 a.m. until 1 p.m., May through October, rain or shine. When you visit, ask for Sean Payne and he will give you the grand tour of the beautiful building and gardens. 

LEFT TO RIGHT: HOLLY LEITNER,
LAUREN HARRIGAN,
HOLLY LEITNER

own homemade maple mustard," says Pearce's Farm Stand patriarch and founder Bob Pearce. "It's made in-house from maple syrup garnered from a partner farm up near Sheboygan, Wisconsin."



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Elegant Meals

A guide to a few of our favorite fine dining options in the Geneva Lake area

BY MAURA KELLER

When it comes to fine dining, many of today's restaurant patrons are food savvy, and crave variety, quality and a wide range of flavors. Luckily the area offers several fine dining options to keep even the most sophisticated palates happy. Here are a few options:

The Grandview Restaurant. Located in the Geneva Inn, this waterfront restaurant is the ideal place to unwind and indulge while enjoying the beauty and tranquility of Geneva Lake. The restaurant's views are matched only by its expertly plated dinners, which showcase the best of Midwestern flavors. The Grandview offers elevated American fare, with menus that change seasonally. Steak, seafood and pastas are frequent crowd-pleasers. Diners can finish off their meals with a selection from The Grandview's extensive dessert menu, all of which

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are made in-house and from scratch. During warm weather, outdoor dining is available as well, and diners can even enjoy live music on select nights.

Geneva ChopHouse.

Steak lovers will revel in Chef Dustin Urbanik's cuisine at this upscale option at Grand Geneva Resort and Spa. The Geneva ChopHouse prides itself on the art of pairing its award-winning steaks with wine selections that will both surprise and delight patrons. For those avoiding red meat, Urbanik's menu also offers a full array of



“We have an extraordinary culinary team.”

— Executive Chef
Dustin Urbanik,
Geneva ChopHouse

poultry and seafood specialties, including whole Maine lobsters, Chilean sea bass and Amish chicken. And brunch aficionados will revel in the alfresco “Elevated Saturday Brunch,” complete with options like fried chicken and biscuits with caviar, breakfast

charcuterie and bottomless Bloody Marys and mimosas.

Opus at the Belfry House. If you are seeking a truly luxurious dining experience, head to this French-inspired gem located just north of Williams Bay. A limited-seating restaurant, Opus offers a rarefied ambience for a select few patrons at a time, adding to the intimacy of the



experience. Executive Chef Philippe Chevalier's European-inspired, five-course dinner menu offers everything from salmon caviar to pan-seared Maine scallops, braised beef short ribs to Alaskan halibut. The menu, full of farm-to-table and wild-caught options, is tantalizing. 

LEFT TO RIGHT: COURTESY OF GRAND GENEVA, COURTESY OF OPUS AT THE BELFRY



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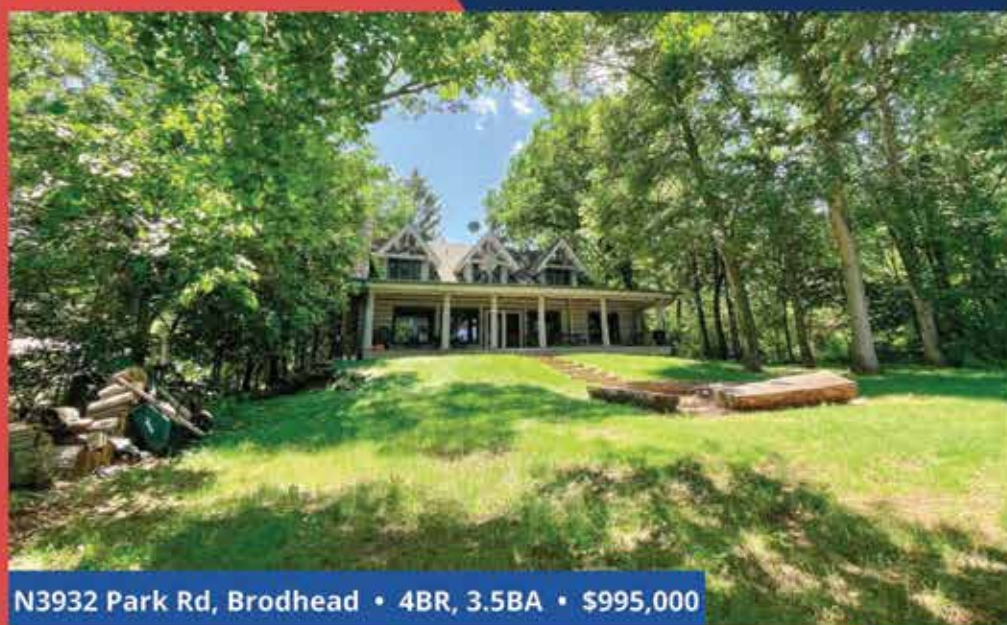
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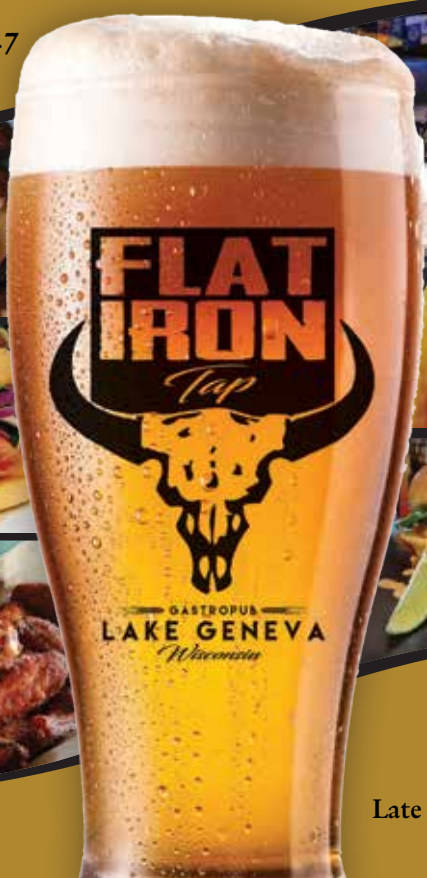
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150 E. Geneva Square, Lake Geneva;
262-248-5100
lgpie.com

**LINKS BAR & GRILL
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Grand Geneva, Lake Geneva;
262-249-4788
grandgeneva.com/restaurants/links-bar-grill

**LORELEI BITTNER'S BAKERY
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495 Interchange N. (Hwy. 120),
Lake Geneva; 262-248-2330
loreleibittnersbakery.com

**LUIS'S PIZZA
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W3410 S. Lake Shore Dr.,
Lake Geneva; 262-248-6810
luisspizza.com

**MAGPIE'S DEN & PEN
CASUAL** 🍷

642 W. Main St., Lake Geneva;
262-249-2302
magpieslg.com

**MAMA CIMINO'S
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131 N. Wells St., Lake Geneva;
262-348-9077
mamaciminoslkg.com

**NEXT DOOR PUB & PIZZERIA
AMERICAN/CASUAL/ITALIAN** 🍷

411 Interchange North (Hwy. 120),
Lake Geneva; 262-248-9551
nextdoorpub.com

**NICHE
COFFEESHOP/WINE BAR** 🍷🍷🍷

715 Hunt Club Dr., Unit C,
Lake Geneva; 262-581-6800
nichehg.com

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831 Wrigley Dr., Lake Geneva;
262-812-8007
oakfire.pizza

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262-248-6541
olympicrestaurantlakegeneva.com

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262-248-4381
popeyeslkg.com

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262-729-4023
poppycakeslg.com

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Grand Geneva Resort and Spa,
Lake Geneva; 262-249-4788
grandgeneva.com/restaurants/ristorante-brissago

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306 Center St., Lake Geneva;
262-812-4114
sabaisabailakegeneva.com

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262-248-3556
simplelakegeneva.com

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BARBECUE** 🍷🍷

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Grand Geneva, State Hwy. 50,
Lake Geneva; 262-249-3400
timberridgelodge.com/eat/smokeys

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soprabistro.com

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100 Broad St., Lake Geneva;
262-248-3835
speedosharborside.com

**SU-WING'S CHINESE
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743 North St., Lake Geneva;
262-248-1178
suwinglg.com

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CASUAL** 🍷🍷

Hawk's View Golf Club, W7377 Krueger
Rd., Lake Geneva; 262-348-9900
hawksviewgolfclub.com/clubhouse/tail-feathers-bar-and-grill

**TAQUERIA EL GALLO DEL ORO
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820 Williams St., Lake Geneva;
262-729-4055
taqueriavg.com

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topsyturvybrewery.com

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262-245-7042
genevanationalresort.com/turf

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262-248-0888
tuscanlg.com

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Lake Geneva; 262-203-5550
yogeeze.com

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501 Broad St., Lake Geneva;
262-203-5434
zaabcorner.com

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262-767-1188

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262-763-6008

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262-767-0000
charcoalgrill.com

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262-763-6754
flippysfastfood.com

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262-763-8370
freds-burgers.com

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Burlington; 262-763-6018
loscompadreswi.com

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napoliburlington.com

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rusticrootsburlington.com

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arandas-mexican-grill.business.site

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262-267-8973
arcadiabarandgrill.com

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262-374-5497
boxedandburlap.com

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chinagardendelavan.com

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fire2fork.com

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hernandez-restaurant.com

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Head out to one of the area's orchards for a do-it-yourself apple picking experience.

25 Fun Fall Things

To celebrate a quarter century of *At The Lake*, we've rounded up 25 ways to enjoy autumn in the Geneva Lake area

BY NAT WEXLER

Back in 1997, the world was a very different place. The Green Bay Packers won the Super Bowl against the New England Patriots. The hit movie "Titanic" premiered in theaters and remained the highest-grossing film of all time for the next decade. The most popular TV shows playing on home television (not streaming!) were "Seinfeld" and "ER." And that fall, *At The Lake* Magazine debuted on local stands. In the 25 years since, we have showcased the people, events and places that make

the Geneva Lake area what it is, and we are excited to kick off a year of celebrating this landmark anniversary. While so much has changed in the last 25 years, one thing has remained the same: Lake Geneva is a special place that brings people together to create lasting memories over food, scenery and activities. To honor 25 years of being “at the lake,” we’ve rounded up 25 ways to experience and celebrate autumn in the Geneva Lake area.

1 Go apple picking. Take advantage of the crisp fall weather by picking multiple apple varieties at local orchards like Elkhorn’s The Apple Barn Orchard and Winery and Genoa City’s Hafs Road Orchard. While you’re there, be sure to stock up on donuts and apple cider!



2 Read by the water. Pick up one of the books on your autumn reading list (check out our “At The Library” column on page 87 for suggestions!) and head to the new patio at the Lake Geneva Public Library to read under the fall foliage.

3 Fill your plate with flapjacks. Head to one of the classic local diners for a hearty fall breakfast with a side of kitsch. Try Daddy Maxwell’s igloo-shaped restaurant in Williams Bay or Lake Geneva’s iconic diners: Grandma Vickie’s Café, Lake-Aire Restaurant and The Olympic Family Restaurant.

4 Shop local in downtown Lake Geneva. If you didn’t pack a heavy enough sweater for your trip to the lake, swing by the local boutiques lining the main streets in Lake Geneva to acquire one. You can also shop for gifts and other souvenirs while you’re there!



5 Have dinner at a restaurant by the water. When



Autumn is the perfect time for a Shore Path walk.

the temps get too cold to go for a swim, enjoy a warm meal while gazing at the lake from local restaurants like Chuck’s in Fontana, Pier 290 in Williams Bay or The Boat House Bar and Grill in Lake Geneva.

6 See a magic show. Head to Lake Geneva’s Tristan Crist Magic Theatre and watch how fast time can disappear when your mind is blown by Crist’s popular magic show.

7 Create your own beer tasting experience. For those over 21, taste the different flavors of beer on tap at the area’s local taprooms and microbreweries, like Lake Geneva’s Topsy Turvy Brewery or the Geneva Taphouse (in the old movie theater!), as well as Elkhorn’s Duesterbeck’s Brewing Company and the East Troy Brewery. If you like what you try, pick up a growler to bring home.

8 Play a round of golf. There are several world-class golf courses in the area. Play a few more holes in the fall sunshine and enjoy the natural beauty of the area before the snow flies.

9 Go on a cheese curd crawl. Take advantage of the fact that cheese curds can be found on many menus around the area and try as many as you’d like! To start off your crawl, check out Legend’s Food and Spirits or Mars Resort, both located on the shores of Lake Como.

10 Hike the Shore Path. Enjoy different vantage points of the fall foliage around the lake as you hike around its perimeter on Geneva Lake’s famous Shore Path. Make sure to wear comfortable shoes and bring water!



11 Learn how to knit. If you’re looking to make a scarf for the impending winter weather, head to The

Cashmere Cape in Williams Bay or Brick Street Yarn in Delavan to pick up some yarn and knitting needles.

12 Soar through the fall foliage. Who said the only way to enjoy the leaves was by jumping into a pile? Fall is the most beautiful time of year to fly through the trees by ziplining at Lake Geneva Ziplines & Adventures.



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13 Take a train trip to the Elegant Farmer. This popular orchard and local food market is just a short drive from Lake Geneva, but it's even more fun to arrive by train. On Saturdays and Sundays, take the Fall Harvest Train from the East Troy Railroad Museum to the Elegant Farmer for an old-fashioned ride on the rails.

14 Spend a day unwinding at the spa. Relax after you go biking, hiking, apple picking or anything else with a relaxing trip to one of the area's luxury spas. Choose between facials, manicures, pedicures, massages and more for as much pampering as your heart desires.

15 Paddle the lake. Although Geneva Lake starts cooling off shortly after Labor Day, you can still enjoy the water from the inside of a kayak. Rentals are available through Lake Geneva's Clear Water Outdoor and the Williams Bay Recreation Department. Don't forget your life jacket!



16 Visit a traditional Wisconsin supper club. Travel back in time to a classic era of Wisconsin dining by visiting a supper club such as Lake Geneva's Anthony's Steakhouse & Seafood, the Big Foot Inn south of Walworth or The Duck Inn Supper Club in Delavan.

17 Learn new cooking skills. After a hands-on (and tastebuds-on) class with Chef Bogan at the Lake Geneva School of Cooking, you can impress your friends and family with your newly acquired cooking skills.

18 Find the perfect pumpkin. At Pearce's Farm Stand west of Williams Bay, you can pick your own pumpkin or choose from their huge selection of pre-picked options. If you're looking to pay homage to

the area, take it home and carve the outline of Geneva Lake on your pumpkin.

19 Marvel at acrobats on horseback. Head to the Dancing Horses Theatre in Delavan to spend the afternoon watching equine feats and amazing acrobats.

20 Enjoy a Friday night fish fry. Almost every restaurant in the area offers this beloved meal on Friday nights, so refuel yourself with fried cod, potato pancakes, coleslaw and maybe even a slice of cheesecake for dessert.

21 Get on the lake. Fall is a fabulous time to enjoy the foliage and architecture along the lakeshore from the comfort of a boat. Take a tour with Lake Geneva Cruise Line or rent a boat from one of several boat rental options around the lake.

22 Pack a fall picnic. Pack up your picnic basket (or order takeout from any local

restaurant) and enjoy a picnic at one of the area's many lakeside parks before the cooler temps send outdoor dining into hibernation for the winter.

23 Go for a bike ride. Grab your helmet and hop on a bike for an autumnal ride around the Geneva Lake area.

24 Admire the sunrise over the lake. As the days get shorter and the sunrises come a little later, you can get out and enjoy the dawn of a new day on Geneva Lake. Try a sunrise yoga class or a take a morning walk to bask in the natural beauty of a fall sky.

25 Watch the big game. Autumn means the beginning of the NFL, NHL and NBA seasons, along with the end of the MLB season. Enjoy bar food and a game at one of the many beloved sports bars in the area: Champs Sports Bar and Grill in Lake Geneva, DJ's In The Drink in Lake Como, Harpoon Willie's Pub & Eatery in Williams Bay or Delavan's Ol' Wisco Bar and Grill.



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Going the Distance

Lake Geneva's Ezra Ward-Packard raises money for diabetes care through ultra-endurance cycling

BY NAT WEXLER



Lake Geneva native Ezra Ward-Packard is an accomplished, competitive, ultra-endurance cyclist who has traveled the world both competing in races and raising funds for a cause that is close to his heart: diabetes care. A Type 1 diabetic himself, Ward-Packard has spent the past 12 years leading cross-country bicycle tours and youth community service rides,

and cycling in races like the 530-mile North to South Colorado Bikepacking Race, in addition to earning a bachelor's degree from Minnesota's Carleton College. Last summer, Ward-Packard and Dr. Christopher Schmidt, a doctor at Elkhorn's Open Arms Free Clinic, attempted the 2022 Tour Divide race, a 2,745-mile route from Banff, Canada to Antelope Wells, New

Mexico, using the opportunity to raise funds for diabetic care at the clinic. We caught up with Ward-Packard as he set out for that race.

What inspired you to start cycling?

Throughout the three years I ran [track at Woods School], I was always getting injured and could never do as much training as I wanted. Cycling

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came into the picture because it was a way for me to cross-train. I wasn't even immediately hooked on it. But before I knew it, I was not running as much because I was riding.

What are some of the most significant challenges you have faced in your cycling career?

In a way, I rarely think of them as being challenges. I am a Type 1 diabetic, which has always been a challenge in terms of being an athlete because it adds another layer of attention and care that I have to give to everything I do. As a type 1 diabetic, I have to monitor everything I eat and the insulin I am taking. During races, I have to maintain my blood sugars while also constantly fueling, which can be difficult.

What's been your proudest accomplishment so far in your racing career?

My proudest accomplishment has been my longevity in cycling. Twelve years later, I'm still absolutely in love with the sport and looking for new ways to push myself. Doing the Tour Divide this year is definitely going to be the hardest and most challenging thing I have done since the race has taken the most direct preparation. I love preparing for races and racing, so I am not planning on stopping anytime soon.

Do you have any advice for others facing challenges?

My advice for most things is to break it down to the simplest form you can and just get started. I feel that often people have challenges that seem so overwhelming that they end up not acting on facing those challenges. It doesn't have to be this overly complicated and convoluted plan. It just has to be little actions, and over time those

little actions will build themselves into something really cool.

What is your favorite place to bike in Walworth County?

My favorite place has to be riding around Lake Geneva and doing the lake lap. From my house, it's a 22-mile loop around Lake Geneva. I have done that loop hundreds of times. There's something special about it since it was one of the first rides I ever did. 🚴‍♂️



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COMPASS

3 Fall Biking Opportunities in the Geneva Lake Area



The 19-mile White River Trail runs along a former railroad bed.

We've rounded up a few ideas for exploring the area by bike this autumn. **BY NAT WEXLER**

WHITE RIVER TRAIL

The White River Trail is a scenic, multi-use trail in Walworth County along a former railroad bed that allows visitors to bike, hike and even ride on horseback. All cyclists 16 years and older need a trail pass — \$5 for the day or \$25 for the year — that can be purchased at any trail access location.

AVANT CYCLE CAFÉ

Avant Cycle Café in downtown Lake Geneva is a gathering place for coffee and bike enthusiasts alike. The experts here offer bike services such as tune-ups, new bike sales and pedal-assist e-bike rentals. Avant Cycle Café also hosts a variety of group bike

rides throughout the week and posts suggested local biking routes on its website, including the 20-mile "Around the Lake," which will take you past both Geneva Lake and Lake Como.



Downtown Lake Geneva's Avant Cycle Café

26TH ANNUAL FAT TIRE RIDE

Riders can sign up to participate in the Fat Tire Ride of Lake Geneva, which takes place this year on September 10. This annual, go-at-your-own-pace fundraising bike ride supports a variety of local charities, including Tree House Child & Family Center, Holiday Home Camp, Walworth County Special Olympics and many others. The 21½-mile route over paved roads around Geneva Lake and Lake Como departs from Champs Sports Bar and Grill or The Ridge Resort. After completing the ride, riders celebrate with a pig roast. 🐷



Fat Tire Ride participants raise funds for local charities.



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AUG. 30 - SEPT. 5

One of the largest county fairs in Wisconsin. Live music, demolition derby, carnival midway and livestock exhibits. Walworth County Fairgrounds, Elkhorn; (262) 723-3288 or walworthcountyfair.com.

SPIRITUALISM IN THE VICTORIAN ERA

OCT. 7, 14, 21

Get a behind-the-scenes tour of Black Point Estate, enjoy a tasty cordial and hear stories of paranormal proclivity and the history of Victorian spiritualism at this two-hour event. 7-9 p.m.

Black Point Estate and Gardens, Lake Geneva; for

tickets, call (262) 248-1888 or visit

blackpointestate.wisconsinhistory.org.



SORDID AND SCANDALOUS HISTORIC WALKING TOUR

OCT. 8, 15

A 90-minute walking tour

of Lake Geneva's historic downtown and Maple Park neighborhood focusing on mysteries and scandals. 11 a.m., meet at the Riviera Building, Lake Geneva; for tickets, call (262) 248-1888 or visit blackpointestate.wisconsinhistory.org.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: COURTESY OF WALWORTH COUNTY FAIR; COURTESY OF WALWORTH COUNTY FAIR; COURTESY OF THE WALWORTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, SHANNA WOLF

AUG. 26-28

MAXWELL STREET DAYS

Sales, food and crafts in downtown Lake Geneva. Visit streetsoflakegeneva.com for more info.

SEPT. 8-18

"THE 39 STEPS"

Stage adaptation of the Hitchcock classic, performed by the Haylofters. Malt House Theater, Burlington; (262) 763-9873 or thehaylofters.com.

SEPT. 9-11

DARIEN CORNFEST

A community-wide celebration of the super starch featuring fireworks, a parade and live music throughout downtown Darien. Visit dariencomfest.us.

SEPT. 9, 16

HISTORIC BREWING 101

Become a brewer for a day in this immersive experience. Old World Wisconsin, Eagle. For tickets, visit oldworldwisconsin.wisconsinhistory.org.

SEPT. 10

26TH ANNUAL FAT TIRE RIDE OF LAKE GENEVA

This 21½-mile bike ride over paved roads around Geneva Lake and Lake Como supports local charities. The route begins at Champs Sports Bar & Grill or The Ridge and ends with a pig roast for all participants. To register, visit fattiride.com.

SEPT. 10-11

MAPLE PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT WALKING TOUR

A 60-minute walking tour of Lake Geneva's historic Pioneer Cemetery. Tours leave on the hour from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Pioneer Cemetery, 1116 Dodge St., Lake Geneva; for tickets, call (262) 248-1888 or visit blackpointestate.wisconsinhistory.org.

SEPT. 16-18

HONKY-TONK FESTIVAL

Country music-themed festival brings food, drink and entertainment to the streets of downtown Lake Geneva. Visit streetsoflakegeneva.com/events for more info.

SEPT. 17

DELAVAN SCARECROW FEST

Scarecrow building, pumpkin decorating, live music, food. Throughout downtown Delavan. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more info, visit visitdelavan.com.

SEPT. 17

FONTANA TRIATHLON ON GENEVA LAKE

Event will consist of the sprint distance and Olympic distance races, as well as the Aquabike. Fontana Beach, Fontana; for information, visit fontanatriathlon.com.

SEPT. 17

TREASURE AND TRIUMPHS HISTORIC WALKING TOUR

A 90-minute walking tour of Lake Geneva's historic downtown and Maple Park neighborhood. 6 p.m., meet at the Riviera Building, Lake Geneva; for tickets, call (262) 248-1888 or visit blackpointestate.wisconsinhistory.org.



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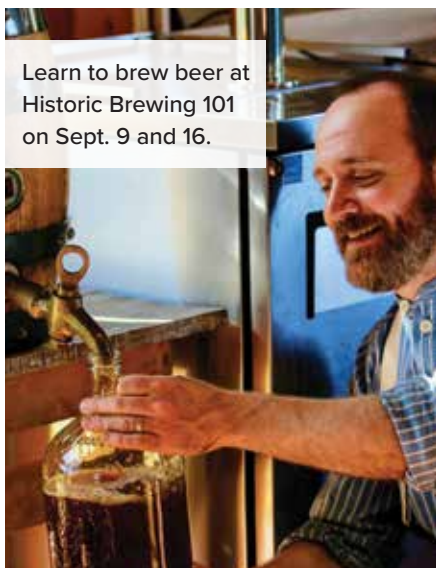
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Learn to brew beer at Historic Brewing 101 on Sept. 9 and 16.

SEPT. 17

WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S

Raising awareness and funds to enhance Alzheimer's care and support. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., ceremony at 9:40 a.m., walk begins at 10 a.m. Library Park, Lake Geneva; (414) 775-7583 or act.alz.org.

SEPT. 18

GENEVA LAKE MUSEUM SIXTH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Hawk's View Golf Club, Lake Geneva. Charity golf outing, luncheon and silent auction benefiting the local museum. (262) 248-6060 or genevalakemuseum.org.

SEPT. 19

LADIES' DAY LUNCHEON

Geneva Lakes Women's Association's annual luncheon featuring a silent auction and raffle, followed by author Leslie Goddard on the legacy of Julia Child. The Ridge, Lake Geneva; for tickets, visit ghwa.net.

SEPT. 24

AN EVENING WITH AGATHA CHRISTIE

Local historian Chris Brookes brings the best-selling author of all time, Agatha Christie, back to life for an intimate evening of mystery and conversation. 6-7:30 p.m. Black Point Estate & Gardens, W4270 Southland Road, Lake Geneva; call 262-248-1888 for tickets.

SEPT. 24

FARMHOUSE TO BREWHOUSE SEASONAL DINNER FEATURING WISCONSIN BREWERIES

Celebrate the opening of Old World Wisconsin's new brewhouse by tasting some of the beer made onsite and enjoying a delicious four-course meal. Old World Wisconsin, Eagle. For tickets, visit oldworldwisconsin.wisconsinhistory.org.

SEPT. 23

GUIDED NATURE HIKE

Join members of the Geneva Lake Conservancy for a guided nature hike. 9 a.m., Bromley Woods, LaGrange; genevalakeconservancy.com.

SEPT. 25

ELKHORN ANTIQUE FLEA MARKET

Over 500 dealers both inside and outside. Free parking, \$5 admission. Opens at 7 a.m. Walworth County Fairgrounds, 411 E. Court St., Elkhorn; walworthcountyfair.com.

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Fr

– **LIVE MUSIC & FUN** at participating local downtown "waterin' holes."

Sa

– 🎟 Order tickets for **THE MAIN EVENT***. Live music, food, drink and the highly anticipated **CRAFT BEER FEST**.
(Lake Geneva's Seminary Park - at Baker St & S. Lakeshore Dr.)

Su

– 🎟 **SUNDAY FUNDAY*** will round up the Honky Tonk Weekend with fun and **MORE LIVE MUSIC!**
(Lake Geneva's Seminary Park - at Baker St & S. Lakeshore Dr.)

*For event details, daily schedule & tickets to the MAIN EVENT & SUNDAY FUNDAY
www.streetsoflakegeneva.com/honkytonkfest

Lake Geneva's Oktoberfest

October 7, 8, & 9 🎟 \$5 Admission in advance

Lake Geneva's Annual Oktoberfest* is always a fun weekend with entertainment for everyone in the family!

Fr

– Oktoberfest Kick Off Party at **Topsy Turvy Brewery** with live music, Oktoberfest libations, and **MORE!**

Sa

Su

– 🎟 Bring the family to **Lake Geneva's Flat Iron Park** to enjoy **LIVE MUSIC**, authentic Oktoberfest craft, food and beer vendors. Participate in Stein Hoisting competitions, Watch the Doxy Dog Race, let your kids play in the **KIDS ZONE** and **MORE!**

*For event details, daily schedule & to buy daily entry tickets
www.streetsoflakegeneva.com/oktoberfest



FOR MORE INFO & TO ORDER TICKETS

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OCT. 1

ROAD RALLY AND PICNIC WITH THE GENEVA LAKE CONSERVANCY

Third annual fundraiser event, featuring Cimeley Woods and other protected areas. Visit genevalakeconservancy.com.

OCT. 6

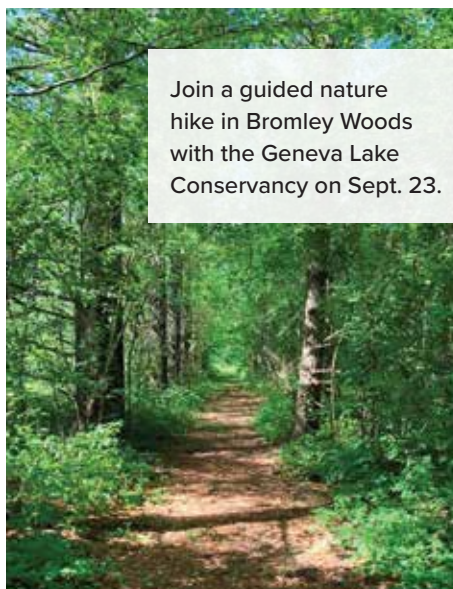
SIMPLE SUPPER FUNDRAISER FOR WALWORTH COUNTY SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Enjoy dinner at Simple Café to benefit Walworth County Special Olympics. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children, and can be purchased ahead of time at Simple Café or at the door. Two seatings available at 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. Simple Café, 525 Broad St., Lake Geneva; sidebysidelakegeneva.org.

OCT. 7-9

LAKE GENEVA OKTOBERFEST

Family fall festival includes music, food, craft booths, restaurant and shopping specials, wagon hayrides, pony rides and more. Flat Iron Park, Lake Geneva;



Join a guided nature hike in Bromley Woods with the Geneva Lake Conservancy on Sept. 23.

streetsoflakegeneva.com/events for more info.

OCT. 7-9, 14-16

“YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN”

Stage adaptation of the beloved cult classic Mel Brooks movie, performed by

the Lakeland Players. Walworth County Performing Arts Center, Elkhorn. For tickets, call (262) 728-5578 or visit lakeland-players.org.

OCT. 8, 15

OAK HILL CEMETERY TOUR

A 90-minute walking tour of Lake Geneva's historic Oak Hill Cemetery, recently added to the National Historic Register. 5 p.m., Oak Hill Cemetery, 1101 Cemetery Street, Lake Geneva; for tickets, call (262) 248-1888 or visit blackpointestate.wisconsinhistory.org.

OCT. 14

MADS TOLLING AND THE MAD MEN

Enjoy a performance by the internationally renowned violinist, composer and two-time Grammy Award-winner and his band as they perform a program of re-imagined classic songs from 1960s television, film and radio. 7 p.m. Big Foot Auditorium, Walworth. For tickets, visit bigfootfinearts.org or call (262) 275-2117.

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OCT. 14

**SIMPLE SUPPER FUNDRAISER
FOR SIDE BY SIDE**

Enjoy dinner at Simple Café to benefit this faith-based nonprofit organization working to help Lake Geneva residents facing income insecurity. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children, and can be purchased ahead of time at Simple Café or at the door. Two seatings available at 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. Simple Café, 525 Broad St., Lake Geneva; sidebysidelakegeneva.org.

OCT. 14-15, 21-22

LEGENDS AND LORE

Troves of supernatural tales brought to the state over the generations come to life at this always spooky Halloween event. Old World Wisconsin, Eagle. For tickets, visit oldworldwisconsin.wisconsinhistory.org.

NOV. 3-13

“TWELFTH NIGHT”

Shakespeare’s classic comedy, performed by the Haylofters. Malt House Theater, Burlington; (262) 763-9873 or thehaylofters.com.

NOV. 4-6

VETERANS APPRECIATION WEEKEND

Honoring those who served with live music, food, drinks and more. Throughout downtown Lake Geneva; streetsoflakegeneva.com/events for more info.

NOV. 12

KATHY MATTEA

Country star and multiple Grammy Award-winner Kathy Mattea performs a selection of hits, deep cuts and covers. 7 p.m. Big Foot Auditorium, Walworth. For tickets, visit bigfootfinearts.org or call (262) 275-2117.

NOV. 24 – DEC. 31

SANTA CRUISE

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While we do our best to ensure a comprehensive, accurate listing of events, we recommend that you contact each event host ahead of time. If you’d like to include an event in our upcoming calendar, please email anne@ntmediagroup.com or submit it via our website: atthelakemagazine.com/submit-an-event. Submission deadline for the winter issue is Oct 1.

Scan this QR code with your phone’s camera app to view more autumn events in the Geneva Lake area.



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“Now purple tints are all around,
The sky is blue and mellow;
And e’en the grasses turn the ground
From modest green to yellow.”

— Paul Laurence Dunbar

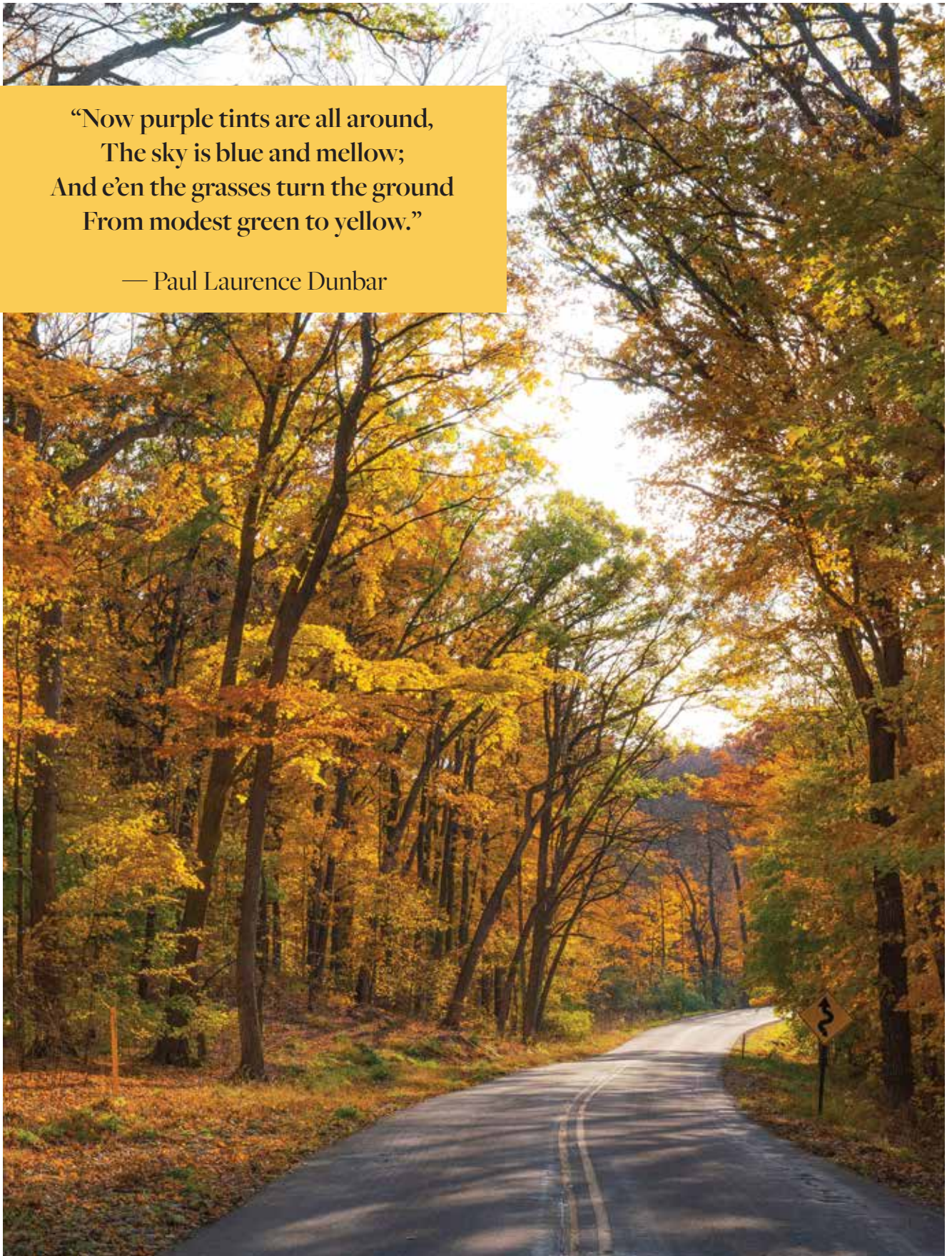


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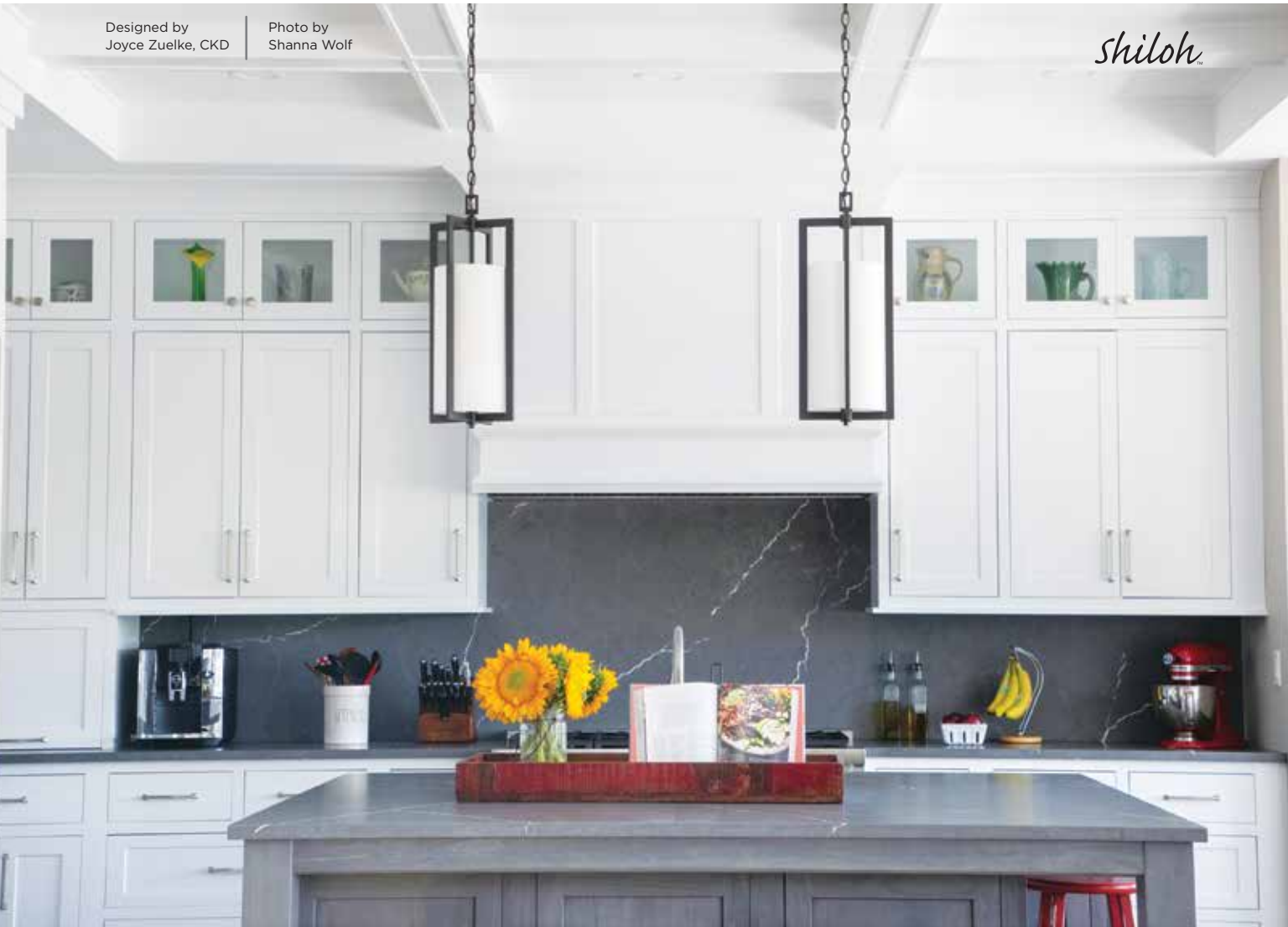


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