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Both kids and adults enjoyed the variety of rides at the carnival during the Burlington Jamboree over the Memorial Day weekend. The annual festival saw sunny, dry weather and nearly 20,000 attendees.

Live, work and play in Burlington

By Jason Arndt

STANDARD PRESS EDITOR

While the Burlington area touts many amenities, including several attractions for visitors and residents, the community has been booming in recent years with several new businesses and a revitalized downtown.

Amenities include Echo Veterans Memorial Park – where people can see the picturesque Echo Lake, the Burlington Community Aquatic Center, several trails around the area as well as the beautiful nearby Richard Bong State Recreation Area.

As the area offers a variety natural resources, Burlington's downtown area has seen some rejuvenation, with more businesses taking hold of storefronts.

Among the businesses entering the community in recent years are Hansen's Ice Cream Parlor, Kravings Premium Beverages, Loop Commons, Buzzed Wine Bar, Luberry's, and the continued success of two locally owned breweries in the Runaway Micropub and Nanobrewery along

with Low Daily.

New businesses, as well as some with deep roots in the area, have also collaborated with one another and shown tremendous initiative in coordinating their own events to bring excitement to the Burlington community.

Take for instance Loop Days, a nowannual event highlighting businesses in the Chestnut Street Loop along with others.

Loop Days organizers said it celebrates the quirky outlet in the downtown area.

Also, let's not forget other annual events, including the Burlington Jamboree and ongoing Burlington Farmers Market held from spring through the early fall.

Aside from quality-of-life amenities and a booming business climate, the area features quality educational institutions.

Educational institutions include the Burlington Area School District, Catholic Central High School – which recently celebrated its 100th anniversary, Burlington Catholic School, Inc., and a satellite campus for Gateway Technical College.

For older residents, a place for conversation and connections is the Burlington Senior Activity Center. It's open weekdays and offers many different activities and programs.

Within the last year, however, Burlington area has also weathered some challenges.

In 2022, after several community forums, workshops and an advisory referendum, city residents decided to retain Echo Lake Dam allowing Echo Lake to maintain its presence along Milwaukee Avenue.

Despite opposing points of view – including people who looked to remove the structure – city officials as well as residents remained calm as the Common Council followed through on the wishes of its constituents.

Come check out the Burlington area.
You may want to live, work and play here with a variety of things to do and a welcoming downtown business environment.

Burlington, Wisconsin

our town

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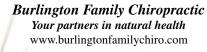
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Karyl McKillip, of Bear Commercial, and Jackson White from The Runaway Micropub and Nanobrewery, grill up some food for people during Loop Day on June 3.

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Older bowlers savor time at the Lanes

By Jason Arndt

STANDARD PRESS EDITOR

Regardless of skill level, or how long a person has played, the Nifty Fifty Plus Co-Ed Bowling League welcomes anyone older than 50 to join in on the fun.

Nifty Fifty Plus, which meets every Friday afternoon at Towne and Country Lanes in Burlington, consists of more than two dozen members with room to grow.

Milli Cramer, secretary for Nifty Fifty Plus, said the group carried many names dating back at least 40 years.

"We start in September, and we usually are done in either March of April," she said.

Cramer reported the group has at least 24 members with a high of 40 people set 20 to 25 years ago.

Staying active

Club President Richard Kuzelka, who has been part of the group for six years, said he decided to join because he needed to find an activity instead of simply staying at home.

"It is a lot of fun, we don't really worry about how good, or how bad we bowl," he said. "Everybody cheers for everybody else."

Additionally, since the group meets weekly, Kuzelka has met many new friends, some of whom he engages with beyond Towne and Country Lanes.

For example, some members of Nifty



Neil Martin, a member of Nifty Fifty Plus Co-Ed Bowling League, picks up a bowling ball before approaching a lane at Towne and Country Lanes in Burlington.

JASON ARNDT Our Town

Fifty Plus participate in a card club at the Burlington Senior Activity Center.

"It is fun to keep people active instead of sitting at home," he said.

For John Brensinger III, a long-time member, he simply keeps coming for the relationships with group members.

"We come here, and see a lot of smiles, and hear a lot of laughs," he said. "We are very happy people."

Brensinger said he never considered himself as a competitive bowler.

While he played as a youngster, it wasn't until another Nifty Fifty Plus member encouraged him to join the club, which he

did more than a decade ago, that he became competitive.

"I have met a lot of good people here," he said

Relaxed environment, reasonable fees

The U.S. Bowling Congress sanctions many bowling leagues, championships, and even has multiple national teams representing the United States.

But that is not the case for Nifty Fifty Plus, which merely looks to foster a relaxing,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6





left: Nifty Fifty Plus member John Brensinger celebrates after bowling a strike during a game at Towne and Country Lanes in Burlington. **right:** Mary Lois watches as she hopes to pick up a spare during a Nifty Fifty Plus bowling game.

JASON ARNDT Our Town

OLDER BOWLERS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

and fun-filled environment for seniors.

"We are out to have fun, we are not out to try to beat the other guys, we just like to have fun and we do. I have got a lot of friends here. Everybody here is just so nice," Cramer said.

Since Nifty Fifty Plus isn't an officially sanctioned league, Cramer said club members are able to pay reasonable to join the group for the 30-week session at Towne and Country Lanes.

"It works out well, we don't charge anybody if they are not here on a Friday," she said. "Our fees are very reasonable."

While the group boasts about 24 members, Cramer and other bowlers have room to add more, and is not limited to people who live in the Burlington area.

Cramer said members come from the Kenosha area, Waterford, Twin Lakes and beyond.

"We would like to go up higher, at one point, I think we had 40 members," she said. "That was quite a long time ago, like 20 to 25 years ago."

While the league meets every Friday, Nifty Fifty Plus can accommodate members, who may have other personal commitments such as attending family birthday parties, anniversaries and even doctor's appointments.

Considering the club accommodates people's schedule, Cramer said Nifty Fifty Plus can always use substitutes, who can fill in when needed.

"We keep looking for substitutes because a lot of people have different things they have to do, or they might get sick, so we also are looking for anybody that can sub," she said.

Kuzelka concurred.

"If people have things going on in their personal lives, birthdays, anniversaries, we could use some substitutes," Kuzelka said. "Sometimes they can't make it, so we use a lot of subs to make up that difference," he added.

As for group membership, Cramer said Nifty Fifty Plus has people as young as 50 up to 87 years old.

But the group could use the younger crowd, especially people who are looking for an activity once they retire, or close to retiring.

"Nifty Fifty is bowling for senior citizens, you have to be 50 or older," she said. "We are hoping to get more young people that are going to retire, or have extra time on their hands."

While the group promotes a relaxed environment and a welcoming atmosphere, Kuzelka recognized Nifty Fifty Plus members oftentimes look out for each other in the community.

"When something happens, we stick together when things go bad," Kuzelka said.

Supportive venue

Towne and Country Lanes, 246 S. Pine St., Burlington, is a family-owned bowling venue and was established in 1958.

In 1971, Merrill and Lorraine Draper bought the business, and continued the tradition of offering bowling to the area.

Since then, Theresa Riemer, daughter of Merrill and Lorraine, has become general manager while Cotie Holbeck runs the pro shop and serves as day time manager.

"We try to treat customers like family. We take care of customers as well as we can," Holbeck previously told Southern Lakes Newspapers. "We know most of the customers by name."

Cramer and Kuzelka each recognized Towne and Country Lanes officials for offering an ideal atmosphere for the Nifty Fifty Plus group.

Upon completion of the Nifty Fifty Plus season, Towne and Country Lanes holds a party for its members, according to Cramer.

"The people at Towne and Country have been very good to us," Cramer said. "They have a party at the end of the year

"They have a party at the end of the year and it just wraps everything up for us. We just can't say enough about all of the people here," she added.

Kuzelka said owner Merrill Draper has participated in Nifty Fifty Plus bowling on some occasions.

Like Cramer, Kuzelka expressed gratitude to Towne and Country Lanes.

"We are supported very well by management here," Kuzelka said. "They are always supportive and give us some good deals on bowling."

While Nifty Fifty Plus simply bowls for an activity, Towne and Country Lanes as well as River City Lanes in Waterford plan host a competitive event for seniors each year.

Both venues served as hosts of the 42nd annual Wisconsin State Senior Championship in early 2023.

Riemer said Towne and Country Lanes previously served as host on two other occasions, and the event brought thousands to the area from February through April.

The event welcomed more thab 2,000 bowlers to the area, plus spouses that come to visit and travel with them, Riemer said.

"Not only is it a great thing for our businesses, but for the City of Burlington and surrounding areas," she added.

The City of Burlington, Waterford and surrounding areas saw an increase in business because of the bowlers coming from all over the state of Wisconsin.



Commended for service

Officials show appreciation to departing town chairman

By Jason Arndt

STANDARD PRESS EDITOR

For nearly two decades, Jeff Lang has been a dedicated servant to the Town of Burlington, including time as a town supervisor and town chairman.

Lang, first elected as town supervisor in 2005, eventually earned election to town chairman in 2021 and succeeded long-time predecessor and late Ralph Rice.

But after 18 years of service, the longtime servant for the Town of Burlington decided to call it a career, opting not to seek re-election for second term as chairperson.

Lang, who cited a terminal illness as the reason for his retirement, presided over his last meeting as the leader in the Town of Burlington on March 23.

In front of dozens of residents, including a contingent of elected officials, Lang received praise for his service to the community during citizen comments.

State Rep. Robin Vos, R - Rochester, who co-signed a commendation with Sen. Van Wanggaard, recognized Lang's tireless

efforts

"Jeff Lang is known in the community for his extraordinary leadership, commitment to his constituents and heart for services," the commendation stated. "Jeff Lang leaves his service to the Town of Burlington with a legacy of good government, fiscal responsibility, and community engagement."

Vos briefly reflected on Lang's tenure, adding he earned election to the State Assembly the same year Lang took office in the Town of Burlington.

Vos said he felt it was imperative to show his appreciation to Lang in person.

"Your service is unforgettable," Vos said.
"I wanted to be here tonight to say thank you.
You are going to be missed."

Racine County Executive Jonathan Delagrave, like Vos, also came forward and offered some reflections and presented Lang with a certificate of recognition.

According to the certificate, Delagrave acknowledged Lang's contributions, both in the county and town.

"Your demonstrated leadership and

selflessness has made an immeasurable impact on the town and greater community," the certificate stated. "We hereby recognize your contributions to Racine County and its residents, celebrate your accomplishments, and wish you the best in retirement."

Burlington Mayor Jeannie Hefty was also on hand.

Hefty showed appreciation to Lang and Town Administrator Rachel Naber for their willingness to continue positive dialogue with city officials through monthly meetings that includes herself and City Administrator Carina Walters.

"We exchange our thoughts and we see what we can work out on different projects," Hefty said.

Other elected officials who presented brief remarks included County Board Supervisor Taylor Wishau as well as Kenosha County Executive Samantha Kerkman.

Town of Burlington voters chose Town Supervisor Russ Egan as the new chairperson in the April election.

State, county and local officials recognized Jeff Lang (seated) for his service to the Town of Burlington before the Town Board convened for a meeting on March 23. Pictured with Lang are: (from left) Racine County Executive Jonathan Delagrave, State Rep. Robin Vos, County Board Supervisor Taylor Wishau, Burlington Mayor Jeannie Hefty and Kenosha County Executive Samantha Kerkman.



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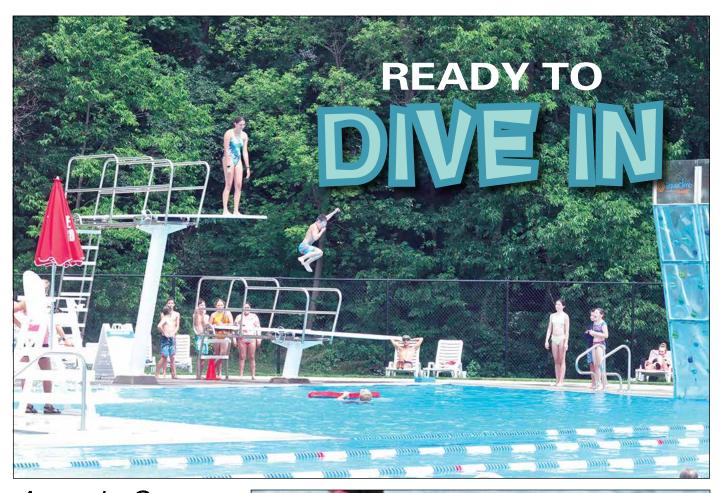
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Aquatic Center offers cool time

By Jason Arndt

STANDARD PRESS EDITOR

Director Jeanne Otter, of the Burlington Community Aquatic Center, had plenty of reasons to be excited for the 2023 season at the area attraction.

The Burlington Community Aquatic Center opened in early June and boasts a full staff, a new feature resembling a zip line, as well as a new benefit for paying members.

"We are doing well with staffing, we have close to 90 employees. We have the lifeguards we need to staff our pool for the whole season, so we are excited and happy about that," Otter said. "We are just looking forward to another good year at the pool."

Annually, the pool brings in more than 40,000 people from the Burlington area and beyond, including Union Grove, Waterford and western Kenosha County as well as other nearby communities.

In 2022, Otter said the facility saw nearly 43,000 people come through the door, about 3,000 less than in 2021.

Otter attributed the slight dip to



above: Kayla Williams, of Burlington, bonds with her son, Blake, last year at the Burlington Community Aquatic Center. The aquatic center opened for the season on June 3. **top:** A boy leaps off of the diving board during a warm summer July day last year at the Burlington Community Aquatic Center.

JASON ARNDT Our Town

inclement weather, including cooler temperatures.

Once Burlington area schools dismissed classes for the summer, Otter said, the pool opened for its regular operating hours.

"It is mainly because the kids are still in school," she said. "We don't have a lot of our staff before school gets out."

She said some of the college kids came home earlier, but the Burlington schools didn't get out until June 9.

Regular pool hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. weekdays and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekends.

Some rate changes

Since the Aquatic Center opened to the public in 2018, officials have not raised any membership or daily rates, but needed to make a slight adjustment for the 2023 season because of economic conditions such as inflation.

While single, senior citizen memberships and daily rates remained unchanged, the Aquatic Center raised season family memberships by \$10, from \$175 to \$185 for Burlington residents and from \$225 to \$240 for non-resident families.

"We have not increased our rates since we opened the pool," Otter said. "The cost of everything in the world has gone up – chemical expenses, utilities, food and our wages have all increased."

"The only rates that we did raise were our family membership rates," she added.

The Aquatic Center seasonal rates are \$100 for Burlington residents and \$85 for seniors older than 60.

Daily rates are \$8 for city residents and \$10 for non-residents. Prices are discounted after 4 p.m. and children 2 and younger are admitted without charge.

"If you consider what they are getting for that amount of money, it's a minimal increase really," Otter said. "We felt we needed to do something, but we certainly didn't want to make it unaffordable for most people."

The aquatic center is also offering increased access for members with seasonal passes in 2023.

From 10 a.m. until 11 a.m., an hour before public opening, members will be allowed to swim.

"Then the pool will be open to the public and non-members starting at 11 a.m.," she said. "It's an extra benefit for our members."

Added feature

The aquatic center features a children's play area with a zero-depth entry, water jets and slides; a current channel for "lazy river" floating or aqua exercise; and a separate lap tank featuring three towering waterslides, a diving well with a high dive and a climbing wall.

In 2023, the aquatic center is bringing a



A boy climbs the wall before he takes the plunge last year at the Burlington Community Aquatic Center.

JASON ARNDT Our Town

new amenity for users – an AquaZip'N.

An AquaZip'N, according to officials, combines the thrill of an adventure zipline with rope swinging.

Otter said the new feature is similar to a zipline and will be in the deep water pool near the climbing wall.

"That is something we are really excited about," Otter said.

While the aquatic center features many programs, officials plan to bring back some of the most of the popular ones, like numerous sessions of swimming lessons throughout the summer, a swim club, a junior lifeguarding program, and Family Fun Nights.

Similar to previous years, the aquatic center will present movie nights, where patrons float on an air mattress while watching a popular family movie projected on an inflatable screen.

The aquatic center, which hasn't decided on precise titles or show dates for movie nights, will likely target July and August for the presentations.

Otter recommends checking the aquatic center's Facebook page and website for up-to-date details on movie nights.

Additionally, the aquatic center plans

to present other offerings, such as Aqua Zumba fitness classes and lifeguard certification.

While patrons enjoy the pool, the facility has a wide variety of options at the concessions stand, including traditional hot dogs, hamburgers and pizza, as well as yogurt cups and fresh fruit.

"We will continue to have great things at our concession stands with some specials throughout the summer," Otter said.

The City of Burlington funded the construction of the aquatic center after residents approved a referendum in 2016 authorizing officials to spend up to \$5.4 million on the new facility.

It replaced the former pool, which had opened in the mid-1960's at the same site as the aquatic center.

The aquatic center is managed by a pool board, which includes volunteers who operate the facility at no cost to taxpayers, and an aldermanic representative from the Common Council.

For more information, including how to receive a membership, visit burlingtoncommunitypool.org or access the Facebook page.

Handing off the pencils and the red pens

LONG-TIME EDITOR-IN-CHIEF NADOLSKI RETIRES

By Jennifer Eisenbart

STAFF WRITER

To get an indication of the dedication that Southern Lakes Newspapers Editor-in-Chief Ed Nadolski has to community journalism, one need only look at Snowmagedon 2011.

The Groundhog's Day storm dumped anywhere from 3 to 5 feet of snow on almost all of southeast Wisconsin, closed down both air and vehicle traffic and turned into its own meme generator around not only Wisconsin, but the Midwest.

But less than four hours after the snow had stopped, Nadolski realized that he and his news reporter Mark Dudzik needed to get a paper out the door – even if the two of them could barely get out the front door of Nadolski's home.

The two took turns breaking a path in the snow out to Milwaukee Avenue, then walked the mile to the SLN offices, then on North Pine Street. The two, along with graphic designer Sherry Gordon, were the only three able to make it into the office.

They produced all of those three papers.



Ed Nadolski

"It was just lucky that Sherry and I and Mark were there," Nadolski said, not even addressing the fact that most newspapers simply would have delayed production.

That kind of dedication to his job – and to the Burlington community - served Nadolski well for more than 20 years, through breaking news and controversial topics, through staff and print journalism changes.

Nadolski bid journalism farewell Jan. 27, retiring and handing off the editor-in-chief mantle of SLN to Tracy Ouellette, community and special sections editor for the company.

"Ed's unwavering commitment to quality journalism has kept our group of weekly newspapers among the best in the state," said Sue Z. Lange, general manager of Southern Lakes Newspapers. "We are fortunate to have had his leadership and professionalism throughout these past 23 years."

Added Jack Cruger, the owner of SLN, "Ed is a talented editor who launched the careers of untold journalists. I am grateful that he led our news operations over 20 years."

A community fixture

Nadolski came to the Burlington community from Ozaukee, where he worked for the Ozaukee Press from the 1980s forward. He started as a general assignment reporter, then graduated to sports editor and eventually co-managing editor.

In 2000, the Branen family – which made the Standard Press a fixture in the community – was getting ready to step back from direct control of the paper with the retirement of Bob Branen. His brother, Shad, took over as CEO and worked to find a proper

"He was looking to exit and I was involved with our cable operation," Shad remembered, adding that the family found itself looking toward another successful operation for a new editor in chief – the Ozaukee Press.

"We were looking at assembling a new team. If you're improving your product, why not reach out to someone that's had success?" Shad explained, adding that at the time, he was hoping that the City of Burlington had enough to offer Nadolski.

Nadolski said he'd begun floating resumes, looking for an opportunity to fully lead a newspaper. Contrary to Shad Branen's worries, though, Burlington was a good fit for his then-growing family.

"Burlington is very similar to Port Washington," explained Nadolski. "A very tight, small town. We came here and looked around and liked what we saw."

As for Shad Branen, it's a decision he's never looked back from.

"It's been one of the best decisions that I've been involved with," Shad said about the Nadolski hire. "He's been a tremendous force in the community. We're so lucky for him to be a part of Burlington."

Covering the news

Since coming Burlington, Nadolski has not lacked for work. The Branens sold the paper in the early 2000s, and Southern Lakes Newspapers began adding papers.

While the Standard Press and the Elkhorn Independent remain the company's flagship papers, the publishing group is now spread across Racine, Kenosha, Waukesha and Walworth counties.

While Nadolski provided guidance to the various community editors under his charge, the Burlington community remained his focus - in the newsroom as well as outside

In fact, the two were something of a



Southern Lakes Newspapers Editor-in-Chief Ed Nadolski holds up a page proof during his time at the company. Nadolski, after more than 20 years in the position, retired Jan. 27.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Our Town

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NADOLSKI • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

blurred line. As most community editors will attest, it is a priority to be involved where you live. Nadolski is a member of the Burlington Rotary Club, as well as the Burlington Community Fund.

Those two groups helped give an insight into Burlington and its news. Outside of his role as editor, Nadolski played a part in several of the large decisions in the community. That included the building of Veterans Terrace and the reshaping of the Burlington community pool – now the Burlington Community Aquatic Center.

He was also editor through all of the major news events of the 21st century at the paper. When Echo Lake Foods caught fire in January of 2013, Nadolski was one of the first on scene, his home just a few blocks away.

He also guided his staff through two highprofile drownings, another major fire – this time at Schuette Daniels Furniture Store in the downtown area – as well as numerous referendums with the school district and city.

The newspaper group has been recognized at the state level consistently through the Wisconsin Newspaper Association, winning general excellence awards as well as honoring Nadolski for his news and editorial writing.

What struck those in the community most, though, was that Nadolski treated all the news

with the same importance.

"It doesn't have to be a major story," Shad Branen said. "He's at a level that we're just so fortunate to have in a community of this size.

"He had that impact because it hit home personally," he added of Nadolski's writing. "Just the human way he wrote."

City of Burlington Mayor Jeannie Hefty came back to Burlington in 2013 after moving away just as Nadolski came into the area.

She considered herself fortunate to work with him.

"When I came back, I noticed his writing was very honest, and it just stayed to the subject," Hefty said. "What he was doing was capturing what Burlington was all about it.

"He's honest. His integrity is very high," she added. "I'm just so honored I can call him a friend."

Moving forward

Nadolski might be retired, but the newspaper group will remain in familiar hands

Ouellette has been at Southern Lakes Newspapers since 2006, starting as an editorial assistant and working her way up to community editor and special sections editor.

She said Nadolski's guidance is why she chose to stay in the field.

"Ed is the reason I'm editor in chief, now," Ouellette said. "His encouragement through the years and his willingness to let people grow in their job is what made him a great boss.

"He always, and I mean always, sees the very best in people. He has a desire to see others reach their potential. He wants people to succeed," Ouellette added.

Nadolski, meanwhile, felt it was time to move on. He was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in 2008, and initially only given a few years to live.

Now at close to 15 years post-diagnosis, he's ready to spend more time with family and in the Burlington community he calls home.

"I don't really have (plans), other than I'm going to be a grandfather," Nadolski said. "I'll slowly figure out what I want to do beyond that, whether it be freelance writing or something beyond that."

One thing is for certain, however – he's leaving with memories filtered through a lifetime of journalism, including 20-plus years in Burlington.

"I'm very proud of what we do as journalists," Nadolski said. "It gives us a chance to serve society in a way that allows (us) to improve their lives."

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www.basd.k12.wi.us District Office: 100 N. Kane St. 763-0210 Superintendent: To be announced Assistant Superintendent: Connie Zinnen Business Manager: Ruth Schenning

School Board

Meets second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. Peter Turke, president, pturke@basd.k12.wi.us Barry Schmaling, vice-president. bschmaling@basd.k12.wi.us Roseanne Hahn, clerk, rhahn@basd.k12.wi.us Taylor Wishau, treasurer, twishau@basd.k12.wi.us Members: Marlo Brown. mbrown@basd.k12.wi.us

Page Carriveau, pcarriveau@basd.k12.wi.us Noah Strohm, nstrohm@basd.k12.wi.us

Burlington High School

400 McCanna Pkwy. 763-0200 Principal: Amy Levonian Assistant Principals: Reid Oldenburg, Stephanie lodence (interim)

Athletic Director/Assistant Principal: Eric Plitzuweit

Karcher Middle School

225 Robert St. 763-0190 Principal: Nick Ryan

Dyer Intermediate School

201 S. Kendrick Ave. 763-0220 Principal: Ryan Heft

Cooper Elementary School

249 Conkey St. 763-0180 Principal: Jacqueline Syens

Lyons Center

1622 Mill St., Lyons 763-5380 Principal: Joel Graham

Waller Elementary School

195 Gardner Ave. 763-0185 Principal: Ann Phillips

Winkler Elementary School

34150 Fulton St. 539-2726 Principal: Joel Graham

Southern Lakes Consortium

Alternative High School 209 Wainwright Ave. 767-2626

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Catholic Central High School

www.cchsnet.org 148 McHenry St., Burlington 763-1510 Principal: Brian Shimon

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www.stmb.org 225 W. State St. 763-1515

St. Charles Campus

www.mystcharles.org 449 Conkey St. 763-2848

St. John's Lutheran **Grade School**

www.stiohnsburlington.org 198 Westridge Ave. 763-2377

Wisconsin Parents Association

(Home Schooling) Contact: 608-283-3131

Important phone numbers

For emergencies call 911

Non-emergency numbers:

City of Burlington:

- Police 342-1100
- Fire and rescue 763-7842
- City Hall 342-1161

Town of Burlington:

- Police patrol (Racine County Sheriff) 763-9558
- Police Chief (administrative) 763-7539
- Fire 763-3070, ext. 4
- Marine patrol chief 763-7539
- Town Hall- 763-3070

Other:

- Aurora Memorial Hospital of Burlington - 767-6000
- Aurora Burlington Clinic 767-8000
- Walworth County Sheriff -741-4400



The Burlington Farmers Market ushered in a new season on May 4 in downtown Burlington and brought in dozens of vendors looking to sell their locally-produced items. The Farmers Market operates from 3 until 7 p.m. every Thursday from May through October. Above: Dana Wiemer, of Burlington, gives her 1-year-old son, Wes, a kiss while relaxing at Wehmhoff Square Park during the May 4 market.

JASON ARNDT Our Town

Local teen garners international honors

By Jason Arndt

STANDARD PRESS EDITOR

Eve Dahl has always had an affinity for dancing, even as a youngster.

Growing up in Burlington, she began dancing at 5 years old, including time as a member of Midwest Dance Center and has continued for the next decade.

Dahl, 15, who attends Elkhorn Area High School, has taken the activity to the next level by competing in multiple local, national and most recently, worldwide

From April 7 to 9 in Amstelveen, Netherlands, Dahl finished among the top 10 in five categories at an International Paralympic Committee competition.

In the three-day competition, Dahl finished second in combi freestyle, third in both singles freestyle and latin combi class 2, third in singles freestyle, fourth in singles ballroom while picking up sixth for combi standard.

While the Netherlands appearance wasn't her first international competition – she previously attended a similar event last November – this was the first meet sponsored by International Paralympic Committee.

Unlike the Malta Open Dance Spectacular from Nov. 26 to 27 in Qwara, Malta, which was not an officially sanctioned event, the event in the Netherlands qualifies Dahl to be listed in the World Para Dance Sport rankings and for the World Championships in November.

"This was kind of a bigger competition,"
Dahl said

Dahl said her results exceeded personal expectations, especially in the combi freestyle.

Dahl, paired with dance partner Ernie Olivas in the category, admittedly forgot this portion of competition and needed to improvise.

"It did not go over very well, so I was really surprised," Dahl said.

Stellar experience

Dahl, meanwhile, said she and her family had a pleasant time overseas learning about different cultures.

Compared to competitions in the United States, where there has been little movement in para dancing, Dahl met substantially more people.



Eve Dahl, of Burlington, performs a dance routine during an International Paralympic Committee competition in Amstelveen, Netherlands.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Our Town

"It was really fun, it was a really cool experience to see people from other countries," she said. "I think as Americans, we don't get to see that diversity, like small-town Burlington. It was interesting to see the cultural emphasis."

Deb Dahl, Eve's mother, said para dancing in the United States hasn't been as prominent compared to other nations.

"Para dancing in the United States hasn't really taken off as a sport, where in Europe, South America and Asia, it is a big sport," said Deb.

Since para dancing isn't as notable in the United States, Eve Dahl hasn't had the same guidance, compared to competitors overseas.

At times, according to mother Deb, Eve simply learns on the fly.

Becoming a para dancer

Eve Dahl was born with osteogenesis imperfecta, otherwise known as brittle bone disease, and has experienced numerous broken bones and surgeries, among other treatments.

Dahl uses a wheelchair to move around to mitigate injuries. She also has a service dog, a Great Dane named Finn, who helps her in public spaces.

Condition aside, Eve Dahl continued to pursue dance, originally taking classes through camps at Riverwood Church's "Move by Grace" program.

Eve Dahl then moved onto Midwest Dance Center, where she continues to take classes, while participating in multiple competitions.

While Eve carries about a decade of dance experience, some disciplines are relatively new to her, including ballroom dancing.

"I have only been doing that for a few years," she said.

In May 2022, she competed in her first ballroom event, the Milwaukee Classic at the Brookfield Conference Center before traveling to other competitions in the Midwest and beyond.

Dahl, only one of a handful of registered para dancers in the United States, said she experienced a learning curve because there are so few classes and lessons specific to para dancing.

When she first paired with Olivas, who dances at Fred Astaire Dance Studios, mother Deb Dahl said Olivas initially needed to learn how to compete in a duet with Dahl.

But over time, Dahl and Olivas have become a formidable duo, including success at the most recent competition in the Netherlands. Since coming together, the duo has presented traditional dances, like the cha-cha, the rumba and bolero.

Eve Dahl, the youngest of five children to parents Deb and Lance, said she wants to continue para dancing.

"I hope para dancing takes off. I want other people to have the opportunity to



Eve Dahl partnered with Ernie Olivas, of Fred Astaire Dance Studios, at an International Paralympic Committee dance competition event in the Netherlands.

have the same experience as me," she said.

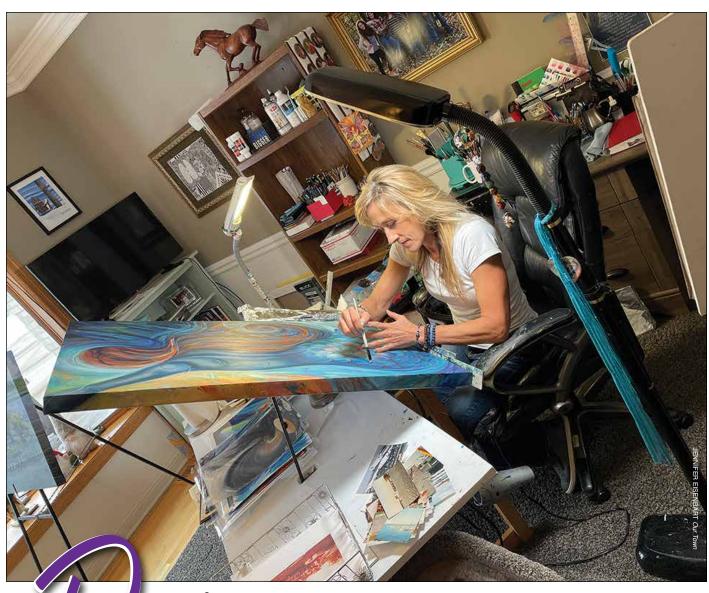
Eve added she does not have any plans to give up dancing any time soon.

"I really wanted to be taken seriously in general," she said. "It is something that I want to make a living off."

Support sought

Eve Dahl, meanwhile, has a Facebook page titled Chronicles of Eve and Finn.

According to Deb, the Facebook page includes details such as fundraisers, since most of the competitions Eve wants to attend are overseas.



A CHANGE OF COMMENTAL OF THE PROPERTY OF THE P

Mother's death, COVID-19 helps artist find new inspiration

By Jennifer Eisenbart

STAFF WRITER

For years, Lynn Garwood, of Burlington, has been recognized – both nationally and internationally – for her paintings and artwork.

But when her mother passed in July 2019, Garwood found herself on a different kind of artistic journey – one that started with what Garwood said began as visitations from the spirit of her mother.

"It was a very confusing time,"

Garwood explained. "I was excited she was coming to me, but I never had had that kind of thing happen to me before.

"What that led for me was a healing journey," she added. "I think she was absolutely instrumental in helping me on my healing journey."

Now Garwood's art has taken a more soulful turn. While she still works with realism in her paintings – her most famous work is a painting of an old, rusted 1937

Chevy pickup – Garwood is clear that she's trying to communicate more than just color and shapes.

"What I used to observe with my eye, I now try to feel with my heart," she said. "It's just more internal."

LIFE-CHANGING

When Garwood's mother died of leukemia in 2019, she admitted she needed to do some soul-searching. While a successful artist, Garwood was on the verge

of becoming an empty nester. Her youngest daughter, Jesse, was about to graduate high school and Garwood also found herself taking care of her stepfather.

"You're left with yourself again," she said. "All the things you wanted to do, you can do, but it isn't always possible."

Garwood found herself "blocked" on her artwork, wanting to paint from her heart but finding herself falling back on her realism background.

"It wasn't an open valve," she explained about painting with emotion.

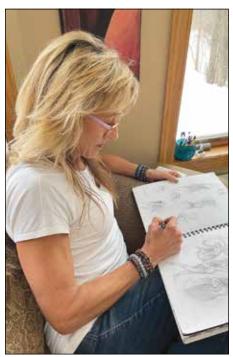
She also found herself healing from numerous different traumas she had suffered in her life, everything from being bulimic as a teenager to self-worth issues she is still dealing with now.

The visits from her mother, she said, helped her along the way. As Garwood explained, her mother had felt powerless to help her when she was living. Now, Garwood could feel her mother's presence as she began dealing with everything.

"She had no power here to help," Garwood said. "When she crossed over, she was in my face, all the time, helping me. She's a wizard in heaven, helping me."

Less than eight months after her mother's death, another life-changing event happened. Suddenly, Garwood – not to mention most of the world – found herself in quarantine to guard against COVID-19.

It became the catalyst for developing her new style. The need for change actually dates back to a show in Tennessee in 2018, a "crown jewel" type of show; something she felt would mean she had "arrived" as an



Garwood said she has found herself sketching more and more lately, oftentimes of women and mermaids. She said the work is her trying to show empowerment.

JENNIFER EISENBART Our Town



above: Lynn Garwood's daughter, Josie, stands in front of a pair of butterfly wings painted on the old post office building in Silver Lake. The piece, called "Metamorphis", is at the heart of the change in Garwood's artwork. **opposite:** Artist Lynn Garwood has been on a journey of self-exploration and self-examination over the last few years, trying to get at the "heart" of her painting and not just the realism she is known for.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Our Town

artist

"I remember being there and feeling nothing," Garwood said. "I was embarrassed. I kind of felt like a fraud in a way. There was something bigger inside of me that was wanting to get out, but I was hiding behind the realism."

Given the time away from others, Garwood began seeing more inside of herself, better understanding her emotions and herself.

"COVID-19 gave me space," she said. "I don't know how much it was a catalyst as it was a vessel. Even putting a mask on my face gave me that anonymity I craved. It helped me separate from people.

"It gave me time to explore me," Garwood added, pointing out that because of her obligation to caring for others, she had stuck to mostly realism in her artwork.

"Realism feels safe," she said. "Painting from your soul is risky."

CHANGES

As Garwood began to understand the emotion behind her work, the process of painting began to change.

"It's just a feeling," she explained. She began to sketch more, drawing women and mermaids from what she saw in her mind. What came out on paper, though, wasn't what she was imagining. She called her work "cartoonish" and "stiff."

"I went on a figure-drawing quest," she said, adding that she filled sketchbooks of nudes, trying to get a better understanding of how to best show the female body.

"It's the curves," Garwood said. "A woman is beautiful, and it's the way her body can move."

That study has helped her develop a mastery of not only the human figure, but in the emotions that come from humans.

"I didn't put my work out there a lot," she said. "I told my husband, 'I need to take my time."

Garwood admitted that she was also protecting herself as she opened herself to new emotions. As a result, her artwork began to grow, and as Garwood said, become more "fluid."

She called the process "Metamorphis," ending with a pair of butterfly wings that now adorn a building in Silver Lake – the old post office.

The wings themselves are based in the

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

realism of Garwood's older work, but also hold a fantastical quality – a wild variety of colors that exist together on no butterfly other than in Garwood's mind.

"This whole project was inspired by angels," Garwood said. "They gave it to me step by step. It was a total leap of faith."

That leap started with Garwood resuming dancing – albeit it at home by herself. She would dance with bracelets on her wrists that made a soft noise that reminded her of butterfly wings.

As the butterfly wings became to take form as a vision in her head, she began working with Lainie Callahan of Sparrow Dance Company. The two created a work of movement to music by Labyrinth and Post Malone, eventually making a video that is in the process of being

Then a friend found the wall in Silver Lake she thought would be perfect for the wings.

"It was, and it is," Garwood said.

The painting was finished this past summer, and has been on display

"People have been going in front of the wings and taking pictures in front of it," Garwood explained. "It's meant to uplift, and it is.

"Metamorphis is all about healing and transformation," Garwood added. "How art heals. To bring upliftment. Even when you've gone through really strong challenges, there is beauty that comes out of it."

Now, as she works through commissions this winter, she is finding joy again in her work. It's the next step as an artist Garwood has been waiting to take. She said she always felt her success as an artist would define her, make her more worthy. That hasn't been the case, and she's now learning that being worthy, is "just because."
"You don't earn it, it isn't given," she said. "You just are."

This painting is of a friend of Garwood's, Lainie Callahan - a work Garwood said is trying to show more of the emotion of her painting. ARTWORK BY LYNN GARWOOD Our Town

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The Burlington Conservation Club is located on twenty-eight acres southeast of Burlington, WI with a clubhouse, youth training center, four trap ranges with voice activated Pat Traps, a skeet range and year-round heated five-stand. Our ranges are open to the public and are all lighted for daytime or nighttime shooting.

Our members are dedicated to developing our youth and we have many programs including our annual Kids Fisheree in Echo Park, Youth Pheasant Hunt, Youth Trap Shoot and Learn to Hunt programs. The BCC is home to both the B.H.S. Demons and Waterford Wolverines High School SCTP teams.

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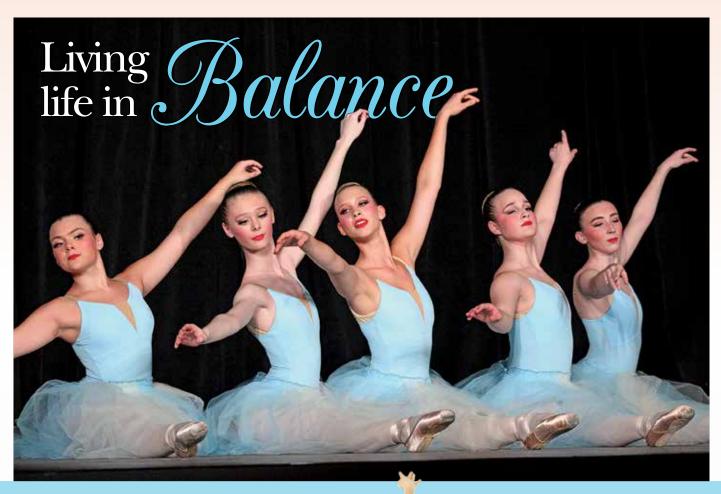




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Burlington dancer now third generation

of family to do so professionally

By Jennifer Eisenbart

STAFF WRITER

ollowing the performance of "An Evening with Balanchine" May 13, Emily Mullens, Emily Moorefield and Jaden LaMeer-Moorefield gathered in the upper level of the Geneva Tap House in Lake Geneva.

After a successful performance, Jaden soaked in the admiration, while mother, Moorefield, and grandmother, Mullens, got a chance to relax and soak up some praise as well.

Later in the evening, someone asked for a picture of the two Emilys and Jaden together. The three generations agreed and stood side-by-side, with Moorefield's younger daughter, Lorelei, and Mullens' daughter, Rose, stepping in as well.

With Mullens, Moorefield and LaMeer-Moorefield all together, it represented not just three generations, but three generations of professional dancers. Jaden is the third in line, granddaughter of professional ballerina Mullens and following her mother to dance at Disney in Florida.

"I knew I wanted to be a dancer at 11," Jaden explained.

Now a Wilmot High School graduate, Jaden LaMeer-Moorefield is ready to kick off a professional dance career – the third generation in her family to do so.

RON MCKINNEY Our *Town* Above: Jaden LaMeerMoorefield (center)
performs the George
Balanchine classic "Serenade"
with Ballet Midwest at a recent
performance in Lake Geneva. LaMeerMoorefield is the first professional dance
to come out of the Ballet Midwest program
– and the third generation of her family to
become a professional dancer.

JENNIFER EISENBART Our Town

Those three generations form the heart of Midwest Dance Center and specifically Ballet Midwest, a nonprofit, pre-professional dance company that includes Jaden and six other talented young dancers.

From the beginning

The generations of dance talent in the family started with Emily Mullens.

The mother of Moorefield, she danced professionally for two years with the Hartford Ballet in Hartford, Connecticut.

While there, she went through a specialized curriculum to become certified in teaching the Vaganova Syllabus – a dance training style that emphasizes a full-body, step-by-step approach to dancing.

Developed by Agrippina Vaganova, the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

Vaganova Method is the standard used in Russia by the world's most famous ballets and also with the American Ballet Theatre in New York City.

In addition to the training, Mullens learned everything from lighting and costuming to music and dance history.

"I loved it because my dream had always been training dancers," Mullens explained. "Dancers who would be well-rounded, knowledgable and honoring of their health and well-being as a dancer."

At just four days old, Emily Moorefield joined her mother in the dance studio as Mullens went back to teach.

"She went to the studio with me every day. She danced there until I sold it to be a stay-at-home mom. So, her foundation was from my studio," Mullens explained.

"She traveled with our company, dancers babysat her, took class as soon as she could walk," Mullens added. "She grew up immersed in that life."

Moorefield graduated from Burlington High School in January of 2008, and went immediately into professional dancing – just not ballet. She was offered a contract with Disney and danced for the company, as well as Six Flags, for three years.

Ironically, it was a visit home that took her away from professional dance.

"I came home for a visit and I didn't want to go back," Moorefield explained. "I felt like I had a heart for this city and I wanted to be back."

After teaching in the Kenosha area, she started the Moved by Grace dance group at Riverwood Church in 2012. That program has blossomed over the years and is now Midwest Dance Center, 202 S. Pine St., Burlington.

"I feel like I was doing what I was meant to do," Moorefield said.

The third generation

Jaden, meanwhile, found herself learning from both dancers.

"I have been blessed to be Jaden's ballet teacher for most of her life," Mullens said. "I work with her five to six days a week."

Moorefield had been working with Jaden since she was 7 years old. She still remembers when Jaden came off the stage after dancing a piece when Moved by Grace did a shortened presentation of "The Nutcracker."

Jaden danced the Snow Queen.

"She came off and said, That was awesome, I felt powerful," Moorefield explained.

What started as two days a week at Moved by Grace transitioned to five days a week as Midwest Dance Center evolved.

In the summer of 2022, Ballet Midwest started. Since then, Jaden has danced a number of lead roles – including Maria in December's full-scale production of "The Nutcracker" – and continued to train.

In January, she finished her high school



Stopping for a family picture at a recent event in Lake Geneva, Emily Moorefield (back from left), Emily Mullens and Jaden LaMeer-Moorefield show three generations of professional dancers in the family. In front is Moorefield's daughter Lorelei (left) and Mullens' daughter, Rose.

JENNIFER EISENBART Our Town

coursework at Wilmot High School so she could dance full-time leading up to auditioning for professional roles.

Jaden actually ended up dancing her first professional role last fall, performing at Six Flags Great America during the Halloween season, performing in the Monster Bash Dance Party as part of Fright Fest.

All of it was preparation for what was coming – a chance at a professional career. Once done with her WHS classes, Jaden added aerial silks classes and gymnastics class in addition to the work she put in at Midwest Dance Center.

"I could really focus on dancing," Jaden said. "I've really been able to do a lot of things."

The first steps

Jaden and her mother began putting together audition videos this spring, with about nine total going out for various jobs.

The problem, Moorefield explained, is that no one ever really knows what a casting

director is looking for.

"They could be looking for five girls the exact same height," Moorefield said. "Or they could not have a spot for a girl who is 5-8."

Jaden is just shy of 5 feet 9 inches, and her mother said one of the many attributes Disney looks for is taller dancers.

As it happened, Disney was looking for dancers in Jaden's height range. She sent in a video, and five days later, was asked to Disney for a callback.

In early April, Emily and Jaden traveled to Disney World in Orlando for the audition. They arrived on a Tuesday night, and Jaden danced the following morning.

"They told me after the audition that I was hired, so it was kind of a celebration (to enjoy the parks after)," Jaden said.

She has been offered an open-ended contract, meaning she can dance as long as she wants to for Disney.

"It's stability in an industry that doesn't provide stable jobs," Moorefield said.

ACTIVITY DIRECTORY

THINGS TO DO
DOWNTOWN & BEYOND

BICYCLING

Seven Waters Bike Trail

Trail head is at the east end of Congress Street, near Riverside Park, extends north through Rochester, Waterford, Wind Lake and Muskego. White River State Trail Trailhead is on west side of city near Spring Valley Road. Extends west to Elkhorn. Trail fee required. Another section has been added to the White River Trail (formerly known as the Burlington-Kansasville Trail), Eastern portion access is at the south end of McCanna Parkway near Gateway Technical College. Extends east along former railway to Kansasville.

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26313 Burlington Road (Highway 142) Kansasville 878-5600

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Launch area on Fox River.

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1054 Milwaukee Ave. Burlington

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Burlington Area School District Forest

Highway J south of Highway 142

Browns Lake Golf Course

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Innovations Dance Studio

157 E. Chestnut St. Burlington (262) 767-0678

ENTERTAINMENT

Brown's Lake Aquaducks

Fischer County Park Burlington www.aquaducks.org

Haylofters Community Theater

Malt House Theater 109 N. Main St. Burlington (262) 763-9873 www.thehaylofters.com

Plaza Theater

448 Milwaukee Ave. Burlington (262) 763-6789 www.plaza4.com

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Fischer Park

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533 Milwaukee Ave. Burlington (262) 763-3946

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Kira Asian Bistro

Pinecrest Shopping Center 208 S. Pine St. • Burlington (262) 767-9999

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725 Milwaukee Ave. Burlington (262) 763-6018

Low Daily Brewery

700 N. Pine St. • Burlington (262) 758-6002

Lucky Mojo

460 N. Pine St. ● Burlington (262) 767-0111

Lucky Star Restaurant

864 Milwaukee Ave. Burlington (262) 763-2155

The Main Event

556 N. Pine St. • Burlington (262) 763-8863

McDonald's

240 E Jefferson St. Burlington (262) 763-8777

Napoli Restaurant & Pizzeria

132 N. Pine St. Burlington (262) 763-8390

Papa Murphy's

1448 S. Teut Road Burlington (262) 767-7272

Pine Street Café

141 N. Pine St. • Burlington (262) 763-9800

Pizza Hut

1080 Milwaukee Ave. Burlington (262) 763-8432

The Runaway Micropub & Nanobrewery

109 E. Chestnut St. (262) 806-7048

Rustic Roots

597 Pine St. • Burlington (262) 661-4653

Sheila Mae's Town Fryer

116 N. Main St. • Burlington (262) 763-9940

Subway

1088 Milwaukee Ave. Burlington (262) 763-8330 1901 Milwaukee Ave. Burlington (262) 763-5144

Super Tacos Mov

140 W. Chestnut St. Burlington 342-5149

Taco Bell

2056 Milwaukee Ave. Burlington (262) 763-5375

The Waterfront

31100 Weiler Road ● Burlington (262) 763-9989

Wendy's Restaurant

2049 Milwaukee Ave. Burlington 534-7900

Ye Olde Hotel

6070 N. Railroad • Lyons (262) 763-2701

Zumpano's

180 E. Chestnut St. Burlington (262) 767-0581

ROLLER RINKS

Capelli's TraXside

637 S. Kane St. Burlington (262) 763-4410 www.traxsideskating.com

SPORTING GOODS

Dunham's Sports

1120 Milwaukee Ave. Burlington (262) 763-2476

Reineman's Sports Shop

417 Milwaukee Ave. Burlington (262) 763-3577

SWIMMING

Burlington Community Aquatic Center

394 Amanda St. Burlington (262) 758-6446

Fischer County Park

30326 Durand Ave. Burlington (262) 763-8446

Aurora Wellness Center

300 McCanna Pkwy. Burlington • (262) 767-7000

TENNIS

Burlington High School

400 McCanna Parkway Burlington (262) 763-0200

Devor Park

Amanda Street • Burlington

VISITOR INFO

Burlington Area Chamber of Commerce

113 E. Chestnut St. Burlington (262) 763-6044 www.burlingtonchamber.org

WINERY

AeppelTreow Winery

1072 288th Ave. • Burlington (262) 878-5345



Support your community - Deliver a Meal and a Smile!

We are looking for individuals and teams. Flexible days and times available.

For more information, contact Racine County Senior Nutrition Program at 262-833-8766



43935

CELEBRATE RECOVERY Mondays @ 6:30-8:30 pm
A Christ-centered recovery program.

WOMEN'S COFFEE & CONNECT @ 9-10:30 am
All Ladies Welcome - Every third Wednesday

VBS WEEK Monday 7/31—Thursday 8/3 @ 5:30 - 8 pm FREE Family Dinner (Adult must be present) @ 5 pm / FREE Program (for Pre-K - entering 6th) @ 5:30 - 8 pm

SEP-MAY

AWANA (5K-5th gr.) Wednesdays @ 6:15-7:45 pm FOUNDATION (6-12th gr.) Wednesdays @ 6:30-8 pm

See our website for more information!
Life Groups · Children's Ministries · Sermons · Bulletin

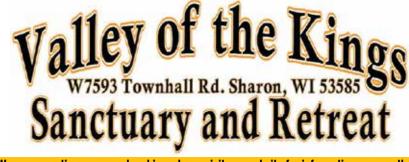
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES:



141 Westridge Ave. Burlington, WI 53105 262-763-9008 / www.faithchapelefca.com

43935





We are accepting new memberships, please visit our website for information: www.votk.org

- 6 month membership for Individual is \$75, Family \$100
- 1 year for Individual is \$150, Family \$200
- Senior Membership, 63+ years are 1/2 Price

Members may visit the VOTK animals on Saturdays and Sundays from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. You MUST be a member to visit

We educate the general public concerning the bond between human and non-human animals in the natural world.

We are a private non-profit tax exempt charity, 501(c)3

Follow us: instragram: valleyofthekings11 facebook.com/groups/votkbigcats facebook.com/votkbigcats

PHONE: (262) 736-9389





Donations and membership payments can be made through Paypal.me/votk





TO OUR "JAMBOREE JEWELS" FOR THEIR MONETARY SUPPORT





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Experience Burlington, WI

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Oak Park Place

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WE ALSO THANK THESE TREASURED JEWELS FOR THEIR IN-KIND SUPPORT!

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Thank you all for a successful Jamboree in 2023! See you next year - May 24-27, 2024!

Want to be a sponsor? Call 262-661-1951