

THE SPIRIT of Geneva Lakes



Vol. 35 No. 7

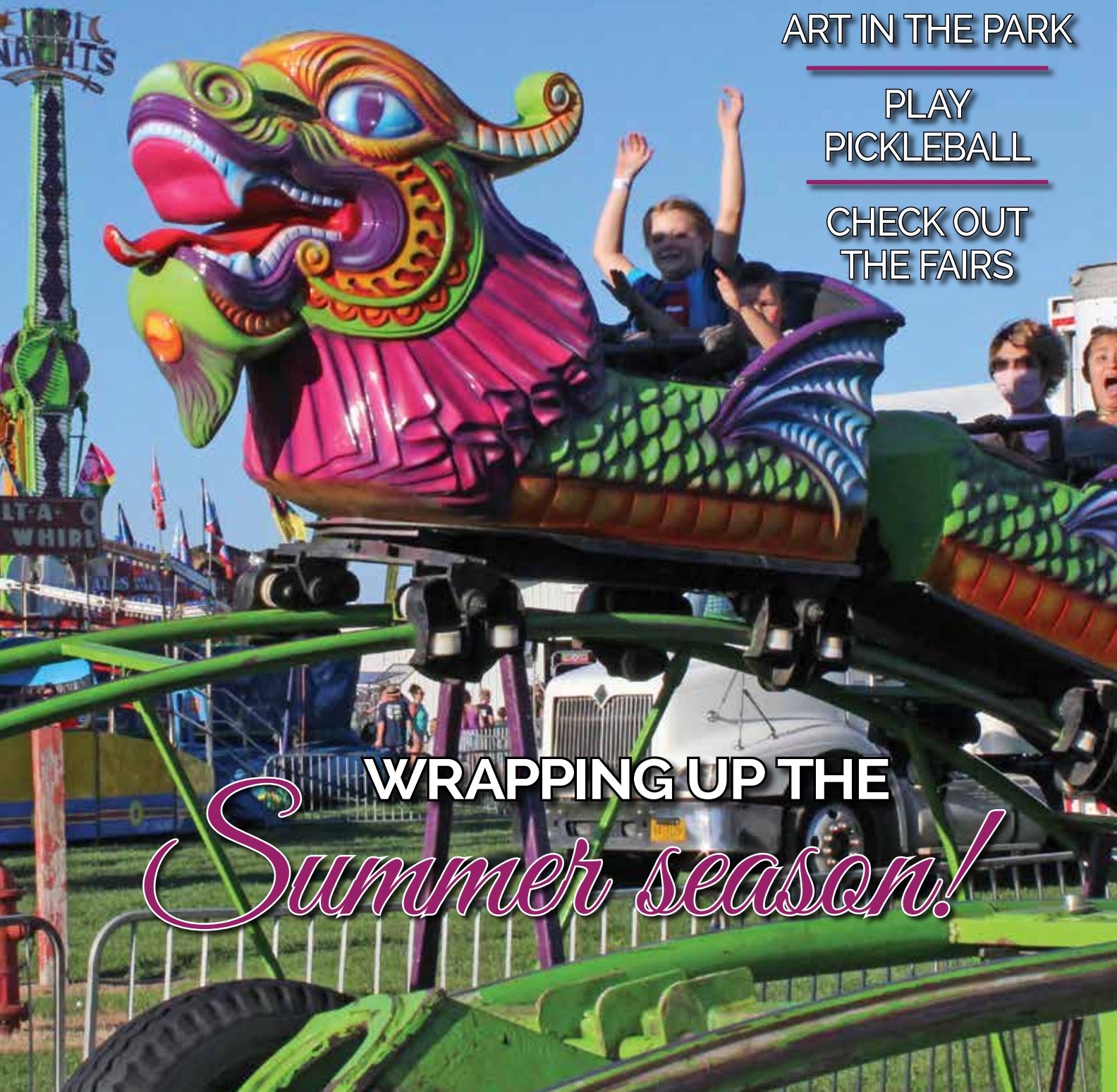
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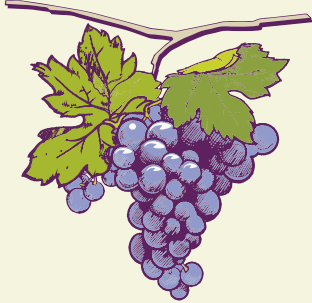
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ON THE COVER

The Walworth County Fair runs over the Labor Day weekend, which is generally considered the end of summer. While there is still plenty of sun and fun to be enjoyed in early September, families find their time limited with the kids back in school. So enjoy the season while you can.



JENNIFER EISENBART
Spirit of Geneva Lakes

IT'S COMIN' UP

AUGUST EVENTS

4 to 6 DAS Fest USA. German festival presented by the United Way of Walworth County at the Walworth County Fair Grounds, 411 E. Court St., Elkhorn. Hours 3 to 10 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Sunday. Info: 262-675-3335. Free admission.

8, 15, 22 and 29 Beginner Pickleball Clinics. Presented by Lake Geneva Tennis, 630 Veterans Pkwy, Lake Geneva, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Cost is \$15 for members \$20 for guests. Sign up at 262-812-0033 and john@lakegenevatennis.com.

10 Concert in the Park. Live music from 6 to 8 p.m. in Flat Iron Park, 201 Wrigley Dr., Lake Geneva.

11 Shrimp Boil Fundraiser for the Son's of the American Legion Squadron 24, Lake Geneva, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Legion Post 24, 735 Henry St., Lake Geneva. Cost: \$20 for adults, \$5 for kids 10 and older.

12 and 13 Art in the Park. Presented by the Geneva Lake Art Association in Flat Iron Park. See Page 21 for more information.

13 Elkhorn Flea Market. Southeastern Wisconsin's largest Antique Flea Market, hosting more 500 vendors from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Walworth County Fairgrounds, 411 E. Court St., Elkhorn, Admission: \$5.

16 to 20 61st Annual Venetian Festival at Flat Iron, Library and Seminary parks in downtown Lake Geneva. Festival features a weekend of family entertainment including a craft fair, carnival, water ski show, local cuisine including a brat stand and beer tent. This is all capped off on Sunday with a traditional Venetian-style lighted boat parade followed by the area's largest fireworks display high above Geneva Lake.

16 to 20 Kenosha County Fair, presented at 30820 111th St., Wilmet. Info: www.kenoshacofair.com.

19 Lyons Riverfest Fall Arts and Craft Fair. Held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Riverview Park, 1588 Mill St., Lyons, in conjunction with the Duck Frenzy 500 (noon to 8 p.m.).

30 to Sept. 4 Walworth County Fair presented at 411 E. Court St., Elkhorn. Info: walworthcountyfair.com.

Ongoing events

Geneva Outdoor Market Lake Geneva House of Music presents the Geneva Outdoor Market on Sundays, May 7 through Oct. 29, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Located at the Lake Geneva House of Music festival grounds, N 3241 Highway H, the market celebrates local farmers, producers, food and beverage vendors, and artisans.

Williams Bay Farmers Market Edgewater Park, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Fridays until Sept. 8. All local produce, fresh-cooked dishes, baked goods, sweet treats, fresh flowers, hand-made jewelry, hand-designed art, décor, soaps and gifts.

East Troy Electric Railroad 202 Church St., East Troy. Take a 14-mile train ride on the only remaining electric interurban tracks in Wisconsin. Historic museum and carefully maintained rail cars from 90 to 100 years ago. Stops at the Elegant Farmer. The depot is 15 miles north of Lake Geneva on Highway 120. Several trains depart each day on weekends from the East Troy Depot.

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Dancing Horses Show. At the Dancing Horses Theatre, 5065 Highway 50, Delavan. This dazzling spectacle features an array of horse breeds that perform alongside their trainers in this cavalcade of equestrian artistry. Visually stunning, and performed in a state-of-the-art, 300-seat theatre. For show dates, ticket prices and additional information call (262) 728-8200, or visit thedancinghorses.com

The calendar of events is compiled from a variety of sources including area chambers of commerce and the Walworth County Visitors Bureau, and contains events available as of press time. Events, dates and times may change or events may be canceled. We suggest you visit verify event times, dates and locations prior to making travel plans.

THE SPIRIT

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THE SPIRIT

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Everyone welcome on the court

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**
CORRESPONDENT

PICKLEBALL IS A SPORT FOR ALL

During a recent visit to the Lake Geneva Tennis Club, it was surprising to look at the tennis courts and discover that many of them had a very different look.

Instead of one or two players on each side of the net, many of the courts had four on each side. Additional lines taped off or painted on the court and a shorter net were another indication of a change, and the players weren't using traditional racquets or

tennis balls.

What they were playing, of course, was pickleball – a sport that has gained huge popularity in the last few years.

Most people not involved in the sport had not even heard of it until recently. But it is not as new a game as many people believe it to be. It was actually created in 1965 and while many played it in the Washington state area, it has finally swept the nation and is even gaining international popularity.

The history of the game, according to the USA Pickleball Association, begins on Bainbridge Island in Washington State.

Friends Congressman Jack Pritchard, Barney McCallum and Bill Bell spent some leisure time at their cottages there, and the children – especially the young teenagers – complained of boredom.

Their fathers began to experiment with a new game played on an old badminton court, trying out different paddles, balls, nets and rules until the game of pickleball became a reality that even their children enjoyed.

Over the next few years, the game was refined. Pickleball is described as a combination of tennis, badminton and table tennis, and incorporates features from each

above: Pickleball players gather along the side of the court as they wait to be assigned their court. Each tennis court can be divided into two pickleball courts. **inset:** The balls used for pickleball are much like wiffle balls. There are two types of balls used in pickleball depending on the type of court used. They either have large holes or smaller ones depending on the surface of the court.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



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into its game.

Then there is the story – or stories – of how the game got its funny name. As the story goes Joan Pritchard, wife of Jack, threw out the name pickleball when they were trying to find a name. It was a reference to the pickle boat in crew racing where the non-starters would be paired in a boat called the pickle boat to compete in lesser races.

The second story is that it was named after the Pritchards' dog, named Pickles. But according to the Pritchards, the dog was named for the game, as it was born three years after pickleball was created. Even though the U.S.A. Pickleball Association, after research, supports the story that the dog was born in 1968, some still prefer to believe that pickleball was named after the dog.

Whatever the true story, pickleball remains the name of the game.

"Pickleball began to grow and become even more popular than tennis around 2020," said John Reed, co-owner with Paul

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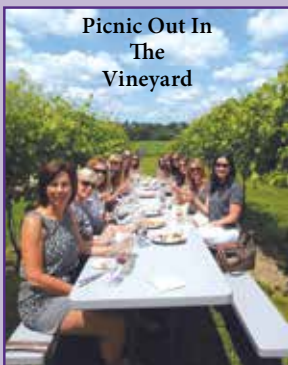
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Lauterbach of the Lake Geneva Tennis Club. “In 2017, everyone who came to the club was playing tennis. Now we have more people here to play pickleball.”

In fact, pickleball has been named as the fastest-growing sport in America for the third year in a row, according to the Sports and Fitness Industry. According to SFIA, there are approximately 8.9 pickleball players in the United State, ranging from as young as 6 years old to senior citizens.

That is almost double the 2022 estimate of 4.8 million players.

What has attracted so many to pickleball? According to Reed, there are many reasons. First, it is an easy game to learn and to play. Second, it can be played by all age groups.

Some area schools are starting to incorporate pickleball in their classes. Elkhorn High School has pickleball boundaries added to their tennis courts, according to Reed. It has easily become a family sport, as three generations of the family can play together and enjoy the game.

At the Lake Geneva Tennis Club, junior tennis continues to be its biggest program but pickleball is second and continues to

grow.

“While in the 1980s tennis was the most popular, today it is definitely pickleball that is most popular with people of all ages,” Reed said, adding that while 30% of the court capacity was filled in the 1990s, pickleball has increased court usage to 90%.

Perhaps one of the reasons pickleball is so popular may be the aging of the tennis players of the previous years. As they grow older, they want to continue to be active and pickleball gives them the opportunity to do just that.

Pickleball adapts to all ages, including seniors. Many senior centers include pickleball in their activities and have courts for those living in these senior facilities to use. It is a low-impact exercise and helps to improve balance and flexibility. It is also a good way to nurture the social connections that are so important as one ages.

Creating pickleball courts has been easy. Each tennis court can be transformed into two pickleball courts by adding new boundary lines and rolling in portable nets. The courts can then be used for either sport as needed, giving flexibility to all the courts at places like the Lake Geneva Tennis Club.

When playing pickleball, it is recommended that one wear loose, comfortable clothing that allows unrestricted movement. Shoes should be ones that allow lateral movement along with front and back movement, like tennis shoes. With shoe flexibility, there is less chance that the players will stumble and fall.

The equipment used in pickleball starts with the paddles. These are specially made for pickleball use. They most resemble a ping pong or table tennis racquet, having a short handle and a squarish paddle face. The paddle itself is usually composed of graphite or fiberglass and the grip size needs to be measured for you. The original paddles were created from wood as the founders of the game worked on developing a paddle that would work well.

Today paddles and other equipment for pickleball can be found at most sports stores or at places like the Lake Geneva Tennis Club, where pickleball pro Neil Mediratta will help you choose the paddle that is best for you – depending on your knowledge and skill of your game.

Pickleball started out with a wiffleball, but today there are special balls for

left: An owner of the Lake Geneva Tennis Club, John Reed, displays the two types of pickleballs used in play. **right:** Holding two different paddles, Neil Mediratta, pickleball pro of the Lake Geneva Tennis Club, explains the differences in types of paddles.

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pickleball. They do, however, continue to look similar to a wiffleball. These lightweight balls are made of hard plastic, and have a series of holes in them to allow the air to pass through them. The balls with the larger holes are generally used on a hardwood basketball court, while the smaller balls are used on the tennis courts, according to Reed.

The game is played by either two or four players. To win, the team must score 11 points with only the server able to score points. However, the winning side must win by two points so the game may go much longer. Unlike tennis, the server must serve underhand.

Before starting to play pickleball, it's recommended to become familiar with all the rules and then take a class.

"It is better to learn to play correctly in the beginning rather than developing bad habits and have to correct them," shared Reed.

Pickleball classes are available at the Lake Geneva Tennis Club. Classes range from the beginner classes for those who are new to the sport or those who may feel they have not been playing correctly. There are a variety of specific skill-building classes along with many special events held regularly. Skill-building drills are Mondays throughout the month with a different skill building drill scheduled each Monday. On Wednesday mornings, there are special novice drills where the coaches will review the basic shots and rules and scoring will be reviewed.

A series of special events will be held throughout the summer that will be fun for the players and will encourage the improvement of skills. It is also a great social event where players will meet more fellow pickleball players. Private lessons from the pickleball pros, Neil Mediratta and John Reed, can be scheduled.

Contact the Lake Geneva Tennis Club at 262-812-0033 to sign up for classes and events or visit them on line at www.lakegenevatennis.com for more information.

There are a variety of places to play pickleball in the area, including the Grand Geneva Hotel – where Reed manages the programming – the YMCA, and some of the neighborhood park tennis courts.

With pickleball continuing to grow and more need for courts, the Lake Geneva Tennis Club is planning a major expansion. An additional building consisting only of pickleball courts will be built adjacent to the current main tennis building, Reed said, and if the current popularity of the sport continues, there is room on the property for more additional courts.



top: This foursome gathers for a morning game of pickleball at the Lake Geneva Tennis Club. **right:** Players enjoy a game of pickleball at the Lake Geneva Tennis Club.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

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Not just in fiction, chimney sweeps keep homes safe

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

When entering a home, the fireplace is one of the most warm and welcoming sights.

Making a house a true home, the fireplace is often in the living room or family room, a bedroom or even out on the patio. The fireplace is the spot where everyone gathers to enjoy both the beauty of the fireplace and the warmth it offers.

While homeowners appreciate fireplaces, many do not realize that caring for the fireplace is important and maintenance is required for the fireplace to work properly and safely over the years. Others may be aware of the need for maintenance, but with the business of everyday life, just don't quite get around to scheduling the appointment for the services needed.

Enter Pratt's Chimney, a full-service chimney cleaning and repair company that prides itself on providing the best in fireplace and chimney care in the area.

Brittany (Pratt) Wierzbicki, said her father – after serving 10 years in the U.S. Navy – decided it was time for a change. He and her mother, Heather, founded Pratt's Professional Chimney Service.

The couple started the company near the Wisconsin/Illinois border, where they were able to service both residents of northern Illinois and southeast Wisconsin – areas that benefitted from having a fireplace due to the cold winters. The business has shifted headquarters several times as it outgrew their facilities.

“The business is a family owned and family run business.”



above: Traveling along Highway 50 the sign for Pratt's Chimney can be seen in front of its new location at 30722 Geneva Road, Salem.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

right: This free standing iron fireplace adds warmth to the room. Note the tea kettle on the surface keeping the tea water hot.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

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said Wierzbicki, the oldest of the Pratt's seven children. "Many of us work in the company."

Pratt said, as stated in the history of their company, the area is perfect for their family. As the website explains, half the family are Bears' fans while the other half are Packers' fans.

"It works out pretty good there, too," the website reads.

The Pratts chose this area after Steven was stationed at Great Lakes Naval Station. They realized how much they loved the area and felt it would be the perfect place to continue raising their family when he left the Navy.

In addition to family members, Pratt's also prides itself on hiring many technicians who have also served their country, as Steven Pratt did. Some of them are ex-military and others are still involved with the military, as they have continued to serve in the Reserves or National Guard.

While many don't use the term "chimney sweep" regularly, that is exactly what Pratt's technicians are as they service your chimney and fireplace. Since 1997, they have been nationally certified and members of the National Chimney Sweep Guild.

Certified to server

The certified chimney sweeps, after completing coursework, are tested before receiving their certification, which is accepted in both the United States and Canada. They are retested every one to three years to maintain their certification.

While the service technicians or chimney sweeps that come to your home to perform the maintenance your chimney and fireplace may not be dressed in a top hat and tails like Dick Van Dyke in the movie "Mary Poppins," they are more qualified to provide the service needed. Instead of singing and dancing, they concentrate on cleaning your fireplace and chimney and making any other repairs that are needed.

Many people purchasing a home with a fireplace do not realize that both the fireplace and the chimney need regular servicing and cleaning – not only to function well but to function safely. The type of service needed depends on the type of fireplace, the age of the fireplace and chimney, and the amount of use and types of items burnt in the fireplace. Before purchasing a home, homebuyers should be certain that there has been a recent check of the fireplace and chimney and that they are aware of any repairs to the fireplace and chimney that are needed.

If there is not a recent inspection, they should have one done before completing the purchase of the home.

"We recommend that every fireplace have an inspection and cleaning each year before the start of the fall season, when most people start to use their fireplace," shared Wierzbicki.

In addition to regular maintenance, being



Pratt's Chimney has been serving the northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin area to provide quality chimney and fireplace maintenance services. They recently moved to Salem from Antioch, Illinois, to enlarge their space.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ Spirit of Geneva Lakes



This brick chimney is being rebuilt either to give it a new look or to make it safe. Or perhaps for both.

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careful what one burns in the fireplace prevents the buildup of creosote on the walls of the chimney. Burn only aged, dry hardwoods to minimize the buildup of creosote.

There are a variety of services that may need to be considered. Start with a cleaning of both the fireplace itself and the flue system. An interior inspection of the chimney lining – especially in older chimneys – is usually accomplished using a camera.

Staff looks for cracks in the lining that need to be repaired. Sometimes the entire inside of the chimney needs to be relined. Obviously, the more repairs a fireplace and chimney require, the higher the cost to clean and repair it. It is important to continue with regular maintenance so that repairs can be made while they are still minor.

The purpose of a chimney cleaning is to remove creosote, soot and debris that builds up over time when improper materials are burned in the fireplace or the owners have not been mindful of regular maintenance.

The certified technicians clean the entire system from the fireplace/firebox space all the way up through the damper system and the entire chimney. Technicians will inspect the entire system, collecting the debris from the cleaning using triple hepa-filtered vacuums to control dust in the home. If the creosote buildup is too heavy, they may need to do a chemical removal of it.

A chimney cap prevents animals from entering the chimney if it is sealed properly. When having your chimney checked, be certain to have the chimney cap resealed if it is loose. The chimney itself may need to be rebuilt or tuckpointed if it is brick and has had years of wear.

Pratt's Chimney offers a variety of services from the basic cleaning needed at least yearly to relining the chimney or often refacing the fireplace to give it a more modern look.

Since the pandemic, with many people spending more time at home, updating the look of a home has become more popular. They may begin by having the older masonry fireplace replaced with a stainless steel liner. While the cost may be high, the stainless steel liners come with a limited lifetime, one-time transferable warranty.

They may also decide to update the look of the face of the fireplace – something else Pratt's Chimney can help work out. It may also be necessary to replace the face of the fireplace if you have had to replace the firebox. The new firebox may be a slightly different size, requiring a new face.

Installing a fireplace in a home that does not currently have one can also be done. A decision must be made by the homeowner on whether they prefer a wood-burning fireplace or a gas fireplace with natural-looking gas logs. A representative from Pratt's will come to the home by appointment to discuss the various types



A technician from Pratt's Chimney Service works on the chimney to be certain it is safe for use.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

of fireplaces that can be considered and the cost of each one. Working with the homeowners, staff will discuss the styles that will work best with their home décor, and the space available.

Pratt's Chimney Services works with every homeowner to assure that the fireplace is both safe and attractive. The goal is to continue to provide quality technicians who take pride in their work and always treat the family's home that they work in with respect. Pratt's Chimney's prices remain competitive.

Pratt's Chimney Services are a full-

service fireplace and chimney business. The business has been nationally certified since 1997, and according to the Pratts, they have an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau and an A rating on Angi, formerly Angie's list.

Pratt's Chimney is at 30722 Geneva Road (Highway 50), Salem. Reach them by phone at 262-862-1695, or visit them on line at www.prattschimney.com.

They have recently moved to this Salem address and are planning to build a new showroom at this location, which hopefully will be completed in 2024.

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Prepare for a family day at the fair

County fairs, state fairs and country fairs dot the landscape in late spring, summer and fall, offering fairgoers plenty of attractions and rides to fill warm days and evenings. Families who plan ahead may be able to improve their experiences.

Purchase passes in advance

Some fairs enable visitors to purchase entry tickets, parking passes and even game vouchers online. There are advantages to doing so, such as bundling discounts and time not spent waiting in line.

Devise a basic plan

Look over the list of attractions and activities to gauge what you want to get out of the fair. Some fairs post their calendars online. With kids in tow, you'll likely want to check out any children's rides or animal exhibits and interactions. Create a generalized plan, but be flexible.

Think about safety

Fairs attract thousands of people and that can lead to confusion if children become separated from their parents. Write your mobile phone number down and put it in your child's pocket or bag, so he or she doesn't have to memorize it.

Consider finding the tallest attraction at the fair (perhaps the ferris wheel), and make that the meeting point if anyone becomes lost.

Snap a photo of youngsters when you arrive so that you'll have a recent image



The Walworth County Fair features a large midway. The biggest county fair in the state offers family fun during its six-day run over the Labor Day weekend.

JENNIFER EISENBART *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

and know exactly what they are wearing if you need to engage law enforcement.

Time your visit

If the fair runs during the week and into the weekend, weekdays are likely to be much less crowded. Also, while not ideal, a cool day or one with a slight drizzle will cut down on crowds and improve the ability to see more things and get on more rides.

Factor in food

Fair food is an indulgence to enjoy when fairs come around. Rather than go overboard, pick one meal or item that the family will enjoy. Bring a backpack, if

permitted, and fill it with bottled water and other light snacks so that you can tame hunger pangs and not bust the budget.

Understand game odds

Fair games are largely designed to earn the event money and not cash out prizes to participants. The chances of winning the grand prize, which may be a giant stuffed giraffe, usually are low, so play the games for fun and memories and not to walk away with the biggest prizes.

In addition to these suggestions, parents can make sure they bring insect repellent and sunscreen to the fair. Dress for comfort and not fashion. (METRO CREATIVE)

Kenosha County Fair

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www.kenoshacofair.com

Walworth County Fair

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Molly Herda walks her Hereford steer in the championship round of last year's junior beef show at the Kenosha County Fair.

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L10 West Shore Dr, Elkhorn "Lakefront Lot" - Green Lake vacant lakefront lot with 75' of level Sunset filled frontage on 0.65 acre lot on Lauderdale Lakes. Lot features slight wooded slope from road which leads you to level frontage and private pier. You'll appreciate the additional 50 x 100 lot across the street offering additional parking and storage. Walking distance to Lauderdale Landing and minutes to boat launch. Kettle Moraine trails 3 miles away. Build the home you've been dreaming of. **\$549,900**



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440489

When Art becomes part of the park



Annual fine art event returns for another run

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

Each summer in August, Flat Iron Park, situated along the shore of Geneva Lake in downtown Lake Geneva becomes transformed into an art lover's paradise.

The annual Art in the Park Festival – scheduled for Aug. 12 and 13 at Flat Iron Park, 201 Wrigley Drive, Lake Geneva – comes back for its 43rd year. The park will be transformed into 80 spaces, to be filled with 10 -by-10 foot booths holding the art work of 80 artists, chosen from a large pool of applicants.

As a juried art show, the work of the artists is critiqued by a group of judges chosen by the sponsoring organization – in this case the Geneva Lakes Art Foundation. The judges are knowledgeable about art and often are artists themselves or members of the Board of the

sponsoring organization.

“Many of the artists travel from across the country, although the majority are traditionally from here in the Midwest,” said Jeff Russart, this year’s director of Art in the Park. “Some of the artists live in the Lake Geneva area, while others find their way to the Festival from other communities or from adjacent states.”

Russart said entries start coming in early, especially from artists who have been part of the show before. This year, as in most years, 100 entries were received. It is then the job of the committee to choose which artists will be accepted for the juried show.

Many of the artists who have been part of the show in previous years request the same spots for their booths. Having the same location each year makes it easier for fans to find them. The committee tries to honor

requests from past participants to assign their preferred spaces.

Of the entries, only 80 can be accepted because of space in the park.

While many first think of an art show as paintings, the Art In the Park show is a combination of a variety of media. The show has paintings but also features clay/pottery, fiber works, glass, printmaking, metal, mixed media, oil and acrylic painting, watercolors, pastel works, photography, sculpture jewelry and wood works.

“Jewelry of all kinds, created by the artists, is always a favorite,” Russart said. “As are some of the unique items, such as those made from walnut shells.”

While many artists work in more than one medium, when applying for the show they must choose which medium they will be displaying. They are limited to only

Starting at the beginning of the park, meander through a variety of art work at Art in the Park.
Allow plenty of time to enjoy the many displays available.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

— SPIRIT of GENEVA LAKES —

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displaying and selling works produced by them in that genre. Eighty percent of the items on display and offered for sale must be their original work in that particular genre, while the other 20% must also be their work but it may be items reproduced, such as cards or prints.

A feature of this art show is that the artist must be in their booths throughout the day, allowing visitors to not only see the work but have the chance to meet the artists and ask any questions. Some of the artists actually create works of art in the tent.

Artists bring their own tents and are responsible for setting them up. Parking spaces are kept open adjacent to the park for the artists to unload their artwork, tent and other supplies. Once they have unloaded their materials, they must move their vehicles to make room for other artists to bring in their works and supplies.

Putting up the tents, as well as hanging or displaying their artwork, is a hard job requiring several hours and the help of others. Lugging the canvases through the park, especially if they are very large and heavy or if they are transporting large sculptures or other breakable items, is a tiring and time-consuming job but one that the artists willingly undertake to participate in the show.

Fortunately, the Boy Scouts are usually there volunteering to assist the artists as needed.

Getting tents set up and works attractively displayed needs to be accomplished by early Saturday morning, as the judges will be out judging the artists' work. They judge the show early on Saturday when the artists still have all their works available. While the judging is completed on Saturday, awards are presented on Sunday.

Last year, the Best of Show Award was presented to Anthony Soskich, for a beautiful oil painting titled "Stairway of Green." Additional awards included the John Larson Memorial Award awarded to Nancy Schwarz for her painting titled "Conglietto."

Merit awards were awarded to Amanda Jones for her ceramic sculpture titled "Lola #14," to Lou Pierozzi for his ceramic sculpture titled "USS Pennsylvania," and to Julie Scheckel for her printmaking piece titled "Tranquility."

Special stops

When meandering through the park enjoying the variety of artwork on display and for sale, be sure to stop at some of the special tents. The Geneva Lake Arts Foundation has an interesting display of works by members of the foundation that are available for sale.

top: Pottery, ceramic wall hangings, paintings and more will be on display during the juried art show at Flat Iron Park in downtown Lake Geneva during Art in the Park. **middle:** Visitors begin to arrive to last year's Art in the Park. Is that the bottom half of a visitor on the right or a piece of art? **right:** Paintings can be seen in various sizes to fit any need. Enjoy meandering through the displays to find the perfect piece for your home.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS Spirit of Geneva Lakes



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The other tent not to miss is the silent auction tent. In this tent are works of art that have been donated by the exhibiting artists to be sold at a silent auction. The bids can be placed until 3 p.m. on Saturday and until 2 p.m. on Sunday for that day's auction.

Different art pieces are up for auction each day. Winners are notified by cellphone and if they have the winning bid, they need to pick up their artwork that day, within 2 ½ hours of the close of the auction.

Participating in the auction is a great way to support the Geneva Lake Arts Foundation as funds from the auction benefit it.

Some may think an art show is for adults, but in reality, it is a family event that will be enjoyed by members of the family of any age. The kids will especially enjoy the Just For Kids activity area, located in the Flat Iron Park Gazebo. Spend time here while the kids enjoy creating a “make and take” art project. While the children are hard at work on projects, parents can watch a child’s creativity come to life.

The Just for Kids program is sponsored by the Neal and Dotsy Hefferman Art Scholarship Fund and the Lake Geneva Rotary.

Food is always important when you are spending a day out. Being in downtown Lake Geneva, with the many restaurants in the area, assures there are no shortages of places to enjoy a quality meal and a beverage.

“We will also have some food vendors here in the park,” Russart said. “The Boy Scouts will again offer foods such as hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks and the Nutman will again be on site selling his delicious nuts. There may also be some other vendors on site but they have not been finalized at this time.”

While parking is always a concern on summer days – especially weekends in Lake Geneva – there are a number of free parking lots available. Some are within walking distance to Flat Iron Park. These can be found on the genevalakesartsfoundation.org/art-in-the-park website.

Further away, parking can be found at the Home Depot Parking Lot, 550 N. Edwards Blvd., and at U.S. Bank, 303 Center. Shuttle service is available from these lots from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and run continuously every 20 minutes.

Spending a beautiful sunny day along the shore of Geneva Lake enjoying some of the best art in the area is the perfect way to spend a weekend day.

Art in the Park will be held on Saturday, Aug. 12, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, Aug. 13, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is no rain date.

For more information visit genevalakeartsfoundation.org. Admission to Art in the Park is free.

The show is sponsored by the Geneva Lakes Art Foundation and is considered their largest fundraiser. The foundation has a downtown Lake Geneva Gallery, Gallery 223, at 223 Broad St., Lake Geneva, where the works of its members can be enjoyed. Summer hours for the gallery are Thursday through Monday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday hours are available by appointment only. Contact the organization by email at genevalakesartfoundation@gmail.com to make an appointment.



top: Colorful pottery and artistic T-shirts can be seen here. **middle:** Working together to get the booth up, these artists prepare their space for their displays. **at right:** While walking around the art fair, take time to look out at Geneva Lake and enjoy its natural beauty along with the beauty of the art.

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TAKE A TRIP BACK IN TIME



VISIT THE **Renaissance Faire** THIS SUMMER

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

Summertime is when most people head outdoors to enjoy a variety of activities with family, friends and neighbors. At the top of the list might be a trip to the fair – that is the Renaissance Faire – where visitors can set the activities and stresses of everyday life aside and take a step back in time.

The Renaissance Faire can be found along Interstate 94, just north of the Illinois/Wisconsin border.

When visitors arrive they are immersed into a world where life in the 16th century was filled with music, dancing, food, along with a variety of period appropriate activities.

Step back in time to 1574 and enter the fictional town of Bristol, in Elizabethan England, where the town is astir waiting

for the Queen to arrive. Residents of the town are dressed in their best attire of the day, in outfits that best depict their station in life.

Julie McMillin, social media director for Bristol Renaissance Faire, said the dress of the time had definite rules to abide by when people were choosing their clothing to wear in public. Women were required to have head coverings and their dresses had to cover their ankles, although exposing some cleavage was not forbidden.

The upper-class men were very flamboyant, dressing in leggings and vibrant tunic-styled tops. They carried their swords for their own protection and the protection of their family members. Decorative hats were also frequently worn by the men.

As visitors approach the entrance to this fictional town, they begin to be pulled into

the spirit of the Faire. From the time they pass through the main gates of the city and hear the music and laughter permeating the air, they become immersed into the 16th century. Soon the stress of modern day life is forgotten and an old way of life becomes the reality, at least for a day.

Many of the visitors also wear the period dress to be fully immersed in the atmosphere. Those that don't have an Elizabethan outfit may choose to purchase one at one of the clothing stores onsite. However, unlike the dressmakers of the 16th century, these gowns are ready to wear and not made to order for the customer.

The shops are easy to find as the gowns are suspended in front of the business. Remember in the 16th century, the majority of people had not gone to school and learned to read, so shops often displayed pictures of the merchandise they

Two women dressed to the nines enjoy an afternoon in the square at the Renaissance Faire taking in the music and dancing and perhaps some shopping.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of the Lakes*

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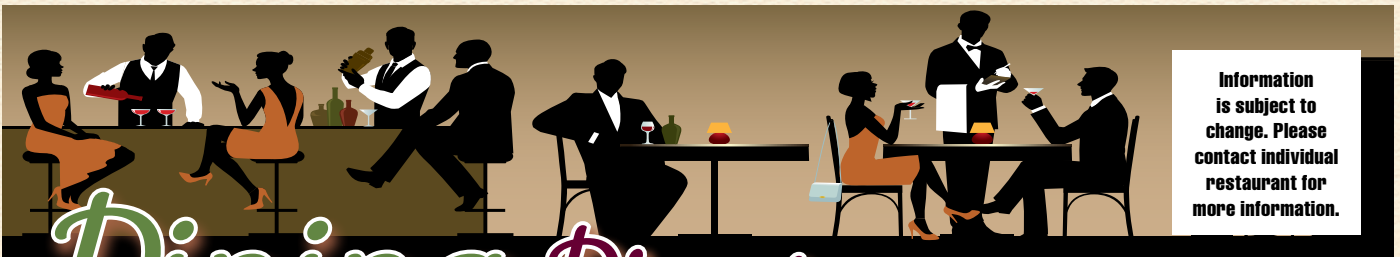
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\$\$\$: Mostly under \$30 FF: Fish Fry ☎: Reservations requested † : Alcohol served ☺: Kids menu SR: Senior menu

440760



Special weekends at the Faire

In addition to the traditional weekends of the Renaissance Faire, there are some special themed weekends that add a special twist to the events. They include:

PIRATE WEEKEND

AUG. 5 AND 6

Ahoy Mates! Dress in your best handmade Pirate or Sea Creature on the Castle Keep Stage at the designated time is weekend and sign in by 2 p.m. to be part of the Pirate's Contest.

Report to the Castle Keep Stage at the designated time to demonstrate your swagger for a chance to win free tickets.

RENNCON

AUG. 12 AND 13

Join the biggest costume party of the year. Choose your costume from wherever you get your inspiration, comics fairy tales, sci fi, or any other genre. Then join up at the Maypole at 10:30 for the dance around the Maypole.

To enter the costume contest register by 2pm. All must be handmade not purchased. Then report to the Castle Keep at the time designated to be judged for a chance to win return tickets to the Faire.

THE PUB CRAWL

The Pub Crawl is not on a special weekend but tickets to this event can be purchased for any weekend. The Pub Crawl includes four alcoholic drinks as you travel from Pub to Pub accompanied by your own bartender which allows you to skip the lines.

Along the way share in bodacious songs, jests, folk stories and riddles. There are more than 14 beers on tap from which to choose. No one under 21 years of age is permitted on the Pub Crawl.

Tickets are \$65. Half the tickets for the Pub Crawl are sold in advance on line, the other half are sold the day of the Pub Crawl.

An admission ticket to the Faire must also be purchased.



carried in place of written signs.

In addition to purchasing a dress or leggings there are other items needed to complete a 16th-century outfit. Shops selling hats, jewelry, swords and other accoutrements to complete the transition into a citizen of Bristol and a subject of the Queen in 1574 can be found throughout the streets of Bristol. Jewelry was as important to the women of the day as it is to many women today.

The Renaissance Faire is situated on 30 wooded acres so be prepared to meander down the streets and enjoying the music and dancing as well as an opportunity to join in.

MEET THE QUEEN

Visitors should keep their eyes open for the parades that work their way through the grounds because the Queen's parade might be one of those coming through.

The Queen is sometimes very sneaky, popping in – and then quickly disappearing – in the crowd. Other times she may be headed to one of the many stages to watch performances, from musical presentations, dancing, singing, acrobatics, or even juggling acts.

And remember it's not uncommon for members of the audience to be pulled on stage and become part of the performance.

The best place to spot the Queen is at the Jousting Ring where the knights arrive seated on their favorite steed, well groomed, and

wearing their colors, ready to demonstrate the ability to perform a number of difficult skills and to joust with one another hoping to be rewarded by the Queen.

Encouraged by the cheers of their visitors, the knights put on their best performance in a fight to be the last knight mounted on his steed, which will allow him to become the top knight of the Queen's Brigade.

Shows are held at various times throughout the day. Check the schedule for the day on arrival and try to arrive early for the performances as the grand stand seats fill up quickly. Note that there are a variety of performances that will be available throughout the day.

FAIRE FOOD

As visitors meander through the streets of Bristol, they will find many food stands where they can purchase old-time cuisine. No one will go hungry even though there are no modern day fast food items here, only things like mushroom bangers (sausages), Shepherd's Pye and the traditional English fish and chips.

For those who've never had a Cornish pastie, this is the time to try one. They are meat-filled pies enjoyed as a meal originally by workers in Cornwall and are said to be the forerunner of the Polish pierogi and the Italian ravioli.

The most significant food item, or rather the one that is best known, is

above: Visitors are welcomed to the Renaissance Faire. Once through the main entrance to the fictional city of Bristol, they are immersed into the culture of that time. **at right:** Members of the cast gather to have lunch together.

perhaps the giant turkey legs. Throughout the faire children especially will be seen holding their turkey leg as they wander around. It is often a question whether there are more children with turkey legs or with ice cream. Both seem to be enjoyed.

There is generally a long line at the food stand offering cheese-filled fritters that have warm creamy cheesy centers. Obviously filled with cheese, they are a favorite here in Wisconsin.

A glass of Sarsaparilla, a favorite non-alcoholic beverage, also should be enjoyed, especially by those who haven't ever tasted it. This early beverage is said to have been the precursor of what today is known as root beer. Sarsaparilla has a hint of licorice flavor.

Guests at the fair often split orders of foods with members of their group so that more items can be sampled and enjoyed.

HISTORY OF THE FAIRE

While the Renaissance Faire has been in existence at this site since 1989, the history of its beginning goes back to 1972 when Richard and Bonnie Shapiro founded an event which they named

King Richard's Faire. It was held for four weekends each summer in northern Illinois, just south of the Illinois/Wisconsin border and was based on a fictitious King Richard.

King Richard's Faire was enjoyed by many and through the 1970s and 1980s continued to attract more visitors. They also added fantasy events including trolls, elves and wizard battles.

Renaissance Entertainment Corp. purchased the Faire in 1989 and moved it across the border to its present location where they renamed it Bristol Renaissance Faire.

The company replaced the mythical King Richard with the real monarch of 1574, Queen Elizabeth I of England. And here at this permanent site of the Renaissance Faire, time remains locked in the year 1574 to offer guests a glimpse of life as it was then.

The Faire is designed as a family activity and there are a variety of events geared especially for children. The children's section includes games, rides and activities that they will enjoy while also teaching them some of the skills they

would have needed in the Renaissance days.

There likely will not be a moment when visitors aren't entertained during their time at the Faire. From the performances on the 16 stages spaced around the grounds to the activities in the streets, there's a lot of activity. Dancing, and singing, where performers get spectators to join in are something many guests seem to enjoy.

Bristol Renaissance Faire is off Interstate 94 at the Illinois/Wisconsin state line. Exit at Russell Road if traveling north from Illinois.

The 2023 Faire is open Saturdays and Sundays, July 8 through Labor Day, Sept. 4, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Ticket are \$40 for adults and \$35 for seniors (older than 62) and military members with ID. Tickets for children 5 to 12 years of age are \$15. Children younger than 5 are admitted free.

Leave pets at home as they are not allowed on the grounds. Parking is available on site.

For more information, visit www.renfaire.com, call 847-395-7773, or find the faire on Facebook.

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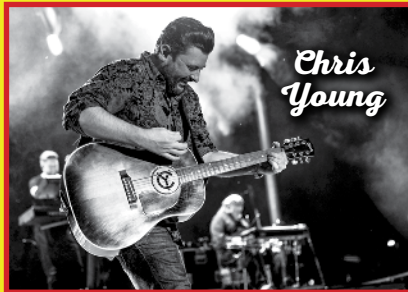
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