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SEPTEMBER 2023

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FARMERS' MARKETS FINAL DAYS

OKTOBERFEST IN THE SPOTLIGHT





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ELKHORN GUN BARREL BUY-SELL-TRADE

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Steins of beer and Bavarian pretzels are among the German faire awaiting visitors to Runaway Micropub and Nanobrewery during Oktoberfest in Burlington.

> COURTESY OF THE RUNAWAY Spirit of Geneva Lakes



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IT'S COMIN' UP SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Aug. 30 to Sept. 4 Walworth

County Fair presented at 411 E. Court St., Elkhorn. Info: walworthcountyfair.com.

8 to Sept. 10 Darien Cornfest A

parade, volleyball and softball tournaments, the Tri-County Pullers, craft fair, carnival, fireworks, food/beverages and live music. It's held at West Park in Darien and on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 9 and 10, free sweet corn is served from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., donated by Bird's Eye Foods. Info: dariencornfest.us

16 Delavan Scarecrow Fest

Hosted by Delavan Historic Foundation, theDowntown Business Association and Phoenix Park Bandshell. Features includes scarecrows, a petting zoo, pumpkins, vendors, music, food, and live entertainment. Info: visitdelavanwi.com

23 Delavan-Darien Rotary Artisan

Festival Featuring artists, artisans and crafters selling their wares at Congdon Gardens, 1420 Hobbs Dr., Delavan. On stage there will be performers and a variety of food trucks will be on site for the event. Info: visitdelavanwi.com.

24 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.

Oct. 7 Elkhorn Holiday Craft Bash.

Previously hosted at several locations throughout the Elkhorn area, this annual event is now held entirely at the Walworth County Fairgrounds, 411 E. Court St., Elkhorn. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and it will feature more than 300 crafter, artisan and food booth. Admission is \$5 a person. Info:walworthcountyfairgrounds.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.

Genoa City Farmers Market 800

Fellows Rd. Held Fridays in Veterans Park through Oct. 20, the market, which is new this year, features a variety of vendors, food and live entertainment.

Williams Bay Farmers Market

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

Fontana Farmer's Market 8 a.m. to noon, Saturdays through September on Porter Court. Featuring a wide selection of locally-sourced fresh flower bouquets, cheese, organic vegetables, honey, herbs, homemade quiche, handmade soaps and more. Info: vi.fontana.wi.gov

Tristan Crist Magic Theater

609 W. Main St., Lake Geneva. One of a kind performer that wows audiences with with, jaw-dropping illusions and gutwrenching escapes! For show dates and times call 262-248-0505 or visit www. lakegenevamagic.com.

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.

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. Several trains depart each day on the weekends from the East Troy Depot through October 22.

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 and events may be canceled. Please verify event times, dates and locations prior to making travel plans.





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THE PICKING IS RIPE AT



by Sandra Landen Machaj

CORRESPONDENT

Autumn is all about apples. For those with an apple tree on their property they watch the apples as they grow and turn from green to red. There is nothing more appetizing than plucking a ripe apple from a tree and taking a bite, enjoying the sweet – and sometimes tart – juicy taste of a fresh apple early in the fall.

While we often think of apples as red, they may also be green or yellow. They may be sweet or tart depending on the variety.

Apples are ready to eat right off the tree or can be cooked down into applesauce, baked into an apple pie, apple cobbler, or variety of other desserts, and can even be used to cook with chicken or pork for a tasty, seasonal main course. Apples are used in the creation of apple ciders, wines and brandy.

They are also used to create a favorite fall treat in caramel apples, with one of the favorites being the Honey Crisp variety covered in gooey caramel and sometimes, rolled in ground nuts. Apple cider and cider donuts also make appearances in the fall, a favorite for many during the season.

Apples are considered the all-American fruit but were not native to North America. The only apples that were originally here were crab apples. While officially considered an apple, these small shriveled and bitter pieces of fruit were not very tasty for eating.

According to the University of Illinois Extensions Service, the apple tree originated in an area between the Caspian and Black Sea. Pilgrims planted the first apple trees in the United States in Massachusetts Bay Colony and over the years, apple trees spread throughout the country to all 50 states as the early settlers moved in. There are now more than 100 varieties of apples being produced commercially and new varieties continue to be developed.

As we move into Apple Season, it's a great time to pick-up the favorites and maybe try some new varieties of apples from local orchards.

HAFS ORCHARD W630 Hafs Road • Genoa City

262-279-3638

Hafs Orchard was purchased from the original owners in 1982 by Richard and Debbie Polansky. They have continued to produce top quality apples and have expanded the number and varieties available over the years.

They currently have more than 3,000

In addition to apples, fall is also the time of year for pumpkins and gourds in many colors, sizes and shapes. PHOTO COURTESY HAFS ROAD ORCHARD Spirit of Geneva Lakes



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fruit bearing trees producing over 50 varieties of apples for use in cooking as well as enjoying as a stand-alone treat.

"Most of the trees that we have on site are dwarf trees," shared Debbie Polansky, who together with her husband, Richard, own and run the orchard. "We still have a few of the original full-sized trees from the original orchard that produce apples."

In 1992, the Polanskys planted 60 trees of a new variety of apples that had been developed at the University of Minnesota. They said they didn't know if the apples from these trees would be popular with customers. Believe it or not, the variety of apples was Honey Crisp, which has become the most popular of eating apples in this area and beyond. Hafs Orchard now boasts over 2,000 Honey Crisp apple trees on their property.

In spite of the dry, hot summer this year, the apple trees are doing well, according to Debbie.

"We have an irrigation well which has allowed us to water the trees regularly in spite of limited rainfall," she explained.

The apples begin to ripen in August with the first batch ready to pick by the end of the month. Several varieties will be available when the orchard opens for sales on Aug. 25. These include Pristine – a nice late summer eating apple, and Zestor! – known for crisp eating and great for making pies. Ginger Gold apples are also a favorite, Debbie said, as it's a crisp eating apple that has a refreshing flavor.

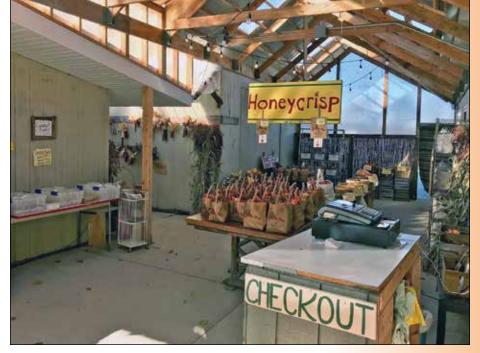
And they have a new variety for those looking to expand their horizons.

"KinderKrisp is our newest apple that will be available in limited numbers this year. It's a cross between a Honey Crisp and another variety but the other parent is not known," Debbie said.

"We recommend that you call and make



Hafs Road Orchard in Genoa City sells a wide variety of apples including the popular Honey Crisp. SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ Spirit of Geneva Lakes



Market Alley at Hafs Road Orchard features a variety of items available for purchase, including apples that are bagged and ready to go. PHOTO COURTESY HAFS ROAD ORCHARD Spirit of Geneva Lakes

a reservation for these new and limited apples if you wish to try them," she added.

Despite there being many varieties of apples, many people stick with one or two of their favorites rather than venturing out of their comfort zone to try the others. But maybe this is the year to take a chance and broaden the apples you pick-up at the orchard.

Fresh sweet cider, mulling spices – and a favorite fall treat for many – Honeycrisp caramel apples can also be purchased at Hafs. Later in the season they also offer squash, pumpkins and gourds.

As a bonus, frozen applesauce produced over the winter from last season's apples is available and compliments many meals perfectly as a side dish.

"This year we have again produced honey crisp cider syrup, a favorite of many customers," Debbie said.

Hafs Orchard products can be found at the Kenosha Farmers' Market, the Lake Geneva Farmers' Market and the Genoa City Farmers' Market. Hafs opened for the season on Aug. 25 and while they do not allow self-picking, they encourage visitors take a walk through the orchard, which might best be enjoyed while eating a fresh crisp apple or a Honey Crisp caramel apple rolled in nuts.

Keep an eye on the website at www. hafsroadorchard.com for hours and apples available.

BRIGHTONWOODS ORCHARD

1072 288th Avenue • Burlington 262-878-3000

When Brightonwoods Orchards began in 1950, it was established as a weekend retreat, a small, 3-acre getaway that had a few apple trees that were tended as a hobby. It has since grown over the years to 18 1/2 acres according to the website, and now features more than 150 apple varieties from the 4,000 trees on site. Seeded and seedless grapes, quince, and pears are also grown on site.

The crew at Brightonwoods continue to preserve the heirloom apple varieties and in addition, they grow standard and newer commercial varieties. In addition, Aeppel Treow Winery, a separate business, opened on the same grounds in 2001 and produce a variety of ciders, perry and liquors.

Located in a pastoral setting along one of Wisconsin's Rustic Roads near Burlington, Brightonwoods Orchard invites visitors to meander through the orchards and on the two miles of trails through the woods while observing the trees and apples hanging from their branches in season.

"We will open for the season on Aug. 19 and will have some of the early ripening varieties available. Among the expected varieties that will be available as they ripen are Yonkers, Jerseymac, Lodi, Quinte, Sweet Bough and Duchess," shared Bill Stone, owner of Brightonwoods.

"We have a lot of heirloom species, so many of our trees are older trees and are full size. The full-sized trees are more difficult to pick because of their height. Ladders are needed for them while some of the dwarf trees are easier to reach," he explained.

The grounds are a place visitors can enjoy the outdoors. In addition to the walking trails through the orchards, there is a two-mile hiking tour through the woods. Guests are encouraged to take the time to meander along the trail and allow their concerns to disappear as they enjoy being out in nature and the beauty of the woods.



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While shopping the numerous apple varieties, it's also recommended to stop and taste the apple cider.

"We make cider for five orchards," Stone said, adding that they also sell their apple cider on site.

There are picnic tables on the grounds where families can relax or enjoy a snack or simply relax while the children use up some energy climbing and playing on the playhouse. The two-story playhouse is a favorite of the young apple orchard visitors as they play inside and climb the ladder to the second story.

Apple cider donuts are also a favorite fall treat and can be purchased at the orchard to be enjoyed immediately or taken home, maybe both out there. For the flower lovers, sunflowers have been sold on site since 1997.

The orchard property has some special events slated for the coming weeks as well.

"We also have a variety of events taking place at Brightonwoods through the fall," Stone said. "The annual car show sponsored by the Lions Club of Caledonia will be held on Sept. 24 on the grounds. Come out and enjoy the variety of classic cars on display."

For the third year, the annual craft fair will be held on site on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 3 and 4. It's a great opportunity to shop hand-made crafts and perhaps get a start on some holiday gift shopping.

"Our Dinner on the Farm will be held on Saturday, Sept. 16," said Stone. "This unique dinner will be created by Chef David Swanson from Braise Restaurant in Milwaukee. While the menu is not created yet, you can be assured that apples will be included in many of the dishes to be served."

To make reservations for the Dinner on the Farm event, call 414-628-7864.

Brightonwoods Orchards will be open Tuesday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. but closed on Mondays. Visit the website at www.brightonwoodsorchards. com or follow the Facebook page for more information.

THE APPLE BARN ORCHARD AND WINERY

W6384 Sugar Creek Rd. • Elkhorn 262-728-3266

The Apple Barn and Winery is a favorite, well-known orchard in the Elkhorn area. For six generations, the Jacobson family has farmed the land, nurtured the apple orchard and in more recent years, expanded by adding a bakery, their own line of wine as well as opening a retail store on site. In 2021, they added a patio that offers comfortable seating and is a perfect place to enjoy a snack or taste their wines.

Fall is an exciting time at the Apple Barn as the apples begin to ripen. They currently have 4,000 apple trees growing 12 varieties of apples, all of which are popular with customers. Among the most popular apples are Gala, Zestar and Honey Crisp varieties.

As we move into late August and early September, the apples begin to ripen and it's time for Apple Fest. For 34 years, this fall celebration of apples has been held at the Apple Barn.

"This year Apple Fest will begin on Sept. 23 and 24 and will continue through October on weekends. Music and food vendors will be present on the grounds," said Judy Jacobson, who owns the Apple Barn with her husband, Steve.

Apple Barn is one of the few orchards in the area that offers a choice of picking your own apples or purchasing those already harvested. Self- picking is only available on weekends and guests are advised to check the Facebook page to make sure apples are available for picking.

"Apples are usually ready to be harvested around Labor Day. Paula Reds are one of the early varieties. Honey Crisps – everyone's favorite – usually ripen midto late September," Judy explained.

"We also offer pick your own pumpkins, beginning around Oct. 1," she added.

While the apples are the reason that many make their way to the Apple Barn, they are far from the only reason worth stopping. The Apple Barn offers homemade apple cider donuts, which are served hot and fresh on the weekends. While many purchase donuts, some to enjoy on site and others to take home, not all manage to leave with their entire donut purchase intact.

The Apple Barn, among other things, is known for homemade apple pies which are sold to be baked at home. "We make, you bake," is the theme. The pies are made from scratch – from the crust to fresh apples, of course – and those interested in getting one are encouraged to stop by early in the day as they often sell out quickly.

Visitors should also leave plenty of time to peruse the retail shop. The Farmers Daughter brand of apple butter, applesauce, pie filings, jams, jellies, and strawberry syrup are all made on site. Adult guests can visit the wine room to learn more about and try the fruit wines created on site by Steve Jacobson, all of which are made using fresh fruits such as strawberries, apples and pears, but not grapes.

The apple cider made on site is another treat to enjoy while at the Apple Barn and can be purchased to take home as well.

A visit to the Apple Barn likely will not be just a quick stop for many but a fun way to welcome fall while picking – or picking up – apples, visiting the store, trying some wine and apple cider donuts or fresh caramel apples.

The Apple Barn is open Tuesday to Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the fall season. For more information, call 262-728-3266, visit their website www. applebarnorchardandwinery.com and like and follow them on Facebook.

There are a variety of pumpkins and gourds available at some area apple orchards including Hafs in Genoa City. SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ Spirit of Geneva Lakes



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SEPTEMBER 2023



STOP BY THE LOCAL STOP BY THE LOCAL

Premier Wine & Spirits features a large store, 1920s themed pub

by Sandra Landen Machaj

CORRESPONDENT

It isn't often that one can visit a Speakeasy and a complete wine & spirits store in one stop. But Premier Wines & Spirits in Salem offers the opportunity to do just that.

The business is at 32400 Geneva Rd. (Highway 50), Salem, near the Fox River and has been home to a variety of businesses in the past. It had been vacant for some time before being purchased by DeAnna and Tim Delimat. They transformed it into a store that not only sells a variety of wines, beer, and spirits but also features a high-end cigar humidor and walk-in cooler.

Created in the look of the Speakeasy, which was prominent during prohibition, the pub at Premier Wine has a dark look, reminiscent of the 1920s when the sale of alcohol was illegal. The look from years past – with dark private spaces, feathery lamps, dark tables and newspapers of that time on the walls – encourages people to gather while enjoying their favorite craft cocktails in this private yet welcoming space.

Premier's Speakeasy & Lounge is hard to miss with its large u-shaped bar and padded bar stools with backs. The



above: An employee of Premier Wines and Spirits meanders through the Speakeasy & Lounge offering drink samples and snacks to visitors during the grand opening. **top:** At the event, which was held in July, Premier Wines and Spirits was decorated and snacks and drinks were available to visitors.

COURTESY DEANN DELIMAT Spirit of Geneva Lakes



large display of quality liquors along the back wall attracts those looking for a specific drink. In the center of the back wall a sign welcomes all who stop by.

While the Speakeasy of old required a special knock or password to enter, the one in Salem is very welcoming.

"We offer a variety of special craft cocktails," said Becky Rychlak, who serves as Senior Advisor at Premier Wine & Spirits.

"Of course, we offer a special Old Fashioned, ours is a smoked Old Fashioned and is one of the most popular choices on the menu. Another of our customer's favorite specialty cocktails is the Wisconsin Cherry Dream," she said.

According to Rychlak, they offer a flight of Wisconsin bourbons that includes Henry and Sons, Drifters and Red Cabin, among others, as a way for bourbon fans – or those interested in trying it – a chance to taste some local favorites.

Speakeasy also offer beer, particularly craft beers such as New Glarus Spotted Cow, New Belgium Fat Tire and other varieties, in bottles or cans.

The atmosphere lends itself to friends who want to gather while enjoying a favorite drink, as well as being a place suitable for a casual business meeting. It might even be the place to gather with a book club in front of the cozy fireplace to discuss the current favorite novel or biography.

While Premier Wine & Spirits has only been open a short time they have developed friendships with members of the community.

And, they're just getting started.

Future plans

There are plans to add activities such as wine or bourbon tastings, as well as already having a wine club, a bourbon club and a cigar club in the works. Furthermore, there are discussions of possibly offering a paint and sip program on site.

The paint and sip programs have been very popular over the past several years where friends gather together, sip wine or other beverages, and create a piece of art under the direction of an artist instructor.

In fitting with the program being held in a Speakeasy a twist on the paint and sip would be to have the participants paint on a wine glass rather than on canvas. And the staff is more than happy to help customers find a wine they enjoy.

"If you are looking for a recommendation for a good wine, speak to our bar manager, Stephanie, who is a sommelier," added Rychlak.

To take a visit one step further, pair a drink with a charcuterie board of Genoa salami, Soppressata (an Italian dry salami) and local cheeses. Or perhaps you and your group would prefer Amish Kitchen Chocolate Cashew Crunch or mixed nuts.

Keep an eye on the menu for any new additions to craft cocktail and food choices, which may change with Wisconsin's seasons.

"Live music will be part of the Speakeasy,"



Premier Wine and Spirits, on Highway 50 in Salem, offers a wide variety of fine wines and liquor as well as a large walk-cooler. SANDRA LACHEN MACHEJ Spirit of Geneva Lakes

DeAnna Delimat explained, with the next event set for Labor Day weekend. She advises people keep an eye on the website and Facebook for additional music events.

Having a drink at the Speakeasy is only the beginning of the offerings at Premier Wines & Spirits. This family owned wine and spirits store offers a variety of moderate to high-end wines, bourbons and other liquors.

The inside of the liquor store has a clean, organized look and feel. Long shelves of wines, bourbons and other liquors are neatly arranged.

Friendly and helpful staff members are happy to offer recommendations.

The wine displays are impressive and feature the best wine regions both in the United States as well as other countries. The popular California wines are well represented as are choices from New Zealand, Italy, France and Argentina, to name a few. For special occasions don't forget to check out the bubbly wines. Whether you prefer the true champagne from France or the sparkling wines from other areas, there is a fittingvariety to be found on the shelves.

If whiskey and bourbon are not a drink of choice, it's surprising to learn of the many types. While many are produced along the bourbon trail in the Kentucky area, some are also produced right here in Wisconsin.

Bourbon and whiskey fans can find some unique whiskeys, such as the Ole Smoky Peanut Butter Whiskey produced in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, which might turn a peanut butter lover into a whiskey drinker or perhaps a whiskey drinker into a fan of peanut butter.

While many stores have a beer cooler, the one at Premier Wines & Spirits is a full size walk-in cooler. Among the types of beer available are popular Wisconsin brews – like Spotted Cow – along with a variety of ales, lagers, stouts, Porters and IPAs, created by a variety of beer brewers.

When you need cold beer to take to a picnic, friend's barbecue, or family event, stop in and pick up a case already chilled. Beer and many other spirits are best kept cold, and at Premier Wine & Spirits, there's a large variety available in an effort to help ensure that customer favorites are cold and ready to go when they stop in.

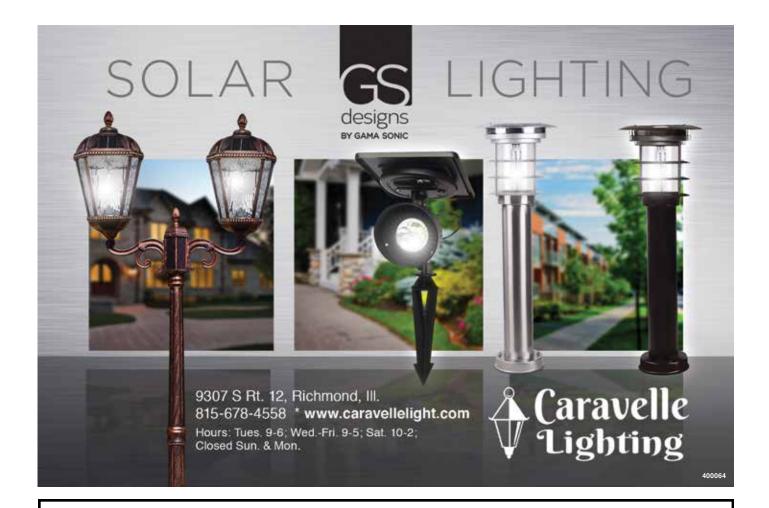
Another not-so-common feature is a walk-in humidor offering a variety of cigars for the cigar smoker who appreciates high quality. Among the varieties on site are those produced by Cohiba, Punch and Ashton as well as others. Visitors are invited to step into the humidor and check out the selection being kept fresh in the climate-controlled space. While they do sell cigars at the store, note that smoking is not permitted in the building.

Premier Wine & Spirits is a family owned business that aims to provide quality merchandise and services at reasonable prices. The owners said they are a community business and treat customers like family.

A visit to the store might be a one-time stop for passersby. But for people throughout the area – and maybe those who travel through it regularly – it could become a favorite. Whether looking for a place to have a favorite adult beverage, try something new to add to your list of preferences, consider stopping by and taking in the atmosphere while picking up some wine and spirits as a gift for a party hostess or to enjoy at home.

Premier Wine & Spirits is located at 32400 Geneva Rd. (Highway 50) in Salem at the site formerly known as the Sly Fox. For more information, call 262-537-8010, visit www. premierwinewi.com or follow on Facebook.

The store hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. The Speakeasy pub is open Wednesday through Friday from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m.



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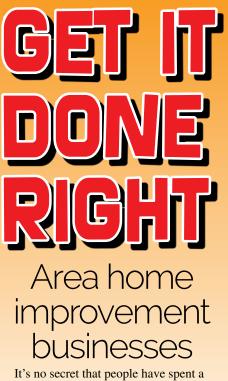
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It's no secret that people have spent a great deal more time at home in the past few years as the coronavirus limited travel and social interaction. And it's also no secret that many people used the time to focus on home improvement.

Whether that entails a new patio, flooring or furnace, homeowners have to partner with trusted suppliers of products and services to finish their jobs with the best results their budget allows.

In the Geneva Lakes Area, finding those project partners doesn't have to cause sleepless nights.

Here's a look at several of Spirit magazine's preferred home improvement providers.

ELECTRONICS and APPLIANCES

Lyle's TV and Appliance

For residents of Geneva Lakes are area, a visit to Lyle's TV and Appliance in Elkhorn is always the first and the last stop for shoppers in need of new appliances or the latest home technology.

Known for fair prices and excellent service, Lyle's has served the community from this location since 1952.

From the outside, however, you may not have noticed changes in the building. A step indoors and a quick look at the newly remodeled showrooms will take your breath away.

Two years ago year the owners remodeled and updated their kitchen showroom to include all the latest high-tech and high-end kitchen appliances. Last year more changes were made in the showroom.

The completed Smart Home showroom is an open and elegant space with all the high-tech devices that are expected in a high-end home. The room is decorated with



A walkway made from decorative pavers adds a more interesting look to a property than plain concrete. The decorative plantings along the side also add to the beauty of the space. This walkway was designed and installed by Koch Kuts of Burlington. SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes



Tom and Sue Schinke, along with their dog Abbey, take a break in the Smart Home area at their store, Lyle's TV and Appliance in Elkhorn. The Smart Home room offers high-tech electronic ways to manage the home from controlling the lighting to seeing who is at the front door. SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ Spirit of Geneva Lakes

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soft, neutral chairs and an area rug. High above, a wooden cathedral-style ceiling with exposed beams adds to the beauty of the room.

"All of the items seen in the room are things we have carried but were never displayed because we didn't have the right space for it," owner Sue Schinke said. "Most of the Smart Home items were sold to builders for high-end homes. But any of them can be installed in the average home. Now we have the space to properly demonstrate to customers how they can make their homes into a Smart home."

From massive televisions to whole-house music systems and fully integrated "smart" systems that automate everything from entertainment systems to thermostats, Lyle's has the products and knowledge to turn the average home into a Smart Home.

Lyle's TV and Appliances is at 17 S. Washington St., Elkhorn. Contact them at 262-723-3477 or visit www.lylestv.com to see a selection of their products online.

The store is open Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Thursday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

FENCES

Aronson Fence Company

The fences provided by Aronson Fence Company are all top quality – whether they are made of cedar, ornamental metal or vinyl.

Wood picket fences are one of the most popular types of fence. All of the cedar fences from Aronson Fence Company are made to order, not preordered from another company. The cedar is purchased from a mill in upper Michigan.

In addition to using top-grade wood, they also use stainless steel nails, which don't bleed into the wood and have excellent holding power for a strong fence that will survive the Midwest winters. All fences are designed and built on site by Aronson's quality crews.

A popular choice for those looking for something that requires less maintenance are the ornamental fences made out of steel or aluminum. These high-end fences add a look of elegance to the property. There are a variety of styles and designs from plain, clean lines to fences with a very decorative flair. According to Aronson, these fences are maintenance free and come in a variety of colors – colors that do not require repainting.

Aronson Fence Company can be reached by phone for information or to schedule an appointment at 262-248-3390 in Wisconsin or 847-526-9300 at the showroom, 26356 W. Ivanhoe, Wauconda, Illinois. They can be found online at aronsonfence.com or on Facebook.

FLOORING

Carpets Plus Outlet

Family owned and operated for more than 20 years, Carpets Plus Outlet has the Racine and Kenosha area's largest in-stock selection of quality flooring.

Owners Neil and Penny Fuhr have more than 40 years of experience in the flooring business.

Although the name prominently includes carpets, the "plus" encompasses a wide variety of flooring options and styles – from hardwood and tile to luxury vinyl and waterproof options.

The store also offers window treatments. Carpets Plus Outlet provides free

estimates, expert installation and financing. The store is on Kenosha's north side

at 1241 22nd Ave., Kenosha. The phone number is 262-683-5399 and the website is carpetsplusoutlet.com.

HEATING and COOLING

Komfort Heating and Cooling

For 46 years, Komfort Heating and Cooling, Inc., in Elkhorn has provided topline heating and air conditioning services for both residential and commercial buildings in southeastern Wisconsin and northern Illinois areas.

While the company was purchased a little more than a year ago by current owner Kraig Edelman, the quality of their service has not changed.

"We offer a variety of services from replacement of older equipment to providing new equipment for new construction," said Nicole Mane, manager of Komfort Heating and Cooling, Inc. "A variety of quality heating and air conditioning units including ones produced by Lennox, Carrier, Goodman, and Concord are available."

"The most important thing a customer can do to be certain that they have a working heating or air conditioning unit throughout the season is to have yearly inspections on the furnace and on the air conditioning unit," said Nick Romani, a Komfort Heating and Cooling, Inc. technician, who routinely cleans, inspects and installs HVAC equipment.

This cedar fence is 6 feet tall and offers good privacy for this back yard. The decorative gate adds a special look to the property. It is among the many fencing solutions installed by Aronson Fence Company.

COURTESY OF ARONSON FENCE CO. Spirit of Geneva Lakes



SEPTEMBER 2023

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To be certain that your equipment remains in top working condition, Komfort Heating and Cooling advises customers to consider purchasing a maintenance plan. They offer three separate levels of maintenance plans to suit a variety of needs and budgets.

Komfort Heating and Cooling Inc. is at 5384 Highway 11, Elkhorn. To set up an appointment for services or to replace a furnace or air conditioner, contact them at 262-723-2662 or visit their website, www. Komfortheating.com.

Thielmann group

Living in the upper Midwest, one of the most important items in our homes – one that helps to keep our family comfortable and safe – is our heating and air conditioning system.

Given the cold, sometimes snowy winters and the hot summers in the area, being certain that the heating and air conditioning units in the home are in top working condition is paramount.

Thielmann Group now has six locations – including Burlington Heating and Air Conditioning and Roth Heating in Waterford – has been keeping heating systems running at their peak since 1929.

Thielmann Group sells and services topgrade furnaces and air conditioning units, including Lennox, Daikson and Carrier – in forced air systems, and a variety of boilers including Buderus, Lennox, NTI and others – for hot water heating systems.

However, maintenance is important in getting the top performance out of your equipment. Annual service visits are required by most manufacturers to keep the warranty valid – and is another area where Thielmann Group companies excel.

With a renewed interest in indoor air quality, Thielmann Group also offers the filters and advice to keep your home and its occupants healthy.

For HVAC service, repairs or new installations, the Thielmann Group is ready to serve. They offer 24-hour emergency service.

Burlington Heating and Air Conditioning is at 201 S. Pine St., Burlington. The telephone number is 262-763-2653.

Roth Heating has two locations, 107 N. Milwaukee, Waterford, 262-534-5568, or 400 W. Drexel, Oak Creek, 414-764-4700.

Visit thielmannheating.com for more information about their services.

Westenn Heating and Air Conditioning

Because of our climate conditions, it is important that homeowners maintain their heating and air conditioning systems and have a reliable heating, ventilation and air conditioning contractor to turn to when in need and to provide the regular maintenance the systems need.

Since 1969, many home and business



These mid-century modern style lamps on display at Caravelle Lighing are just a fraction of the hundreds in the showroom at the store in Richmond, Illinois. SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ Spirit of Geneva Lakes

owners have placed their faith in Westenn for installation and maintenance of their HVAC equipment.

According to Westenn owner Ray Albreth, the biggest mistake homeowners and businesses make is not maintaining their equipment.

"An annual maintenance cleaning and filter replacement lessens the chance of a furnace breakdown. Too often owners don't change filters as needed or use the wrong filter for their equipment, leaving the filters clogged and putting stress on the equipment," Albreth said. "Homeowners sometimes try to use the least expensive filters which may not be appropriate for their equipment."

When purchasing a new furnace or air conditioner, it's important to select a quality brand that will provide quality

service.

"Furnaces, if they are properly installed and cared for will usually last at least 14-15 years if properly maintained," Albreth said. "One should not change a furnace just because it is old, only if it isn't working properly and an HVAC technician has thoroughly checked it out and found it to be not working or repairable."

Westenn is a distributor for Lennox and Armstrong furnaces. Armstrong furnaces are made by Lennox and have one unique feature – they are the only ones to have a stainless steel heat exchanger.

Westenn Heating and Air Conditioning is at 990 Koopman Lane, Elkhorn. Contact them at 262-723-4955 or visit them online at www.westennheatandair.com.

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LANDSCAPE SERVICES

B & J Tree and Landscape

B & J Tree and Landscape is locally owned and operated, serving the Geneva Lakes Area since 1959.

Specializing in trimming, removal, and planting of trees, B & J Landscape has advanced over the years to a company that can offer our clients everything for their outdoor living needs.

B & J's landscape designer can draw clients a plan suitable for any budget, while its landscape team will install retaining walls, patios, planters, brickwork and more.

The maintenance crew will take care of weekly mowing, weeding, raking, as well as spring and fall cleanup.

B & J also has an arborist and crew who are experts in tree trimming and removal as well as fertilization, moving trees, and disease control.

They also provide snow removal services. B & J Landscape is at W2795 Krueger Rd., Lake Geneva. Call 262-248-3653 or visit bandjlandscape.com.

Koch Kuts

A beautiful yard and top-quality landscaping add to the enjoyment and value of a home. For Justin Koch, owner of Koch Kuts, helping homeowners achieve that perfection has been his work for more than 20 years.

"About 24 years ago, I began this business as a lawn mowing business," Koch said. "Then we expanded to doing additional lawn, landscape, and hardscape installations. Today we offer a full line of services to add to the beauty of your property."

Designing an outdoor space that will add beauty and value to a property requires planning. Koch is able to offer a variety of ideas and help the homeowner through the design process to assure a positive result and a space that will be enjoyed by the whole family.

Koch Kuts is able to incorporate fire pits, water features and outdoor kitchens into its designs. Their scope of work also includes ponds and retaining walls.

And for those looking for traditional lawn and landscaping services, Koch Kuts remains committed to services that gave the business its start.

Contact Koch Kuts at 262-534-9509 or visit their website www.kochkuts.com.

Reesman Company

For 50 years, homeowners and businesses owners have depended on the Reesman Company, of Burlington, to help solve their landscape and structural problems.

What started out as an excavation and utility firm has now consolidated its heavy construction, aggregate operations, and the



One of the most popular features to enjoy in an outdoor space is a firepit, like this custom design by the Reesman Company. Firepits can be built in a variety of styles using different decorative materials that will make it a special gathering place for your family. SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

landscaping division under the Reesman Company name.

For many, the process of how to turn their property into the attractive oasis they envision for the enjoyment of their family and friends requires input from professionals who can turn their ideas and thoughts into reality.

"We encourage homeowners to call us so we can work with them to turn their vision into a viable hardscape," Chris Reesman said.

Whether its decorative patios, fire pits, outdoor kitchens or water features, Reesman has built a reputation for topnotch projects.

Whether it's a complete high-end landscape makeover or an upgrade, Reesman's will engage the suppliers, order the necessary materials, and work to implement your plan as efficiently as possible. They will be there to see that the finished product is as perfect as the design.

"Our goal is not to be the biggest company in our field but to always provide the best service and quality work," he added. "We take the high road and maintain high standards."

The Reesman Company is a fullscale landscape architect providing both industrial and residential services. Their office is at 28815 Bushnell Rd, Burlington. They are available by phone at 262-539-2124. The company's service area in southeast Wisconsin stretches from the state line to Milwaukee on the north and as far west as Madison. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. See www.reesman.com or on Facebook for additional information.

LIGHTING

Caravelle Lighting

Caravelle Lighting has supplied attractive, functional home lighting at its current location — 9307 U.S. Highway 12 in Richmond, Illinois — for about 30 years.

When ready to consider replacing existing light fixtures or installing lights in a new building, a store that specializes in lighting is the place to go.

"Customers sometimes head to the big box stores or go online to purchase their fixtures, thinking they will save money," Caravelle owner Joe Kroup said. "We can meet or beat any price for the same fixture. We also offer service. We are a lighting store, not just a store to sell fixtures."

If problems arise, Caravelle will work with customers to contact the manufacturer and see that the issues are solved or use their own service department.

Builders often refer customers to Caravelle to choose fixtures for their new home.

A walk through Caravelle Lighting overwhelms the senses with the large number of fixtures and the variety of colors and styles from which to select. So it's not surprising that some customers have a hard time making a choice.

In addition to the fixtures on display, Caravelle has a number of catalogs with additional styles and models of lighting to enhance the beauty of your space.

Caravelle Lighting is at 9307 Highway 12 in Richmond, Illinois. Call 815-678-4558 or visit caravellelight.com.

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Specializing in home improvement projects

by Jason Arndt

STAFF WRITER

Burlington-based Martin Construction, founded as a father and son team more than 30 years ago, specializes in home improvement projects from floors to ceilings and everything in between.

The fully insured and licensed contractor launched in 1992 works on projects such as residential construction, light commercial and external finishes.

Owner Tony Martin, son of Jim, became inspired to continue the family tradition after his father retired from the industry.

"It was something that I was able to do and learned a lot and stayed with it throughout," Martin said. "I like to see something from start to finish."

While Tony Martin has enjoyed seeing his progress, he and others in the industry were prepared for the home improvement rush, which began in the spring.

Earlier this year, the construction industry, like other trades, continued to grapple with supply and demand issues as well as labor shortages.

"We are as prepared as we are going to be. Everyone in the trades is really busy because we are having a difficult job of finding help. It seems like more guys are



Tony Martin, owner of Martin Construction, has completed remodeling projects including bathrooms. SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes



Tony Martin (left) and his father, Jim, launched Martin Construction in 1992 as a father-son team. SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

coming out of the trades than coming in," he said at the time.

Martin Construction, which has a few employees, receives assistance from area subcontractors to complete some projects.

"It is hard to find employees, per se, but I've got quality subcontractors and contractors that I deal with," Martin said.

Martin said the demand had remained steady for bathroom and kitchen remodeling projects.

Other projects include additions, such as four-season rooms and three-season rooms, according to Martin.

"Lately, it has been a lot of bathrooms and kitchens, small additions like fourseason rooms, three-season rooms and things of that nature," Martin said, adding that hard countertops such as quartz have also been a popular item.

While he has seen consistent demand, some projects may take a bit longer, considering the continued challenges with the supply chain.

"Supplies are harder to get, everything is more expensive than it used to be. Lumber has come down in price, but all of your windows and cabinets have not come down in price," he said.

"There is more sticker shock nowadays than there used to be," he added.

Bringing visions to life

Martin said customers often have initial concepts in mind before they contact

contractors.

Mostly, customers find ideas online, and then ask contractors to bring them to life.

Martin said he sits down with customers, discussing supply needs and costs before coming up with a concrete project plan.

"It's a small process back-and-forth that takes a little bit of time," he said. "But at the end, they generally know what they are getting and what the costs are."

Project timelines, he said, largely depends on the scope and could range anywhere from a couple weeks for a simple bathroom remodel to a few months for a large-scale project.

According to the Martin Construction website, Martin offers other services as well – including new construction, commercial projects, recreation rooms and window replacements – in addition to remodeling projects.

After more than 30 years in the industry, Martin said customer interactions and new projects have motivated him to continue the Martin Construction tradition.

"I like that I don't do the same thing everyday, there is always something different," Martin said. "I meet a lot of great people in the community. It is just a nice change of pace everyday."

Martin Construction can be reached onling at martinconstructionofburlington and they have a Facebook page.

For more information, call 262-492-8944.



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Oktoberfest celebrations aplenty

East Troy Brewery, Duesterbeck's and Runaway Micropub to host events

by Sandra Landen Machaj

CORRESPONDENT

ne of the joys of fall is appreciating the change in weather as leaves transform to autumn hues of yellow, orange and red before finally turning to brown and falling from the trees. The swish of walking through the fallen

leaves tells us that fall is here and with it the end of the growing season.

It's a special time of year in which we celebrate this change of seasons, including being thankful for the year's harvest. That includes appreciating the food that will feed us through fall and into winter and for many, the grains that will be brewed into beer by microbreweries to be enjoyed in the coming weeks.

The celebration of Oktoberfest's roots go back to the year 1810 in the City of

Munich, which is in Germany in the region known as Bavaria. It was the marriage held on Oct. 12, of the Crown Prince of Bavaria to Princess Therese von Sachsen-Hildburghausen. The celebration of the marriage lasted five days and ended with a horse race.

The following year, the race was held again and with it a state agricultural fair was added to the celebration. According to Encyclopedia Brittanica, by the year 1818 booths serving food and drinks became part of the growing celebration.

The 20th Century brought another change to the festival as the emphasis turned to the large beer halls created by the major brewers of Munich. At the halls, visitors gathered to enjoy music and dance while eating festive foods and drink beer, often featuring special brews created for Oktoberfest as the festival began to be called.

Oktoberfest continues to be held in Munich and in other German cities and is usually held from late September until the first Sunday in October.

Many German families migrated to the United States and a large number settled in Wisconsin, many who brought their beerbrewing skills with them.

In addition, they brought many of the

traditions that were popular in Germany and adapted them to life in Wisconsin. Oktoberfest was one of the traditions that continues to be part of communities throughout the state.

With so many microbreweries found in the southern Wisconsin area, it's not difficult to find a place to experience Oktoberfest.

Here are some highlights of celebrations planned at area breweries.

East Troy Brewery

East Troy Brewery will host Oktoberfest on Sept. 23.

The brewery opened in 2018 on the historic town square in the Village of East Troy, in the building that was originally the State Bank. After a remodel – which kept the spirit of the 1892 building intact – they opened as a full restaurant, with an added 10-barrel brew house along with a patio to enjoy the outdoors.

"Each year – and this will be our fifth year – we enjoy the celebration of Oktoberfest," said Ann Zess, who along with her husband, Ted, created and own East Troy Brewery.

"The majority of the festival is held outdoors on the patio and we are trying to get permission to close the street so that the

The loop in downtown Burlington is closed off to vehicle traffic during Oktoberfest to allow the revelers space to enjoy the festival. COURTESY OF THE RUNAWAY Spirit of Geneva Lakes festival can be enjoyed by more visitors," Zess added.

According to Zess, the Oktoberfest beer has been brewing since May or June so that it will be ready to enjoy during the fall celebration.

The event will again feature music, dancing, German food and games.

Dance performances will be held by D'Oberlandlers of Milwaukee. The Tom Brusky Polka Band will provide music with a goal of getting guests up and dancing.

"We sell a special boot stein with the East Troy logo that can be refilled at a lower price until the special Oktoberfest beer is gone," Zess said.

Attendees are encouraged to watch – or perhaps even participate in – the stein holding competitions. For the contest, large steins are filled with beer and held outright with the arms of participants fully extended. The winner of the contest is the person who can hold the beer-filled stein the longest.

"There are separate contests for men and women," Zess explained.

Along with the beer, music and dancing, fine German food is also a highlight.

"Our chef is busy creating the German specialties that will be available on that day," Zess said. "Check our website and Facebook page closer to the date of Oktoberfest for the complete menu and more details about the event."

East Troy Brewery is at 2905 Main St., East Troy. For more information, visit www.etbrew.com, call 262-642-2670 or follow them on Facebook.



Duesterbeck's Brewing Company

Duesterbeck's Brewing Company, Elkhorn, is also preparing for its Oktoberfest event. The brewery is on the 150-year-old Duesterbeck Family Farm.

Laura Duesterbeck Johnson and her husband, Ben Johnson, had the vision to turn the farm property into a unique microbrewery. The picturesque red and white barn structures – which feature two tap rooms and a large outdoor patio – is a unique place for visitors to enjoy food, festivals and the beer brewed there.

Duesterbeck's will celebrate Oktoberfest on Oct. 7, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

According to Adam Johnson – Ben's brother, who is also involved in the operation of the brewery – the celebration will be a busy but fun time.

"It will be a day filled with German music, German dancing and German foods.



above: The Svev D'Oberlandler dancers perform near the patio at East Troy Brewery during a past Oktoberfest event. **top:** Dressed in typical Bavarian costumes, this couple, who are part of the dance team, entertain the crowd with a dance.
PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANN ZESS Spirit of Geneva Lakes

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Holding out their steins, these women participate in a stein holding competition at East Troy Brewery. The one who has the strength to hold the filled stein outright the longest wins. COURTESY OF ANN ZESS Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Alpine Blast will be the main musical group," Adam Johnson said. "We plan to have food trucks such as Gracie's Kitchen and Annie's Burger Town that will provide a variety of food."

Duesterbeck's will also have giant Bavarian pretzels, a popular food choice at many Oktoberfest celebrations that go well with the beer.

Purchasing one of the special beer steins will allow guests to purchase beer for the stein at a special price throughout the day.

Around the patio, there will be a number of craft vendors with a variety of items for sale.

Duesterbeck's Brewing Company is at N5543 County Rd. Ô, Elkhorn. For more information, visit the website at www.dbcbrewers.com, call 262-729-9771 or follow them on Facebook.

Runaway Micropub and Nanobrewerv

In downtown Burlington, Oktoberfest is held for three consecutive weekends.



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"September 23 is the big kick off where we shut down the street out front (of the Runaway Micropub and Brewery). That street is called the Loop and is in the heart of downtown Burlington," said Bernard Petersen, owner and brewmaster of the Runaway.

"It will run from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. We will release our Oktoberfest and other small batch German biers, serve authentic, Bavarian food and have all day entertainment," he added.

There will be activities to entertain people of all ages such as the Dachshund, Wiener Dog costume contest and parade. And for the kids in attendacne, the Alpine Hat and Alpine Climb at the Loop Commons will keep them busy.

The D'Oberlandlers, a German dance group from Milwaukee, will be on hand to perform throughout the day. The Tom Brusky Polka Band will play from 12:15 to 3:45 p.m. In the evening, the music of the Jimmy's Bavarians Oompah Band will take center stage from 6 to 9 p.m.

There will also be many contests held such as stein-hoisting and the best dressed in German clothing. Women might wear a dirndl skirt while men don their Lederhosen.

The following weekend, Saturday, Sept. 30, the Oktoberfest celebration will continue. German beers and authentic German food will be available at the Runaway.

The "loop" will again be closed as the Zuffengruppe Vintage Porshe Club arrives with a curated group of special autos fill the street. It will be the music of Kylar Kuzio to entertain the crowd with a performance from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

For the third and final Oktoberfest celebration in Burlington, on Oct. 7, activities will be held inside the taproom of Runaway



biers and foods, as well as live music. This will be the 4th Annual Oktoberfest Bier & Food Festival at the Runaway.

Micropub where guests once again will be able to enjoy German

The Runaway Micropub and Nanobrewery is at 109 E. Chestnut, Burlington. For more information, visit www. runawayburlington.com or call 262-806-7048.



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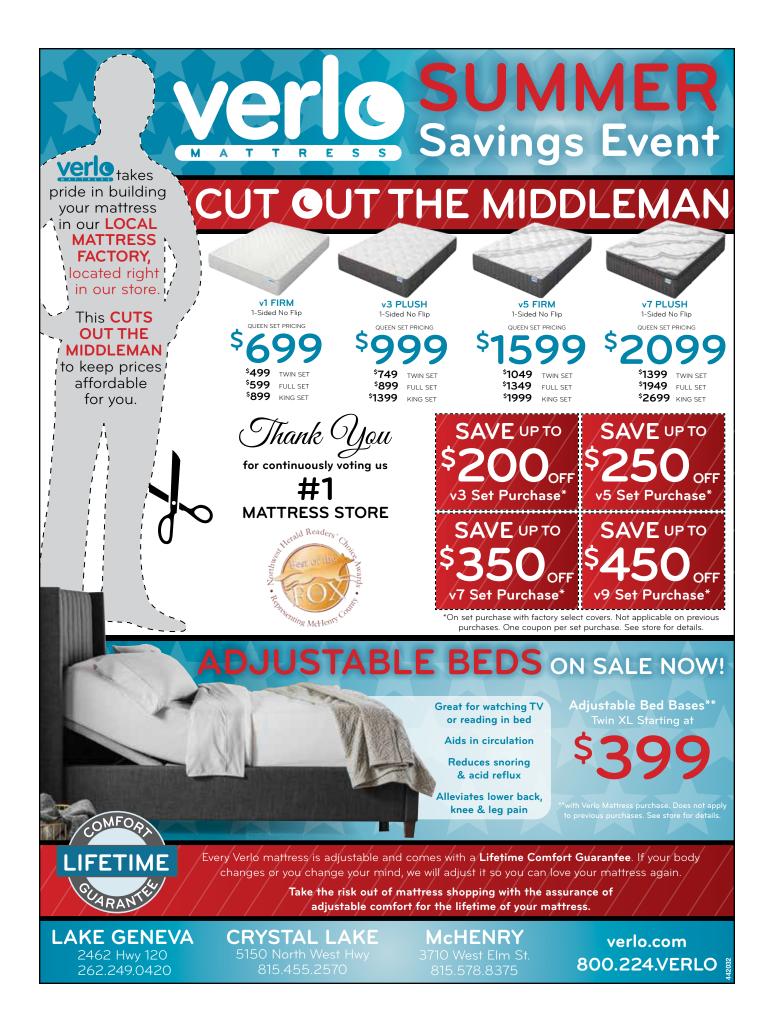
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