



# THE SPIRIT of Geneva Lakes



Vol. 36 No. 4

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APRIL 2024



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### ON THE COVER

## SPRING HAS SPRUNG

Paper Dolls has a variety of vibrant, artificial flower arrangements to compliment any room and the current selection is ideal for spring.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ  
Spirit of Geneva Lakes



# IT'S COMIN' UP

## APRIL EVENTS

**5-6 Yerkes Observatory Space & Spaces Tour** Experience this reimagined and reawakened international landmark! This 1 1/2-hour tour involves astronomy, architecture, restoration, and human stories of the cosmic castle in the arboretum. It requires climbing staircases and visiting small spaces thus is not wheelchair accessible.

During the month of April, tours are offered Fridays and Saturdays at 1 p.m. Limited numbers of tickets are sold for these tours. Prices are \$43 for adults, 19 and older; \$21 for youth 10 to 18 years old; \$5 for children 9 and younger.

Yerkes Observatory is at 373 W. Geneva St., Williams Bay. For more information call 262-245-5555 (phone is answered Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) or visit yerkesobservatory.org.

**11-13 Joseph Ribkoff Trunk Show** Hosted by Cornerstone Shop & Gallery, 214 Broad St., Lake Geneva, appointments are being taken for this exclusive preview of these stunning designs. The first 50 registrants will receive a swag bag.

Appointments are available the following hours and dates: Thursday, April 11, from 2 to 6 p.m.; Friday, April 12, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, April 13, from 10 a.m. to noon.

For more information, or the registration link, visit [cornerstonelakegeneva.com](http://cornerstonelakegeneva.com) and look under "Events." When registering, include name, phone number and date and time preference. Call 262-248-6988 if more details are needed.

**12 B2Wins Duo** Top 40 from the Last 40 – Pronounced B-Twins, this high energy entertainment group continues to captivate audiences worldwide with its unique renditions of crowd favorites and engaging, uplifting live show that targets the masses.

Led by charismatic twin brothers from Brazil, they combine a plethora of genres into a feel-good performance that is equal parts rock concert, dance party, jam session and vacation for the soul.

Growing up in the violent, impoverished slums of Rio De Janeiro, the Twins began playing classical music on violins their father handmade. They used music as an escape from their reality and began teaching others in their neighborhood to do the same.

After being featured on National Public Radio, the Twins were invited to the U.S. on full ride music scholarships in 2008.

After performing over 1,000 shows around the world the past decade, the B2wins continue to cultivate a loyal fan base wherever they perform. From hip-hop

heads to jazz aficionados, pop enthusiasts and ravers, rockers to reggae fans, all find common ground together with the B2wins. Using music as the tool, the B2wins are on a mission to make the world smile.

The concert will be at 7 p.m., April 12, at Big Foot High School, 401 Devils Lane, Walworth. Tickets are \$35, adults preferred; \$10, youth preferred; \$25, adult wing seats; \$5, youth wing seats. To order tickets, visit [bigfootfinearts.org](http://bigfootfinearts.org).

**20 Truck-A-Palooza** Come and enjoy some fun for the kids and the young-at-heart at Williams Bay High School in the parking lot from 4 to 6 p.m.

Visitors will have the opportunity to explore a variety of different trucks, buses and more.

Williams Bay High School is at 250 Theater Rd., Williams Bay.

### Ongoing events

**Studio Winery live music** Stop by Studio Winery & Geneva Lake Distilling, 401 Sheridan Springs Rd., Lake Geneva, for live music from 5 to 9 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays. Featuring blues and classic rock tunes by local talent. Wine, cocktails, beer and more are available as well as light bites. Seating for the live music is first come, first served – no reservations.

**Beginner Pickleball Clinics** Lake Geneva Tennis Club, 630 Veterans Pkwy., Lake Geneva. Offered every other Tuesday, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. free of charge (a deposit will be required for new clients to hold their spot), eight people per class. Learn the fastest growing sport in America. Men and women welcome – no experience necessary and all equipment will be provided. Register by calling 262-812-0033 or emailing [john@lakegenevatennis.com](mailto:john@lakegenevatennis.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](http://thedancinghorses.com).

*The calendar of events is compiled from a variety of sources including area chambers of commerce and visitor bureaus and contains events available as of press time.*

*Dates and times may change, and events may be canceled. Please verify details and locations prior to making plans.*

# THE SPIRIT

IS A PUBLICATION OF



GENERAL MANAGER

**Sue Z. Lange**

EDITOR IN CHIEF

**Heather Ruenz**

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

**Vicki Vanderwerff**

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

**Heidi Schulz**

PAGE DESIGN

**Jennifer DeGroot**

SALES

**Pete Hansen  
Tamera Hamilton**

DISTRIBUTION DIRECTOR

**Lindy Sweet**

The Spirit of Geneva Lakes is a complimentary publication, distributed from I-94 through west Kenosha County, to and including the Geneva Lakes area in Walworth County, Richmond Illinois, plus Burlington and Waterford in Racine County.

Send all correspondence to:

# THE SPIRIT

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# 'Follow the Yellow Brick Road'

'World of Oz' display to feature more than 100,000 balloons

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**  
CORRESPONDENT

For 10 days in April, Santa Cause will host with The Balloon Adventure's "Follow the Yellow Brick Road" at Pier 290 in Williams Bay in what organizers hope will become an annual event.

"Follow the Yellow Brick Road will be a gigantic display of about 100,000 balloons of various sizes and colors which will be arranged in bigger-than-life designs of scenes such as the Emerald City, oversized ruby slippers and other scenes familiar



**above:** This "rock climber" takes a break after making it to the top of the wall in one of the balloon displays last year. **below:** A young visitor takes a closer look at a display at the 2023 International Big Balloon Build held at Covenant Harbor in Lake Geneva.

COURTESY THE BALLOON ADVENTURE *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



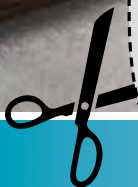


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**Sara Meyer**

to all,” Sara Meyer, owner of Wisconsin Balloon Décor said.

“The display of the balloons will take visitors on an enchanting journey,” she added.

Meyer and Kimberly Voller, Executive Director of Santa Cause – a local super charity – came up with the idea to provide a fundraiser that would feature the awe of balloon décor while also supporting local charities.

The idea to create a balloon event unique to the Lake Geneva area was born while Meyer was hosting the International Big Balloon Build at Covenant Harbor in Lake Geneva last year.

Meyer and Voller felt that creating a balloon event of their own that can be enjoyed by the community and raise money for charities in Walworth County would be the best of both worlds. Visiting the balloon display will be a fun activity for people of all ages and a way to make a difference locally.

“This year we chose to support Tree House, which works with families especially those who have dealt with child abuse and works to provide education and training programs to prevent child abuse,” Voller said.

“Our other charity to benefit from this program is Covenant Harbor, a Christian camp and retreat center that continues to provide camps for children and adults as they have for many years,” she added.

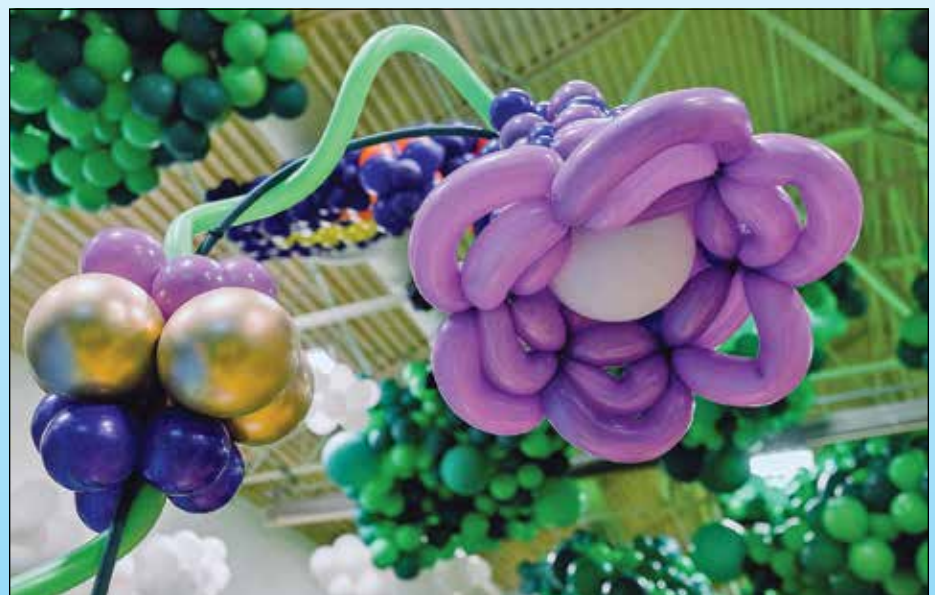
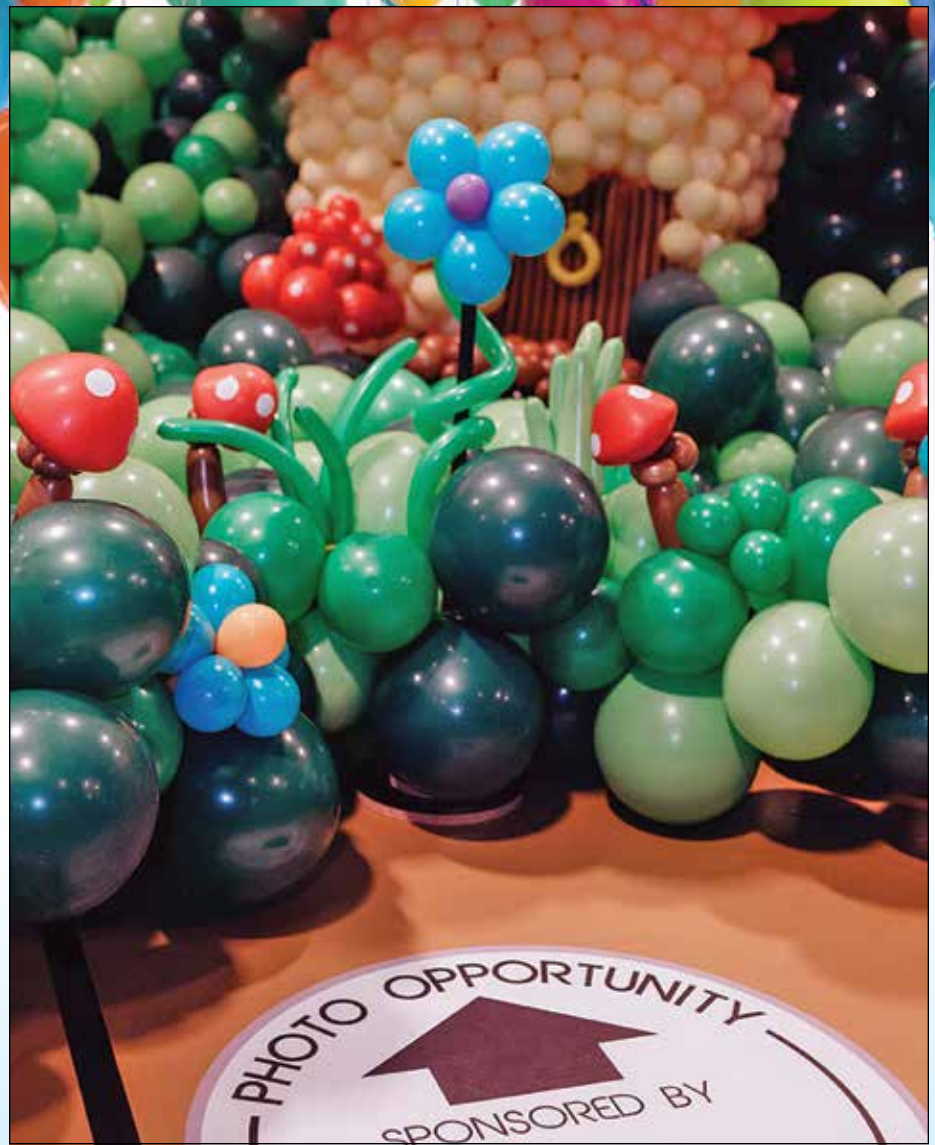
### **Many hands required**

Putting together a massive show with so many balloons in a variety of colors and sizes and then turning them into a unique and beautiful scene is not an easy job. The work behind the design of each scene requires the balloon artist to consider every detail.

“Follow the Yellow Brick Road” will begin on April 11 and be held daily through April 21.

The real work begins long before the official opening of the event. Frames must be built to hold the balloons in place and the balloons need to be inflated – each to the precise size needed, which is a job that takes a great deal of time.

“Most people assume that the balloons are filled with helium, but they are not,”



**above:** Flowers in a variety of colors and sizes created with balloons made for an impressive display. **top:** One of several areas that offered a photo opportunity at last year’s International Balloon Build was marked for visitors.

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Meyer explained. "They are inflated with regular air. The cost of filling them with helium would be very expensive and it's easier to control the placing of the balloons if they are not floating away."

Filling the balloons with air, especially for an event that will require 100,000-plus balloons is a job that requires many hands, including volunteers. Fifteen volunteers who have applied and are chosen in advance will inflate the balloons on Saturday, April 6 at the event site.

Each of the volunteers must be at least 12 years of age and have at least three hours to donate to this important task. They do not need to have any prior experience with balloon filling as they will be taught what to do that day. It is important that volunteers do not have a latex allergy as the balloons they will be handling are made of latex.

Each volunteer is given one ticket to the event as a reward,

which also allows them to see the finished product and their efforts on display.

Then begins the difficult job of creating each display.

"We will have 15 balloon artists from both the United States and Canada who will work with me for four days to create the massive balloon scenes that will be enjoyed by so many," Meyer said. "Balloon artistry is a fairly new event. It has been around for only about 30 years and most of the artists enjoy working together and sharing the designs that they develop."

### **Balloons are a big thing**

Long before Meyer began working with balloons, she was an art teacher.

She began doing face painting as entertainment at weekend parties, often for friends and family members. She said she found that the side business was

Using a variety of colors and sizes of balloons, designers last year created this whimsical scene of a butterfly and a raccoon.

COURTESY THE BALLOON ADVENTURE *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*





enjoyable and when she realized so many people wanted balloons for their events, she attended a “Balloon Convention” to learn more about balloon décor.

“Yes, there really are balloon conventions,” Meyer said with a chuckle.

After learning more about the process, including the steps required to create a design from balloons, she began doing weekend events.

“I was doing two to four events on the weekends and had to purchase a van and hire some part time help to inflate the balloons and to create frames and arrange the balloons on the frame, which also had to be built,” Meyer said.

The business kept growing and Meyer became involved in a national networking group whose members shared ideas, helping to encourage creativity. The designs – all of which were amazing – grew from small and simple, to massive with more complicated displays.

Not surprisingly, Meyer made the decision to leave her teaching job and turn balloon design into her main business.

During the International Big Balloon Build last year, Meyer said she realized the Lake Geneva area could have a yearly balloon build of its own. With the support of numerous businesses in the area, she and Voller proceeded to create “Follow the Yellow Brick Road,” the first of what they plan will become an annual event.

“This year’s Balloon Adventure offers a variety of experiences created for different groups,” Voller said.

## Options for everyone

“Admission tickets can be purchased for specific days that will feature special themes, such as Wicked Night, Ladies Night, or Moms and Munchkins – a special time with your young ones while older children are at school,” Voller said.

While the general admission price is \$20 to enjoy the entire display, there are a variety of special days that have special prices and tickets should be ordered in advance.

On the general days, everyone is welcome to attend and enjoy the many photographic opportunities the display will offer such as a family photo surrounded by the beauty of the colorful balloons.

Weekends will feature special costumed characters to help transport visitors into the World of Oz. It will likely bring back



This bunny was one of the special guests at last year’s balloon show.

COURTESY THE BALLOON ADVENTURE *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

memories that made many people fall in love with the World of Oz and create new memories while seeing it in a different way through balloons.

Wicked Night, which is for adults only, will offer a whimsical escape whether it’s a date night or fun night out with friends. Enjoy the enchanting World of Oz while immersed in the wonder of the Yellow Brick Road.

There will be two Wicked Nights, on Friday, April 12 and Friday, April 19. Tickets are \$30 a person.

Ladies Night in Oz, on April 17, could bring out the princess or the witch in those who attend. Don a tiara or a witch’s hat and head down the Yellow Brick Road with friends. It aims to be an evening filled with magic, mischief and memorable moments.

Special signature drinks will be available for purchase during Ladies Night and all beverages at the bar inside the Balloon Adventure and Pier 290 will be available at a 50% discount. Tickets for Ladies Night in Oz are \$30.

Those looking to make their visit to the balloon display extra special are encouraged to have dinner at Pier 290 before or after.

There is a special bond between moms

and their preschool-aged children and Moms & Munchkins, on April 15 will be just for them. Spend time at the exhibit with other small children and their moms, taking in the many colors and whimsical features along the Yellow Brick Road.

Tickets for Moms & Munchkins are \$20 for adults, \$10 for children 2 to 5 years old, and as is the case on all the other days, children younger than 2 are free.

School aged children won’t be left out as April 16 and April 18 will offer an After School Munchkin Special. Tickets for adults will be \$20, and for children 2 to 14 years old, \$14, free for those younger than 2.

Group and school tours can also be arranged. Contact Susan at 262-248-6206 or [susan@glcl.net](mailto:susan@glcl.net) to schedule a group tour, and Kimberly at [kvoller@santacause.org](mailto:kvoller@santacause.org) to set up a school tour.

The “Follow the Yellow Brick Road” balloon adventure will be at Pier 290, 1 Liechty Dr., Williams Bay. The hours will be 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and parking is available on site.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [santacauses.org/balloonadventure](http://santacauses.org/balloonadventure) or The Balloon Adventure on Facebook.

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# Make any space feel new again

Paper Dolls  
has decorators,  
furniture, accents  
and more

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**  
CORRESPONDENT

Whether we own a house or condo, or rent an apartment, most people occasionally look around and wonder what can be done to change things up. It could be a desire to make it more attractive, bring the style up-to-date or have it better represent the stage of life we're in.

For some, we decorated when we moved in and have made little to no

Paper Dolls is known for featuring a large collection of artwork prints to complete the look in any room.



**above:** Kristi Hugunin, owner of Paper Dolls, takes a short break in one of the living room settings in her store. It features neutral furniture and rug with several colorful accents. **at right:** Many of the prints at Paper Dolls make a statement in size and – fitting for the area – depict water, boats and fish. This large ship hull print is split into three separate frames.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

major changes over the years. Other than possibly switching up the décor a bit after receiving a gift or bringing a memento home from a trip, that is.

When a decision has been made that it's time to make changes, the next step is coming up with a plan. It's also important to avoid falling into the trap of doing what we've always done, because whether it's painting a wall or two or purchasing a new piece of furniture, it's easy to default to colors and styles in our comfort zone.

Back to when the decision has been made to change things up, maybe the next step in the process should be making a stop at a home furnishings store such as Paper Dolls.

The store features a variety of high-quality furniture, home accents and design elements, area rugs, window treatments, décor and more. From those seeking a small pop of color to people ready to bring a whole new look to a room, a visit to the store will likely offer ideas and inspiration.

And while many stop in just to wander around and dream about what they would like to do in the future, it's worth the time to speak with a knowledgeable staff member who can help get that journey started. Whether the plan is to redo the entire interior of a home, one or two rooms, or simply to add an elegant, modern, or classic touch, the employees at Paper Dolls are happy to share their



knowledge and expertise.

Kristi Hugunin has been in the business of helping people make their homes beautiful and unique for about 40 years. She began her career with initial business partner, Chris Haak, installing wallpaper.

"We installed wallpaper and because we were two women, were known as the paper dolls," Hugunin, the owner of Paper Dolls Home Furnishings in Lake Geneva, explained.

"We then opened a small store in Elkhorn where we carried craft items which we took in on consignment from local crafters. At that time – about 38 years

ago – crafty items were popular. But today styles have changed," she said.

As the business grew, the focus slowly changed, and they began adding more home décor items. About a year later they found a small store front in Geneva Square where they opened a second home décor store, keeping the name Paper Dolls Home Furnishings.

"We kept the store in Elkhorn when we opened this 600 square foot store in Lake Geneva for about another year," Hugunin said. "And then we started enlarging the Lake Geneva store, adding additional products including furniture, window

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**W5361 Lost Nation, Elkhorn** - You're welcomed to the lake as you walk in with extended southern views of Mill Lake with 50' of frontage. Updated 3 BR, 3.5 BA makes this an ideal lake retreat. Open concept main floor featuring LR, Sunroom, Full bath and kitchen with quartz tops, SS appliances, breakfast bar and coffee bar with wine fridge, grilling deck, dining area & wood floors throughout. Upstairs features two lakeside bedrooms, one with powder room, full bath and game area. Lower level walk-out with lakeside bedroom and full shared bath, laundry and small rec area with slider to lakeside deck that leads to firepit and pier. 1.5 detached garage across the street with wooded area behind. Dive off the pier into some of the best swimming on the lake. Turn-key furniture package included and quick closing. **\$1,549,700**



**N7626 Pleasant Point Circle, Elkhorn** - 50' of level Mill Lake sand frontage with extended lake views compliments this 3BR, 2BA ranch with walk-out to covered cement patio. Inside you're welcomed by the lake as you walk into the foyer/kitchen, large living room with two sliders. Natural sunlight fills the room. Bedroom, office area and full bath complete the main level. Lower-level family room with brick fireplace and sliding glass door that leads you to the cement patio and level lakefront yard and pier. On LL you'll find two bedrooms, 2nd kitchen, full bath and laundry room. Come make this home yours and create lasting memories. Easy access off Hwy 12/67, short walk to Lauderdale Golf Course and minutes to Kettle Moraine Trail system. The ability for a quick close! **\$975,825**



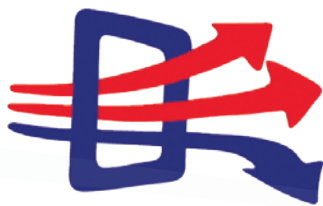
**W1492 S Shore Dr, Palmyra** - A sophisticated mid-century modern lake home that defines serene living. Inviting and warm. 65' of level, swimmable frontage. 4BR, 2.5BA ranch, accommodating to everyone. The lake and nature are appreciated in this home. There are large windows that open and connect the interior to the lake. Breathtaking sunrises. Open concept floor plan with living room and family room filled with light, 2 fireplaces, flex room (currently art studio), wet bar in family room, office, and screened porch. Kitchen pass through window to the screened porch for entertaining your guests. Lakeside Master suite, 2 car attached plus 3 car garage detached. Blue Spring Lake is an all sports lake. Many updates throughout the house. In the heart of the Kettle Moraine. **\$924,700**



**W4910 Oakwood Dr, Elkhorn** - Rare opportunity to own a private 1.5 acres with 99' of frontage on Pleasant Lake. You'll enjoy the main level with vaulted ceilings and hickory flooring. Living room has a stone fireplace, galley Kitch that leads to lakeside dining room with slider to deck, offering outstanding lake views. Also included on the main, there's a large Primary BR, 2nd BR and full bath. Lower-level Family room walk-out to cement patio. Family room features wood fireplace, 3rd BR, full bath, laundry room & storage. Slight slope leads you to the L shape pier. Backside of the lot is level and open. Short drive to Kettle Moraine Trail head offering Mountain Biking, Hiking and Cross Country Skiing. Minutes to a boat launch on Lauderdale Lakes. Quiet Pleasant Lake road is great for long walks. Come take a look! **\$749,900**



**38 & 42 N West St, Elkhorn** - Located on the West end of town you will find this great investment duplex, each side offering 3 Bdrms, 1.5 baths, gas fireplace in Living Room with sliding glass door to cement patio, full basement and oversized 2 car attached garage. Unit 42 has just been completely updated inside with quartz counter tops in the kitchen with SS appliances. Backyard overlooks bird sanctuary wetland, great for viewing and privacy. Brand new roof just installed on both units. Unit 38 has tenants of 14 years looking to stay. Convenient location, come see for yourself. **\$499,000**



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treatments, and storefronts to now having seven storefronts, making our store very large.

“The newest addition is the bedroom and recliner gallery, which we opened in the last acquired space,” she added.

## Like walking into a home

Entering Paper Dolls is a different, exciting experience. While many furniture stores have chairs or sofas lined up in rows, Paper Dolls has a variety of room vignettes that gives visitors the chance to observe all the aspects – the furniture, light fixtures, and accent pieces and so on – just as they would look in their homes.

Having many rooms allow the store to feature a variety of looks at one time. The décor is changed frequently to stay up to date with current styles and trendy colors while also offering visitors new ideas on what might look good in their space.

As many know, colors and styles change in popularity regularly, and one of the most popular colors in home décor today is blue, according to Hugunin.

“Blue, lots of blue, is popular. But it’s not only the blue that is the trend, it’s blue paired with greens,” she said. “And it is any shade of green that is currently paired to work with the blues.”

While some may not think of greens and blues as being a complimentary combination, especially when considering certain shades of each, Hugunin assures that they do work well together and are very popular.

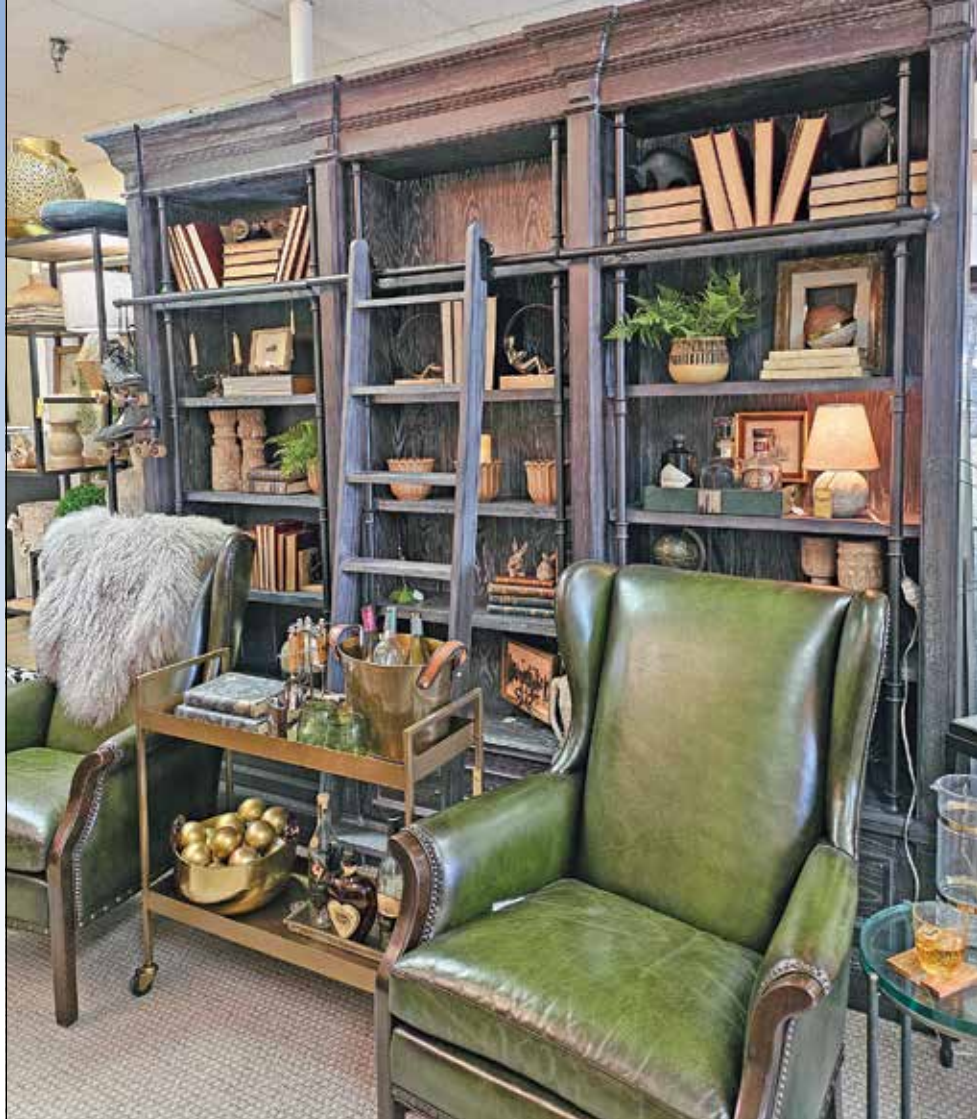
There are several living room displays at Paper Dolls that incorporate lighter colors along with the pairing of blues and greens, but there are also others that project a very different look.

Darker woods, with masculine looking, heavier chairs often made of leather are also on display. They may include a library type bookcase equipped with a ladder for decoration or to reach the books on the top shelves. The bookcases are high quality, which is standard with the furniture at Paper Dolls.

## Happy to help

For those needing assistance in designing a new look in their homes, there are two interior designers on staff, Betty Braly Molinaro and Kelli Garecht. They guide customers in achieving a space that will meet their needs with quality products carried by Paper Dolls.

Some people stop in and find the



**above:** Located in Geneva Square, Paper Dolls began as a 600 square foot store but has continued to grow and now claims the space of seven storefronts. **top:** Ideal for a study or gentleman's office, this display features a dark bookcase, complete with a library ladder, complimented by a set of dark green chairs.

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perfect sofa or set of side chairs in the color and pattern they desire, in stock, meaning they can purchase it off the floor if it's not available in the on-site warehouse.

But there are others who need to look at a variety of fabric options and once chosen, their furniture is custom ordered.

"We carry a number of quality upholstered furniture lines, including Lexington, Norwalk, Lee, Fairfield, Rowe, Hancock & Moore. The customer chooses the style and the upholstery fabric in the color and type of fabric they desire," Hugunin said.

She said today's fabrics are more of a performance type of fabric, are durable and are very easy to clean.

"Stains come out well – even red wine can be removed, and the more sophisticated velvet fabrics are making a comeback," Hugunin said.

For customers who love the idea of leather furniture, Paper Dolls has many options for high quality leather pieces in styles and colors – not all leather is brown – a customer may desire.

"We carry Hancock & Moore, creators of fine line leather furniture. They have been considered the top of the line for the past 100 years. All their pieces are handmade of solid wood in North Carolina," according to Brock Kolstad, the expert on leather furniture at Paper Dolls.

"They have hundreds of leathers and self-dye the leathers to the specific colors ordered," he added.

Kolstad has a degree in floor design and is responsible for many of the displays in the store.

According to Kolstad and Hugunin, Hancock & Moore are known for their recliner lines and produce comfortable yet sophisticated recliner styles that can be added to any room in a home and fit right in.

## so much more

While Hugunin no longer hangs wallpaper herself – even though there is an increase in wallpaper demand – she does carry a variety of wallpapers now popular. The staff at Paper Dolls will recommend several quality people to hang wallpaper.

If light fixtures need to be updated

**at right:** Blues and greens in several shades are a trendy color combination as this display shows, with blue patterned chairs, a green sofa and large blue flowered prints. **top:** Blue is currently a popular color in decorating. This soft and relaxing living room setup is likely the look many are hoping to achieve.

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This photo shows Kristi Hugunin and her original business partner Chris Haak when they were featured in a local newspaper after opening their first store in Elkhorn.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

in a home, or additional ones added, one option to consider is a chandelier, which are growing in popularity. From modern-looking to traditional chandeliers or one that combines the two styles, there are a variety of chandeliers to choose from.

Accessorizing a room is an important part of achieving the finished look most homeowners strive to obtain, and in some cases, a few new accessories are all that's needed.

"We have an accessorizing service that will come into your home and help with accessories needed for the completion of the room. They will use a combination of items you currently have in your home – and love – and some from the store," Hugunin said. "When they are finished, you will enjoy the beautiful, finished look of the space... far more beautiful than you imagined the room could ever look."

Many may not realize that Paper Dolls is known for having a large selection of artwork and prints available. Not surprising in this area, many feature boats, fish and water and several are large, to adequately use space on a bigger wall or make a statement.

While it's not currently the season for Christmas décor,

Hugunin recommends people stop in the store during the Christmas holiday season. Paper Dolls is known for featuring massive holiday decorations that encompass the entire store including a combination of numerous Christmas trees as well as classic and new styles of décor, transforming the space into a Holiday Wonderland.

Hugunin said they serve customers all over, including out of state.

"We do not just provide furniture and décor service to the Lake Geneva area but service Milwaukee, Kenosha, and Chicago and their suburb areas. We have even done a home in Florida," she said.

"We offer white glove delivery service where we don't just drop off your furniture but put the room together. Every piece of furniture is where it needs to be before we leave," Hugunin added.

Paper Dolls Home Furnishings is at 138 E. Geneva Square, Lake Geneva. Store hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Saturday; closed on Sunday.

For more information, call 262-248-6268, visit the website at [www.paperdollsinteriors.com](http://www.paperdollsinteriors.com) or follow the business' Facebook page.

# Time to 'fence' it in

Aronson Fence Company can help with entire process

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

Adding a fence to a property is often one of the finishing touches after moving into a new home or is needed down the road, such as when changes in the family composition occur, such as having a child or getting a pet.

"There are four reasons that encourages residents to enclose their property or at least a portion of it. The first two are children and dogs who require a fence to keep them in the yard. The third reason to consider a fence is to provide privacy for the family, and finally, the fourth reason is the addition of a swimming pool," John Shogren, General Manager of Aronson Fence Company explained.

Shogren has been the manager at Aronson Fence since 1994, for a total of 30 years and said in that time, the business has grown.

Owner Roger Aronson and his team have continued to offer quality products, service, and installation of fences to its customers.

Aronson Fence is in Wauconda, Illinois but they serve a wide area in Illinois as well as Wisconsin.

"We service homes and businesses from the state line south, as far as Naperville and west to Rockford. We also build fences in Wisconsin from the state line to the Milwaukee area and west to Lake Geneva and Janesville," Shogren said.

The company also has a space in Union Grove, which serves as a working location for installation crews.

"They are able to store materials there, making it easier and more efficient for the crews working in Wisconsin to get the materials to the worksite," Shogren explained. "While we have not yet opened a showroom on site in Union Grove, we do hope to staff the site in the future. The Wisconsin office can be reached by calling 262-248-3390 to set up an appointment to discuss your fencing needs."

## **Many considerations**

According to Shogren, when



This traditional privacy fence is created out of quality cedar boards that are placed close together for those seeking seclusion.

COURTESY ARONSON FENCE CO. *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

choosing a fence, it's important to decide what the purpose of the fence will be. There are various types of fences to choose from and several factors play into that decision including the reason the fence is needed, the style that will work best with the style of the home, the cost, and the amount of maintenance required to get the longest life out of the fence.

When beginning the process, a good place to start is call to Aronson to make an appointment to meet with an estimator. They will make a recommendation of the best fence for the property and needs and provide a

realistic idea of the cost of the fence you wish to build.

The chain link fence – while not usually considered the most attractive, remains a popular choice as a security fence. They are easy to install, generally require very little maintenance, and are secure. They are also durable, and one important advantage to many homeowners – are among the least expensive.

Cedar fences are one of Aronson's best options. They come in a variety of styles and can be built to the homeowner's needs. If looking for a privacy fence, the boards are placed

adjacent to each other to be certain that no one can see in, or out. If privacy isn't the main goal, the boards can be spaced further apart.

According to Roger Aronson, there are advantages to purchasing a cedar fence from his company. They have a long-standing working relationship with a mill in northern Michigan that cuts the cedar boards needed to order. Additionally, they only use high-quality cedar and, Aronson said, the boards are cut 3/4-inch thick rather than a 1/2-inch, which is the industry standard.

The thicker boards are much sturdier, and the fence company uses stainless steel nails that don't bleed into the wood, according to Aronson. The nails have a strong holding power to keep the fence strong for many years even with the cold, wet Midwest winters.

If going with a wood fence, there are many choices. The design of the fence can be custom created with a traditional picket top, a flat even top or an arched top in either direction. The movement of the pickets, with more, or less space between them, and the height of the fence helps make it unique.

"Something to consider when choosing a cedar fence is that they last 15 to 20 years. They do deteriorate over time and especially the posts, which are in the ground, may need to be replaced," Shogren explained. "Cedar fences need some maintenance."

Sealing the wood with a clear stain is recommended to help preserve the natural color of the wood. The stain will also keep the wood from drying out. For those who prefer to let the wood age naturally, stain would not be used and the fence will eventually develop a natural silver gray patina.

Another choice in finishing for a wooden fence would be to paint it however, that's a process that needs to be



**above:** A variety of wooden picket fences can be seen at Aronson Fence Co. in Wauconda.  
**top:** Aronson has samples of a variety of fence styles for customers to see when considering a fence.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



repeated every few years. Similar to the book, “The Adventures Tom Sawyer” by Mark Twain, painted fence owners may end up like Tom and his friend Huckleberry Finn, who spent their time whitewashing the fence.

For a more maintenance free fence, homeowners often choose the metal ornamental fences. These fences are often chosen because in addition to being low maintenance, they bring a clean finished look to a property. Metal fences are also chosen to surround a pool as it provides safety while providing a view of the pool area from the outside.

Metal ornamental fences are not custom made on site by Aronson as the wooden fences are. The space where the fence will be installed is measured and the fence is then created in the factory. Custom designs are not an option with metal fences but there are several styles to choose from.

According to Shogren, another type gaining popularity are vinyl fences, which are also known as PVC fences. These have become more popular recently because of the versatility they offer. These types of fences are available in more than 30 styles as well as a variety of colors which can be used to match or enhance the colors of a home or its outside décor.

While the vinyl fences are not custom made, personal touches are an option including adding decorative caps to the posts. Among the styles of caps available are sleek stainless steel or an antique copper look, as well as eco-friendly LED solar lights.



**above:** Chain Link Fences work well to enclose a tennis court. They keep the ball inside the court area and spectators on the outside where they can safely observe the game.

**top:** Privacy fences can be installed using vinyl rather than wood.

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## From start to finish

Once the decision has been made to get a fence, the team at Aronson's is ready to help throughout the entire process, which begins by having an estimator visit and discuss the types of fences that would be most appropriate for the property and the budget.

Once a fence is chosen and ordered – and the necessary permits have been obtained – the fence should be ready for installation in approximately three to five weeks.

“Three to five weeks is our usual lead time,” Shogren said. “Installing the fence is generally completed in one to two days by our crew. We have about 10 crews ready to complete fences as the orders are received, so unless there are problems with the permits and zoning regulations, the fence will be promptly installed.”

For those who live in a neighborhood that has a homeowners association, it's important to know what limitations are imposed by the association as well as the municipality. Often the height of the fences – which generally stand four to six feet off the ground – need to meet



Stacks of cedar boards are stored in the yard at Aronson Fence Co. until it's time to transport them to job sites for installation.

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the requirements to be allowed in the community.

Aronson will assist in obtaining the required permit from the municipality. And because installing a fence requires digging, contact must be made in advance – with JULIE in Illinois and Diggers Hotline in Wisconsin – to mark locations of underground lines and cables, which ensures services such as electric or internet are not inadvertently interrupted.

Aronson Fence Company provides fencing for residential homes as well as commercially for businesses.

According to Shogren, about 75% of the work they currently handle is residential while 25% is for commercial customers.

Aronson continues to expand their services in Illinois and Wisconsin.

“We offer a two-year warranty on the labor and there is a manufacturer’s warranty on the fence product itself,” Shogren said.

Aronson Fence Company’s main office is at 26356 W. Ivanhoe Rd., Wauconda, Illinois.

They have a showroom featuring the various types of fencing they carry, allowing prospective customers an opportunity to view samples. The showroom is open 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

To make an appointment for an estimator to visit a home or business, stop by the showroom during open hours or call 847-526-9300.

Aronson’s Wisconsin location is at 19719 Burlington Rd., Unit 315, Union Grove. Call 262-248-3390 to set up an appointment with an estimator. Note that this office does not currently have regular hours so if the phone is not answered, customers should leave a message and they will get a return call. Aronson does have plans to staff the Union Grove office in the future.

For more information, visit [www.aronsonfence.com](http://www.aronsonfence.com) or follow the company on Facebook.

Aronson Fence Co. is at 26356 W. Ivanhoe Rd., Wauconda, Illinois. The company installs fences throughout northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

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# Summer day camps

## a fun learning experience

Black Point Estate,  
Old World Wisconsin  
offer many options

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

The long lazy days of summer are when children and adults look forward to spending time outdoors and one way to take that enjoyment to a new level is by attending a summer camp.

There are day camps and overnight camps available in the area, suitable for children of varying ages with each offering different activities. Overnight camps, which generally last a week, may feature swimming, horseback riding, hiking, games, arts and crafts and plenty of time by the campfire – most likely enjoying s’mores before participants go to their tent or cabin

for the night.

Other options, such as those listed here, are day camps where children spend time each day participating in activities and learning opportunities, including some fun lessons in history along the way. Black Point Estate and Old World Wisconsin will host several day camps happening this summer and because they have limits on how many kids can attend, now is the ideal time to research the options and choose a camp.

### Black Point Estate

#### ARTS AND CRAFTS CAMP

If seeking a summer camp for children that focuses on arts and crafts, held in a unique historic location, this camp is worth consideration.

Held on the grounds of Black Point Estate, a 19th Century Victorian home built by Conrad Seipp in 1888, it served as the

family’s summer cottage. The Seipp family spent their entire summer up at the cottage with the children enjoying the outdoors yet still learning as a tutor worked with them on their studies.

The property is on the shore of Geneva Lake, providing an ideal place for camp participants to take in the beauty of the grounds, learn the history of the gigantic summer cottage and spend time being creative with art and craft projects.

“This will be the second season that we will be holding the camp on site,” David Desimone, Administrator of Black Point Estate said. “The camp size is small – with only 15 kiddos per session and only three sessions this summer.”

Campers will spend four days in succession attending the arts and crafts day camp. The small number of participants ensures that each receives adequate attention while taking part in a variety of interactive activities aimed at encouraging creativity.

For children who enjoy painting, there will be a watercolor painting class where they’ll learn the basics of watercolor and spend time creating their own masterpiece under the direction of a camp director.

If photography is a field that interests a child, or they seem to have an eye for noticing things others may not, this session might be an ideal way to get them started in pursuing a passion for taking photographs.

At the creativity camp held at Black Point Estate, campers take part in a variety of activities including painting and photography.

COURTESY WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

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With the beautiful grounds at Black Point Estate, including the cottage itself that's on-site, there are endless opportunities to capture sights worth documenting through photography.

The most interesting day camp sessions for some children could be maritime underwater archeology or the opportunity to explore the many nooks and crannies at Black Point Estate that are not normally accessible to visitors.

A mid-morning snack will be provided for campers but they must bring their own packed lunch.

Each camp section will be held Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. On Thursday afternoon of the week children attend camp, parents/guardians are invited to an art exhibit featuring the work created by their children during the week.

The breakdown for three different weeks of arts and crafts day camp this summer will be as follows:

- June 24-27 will be for children entering third through fifth grade.
- July 15-18 is geared toward children who will be in sixth through eighth grade this fall.
- Aug. 5-8 is open to children entering grades four through seven.

Tuition for the four-day camp is \$150 per child.

Registration for the camps at Black Point Estate is being handled by the Big Foot Recreation Department.

Chuck Thiesenhusen, director at Big Foot Recreation, said parents can register a child or children for the camp, and get additional information by visiting the website at [www.bigfootrecreation.org](http://www.bigfootrecreation.org) or calling 262-275-2117.

"Register for the camp before all the spots are filled as we are limited to 15 students in each session," Thiesenhusen said.

Information and registration for the day camps at Black Point Estate, W4270 Southland Rd., Lake Geneva, will be available April 15.

## Old World Wisconsin

Each summer, a variety of day camps are also held at Old World Wisconsin in Eagle. These camps give children an opportunity to learn about the history of life in Wisconsin and gain insight into many things people these days take for granted by seeing how they were accomplished prior to aids such as electricity.

### LITTLE HOUSE ADVENTURE CAMP

If your children enjoy Little House on the Prairie books or watching reruns of the show, consider signing them up for one of the Little House Adventure camps this summer. The camp will take participants back in time with a glimpse as to what life was like in the 1800s.

Each session of the Little House



**top:** Black Point Estate will host a creativity summer camp, which will feature a variety of activities on the grounds as well as a peek inside this historic home. **above:** The beautifully landscaped grounds at Black Point offer plenty of opportunities for photography sessions during creativity camp.

COURTESY WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Adventure Camp will be held as a single day event where participants will spend a day exploring a log cabin and receiving a lesson in a one room schoolhouse as children did. In those days, school not only consisted of learning but also chores such as bringing in logs to keep the school heated.

At this camp, children will play

interactive games supervised by staff dressed in period clothing. Kids will also have the chance to meet some of the farm animals and tend to the plants in the garden at Old World.

Sessions for this one-day camp will be held June 27, July 18 and 25, and Aug. 1 and 8. The fee for a day of camp is \$64 and is for children 6 to 9 years of age.

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# Dining Directory

Call for Carry Out & Delivery Options

Information is subject to change. Please contact individual restaurant for more information.

**1903 WEST BAR & GRILL** • 121 S. Lake Ave., Twin Lakes, WI. 847-902-2817. A cozy fireplace for those cold nights. Comfortable gathering place with friends! Dine in or take out. Best burger in Twin Lakes. Excellent food. Fish fry Friday. Specialty drinks. L, D, \$\$ †

**THE GREEN GROCER AND DELI** • 24 W. Geneva St., Williams Bay. 262-245-9077. [www.greengrocergenevalake.com](http://www.greengrocergenevalake.com) Organic grocery store with a deli. Serving sandwiches made with Boars Head meat and cheese, homemade soups, salads and pizzas, wine, beer and cocktails. Dine in, Carryout or delivery. Open 7 days a week. L, D, \$-\$\$ † ☎ ☺

**SPORTSMAN'S PUB & GRUB** • 25313 W. Loomis Rd., Wind Lake, WI 53185. 262-895-1055. Join us Friday and Sunday FOR THE BEST PRIME RIB IN TOWN! \$2.00 OFF Any prime rib dinner. L, D, FF, ☺ \$\$\$

**MICHAEL'S ON THE LAKE** • 3101 Eagle Road, Kansasville, WI 53139. (262) 878-3313. A Wisconsin supper club on the shore of Eagle Lake. Known for our steaks, prime rib on Saturday night, fish fry on Wednesday and Friday, baby back ribs and our famous carrot cake. Visit [www.michaelsonthelakeWI.com](http://www.michaelsonthelakeWI.com) for our full menu. Open Wed. & Thurs. @ 3; Fri. & Sat. @ 11; Noon on Sunday. L, D, \$\$\$, GF, FF, ☺ SR † ☎

**LOCAL FOLKS RESTAURANT & PUB** • 39601 60th St. (Slades Corners), Burlington. 262-539-3200. Open 6am every morning! B, L, D, \$, FF, ☺

**PINE STREET CAFE** • 141 N. Pine St., Burlington, WI 53105. 262-763-9800. Homestyle food made from scratch daily using only the finest, freshest ingredients. Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner. Fish Fry Every Friday. Sunday 6am - 3pm. Monday - Saturday 6am - 8pm. \$\$, B, L, D, FF, ☺

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

**B&D'S VILLAGE INN** • 34414 Geneva Rd., New Munster, WI. 262-537-4719. Open daily at 11 A.M. Serving Friday fish fry!

**LUISA'S** • Just off Hwy. 50, 12 mi. east of Lake Geneva. 262-537-4795. Superb Italian & American cuisine. Dine in, carry out, delivery, catering avail., call ahead & will have it hot ready to go. D, \$\$ †

**Key**

B: Breakfast L: Lunch D: Dinner NC: No credit cards accepted \$: Mostly under \$10 \$\$: Mostly under \$20 GF: Gluten free  
\$\$\$ : Mostly under \$30 FF: Fish Fry ☎: Reservations requested † : Alcohol served ☺: Kids menu SR: Senior menu

452276

## LITTLE HOUSE FAMILY ADVENTURE

If the entire family enjoys Little House or has an interest in learning more about local history, this camp offers a fun day of learning for all.

Attend the one-room schoolhouse, work in the garden, enjoy 19th century games and get a close look at the sights of early American life together.

This program will be offered on two different dates, July 21 and Aug. 9. All ages are welcome and the cost for the day is \$30 per camper.

## MAKERS' SUMMER CAMP

This may be just the camp for 9- to 12-year-olds interested in creating items as craftsmen did in the 19th century.

Campers will enter an authentic makerspace, and under the direction of creative tradesmen be introduced to working with metal, leather, wool, and other materials to create objects they will treasure for years to come. Family members will learn how these early artists and merchants constructed valuable tools that were needed for a variety of important tasks.

This day camp will be held June 28, July 18 and 26, and Aug. 2 and 9. The openings for this camp reportedly fill up quickly. The cost is \$65 per person.

## HISTORY EXPLORERS

While many of the summer camps are one day and geared toward younger children, the History Explorers Day Camp is designed to appeal to teenagers. It was created for 13- to 18-year-olds and each camp is held for four days to offer an immersive experience through many fun activities.

The camp runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day and features behind-the-scenes tours of areas not always open to the public, such as the animal barn.

Participants will have the opportunity to dress in period clothing during their time at the camp and will be assisting tradesmen as apprentices in activities such as blacksmithing.

Textiles need to be processed for use in creating new clothing therefore, History Explorers campers will help spin yarn from sheep and dye cloth, a necessary chore before the process of creating the clothes or quilts needed could even begin.

And, of course, everyone needs shoes to keep their feet warm and dry so working with the cobbler may be one of the most important jobs campers will learn during the day on the farm.

Other jobs explored during camp will include learning more about the history of the tradesmen and the early days of life on the Wisconsin plains.



**at left:** Gardening is part of Old World's summer camp because in years past, most of the food was grown there. **top:** Working with a blacksmith at Old World Wisconsin, campers can make metal items using the same process they were created with years ago. **above:** In the 19th Century most clothing was made at home so campers will learn how to use an old sewing machine.

COURTESY WISCONSIN  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
*Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Three sessions of History Explorers camp will be offered: June 19 to June 22; July 10 to July 13, and Aug. 14 to Aug. 17.

Campers will spend four days in succession attending the camp at Old World Wisconsin, W372 S9727 Highway 67, Eagle. The cost for each participant is \$250 for the four days.

For more information or to register for a camp, call 262-594-6301 or visit [oldworldwisconsin.wisconsinhistory.org](http://oldworldwisconsin.wisconsinhistory.org). Once on the website, under Menu, choose Explore - Summer Camps.

Keep in mind these are just some of the summer camps offered in the area, including overnight camps, so take the time to research and choose the best camp to meet the needs and interests of those who plan to attend.

The cobbler will show campers at Old World how shoes were made in the early days.

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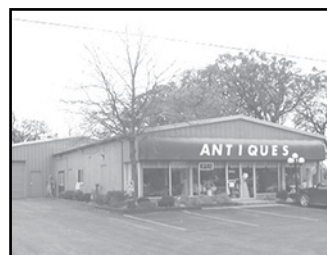
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