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Sept./Oct. 2024

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IT'S COMIN' UP

SEPT./OCT. EVENTS

Upcoming events

Oktoberfest at Mickey Finn's

Friday, Sept. 20 and Saturday, Sept. 21, 5 to 10 p.m. in the back lot at Mickey Finn's Brewery, 345 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Libertyville.

Enjoy live music while sampling a fine selection of beer, food available for purchase and live music on Friday from 5-10 p.m. Attendees can also play traditional Bavarian sports like Hammerschlagen or Masskrugstemmen, show off their finest dirndl and lederhosen, or relax with neighbors and friends at this unique community event.

Families with children are invited to "Family Garten" – family-friendly hours are from 2-4 p.m. on Saturday; regular event hours resume on Saturday from 5-10 p.m.

Alpine Thunder will entertain guests on Friday night from 5-10 p.m.; on Saturday, attendees will enjoy music from The Phenix Band from 2-4 p.m. and Marlin & the Shakes will perform from 5-10 p.m. on Saturday.

General Admission tickets are \$25 and include a plastic stein and one beer ticket. VIP tickets are \$50, and ticket holders receive two beer tickets, a commemorative ceramic stein, and the opportunity to tour Mickey Finn's Brewery with the head brewmaster.

General admission at the door on the day of the event is \$30, and \$55 for VIP tickets.

Additional beer tickets are available at the event by credit card only; this is a cashless event. You must be 21 years or older to attend this event. IDs will be checked at the door.

For more information, call 847-362-6688.

Long Grove Apple Fest

Friday to Sunday, Sept. 27 to Sept. 29 – however you like your apples – fresh, baked in pies, dipped in chocolate or caramel, or candied, Long Grove likely has them.

Apple Fest is known for the apple pies, donuts, caramel dipped to candied apples, apple wine, sangria, and more! In addition to all the delightful apple specialties, you can even try some options right off the menu at the historic downtown's local hometown restaurants.

What's a Long Grove fest without a stage full of great rhythm and sounds showcasing all your favorite styles of music? Long Grove is curating artisans in the area to come and showcase their wares and talents.

Indulge yourself (and your taste buds) with three fun-filled days that the entire family (including your fur-baby) can enjoy.

For more information, call 847-634-0888 or email events@longgrove.org.

Jack-O-Lantern World

Sept. 27 to Oct. 27 at Paulus Park, 200 S. Rand Rd., Lake Zurich.

This annual event is a tradition for tens of thousands that is dedicated to getting even

more exciting each year. Walk the immersive and interactive trail filled with thousands of jack o'lanterns hand carved by over 50 artisans.

Don't forget about the pumpkin spiced donuts and Halloween candy.

Special needs time slot (Oct. 14 at 6 p.m.) is a limited visiting option with fewer people that starts about 40 minutes before true darkness. It's an opportunity for those with special needs to go through.

For more information, call 224-757-5425.

Titanic: Tribute to the Tragedy

Volo Museum, 27852 W. Volo Village Rd., Volo, is hosting the "Titanic: Tribute to the Tragedy" exhibit through June 2025.

An emotional 45-minute experience that pays tribute to the lives and losses on the fateful night of the Titanic's sinking in a completely original way that will captivate both Titanic history enthusiasts and fans who have only seen the movie.

Step into the heartrending tale of the Titanic, where emotion intertwines with education, providing an unforgettable journey into the lives of those who sailed on this tragic vessel. Tailored for history aficionados and knowledge seekers alike, this immersive experience goes far beyond mere entertainment.

It aims to inspire a profound appreciation for the past while honoring the memory of those onboard. It is a poignant and intellectually enriching expedition, setting itself apart from typical attractions designed for fun and amusement.

One-time tickets are \$19.95 for ages 5 and up. Combine with a Volo Museum or Jurassic Gardens ticket and save \$5. Titanic tickets are date and time sensitive. Members get \$5 off when purchased at the ticket sales counter.

For more information, call 815-385-3644.

Growing up X

Grayslake Heritage Museum is hosting this exhibit until June 14, 2025.

On loan from the Illinois State Museum, this award-winning exhibit will fill you with nostalgia for the super rad toys, cutting-edge computers (complete with dialup), and other cultural touchstones that defined being a kid in the 1970s, 80s, and 90s. Get your big hair on and grab your fanny packs because it's going to be a rocking good time when visiting the "Growing Up X" exhibit at the Grayslake Heritage Center & Museum.

The "Growing Up X" exhibition is organized by the Illinois State Museum and sponsored, in part, by the Illinois State Museum Society.

Remaining 2024 hours: through Sept. 25 – Wednesday, noon to 7 p.m.; Thursday to Saturday, noon to 4 p.m.; Sept. 28 – Dec. 14, Wednesday to Friday, noon to 7 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Dec. 15 – Dec. 31, Wednesday to Saturday, noon to 4 p.m.

For more information, call 847-543-1745.

THE SPIRIT

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Is it time for a new mattress? Check out Verlo

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

How old is your mattress? Is it still a comfortable place to relax? When you wake up in the morning, do you feel well rested, and did you sleep comfortably through the night?

If your answer to any of these questions is no, it may be time to look for a new mattress.

“Verlo Mattress is a unique mattress company,” said Ray Westman, owner of Verlo in Lake Geneva, McHenry and Crystal Lake. “We do not carry a number of mattress brands but only our own and each of these mattresses, sold in our stores, is built on site in our McHenry store.”

When a refrigerator, stove or automobile is no longer working properly, people immediately call someone to attempt to



top: Verlo has stores in Crystal Lake, McHenry and Lake Geneva. **above:** Mattresses are displayed throughout the stores, helping customers compare the various styles available.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of the Lakes*

repair them. If they aren't repairable, they are replaced.

The same should apply to mattresses. People spend about one third of their lives in a bed. When it is no longer giving a comfortable night's rest, though, people don't immediately go to a store for a replacement; instead, complaining about poor sleep and a backache.

Even when people finally think of the mattress, they may often discard the idea of it being a mattress problem because the mattress is often considered a staple, something that lasts forever. In reality, no mattress will last forever. It is recommended that the mattress be replaced about every 12 years, maybe sooner if it is not cared for properly.

"The number of years before a mattress needs to be replaced is dependent on a number of things," Westman said. "First of all, our mattress needs change over the years as our bodies change. And the care that is given to the mattress also determines how long it will last."

Early mattresses were much different than today's mattresses. The early ones were composed of natural materials such as straw, feathers or horsehair. It was in 1899 that John Marshall introduced the first individually wrapped, pocketed spring coil mattress. This was a design that has lasted through the years and continues to be improved as mattress technology moves forward.

By the 20th century in the United States,



above: The mattress covering is sewn into place using a Singer sewing machine, which is moved by hand around the mattress for a smooth finish. **at right:** Local Verlo owner Ray Westman puts the finishing touches on a recently completed mattress. **top right:** Nelly Garcia begins to work on building a mattress at the shop, which is in McHenry.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of the Lakes*

mattresses had advanced to often having an innerspring coil, latex or viscoelastic or other polyurethane forms included in their construction.

Over the years, new forms of mattresses and new mattress companies began to appear. Mattresses began to be made in two standard sizes, what today are called the twin bed and the double bed. Occasionally a 3/4 size bed was created that was somewhere between the twin and double bed in size. As homes became larger and more luxurious, people wanted larger and more luxurious beds and other sizes of mattresses, including those that today are considered standards, began to appear. The queen- and king-sized beds and other custom sizes like the California king made their way into mattress stores.

While there was a growth of mattress companies over time, competition for customers developed. Making mattresses required space, so they were often created in a central factory and then delivered to various stores. They were could also be stored in a central warehouse until they were delivered to the home of the purchaser.

The concept of producing all of a company's mattresses in one factory, though, soon was to change. In 1958, Guy Day and Dale Williams – two entrepreneurs from Wisconsin who together owned a furniture store in Wheeling, Illinois – decided to add a new item to their business. They would create mattresses that were custom built at the store. Their mattresses would be created to order and because they were self-manufactured, eliminated the middleman.

The mattresses were given the name Verlo, a combination of the two men's wives' first names, Verna and Lois. Surprising to them, the custom-made mattresses became successful – even more successful than their furniture lines.

By the early 1970s, when their children were starting college at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, they opened another store in that community. The mattresses soon became the focus of their business and by the 1980s, the mattress



top: Verlo mattresses, once constructed, are delivered by company staff to customers' homes. **above:** The large showroom in Lake Geneva offers an opportunity to try a variety of mattresses made by Verlo.

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business had grown so much that they began to franchise locations.

When entering a Verlo store today, a clean, open environment greets customers. Mattress styles are arranged in pods to allow customers to peruse various styles, firmness and price points. Sales staff will greet customers and not only answer questions, but share knowledge about mattresses that customers may not know.

“One of the advantages of purchasing your mattress from Verlo is that we eliminate the middleman, making a high-quality mattress for a lower price,” Westman shared. “Our sales people actually are very knowledgeable about our mattresses because they are involved in building them here on site. We can also build the mattress specifically for your needs in about a week from the time it is purchased.”

Mattresses can be made either one-sided or two-sided, with the latter being turned over at regular intervals to allow for even wear. One-sided mattresses do not need to be turned over, but do need to be rotated at regular intervals – again to promote even wear. Verlo produces both kinds.

The custom-made mattresses are produced at the McHenry location for the Lake Geneva, Crystal Lake and McHenry stores. Customer’s needs, which can include making a mattress softer or firmer, are taken into consideration when the mattress is built.

“Once the mattress is built and delivered to the customer, we aren’t through with the mattress or the customer,” said Westman. “We offer a one-year comfort promise on most of our mattresses. If after sleeping on the mattress they find it needs more or less firmness, it can be returned to have additional firmness added or to be softened once during that period. After the one-year time, the mattress can still be picked up and rebuilt as needed for a nominal fee.”

Having an area to build mattresses requires a good amount of storage space for all the materials needed in mattress production.

“We do minimize the space needed for storage by purchasing everything in precut sizes so there is no waste or mess,” Westman explained. “Even the spring coils are rolled and shrink-packed in a large roll, minimizing storage space. We just unroll them to use them.”

Because the company creates the mattress on site, Verlo also is able to custom design the mattress for whatever shape, size or firmness is needed.

“We are able to create a special size mattress to fit in your camper or boat



top: Westman stands near an adjustable frame, which can add comfort and prevent snoring. **at right:** A mattress is shown being constructed at Verlo. Each is custom made to meet the needs of the customer.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of the Lakes*

and even special shapes such as round mattresses or one to fit a special-sized, built-in bunk bed,” added Westman. “Such custom sizes are often needed here in the lakes area, where boats and recreational vehicles are prevalent, and may need to have their mattresses replaced. We also create mattresses for antique beds, which may also require special sizing.”

Adjustable bed frames are very popular and, according to Westman, provide a healthier way to sleep. By raising the legs, it helps reduce swelling in the lower limbs, and when the head is raised, it allows one to breathe better and snore less. An adjustable bed is a favorite even for those who just enjoy reading or watching television from their bed.

Adjustable bed frames are available in the stores.

“Sleeping on your back is the best way to sleep,” added Westman. Using an adjustable base means that the mattress does not require a box spring. What it does require, however – at least on some models – is a change in the construction of the mattress. A mattress that has a steel border rod must remove a portion of the rod and replace it with a cord to make the mattress more flexible. This way, the mattress will bend when the head or feet are raised.

Prices at Verlo are less than what most other mattress companies have to offer for the same quality, because there is no



left: The Verlo shop where mattresses are built is at 3710 W. Elm, McHenry, which also has a showroom. Other showrooms are at 2462 Highway 120, Lake Geneva and at 5150 Northwest Highway, Unit 1, Crystal Lake. **right:** Verlo founders Guy Dale and Dale Williams, originally of Wisconsin, added custom built mattresses to their furniture store in 1958. To their surprise, it became more popular than the furniture.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of the Lakes*

middleman markup. Local Verlo dealers are at 3710 W. Elm, McHenry (phone: 815-578-8275); 2462 Highway 120, Lake Geneva (phone 262-249-0420); and in Crystal Lake, Illinois at 5150 Northwest

Hwy, Unit 1 (phone 815-455-2570). All locations are open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.



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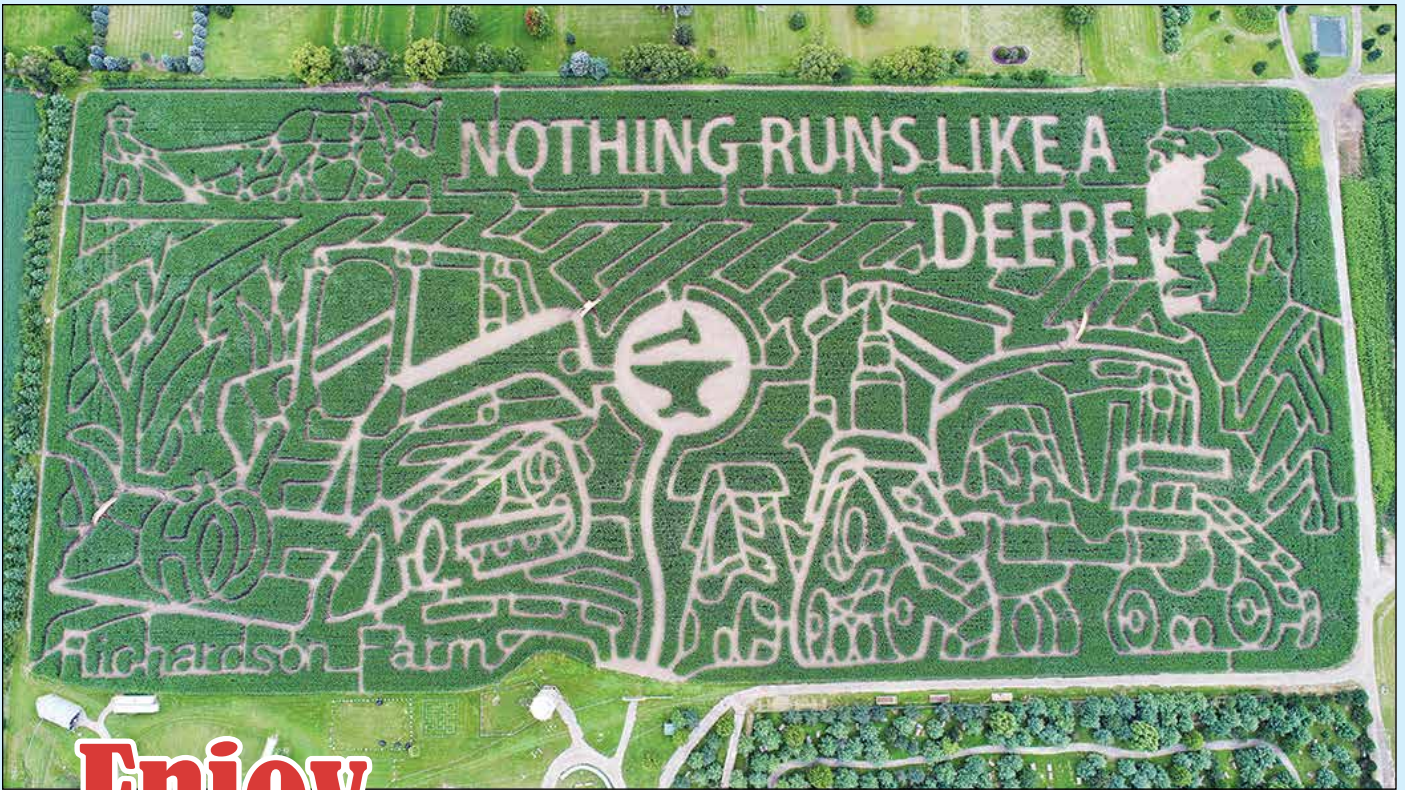
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Enjoy autumn in the country

Richardson's fall festival features plenty of fun for the family

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**
CORRESPONDENT

Fall is the time of year that our thoughts turn to apples – fresh from the tree or dipped in caramel and nuts, apple cider donuts, fudge, pumpkins, gourds, outdoor fun and activities, including for many, a trip to a local corn maze.

For the past 24 years, Richardson Adventure Farm in Spring Grove has been a place many residents in the Chain of Lakes region and beyond gravitate toward, to enjoy an outdoor fall festival and “the world’s largest” corn maze.



above: mom and her kids find a pole in the corn maze with questions and punch their ticket.

PHOTO COURTESY TOM FUNK *Spirit of the Lakes*

top: The 2024 corn maze at Richardson Farms is a tribute to John Deere for all his contributions to farming through his inventions.

PHOTO COURTESY RICHARDSON FARMS *Spirit of the Lakes*

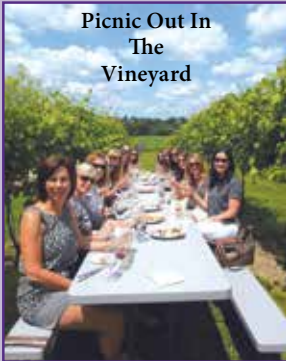
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The farm has been known for its extremely large and interesting corn mazes, each year showcasing a unique design that often honor historic figures or current activities.

This year is no different as the maze honors John Deere, who began as a blacksmith and in 1837, was credited with inventing the all-steel moldboard plow. Earlier plows were challenged by the black prairie soils of the Midwest, according to Richardson’s website and the new all-steel model made plowing not only possible but doable.

Today’s farmers know the John Deere name well, as it’s the leading farm machinery manufacturer and the fourth largest construction machinery manufacturer globally. Very few farms don’t have a Deere tractor.

“The plan for this year’s maze was designed by our corn maze designer, MazePlay,” said George Richardson, one of the owners of Richardson Adventure Farm. “In May he brought his special corn planter that plants seeds in the design using GPS which is hooked in with a computer that tells each individual row of the planter when to drop a seed and when to stop seeding, such as when it crosses one of the trails.”

According to members of the Richardson family, once the planting is completed however, the work is not finished. When the corn is 4 to 5 feet in height, they begin to rototill the trails with a tractor to clean up

the edges. There are over 10 miles of trails in the maze, so that part alone takes about 30 hours.

Once that’s completed, the posts for the checkpoints, kids’ games, and a quiz maze are inserted.

“What is unique about our maze is that there are no dead ends. The maze consists of four smaller mazes to work your way through and a variety of games to work if you choose, as you walk through a section of the maze,” George explained.

“There are three bridges in the maze – which are inserted each year after the corn has grown into place – that allow one to climb up and get their bearings,” he added.

The maze can be tackled all at once or done one section at a time. Visitors who choose the latter take time between sections to rest and enjoy a cup of coffee, hot chocolate, or a cider donut.

The maze covers 28 acres so it may take a while. In fact, there is no shame if it takes a second or even a third visit to the farm to work through the entire maze and enjoy all the games.

“If you are not sure where you are, head for the observation tower – which can easily be seen as it is 50 feet tall –and find your way out using your map,” George said.

“We haven’t lost anyone in the maze yet,” he added.

Many things to enjoy

While the corn maze is one of the

Other fall festivals

Additional local fall festivals featuring corn mazes that can be enjoyed in the area include the following.

Goebbert’s Farm

40 West Higgins Rd • South Barrington
Ph: 847-428-6727

The fall festival will run through Oct. 31. Hours are daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Enjoy shopping at the onsite farm market for freshly grown vegetables, and fresh bakery items. Enjoy a variety of fall harvest activities including a corn maze, haunted house, their duck derby, pony rides, and rides on their camel, Charlie.

Visit goebbertspumpkinfarm.com for more information.

Stades Farm and Market

3709 Miller Rd. • McHenry
Ph: 815-675-6396

Stades has held a fall festival since 1997. This locally owned family farm offers a variety of locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables. In the fall, pick-your-own apples and pumpkins are a favorite family activity.

The Shades of Autumn 2024 Festival will include nine weekends of family fun through Oct. 27. The festival includes a variety of family activities including a hayride, a petting zoo with goats, a pony, turtles, bunnies and a llama and an alpaca. Explore the corn mazes and enjoy the pumpkin cannon.

Visit stadesfarmandmarket.com for more information.

And they are off! The pig races are a favorite to watch as visitors gather around the track.

PHOTO COURTESY TOM FUNK *Spirit of the Lakes*

favorite activities there is much more to Richardson Adventure Farm as they celebrate fall. Traditional fall activities there include a trip to the pumpkin patch to pick-your-own pumpkin while a non-traditional one might be Zorbing, which is a ride inside a giant ball as it rolls and bounces down the hill. Richardson's is reportedly one of only a few locations in the U.S. that has Zorbing.

If Zorbing is not your idea of fun, maybe a 700-foot ride on the zipline from the observation tower will do.

One of the most popular places to gather at the farm are the pig races, which are enjoyed by people of all ages. Cheer for a favorite pig and encourage them to run as they do sometimes get distracted. Adding to the fun, the pigs are dressed in fancy outfits and have unique names such as Squealer and Boss Hog.

"We were in the business of raising pigs for about 20 years," George explained. "Now we just race them."

A unique item at the farm – and a calmer ride compared to Zorbing and the zipline – is an antique carousel that's been restored.

"I found the carousel in Florida at a waterpark. It was from 1956 and had steel animals. It wasn't in very good shape at the time, but I bought it and brought it back here where it was restored," George said. "It is now a very popular ride at the farm."

There are so many things to see and do that families may have trouble choosing which ones are at the top of their list. It may be best to divide and conquer, especially those with kids of varying ages and interests, to ensure gets to their favorite activity.

The younger children may be content staying in the play area that features slides, a corn bin cabin, pedal trikes, and the goat walk where they are able to pet the goats. Older children and adults may



be on a mission to take in more exciting events.

On the Richardson website, they suggest establishing a "basecamp" in the shaded picnic area.

Throughout the property, the tantalizing aroma of the made-on-site food items, including fresh apple cider donuts is hard to ignore. They can be eaten at the farm, taken home to enjoy, or both – a popular choice for many visitors.

There is also fudge made on site, by Jean, the daughter of Robert and Carol Richardson as well as kettle corn, another fall favorite.

For those seeking a meal, food trucks offer a variety of items

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above: A ride through the grounds on the train shows off the beauty of the farm. **opposite top:** The Richardson family gathers in the Christmas tree fields for a picture last fall. George and Robert are surrounded by their spouses, Wendy and Carol, and children and grandchildren. The sixth generation is now involved in running the farm. **opposite bottom:** Taking a run through the corn, a group of kids enjoy a race.

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including wood fire pizza and poutine. Poutine is a dish from Canada that includes French Fries, cheese curds and gravy. It originated in Quebec in the 1950s and its popularity spread.

And of course, there are burgers and other items available.

During at least some of the fall festival at the farm, the sunflowers will be blooming and a walk through 13 acres of the large, yellow flowers is included with admission. As they are dependent on Mother Nature, check the website or Facebook page to see if the sunflowers are in bloom if they're on the list of things planned during a visit to the farm.

More about the festival

The fall festival began earlier in September and continues through Oct. 27 this year. The farm is open Thursdays, 3 to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 9 p.m. Wednesdays are reserved for school trips and private tours.

There are extended hours for two weekends, Sept. 13-14 and Oct. 18-19, when the corn maze and the grounds will be open until midnight. These are weekends with full moons.

"The moon is so bright that one can go through the maze without even using a flashlight," George said, adding that the farm is closed Mondays and Tuesdays "to restock and make repairs, and prepare ourselves and the grounds for the coming week."

Each year there are new projects on the grounds and this year it's the building of a Beer Barn on site where visitors can purchase draft beer brewed by Jean Richardson's husband Jim. Jim, a math teacher, and a fellow teacher who teaches science, began brewing the beer on the farm, under the name 9th Hour Brewery,

"Being in the family, of course it is sold at the farm. It's good too!" George said.

"Our big project for this year is to complete a new Beer Barn to provide a better place to sell the draft beer, wine and some refreshments and provide seating to enjoy your food truck items while observing the train, carousel and zipline landing," he explained. "It will not be fully completed by opening day, but we will be open."

For the night-time visitors, be sure to stop by the campfires before heading home.

How it began

The Richardson Farm dates back to 1836 when Robert Richardson homesteaded the area after his arrival from England. At that time, the farm was 160 acres. Today, the fifth and sixth generation of the Richardson family continue to grow the size of the farm, which is now 544 acres, while also diversifying the activities held here.

In addition to raising crops, corn and soybeans, the Richardsons have a spring



tulip festival. This year the blooms lasted three good weeks and brought in 20,000 visitors, according to George. He said while most tulips do not have a scent, there were some special double bloom yellow and orange tulips that had a wonderful scent.

Following the fall festival, the Richardson family begins preparing for the opening of the annual Christmas tree sales, which start the day after Thanksgiving.

Tickets for the fall festival can be purchased online. Some items are included with the general admission ticket while other activities, such as Zorbing, have an additional charge.

Richardson Adventure Farm is at 909 English Prairie Rd., Spring Grove. For more information, call 815-675-9729, visit RichardsonAdventureFarm.com or follow them on Facebook.

PM&L Theatre to wrap up 2024 season

Here is a rundown of what performances will take the stage at PM&L Theatre in Antioch to close out 2024 and start the 2025 season.

Bring a meaningful end to your year with the magic of *A Christmas Carol*. The first 2025 performance will be *She Loves Me*, followed by *Marjorie Prime* and *Hairspray*.



Out of Sight...Out of Murder Oct. 18 – Nov. 3

Get ready for a thrilling blend of mystery and humor as a writer's characters leap off the page and into his stormy, secluded mansion. A suspenseful and witty plot unfolds, keeping you on the edge of your seat. Prepare for a night of mystery and hilarity with "Out of Sight...Out of Murder"! Follow a writer's quest for inspiration, where fiction and reality collide in this witty and suspenseful whodunit.

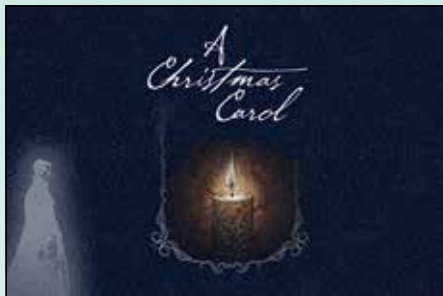


The Rocky Horror Show Oct. 25 – Nov. 2

Embark on an outrageous adventure with Brad, Janet, and the flamboyant Dr. Frank N. Furter in this cult classic musical. A unique mix of rock-n-roll and sci-fi, it's an experience you won't soon forget. (Bonus Show, \$25 per ticket, presented at 11 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays after Out of Sight, Out of Murder.) Join us for a wild ride with "The Rocky Horror Show" - a cult classic packed with outrageous characters, electrifying music, and plenty of surprises.

A Christmas Carol Dec. 6 – Dec. 22

Watch the heartwarming transformation

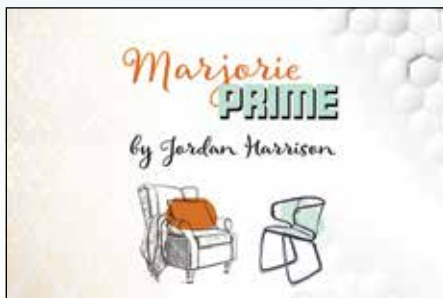


of Ebenezer Scrooge from a miser to a generous soul in this timeless production. Relive the spirit and charm of Dickens' classic tale, perfect for the holiday season. Rediscover the true spirit of the holiday season with our magical production of "A Christmas Carol"! Follow Ebenezer Scrooge's transformative journey as he learns the joy of giving and the power of redemption.



She Loves Me Feb. 7 – Feb. 23, 2025

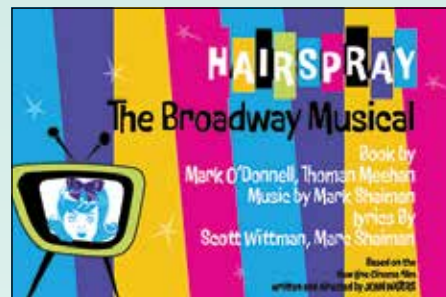
In a charming 1930s perfumery, two feuding clerks unknowingly fall in love through anonymous letters. This delightful and romantic musical will captivate your heart and leave you believing in the magic of love. Set in a charming 1930s Budapest parfumerie, this musical comedy is a delightful tale of mistaken identity, secret admirers, and true love.



Marjorie Prime March 28 – April 13, 2025

Consider a future where artificial intelligence brings past relationships to life. This compelling drama explores the intricate dance between memory and technology, posing thought-provoking

questions about the essence of human connection. This drama delves into the complexities of memory, identity, and the impact of artificial intelligence on our lives.



Hairspray May 30 – June 22, 2025

Join Tracy Turnblad on her quest for fame on a 1960s TV dance show, championing diversity and inclusion along the way. Bursting with catchy tunes and vibrant dance numbers, this energetic musical is a feel-good hit for all ages. Get ready to shake and shimmy with the irresistible energy of "Hairspray"! Bursting with infectious music and unstoppable dance numbers, this big-hearted musical celebrates diversity, friendship, and the power of change.

About the theatre

A theatre community since 1960: Palette – symbol of the artist; Masque – symbol of the actor; Lyre – symbol of the musician. The symbols were put together to form the name of the group of people interested at that time primarily in producing.

A dozen individuals (actors, business people, artists and musicians) banded together and donated \$10 each. With \$120 burning a hole in their pockets, the group set out to bring culture to Antioch.

In 1963, the group was offered the opportunity to rent the Lakes Theatre (originally named the Crystal Theatre, constructed circa 1914) on Main Street.

Palette, Masque, and Lyre, Inc. moved into what is now the PM&L Theatre, and with few exceptions has not looked back.

Many may call it "community theatre" but to them it's really a theatre community – a group of dedicated volunteers with the mission of bringing the arts to the communities they serve through a community they create.

"No matter your experience, no matter your level of talent, there's a way for you to help us. Drop us a note and start your journey to becoming a part of the PM&L community," the website states.

To learn more about volunteering, visit the website at pmltheatre.com.



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