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2025



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Clockwise from above: In honor of Memorial Day 2024 in Whitewater, a youngster helps place flags at veterans' graves in Hillside Cemetery; Dr. Richard Haney and Whitewater American Legion scholarship winners Leah Newman and Emerson Ellenwood are among the parade guests. Members of VFW Post 173 fire a 21-gun salute. Jason Dean speaks at a local ceremony.

TOM GANSER PHOTOS *Our Town*

WHITWATER,
WISCONSIN

2025

**OUR
TOWN**

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on the cover: Runners take off at the start of the Discover Whitewater Series half marathon; At the Whitewater High School Players' presentation of "White Christmas," soldiers (from left) ChaCha Binagi, Alex Clarksen and Payton Bunger lead the troops in a song; Besides a hearty meal at the City of Whitewater Fire and EMS Department's annual pancake breakfast, guests can check out the fire trucks.

TOM GANSER/BOB MISCHKA PHOTOS *Our Town*

OUR *Government*

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Savory Sounds



The Whitwater Arts Alliance hosts a Savory Sounds concert series in the summer, featuring a musical group and a lunch vendor outside the Cultural Arts Center at Flat Iron Park, 402 W. Main St., Whitwater. Shown performing in June 2024 to the crowd present is the Currach Irish Trio.

TOM GANSER *Our Town*



Anyone for tea?

The Whitwater Federation of Women's Clubs held its annual Ladies and Young Ladies Tea last spring at Bassett House in Whitwater. There were two seatings of the event, with refreshments, tea, and lemonade served. **above:** Ladies of all ages gather at a table for tea. **at right:** A youngster asks about an item on the menu.

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A colorful, *artistic* view

The Vinery creates custom pieces, does restorations, sells supplies, offers classes

When The Vinery, a well-

By **Sandra Landen Machaj**
CORRESPONDENT

known stained glass studio in Madison, closed due to the retirement of its owner, Josh Krogman and his partner, Shaina, purchased all their supplies and made plans to open a custom stained glass business in Whitewater.

“We were fortunate to also be able to purchase the name, The Vinery, from the owner as it was a well-respected glass shop,” Krogman said. “We moved the store to Whitewater, where we opened, putting our own touch on the new business.”

The shop is a full-service place to



purchase glass and glass-making supplies needed for all types of stained glass work. They have a large selection of glass available in a variety of colors and types.

“We welcome those who have never created a stained glass piece to sign up for one of our beginner stained glass-making classes,” Krogman said. “It is a way for the first-time creator to see if this is something they would like to continue learning.”

The beginning classes at The Vinery include all the materials needed for the project being taught and the students go home with a completed stained glass piece at the end of it. Glass cutters and a soldering iron are used in the class, and Krogman recommends a first timer try different glass cutters before deciding what works best for them.

In the class, the necessary steps – from the correct way of cutting glass and preparing the pattern, to foiling and soldering, are all explained in detail.

There are individual classes that complete one project in a session or a five-week session for beginners to learn more complex work. Children 12 years of age and older, as well as adults, are welcome in the beginner class.

More advanced classes are also offered, which require that the beginner class be completed first. To learn more or set up an advanced class, contact Josh or Shaina at the store.

The couple also works on repairing and restoring a variety of stained glass pieces.



above: Classes are offered at The Vinery for kids and adults interested in learning how to work with stained glass. **below:** The shop carries a full line of supplies for stained glass projects.

opposite from top: Josh Krogman, owner of The Vinery, works on a large project; The Krogman family celebrates the official opening of their business with local chamber staff.

COURTESY THE VINERY STAINED GLASS STUDIO *Our Town*

The Vinery is at 218 Elkhorn Rd., Whitewater. For more information, call 262-458-2209, visit the website, www.vineryglassllc.com, or follow them on Facebook.

Business hours are Tuesday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The shop is closed on Sunday and Monday.

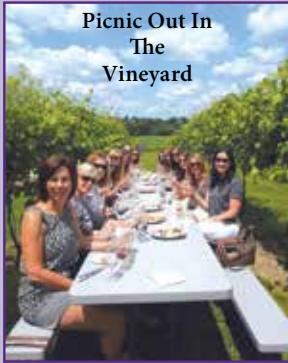


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What a celebration!



The City of Whitewater celebrates the Fourth of July with a parade, festival, and fireworks, the latter of which are set off over Cravath Lake. Among the parade participants in 2024 were members of the Lima 4-H Club and University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Chancellor Corey A. King.

TOM GANSER *Our Town*

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Get informed

The Whitewater School Board regularly meets on the fourth Monday every month at the central office, 419 S. Elizabeth St. Exceptions are: the third Monday in December and March; the Tuesday after Memorial Day if the fourth Monday falls on Memorial Day. For information about the Whitewater Unified School District, visit wwusd.org.



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Full STEAM ahead!

Whitewater's Ferradermis Booster Club hosted its first-ever STEAM Fair at the high school in the spring of 2024. A wide range of activities were available for students, including art and plants. In addition, members of the team were on hand for demonstrations. **above:** UW-Whitewater Planning and Management program representatives show tomato, pepper, and basil plants. **left:** acrylic trays were included by the Whitewater High School arts program.

TOM GANSER *Our Town*



Inspiring future Whippets

Whitewater High School Class of 2024 graduates take part in the Whippet Walk at Washington Elementary School in June. The high school seniors receive congratulations and high-fives from the younger generation of students, who hope to someday do the same.

TOM GANSER *Our Town*

Students give back with 'Afternoon of Service'

Early in January of last year, following a morning of

By **Tom Ganser**
CORRESPONDENT

College Equipped Readiness Tool testing, almost 150 students at Whitewater High School participated in their First Annual Afternoon of Service.

This enabled them to take part voluntarily in the National Day of Service in connection with the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday.

Students were able to select a service project that appealed to their interests. In addition, the hours earned count as a portion of

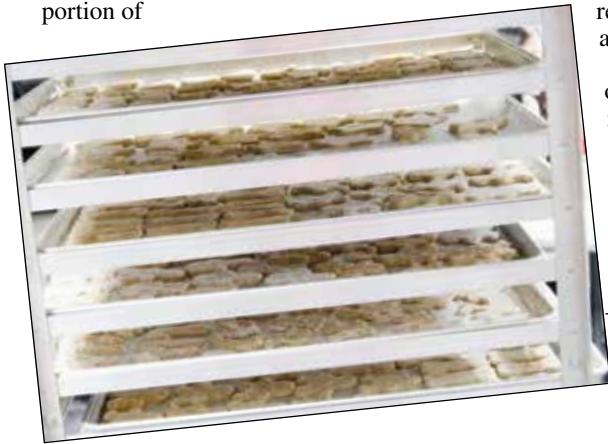
the voluntary service hours included in their Academic and Career Planning Portfolio, a graduation requirement.

A dozen different projects at the school ranged widely from organizing the choral music library and the drama costume closet; making cookies for local first responders and health professionals; knitting caps for babies at St. Mary's hospital; and repainting handrails at the high school.

Three projects outside the school included making dog treats with Fairhaven Senior Services residents, reading books to students at Washington Elementary School, and joining with senior citizens at Our House Memory Care in various art projects.



WHS Assistant Principal Nathan O'Shaughnessy said, "We are so proud of our staff and our students for volunteering their time to help make the community and world a better place. We are already looking forward to next year."



Whitewater High School students went to Fairhaven early last year to help residents make dog treats as part of the school's "Day of Service." **above:** Grace Coleman (left) and Kaia Jones (middle) work with residents to cut the dough.

at left: Finished treat cool on the racks after baking.

TOM GANSER *Our Town*



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Creating a world all their own

Area couple's Christmas village is 35 years in the making

Call it a second home of sorts – the village and home of the dreams of Cyndi and Ben Lentz.

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**
STAFF WRITER

At the lowest level is a fishing dock, complete with fishermen, buoys, seagulls, and a nautical store.

At the highest level sits a lighthouse, one of two from the couple's travels across the country to see the sailor's safety mechanisms.

In between are a schoolhouse, a fox hunt complete with mud in the snow, a vineyard, and a newspaper office, plus homes of all shapes and sizes.

What started off as a humble collection of five homes has developed into "Bencynville" – 55 buildings, numerous

animals, and a glimpse into the past when times were simpler.

"The first year, I just did it on top of the piano," explained Cyndi. "I never knew it was going to grow into this."

Like many who collect and display Christmas village buildings, the setup has changed almost yearly. For a couple like Ben and Cyndi – for whom the village is named – 35 years has proved plenty of time for them to conspire together on what looks best and give Cyndi a chance to use her artistic talents.

A watercolor and pastels artist, she is the mastermind behind the setup.

"We're retired, so what else do we have to do," Ben said. "Her favorite part is the creating. She's an artist. Every year, it's a

little bit different."

Quite the set up

It takes three days for the Lentzs to set up the village each year.

As the village has evolved, so has the space that's needed. The couple moved the setup from on top of the piano to a large bay window initially, in their home in Elkhorn.

Now in a Whitewater condominium, the couple uses the lower level of their home, setting up the multi-level village across three large tables in front of large windows and a sliding glass door.

The first day, Cyndi sets up the base, using all sorts of different items to create

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

Ben and Cyndi Lentz have spent the last 35 years developing a Christmas village of a fairy tale variety. From a small display on top of Cyndi's piano, the village then evolved into the couple's big bay window in Elkhorn to its current display on the lower level of their home in Whitewater.

JENNIFER EISENBART *Our Town*



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• CHRISTMAS VILLAGE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

levels, including books.

On the second day, they “put up all the houses and the buildings that need electrical hookups. The third day is all the accessories,” she said.

The electrical hookups include lights in every building, but also a lit downtown Christmas tree and train crossing.

Cyndi then uses a wide variety of different items to create a natural look. For example, dirt is made with coffee grounds, and cinnamon sticks are logs.

The accessories are the stories that run throughout the village. There is a fox hunt going on near the hunting log, with dogs and men on horses chasing the fox.

In one part of the village, children are playing hockey on a makeshift rink. In another, some children are playing Revolutionary War.

At the train station, Cyndi has made up stories for all the people there, from families arriving to locals frequenting the building.

“It’s the story of the accessories that change,” Cyndi explained. “There’s never anyone walking down the same part of the street.”

Individual stories

Over the years, special pieces and their stories have been added to the village.



For example, there is a bed and breakfast up on one of the hills. When Cyndi saw that piece at a Stein’s Garden store – with the bed and breakfast already named “Cynthia’s” – she knew it had a place in her village.

She and Ben have put an artist working on a painting in the front yard of the B&B to further symbolize Cyndi.

Then there is a pair of lighthouses in the village. Ben and Cyndi have traveled all over the country to visit lighthouses on both coasts and on lakes. One lighthouse is representing Cape Hatteras. The other is a beautiful lighthouse the couple found in a Lake Geneva shop.

“It encompasses a lot of what we’ve seen,” Ben said. “The colors, the style.”

The winery on the village represents a trip to Sonoma Valley the couple took. Their son surprised them with the winery for their village the next year and it even has vines for the grapes.

There are clock towers, mills, barns featuring hay bales purchased from Pharmacy Station in Elkhorn before it closed, and three churches in the village – one given to the couple as a wedding gift from a friend.

Cyndi has a bakery in the village because she used to work at one, and the sea/dock area includes a boat store, which “is what you see out on the East Coast,” Ben said.

There are two fire departments in the village – one city, one county, fitting as Cyndi’s father was a fire chief in Spooner.

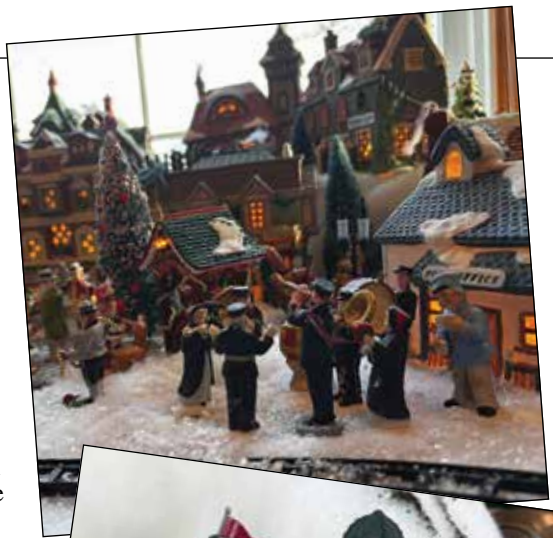
This year, there is a house on fire that has smoke coming out of it and red threads to catch the light.

Hat vendors (for Ben’s love of hats), Santa’s Ice Cream Shop (Cyndi loves ice cream), and even a popcorn cart decorate the streets.

The structures are from a variety of brands and have been purchased from stores, garage sales and, of course, some were received as gifts. That, of course, is how a village is built.

“A village isn’t all the same builders,” Cyndi said.

Ideally, the couple said you can’t see everything in one viewing.



“If you came on a different day, you’d say, ‘oh, I didn’t see that,’” Ben explained.

The future

While Cyndi said the village is nearing its capacity, that won’t keep her from enjoying the yearly tradition of setting it up – and making up new stories.

Eventually, the village will be handed off. The couple’s children have yet to indicate an interest, so Ben and Cyndi are hopeful a library (or perhaps a museum) will take in the collection.

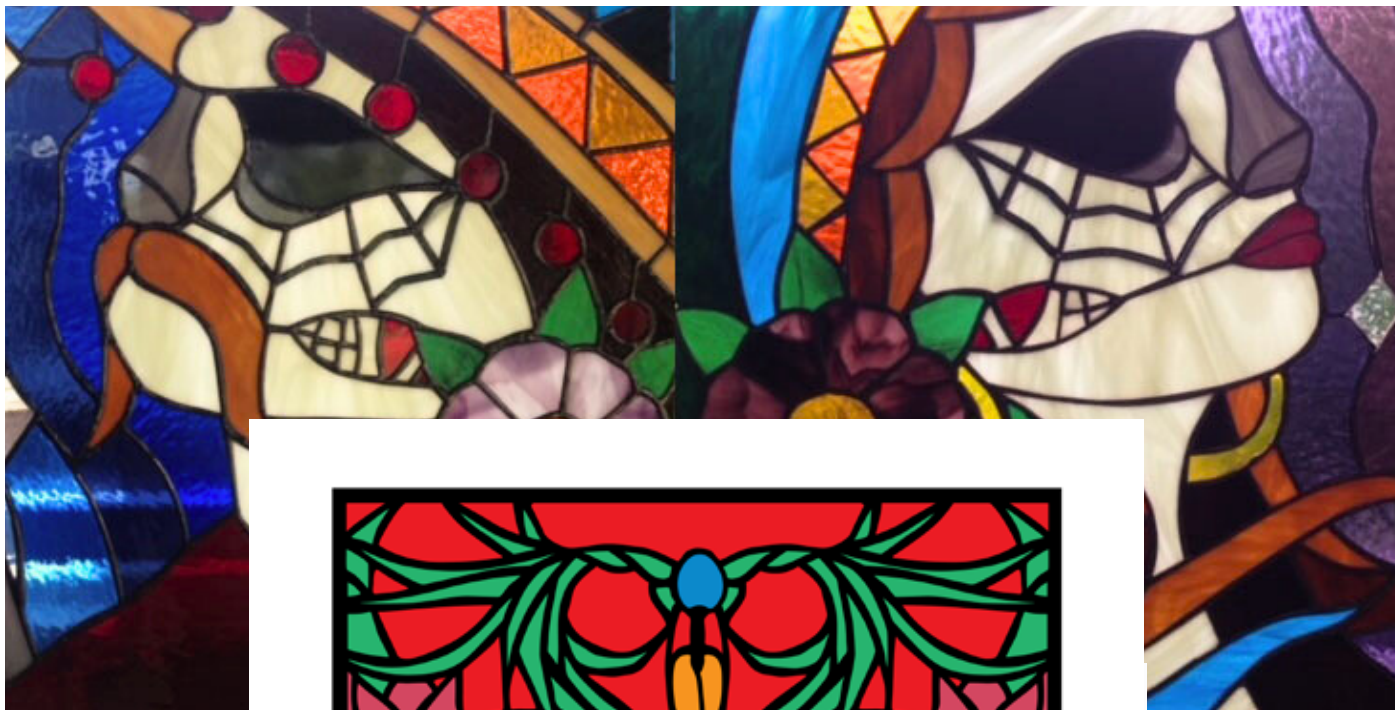
But both also admit, part of the charm – and the fun – is the memories they have tied to the individual pieces.

“The thing I love most about the village is, to me, it’s a representation of Cyn and myself,” Ben said. “Our past, and our memories. When I look at it, it’s her. It’s everything that she does. And it always brings back everything I always hoped to see at Christmas.”

“I’m so lucky,” Cyndi added.

Scenes from the village include: a fox hunt, a vineyard, a dairy barn, a lighthouse, and a band performing Christmas music. The couple has also personalized a sign declaring the village “Bencynville.”

JENNIFER EISENBART *Our Town*



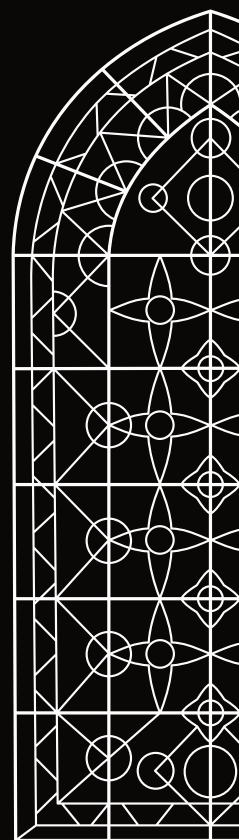
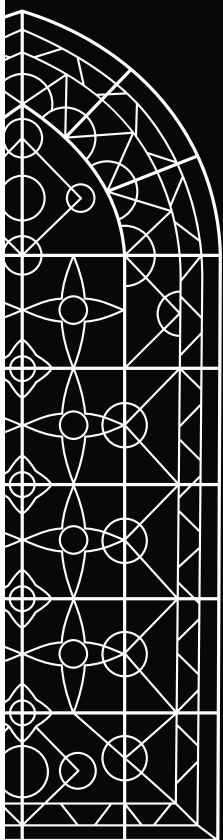
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Members of the Whitewater High School Class of 1972 who were or are turning 70 celebrated a class birthday with a picnic last July at Starin Park. Shown here are, front from left: Sandy Dunne Blaedow, Elaine Rohrs Younger, Marcia King Gascho, Pam Piatt Hansen, Donna Behling Ludtke, Connie Maize Hix, Rebecca McLean; (middle row) Terri Davis Gaffner, Lynn Bellman Keiser, Ruthie Stradinger, Lynne Berard Kepp; (back row) Kathy Lynd Roelli, Jack Wafle, Doug Hare, Rick Hare, Woody Knox, Kurt Markham, Dennis Wagie, Jeff Gage, Carl Dravis, Todd Pickering, and Bruce Parker.

TOM GANSER *Our Town*

SENIORS IN THE *Park*

Seniors in the Park is a lively and dynamic program in Whitewater that seeks to promote and enhance a vital aging community.

Its mission is to enhance and revitalize the lives of our community by providing programs that challenge your mind, enhance your physical being, create new connections, and are just plain fun. From presentations and trips to card games and movies, there is something offered for everyone!

The program has been growing throughout the past few years, and many people within the community take advantage of the programs we provide.

Seniors in the Park focuses on bringing fun into the community by creating an inviting atmosphere for all interested in joining.

CLASSES AND PRESENTATIONS

At Seniors in the Park, participants' health and well-being are invaluable.

Therefore, they provide fitness classes like adult tap/ballet, 'FUN'ctional Fitness, Core and More, Yoga, Let's Walk, and Pickleball.

They also offer wellness and educational

presentations, technology tutoring and classes, art classes, travel experiences, and volunteer opportunities.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are integral to our programming and allow us to offer our many. From setting up movies to helping at special events and fundraisers to planning trips, there are varieties of short, long term, or one-time opportunities to volunteer.

MEMBERSHIP

The fee for residents of the Whitewater School District is \$10 and non-residents is \$15. The funds support about half of the cost of the front desk staff person for 15 hours per week. The rest comes out of the program's fundraising monies.

For those who cannot afford the fee, there is a fund that will cover it. Fees are accepted at the Starin Park Community Building or online at <https://schedulesplus.com/wwtr/kiosk/>

MORE INFORMATION

The program is conveniently located

in the Starin Park Community Building in beautiful Starin Park. For more information on classes, programs, activities, or upcoming trips, call 262-473-0535 or pick up the Park Bench newsletter at one of the following convenient locations:

- Irvin L Young Memorial Library
 - Starin Park Community Building
 - Whitewater Aquatic and Fitness Center
 - Whitewater Municipal Building
- Online versions are available in the Archive Center.

More information is also available at wwparks.org or whitewater-wi.gov, Departments, Seniors in the Park. The newsletter can also be accessed at www.mycommunityonline.com or at whitewater-wi.gov (Government, Departments, Seniors in the Park).

The program is always looking for new ideas and programs to implement. People are encouraged to share their thoughts and suggestions with program leaders.

Starin Park Community Building is at 504 W. Starin Rd. Whitewater. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Thursday; the office is closed on Fridays.

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scouting.org

Kiwanis Whitewater Breakfast Club
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whitewaterkiwanis.wixsite.com/whitewater

Downtown Whitewater
262-473-4005
150 W. Main St.
downtownwhitewater.com

Federation of Women's Clubs
708 W. Main St.
262-473-3312
www.gfwc-wi.org

Girl Scouts of Wisconsin
www.gsbadgerland.org

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Carol Cartwright
262-473-6820
whitewaterhistoricalsociety.org

League of Women Voters - Whitewater Area
Mary Beth Byrne
262-203-6529
my.lww.org/wisconsin/whitewater-area

Lions Club
N7462 Kettle Moraine Drive
630-336-9896

Masons
226 W. Main St.
stjohnslodge57@gmail.com

UW-Whitewater/Community Optimist Club
President Dave Halbach
262-472-5749

Rotary Club
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262-903-0605
whitewaterrotary.org

Whitewater 4th of July
www.ww4th.com

Whitewater Arts Alliance
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262-472-0204
www.whitewaterarts.org

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Kay Robers
roberskay@yahoo.com

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info@whitewaterchamber.com
whitewaterchamber.com

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The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, founded in 1868, is known for its award-winning programs, students organizations and athletic achievements, including national championship football, men's basketball, men's wheelchair basketball and rugby teams.

UW-Whitewater provides 50 undergraduate programs and 15 graduate programs to a campus of more than 12,500 students. The campus, voted one of the Top 100 Workplaces in southeastern Wisconsin, is on 404 rolling acres with 40 major buildings, a nature preserve, and an arboretum.

The university maintains institutional accreditation through the Higher Learning Commission and holds a variety of specialized accreditations at

academic college and program levels. The institution's teacher education programs are also approved by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater is a College of Distinction for its business, education, and career development program. The national honor recognizes campuses for exceptional teaching and dedication to student success.

Colleges of Distinction's selection process consists of a review of each institution's freshman experience and retention efforts alongside its general education programs, alumni success, strategic plan, student satisfaction, and more. Schools are accepted on the basis that they adhere to the four distinctions: engaged students, great teaching, vibrant community, and successful outcomes.

PROMOTING DIVERSITY

The Division of Equity,

Diversity, Inclusion and Support Programs at the university were created to provide efficiency by bringing together resources, talents, and opportunities of diversity units that were housed in student affairs and academic affairs to report to one cabinet-level member.

The division provides greater voice for those who have been historically most marginalized and disenfranchised. The division is comprised of the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion as well as Student Diversity, Engagement and Success, Adult Learning, Adult Student Services, Center for Students with Disabilities, International Education (International Recruitment, International Student Services and the Office of Global Engagement), the Pride Center and LGBTQ+ coordinator, and Veteran Services.

VOLUNTEERING

The university serves the community and region through various cultural events

UNIVERSITY CONTACTS

The Crossman Gallery
(262) 472-1207

Irvin L. Young Auditorium
(262) 472-2222

Recreation Sports & Facilities
(262) 472-1544

University Bookstore
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University Center
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Warhawk Alley in the University Center
(262) 472-1164

and volunteer efforts. These events include theatrical and musical productions, art and cultural exhibits, visiting artists, speakers, and lecturers.

On and off campus, students have donated thousands of hours of volunteer time to help improve the lives of others in Whitewater and its surrounding communities.

Warhawks finish as NCAA Division III runners-up

BY UWW SPORTS INFORMATION

The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater wrapped up a phenomenal 2024 campaign as the NCAA Division III National Runner-Up. The Warhawks fell to undefeated Juniata 3-2 (25-19, 25-19, 15-25, 26-28, 15-10) at the Cregger Center in Salem, Virginia.

UWW pushed a fifth set for the first time in nine seasons in the national title match – the previous eight were 3-0 sweeps.

UW-Whitewater battled back to force the decisive fifth after trailing 0-2 in the match. The Warhawks turned it around in set three as the best blocking team in the country lived up to its reputation.

UWW registered seven blocks in the set, holding the Eagles to a negative attack percentage. Meanwhile the offense picked up the pace hitting .235 with 13 kills. The offense-defense combination led to a lopsided 25-15 win in the set.

The fourth set was arguably one of the most thrilling of the season. UW-Whitewater trailed early until Jenna Weinfurt took over. The powerful outside hitter posted UWW's next five points – all on kills – to tie the set 10-10.

From there, the teams traded points, battling it

• CONTINUED
ON PAGE 26

Hannah Proctor goes up for a hit in the UW-Whitewater Warhawks 2024 campaign, which saw the volleyball team deliver some notable upsets before earning the NCAA Division III National Runner-Up.

PHOTO COURTESY BROOKE BOWDREN *Our Town*





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New online degrees offered at UW-Whitewater

Human resources, international business programs fully online

As the world has slowly transitioned out of the COVID-19 pandemic and back into its new normal, one thing has remained – the prevalence of online options.

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**
STAFF WRITER

For the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, that is none more evident than now, with two new, 100% online degree offerings. The university recently announced that both the human resources and international business degrees are now fully online as undergraduate options.

The HR program is designed to give students a comprehensive overview of the field, as well as real-world experience with training and developing employees, managing benefits and compensation, and handling employee relations.

The international business degree works to provide an in-depth understanding of global economics, finance, management, marketing, and the supply chain.

Joshua Knapp, a professor of management/HR at UW-Whitewater,



said the human resources field remains one of the most in demand for qualified applicants.

“HR is always at the center of the organization and is intimately involved with managing its most important asset: people,” he said.

Andy Ciganek, coordinator for the international business course, said online degrees are offering the kind of flexibility both students as well as businesses crave.

“Online learning allows students to

study at their own pace and on their own schedule, making it easier to balance their education with work, family, and other commitments,” Ciganek explained.

“Students are increasingly seeking specialized skills, which is why there is an increase in online degree opportunities,” he added.

UW-Whitewater, Ciganek said, can appeal for a number of reasons.

The international business program has a strong reputation – Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business accreditation and more than 25 years of online education experience – plus the competitive cost compared to other programs.

Ciganek, who is also the chair of the IT and Supply Chain Management department, said he is routinely working with local and regional employers to find out what kind of skills are in demand.

“Beyond critical thinking, communication, and problem-solving, these employers have regularly mentioned ‘global’ or ‘international’ as essential skills since the pandemic,”

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

While in-person education remains a popular option for college students, two new programs – international business and human resources – are being added fully online at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. **at left:** College students works through an exercise in a classroom on campus. **above:** Professors and students still interact during online classes, just in different ways.

PHOTOS COURTESY UW-WHITEWATER *Our Town*



• **WARHAWKS** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

out as the set continued on. Juniata claimed the first set and match point, 25-24, but the Warhawks had the response on an Alayna Jansky kill.

The Eagles forced another match point and setter Aubrie Krzus pushed the ball back to this outside, this time for Weinfurt. She drove the ball on a dart toward the endline and the line judge lifted his flag to signal out.

Juniata rushed the floor as UWW coach Stacy Boudreau immediately grabbed the green challenge card. The officials went to the monitor and quickly returned to the floor indicating the ball was in, the call overturned for a UWW point, and the set now tied 26-26.

On the next play, the Eagles set drifted over the net and Weinfurt put it back down for a UW-Whitewater set point. In a rare feat for a title match, the Warhawks won the set on a bad set as the Juniata setter pushed the ball to the outside pin as the hitters all collapsed toward the middle. The error sent the squads into a fifth.

Following the brief intermission, the Eagles came out on fire, scoring the first eight points. The Warhawks did not fold and continued to battle pulling to within four, but the deficit was too much to overcome in the shortened fifth set.

Weinfurt had a phenomenal match with 25 kills while Jansky posted 16 in

the contest. The pair combined for 99 kills over the three matches in the championship and were named to the NCAA Division III Championship All-Tournament Team for their performances. Krzus tallied 38 assists in the match.

Defensively, Jaedynn Evans led UWW with 19 digs while Weinfurt added 18 and Jansky posted 12. At the net, Hannah Proctor had 10 blocks, Krzus and Abbie Dix each registered eight, and Chloe Werner added four.

UW-Whitewater – the No. 6 tournament seed – reached the national title match with a pair of upsets. On Dec. 4, the Warhawks swept No. 3-seeded Emory, 25-13, 25-23, 25-19.

Jansky had 13 kills in the match, while Weinfurt had 12.

In the national semifinal, facing No. 2 seed Johns Hopkins, the Warhawks traded sets with the Blue Jays before winning, 13-25, 25-16, 17-25, 25-16, 15-7.

In the semifinal, Jansky led the Warhawks with 17 kills, while Weinfurt added 16. Krzus had 43 assists, and Weinfurt 17 digs.

The Warhawks wrapped up the 2024 campaign with a 31-4 record, the first 30-win season since 2015. The trip to the national title match is UWW's first since 2007. Juniata has won 97 consecutive matches, including three straight titles.

• **ONLINE DEGREES**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

Ciganek said, going on to explain that the university's international business programs directly addresses this need and complements UW-Whitewater's other well-known majors.

"For example, marketing or supply chain students may open up new and more diverse career possibilities by majoring or minoring in international business," he added.

According to Ciganek, UW-Whitewater offering the international business program fully online gives students flexibility, especially if they can't be on campus for classes or are enrolling from a distance.

For more on the human resources degree, go to uww.edu/online/bachelors/human-resource-management.

For more on the international business program, go to uww.edu/online/bachelors/international-business.

UW-Whitewater offers the state's largest College of Business and Economics and is home to the No. 1-ranked online MBA program in the state.

In addition, the College of Business and Economics is in the top 2% of world business schools.



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Big time

The University of Wisconsin-Whitwater marching band performed at halftime of the Green Bay Packers' game when they hosted the Los Angeles Chargers in 2023. **above:** The group performs its halftime show, with the scoreboard showing a video of the performance in the background. **top left:** Katie Zarling sports a "Hi, Mom" message in face paint. **top right:** The group celebrates a successful performance. The university's marching band is comprised of members from all over Wisconsin and beyond.

UW-WHITEWATER PHOTO/CRAIG SCHREINER *Our Town*



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Kettle Moraine Baptist
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Lagrange United Methodist Church
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262-495-8692

Living Word Fellowship
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262-458-4580

North Lima Presbyterian
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St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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262-470-3197
stjohnswhitewater@yahoo.com
stjohnswhitewater.org

St. Patrick's Catholic Church
1225 W. Main St.
Whitewater
262-473-3143
stpatrickwhitewater.org

The Chapel – Whitewater Campus
445 N. Warner Rd.
Whitewater
847-201-2777

The Sanctuary
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St. Patrick Catholic Church in Whitewater held its annual Country Fest event in early August on the church grounds, with food, music, games, and craft booths all available for guests. **above:** A crafter is shown selling artificial flowers.

TOM GANSER *Our Town*



A love of farm toys



The annual Whitewater FFA Alumni Farm Toy Show is held in February at Whitewater High School. On display at last year's show were thousands of toys – both large and small – farm replicas and vintage farm toys. Among those present was Walworth County Fairest of the Fair Josie Vance, who made a special appearance. The event drew close to 1,000 attendees.

TOM GANSER *Our Town*

A walk for unity



The Be Kind Whitwater group held a CommUNITY walk last November through the downtown area and onto the University of Wisconsin-Whitwater campus. More than 50 walkers took part in the event, which went to the Andersen Library at UW-Whitwater, featured speakers and helped others through a non-perishable food drive that took place for The Community Space.

PHOTOS COURTESY CAMDEN HARLAN *Our Town*




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Keep it *fresh* at a local market

Whitewater boasts two markets – a city market and a farmers market. Several others throughout the area are also listed, offering more options to shoppers. While the offerings at markets vary along with the vendors, they share a common goal – featuring products from locals, including farms, growers, artisans, and others.

WHITEWATER

City Market

The City Market is held throughout the year, indoors during the cold months and outdoors in warmer weather:

- November through April, it's an indoor market and is held on Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to noon, at Irvin L. Young Memorial Library, 431 Center St.
- May through October, the outdoor market is held on Tuesdays, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Train Depot, 301 W. Whitewater St.

It brings area farmers, artisans, food carts, and the community together to create not only a unique shopping experience but a celebration of what is local. Hosted by Downtown Whitewater, this vibrant market includes music, kids' activities, and a variety of vendors.

For more information, follow Whitewater City Market on Facebook (which features updates), visit downtownwhitewater.com or send an email to whitwatercitymarket@gmail.com.

Farmers Market

The Whitewater Farmers Market is open May through October on Saturdays

from 8 a.m. to noon in the Train Depot parking lot, 301 W. Whitewater St.

This market features a variety of locally grown produce, eggs, fresh baked goods, flowers, artisan crafts, and more.

For more information, follow Whitewater Farmers Market on Facebook or visit whitwaterfarmersmarket.com.

PALMYRA

Makers Market

The Palmyra Makers Market is held June through September, from 4 to 8 p.m., on Taft Street between 2nd and 3rd streets.

This maker's market is a bustling haven of fresh produce, vegetables, food, entertainment, and more. A community gather place where people come together to celebrate food and culture, connect with their neighbors, and support local businesses.

For more information, follow Palmyra Makers Market on Facebook or email abcdfarmhouse@outlook.com.

DELANAN

Market at Tower Park

Held Thursdays from 3 to 7 p.m., June to September, the Market at Tower Park features home-grown and hand-crafted items, fresh produce, eggs, baked goods, plants, and more.

Tower Park is at 117 Park Place, Delavan.

For more information, visit Market at

Tower Park on Facebook, call 262-728-5095 or email info@delavanwi.org.

ELKHORN

Saturdays on the Square

This market is held late May to late August on Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Veterans Park, 100 W. Walworth St., Elkhorn.

It features a variety of fresh produce, crafts, commercial products, and more. Vendors set-up on a first come first serve basis and there is plenty of room for all who attend. Visitors can also find food trucks and a morning workout on the square and more during the market.

For more information, follow Saturdays on the Square on Facebook or email info@elkhornchamber.com.

MUKWONAGO

Farmers Market

The Mukwonago Farmers Market is Wednesdays from 2 to 6 p.m. at Field Park, 933 N. Rochester St., mid-May through mid-October.

Held in a park setting, the market offers plenty of parking, sitting areas, and a playground. Featuring over numerous vendors weekly with a wide selection of locally grown produce and food products. Organizers say the market proudly supports "our local growers, producers, and consumers."

For more information, visit Mukwonago Farmers Market on Facebook or mukwonagochamber.com.



Groceries are back!

The City of Whitewater celebrated the return of a grocery store last fall, as Aldi had its grand opening celebration and ribbon cutting. Long lines were the norm during the grand opening, as local residents gathered to check out what the discount supermarket chain has to offer.

TOM GANSER *Our Town*



Platner Realty



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SOLD

OUR *Lakes* AND *Parks*

Whether you're looking for a little exercise, a little solitude or even an opportunity to learn about Whitewater's Native American culture, the Whitewater area offers parks and lakes suitable for a variety of needs.

AREA LAKES

CRAVATH LAKE

Covering just 70 square acres, Cravath Lake is the smallest and shallowest of the area's three lakes.

Classified as a drainage lake, Cravath averages only three feet in depth and reaches a maximum depth of 10 feet.

The lake is accessible by boat ramp, and for those who like to fish, it is stocked with panfish, largemouth bass, and northern pike.

TRIPPE LAKE

Similar to Cravath Lake, Trippe Lake is classified as a drainage lake, but is larger in overall size.

Trippe Lake covers 121 acres and reaches a maximum depth of 8 feet. The lake is accessible by way of a boat ramp and is stocked with panfish, largemouth bass, and northern pike.

WHITEWATER LAKE

Covering 625 acres, Whitewater Lake is clearly the largest of the area's lakes and is located in the Town of Whitewater.

The lake is 35 feet deep at maximum depth and is stocked with panfish, largemouth bass, northern pike, and walleye.

This lake can be accessed through two ramps and has a public beach.

COMMUNITY PARKS

STARIN PARK

Starin Park dates back to 1888. It is one of the oldest recognized parks in the state and boasts the second oldest operating municipal water tower. The park, 504 W. Starin Road, provided housing for veterans during and after World War II and has hosted many celebrations and recreational events ever since. A Veterans War Memorial was erected to honor area service people.

The Community Building, built in 1934, was rebuilt after a fire in 1998 and provides a meeting place and hosts the Seniors in the Park program.

Located in the north-central portion of the city, Starin Park is adjacent to the UW-Whitewater campus and offers a variety of recreational activities, including playground equipment, trails for hiking, baseball diamonds, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. There is also a picnic area, an enclosed shelter, an open shelter, grills, drinking water, and restrooms. It also

features Treyton's Field of Dreams youth baseball complex.

TRIPPE LAKE PARK

Trippe Lake Park was dedicated as a city park in 1958. The lake was named in honor of Dr. James and Rosepha Trippe, credited as being the founders of the city. Trippe Lake was formed as a result of a dam that was constructed to operate or power the old sawmill.

The park is located on the city's southeast side at 407 S. Wisconsin St. and includes playground equipment, a boat ramp, fishing, trails for hiking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing, as well as a multi-purpose area, water features, a picnic area, an open shelter, grills, drinking water, and restrooms.

The park's large hill is also a popular sledding destination in the winter.

CRAVATH LAKEFRONT

In the 1990s, faced with environmental issues, the city opted to create an open space to encourage visits to the downtown area. A history that included being a dumpsite, oil tank storage, candle factory, and other industrial uses is now redefined as the lakefront that hosts numerous celebrations, concerts, and Park and Recreation events.

It is on the north side of Cravath Lake at 341 S. Fremont St., which now hosts community events, including the annual Fourth of July celebration, Freeze Fest, and Pig in the Park.

The Cravath Lakefront Center building was designed to resemble Whitewater's historic depot. It offers restrooms, picnic areas, and an adjacent parking lot. The park also includes an enclosed shelter, an open shelter, drinking water, a boat ramp, fishing, trails for hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, a multi-purpose area, and water features.

MORAINES VIEW PARK

Moraine View Park, established in 2000, is located adjacent to the Whitewater University Technology Park and the Innovation Center in the northeast section of Whitewater at 1201 E. Innovation Drive.

The park is home to soccer fields, a shared-use path, a picnic area, and the Community Garden. In spring and fall, the Whitewater Soccer Club plays its games here.

WHITEWATER BARK PARK

Located at the east end of Commercial Drive, as its name suggests, this portion of the park is the only area in the city dedicated solely to dogs. It opened in 2006.

A dedicated group of dog enthusiasts raised more than \$25,000 for the project, and convinced many local businesses and organizations to donate their time

and resources to the creation of the park. Licensing and membership fees help offset the maintenance costs.

The park includes an enclosed area where dogs can play, divided into one area for small dogs and another for large dogs, an open shelter, and a pet exercise area.

WHITEWATER CREEK NATURE AREA

Nestled between Fremont Street and Whitewater Creek, this nearly 60-acre nature area offers a picnic area, trails for hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, fishing, and water features.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

BREWERY HILL

This park, 116 W. North St., received its name from a George Steng's brewery that had stood on the top of the hill beginning in 1859.

The 7.3-acre indoor and outdoor recreation area, located along Whitewater Creek, contains Rotary Skate Park and a portion of the Whitewater Creek path. It is also adjacent to the downtown Armory that offers a gym, dance studio, and workshop area.

MEADOWSWEET PARK

Meadowsweet Park, developed in 2002, is located in the northwest corner of Whitewater along Tratt Street. Working with the neighborhood and developer, the four acres feature native grasses and plantings that provide seasonal color and habitat for a variety of birds and other creatures.

SKYWAY PARK

This 4.1-acre park on the city's far northwest side sits in the Parkcrest subdivision. Its close proximity to Gutzmer's airport off Tratt Street gave it the moniker Skyway Park.

It offers playground equipment, open space, and an environmental corridor. The park is located at 1302 W. Tower Hill Pass.

ARCHEOLOGICAL PARK

WHITEWATER EFFIGY MOUNDS PRESERVE

This collection of effigy mounds – numbering between 12 and 15 – is on the city's far southwest side. The mounds were built between 800 A.D. and 1200 A.D., with the oldest ones being geometric shapes ranging from 60 to 300 feet. Studies suggest these mounds were a gathering place for several Midwest tribes. Samuel Prince was the first settler of Whitewater to build a log cabin in this area.

Today, the 21.5-acre park, located at 288 S. Indian Mound Parkway, is a nature study area for schoolchildren learning about Whitewater's Native American heritage. It also features a hiking trail and a picnic area.

OUR *Lakes* AND *Parks*

MINI PARKS

CLAY STREET NATURE PARK

This now 1.4-acre park that consists of a turtle nesting mound, fishing pier, picnic area, and small boat launch following the purchase of an additional .79 acres in 2010 by the City of Whitewater. The park is at 511 E. Clay St.

MAIN STREET SHOPPES COURTYARD

The site is a picnic area downtown, adjacent to a municipal parking lot at 112 N. First St.

FLAT IRON PARK

This triangular park, 402 W. Main St., is home to the Birge Fountain, a war memorial, and park benches and serves as an appropriate entrance to the Whitewater Cultural Arts Center. Its point is at the intersection of North and Main streets.

The Birge Fountain, which was designed by J.W. Fiske, was donated to the city by Julius "Jule" Birge and dedicated in 1903. The fountain is 17 feet high and 9 feet in diameter. Birge required the fountain be placed on the Little Brick School site, where he learned to read and write.

The war memorial, located near the park, was erected in 1922 to recognize soldiers of all wars through 1919.

In the spring of 2007, the White Memorial Building, once the city's library, became home to the Whitewater Cultural Arts Center.

BIG BRICK PARK

Big Brick Park, 611 W. Center St., was acquired by the City of Whitewater in 2001 from the Whitewater Unified School District. The park inherited its name from "Big Brick" school, which was located on this site. Also known as Union School, it served the community as a grade school from 1883 until 1928, when it burned to the ground. The basement had a short ceiling and in stoking the furnace too high, the timbers caught fire and burned down Whitewater's first high school.

Today, it offers ice skating, hockey, a basketball court, a playground, and picnic areas.

MILL RACE PARK

A chance meeting between Asif Pratt and Dr. James Trippe led to the raising of a mill on Whitewater Creek in 1839. It provided the settlers with their biggest

needs: flour and grain products. Men from La Grange, Milton, and Fort Atkinson provided labor. The Village of Whitewater grew around this mill. William Birge purchased the mill in 1853 and added on in 1856.

This .6-acre park is located downtown on the north side of Main Street along Whitewater Creek and offers a picnic area, fishing, and an observation area for Cravath Lake.

OPTIMIST TURTLE MOUND PARK

Located on the southwest side, this one-acre park is situated in the Mound Park Acres subdivision and contains play equipment and a picnic area.

In 2008, through the help and support of the Whitewater Optimists, a shelter was added to the park located at 1602 W. Turtle Mound Circle. The park now has both an open shelter and an enclosed shelter.

WALTON OAKS PARK

This 2.6-acre park was dedicated in 2008 and is a natural wooded oak lot located in the Park Crest subdivision. It includes a short hiking path and a bench that was placed in memory of Don and Ethel Walton.



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For *love* and *acceptance*

Whitewater Pride Rally draws hundreds in fourth annual event

On a bright, sunny Saturday afternoon, Whitewater's Cravath

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**
STAFF WRITER

Lake Park turned into a haven for love and acceptance.

The fourth annual Whitewater Pride Rally drew a large crowd Oct. 5, 2024, with numerous area, state, and national organizations making it clear that hate was not welcome in the LGBTQIA+ community.

Camden Harlan, a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and the president of Whitewater Pride, headed up the efforts and was pleased with the results.

"We had one unexpected vendor," Harlan said, with that person not applying to be at the event.

"We were all super kind and inclusive of him being there," she said.

Aside from that exception, Harlan called it "a wonderful day." She made a point of identifying her pronouns as she/her, something she said is becoming more of the norm and how far the community has come with acceptance.

"It was a beautiful day. There was so much joy, from babies to senior citizens," she said. "There was a lot of happiness, a lot of joy, a lot of lives that were saved ... that Whitewater is an inclusive space."

Harlan estimated about 400 people showed up for the event, which featured activities, music, performances by drag queens, and items for sale. Whitewater holds its rally in October to align with LGBTQ History Month.

The entire event was funded completely by donors through the non-profit group Whitewater Pride.

"Every penny that we bring in goes toward supporting our LGBTQ community, both young and old," Harlan said.

The first Saturday in October will now be the permanent assigned weekend for the event, with next year's date set for Oct. 4.

The park played host to a wide variety of tents and tables. One was the Free Mom Hugs, Inc., Wisconsin chapter – an organization founded by a Christian conservative mother who spent years trying to reconcile her spirituality and her son's sexuality.

The group prides itself on being allies to the LGBTQIA+ community, providing support (and hugs) to show "everyone belongs and matters."

The Free Mom Hugs group wasn't the only one at the event promoting visibility and education. Whitewater Unites Lives was one of several tables providing yard



Whitewater Pride played host to its fourth annual Pride Rally in October 2024 at Cravath Lake Park. The event featured numerous vendors and sponsors, a positive message of acceptance, and all sorts of entertainment. A couple showed off a simple message with a pair of t-shirts.

JENNIFER EISENBART *Our Town*

signs, cookies and literature.

The signs from WUL read: "Be Kind – Commit to Civility" in both English and Spanish.

"It was just a wonderful day. It was a beautiful event," said Marjorie Stoneman, who is a part of the Whitewater Pride Inc.

committee and is a co-founder of WUL. She said Saturday's rally gave everyone a chance to celebrate "their common humanity" and "individually."

"We were looking at how can we unite

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 36

our common community?” she explained. “We’ve done a lot of things. We are supporters of Whitewater Pride. Whitewater Pride has just been a wonderful group and has garnered so much support from everyone in our community.”

Other groups committed to helping the LGBTQIA+ cause present at the rally included PFLAG Waukesha, the Wisconsin LGBTQ History Project, and Fair Wisconsin.

There was also a variety of vendors, sponsor and political tables. Among the political tables were the UWW College Democrats, the Democratic Party of Wisconsin, and the League of Women Voters Whitewater Area.

Sponsors like T-Mobile, Fort HealthCare, Generac, Fort Community Credit Union, and TDS also had tables, offering freebies – many with LGBTQIA+ themes, rainbows, and the like.

Other sponsors were more local, including Botanica Beauty Parlour, Discover Whitewater, Irvin L. Young Public Library, and First United Methodist Church of Whitewater.

For a full list of sponsors, go to whitewaterpride.org/whitewater-pride-rally.html.

Don Nelson, a retired pastor, spoke to the efforts of faith to include all.



“I wanted to teach, and Whitewater was the one who took,” Nelson said, who started as an ordained Southern Baptist minister in the south before traveling to other states and eventually Wisconsin.

He worked with LaGrange Methodist as a supply pastor and has lived in the state since 1998.

Nelson explained that the First Methodist church made the decision to be reconciling – meaning all people are welcome – about four or five years ago.

Though he is now retired and speaking his own story, Nelson said it was important for the clergy to have a presence.

“We felt that the gospel of Christ is welcoming to all people,” Nelson said. “In our society, as there began to be push and pull and naming of people living not as they should, we felt that’s restricting.

“We wanted to make it clear that people were safe to come worship here,” he added. “All people.”

Harlan said it was great to see so much love for and from people of all ages – and acceptance of everyone.

Her granddaughter, she said, knows sign language, and after watching the drag queens dance, kept making the sign for “more.”

Harlan’s daughter walked the granddaughter over to the three performers, who gave the 1-year-old high fives and some extra attention.

“It was just so sweet,” Harlan said.

She added that while the event was non-

partisan, the show of support and love was important with the general election now roughly a month away.

One of the drag performers made the point of saying that they didn’t care how a person voted – just that they do vote.

“I think it was a really important message in our community,” Harlan said. “Especially when we have such a diverse community in Whitewater.”

The same was true from the perspective of one of the drag performers, Cynthia Mooseknuckle.

A performer now for 10-plus years, Mooseknuckle said that she thinks Whitewater is just starting to understand how diverse it is – and how seeing that Saturday was wonderful.

“Being a very visible community member, you feel that painted target on your back,” she explained, in terms of being a drag performer in the current political environmental.

“But when you get enveloped in the love ... it’s a beautiful thing,” she said of the event. “I think that Whitewater is kind of realizing that, that it’s way more diverse than it even imagined.”

Mooseknuckle added that it’s important for people to show up and show support, especially in local communities.

“Just showing up and being visible is 90 percent of the battle,” she said. “You don’t have to be loud; you don’t have to say anything.

“You just have to be there.”



above: The organization Free Mom Hugs Inc. was on hand. **at left:** drag performer Lavender was one of three to perform at the 2024 event.

JENNIFER EISENBART *Our Town*



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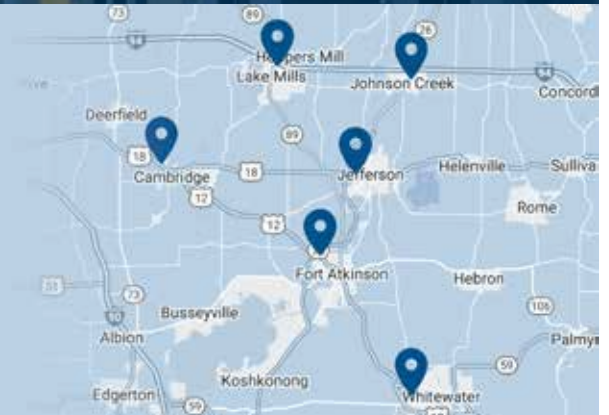
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left: Whitewater Pride's Camden Harlan was recently honored by the League of Women Voters in Whitewater with the group's Making Democracy Work award.

inset: Sara Kuhl speaks to Harlan's work.

TOM GANSER *Our Town*

Pride's Harlan honored by League of Women Voters

Camden Harlan was presented with the League of Women Voters-Whitewater Area 15th annual Making Democracy Work award on Dec. 1, 2024, at the Prairie Village Community Center, honoring her role as the President of Whitewater Pride for the past 5 years.

The League's Making Democracy Work award was developed in 2010 for the purpose of honoring a community leader who has demonstrated through professional work or volunteerism ways in which to improve the Whitewater community and make it a safer and fairer place in which to live.

In addition to volunteering as President of Whitewater Pride, Camden also serves as the Recording Secretary of the Whitewater Arts Alliance (effective in January), is a Board of Trustees member for the Irvin L. Young Memorial Library, and is a steering committee member for Be Kind Whitewater.

During her tenure as a teacher at Whitewater High School, Harlan served as the faculty advisor for the Whitewater Gay-Straight Alliance. Currently she is a Lecturer in the Department of Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

League Co-President Midge Gill introduced Harlan to the gathering as "a very inclusive person who focuses on diversity, equity, and inclusion, with emphasis on engaging young people and the community in social justice action," adding that Harlan is also spearheading the

Be Kind Commit to Civility campaign.

Dwight Watson, who nominated Harlan for the award, said, "She's here because she makes democracy work. One thing about making democracy work is that you have to do the work of democracy. You have to be involved. When I think about justice and kindness and taking action, I think about Camden because she's all about justice, she's all about inclusivity, she's all about diversity, and she's definitely about kindness. It just exudes from her. It's in all that she does."

Portraying Harlan as radiating "an air about her of authentic openness, caring, and joy," Whitewater Pride member Sara Kuhl said, "Whitewater Pride continues to thrive under Camden's leadership."

Kuhl shared the comments of Nicolle Lattaire, a member of Wisconsin Pride: "Camden's unwavering dedication to Whitewater Pride is not just admirable. It's genuinely inspiring. Her passion for promoting community highlights her commitment to bringing people together. Beyond her involvement, her kindness is evident in the way she supports everyone around her. Always ready to lend a hand and a listening ear, her steadfast encouragement creates a nurturing environment."

Kuhl reported that Jeff Angileri, Executive Director of University Marketing and Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, said, "A lifelong learner, Camden believes in the power of education and its ability to

transform lives from personal fulfillment to professional development. A person of good cheer and goodwill, Camden brings joy and light into spaces she enters. Our community is brighter, stronger, more inclusive, more informed, and more empowered because of her efforts."

"We are fortunate to have people like Camden among us," Kuhl stated.

In accepting the award, Harlan said, "Kindness in fact is at the very root of humanity and civility. Being kind, though, involves action. It's in those actions of kindness where we can hold discourse that binds a community together. Whitewater is a very vibrant and diverse community, bursting with incredible people across the entire spectrum, from left to right and in between, and that's what democracy is. It's the freedom of this beautiful country to be yourself, but to also see other perspectives and to embrace the idea of duality rather than polarity. Therefore I encourage you, I challenge everyone to make kindness an action that you spread to everyone around you."

The next day, Harlan noted, "Empathy is at the heart of humanity, and it's through our deliberate actions of kindness that we can create civil discourse, see others' perspectives, and embrace duality, thus bridging the differences in our diverse community."

For information about Whitewater Pride that has achieved classification as a 501c3 non-profit organization, visit www.whitewaterpride.org.

Staller adds small-batch *cream liqueurs*

Winery also won a pair competition medals for brandy and liqueur

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**
STAFF WRITER

For a business built on its grapes, Staller Estate Winery and Distillery has certainly been making a name for itself in other areas over the last 24 months.

The winery, which boasted a year of change in 2023, recently added a new offering both onsite and in area stores – its Dairyland Farm Fresh Cream Wine Cocktails.

There are four premium, small-batch cream liqueurs made with real Wisconsin dairy being sold at Staller, with each bottle celebrating the agricultural heritage of Wisconsin’s family farms as well as offering a great cocktail experience.

The artisanal collection includes: Pecan Pie, Cinnabon Bun, Lemon Bar, and Old Fashioned Cocktail.

The dairy products are all sourced exclusively from local Wisconsin farms.

“We’re proud to use dairy products from hardworking farm families to create these truly unique cream wine cocktails,” said Wendy Staller, who owns the winery with her husband, Joe.

“It’s about blending high-quality ingredients with artisanal craft to honor Wisconsin’s legacy,” she added.

The liqueurs are the latest in a new line of products that Staller Estate offers.

The Pecan Pie is dubbed, “a smooth, nutty treat perfect for a cozy evening,” while the Cinnabon Bun is, “warm cinnamon and creamy sweetness in a glass.”

Lemon bar is termed, “a zesty dessert-inspired delight,” while the Old-Fashioned Cocktail is “a nod to the Wisconsin Supper Club tradition, reimagined with creamy elegance.”

The liqueurs can be enjoyed onsite by customers over ice or in seasonal cocktails, while also being sold at Hy-Vee and Badger Spirits in Janesville. Guests can also purchase bottles of the liqueurs at Staller Estate.

“We are always looking to expand our products and to use local products, so this fit perfectly into our vision as an estate farm winery and distillery in Wisconsin,” Joe explained.



above: Wendy (left) and Joe Staller of Staller Estate Winery and Distillery show off the new cream liqueurs being offered through the business. The new items are made exclusively with dairy products sourced from Wisconsin farms.

right: Joe gets a smooch from a cow during a visit to a local farm.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS
Our Town



• CONTINUED ON PAGE 40

“We started with these four flavors to see how customers liked them. The Wisconsin Old-Fashioned Cocktail has been a hit with our brandy old-fashioned fans.

“We plan to add more as well as limited releases and seasonal flavors,” he added.

Suggested ways of serving the liqueurs include over ice, added to ice cream or a craft coffee, or into a cream liquor cocktail.

Award winners

In 2023, the couple began selling vodka and brandy that is made on site, with the house-made brandy going into the unique old-fashioned the business offers.

“Our focus is really on the craft product,” Joe explained at the time. “We have really, really great customers that embrace a craft product. You can go anywhere and get a brandy old-fashioned. But you can’t go anywhere and get one made with all fresh ingredients.”

The old-fashioned is one of the many specialty items that Staller Estate has added to its lineup. Now using the house-made brandy, the addition of fresh cherry juice and orange, aromatic bitters, and demerara syrup (essentially, a less-refined version of simple syrup, or sugar), the couple has a hit on its hands.

“That adds a lot more depth, a lot more character to the old-fashioned,” Joe explained.

A little bit of travel last summer turned into a big international win for the local winery.

Staller Estate entered the Finger Lakes International Wine and Spirits Competition in Rochester, New York, winning a Best in Class gold medal for the estate’s brandy.

The brandy “features an amber hue with notes of dried fruits, subtle vanilla, and oak. On the palate, it offers a harmonious blend of caramel, toasted almonds, and spiced honey,” according to the business.

Adding to their success, Staller Estate garnered a silver medal for its Orange Royale – an orange liqueur featuring barrel-aged brandy with ripe oranges that delivers “a balanced aroma of citrus freshness and mellow brandy notes.”

The FLIWC, one of the largest charitable wine and spirits competitions in the US, draws Masters of Wine, Master Distillers, Master Sommeliers, and industry experts for a rigorous two-day blind judging process. Proceeds support Camp Good Days and Special Times, benefiting families affected by cancer and sickle cell anemia.

“We are deeply honored by these awards,” Wendy said. “From our beginnings in 2008 to opening our distillery in 2021, this recognition underscores our commitment to quality.”

That is part of the commitment that



JENNIFER EISENBART *Our Town*



top: Wendy (left) and Joe stand inside the winery with some of their distilled products, two of which won an international award. **above:** In addition to selling wine and spirits, the barrel cellar at Staller can host a variety of events.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Our Town*

Staller Estate has to its overall product, which Wendy and Joe say starts with the crafting of unique products.

Another item that quickly grew in popularity is the couple’s old-fashioned mix, which Staller Estate has federal approval to sell. It takes the brandy and the old-fashioned components and puts them in a barrel to age before being sold as an old-fashioned.

Since wine serves as the base from which to distill brandy, that step was the next logical one for the winery, which is in its 16th year after opening in May of 2008. Even the artwork on the bottles is a little different – an artist’s rendering of Wendy operating the presses for the product.

Staller Estate is south of Whitewater at W8896 County Road A, Delavan. For more information, go to www.stallerestate.com.

Take in a *local* waterski show

Southern Wakes United continues to entertain residents, visitors

Summer is the time to get out on the water for many.

By **Sandra Landen Machaj**
CORRESPONDENT

Whether heading out for a day in a canoe or kayak, jumping into a boat for a ride around the lake, or relaxing while lounging on the beach with an occasional dip in the water to stay cool, summer is a season when people flock to area waterways.

While most of us look forward to summer, particularly excited for the warm weather and time out on the lakes are area waterski teams.

The Southern Lakes area features several waterski teams – including the local Southern Wakes United Water Ski Show Team – that know how to have fun on the water and entertain residents and visitors with regular shows. But that’s not all as they also take their talent to the competitive level and have been very successful, winning titles at the state and even national level for some.

The teams are comprised of volunteer skiers who put in countless hours to perfect their craft and often more than one family members is involved with a team, adding to the fun while mixing in some quality family time.

The Whitewater area team, Southern Wakes United, won the Wisconsin State Championship in their division in 2023. The team is medium sized and as such competes in Division III.

“This was the first time we won the state title in our division since 1990, so it was an important event for us,” shared Laura Lohrmann, Southern Wakes United Show Director, adding that because they

won the division in 2023, the team moved up to Division II for 2024, meaning they competed against larger teams than the previous year.

In addition to the team winning the ’23 Division III State Championship, it also received first place in several other categories including highest scoring production, drive team, traditional ballet line, most original or unique act, dock and equipment, and best comedy act. They were also nominated for Medium Team of the Year.

Southern Wakes United was formed when two teams joined forces – the Lauderdale Lakes Aqua Skiers and the Minneiska Water Ski Team.

Today they have approximately 50 members who come from a wide area including Whitewater, Janesville, Elkhorn and Twin Lakes in Wisconsin as well as Illinois. Members range in age from 7 to their 50s, and while not all are actual skiers, each plays an important role in helping the team perform.

Lohrmann and Michael Maas served as show directors in 2024 and spent months working on the theme for the team. It was a 40th reunion costume party theme and featured them bringing back the 1980s with a twist.

“Our team is so excited to be participating for the first time in Division II. We’ve worked hard all winter long on a theme that can be put on at the variety of different show courses we use. And, we have tried upping our skill set to be competitive with the bigger teams that are well known in the division,” shared Leslie Gostowski, vice president of the Southern Wakes United Ski Team said prior to last



season’s competition.

The team highlighted the younger skiers to encourage more participation from them while also giving them an opportunity to grow throughout the season.

“We have had a lot of younger members get involved in the development of this show. We love seeing the younger generation stepping up because they are the future of this sport,” Gostowski said. “They have been working hard on creating a fun, inclusive theme that can be performed at our multiple, unconventional sites.”

The team had a successful 2024 showing in the more competitive Division II category, earning fifth place overall as well as earning the top spot for Best Comedy Act.

Southern Wakes is unique because they are not limited to performing at one home venue. Instead, they put on shows at a few different venues in the area, including Lauderdale Lakes and Whitewater Lake.

Each site has different days and times for shows and all performances are free. For the schedule and more information, keep an eye on the website at southernwakesunited.com or Southern Wakes United Water Ski Show Team on Facebook.



left: Team members get into position for the 3-high pyramid that begins with two portions of it on the dock. **above:** Members of the ski team show off their patriotic outfits during a performance.

PHOTOS COURTESY SOUTHERN WAKES UNITED *Our Town*

OUR PLACES TO *Play*

BASKETBALL COURTS

Starin Park, Big Brick Park, Whitewater High School, Washington Elementary School, Whitewater Armory Gym, and Williams Center at UW-Whitewater.

BICYCLING

Southern Kettle Moraine Trail and Ice Age Trail.

BOWLING ALLEY/GAMES

Warhawk Alley, 190 Hamilton Green Way, 262-472-1164.

GOLFING

Willow Brook Golf Course, N9035 Highway 89, 262-473-3305; Spring Creek Golf Center, 4787 Yandry Rd., 920-563-4499; Prairie Woods, 12601 E. County Highway A, Avalon, 608-883-6500.

HIKING

Ice Age Hiking Trail, John Muir Hiking Trail, Rice Lake Nature Trail, and UW-Whitewater Nature Preserve Prairie

ICE SKATING

Big Brick Park

PICNIC AREAS

Clover Valley Artesian Well, Starin Park, Trippe Lake Park, Whitewater Lake Recreational Area, Cravath Lakefront Park, Big Brick Park, Brewery Hill Park, Turtle Mound Park, and Skyway Park.

PLAYGROUNDS

Starin Park, Trippe Lake Park, Washington Elementary School, Lincoln Elementary School, Big Brick Park, Optimist Turtle Mound Park, East Gate Park, and Skyway Park.

STATE FOREST

Kettle Moraine State Forest features parallel, steep-sided ridges, conical hills, kettle-like depressions, and flat out-wash plains. It attracts thousands of visitors to bike, swim, camp, study nature, hike, horseback ride, ski, hunt, fish, and enjoy outdoor recreation.

SWIMMING

Indoors: Whitewater Aquatic and Fitness Center, 580 S. Elizabeth St., features a three-story, 120-foot waterslide, leisure pool, lap pool, lazy river, play structure, whirlpool, and group fitness classes. For more information, call 262-473-4900.

Outdoors: Whitewater Lake.



BaristaCats Café & Sanctuary for Wayward Cats in Whitewater was named the winner of the 2024 Whitewater Windup competition – designed to help small businesses. The business suffered a fire the previous summer but continued to shelter cats and make them available for visits with customers.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *Our Town*

BaristaCats wins first-ever Whitewater Windup

Competition focuses on businesses that meet the community's needs

After a challenging stretch, winning a Whitewater contest could not have come at a better time for a local business.

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**
STAFF WRITER

BaristaCats Café & Sanctuary for Wayward Cats – a coffee and drink shop located at 135 W. Center St., Whitewater, with cats available for visitors to spend time with – was announced in May 2024 as the winner of the city's first Whitewater Windup competition.

The competition started with the city focusing on startups and novel business concepts that “align with the community's needs and aspirations,” a news release from the city said.

Attendees took part in mandatory workshops, and then created pitch videos. The community had an opportunity to vote for their favorite videos.

That narrowed the field to eight—BaristaCats, the Whitewater Grocery Cooperative, The Book Teller, Uptown Revive, Stellar Vintage, The Wellnest Shop, the Poppy Seed Company, and BH Events LLC, Bowers House.

Wellnest Shop ended up second, with Stellar Vintage finishing third. Nearly 1,000 votes were cast for the 13 participants in the contest.

The finalists took part in the last round of competition in May at the Whitewater University Innovation Center.

Judges for the event included:

- Derek D’Auria, the executive director of the Walworth County Economic Development Alliance
- Kevin Kaufman, a professor at UW-Whitewater’s College of Business and Economics
- Long-time Whitewater residents Neil Hicks and Miguel Aranda
- UW-Whitewater student Chad Tjugum
- Christ Christon (owner of Second Salem in Whitewater)
- Deb Reinbold, a UW-Whitewater alumni and director of Thrive ED and the Jefferson County Economic Development Consortium.

BaristasCats Café owner Natalie Serna said the award money would definitely come in handy.

“We will be repairing our back room area, we need all new drywall, ceilings and floors,” Serna said after being chosen as the winner. “This will also enable us to get much needed equipment for the kitties.”

The café suffered a fire in the summer of 2023. While there was no fire damage, there was smoke damage, and the café was struggling to pull things back together.

It was closed for a time, and Serna said “everything counts” with a small business.


“When we lose that, it can cripple someone. Because of our amazing community, and ongoing mission, we kept going,” Serna said. “The winnings ensure our doors stay open and mission of saving livings continues moving forward. We are excited for what the future holds.”

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CALENDAR OF *Events*

The calendar of events is compiled from a variety of sources. Although we make every attempt to provide accurate information, we suggest you verify prior to making travel plans.

FEBRUARY

- 2** Leanne Kelso Faculty Recital, Light Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m., tickets \$4-\$7.
- 3** Rotary Club Bi-Monthly Lunch Meeting, Willow Brook Golf Course, N9035 Hwy. 89, Noon.
Fit Camp, Whitewater Nutrition, 880 S. Janesville St., 6 p.m.
- 4** Weekly Walk, Ice Age Trail, Hwy. 12 crossing, 4 miles east of Whitewater, Hwy. 12 & Sherwood Forest Rd. DNR parking lot, state park pass required, 4 p.m.
- 5** Weekly Walk, Ice Age Trail, Hwy. 12 crossing, 4 miles east of Whitewater, Hwy. 12 & Sherwood Forest Rd. DNR parking lot, state park pass required, 10:15 a.m.
- 6** The Walkaholics Community Walking Group, Whitewater Nutrition, 880 S. Janesville St., 6 p.m.
Piano Trio, Light Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m., tickets \$4-\$7.
- 7** Friday Night Fish Fries: Willow Brook Golf Course, Turtle Lake Tap & Grill
Live Music @ Whiney's, N8660 Clover Valley Rd., 6 p.m.
- 8** Baroque Day Spring 2025, Greenhill Center of the Arts, 8:30 a.m., all day, fee \$60.
Missoula Childrens Theatre – Production of The Wizard of Oz, Young Auditorium, 3 p.m., tickets \$24.
- 9** Music Mosaics: Mörke-Lieder, Light Recital Hall, 3 p.m., tickets \$6-\$10.
- 10** Fit Camp, White-water Nutrition, 880 S. Janesville St., 6 p.m.
- 11** Weekly Walk, Ice Age Trail, Hwy. 12 crossing, 4 miles east of Whitewater, Hwy. 12 & Sherwood Forest Rd. DNR parking lot, state park pass required, 4 p.m.
- 12** Weekly Walk, Ice Age Trail, Hwy. 12 crossing, 4 miles east of Whitewater, Hwy. 12 & Sherwood Forest Rd. DNR parking lot, state park pass required, 10:15 a.m.

- 13** The Walkaholics Community Walking Group, Whitewater Nutrition, 880 S. Janesville St., 6 p.m.
- 14** Friday Night Fish Fries: Willow Brook Golf Course, Turtle Lake Tap & Grill
Live Music @ Whiney's, N8660 Clover Valley Rd., 6 p.m.
- 17** Rotary Club Bi-Monthly Lunch Meeting, Willow Brook Golf Course, N9035 Hwy. 89, Noon.
Fit Camp, Whitewater Nutrition, 880 S. Janesville St., 6 p.m.
- 19** Weekly Walk, Ice Age Trail, Hwy. 12 crossing, 4 miles east of Whitewater, Hwy. 12 & Sherwood Forest Rd. DNR parking lot, state park pass required, 10:15 a.m.
- 20** The Walkaholics Community Walking Group, Whitewater Nutrition, 880 S. Janesville St., 6p.m.
Two Baroque Cellos, Light Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m., tickets \$4-\$7.
- 21** Friday Night Fish Fries: Willow Brook Golf Course, Turtle Lake Tap & Grill
Live Music @ Whiney's, N8660 Clover Valley Rd., 6 p.m.
Guest Artist Peter Thom-as, Light Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m., tickets \$4-\$7.
The Maid Turned Mistress / Dido and Aeneas, Barnett Theatre, 7:30 p.m., tickets \$20.
- 22** Frog and Toad, Young Auditorium, 2 p.m., tickets \$48.
Mindful Mondays Book Club, Irvin L. Young Memorial Library, 431 W. Center St., 6 p.m.
Altars For Percussion and Piano, Light Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m., tickets \$4-\$7.
- 23** The Maid Turned Mistress / Dido and Aeneas, Barnett Theatre, 2 p.m., tickets \$10.
- 24** Fit Camp, White-water Nutrition, 880 S. Janesville St., 6 p.m.
- 25** Jazz Ensemble | Winter Concert, Light Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m., tickets \$4-\$7.
- 26** Weekly Walk, Ice Age Trail, Hwy. 12 crossing, 4 miles east of Whitewater, Hwy. 12 & Sherwood Forest Rd. DNR parking lot, state park pass required, 10:15 a.m.

- 27** Rainbow Hospice Care Volunteer Information, 1225 Rimmel Dr., Johnson Creek, 3 p.m.
The Walkaholics Community Walking Group, Whitewater Nutrition, 880 S. Janesville St., 6 p.m.
The Maid Turned Mistress / Dido and Aeneas, Barnett Theatre, 7:30 p.m., tickets \$20.
- 28** Friday Night Fish Fries: Willow Brook Golf Course, Turtle Lake Tap & Grill
Live Music @ Whiney's, N8660 Clover Valley Rd., 6 p.m.
Jim Brickman, Young Auditorium, 7 p.m., tickets \$48-\$74.

MARCH

- 1** – The Maid Turned Mistress / Dido and Aeneas, Barnett Theatre, 2 p.m., tickets \$20.
Leanne Kelso Faculty Recital, Light Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m., tickets \$4-\$7.
- 2** Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Irvin L. Young Auditorium, 3 p.m., tickets \$4-\$7.
Faculty Chamber Trio, Light Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m., tickets \$4-\$7.
- 3** Rotary Club Bi-Monthly Lunch Meeting, Willow Brook Golf Course, N9035 Hwy. 89, Noon.
Fit Camp, Whitewater Nutrition, 880 S. Janesville St., 6 p.m.
University/Community Band, Light Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m., tickets \$4-\$7.
- 4** Sonict Ensemble, Light Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m., tickets \$4-\$7.
- 5** Weekly Walk, Ice Age Trail, Hwy. 12 crossing, 4 miles east of Whitewater, Hwy. 12 & Sherwood Forest Rd. DNR parking lot, state park pass required, 10:15 a.m.
- 6** The Walkaholics Community Walking Group, Whitewater Nutrition, 880 S. Janesville St., 6 p.m.
Music Mosaics: Whitewater Brass Quintet, Light Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m., tickets \$6-\$10.
- 7** Friday Night Fish Fries: Willow Brook Golf Course, Turtle Lake Tap & Grill
Live Music @ Whiney's, N8660 Clover Valley Rd., 6 p.m.
- 8** Cello Fest | Spring 2025, Greenhill Center of the Arts, 8:30 a.m., all day, fee \$50.

CALENDAR OF *Events*

9 Bass Fest | Spring 2025, Greenhill Center of the Arts, 8 a.m., all day, fee \$60.

10 Fit Camp, Whitewater Nutrition, 880 S. Janesville St., 6 p.m.

12 Weekly Walk, Ice Age Trail, Hwy. 12 crossing, 4 miles east of Whitewater, Hwy. 12 & Sherwood Forest Rd. DNR parking lot, state park pass required, 10:15 a.m.

13 The Walkaholics Community Walking Group, Whitewater Nutrition, 880 S. Janesville St., 6 p.m.

14 Friday Night Fish Fries: Willow Brook Golf Course, Turtle Lake Tap & Grill
Live Music @ Whiney's, N8660 Clover Valley Rd., 6 p.m.

15 Leahy, Young Auditorium, 7 p.m., tickets \$62-\$88.

16 Chamber Singers and Vocal Jazz, Light Recital Hall, 3 p.m., tickets \$4-\$7.

17 Rotary Club Bi-Monthly Lunch Meeting, Willow Brook Golf Course, N9035 Hwy. 89, Noon.
Fit Camp, Whitewater Nutrition, 880 S. Janesville St., 6 p.m.

18 Whitewater Symphony Orchestra, Greenhill Center of the Arts, 7:30 p.m., tickets \$4-\$7.

19 Weekly Walk, Ice Age Trail, Hwy. 12 crossing, 4 miles east of Whitewater, Hwy. 12 & Sherwood For-est Rd. DNR parking lot, state park pass required, 10:15 a.m.

20 The Walkaholics Community Walking Group, Whitewater Nutrition, 880 S. Janesville St., 6 p.m.
Chancellor's Quartet and Baroque Ensemble, Light Recital Hall, 7 p.m., tickets \$4-\$7.

21 Friday Night Fish Fries: Willow Brook Golf Course, Turtle Lake Tap & Grill
Live Music @ Whiney's, N8660 Clover Valley Rd., 6 p.m.

22 Mindful Mondays Book Club, Irvin L. Young Memorial Library, 431 W. Center St., 6 p.m.

24 Fit Camp, Whitewater Nutrition, 880 S. Janesville St., 6 p.m.

26 Weekly Walk, Ice Age Trail, Hwy. 12 crossing, 4 miles east of Whitewater, Hwy. 12 & Sherwood For-est Rd. DNR parking lot, state park pass required, 10:15 a.m.

27 Rainbow Hospice Care Volunteer Information, 1225 Rimmel Dr., Johnson Creek, 3 p.m.
The Walkaholics Community Walking Group, Whitewater Nutrition, 880 S. Janesville St., 6 p.m.

28 Friday Night Fish Fries: Willow Brook Golf Course, Turtle Lake Tap & Grill
Live Music @ Whiney's, N8660 Clover Valley Rd., 6 p.m.
31 - Fit Camp, Whitewater Nutrition, 880 S. Janesville St., 6 p.m.

APRIL

1 Music Mosaics: Humorous Music, Light Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m., \$6-\$10.

2-3 DanceScapes '25, Barnett Theatre, 7:30 p.m., tickets \$18.

2 Weekly Walk, Ice Age Trail, Hwy. 12 crossing, 4 miles east of Whitewater, Hwy. 12 & Sherwood For-est Rd. DNR parking lot, state park pass required, 10:15 a.m.

3 The Walkaholics Community Walking Group, Whitewater Nutrition, 880 S. Janesville St., 6 p.m.

4 Friday Night Fish Fries: Willow Brook Golf Course, Turtle Lake Tap & Grill
Live Music @ Whiney's, N8660 Clover Valley Rd., 6 p.m.

5 Matthew Onstad Faculty Trumpet Recital, Light Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m., tickets \$4-\$7.

5-6 DanceScapes '25, Barnett Theatre, 2 p.m., tickets \$9.

7 Rotary Club Bi-Monthly Lunch Meeting, Willow Brook Golf Course, N9035 Hwy. 89, Noon.
Fit Camp, Whitewater Nutrition, 880 S. Janesville St., 6 p.m.

8 Jazz Ensemble || Spring Concert, Light Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m., tickets \$4-\$7.

9 Weekly Walk, Ice Age Trail, Hwy. 12 crossing, 4 miles east of Whitewater, Hwy. 12 & Sherwood Forest Rd. DNR parking lot, state park pass required, 10:15 a.m.

10 The Walkaholics Community Walking Group, Whitewater Nutrition, 880 S. Janesville St., 6 p.m.
Jazz Combos Concert, Light Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m., tickets \$4-\$7.

11 Friday Night Fish Fries: Willow Brook Golf Course, Turtle Lake Tap & Grill
Live Music @ Whiney's, N8660 Clover Valley Rd., 6 p.m.
The Second City, Young Auditorium, 7 p.m., tickets \$58.

13 Harmonia, Hawk Kor, and Concert Choir, Light Recital Hall, 3 p.m., tickets \$4-\$7.

14 Fit Camp, White-water Nutrition, 880 S. Janesville St., 6 p.m.

15 Percussion Ensemble, Light Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m., tickets \$4-\$7.

17 The Walkaholics Community Walking Group, Whitewater Nutrition, 880 S. Janesville St., 6 p.m.
Jazz Ensemble | Spring Concert, Light Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m., tickets \$4-\$7.

18 Friday Night Fish Fries: Willow Brook Golf Course, Turtle Lake Tap & Grill
Live Music @ Whiney's, N8660 Clover Valley Rd., 6 p.m.

21 Rotary Club Bi-Monthly Lunch Meeting, Willow Brook Golf Course, N9035 Hwy. 89, Noon.
Fit Camp, Whitewater Nutrition, 880 S. Janesville St., 6 p.m.

22 Mindful Mondays Book Club, Irvin L. Young Memorial Library, 431 W. Center St., 6 p.m.

24 Rainbow Hospice Care Volunteer Information, 1225 Rimmel Dr., Johnson Creek, 3 p.m.
The Walkaholics Community Walking Group, Whitewater Nutrition, 880 S. Janesville St., 6 p.m.
Sonict: Nick Zoulek, Light Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m., tickets \$4-\$7.

CALENDAR OF *Events*

25 Friday Night Fish Fries: Willow Brook Golf Course, Turtle Lake Tap & Grill

Live Music @ Whiney's, N8660 Clover Valley Rd., 6 p.m.

No Exit, Hicklin Studio Theatre, 7:30 p.m., tickets \$13-\$18.

26 No Exit, Hicklin Studio Theatre, 7:30 p.m., tickets \$6.50-\$9.

27 No Exit, Hicklin Studio Theatre, 2 p.m., tickets \$13-\$18

Our Planet Live, Young Auditorium, 3 p.m., tickets \$48.

Chancellor's Quartet & Baroque Ensemble, Light Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m., tickets \$4-\$7.

28 Fit Camp, White-water Nutrition, 880 S. Janesville St., 6 p.m.

University/Community Band, Light Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m., tickets \$4-\$7.

MAY

1 The Walkaholics Community Walking Group, Whitewater Nutrition, 880 S. Janesville St., 6 p.m.

Strong Faculty & Friends, Light Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m., tickets \$4-\$7.

No Exit, Hicklin Studio Theatre, 7:30 p.m., tickets \$13-\$18

2 Friday Night Fish Fries: Willow Brook Golf Course, Turtle Lake Tap & Grill
Live Music @ Whiney's, N8660 Clover Valley Rd., 6 p.m.

No Exit, Hicklin Studio Theatre, 7:30 p.m., tickets \$13-\$18

3 No Exit, Hicklin Studio Theatre, 2 p.m., tickets \$13-\$18

Whitewater Symphony Orchestra, Young Auditorium, 7:30 p.m., tickets \$4-\$7.

4 Symphonic Wind Ensemble & Friends, Young Auditorium, 3 p.m., tickets \$4-\$7.

Chamber Singers and Vocal Jazz, Light Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m., tickets \$4-\$7.

5 Rotary Club Bi-Monthly Lunch Meeting, Willow Brook Golf Course, N9035 Hwy. 89, Noon.

Fit Camp, Whitewater Nutrition, 880 S. Janesville St., 6 p.m.

8 The Walkaholics Community Walking Group, Whitewater Nutrition, 880 S. Janesville St., 6 p.m.

9 Friday Night Fish Fries: Willow Brook Golf Course, Turtle Lake Tap & Grill

Live Music @ Whiney's, N8660 Clover Valley Rd., 6 p.m.

12 Fit Camp, Whitewater Nutrition, 880 S. Janesville St., 6 p.m.

15 The Walkaholics Community Walking Group, Whitewater Nutrition, 880 S. Janesville St., 6 p.m.

16 Friday Night Fish Fries: Willow Brook Golf Course, Turtle Lake Tap & Grill

Live Music @ Whiney's, N8660 Clover Valley Rd., 6 p.m.

19 Rotary Club Bi-Monthly Lunch Meeting, Willow Brook Golf Course, N9035 Hwy. 89, Noon.

Fit Camp, Whitewater Nutrition, 880 S. Janesville St., 6 p.m.

22 The Walkaholics Community Walking Group, Whitewater Nutrition, 880 S. Janesville St., 6 p.m.

Mindful Mondays Book Club, Irvin L. Young Memorial Library, 431 W. Center St., 6 p.m.

23 Friday Night Fish Fries: Willow Brook Golf Course, Turtle Lake Tap & Grill

Live Music @ Whiney's, N8660 Clover Valley Rd., 6 p.m.

26 Fit Camp, White-water Nutrition, 880 S. Janesville St., 6 p.m.

29 Rainbow Hospice Care Volunteer Information, 1225 Rimmel Dr., Johnson Creek, 3 p.m.

The Walkaholics Community Walking Group, Whitewater Nutrition, 880 S. Janesville St., 6 p.m.

30 Friday Night Fish Fries: Willow Brook Golf Course, Turtle Lake Tap & Grill

Live Music @ Whiney's, N8660 Clover Valley Rd., 6 p.m.

1 The Walkaholics Community Walking Group, Whitewater Nutrition, 880 S. Janesville St., 6 p.m.

2 Friday Night Fish Fries: Willow Brook Golf Course, Turtle Lake Tap & Grill
Live Music @ Whiney's, N8660 Clover Valley Rd., 6 p.m.

3 No Exit, Hicklin Studio Theatre, 2 p.m., tickets \$13-\$18
Whitewater Symphony Orchestra, Young Auditorium, 7:30 p.m., tickets \$4-\$7.

4 Symphonic Wind Ensemble & Friends, Young Auditorium, 3 p.m., tickets \$4-\$7.
Chamber Singers and Vocal Jazz, Light Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m., tickets \$4-\$7.

5 Rotary Club Bi-Monthly Lunch Meeting, Willow Brook Golf Course, N9035 Hwy. 89, Noon.
Fit Camp, Whitewater Nutrition, 880 S. Janesville St., 6 p.m.

8 The Walkaholics Community Walking Group, Whitewater Nutrition, 880 S. Janesville St., 6 p.m.

9 Friday Night Fish Fries: Willow Brook Golf Course, Turtle Lake Tap & Grill



Running to top spot on the podium

The Whitewater High School boys cross country team finished ninth as a team at the 2024 WIAA Division 2 state meet. **below:** senior Jack Hefty puts on the gas while racing to the finish to win the individual Division II title. **left:** After the race, Hefty offers a smile and a shrug while on top of the podium at the state meet.

PHOTOS COURTESY JEFF HEFTY
Our Town



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