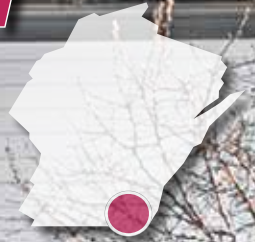


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Vol. 37 No. 2

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ON THE COVER

The snow globes at The Lodge at Geneva National feature two heaters – one on the top and one under the seat, ensuring visitors are comfortable while enjoying a drink or meal among the wintery scenery.

COURTESY THE LODGE AT GENEVA NATIONAL
Spirit of Geneva Lakes



IT'S COMIN' UP FEBRUARY EVENTS

Jan. 29 – Feb. 2 Winterfest

Visit Lake Geneva and the City of Lake Geneva as they present the 30th Annual Winterfest.

Lake Geneva Winterfest is home to America's Snow Sculpting Invitational and to mark this special anniversary, the event will welcome back past champions from across the country for an epic competition of skill and artistry.

Fifteen sculpting teams will begin their work on Wednesday, Jan. 29 at Riviera Plaza and Flat Iron Park along the beautiful shore of Geneva Lake and finish on Saturday, Feb. 1.

Lake Geneva Winterfest is free to attend and view, and sculptures will remain on display through Sunday (or until they melt).

And don't miss out on more wintery fun throughout Lake Geneva Winterfest including the Downtown Ice Sculpture Walk, bonfires on the beach, live entertainment, and more.

For more information, call 800-345-1020 or go to visitlakegeneva.com.

Movie Mondays The Lake Geneva Public Library presents Movie Mondays with Black Point Estate.

Each film session will include an introduction by Dave Desimone of the Wisconsin Historical Society. Desimone will lead a group discussion following each film. Upcoming films include:

Feb. 3: To Catch a Thief

March 3: Gallipoli

April 7: The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou

The movies are shown at 2 p.m. on the dates listed at the Lake Geneva Public Library, 918 W. Main St.

Feb. 7 Murder Mystery Dinner

'Death of a Gangster' from 7 to 9 p.m. You've been invited to the Dunn Speakeasy for the wedding of the year! In this "married to the mob" event, you'll never know who to trust. With the two families merging together, someone is bound to lose power, which means someone else will lose their life! It's up to you to get in on the fun and solve this case with your fellow detectives.

Bring your appetite for a three-course dinner and dress like the cat's meow for this mafia wedding! Flapper dresses, zoot suits, feather boas and headbands, pinstriped suits and fedoras are all appropriate. The Murder Mystery Co. guides you through this interactive program for ages 18 and up.

For more information including to view the menu and purchase tickets (\$79 each), visit the website: theabbeyresort.com under

events.

The Abbey Resort is at 269 Fontana Blvd., Fontana.

Feb. 13 Wine Talk Looking to learn more about wine? Experts will be at The Bottle Shop to share knowledge while tasting through great wines and helping attendees gain a better understanding of wine.

On Feb. 13 at 6 p.m., Lorelie will offer up a great line up of Washington State wines for \$15 a person. Reserve a spot by calling 262-348-9463 or visiting thebottleshoplakegeneva.com.

The Bottle Shop is at 617 W. Main St., Lake Geneva.

Feb. 20 Interviews with Iconic Lake Geneva Entrepreneurs Join the Friends of the Lake Geneva Public Library at our Interviews with Iconic Lake Geneva Entrepreneurs!

The talks are held 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and all are welcome! Upcoming events include: Feb. 20 - Ed Gilbertson with Gilbertson's Studio

Attendance is free for all Friends of the Library members. There is a \$5 charge for non-members to attend.

The Lake Geneva Public Library is at 918 W. Main St., Lake Geneva.

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Occasionally there will be live music or a concert on Sundays.

Studio Winery & Geneva Lake Distilling is at 401 Sheridan Springs Rd., Lake Geneva. For more information, call 262-348-9100 or visit studiowinery.com.

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

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

THE SPIRIT

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

Send all correspondence to:

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The outside of the newly remodeled Geneva Theatre now known as the Geneva Stage.



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ, Spirit of Geneva Lakes

MUSIC, PLAYS AND MORE AT Geneva Stage

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**
CORRESPONDENT

In the early 1900s, before the days of television and in-home theaters, movie theaters were found throughout the country – in large cities and smaller communities, the foundation of entertainment in their areas.

In 1928, Lake Geneva became home to a theater, and through the years, it has evolved from a small local movie screen to what is now a live stage theater.

Now known as Geneva Stage, the venue at 244 Broad St., Lake Geneva, offers a variety of different live shows. Owner Shad Branen made the decision to revamp the space following the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We decided to return to the original roots of the venue and restore and reopen as the Geneva Stage,” Branen said.

The history of the space, though, offers a look back in time.

The Big Screen

When the theater opened in 1928, it was founded by local businessmen of the area – William Wrigley Jr., local cartoonist Sidney Smith (known for Andy Gump) and

Robert N. Lee and Walter Alford of Nash Motors, along with William F. Pabst.

The opening of the theater in Lake Geneva was a big event and the program contained ads for businesses from as far as Milwaukee, Chicago and Chicago suburbs of Elmhurst, St. Charles, and even Geneva, Illinois.

The Troye Company in Geneva, Illinois, provided the interior decorating for the theater. The furthest advertiser was from Minneapolis – Twin City Scenic Company, which had offices in Milwaukee and Minneapolis. It provided the rigging equipment and all the fabric curtains on the stage of the Geneva Theatre.

The theater was a large auditorium with comfortable seats for its time, said to hold 300 people, including the balcony space. A stage in front of the screen allowed for live entertainment.

A large pipe organ was installed, as was often the case in many of the early theaters, most of which were made by Wurlitzer.

The theater was known for the silent movies, along with live vaudeville acts. On the day the theater opened – Wednesday evening, June 6, 1928 – it

offered a massive program with a variety of acts and presented visitors with a special Souvenir Program.

The opening acts included music by the Geneva Theatre Orchestra, an Andy Gump cartoon and a solo on the theater’s organ. Introductions of important visitors followed, then Geneva news events, a comedy and a special vaudeville presentation, along with several musical events before the movie began.

This actually became the way that early theaters worked. A cartoon or two, the news of the day and then the main feature. They later moved on to having a double feature, two movies for only one admission fee.

Over the early years a variety of well-known vaudeville acts appeared in Lake Geneva at the Geneva Theatre. Among them were the Marx Brothers, Will Rogers and Bella Lugosi.

The changing times

With the introduction of movies known as “talkies,” vaudeville acts were slowly phased out and organs used less.

To play a movie in the early days, a

NOTABLE SALES 2024



W5284 Lauderdale Dr., Elkhorn
4BR, 3.5BA 79' frontage
\$2,180,000



W5361 Lost Nation, Elkhorn
Lauderdale Lakes 3BR, 3.5BA, 50' frontage
\$1,375,000



N7767 Ridge Rd., Whitewater
Whitewater Lake, 3BR, 3BA, 78' frontage
\$1,343,500



N8558 Booth Lake Heights, East Troy
Booth Lake, 4BR, 2.5BA, 125' frontage
\$1,060,000



N7626 Pleasant Point, Elkhorn
Lauderdale Lakes, 3BR, 2BA, 50' frontage
\$975,825



N7391 Lost Nation, Elkhorn
Lauderdale Lakes Access, 4BR, 3.5BA
\$825,700



W1492 South Shore, Palmyra
Blue Springs Lake, 4BR, 2.5BA, 65' frontage
\$924,700



W5191 Ida Hall, Elkhorn
Pleasant Lake, 4BR, 2BA, 47' frontage
\$570,000



139 Lance Dr., 302, Twin Lakes
Lake Mary, 4BR, 2BA
\$539,700



W5135 Sterlingworth 30, Elkhorn
Lauderdale Lakes, 2BR, 2BA
\$563,000



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projectionist was required to stay in the projection booth to change the reels of film in a timely manner for a smooth running film. Ray Mellien was the projectionist at the Geneva for 37 years.

The job presented a lot of down time when the reels were playing correctly and Mellien put that time to good use. He created and constructed a miniature circus scene, which has been on display at the Circus World Museum in Baraboo and now resides at the Geneva Lakes Museum.

The work of a projectionist was always changing, based on the manner that the film was created. Nitrate films were replaced by the safer safety films. Competing against television in the 1950s, 20th Century Fox developed Cinemascope, a new widescreen concept and stereophonic sound. The Geneva Theater adopted this format.

Not as successful were the 3-D movies. They were difficult to present as two projectors were used. There were two projectionists to keep the films running at the same speed and at the same time.

Jim Butts was a local teenager in the 1940s, in love with the idea of being a projectionist.

In his work, "Some Memories of the Geneva Theater and Ray Mellien," he stated, "I used to go up to the projection room and help Ray in anyway I could. I would carry the film cans up to the projection room and then back down when the program play date was completed."

"In college, I worked at the Park and Pix Theaters in Waukesha, part of Standard Theaters management as was the Geneva," he added. "But it was in the summer when I was back in Lake Geneva working with Ray at the Geneva Theater in



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



above: This miniature replica of the Circus was created by the late Ray Mellien who was the projectionist at the Lake Geneva Theatre for 37 years. He worked on the circus project to pass time between reel changes. **top left:** This painting of the original Geneva Theatre is on display at the Geneva Lakes Museum, taking one back to its original look. **top right:** The inside of the Geneva Stage features a main floor with comfortable leather seats and a stage where live productions are held. A movie screen can be lowered to show movies.

COURTESY GENEVA LAKE MUSEUM *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

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top to bottom: This is the cover of the opening day program from June 6, 1928; A photograph of the original ticket booth of the Geneva Theatre hangs as a reminder of the past; The Midwest premier of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* starring Elizabeth Taylor brought many to the theater who waited in line to purchase tickets. The larger-than-life photo of Elizabeth above the marquee attracted many passersby.



the projection room that was the most exciting.”

By the early 1980s, changes were in store for the Geneva Theater as it acquired the building next door. The space was used for a second screen. Later, two additional screens were added.

The current space

The theater closed unexpectedly in 2010, much to the dismay of patrons. It remained empty for many years, amid rumors of everything from it being torn down to being turned into a mall.

By the time Branen purchased the building in 2016, “it was in “deplorable condition,” he said.

“There was a strong desire in the community to restore the building and reopen the downtown movie theater. I even fondly recall watching movies there in my younger years,” he explained.

Branen became the candidate for the job as he operated a similar type of theater, the Plaza Theater, in Burlington. He purchased the property and invested \$2 million in renovations and restoration before reopening as Geneva Theatre in 2017.

It operated as a four-screen theater with a choice of different films, but closed again in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and changes to the film industry.

When Branen chose to repurpose the space, there were numerous changes.

He reopened the second-floor balcony, and the venue now allows for seating more than 300 guests in high-back, leather seating.

The sound and lighting systems were also completely upgraded.

“We maintained the huge retractable movie screen and also installed a new laser projector, so we still have the capability of video and movie presentations,” Branen said.

“The new lobby includes a bar for beverage and light food service, and the second floor offers space for private groups and hospitality. It is truly a phenomenal venue,” he added.

The Dairyland Theatre Organ Society is also working to restore the pipe organ still located in the building.

“The Wurlitzer Opus 1224 is one of the very few theater pipe organs that remains a totally unaltered example of the builder’s work and DTOS intends to keep it that way by meticulously restoring it to pristine playing condition,” Branen explained.

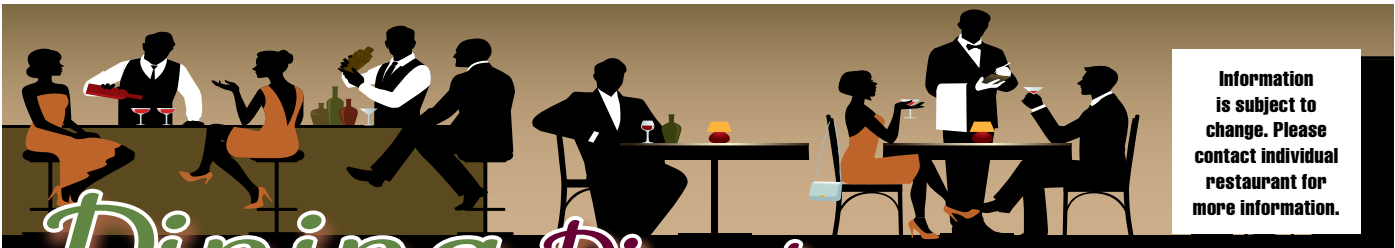
The Geneva Stage will be presenting a broad range of live music genres, stand up comedy, theatrical play, classic and indie plays. It’s also available for private events.

Shows

The current listing of shows for Geneva Stage, with doors opening at 6 p.m. for 7 p.m. shows:

- Saturday, Feb. 1, Chris Stapleton Tribute by Tennessee Whiskey.
- Saturday, Feb. 8, Not Quite Brothers.
- Saturday, Feb. 15, Ain’t that America: John Mellencamp Tribute.
- Saturday, Feb. 22, Bon Jovi/ Journey Tribute by Bon Journeyed.
- Saturday, March 1, Blues & BBQ with Chicago Blues legend Tom Holland and the Shuffle Kings.
- Saturday, March 8, Tribute to The Cars with Electric Cars
- Saturday, May 3, The Supertramp Tribute.

For more information, visit genevastage.com, follow Geneva Stage on Facebook, or send an email to info@genevastage.com.



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

Dining Directory

Call for Carry Out & Delivery Options

1903 SALOON • 11230 260th Avenue, Trevor, WI 53179. 262-298-7005. Comfortable gathering place with friends. Dine in or take out. Excellent food. Specialty drinks. L, D, \$\$ ☿

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

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

SPORTSMAN'S PUB & GRUB • 25313 W. Loomis Rd., Wind Lake, WI 53185. 262-895-1055. Join us Friday and Saturday FOR THE BEST PRIME RIB IN TOWN! \$2.00 OFF Any prime rib dinner. Sunday morning breakfast served 8am til Noon. L, D, FF, ☺ \$\$\$

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

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

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

MARS RESORT • W 4098 S. Shore Dr., Lake Geneva. A classic Wisconsin supper club "nestled on the shores of Lake Como." Open 7 days a week at 11am. Out of this world ribs and spectacular sunsets! Reserve one our our Igloos on our "Fire and Ice" Deck for a truly unique experience. We created special platters that are sure to please all of our guests. Enjoy our Piano Bar for fun Friday and Saturday nights. Call 262-245-5689 today and visit www.mars-resort.com to view our menu. L, D, FF, \$\$\$ ☿

GINO'S EAST OF CHICAGO • 300 Wrigley Dr., Lake Geneva. 262-248-2525. www.ginoseastlakegeneva.com. Chicago's original deep dish pizza, Italian sandwiches, salads and entrees. L, D, \$-\$\$ ☿

WATERFRONT PUB & GRILL • 408 State Rd. 50, Delavan, WI. 262-728-4700. www.waterfrontdelavan.com Great atmosphere for all occasions with homemade food! Indoor patios available for private parties. Dine in or pick up through our drive thru window. Daily specials including Friday Fish Fry and Saturday Prime Rib. Specialty cocktails and 19 beers on tap. Open daily at 11am. Closed on Wednesday. L, D, FF, \$-\$\$ ☿ ☺

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

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Boxed & Burlap

A UNIQUE WEDDING VENUE

WINTER WEDDING



Outdoor sites and a barn offer couples a variety of options

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

Those seeking a unique bridal and event venue may want to consider Boxed and Burlap, located on Highway 67 near Highway 50, which has been transformed into an elegant space.

The property, originally a one-building, two-bedroom farmhouse, was purchased by Lindsay and John Neighbors in 2016 and transformed into a coffee house. It's easy to spot, with "COFFEE" in large letters along the building, encouraging drivers to stop for a cup of quality, self-roasted coffee. The store also carries tea and pastries.

John began renovating the property when the couple purchased it, turning the house into the coffee shop and adding a greenhouse. The garage was transformed into Batten House, which today is used as a bride's room for weddings.

In addition, he built a large barn, capable of holding up to 250 guests at any event. Originally built to hold boats, the couple ran a small garden shop on the property. At Christmas time, John and Lindsay sold Christmas trees and wreaths in the parking lot for a few years.

It didn't take long for the space to grow into a wedding and event venue. The first wedding was held in 2018.

"They were all family weddings," said Megan Garcia, sales manager for Boxed and Burlap. In 2020, the space officially became a wedding and event venue, and about 55 weddings are now held there each year.

While barn weddings have become popular over recent years, there is a difference between the barn at Boxed and Burlap and many others. Unlike many barns, formerly used to house animals and hay, Boxed and Burlap's barn is new with

The large patio is the perfect place to enjoy a drink or appetizers or for a bride and groom to enjoy some private time together.

COURTESY LUSIA STUDIO PHOTOGRAPHY *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

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large, windowed doors and skylights to allow natural light to shine in.

Bright clear decorative lights are hung near the ceiling, adding to the ambiance. A built-in bar is at one end of the building, with a separate building for caterers to assemble the food they will be serving.

“There are two outdoor ceremony sites, each beautiful in its own way,” shared Garcia. “One has a background of trees and the other is more of a garden space. And if the weather doesn’t cooperate, the ceremony can be moved indoors.”

“By holding it in front of one of the large glass doors, the same beautiful forest background is still seen,” she explained.

Rental for a wedding includes the barn as well as Batten House, traditionally used by the bridal party for preparing makeup and hair. It’s a place to relax as wedding festivities begin.

“While the bride and her attendants have a place to enjoy and prepare, we have not forgotten the groom and the groomsmen,” said Garcia, adding that an Airstream was purchased and is being transformed into a groom’s space.

Rental begins at 8 a.m. the day of the event to allow ample time to decorate for the event. The rental of the space includes round tables and white plastic chairs, but the design of the space and setting it up is the responsibility of the renters. Renters can upgrade to brown, crossback folding chairs for an additional fee.

Each table seats eight guests, and a handful of square tables can be used as a head table, gift table and/or welcome table. Linens are not included in the rental.

Most weddings include dancing, and a dance floor may be brought in by the renters. The type, size, and placement are decided by the couple to fit in with their room design.

One of the specialties of having a wedding at Boxed and Burlap is the use of the coffee shop. Throughout the day, free coffee is available for the wedding party. Once the coffee shop closes, the building itself may still be used, along with the outdoor patio.

The patio is often used as a place for cocktail hour or as the ceremony site. Later in the evening, the greenhouse attached to the coffee shop may be transformed into a sweet table to pick up a bite when guests stop by for coffee.

Help with planning, making connections

When a couple is planning a wedding, they can make an appointment with Garcia, who will take them on a tour of the venue and go through the contract with them.

Only one wedding is held per day on Fridays,

top: There are countless ways the inside of the barn at Boxed and Burlap can be setup and decorated for weddings. **at right:** Inside Boxed and Burlap’s barn, the space is elegantly prepared for a reception. With lighting from chandeliers, it’s a beautiful space for a wedding or other group gathering.

COURTESY WANDERLYNN PHOTOGRAPHY Spirit of Geneva Lakes



WINTER WEDDING

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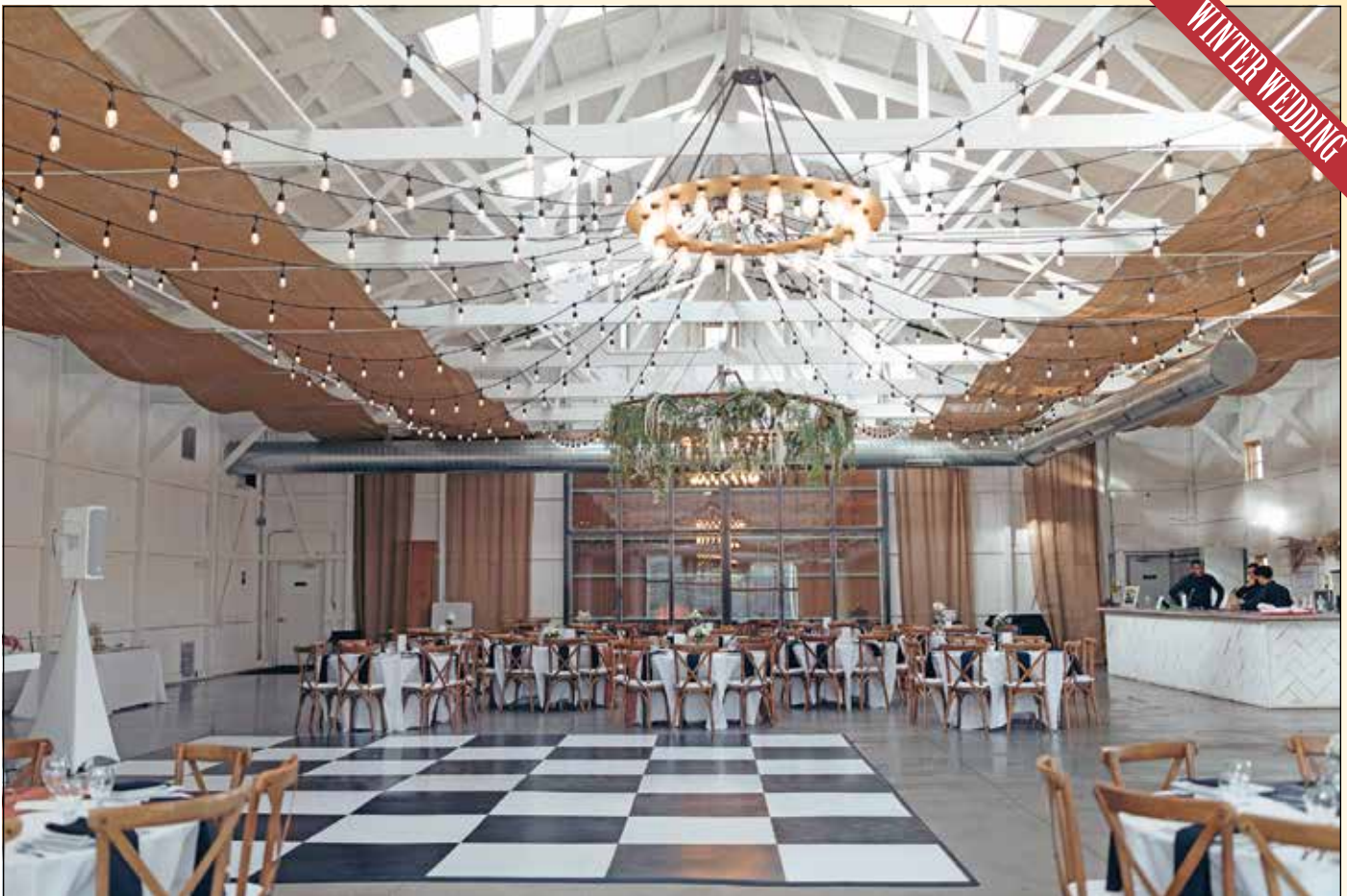
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Saturdays and Sundays. Prices vary on the day, and if a couple chooses to serve alcohol, a bar package needs to be purchased. No outside liquor is allowed.

Food must be ordered from an outside caterer, which must be a state-licensed kitchen and have insurance. Boxed and Burlap can recommend one of its preferred caterers, with options available in all price and service ranges.

"If you are using food trucks, consider a grazing table as lines usually are long for service," Garcia recommends. "And as we know when people are hungry, they often get impatient."

She advises couples reserve the space at least a year and a half before the wedding, especially if a Saturday is the day of choice. There is a little more leeway for Fridays and Sundays.

The venue does not provide a day-of-event coordinator, but a recommendation of a wedding planner can be made, and there is staff on site throughout the day of an event.

If looking for a beautiful and unique place to hold a wedding contact Boxed and Burlap, 2935 State Rd. 67, Delavan by calling 262-374-5497 or visiting their website at www.boxedandburlap.com.



above: The popular checkerboard dance floor can be created in any space and size to work with the design of the dinner table layout.
at left: The large white barn at Boxed and Burlap features a large open space inside allowing for nearly any setup desired for a wedding.

COURTESY
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Downtown location has coffee, art classes and more

In 2023, Boxed and Burlap opened a second location, this one in downtown Delavan. The large coffee shop and luncheon venue features plenty of space to visit with friends while enjoying the quality coffee roasted there and used at both locations.



This space is a large venue that has had a long history in Delavan, located on the famous Brick Street (East Walworth Avenue), named such from the bricks that were used

to pave the street that date back to when the circus wintered in Delavan.

The building was first used as Schulz's Five and Dime and then later was part of a clothing store. Today, the multi-use space incorporates a coffee shop, coffee roasting, rental space for groups, an art gallery and even a speakeasy.

Lindsay Neighbors was an art teacher and dreamed of bringing an art space to downtown Delavan. On the first floor, a studio is used by Shannon Osbourne and Rachel Catlett to teach painting classes for people of different ages and abilities.

"We hope to add ceramics and pottery classes in the near future to fully extend the arts experience," Garcia said.

The lower level of the downtown store also serves as an event space, decorated by a Chicago graffiti artist Lindsay brought in.

Also downstairs in the downtown location is the speakeasy, Bar 119. Just as in the days of prohibition, it's a private space that requires a password to enter through the secret entrance. There are people who do have paid memberships to Bar 119 and may enter at any time the bar is open. Special events require a ticket be purchased.

Non-members may still attend Bar 119 by asking a member of the staff for the password and being directed to the secret entry. There is a cover charge for non-members.

Boxed and Burlap is at 230 E. Walworth St., Delavan. The hours are Sunday through Thursday from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Friday and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to midnight. To learn more, visit boxedandburlap.com.

Beautiful and relaxing, this space is in the downtown Delavan Boxed and Burlap.

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DINE 'OUTDOORS' IN Igloos & Snow Globes

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**
CORRESPONDENT

For those living in the Midwest – especially in Wisconsin, known for cold weather and snow – wintertime is not thought of as a time to visit a local restaurant, especially if it is one on the shores of a favorite lake in the area.

But if a favorite restaurant happens to be on the shore of Geneva Lake or Lake Como, eating outdoors in the middle of winter isn't just a possibility – it's reality.

For several years, many of local restaurants have provided snow globes or igloos to add a fun element to a visit to the Lake Geneva area and to prove once again the area is open year-round.

Here are some places to consider.

Geneva National

When thinking of snow globes, most contain winter scenes – a snowman, Santa,





a sled or a home. When flipped upside down, the “snow” falls inside the display. Now it’s possible to have a winter snow globe experience in real life, although these snow globes work a bit differently. They are full size and will hold up to eight visitors comfortably.

Walking up to the snow globe on the deck of The Lodge, the human-sized snow globe allows visitors to spend an afternoon or evening enjoying a meal, snack or drink. If those inside are lucky regarding the weather, snow is falling outside while visitors are warm and comfortable.

The snow globes are composed of glass and wood, making them warm inside. They are equipped with two heaters – one on the ceiling and another under the seating bench.

According to Alexandra Lesser, vice president of food and beverage at Geneva National and The Lodge, because of their makeup, the globes tend to retain heat, which isn’t a bad thing on a cold winter day.

It’s advised to dress for the season. Visitors may not need to keep a coat on while in the globe, but on very cold days or after dark, it may be more comfortable wearing one. A light blanket could also help.

Two globes are at the Clubhouse at

above: Enjoy the beauty of the outdoors from the inside of a glass and wooden globe at Geneva National. Take in a winter view of Lake Como while sharing snacks with friends.
opposite top: With two heaters, one on the top and one under the seat, visitors to globes at The Lodge stay warm and toasty while enjoying the outdoors.

COURTESY THE LODGE AT GENEVA NATIONAL *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



above: Nighttime and the colored lights add a special festiveness to the Pier 290 igloos.
opposite bottom: Order dinner and enjoy it in a heated, lighted igloo at Pier 290 along the shore of Geneva Lake.

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Geneva National, while five are available at The Lodge overlooking Lake Como.

Reservations are required for the snow globes, each spanning 90 minutes. There is no charge for the use of the globes but there is a minimum food and beverage charge. Snow globes are available to be reserved from 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

“There is a minimum charge of \$100 for food and beverage Sunday through Thursday and \$150 on Friday and Saturday,” Lesser explained.

The Clubhouse and The Lodge each have a different menu of shareable items, such as a charcuterie board, dips and pretzels. The Lodge also has a number of pizzas available. All of the food options are meant to be shared.

The Clubhouse is at 1221 Geneva National Ave. South, Lake Geneva, while The Lodge is at W4240 Highway 50, Lake Geneva. The snow globes will be open until March.

To learn more about the snow globes at the Geneva National Clubhouse and The Lodge go to destinationgn.com/snowglobe.

Mars Resort

Mars Resort has been on the shore of Lake Como, under several names, for over 100 years. They have provided excellent food and custom-made drinks over the years, but in 2018, they added igloos on the deck for winter outdoor spaces.

Igloos are warm plastic globes with heaters inside that allow customers to sit out on the deck and enjoy the view of the lake even during the winter. Lights both on



the deck and within the igloo brighten up the space.

“We added the igloos in 2018 and they have remained popular with customers since then,” said Scott Pohl, manager and co-owner of Mars Resort. “The igloos hold six guests comfortably. Each group receives a 90-minute reservation period to enjoy time with friends or family and the beautiful view of Lake Como as the sun sets.”

The igloos are open Friday and Saturday with the first seatings at 4 p.m. Each igloo has three seatings, with reservations spaced out in an effort to better serve customers.

“By spreading out the times, it is easier to provide better service,” Pohl said. “We offer a variety of foods on the igloo menus, many of them are those that our customers enjoy.”

Several of the igloo trays at Mars are large enough to serve up to five people. Choose from dips, a one-and-a-half pound baked pretzel served with melted cheese, skewers of chicken, steak or shrimp and a variety of other appetizers.

Mars’ famous BBQ ribs – with sauce or a dry rub – are also available. A Silvestri Sweets Dessert Platter – an assortment of cake bits, caramels, cookies and chocolate – can be a sweet end to an evening.

There is a minimum charge of \$100 for food and beverage while in the igloo, but again, no rental charge for it. While the igloos are heated, it’s recommended guests dress warmly, especially if the weather is cold.

Smoking and vaping are not allowed in igloos, nor are pets.

Mars Resort is at W4098 S. Shore Dr., Lake Geneva. To learn more about the igloos and to make a reservation call 262-245-5689 or visit mars-resort.com.



above: Enter the igloos at Mars and order your favorite beverage and snacks from the special menu.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

at left: The beauty of the colored lights of the igloos add to the ambience.

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Pier 290

In the warm weather months, one of the area's popular places to eat at Pier 290 is out on the deck along the lakefront. But just because it's not warm now doesn't mean the beauty of the lake cannot be enjoyed.

Pier 290 offers its igloos lakeside, each able to hold up to six people.

"(They) are perfect for a cozy intimate meal with friends and family," said Alanna Congden, marketing director for Gage Marine, which operates Pier 290. "We begin using the igloos around November and they continue to be used through March, but they are weather dependent."

The igloos are heated by a small space heater in each one, but that doesn't necessarily mean they are very warm. The temperature in the igloo is dependent on the outside temperature and the amount of wind.

It is recommended igloo guests dress warmly, with as many layers as it takes to stay comfortable. In really cold weather, blankets are also encouraged.

Reservations are necessary for use of the igloos and because of their popularity, they often get booked.

"When you book your igloo experience for lunch, dinner, or weekend brunch, you are able to order off our full menu," Congdon explained. "Each reservation allows the group to enjoy the igloo for 1 hour and 45 minutes."

As a special treat, those who book an igloo for 10 a.m. on Saturday or Sunday receive a bottle of champagne and carafes



above: Make reservations for brunch in an igloo at Pier 290 for Saturday or Sunday at 10 a.m. and receive a complimentary bottle of champagne and some fruit juices for make-your-own mimosas. **top:** Igloos line the deck of Pier 290 where visitors can enjoy a view of Geneva Lake and share lunch, dinner, or weekend brunch with friends or family.

COURTESY PIER 290 Spirit of Geneva Lakes

of juice to make mimosas to be enjoyed at the lakefront. With an hour and 45 minutes time in the igloo, there is plenty of time to enjoy a meal and time with friends.

There is no minimum charge for food or drink when using igloos but there is a

reservation fee of \$45 for lunch and \$75 for a dinner reservation. This fee is paid when paying the dining bill.

Pier 290 is at 5 Liechty Dr., Williams Bay. To reserve an igloo, visit pier290.com/lakeside-igloos.



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It's always a good time for

PIZZA

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**
CORRESPONDENT

Here's a closer look at two popular places

Pizza is often a favorite choice for a snack or a meal – to eat alone or to share with family and friends.

In the Lake Geneva area, there are numerous places where the quality of pizza exceeds expectations and offer a wide variety to please different tastes.

Here's a deep dish dive into two popular pizza places in the area.

GINO'S EAST

While Gino's has been a staple in Chicago since 1966, it opened in Lake Geneva in 2007, near the lake front where much of the activity occurs throughout the year – on Wrigley Drive by Flat Iron Park.

"We are the place to gather for pizza after an event in downtown Lake Geneva," said Tyler Ostrander, who has helped run the kitchen at Gino's East Pizzeria for several years. "At any given time, you will see groups in here, most often sharing a pizza or two."

Gino's East offers a variety of pizzas along with a good selection of appetizers.

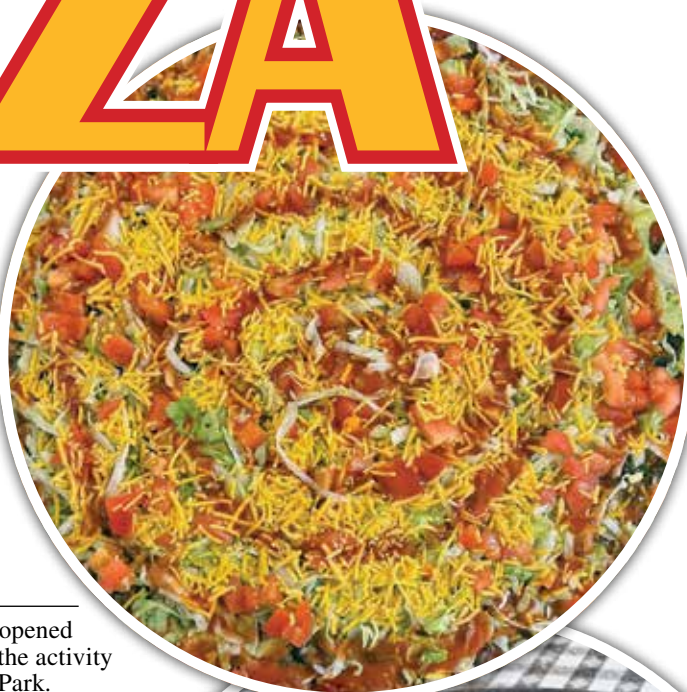
"The item most popular on our menu is the deep dish pizza," Ostrander explained. "And the most popular of the deep dish pizzas is either the pepperoni or the sausage."

The deep dish pizza at Gino's is available in three sizes: small – which is cut pie style in four slices; the medium – cut in six slices; and the large, which contains eight slices. The size options make it possible to order a larger pizza to share or individual pizzas, perhaps with more of a variety of toppings.

There are four specialty deep dish pizzas at Gino's. For the meat lovers, there is the Meaty Legend, which contains pepperoni, Italian sausage, bacon and Canadian bacon. Another favorite is the Gino's Supreme Pizza, which brings in the best of both meats and vegetables. Start by choosing either pepperoni or Italian sausage, which is paired with onions, green peppers and mushrooms. A special Margherita pizza is offered and there is a vegetable pizza on the menu for those who prefer a vegetarian diet or a somewhat healthier option.

While many prefer the Chicago-style, deep-dish pizza, there are others who will always choose thin crust. It, too, comes in a variety of sizes but unlike the deep dish, the thin crust is measured as medium (12 inches), large (14 inches), and extra large (16 inches). The thin crust also comes in the same four specialty types of pizza as the deep dish. Either kind can also be prepared as a build-your-own pizza with individual choices as far as toppings.

Pizza is a universal favorite among all age groups but, according to Ostrander, in the summertime many of the larger groups that come into



from top: For Cinco de Mayo last May, Luisa's featured a tostada pizza.

COURTESY LUISAS PIZZERIA *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Fresh from the oven, this deep dish pizza at Gino's is ready to be enjoyed. Traditional deep dish pizza has sauce on the top.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

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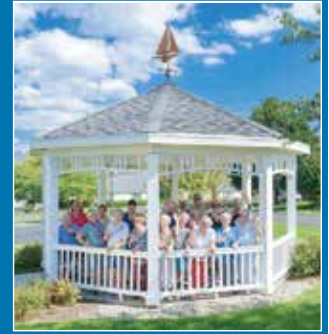
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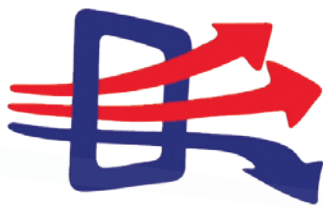
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Gino's are between 20 to 30 years of age.

At the same time, he said, the restaurant attracts families with children as well as multigenerational groups who stop in after a busy day in Lake Geneva.

While pizza is the best seller and clear favorite item at Gino's, they also offer a variety of other foods that work well with pizza or separately from it.

A variety of appetizers, including the Gino's family platter, is a favorite way to begin the meal. The family platter includes hand-rolled spinach mozzarella sticks, calamari and the restaurant's creamy spinach artichoke dip.

A variety of salads are also available, sandwiches that include Buona beef, as well as several pasta dishes.

And don't forget about dessert.

"When you are ready for dessert, the favorite is the deep-dish brownies served in a pan with three scoops of ice cream," said Ostrander. "It is not a dessert that can be eaten by just one person because of its massive size and richness. There's enough to be shared."

Gino's East is at 300 Wrigley Drive, Lake Geneva. For more information, reach them by phone at 262-248-2525 or visit them online at www.ginoseastlakegeneva.com. The restaurant is open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

LUISA'S PIZZERIA

Located at Highway 50 and 317th Avenue in Salem, Luisa's Pizzeria has been owned by Paul De Luisa for more than 25 years. It has become known for good quality and unique pizza – made to order along with a variety of other Italian and American dishes on the menu.

De Luisa has a strong Italian heritage coupled with a legacy of quality Italian cooks in the family. He said he has learned from them that using the best ingredients will result in a quality product.

"Built on the legacy of great family cooking by the likes of my great grandmother and father, Luisa's dedicated staff works with the best ingredients to serve phenomenal pizza, traditional Italian dinners, American dishes, and sandwiches every day," he said on the website.

His goal was to develop the



Gino's East, located at 300 Wrigley Drive is ready to provide the pizza you are craving.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

This building has been the home of Luisa's or over 25 years. The restaurant also offers several Italian entrees and many other food items.

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best pizza in the area and according to an annual award, appears to have succeeded. Luisa's earned the best pizza west of the I (Interstate 94) not just once or twice but every year since the award, which is presented by the Kenosha News, was created in 2011.

"We offer a variety of pizza choices sure to please everyone," De Luisa said. "Thin crust pizza with cheese and sausage, or pepperoni and cheese are the most popular choices."

Luisa's has many pizza crusts – to suit taste as well as dietary needs. In addition to the traditional thin crust pizza, they also offer gluten free crust, cauliflower crust, and pan or stuffed crusts. Whatever type of crust is chosen can be customized with the toppings of choice.

While cheese and sausage or pepperoni are the most popular, the pizzeria also offers a variety of combos to please any person's palate. As De Luisa explained, not every pizza has to have a red sauce, cheese, and sausage or pepperoni.

Unique special pizzas include a BBQ sauce with chicken, and a broccoli and cheddar pizza with an alfredo sauce. One that some have probably never eaten is the Brian Vita pizza, which is topped with ham and sauerkraut. It is noted on the menu that this pizza is especially popular in Iowa. Another is the cheeseburger pizza, consisting of ground beef,



While it's too cold now to enjoy time on the deck at Gino's East, in summer it's filled with customers enjoying the view of Geneva Lake while dining at the restaurant. Gino's large dining room is an ideal place to enjoy a pizza in downtown Lake Geneva.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



cheddar cheese and pickles spread on a ketchup and mustard base.

And pizza is only a part of what's offered at Luisa's.

"We are also known for our chefs' award-winning soups and great featured entrées," De Luisa said on the website.

Indeed, as the restaurant has a variety of made-to-order Italian dinners, which are prepared fresh when ordered. In addition, Luisa's not only has a Friday fish fry but it's available every day.

Luisa's Pizza is at 6806 317th Avenue, Salem. For more information, call 262-537-4795 or visit the website at luisaspizza.co. The restaurant is open Wednesday through Sunday, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., and is closed Monday and Tuesday.

The interior of Luisa's has a good amount of space for those dining in, including room for large groups.

COURTESY LUISAS PIZZERIA *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Raised high in the air, the sign for Luisa's Pizzeria, which is in Salem, can be seen from Highway 50.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

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M A T T R E S S

Cut Out The Middleman

verlo takes pride in building your mattress in our **LOCAL MATTRESS FACTORY**, located right in our store.

This **CUTS OUT THE MIDDLEMAN** to keep prices affordable for you.

MORE THAN 20 MODELS TO CHOOSE FROM
Both 1 & 2 Sided Mattresses



v1 FIRM
1-Sided No Flip
QUEEN SET PRICING

\$699

~~\$499~~ TWIN SET
~~\$599~~ FULL SET
~~\$899~~ KING SET



v3 PLUSH
1-Sided No Flip
QUEEN SET PRICING

\$999

~~\$749~~ TWIN SET
~~\$899~~ FULL SET
~~\$1399~~ KING SET



v5 FIRM
1-Sided No Flip
QUEEN SET PRICING

\$1599

~~\$1049~~ TWIN SET
~~\$1349~~ FULL SET
~~\$1999~~ KING SET



v7 PLUSH
1-Sided No Flip
QUEEN SET PRICING

\$2099

~~\$1399~~ TWIN SET
~~\$1949~~ FULL SET
~~\$2699~~ KING SET

Thank You
for continuously voting us
#1
MATTRESS STORE



<p>SAVE UP TO \$150 OFF v5 Set Purchase*</p>	<p>SAVE UP TO \$200 OFF v7 Set Purchase*</p>
<p>SAVE UP TO \$250 OFF v9 Set Purchase*</p>	<p>SAVE UP TO \$300 OFF v11 Set Purchase*</p>

*On set purchase with factory select covers. Not applicable on previous purchases. One coupon per set purchase. See store for details.

ADJUSTABLE BEDS ON SALE NOW!



Great for watching TV or reading in bed

Aids in circulation

Reduces snoring & acid reflux

Alleviates lower back, knee & leg pain

Adjustable Bed Bases**
Twin XL Starting at

\$399

**with Verlo Mattress purchase. Does not apply to previous purchases. See store for details.



Every Verlo mattress is adjustable and comes with a **Lifetime Comfort Guarantee**. If your body changes or you change your mind, we will adjust it so you can love your mattress again.

Take the risk out of mattress shopping with the assurance of adjustable comfort for the lifetime of your mattress.

LAKE GENEVA
2462 Hwy 120
262.249.0420

CRYSTAL LAKE
5150 North West Hwy
815.455.2570

McHENRY
3710 West Elm St.
815.578.8375

verlo.com
1-866-99-VERLO