

# *THE SPIRIT of Geneva Lakes*



Vol. 37 No. 3

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MARCH 2025

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INTERIOR HOME UPDATE IDEAS

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### ON THE COVER

A variety of plants and flowers begin to bloom as early as mid-March. This can include tulips. Described as the most colorful of all spring flowers in many colors, shapes, sizes and bloom times they always put on an impressive show.

PEXELS.COM PHOTO  
Spirit of Geneva Lakes





# IT'S COMIN' UP

## MARCH EVENTS

**Through 20 Winter Kids Movie Series** Go to a different movie each week at Emagine Geneva Lakes through March 20. Tickets are \$3 for all ages; \$5 for Magic Packs.

- Through March 6, Beethoven
- Week of March 7, The Great Muppet Caper
- Week of March 14, Hop

Movies are recurring daily. Dates and showtimes are subject to change. Limited availability. Not eligible for group rentals.

Emagine Geneva Lakes is at 2565 Highway 120, Lake Geneva.

**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:

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.

### Live Music Weekends

Put on your Dancin' Shoes! Great music every Friday and Saturday from 5 to 9 p.m. throughout the year at Studio Winery.

Blues & Classic Rock tunes you know, by local talent. Enjoy a glass or bottle of wine, cocktail, or beer while you listen. Light bites available for munching on.

Seating for Friday and Saturday music is first come, first served. No reservations. Come to the studio the first Saturday of every month to see winemaker Doug playing keys for the blues and funk band, Hobie & the Leftovers.

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](http://studiowinery.com).

**Magic Shows** – Lake Geneva's live magic and illusion show!

Magic, comedy, and illusions in an entertaining performance starring award-winning illusionist, Tristan Crist.

The Tristan Crist Magic Theatre, 100 N. Edwards Blvd., is rated Lake Geneva's top attraction and No. 1 show on TripAdvisor!

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Purchase tickets online at [lakegenevamagic.com](http://lakegenevamagic.com) or call the box office at 262-248-0505.

**14 The Big Wine Taste** Friday, March 14, The Bottle Shop will feature a mix of 36-plus wines to sample and enjoy... and available to bring home. Add a few light snacks and music and what a night it will be! The cost is \$30.

Reserve a spot by calling 262-348-9463 or visiting [thebottleshoplakegeneva.com](http://thebottleshoplakegeneva.com). The Bottle Shop is at 617 W. Main St., Lake Geneva.

**15 Ring of Kerry** March 15 at 7 p.m., Big Foot Community Fine Arts Foundation and Big Foot Recreation will present Ring of Kerry, an Irish music group that is full of energy and captures the hearts of listeners!

Tickets (advanced or at the door) are \$35, adult preferred seating; \$25 in the wings; \$10, preferred for those 18 and younger; free in the wings for 18 and younger.

For tickets, visit [www.bigfootfinearts.org](http://www.bigfootfinearts.org) or call 262-275-2117.

The concert will be at Big Foot High School, 401 Devils Lane, Walworth.

**16 Maple Fest** March 16 from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Family-friendly day filled with vendors and activities.

There will also be a dog meet-n-greet (from Lakeland Animal Shelter.)

Covenant Harbor Bible Camp & Retreat Center, 1724 Main St, Lake Geneva.

**America's Pub Quiz** every Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. at Lake City Social, 111 Center St., Lake Geneva.

Grab your friends, invite that smart guy from the office, and come take a break with some great food and drink. No charge to play!

"We promise, once you play along with America's Pub Quiz, you'll be back," representatives said.

### 6-16 The Balloon Adventure

March 6 to 16, voyage into the Deep Blue Sea in the Boat Showroom of Pier 290, 1 Leighty Dr., Williams Bay. The Balloon Adventure will be held at Pier 290 from March 6 to 16 (story on page 27).

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

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

# THE SPIRIT

IS A PUBLICATION OF



GENERAL MANAGER  
**David Habrat**

EDITOR IN CHIEF  
**Heather Ruenz**

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR  
**Vicki Vanderwerff**

CREATIVE DIRECTOR  
**Heidi Schulz**

PAGE DESIGN  
**Jennifer DeGroot**

SALES  
**Pete Hansen**  
**Tamera Hamilton**

DISTRIBUTION DIRECTOR  
**Lindy Sweet**

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NEWSPAPERS

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**262.728.3411**

# Fish fries

...A WISCONSIN TRADITION



by **Sandra Landen Machaj**  
CORRESPONDENT

**if** you enjoy a good fish fry, you're in the right place, as it's one of the most popular choices for a Friday night meal in Wisconsin. A state known for its many lakes and the availability of a variety of fish, it is not surprising that the tradition of the Friday Fish Fry continues here.

The history of eating fish on Friday goes back to the early days of Christianity in Europe and the Middle East. In those days, the early Roman Catholics were forbidden to eat red meat on Fridays as a sacrifice to honor the death of Christ, which was said to have occurred on a Friday. It was not surprising that those who lived in areas where fish were plentiful would

replace their meat with fish on that day.

As many of the European Catholics who followed this tradition immigrated to the United States, they brought with them their tradition of fish on Friday. However, it was not only the Catholics from Europe that enjoyed fish, but even those not of the Catholic faith enjoyed the fish that was prevalent in both Europe and their new homeland.

Many Europeans made their way to the Midwest in the 1800s and enjoyed the plentiful fish species available to them. Most of the European immigrants tended to fry their foods, and they would use this method to prepare the fish. Most fish are bland in flavor, and the breading and frying added flavor.

The exception to this were the immigrants from Northern Europe -

especially Norway, Sweden, and Denmark - who tended to boil their fish in a large pot with potatoes, onions, and vegetables.

By the early 1900s, the fish fry began to appear on restaurant menus. Fish were easy to obtain and quick to cook. Local taverns added the Fish Fry to their menus during prohibition to bring in customers. By keeping the cost of the fish fry down, it remained popular even during the depression, when going out for a fish fry was an affordable treat.

While most restaurants continue to serve fish on their menus, the tradition of the Friday Fish Fry has remained. Today, Catholics no longer abstain from meat on Friday except for during lent, which this year begins on Wednesday, March 5.

Each year during lent, it is not only the restaurants that serve a variety of fish

The view of the golf course adds to the ambience of Friday night fish at Hawk's View, including this baked option with fritters.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAWK'S VIEW GOLF CLUB *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

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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](http://www.greengrocergenevalake.com) Organic grocery store with a deli. Serving sandwiches made with Boars Head meat and cheese, homemade soups, salads and pizzas, wine, beer and cocktails. Dine in, Carryout or delivery. Open 7 days a week. L, D, \$-\$\$ ¥ ☎

**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](http://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!

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

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**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](http://www.mars-resort.com) to view our menu. L, D, FF, \$\$\$ ¥

**WATERFRONT PUB & GRILL** • 408 State Rd. 50, Delavan, WI. 262-728-4700. [www.waterfrontdelavan.com](http://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

467757



fried to perfection, but various churches and veteran's groups also hold the Friday night fish fry as a fund raiser for their organizations.

The Friday Fish Fry remains a tradition in Wisconsin, with the traditional meal consisting of fish that are often coated with seasoned flour or battered in a beer batter. The beer used is usually one of the popular local beers, and often a glass or two of the beer is enjoyed with the meal.

In this area, the fish is usually cod or haddock, but wall eye and perch are also available at some restaurants. Some also serve bluegill and smelt or other fish available in the area. The fish is usually accompanied by tartar sauce for seasoning and served with German styled potato pancakes or French fries and traditionally coleslaw. Rye bread - the favorite of Europeans, especially those of German descent - has also made its way here and continues to be included at many of the fish fries.

Recently, there has become a change in the way many eat. The strive for lower calories and healthier choices has become more popular, so it is not surprising that many restaurants have added a choice of baked or broiled fish in place of or in addition to the traditional fried fish. For those who have not quite totally committed to the healthy living style, many offer the choice of half and half. That is half of the serving being baked and the other half fried.

While the fish boil is more popular in the



**top:** Friday nights are busy in the large dining room and bar area at Tail Feathers Bar & Grill, which is at Hawk's View Golf Club in Lake Geneva . There is also outdoor patio available when the weather cooperates. **above:** There are a variety of options for fish dinner including sides.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HAWK'S VIEW GOLF CLUB *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

northern part of the state where many of the Scandinavians settled, there are still some places where the fish boil is embraced as much as the fish fry, even down here in the Lake Geneva area.

The fish boil is generally lower in calories, as everything is boiled, including the potatoes. Of course, the final calorie count is dependent on the total food intake.

If you are ready to enjoy a traditional

fish fry, or a fish boil, there are many choices in the Lake Geneva area to enjoy the fish fry of your dreams. And if you prefer the fish boil, there are several places in the area where it is available.

Here are just a few of the many places in the area worth consideration:

*Hawk's View Golf Club*

Hawk's View Golf Club, Lake Geneva,

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has been well known as a top-rated golf course or as the perfect venue for a wedding or other large event. But are you aware of their quality fish fry held every Friday evening from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.?

“We began serving a fish fry around 2012,” said Keith Felt, Director of Marketing and Sales Director at Hawk’s View. “At first, it was not especially popular, but soon picked up and became a favorite choice for visitors to our Feathers and Fin dining room.”

The fish fry served here consists of deep fried, hand battered Icelandic cod or for the health conscious, baked cod. It is served with a choice of potato pancakes, French fries, or corn fritters with maple syrup. Cole slaw, tartar sauce, a lemon wedge, and the traditional rye bread are also included.

“Our potato pancakes are handmade for each fish fry, and the fish is hand-battered. Thursday is a busy day as the staff begins the job of preparing for the Friday fish fry,” shared Felt. “We also offer an additional side of our beer battered shrimp, an additional piece of cod, or an additional full side for a nominal fee.”

The fish fry is best enjoyed with one of the classic Wisconsin specialty cocktails or a glass of one of the local craft beer carried here.

For those who like variety, they may choose to have the fish served half and half, that is half fried and half baked. Or it can be served family style to the table.

“If you haven’t been out to Hawk’s View in a while, you will enjoy the upgrades that have taken place,” said Felt. “New carpeting has been added, and we are now in the process of replacing all the furniture in the dining room.”

Hawk’s View is at 7377 Krueger Road, Lake Geneva. Reservations are advised especially at this time of year when the fish fry is so popular, to avoid a long wait. Call 262-348-9900 for reservations or more information, or visit [hawksvieviewgolfclub.com](http://hawksvieviewgolfclub.com)

### *Waterfront Pub & Grill*

Waterfront Pub and Grill on State Road 50 in Delavan is another place where you will enjoy a delicious fish fry. It is also a favorite place to enjoy lunch or dinner in a convenient location. Head up to the balcony with your cocktail or after dinner drink and enjoy the beauty of the sunset over Delavan Lake.

Cod, coated in a New Glarus beer batter, is fried until it is crispy. The cod is, as is tradition, accompanied by choices of sides. The traditional potato pancakes, French fries, or their famous house-made potato chips are available to accompany the fish. Rich and creamy coleslaw is also made in-house and accompanies the fish.

“The fish fry is available as the traditional fish fry - battered and fried - or baked for those who prefer a non-fried version of the cod. The baked cod comes with the same selection of sides as the traditional fish fry,” said Carter Torkelson,

manager of Waterfront Pub and Grill which is owned by his family.

The Waterfront offers not only the traditional fish fry, but also their version of the fish boil. While not quite the same as the traditional fish boil, it is a unique and tasty variation that may become your favorite.

“The fish boil is also cod, which is boiled in a creamy butter sauce and served with carrots and boiled potatoes,” added Torkelson.

The fish fry and the boiled option are both available on Fridays. They begin serving it at noontime rather than just in the evening as many restaurants do, so that those out for lunch can also enjoy it. The cod is also available on the regular menu throughout the week as fish and chips.

Waterfront Pub and Grill is located at 408 State Highway 50, Delavan. Phone them at 262-728-4700 for more information or to make a reservation. View them online at [waterfrontdelavan.com](http://waterfrontdelavan.com). They are open daily except for Wednesday.

### *Fitzgerald’s Octagon House*

While Fitzgerald’s Octagon House does not offer the traditional fried fish, they do offer the fish boil in a unique setting. It’s in the historic Octagon House built in 1852 in Genoa City.

“Years ago, my parents were preparing a special dinner for the snowmobile club after they spent a day marking trails and decided

**left:** Baked cod accompanied by one of Wisconsin’s favorite cocktails, an old-fashioned is a popular combo at Waterfront Pub & Grill in Delavan. **right:** The combination of baked and fried fish, accompanied by potato pancakes and a Wisconsin beer is a great combination.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF WATERFRONT PUB & GRILL *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

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that a fish boil would be a special and unique dinner. They however decided to substitute cod for the whitefish popular in northern Wisconsin. The cod is boneless and skinless, unlike the whitefish used up north,” shared Kevin Fitzgerald. “When we purchased the Octagon house, we decided it was the perfect place to hold fish boils.”

They cook everything for the fish boil outside in huge pots over a wood fire. The potatoes and onions are boiled in water, and then the pieces of cod are added. Next to the fish boil are two grills, one which cooks chicken with a honey BBQ sauce and the other grills ribs with a whiskey-based BBQ sauce.

“The fish boil occurs no matter the weather and is cooked outdoors,” added Fitzgerald. “We only serve the fish, chicken, and ribs, except for on St. Patrick’s Day when we also cook corned beef also outside in the big boiling pots. This year, we will be serving the corned beef in addition to our fish on Sunday, March 16, and Monday the 17.”

The food is served buffet style, and everyone is welcome to return for seconds. Coleslaw and rye bread accompany the fish, onions, and potatoes, and drawn butter is

offered for the fish. Finish off the meal with an apple square.

A full-service bar is available with a variety of drinks and special margaritas. Sit inside or, in warm weather, out on the deck, where you can watch your dinner being prepared and enjoy seeing the flames when the oil from the fish is burned off.

Fitzgerald’s Octagon House is located at 727 Main St, Genoa City. Reach them by phone at 262-279-5200 or visit [fitzgeraldsfishboil.com](http://fitzgeraldsfishboil.com). The website is updated with current days and hours which change with the season. They do not take credit cards, so bring cash or a check.

### *Other options*

There is a plethora of fish fries in the area that you will enjoy. Here are some additional ones:

Lake City Social, 111 Center St., Lake Geneva

Mars Resort, W4098 S. Shore Dr., Lake Geneva

The Getaway, W4190 West End Rd., Lake Geneva

Evergreen Golf Club, N6246 Highway 12/67, Elkhorn

Harpoon Willies, 8 E. Geneva St., Williams Bay

Pier 290, 1 Liechty Dr., Williams Bay



**above:** For a different twist, try the Waterfront’s take on the fish boil, which is in a butter sauce served with potatoes and carrots. **top:** In addition to a large bar and restaurant area, Waterfront has an upper outdoor deck that’s open during warmer weather.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF WATERFRONT PUB & GRILL *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

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# GIVE YOUR HOME A *fresh look*



## It's an ideal time to paint, update interior rooms

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**  
CORRESPONDENT

Caring for a home is a full-time job. One that not only requires the daily and weekly maintenance involved in daily life, but also the longer-term projects. These projects need to be maintained to keep the home safe and protect its long-term value.

Painting inside and out, replacing roofs and siding as needed, and maintaining the electrical and plumbing of the home are just some of the jobs that are needed to be maintained by the homeowner.

At this time of year, the painting of both the home interior and exterior often becomes a thought. Many have spent the long winter days indoors and now begin to see the need for repainting or repairing our homes.

While it is too soon to consider outdoor painting, it is not too early to begin the job of deciding which indoor rooms need a new coat of paint. But often, nothing is as simple as we think it is. A decision has to be made about colors. Are you happy with the



**above:** Tongue and groove wood in the ceiling near this entryway provides warmth and texture.  
**top:** Wrapping the fireplace in wood gives this room a warm and welcoming look.

PHOTOS COURTESY JERRY KROUPA *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



# 262-949-3618

## JERRY KROUPA

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**W5369 Baywood Dr, Elkhorn** - Welcome to your home that's surrounded by lake views, a large yard for family fun as well as plenty of parking for everyone. Enjoy amazing 4th of July fireworks with the best seats in the house. Situated on 103' of level frontage on 0.81 of an acre, you'll find an updated, move in ready, 4BR, 3BA, two story home with upper end finishes. The large vaulted ceiling kitchen has an adjacent dining area & bonus playroom/den. The family room, also with vaulted ceilings, features a wall of windows that welcomes the lake inside. The living room with a natural fireplace and sliders leads to a spacious brick patio. This home offers the privacy of a main floor primary bedroom and the upper level has 3 generous sized bedrooms and 2 full baths. Accommodates 19 guests. **\$1,800,000**



**902 & 904 W Walworth St., Elkhorn** - Side by side Ranch duplex within walking distance to Sunset Park. 2 Bdrm, 1 bath units with one car attached garage and laundry room. Kitchen feature breakfast bar and dinette, Master Bdrm has walk in closet. Nice size living room adjacent to Kitchen. Large back and front yard. Newer Roof and central air. **\$269,700**



**300 W Main St, Palmyra** - Located downtown Palmyra you'll find this Turnkey established Restaurant/Bar and separate 4 lane bowling alley waiting for an energetic entrepreneur to bring their vision to life. Restaurant/Bar has a seating capacity of 173 with an updated kitchen in 2019. Charming bar area overlooking main street and soaring ceilings in the dining area. Potential outdoor space for a beer garden and additional space to expand the bar area or rental opportunity. Income producing apartments on the second floor which consist of a 3 Bd, 2 Bd and 1Bd currently rented. Liquor license included. Palmyra is in the heart of the Southern unit of Kettle Moraine Forest offering hiking, mountain biking and equestrian trails. Minutes from Blue Spring Lake and steps to Lower Spring Lake. **\$695,000**



**214 N Church St., Elkhorn** - Classic Brick Two Story on Church St within walking distance to all the restaurants, Elkhorn square and Fairgrounds activities. This 4 Bedroom, 2 full bath is awaiting its new owners personal touches. Hardwood floors on main level. Situated on .50 acre lot offering a ton of outside entertaining possibilities. Spend evenings on the large covered front porch. Also you'll find a two car detached garage and 4 garden sheds. **\$205,000**



**W5742 North Dr, Elkhorn** - Why go through the hassle of building when this 2023 custom built 4 Plus Bedroom, 3.5 bath two story is ready to enjoy. Situated on 75' of Middle lake frontage you'll find this open concept main level with wall of windows lakeside. Inside Kitchen offers everything the discriminating chef would demand and ultimate living and dining space with gas fireplace, custom wet-bar and deck access. Master Bdrm ensuite with breathtaking lake views offering double vanity, large tile shower and ample walk-in closet. Family room walk-out with gas fireplace, full bath, work-out room or Bdrm, 4th bdrm and screened porch. Kitchen also features large island/breakfast bar with Delkton countertops and Zline Autograph appliances. Outside fireplace and level lakefront yard by pier and storage shed **\$1,659,700**



**W5357 Lauderdale Dr., Elkhorn** - The Iconic Lauderdale Lakes home, "The Boathouse" on Deakin Isle is situated on 192' of premier shoreline. Rebuilt in 2015 to its original 1915 Jazz Age glory, this 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath home is bursting with historical details and architectural styles. Ballroom features 1,200 sq ft with original hard rock maple floors, unique hanging Meiji era Japanese lanterns, with the original Opium Den prepped for a future hidden wine cellar. All 3 Lauderdale Lakes are visible from numerous vantage points throughout the four levels. Kitchen features custom marble countertops, farm sink, Wolf & Sub-Zero appliances. Master BR ensuite with luxury freestanding tub, full steam room, and private deck with fireplace. A finished swim basin provides access to the marquee wet boathouse w/ underwater lighting. **\$4,499,700**

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color there now, or do you want to change the look with a new color to brighten up the space?

Part of that decision may depend on how long it has been since the room was last painted. If your home is still sporting the colors of the 80s or 90s, or even those from the early 2000s, a new choice is needed to give your home an updated look.

According to Nick Wiemer, who has a painting and decorating business in Burlington, summer is a popular time for homeowners to paint their homes.

“Today’s popular paint colors include blues, greens, and grays,” shared Wiemer. “Each homeowner has a different view of what color would look best in their home.”

Wiemer has been in the home decorating and painting business for 40 years and, since he is a one-person business, doesn’t take huge jobs such as large industrial ones but looks forward to family home jobs.

“Most people will paint one or two rooms at a time,” said Wiemer. “We use quality paints, usually Benjamin Moore or Sherman Williams or the True Value brands.”

Wallpaper comes in and out of favor. Many people keep it up for a several years because they either really like the paper or because of the cost. Unlike paint which can just be painted over, wallpaper is more labor intensive.

The old paper must be removed before



**from top:** Pendant lights are a unique feature in this kitchen. Darker counter tops are now being used in some kitchens.

PHOTOS COURTESY JERRY KROUPA *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

new wallpaper can be applied to the wall. If the choice is to paint rather than reapply wallpaper, they may have to smooth the wall out, removing any remnants of glue that adhered to the walls. Newer wallpapers are easier to apply and remove due to changes in the adhesive used.

“Before painting the room, it may need some preparation, especially if smokers have lived here or been entertained in the room,” said Wiemer. “If there has been smoking in the room, there is a need to wash the walls before the paint is applied. If not, just go ahead and paint.”

That is, go ahead and paint after the nail holes have been filled, as well as the cracks in the walls are repaired, if there are any.

Painting outdoors is different. The outdoors is exposed to more dirt, grime, and insects and benefits from being power washed to remove the grime and giving the paint a clean surface to cling to. And just as with the indoors, repair any areas in need before you start. Be sure to use outdoor paint and pick a color that you will enjoy living with.

“Usually, it takes one to two days to finish painting a room, depending on how much repair is needed,” added Wiemer. “I can usually get you on the schedule in one to two weeks during busy times, sometimes sooner.”

Nick Wiemer Painting/Decorating, 133 Kendall St., Burlington can be reached by phone at 262-763-7464.

It often is not just paint or wallpaper that is needed to update a house. There are areas of the home that give it an out-of-date look. One of the most common areas that can use an update is the kitchen. Worn or out-of-fashion cabinet colors can age a home. But replacing all the kitchen cabinets is often an expensive and very disruptive job.

However, it does not have to be. There is a way to get the kitchen look you desire without switching out all the cabinets. That 1980s look can completely disappear, and the kitchen take on the modern look that you desire.

Interior Innovations, located in Salem Lakes would be happy to help. Owned by Nancy and Dan Boyle, they have been updating homes for 40 years, specializing in cabinet painting, faux finishing, and fireplace updating. Nancy is an artist and will help you pick colors and designs to update your home.

“Replacing kitchen cabinets is often not necessary to give the room a new modern look,” she said. “By repainting the cabinets and replacing the hardware on the doors, you will give the kitchen a new, modern look.”

Nancy will guide you through color selections, to help you pick colors that will add beauty to the room and give the room a modern up-to-date look at a portion of the price new cabinets would cost. There is no need to empty the cabinets, as the doors will be removed and taken to their studio to be painted.

“They will be cleaned with a degreasing solution to be sure there is a clean surface to work with,” shared Nancy Boyle. “After the doors are cleaned, they are primed, and the first coat of the new paint is applied, followed by a second coat. It takes about 10 days to complete the doors, then they are put back in place, and new, modern hardware is added to the doors to complete the renovation.”

While we have gone through a long period of white cabinets being the color of choice, that is now changing, according to Nancy. Now the bottom cabinets or the island is often a darker color, and the higher cabinets are a lighter color, such as an off white or other neutral.

“To maintain an up-to-date look for a long time, stay neutral,” recommended Nancy. “Just pick colors that work with your room.”

While many think of a fireplace as a permanent look that will never need updating, the fireplace which is usually the focal point



**from top:** Many homes had darker brick colors used when fireplaces were built. With the bricks painted in light neutral colors however, the fireplace and entire room can have a completely updated look.

PHOTOS COURTESY INTERIOR INNOVATIONS *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



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of the room, can age the room. Those dark bricks or stones may now give the room an old look. That fireplace can be transformed into a light and beautiful focal point using 10 neutral tones that will transform not only the fireplace but the entire look of the room.

“Don’t remove the fireplace,” she said. “Let us paint it into the beautiful focal point the room deserves. Whether it is stone or brick, it can again become a thing of beauty.”

Interior Innovations, 7712 Shorewood, Salem Lakes. Contact them by phone at 262-638-9670 or visit interiorinnovationsltd.com.

While painting the house is usually done to please the family living in it, there is another time when a home should be painted.

“Painting the home before listing it for sale is always a smart thing to do, as it will make the home more attractive to possible buyers,” said Jerry Kroupa, real estate agent for @ properties-Christies, whose office is at 102 N. Wisconsin St., Elkhorn.

Kroupa, who sells property in Elkhorn and the Lauderdale Lakes area, notes that March is the time of year when lakefront property is often put up for sale. Buyers want to purchase it and move in to enjoy the summer on the waterfront, not have to wait until time consuming repairs are done.

“Having a home that is freshly painted does help the property sell faster, as it is one less thing the buyers need to do before they move in,” shared Kroupa. “Picking neutral colors makes the house attractive to more buyers and also makes it more timeless.”

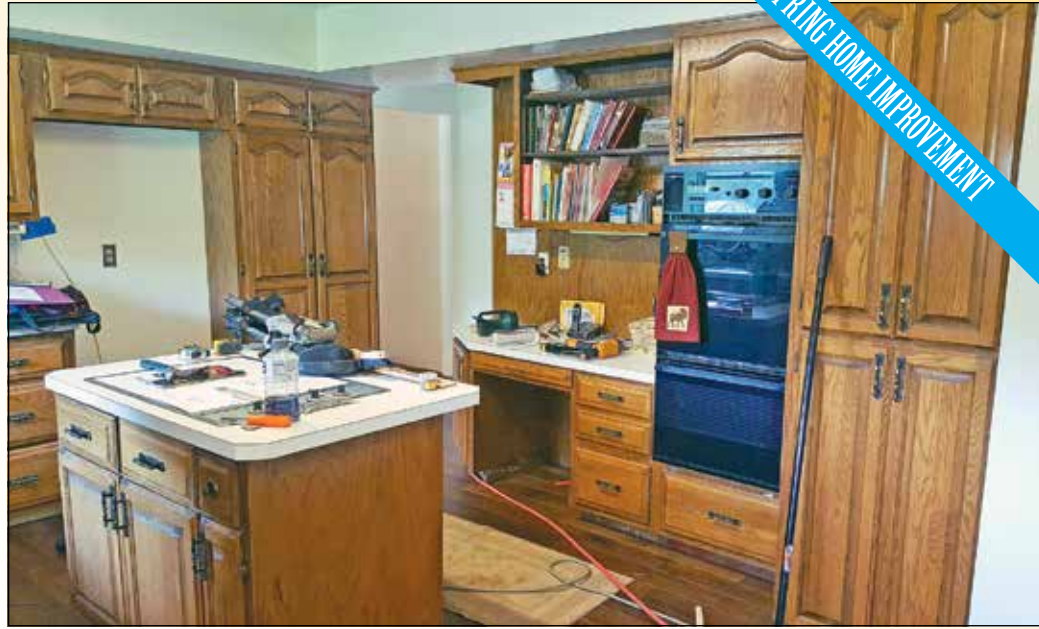
There is still a shortage of homes on the market, but having it newly painted will help to price it right. If it is priced right, it is probably going to sell close to its list price. Bidding wars still occur sometimes, but much less often than in the past, according to Kroupa.

If you are serious about selling your home, put its best foot forward and be certain it is as close to perfect as you can manage. Be certain it is ready both inside and out with great curb appeal, so the prospective buyer falls in love with the house the minute they see the outside, and that love continues as they explore the interior of the house.

“For success in selling your home and getting the best price you can, clean the house until it shines,” shared Kroupa. “Get rid of all the clutter and be certain that the windows are cleaned inside and out. Make it shine.”

Good advice whether one wants to sell their home or just have their family enjoy living in the perfect home.

Jerry Kroupa can be reached by phone at 262-949-3618.



**from top:** The owners of this kitchen wanted to update the look due in part to the dark cabinets throughout. The cabinets were painted a light color, and the hardware updated while the island remains dark, offering contrast in the now brighter space.

PHOTOS COURTESY INTERIOR INNOVATIONS  
Spirit of Geneva Lakes

**left:** Keeping the walls neutral, pops of color are introduced in accessories such as the rug and pillows.

PHOTO COURTESY JERRY KROUPA  
Spirit of Geneva Lakes

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# ADD A LITTLE Flavor

## TO YOUR LIFE

Lake Geneva Spice Company offers a wide variety of items

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

“About 14 years ago, my dream came true,” said Kate Schoo. “After working for others for many years, my husband Jeff and I opened our own spice shop on Center Street.”

The first shop was in a small location and only carried a few spices mainly oregano, coffees, and teas. While it was successful, it was not the business Kate and Jeff dreamed of operating.

When the current shop space at 255 Broad Street became available, they knew this would be the place to grow their business, and for the last 12 years, they have done so here. Once they moved to this location, traffic to the store increased and the business took off.

“My mom was a good cook and experimented with a variety of spices to give her dishes a unique taste,” shared Kate. “It was originally from her that I learned a lot about the use of spices.”

When one walks into the Lake Geneva Spice Company, the fragrant aroma of the spices, the brewing coffee, and the tea blends permeate the air and bring one further into the store. On a cold day, it is right to the brewing coffee for a taste of the special blend of the day to warm up.

But before one even enters the store,

**right:** Those who enjoy hot sauce can choose anything from medium to very hot. **top:** For those who enjoy tea, there are numerous options to choose from, including black and green teas, as well as herbal blends.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



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whatever the season, they might very well encounter Jeff on the sidewalk in front of the store.

Warm or cold weather, Jeff is likely to be out there with one of his favorite cigars in hand and, even in the colder weather when he uses a small heater in front of him to stay warm.

Friendly and outgoing, Jeff speaks to everyone and encourages visitors to come into the store for a sample of one of their special coffees that are always brewing.

The Schoos are also friendly business neighbors so Jeff always has a kind word for the other businesses on the street and encourages visitors who are in the area to check them out, too.

“Initially, we started with a few spices, especially oregano, which we purchased in bulk and repackaged for sale, as unless you are a restaurant and use huge amounts, the size of packages ordered from the distributor is too much for the average home,” added Kate.

Buying spices in smaller amounts is kept forever, as they lose their peak flavor. All the spices that are sold here are top quality and are inspected for both quality and purity when they enter the country in bulk.

With the additional space, Jeff and Kate added some special spice mixes that Kate developed. There are three main spices blends and a specialty rub that are unique to their store and are developed there.

The hot and sweet BBQ rub is one that Kate developed for a family event,” shared Jeff. “Kate is from Wauwatosa and learned much about spices from The Spice House



**above:** Owners Kate and Jeff Schoo stand near their fish who live at the shop, affectionately known as the Spice Girls. **below:** The Lake Geneva Spice Company, 255 Broad St., Lake Geneva, has quality spices, loose leaf teas, coffee, premium cigars, handmade goat milk soap, and more.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



up there.”

Kate's BBQ rub was enjoyed at the family event, so she decided to package it for sale in the store, and it has become the number one seller. And in summer, when everyone is barbecuing, it may be hard to replenish the bottles quickly enough to keep in stock.

“We also create a seasoning mix which we call the Perfect Pair,” shared Kate. “This is a blend of sea salt and pepper and is perfect for adding to whatever dish you are creating. The salt and pepper are in perfect proportions to provide the perfect seasoning for your dish. If you aren't sure how much salt or pepper to add, this combination will take all the guess work out for you.”

If you prefer a little more taste in your seasoning, it is the Perfect Trio of sea salt, pepper, and garlic combination that may suit your needs best. And finally, there is the Favorite 4-Some - sea salt, pepper, garlic, and parsley. Whatever dish is being created will benefit from one of these combinations. It is up to you to pick the one best for your family or guests' tastes.

One of the things that is unique about our spice mixes, according to Kate and Jeff, is that their spices are not from franchises, but 85% are rebottled or repackaged here in the store, and no preservatives are added so they remain pure.

“We buy small bulk amounts so they are replenished more frequently and much fresher than grocery store spices that come from a warehouse, where they may have been stored for a longer time,” Jeff said. “Spices that are ground should only be kept for a year after opening. If they are whole, they may be kept for several years.”

Quality coffee and teas may be purchased here. They carry up to 58 different coffees from the Chicago Coffee Roasters in Chicago and carry approximately 30 whole bean roasted coffees from the nearby roaster in Spring Grove, Illinois. Columbian coffees flavored with natural extracts are quite popular. They also carry other coffees from around the world, such as beans from Puerto Rico and



Guatemala.

Coffees can be purchased in half pound or full pound packages. Choose from a variety of 29 flavored varieties or 15 regular coffees. If you prefer decaf, there are 14 varieties that have been created using the Swiss water process.

If you are a tea lover, you haven't been forgotten. There are over 80 kinds of loose

tea that are sure to please the tea lovers. Whether you prefer, black, green, white, or herbal tea, there is sure to be one to fit your taste. Teas are also available in caffeinated or decaffeinated blends. Teas are sold by the ounce, in packages from a 1/2 ounce to 2-3 ounces.

It is always better to buy several small packages of different flavored teas and the specialty coffees until you have enjoyed enough of the different varieties to know which ones you enjoy the most.

While browsing through the shop, note the tea ware and gift items that are found throughout the store. Tea pots and a variety of tea diffusers can be seen on display throughout the store.

If you are looking for some special treats for a quick meal in the winter, try one of the pre-packaged soup mixes that are fast and easy to cook up on a cold day. There are a variety of unique soup blends that can



**above:** In the rear of the store is Jeff's pride and joy, a variety of quality cigars available for purchase. **left:** The spice shop sells many kind of Frontier Soups mixes.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*





**above:** Kate Schoo mixes her own spice blends from mild to raging hot such as this Kickin Kajun. **right:** Jeff Schoo, while enjoying a cigar outside the shop, greets visitors. **below:** Fresh roasted coffee is available, including a flavor of the day – for tasting or to purchase a cup to go.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



be created and enjoyed including ones that are uniquely flavored. Have you tried the peanut soup?

Bringing an appetizer to a family or friend's function? Try one of the packages that are easy to turn into a tasty dip that will please visitors.

While Kate enjoys working with the spices, Jeff enjoys working with cigars, and in the back of the store is a large display of the many quality cigars that he sells.

"I have smoked cigars for 35 years, and it was a pleasure to become a distributor for some of the fine brands that we carry," shared Jeff. "All of the cigars we offer are quality cigars and ones I enjoy. If I didn't enjoy them, they wouldn't be here."

While they offer a variety of cigars for sale in the store, they cannot be shipped or sold online, even though Jeff is a distributor for many of the brands. Jeff is a member of the Premium Cigar Association and is a Tobacconist.

"We also sell empty cigar boxes to customers with the proceeds going to benefit the Lakeland Animal Shelter," said Jeff. "In the last 6 years, we have donated \$6,000 to the shelter thanks to the sale of the boxes."

Another highlight to visiting the Spice Shop is to stop and admire the Spice Girls in the back of the shop. The Spice Girls are two large goldfish in a tank that are enjoyed by visitors to the store and are Kate and Jeff's favorite pets. Many visitors, especially those with children, will see the children head right back to the fish tank as soon as they arrive at the



store.

The Lake Geneva Spice Company is at 255 Broad St., Lake Geneva. Visit them online at [www.lakegenevaspicecompany.com](http://www.lakegenevaspicecompany.com). Order spice products on the website or call them at 262-248-3025 for more information.

Store hours are Sunday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. After Memorial Day the hours will be extended for the summer. Kate and Jeff along with their store manager Kristina welcome you to stop in and learn about all of their products.

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# 'Under the Sea'

## – AN ADVENTURE FOR A CAUSE

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

**On** March 6, Under the Sea, this year’s display of over 100,000 balloons, will open at the Gage boat showroom at Pier 290, in Williams Bay.

The unique display of balloons in a variety of colors and sizes will be arranged to give visitors the feeling that they too are Under the Sea, part of the world of life beneath the water.

Visitors will see a variety of underwater scenes taking in all the beautiful creatures found in the sea as they are created out of balloons of many colors. The beautiful colors of nature will be carried through in this unique display

This is the second year that the 531 Fund - working with Sara Meyer, Lake Geneva’s own professional balloonist - have brought together a beautiful and exotic program that

will be enjoyed by both children and adults. In addition, this beautiful display will raise funds for a local charity administered through the 531 Fund.

The 531 Fund is a local 501 (c)(3) charitable foundation that was formed when the original Santa Cause Foundation was rebranded as the 531 Fund. The purpose of the charitable foundation was to raise funds to aid those in need in the local area.

Three years ago, Sara Meyer was the local host for the International Big Balloon Build that raised money for charity. It was after hosting this event that Sara, along with Kimberly Voller, Executive Director of the 531 Fund, decided that they could hold a local community balloon build which would benefit local charities in need. They felt this balloon build could be held on a yearly basis if they could find local sponsors. This would allow them to raise money to help those in need, and the money

raised could be distributed and would remain within the community.

As they began to plan for this year’s event, there were several major decisions to be made including a theme for the balloon display and a decision of which charities to support.

“Kimberly came up with the idea of Under the Sea,” shared Sara Meyer. “I began the work of designing scenes that would reflect life under the sea. Kimberly and I worked together to create the best design possible for the event.”

The results that Sara designed and were embraced by Kimberly included several sea creatures, a mermaid, a variety of fish species, an oyster complete with a pearl, and even a pirate ship, along with many other special creatures.

“Once the design is created, we have to decide on colors, and begin the building of the frames,” explained Meyer. “Building

Under the Sea, created by Sara Meyer of Wisconsin Balloon Décor, will be featured at the 531 Fund charity event March 6-16 at Gage Marine’s Pier 290 boat garage in Williams Bay. The display features a variety of items, including a mermaid and large octopus.

PHOTO COURTESY WISCONSIN BALLOON DECOR *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



Sara Meyer, owner of Wisconsin Balloon Décor, relaxes amid a tunnel of balloons.

PHOTO COURTESY WISCONSIN BALLOON DECOR *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

the frames to fit in the space allotted takes time and hard work.”

The fun part, according to Meyer, is putting the scene together and seeing it fill in and take shape. The more difficult part is blowing up 100,000 balloons to the correct size and choosing the perfect color. Whether it is the difficult or the fun part, all are necessary to create the perfect display.

“While many people think that the balloons are filled with helium, they are not,” added Meyer. “If we used helium, it would be a lot more expensive and more difficult to keep the design in place as the helium filled balloons would struggle to rise. They are just filled with regular air, but still take several days, and many hands, to inflate them and put them in place.”

Meyer has chosen 13 additional professional balloon artists from around the country to help with putting this unique design together for all to enjoy.

“Because there are not a large number of professional balloon artists, we often work together when we have big events,” shared Meyer. “Last summer, many of us came together to put together the balloons for the big balloon drop for both the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee and

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the Democratic National Convention in Chicago.”

Aside from getting the display in place, a decision had to be made as to who will be chosen to receive the money that is raised. Last year, the proceeds were divided between two charities in the area, but this year, only one charity was chosen to be the recipient of the total funds raised to benefit those in need in the community.

“Charities were given the chance to apply for consideration as the recipient of this year’s grant,” shared Kimberly Voller, Director of the 531 Fund. “Then they were vetted, and the decision of who would be the recipient of this year’s fund raiser was chosen by a vote from the Board of Directors.”

The charity chosen to benefit from the event this year is Camp Timber-lee, located in East Troy. According to Voller, the money may be used to enhance their science program.

During the 10 days that the display officially titled “Voyage into the Deep Blue Sea” is available to be enjoyed, there will be a variety of programs that will be focused on different age groups as well as well as general admission groups where everyone is invited to attend and enjoy the artistry and imagination that went into the creation of this unique program.

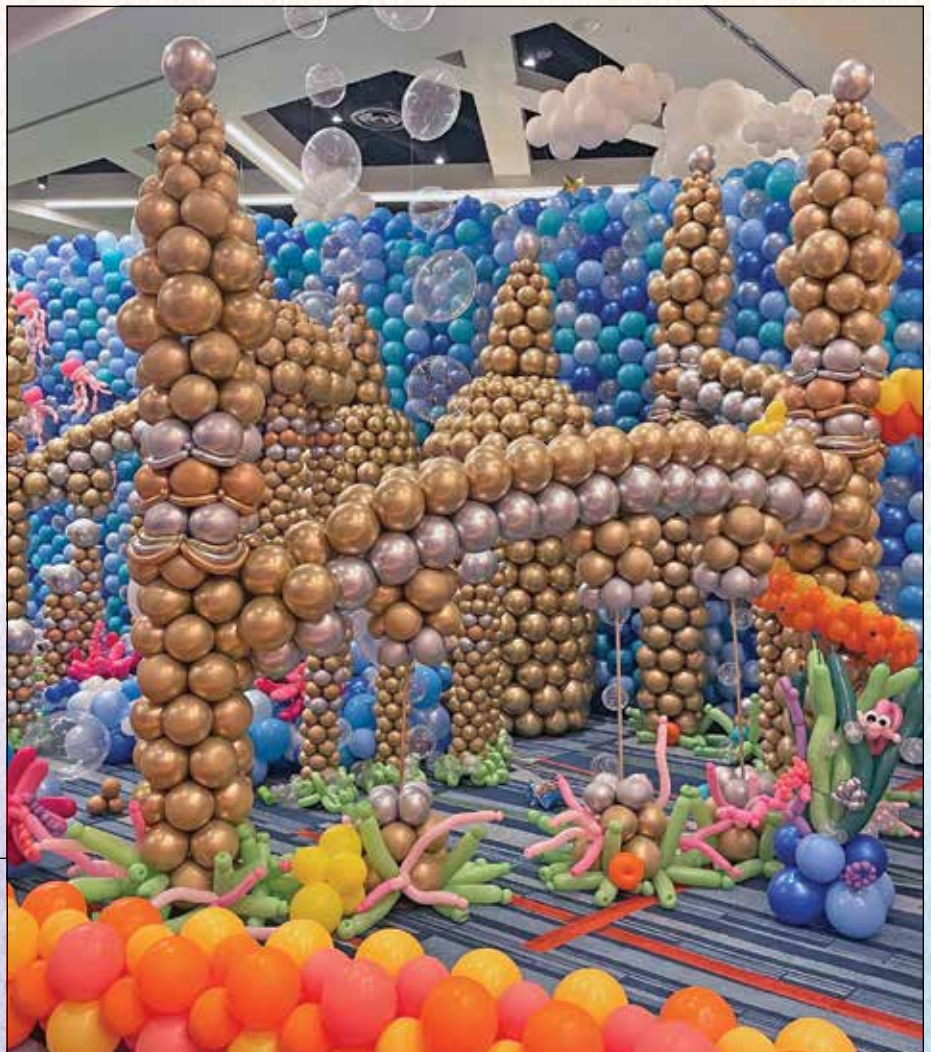
On general admission days, all ages are welcome to step into the deep sea and enjoy the magical underworld. These days are perfect for those of all ages to enjoy the artistry of an underwater journey through the beauty of this balloon environment. There are many photographic opportunities to be taken advantage of where you can create memorable family photos that will be enjoyed over the years.

The general admission ticket is valid on days and for times when there is no other special event scheduled. They may be purchased on site for \$25 each or online for a cost saving price of \$20. There is no charge for those 2 years of age and under.

While a general admission visit will be a wonder into the world under the sea, there are also a variety of special programs that can add excitement and fun to your visit.

Glow Waves Adventure, which will be held on Thursdays, March 6 and 13, and Wednesday, March 12, is a time targeted for middle school youth groups. This adventure is held between 6-8 p.m., and tickets are \$25 per person.

This event is designed for those ready to take an epic journey as night falls and the adventure begins. Explore the sea’s mystical realms in the glow of neon lights



**from top:** The unique shapes and sizes of balloons are on full display in these seahorses. Using balloons of many colors, shapes and sizes, the whimsical scenes are quite the sight for people of all ages.

PHOTOS COURTESY WISCONSIN BALLOON DECOR  
*Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



and face exciting challenges that test your courage, creativity, and teamwork. This immersive adventure will reveal something extraordinary for young explorers who are ready to embrace the magic of the deep sea.

Rave Under the Wave is the ultimate family dance party. On Friday evening, March 7 from 6-8 p.m., join in the fun as this Little Mermaid themed event brings families together with music and dancing. Tickets are \$30 per person.

This is a fun for the family dance party, where everyone will enjoy the music of the DJ as they dance the night away with breaks for snacks and treats to fuel the next dance wave. Dress in your best aquatic gear and enjoy a night of dancing, laughter, and celebration under the waves as a fun family experience.

The Deep-Sea Shuffle is an adults-only day and evening activity. Held on Saturday, March 8, the event begins at 2 p.m. and continues until 6 p.m. as a crawl in downtown Lake Geneva for a full-fledged scavenger hunt. Search downtown for the items on your card and be eligible for prizes as you find the articles and complete the bingo on your bingo card. Then, the event moves to Pier 290 in Williams Bay from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., and the party begins. Shuttles available or drive yourself to Williams Bay. Tickets for this adults-only event are \$40.

Tales of the Sea is a family event held on March 15. Arrive at 5:30 p.m. to enjoy the display, and at 6:30 p.m. settle in to enjoy a movie that comes to life on the big screen sharing the magic of the sea. Tickets are \$25 per person.

Come in your comfy jammies with your favorite blanket and enjoy the movie in this magical setting.

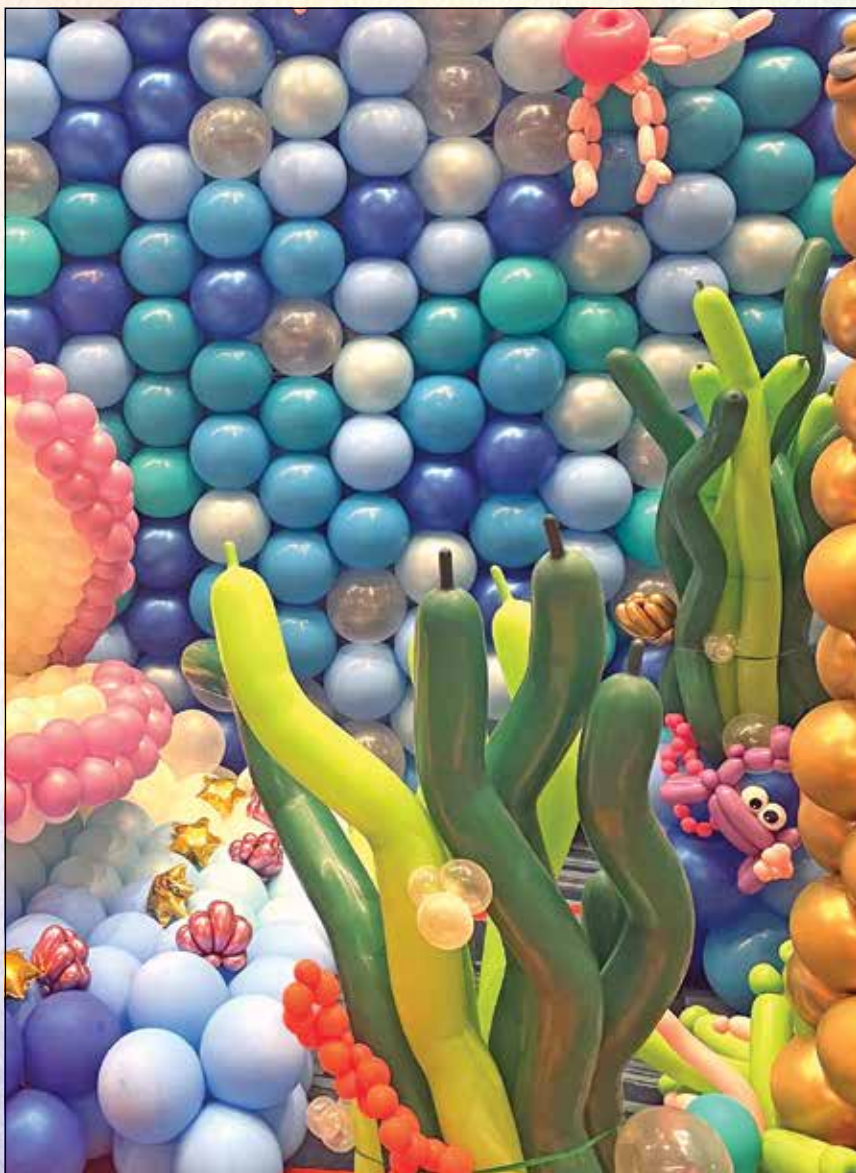
The Balloon Popping Party will be held on Sunday, March 16, from 5 to 7 p.m. The event is open to those 10 years and over, and each child must be accompanied by a ticket-holding adult. Tickets for this unique event are priced at \$15.

Come join the group who will deflate the over 100,000 balloons and be a part of this year's balloon event.

Visitors will be surprised at the fun adults can enjoy at this unique balloon experience. Balloons are not just for children. Many of these special events sell out quickly, so purchase tickets to attend now before it is too late to enjoy these unique and special events.

Visit [www.531funding/theballoon-adventure](http://www.531funding/theballoon-adventure) to purchase tickets for both general admission or the special events that may interest your family. The event will be a fun and exciting way to spend time and will benefit the Second Annual Balloon Adventure, "Voyages into the Deep Sea."

The Pier 290 boat showroom is at 5 Liechty Dr. in Williams Bay.



**from top:** The 531 Fund sponsors events to raise money that goes to support local charities. The large pearl in this oyster as well as the shell are created from balloons. In addition to the animals created for the display are a variety of plants.

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