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Vol. 37 No. 4

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ON THE COVER

Spring is an ideal time to update your living space, from a completely new look to a fresh pop of color here and there. Paper Dolls

Home Furnishings has several room displays filled with furniture, accessories and home décor as well as expert designers on staff.

SUBMITTED PHOTO
Spirit of Geneva Lakes



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IT'S COMIN' UP

APRIL EVENTS

Through 6 Spring Art Show

Through April 6, the doors are open for Gallery 223's Spring Art Show. Over 35 local artists are exhibiting their fine artwork. While visiting, cast your vote to award a People's Choice Art Award and sign up to win a Gallery Gift Card.

The show offers a wide variety of artworks being displayed by Geneva Lake Arts Foundation's artist members at Gallery 223, located at 223 Broad St. in downtown Lake Geneva. The theme is "Into the Light."

Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday to Monday. The works of art include such media as painting, drawing, photography, pottery, glass, jewelry, sculpture, mixed media, weaving, fiber, assemblage, and wood.

For more information about the Geneva Lake Arts Foundation, send an email to genevalakeartsfoundation@gmail.com.

6 Pints & Pups Adopt, don't shop by joining Geneva Tap House and Lifeline Rescue for a pet adoption event on April 6 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. All donations welcome including: collars, leashes, toys, towels, puppy pads and more. Geneva Tap House is at 252 Broad St., Lake Geneva.

9 Wine for Scholarships Join the Rotary Club of Lake Geneva April 9 from 5 to 7 p.m. at The Bottle Shop and support scholarships for students at Gateway Technical College.

Enjoy the following: a selection of 20 different wines; international and woman-owned wineries featured; appetizers; a 50/50 raffle; a goodwill offering for a chance to win a wine raffle basket!

All proceeds go to scholarships for GTC returning adult students.

Tickets are \$30, available at The Bottle Shop, 617 W. Main St., Lake Geneva, or by calling Betsy at 630-518-2532.

11 Murder Mystery Dinner The Abbey Resort, 269 Fontana Blvd., Fontana, will host "I Love the 80s to Death," a murder mystery dinner, at 7 p.m., Friday, April 11.

Tensions run rampant at the big concert as backstage secrets spill out into the spotlight with like, totally tragic results! It's up to you to bust this murder case like a ghost, for sure! Bring your appetite for a three-course dinner, then peg your jeans, slouch your socks, flash some neon, and get that hair up to join in on the 80's fun! You are going to solve this crime in style.

The Murder Mystery Co. guides you through this interactive program for adults 18 and older.

Tickets are \$79 per person. For more

information, visit theabbeyresort.com, under the menu on the top right of the home page, choose "Events" and click on the mystery dinner to see the menu and access a link to order tickets.

Live Music at the Piano Bar Mars Resort, W4098 S. Shore Dr., Lake Geneva, offers live music 6 to 9 p.m., Thursdays, in the Piano Bar.

Thursday Night Dinners Let Green Grocer make dinner Thursday nights with dine in or carry out options. They offer a different menu each week, along with a couple of pairing wines at 10% off. Call 262-245-9077 for the current menu and pricing. Green Grocer is at 24 W. Geneva St., Williams Bay. Thursday night dinner reservations must be made by noon on Wednesdays.

America's Pub Quiz every Wednesday 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.

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 afterwards.

The next film, on April 7 will be: The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou

The movie will be shown at 2 p.m. at the Lake Geneva Public Library, 918 W. Main St., Lake Geneva.

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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THE SPIRIT

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THE SPIRIT

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EAT FRESH, LOCAL FOOD AT



Simple Café

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

Located on Broad Street, north of downtown Lake Geneva, is a unique restaurant and bakery enjoyed by local residents and visitors alike.

What used to be the NAPA Auto Parts store now has a far different look and use, hosting Simple Café at 525 Broad St., Lake Geneva.

In 2009, Lori Hartz (a nurse practitioner) and her husband Tom Hartz – a retired architect – read Barbara Kingsolver’s book, “Animal, Vegetable, Miracle.” The book chronicled Kingsolver’s family’s journey into eating only locally grown food for one year.

It had a profound effect on the Hartz family and it was not long before they were discussing the need for a restaurant in Lake Geneva – their home – that specialized in simple cooking using locally grown products.

The couple wanted to focus on products that had been grown – and cheeses that had been created – by local farmers, neighbors

and friends from the area.

Soon that suggestion turned into thinking that they were to be the ones to open that restaurant. Since they had never run a restaurant, the couple wasn’t sure where or even how to begin.

“While the idea of opening a restaurant in Lake Geneva that used only locally grown foods seemed to be a great idea, where should we start on this project? We purchased the vacant NAPA Auto Parts store, even though we had no idea how to open and sustain such a restaurant,” Tom Hartz explained. “Then we met Young Cho, a chef who had a history of teaching others to run restaurants and had a long experience creating food menus and the restaurant know-how needed.”

It was the perfect match, according to Hartz, and plans for opening the restaurant began.

“The year was 2009, probably the wrong time to open a new restaurant away from the hustle and bustle of downtown Lake Geneva – and a time when the economy was still recovering from the 2007 financial

crisis,” Tom said.

But open their restaurant the couple did. The décor was simple, keeping with the simplicity of their vision – small wood tables and chairs, good for small groups but easily moved for larger ones. Many windows offer a bright and cheery atmosphere, and a long bench against the wall offers addition seating, as does a bar with stools.

On the first day in December of 2009, the restaurant opened with its plain décor, Young Cho’s menu and a brand new staff. Surprisingly, the restaurant welcomed close to 70 customers that first day, exceeding expectations.

The menu was simple, some breakfast items and a few luncheon choices – salads, sandwiches and soup. And as was the plan, most of the foods used came from local farmers.

Keeping it local

“We still continue to use locally grown products. We get our eggs from Yuppie Hill, our mushrooms from River Valley

Items available at Simple Bakery include bread, croissants, muffins, cinnamon rolls and cookies.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

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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

469244



Ranch, a local mushroom farm, and our vegetables from other local growers,” Tom said. “Cheese is purchased from Hill Valley Dairy.”

Because the food is local, it is delivered fresh, no need to be stored in a warehouse and transferred across the country. It is often just a short ride from where it is grown until it arrives at the restaurant.

The couple purchased their bread from a bakery in East Troy until the bakery gave up producing it in 2011 because the head baker decided to go to law school.

With extra space in the 1960s addition to the former NAPA building, the Hartz’s began to bake their own bread. Over the years, they have added other baked goods – including croissants that won the 2020 Le Croissant Challenge.

“It is the butter that makes them so good,” shared Tom.

The bakery also offers a variety of other treats – a rich, sweet cinnamon roll, as well as quality cookies (peanut butter, chocolate chip and oatmeal), other sweets and granola.

While the menu has traditional breakfast meals, it also has some unique items developed by Chef Cho. Visitors can choose a traditional offering like the Classic Eggs Benedict, or Chef Cho’s Char Sue Benedict – poached eggs, char sue pork belly, sesame bok choy, hollandaise gochuzaru, chili flakes and onion, served on a Simple Bakery-created English muffin.

There are other variations, too. Instead of corned beef hash, the café offers roasted turkey and brussel sprouts hash. Another of



from top: Bright colors bring a smile to visitors' faces as they enter Simple Café. Kimmie Gaul has a big smile for customers stopping by Simple Bakery.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Cho’s creations, it includes seasonal squash, sweet potato and spices. There is always a choice of traditional or Chef Cho’s version.

“Chef Cho enjoys creating healthy and unique menus to encourage people to try foods from other cultures that may be new to them,” shared Tom. “And there are always some unique foods on the menu to try.”

Growth spurt

In spite of the location of the store and the economy, Simple Café has continued to grow. It was doing so well that, in 2012, the Hartz family and Young Cho opened another Simple Café in Milwaukee.

“This time, we obtained a space in

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from top: A traditional offering is the tomato soup and grilled cheese, with a variety of cheeses to choose from. The turkey and ham sandwich features spicy jam and is shown served with simple potatoes.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Milwaukee's trendy east side, which seemed to be the perfect location for the second Simple Café," shared Tom. "A great location."

Like other businesses, 2020 was a difficult year for Simple Café and its employees. The business closed for three weeks, just as many other restaurants also did.

"During the time we were closed for COVID, we developed a food pantry for our employees," Tom said. "We were fortunate to have supplies, including eggs and produce, donated for our employees by our suppliers."

"We pre-cooked two to three meals and employees would come in and pick them up to take home for their families to enjoy. We were fortunate that we only had to close for three weeks," he said.



from top: One of the main draws for customers is that the café uses fresh, local ingredients. The large corner windows at the front of the café let in welcome natural light.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Employees are like family, according to Tom. They work not just for pay but to build relationships and they try to help their staff become leaders and see their jobs as learning opportunities to help them in later life.

"In June of 2021, we sadly closed Simple Café in Milwaukee," Tom said. "We chose to invest our energies here in our local community and focus our energy and resources into a community we know well."

Stepping up support

Over the last few years, Simple Café has become even more involved in the community, holding a variety of events to benefit groups throughout the area.

One of the events that has been especially meaningful for the Hartz family and Simple Café is a benefit dinner for Side by Side. Side by Side, a volunteer organization that was founded in 2006, is based on the premise of neighbors helping neighbors in need, believing that no one should go through hard times alone.

Side by Side helps to provide temporary relief for those who are experiencing a need. They may pay for a month's rent or house payment, electricity or other emergency needs to cover basic needs. Those in need are welcome to apply for assistance

one time each year. Lori Hartz has been involved in this program since the beginning.

Simple Café will hold a Side by Side benefit fundraising dinner at the restaurant on April 24. There will be two seatings – 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. and carry out will also be available. Tickets must be purchased in advance from the Side by Side website, sidebysidelakegeneva.org.

Adult tickets are \$20 and children 10 and younger are \$15.

The meals for the benefit dinner will consist of a choice of three entrees – roast pork with bourbon BBQ sauce, roasted vegetables and mashed potatoes; grilled chicken breast with mushroom cream sauce, roasted vegetables and mashed potatoes; and pasta primavera with a tomato cream sauce. Meals are accompanied by fresh bread and whipped butter and a dessert from Simple Bakery. Beverages are sold separately.

Simple Café and the Simple Bakery are at 525 Broad St., Lake Geneva. For more information, call 262-248-3556, visit the website at www.simplelakegeneva.com or like and follow Simple Café, Bakery & Market – Lake Geneva on Facebook.

Breakfast and lunch are served Monday through Sunday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Breakfast is served all day and lunch is available from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.



from top: Simple Café and Simple Bakery are in the building that formerly was home to a NAPA Auto Parts store.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

During the warmer weather, there is an outdoor patio for customers to enjoy while having breakfast or lunch.

SIMPLE CAFÉ FACEBOOK PHOTO *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

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Home furnishings with a personal touch

Paper Dolls can help make a big or small space like new again

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

Few things perk us up more than adding a touch of spring to our homes.

Whether it be adding some decorative items like spring flowers to our décor, or replacing winter throw pillows with colorful spring ones, adding a little bit of the season – or even completely redoing one or several rooms – can lift the spirit.

Whatever is being considered, the first step is to visit Paper Dolls Home Furnishings in Lake Geneva to see what is new and exciting in home décor. Owner Kristi Hugunin makes regular visits to the main furniture market in High Point, North Carolina, to find what is new and exciting in home furniture – and bring new ideas back home.

Paper Dolls sales consultant Jesse Valadez shared that Hugunin recently returned from a program in Las Vegas, where the color of the year – mocha mousse – was revealed.

“We have painted a wall that reflects that color so that everyone has a good look at it and can determine how it will fit into their home,” Valadez said. “Mocha Mousse is an earth-toned color with a touch of red in it.”

The color is available in both large and small quantities. Painting might be a good choice, but small accessories could be as well. The color of the year changes annually and while some people immediately turn to it to change the décor in their home, others prefer to keep their favorite colors in their home.

“Blue is always popular, especially here, for people with homes on the lakes, as it reflects the blue of the water,” said Julie Hults, who has been an interior designer for Paper Dolls for 22 years. “When

from top: The lighter colors in this room stand out with the blue pillow accents. Adding artificial flowers that look and feel real adds color and the feeling of spring and summer to a room.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



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picking colors for your home, choose what you love, not necessarily what is most popular and you will be happy with the look you achieve.”

Choosing furniture for a room can be difficult if a person can’t visualize how things go together. At one point in time, everything needed to match, but today, that look is out. The idea is to pick items that work together in color and style but are not identical, choosing different colors or patterns to coordinate.

“Your end tables and coffee table shouldn’t match,” shared Hults, which Valadez agreed with. “The coffee table should have its own look.”

Variety of displays

A visit to Paper Dolls Home Furnishings opens one up to a variety of styles, with furniture displayed in room vignettes. For example, a living room display with green walls and light colored furniture shows one color palate, while the newly painted bedroom display offers the mocha mousse wall.

“While the bedroom is often the room where a complete matching set of furniture is often chosen, some are now changing out the bed’s headboard for an upholstered or iron headboard to add interest to the room,” Hults said.

Paper Dolls Home carries a variety of quality upholstered furniture lines, including Lexington, Norwalk, Lee, Fairchild, Rowe, Hancock and Moore. Many of the pieces are displayed on the floor in the room vignettes and can be purchased directly from the floor display, offering instant gratification. If a different color or fabric is desired, items can also be ordered.

“Upholstered furniture today is very different than the fabrics of the past. They are now a more performance type of fabric, which is more durable than fabrics of old and easier to clean. Stains come out well,” Hugunin said.

The designers at Paper Dolls are also available to help decide on fabrics to reupholster a chair or sofa that people don’t want to replace. Employees will help find a fabric that works well with the style of the chair or sofa, while still updating it to a current look that will add to the beauty of a room.

“Reupholstering a piece is the perfect choice for a beloved furniture piece, especially one that has been in the family for generations,” Hults said. “Reupholstering, cost wise, is about the same as purchasing a new piece. That is something to take into consideration when deciding whether to reupholster or purchase new. Whatever your decision, the designers and staff will work with you as you make your decision.”

Some of the upholstering work that is done today is to redo or create a window seat. Outdoor furniture, which may have



from top: From light to dark shades, blue is a favorite color, particularly in this area where many people have lake homes. Bedrooms no longer require a complete matching set of furniture. Iron headboards and foot boards as well as upholstered headboards can be used with a variety of furniture.

PHOTOS COURTESY PAPER DOLLS *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



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N8367 Hillburn Mill Rd, Elkhorn - The ultimate nature enthusiast property on a very private 5.73 acres, amongst majestic oak trees. You'll be impressed by this 5 Bd, 3.5 bath, 2 story with finished walk-out. As you enter the foyer off the covered porch you're greeted by the LR with vaulted ceiling gas fireplace adjacent to Kitch with wood floors, large breakfast bar, granite tops and new Bosch appliances WiFi capable. Off the kitch you have a dinette with deck access, formal dining room plus den off dinette. Master BD ensuite with double vanity, soaking tub plus glass shower and walk-in closet. 2nd Bd with Vaulted ceiling. Upstairs offers a loft 3rd Bd with sitting area, jack and jill bath & 4th Bd. Family room walk-out to cement patio, 5th Bd and ample storage. Walking trails throughout the woods and natural spring pond. **\$1,075,700**



W5712 North Dr, Elkhorn - Exquisitely remodeled in 2020, this stunning 3-bed, 2-bath ranch offers 92 feet of Middle Lake frontage with breathtaking, expansive views. The main level features soaring vaulted ceilings, a wall of sliding glass doors opening to a spacious wraparound deck, and a chef's kitchen with elegant Quartz countertops, designer backsplash, KitchenAid SS appliances, and a striking waterfall island with bar seating. A luxurious bedroom and spa-like bath with heated floors and a glass shower complete the main floor. The walk-out lower level boasts a chic beverage center, 2 additional bedrooms, a modern bath with glass shower, and laundry. Two 9x12 sheds, including one lakeside, lead to the pier and manicured yard. **\$1,099,700**



W5693 Ridge Rd, Elkhorn - This Lauderdale Lakefront home has everything you been looking for. Situated on 76' of Middle Lake frontage with southern exposure, offers you a 3BR, 3.5 multi-level with walk-out lower level to screened in porch. Main floor features living room with hardwood floors, natural fireplace and sliding glass door to deck, kitchen with breakfast bar and dinette with sliding glass door to 3 season room adjacent to deck offering extending lake views. On the second floor you'll find the master BR ensuite with sliding glass door to private balcony, plus 2nd and 3rd bedrooms and full bath. Lower-level family room with bar & walk-out to huge, screened porch and deck, full BA and laundry room. Level lakeside yard featuring shed, fire-pit and Forever Pier installed last summer. Come enjoy the lake life! **\$979,700**



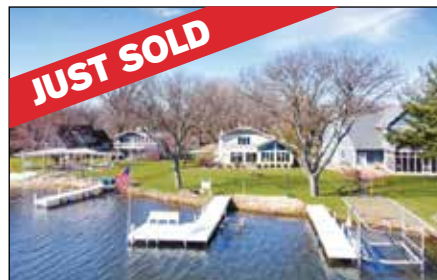
W5742 North Dr, Elkhorn - Why go through the hassle of building when this 2023 custom built 4 Plus Bedroom, 3.5 bath two story is ready to enjoy. Situated on 75' of Middle lake frontage you'll find this open concept main level with wall of windows lakeside. Inside Kitchen offers everything the discriminating 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 Delkon countertops and Zline Autograph appliances. Outside fireplace and level lakefront yard by pier and storage shed **\$1,565,000**



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 counter-tops, 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**



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. **\$639,000**



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. **\$263,700**

been faded by the sun or worn out, can also be reupholstered.

If interested in upholstered furniture, now is the time to shop for it. Through the end of April, Paper Dolls Home Furnishings will be offering a 30% discount on all upholstered pieces, whether they are purchased from those in stock or are special ordered.

Accessories galore

Once the basics are chosen, accessories help finish a room. Paper Dolls has a large number of interesting décor pieces in a variety of sizes that will work well. Customers can either come in and browse, or have a designer come to a home.

Window coverings also often need to be updated, as styles and colors change.

"A look that needs to be considered when you have a window that looks out on an impressive view is instead of purchasing drapes that completely close is to purchase dark drapes that frame the window," said Hults. "By framing the view that you desire, especially if it is with a dark-colored drape, it makes the view more impressive."

Valadez said while people wander through the store admiring the room settings, "many do not realize that the light fixtures and chandeliers hanging are part of the display and are available for purchase. New light fixtures and chandeliers, whether they are traditional styles, intricate crystal chandeliers, or modern designs, may be needed to add the finishing touch to your room."

How it began

Paper Dolls has been in business for more than 40 years and continues to grow and offer additional services and high-quality furniture.

The business got its start when Hugunin and her original business partner, Chris Haak, began installing wallpaper.

"It was because of our wallpaper installations, two women installing wallpaper, that we began to be called the Paper Dolls. And the name has stuck and been carried over," Hugunin said.

The two women went on to open a small store in Elkhorn, where they carried craft items – which were very popular at the time. They took the items on consignment from local crafters and were successful in selling them.

Then the styles began to change, and crafts were not as popular, which led to

from top: Interior designer Julie Hults and sales consultant Jesse Valadez are available to help customers find the perfect items to furnish or update the look inside of their home.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

This year's color of the year is the rich Mocha Mousse, as shown painted on this wall.

PHOTO COURTESY PAPER DOLLS *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



SPRING HOME IMPROVEMENT



them readjusting their focus. They began to carry more home décor items and fewer crafts and continued to slowly increase the home accessories. They eventually found a small storefront in Geneva Square where they opened their second home décor store, Paper Dolls Home Furnishings.

They kept the store in Elkhorn open for about a year while they began to grow their Lake Geneva business. As it grew, additional products were added, branching out to include furniture, art prints and window treatments while at the same time increasing the size of their store as storefronts adjacent to the original in Geneva Square became available.

Today, Hugunin has a total of seven storefronts combined into one large store, offering a wide variety of furniture, décor and more to fully furnish or update any home.

Paper Dolls Home Furnishings is at 138 E. Geneva Square, Lake Geneva. For more information, call 262-248-6268, visit the website, paperdollinteriors.com or like and follow them on Facebook. The store is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

clockwise from top: Those looking to reupholster a favorite chair or sofa can choose from a wide variety of options at Paper Dolls.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

This room comes together with a dark wall and bookcases, white couch and a blue chair along with accents such as colorful throw pillows, which can be changed out with the season. A large dining room table is ideal for a big group and the mix of items used throughout brings a great contrast to the room.

PHOTOS COURTESY PAPER DOLLS *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



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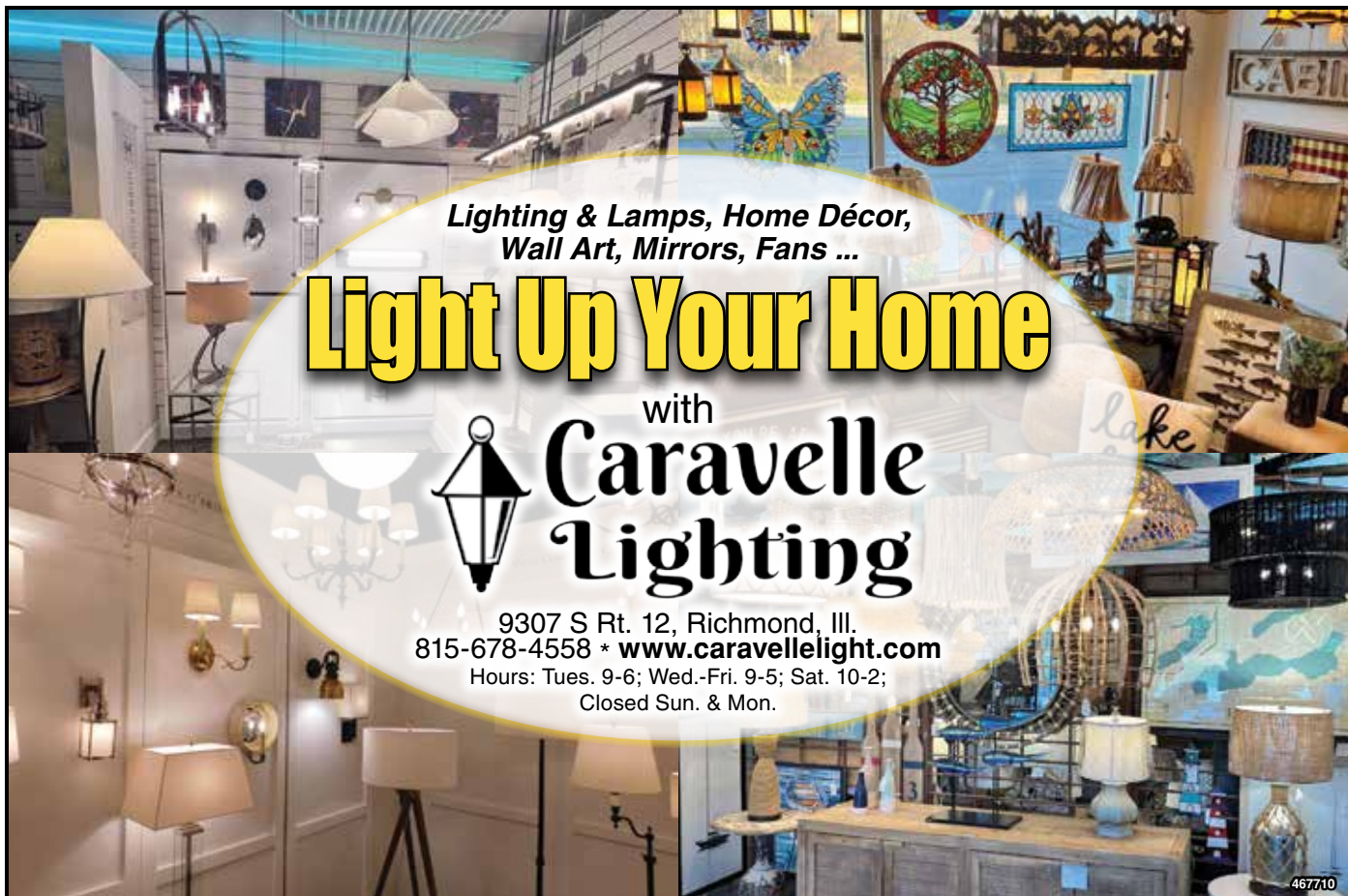


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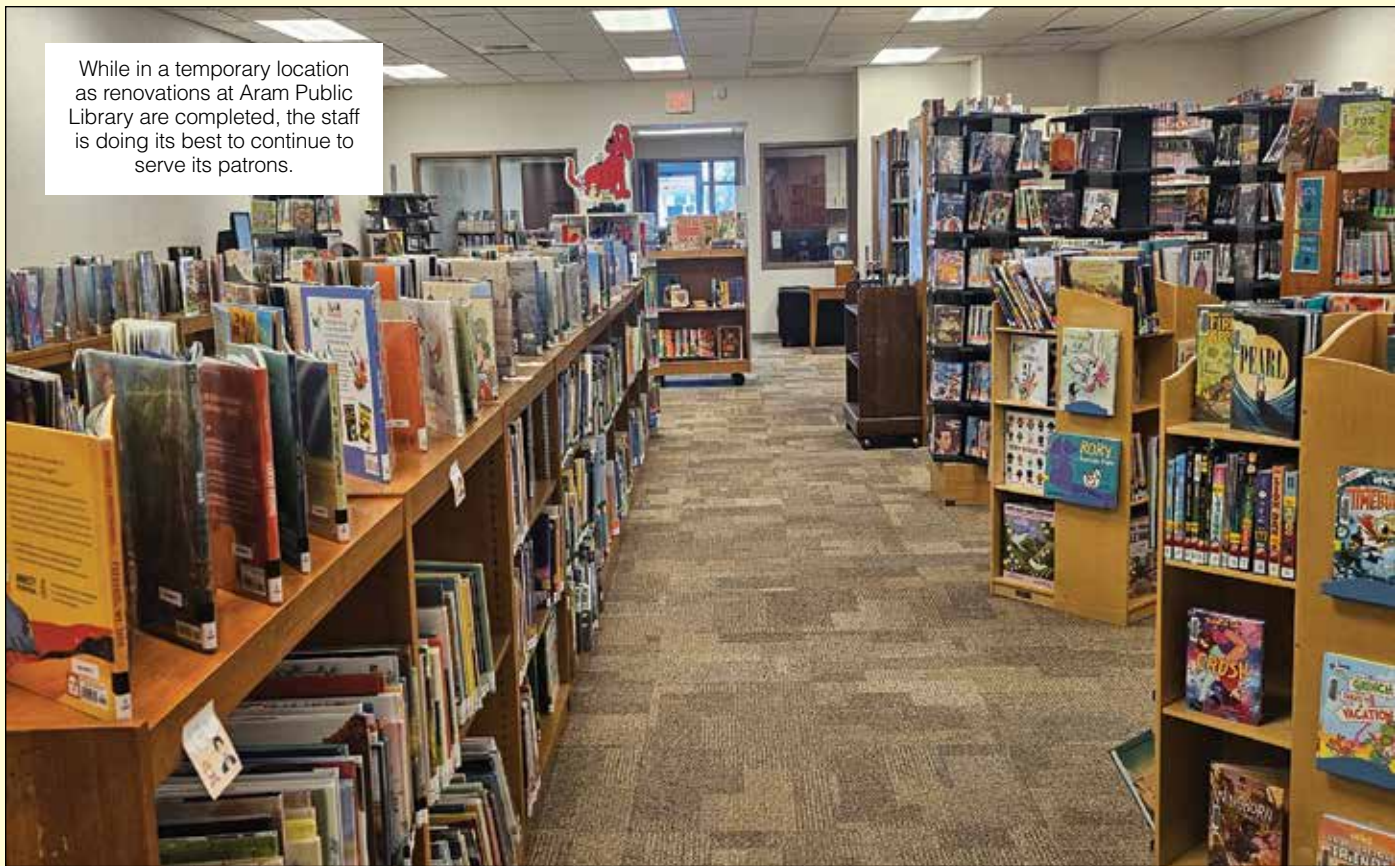


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While in a temporary location as renovations at Aram Public Library are completed, the staff is doing its best to continue to serve its patrons.



SANDR LANDEN MACHAJ Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Celebrate National Library Week locally

'Drawn to the Library' theme highlights all they have to offer

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**
CORRESPONDENT

Since 1958, the National Library Association has designated time in the spring, April 6-12 this year, as National Library Week. The theme of the first library week in the United States was "Wake Up and Read," according to the National Library Association.

Now, each year, there is a new theme. This is the 67th anniversary of National Library Week and is not only celebrated in the United States but also in many other countries as the importance of libraries is recognized.

The theme for 2025 is "Drawn to the

Library," which recognizes changes that have occurred at libraries over the years. In the early days, libraries were a place to borrow books to take home and read. Today however, libraries offer much more.

This year's theme celebrates libraries as more than just a place to pick up a book, even though that is still an important function of every library. Today, libraries are also places for research, studying in a quiet space with few distractions, as well as a place to learn new skills, be entertained and even play games.

It can also be a place to indulge in craft events, watch movies, join a book or other club or listen to a speaker share history or another topic of interest.

There are many libraries in the area that can easily become one's home away from home – a place to increase your learning, broaden your knowledge of the world and to have fun with others from the community.

Here is a little more about a trio of local libraries.

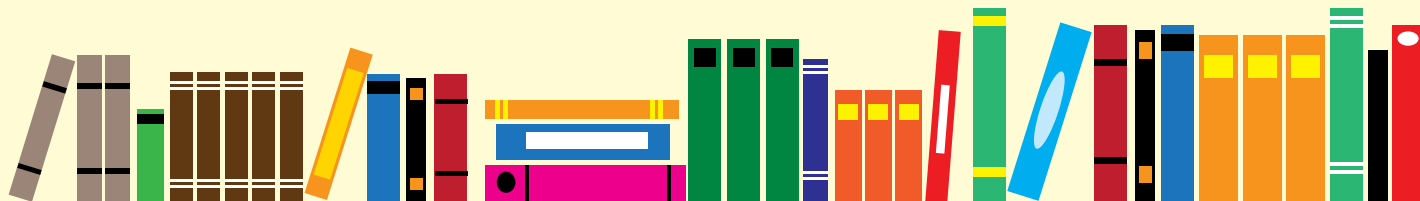
Aram Public Library, Delavan

While the beginnings of a library in Delavan began in 1885, it was actually in 1906 that plans were made to build a public library for the community.

With several additions over the years, that building has served the community well but now is being revamped. The renovations are set to increase the size as well as the use of space to meet the current needs of Delavan's population.

To make the renovation happen, the library has moved to a temporary location of 830 E. Geneva St., Suite B, next to Ace Hardware.

"We moved into the new space and opened to the public on Jan. 21 and have done our best to continue to provide the services the community needs," shared





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Miss Katherine, head of the Children's Department and Assistant Director at Aram in Delavan, stands adjacent to the Jackpot collection of popular books available for immediate checkout.

SANDR LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Katherine Schoofs, director of youth services and assistant director at Aram. "We hope to have the ground breaking for the new building in spring. It will be an amazing space, triple in size to what we have had in the past.

"It will be a new community hub for all to explore a variety of interests."

An open house was held the end of March to introduce the community to the temporary space. Along with displaying the layout of the library space, cake pops were shared from Sallie's Cake Shop and there was an appearance by Mayor Ryan Schroeder.

Although the library staff has been very busy with relocating the library, they will still celebrate National Library Week.

Many of the events will be combined with the celebrations to acquaint visitors to the new library space. Among the activities will be the regular story reading by Ms. Katherine, Pastries by Chad as a special treat, and a visit from Nuggets – a pony from SMILES Equine Therapy who works with children with disabilities. At one

of the story reading sessions, Schroeder will be the reader (check the website for the day).

The library will be also offering Take and Make crafts due to the small space. There are special programs for children and adults, such as job hunting, book club in a bag, and programs in English, Spanish and ASL.

"We will be sharing some of our 'Fresh Reads,'" Schoofs said. "These are books aimed at teens and adults that have a lower reading ability but still look forward to reading appropriate books for their age."

Stop by Aram Public Library at 830 E. Geneva, Delavan (its temporary location), call 262-728-3111 or visit www.aramlibrary.org.

Lake Geneva Public Library

The Lake Geneva Library is located on the shore of Geneva Lake, in a prairie-style building designed by Frank Lloyd Wright protégé James R. Dresser. The property was donated for both a library and a park by Mary D.



from left: The Lake Geneva Public Library building was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright Protégé James R. Dresser. This sculpture outside the library is a reminder that reading begins in childhood for many people.

SANDR LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



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Sturges, who felt there should be a library in Lake Geneva.

In 2022, the library went through a renovation and updates to improve access and safety while continuing to highlight the building's historic design.

The library offers a variety of services to the community, from the traditional lending of books to the not-as-traditional lending of objects such as a ring sizer, an ice cream maker and a sewing machine, among other items from their "Library of Things."

Emily Ward Packard, the community engagement librarian, said a number of different programs are planned for April, starting April 7 with a program on artificial intelligence at 10:30 a.m.

"Today it is often in common websites that are used by everyone," Packard said. "Come and learn how to identify it and how it works."

On April 8, a program for teens and adults will be held from 6 to 7 p.m. to make a felted Mushroom bookmark.

Later in the month, join the library to learn about the history of mocktails during prohibition and a program about the apprentices of Frank Lloyd Wright.

On April 24, from noon to 1 p.m., a program will be held for children only, to learn more about bunnies in the wild. They will be given the chance to hold and pet the bunnies brought in for the program.

For more information, visit Lake Geneva Public Library, 918 Main St., Lake Geneva, call 262-249-5299 or visit the website at www.lglibrary.org.

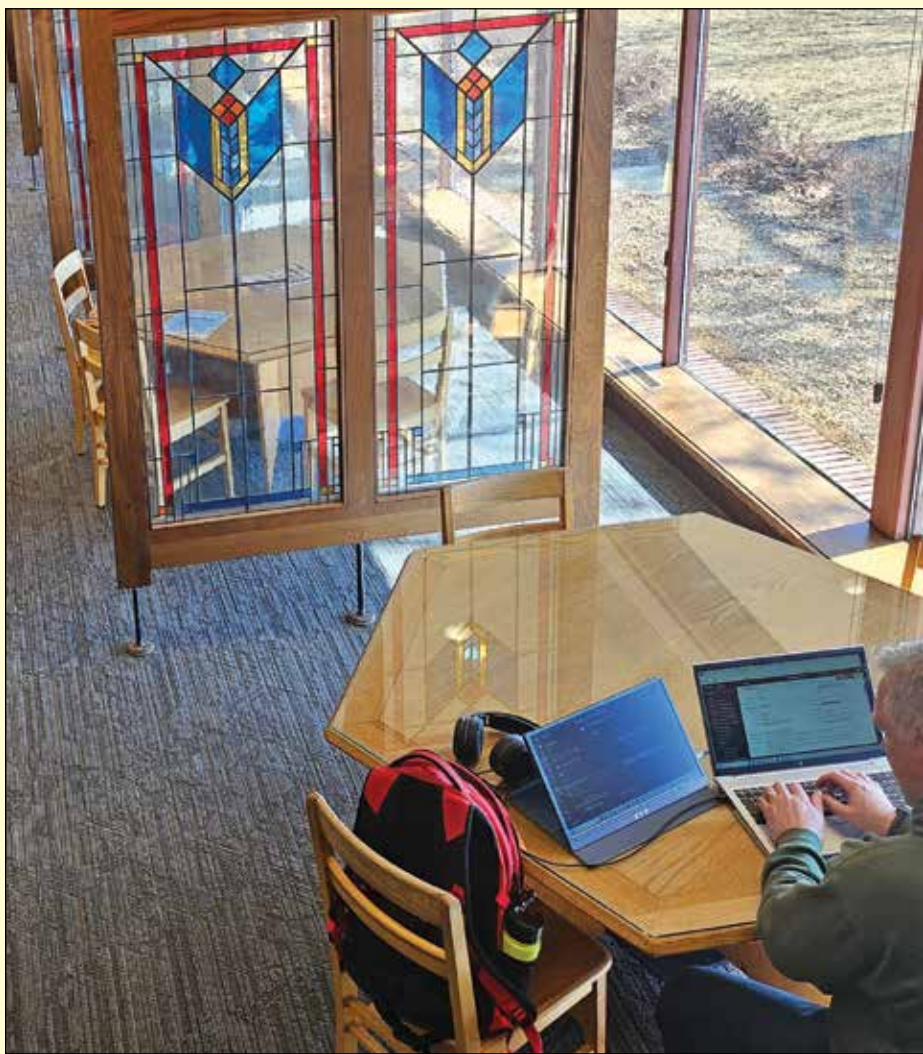
Matheson Memorial Library, Elkhorn

Each year, the staff at Matheson Memorial Library work together to create programs to share with the community to celebrate National Library week and this year is no different.

"We have planned a variety of events at the library during National Library Week to share with our visitors," said Sara Krewal, Circulation Supervisor of Matheson Memorial Library in Elkhorn. "Each day will have a theme and a different activity."

April 7 will be Patron Appreciation Day. Krewal said treats will be out for the library patrons to enjoy. April 8 is National Library Workers Day, and the library will honor its staff with biography boards.

"We will also play Guess the Staff Selfie and match to their Shelfie," Krewal said. "There will be stacks of the staff member's favorite books and visitors will have to match the selfie to the books that are that person's favorites. Whoever gets the most



from top: There are a variety of books available at Matheson in Elkhorn.

COURTESY MATHESON MEMORIAL LIBRARY *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Offering some separation for patrons to sit and read or work on their computer, these pieces were created by Ed Gilbertson of Gilbertson's Stained Glass.

SANDR LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



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clockwise from above: Special guests, including classical guitarist Brad Conroy, are a regular feature at Matheson throughout the year. Raising money for various projects is a fun way for the community to be involved in supporting the library in Elkhorn. Programs offered include a variety of guest speakers who share information, and sometimes slideshows, about an experience or interesting topic.

PHOTOS COURTESY MATHESON MEMORIAL LIBRARY
Spirit of Geneva Lakes

correct has a chance to win an Amazon Gift Card.”

That Wednesday, the bookmark station will open where patrons young or old may design their own bookmark, according to Krewal.

The entire month of April is also library card sign up month. There will be a wall display of all new patrons who sign up for a library card, and they will receive a goody bag.

Adults may also participate in the Food For Fines Program. If they have any fines due, they can bring in food items for the Elkhorn Food Pantry. Each item goes toward reducing fines by \$5. The food, which will be given to the Elkhorn Food Pantry, cannot be in a damaged container or out of date. And of course, anyone is welcome to donate food that week even if they don’t have any fines.

There will also be a number of other programs and activities for children, adults, and families including “Paws to Read,” a favorite for many patrons. A story will be



read and animals from Lakeland Animal Shelter will be on hand from 4:15 to 5 p.m. Monday, April 7.

Family storytime will be held on Tuesday the 8th and Thursday the 10th at 9:30 a.m., with stories read by Miss Esther.

Two adult programs slated include Wednesday, April 9 at noon for “Meditation

with Melanie,” sponsored by the Adult Services Department. On Thursday, April 10 at 6 p.m., “Poetry with James Hamilton” will be presented.

To learn more, stop by Matheson Memorial Library at 101 N. Wisconsin St., Elkhorn, call 262-723-2678 or visit the website at elkhorn.lib.wi.us.



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TREAT YOUR TASTEBUDS TO SOMETHING NEW

Vote for the best at the Burger Throwdown

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

The 14th Annual Geneva Lakes Burger Throwdown will take over Lodge Geneva National May 4. The event is a benefit for the Badger High School Culinary ProStart Program. And no, you won't be throwing down hamburgers literally other than into your mouth as you taste numerous unique creations.

"The Culinary ProStart Program provides a means for Badger High School

students to participate in a culinary program that may help them to become professional chefs in the future," shared Jamie Lutz, the Culinary Arts Instructor at Badger High School in Lake Geneva.

"The program was started by Russ Tronson who was the original Culinary Arts Instructor and later Principal of Badger High School. He saw this as a way to raise funds to pay expenses for the students to participate in the State Championship, participating against other great teams from the State of Wisconsin. If they are successful in winning the State Championship, they will move on to compete in the National Championship," Lutz added.

Since its third year, the event has been held at Lodge Geneva National (formally The Ridge) on Highway 50 west of Lake Geneva. The resort donates the space for the Geneva Lakes Burger Throwdown.

Located on the shore of Lake Como, Lodge Geneva National is an ideal place to host this fun event. The grills are placed outdoors on the patio, where each competing chef has his own grill and team. Visitors make their way through the patio and observe the chefs hard at work as the burgers are cooked.

The chefs – or their runners, remove the burgers from the grill and take them to the team's station inside where the artistry by the chefs competing for an award all

This year all the chefs at the Burger Throwdown will use Big Green Egg grills such as this team used last year.

PHOTO COURTESY BADGER HS CULINARY PROGRAM *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

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comes together.

Each of the chefs are from local area restaurants, both large and small and they create their own special, unique way to dress up a burger. While most people are familiar with the standard options – ketchup, mustard, onions, pickles, cheese and maybe a slice of bacon – there are countless other ways to top a burger.

To be certain the chefs have an even start, the grills are the same and the meat is the same – quality ground beef donated by Gordon's Food Service, according to Lutz.

"This year the chefs will have new extra-large Big Green Egg grills to cook their burgers. After the completion of the Throwdown these grills will be available for purchase," Lutz said.

IT TAKES A TEAM

The chefs and their teams bring their own buns and toppings, from some of the usual condiments to a variety of other interesting and unique additions all of which add to the creativity of the finished burger.

The burgers are cut into quarters and visitors are offered samples for tasting. Bring an appetite as there are at least 10 chefs competing. While some people can't fathom eating even a quarter of a burger from each of the teams present, others embrace the challenge.

One way to approach it is to walk around and check out the offerings before starting to sample. Narrow down which ones appear the most appealing and try those first in case the total number of samples one can eat is limited.

The students from the culinary program also work the day of the Throwdown. They perform a variety of duties from checking visitors in as they enter the event, to assisting in setup as well as helping visitors find their way through the event.



This inflatable character brought an extra level of fun last year. At the 2025 competition, all the burgers will be cooked on Big Green Egg grills.

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Other areas students can often be seen helping include replenishing the chefs' supplies of burgers as well as keeping the supplies needed – such as plates and napkins – filled for the guests.

AMBIENCE & AWARDS

Hopefully the weather will cooperate so burger samplers can spend time out on the patio by the grills as well as inside while making their way around the various teams' stations. The beautiful view of Lake Como is a bonus while watching the chefs do their grilling magic.

To further add to the enjoyment of the day, music will be presented out on the patio by local musician, Big Al Wetzel. There might not be a better way to spend a Sunday afternoon in early May than out on the patio, overlooking Lake Como while observing numerous local chefs and taking in the aroma of freshly grilled burgers.

The samples continue to be available for guests until they are gone. At the end of the event, two awards are presented.

The Judge's Choice Award is determined by professional judges, many who are chefs themselves.

The People's Choice Award is chosen by the attendees who have sampled the burgers and vote for the best one. Some years both awards have been won by the same team but that's not always the case.

"The Judge's Choice winner was the



clockwise from above: Burgers with a special sauce and cheese finish cooking on the grill. The crunch burger was one of last year's winners. Local chefs and their teams, including culinary students, will compete at the 14th annual Burger Throwdown May 4.

PHOTO COURTESY BADGER HS CULINARY PROGRAM
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team from Lake Lawn Resort while the People's Choice winner was the team from Grand Geneva Resort," Lutz said, followed by the lingering question. "Who will be the winner this year?"

SUPPORTING THE KIDS

While guests look forward to sampling burgers and seeing the results of the competition at the Throwdown, the fact that it benefits the culinary students is at the heart of attending for many people.

With the help of funds raised at the

event, many students will ultimately go on to achieve future success as chefs themselves. In addition to money raised helping cover expenses involved in competitions, some also goes toward a scholarship fund.

As they try out for the culinary team students must prepare recipes, be knowledgeable about sanitation practices and be able to plate the food before it is served in addition to the actual cooking, according to Lutz.

The students involved in the Culinary





Clockwise from above: Cheese and onion rings are great burger toppings. Guests can spend time on the deck overlooking Lake Como while enjoying music at the event. This batch of burgers is cut into quarters and ready to be taken inside for hungry guests.

PHOTOS COURTESY BADGER HS CULINARY PROGRAM
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ProStart program are those truly motivated to have a career in the culinary world. The program features a two-year curriculum which ends with the students who complete the coursework successfully and pass an exam. They then receive a certificate endorsed by the National Restaurant Association. Students who continue related studies at Gateway Technical College, they may receive up to nine college credits for their work at Badger.

Students from the program also tryout to participate with the team that will go on to compete in the state championship and if successful, qualify for the national level of competition.

To prepare for the competitions, the team practices several times each week to perfect their cooking skills. Lutz said there are two teams: the culinary team which consists of five members who specialize in cooking; a management team of four members who participate in designing restaurant concepts.

"Last year, the Badger High School Team won the State Championship and went on to the Nationals where they finished in 14th place," Lutz said.

The state event was held March 19 in Madison with the culinary team earning gold and the management team earning bronze.

"We are so proud of all our students and their hard work... Nationals here we come," a post on the Facebook page announcing the results stated.

Chef John Bogan, founder of the Lake Geneva School of Cooking, in a comment on the Facebook post, complimented the team on their success at state.

"Badger ProStart put on quite the display of professionalism, execution and just



down right taking the competition over in all phases," Bogan commented. "It was awesome to watch the students work on such a team level!"

Members of the team that competed at state, along with Lutz, will now be attending the national competition in Baltimore May 2-4. Other members of Badger's program – as well as guests – will no doubt be cheering them on while spending time at the Burger Throwdown.

Lodge Geneva National is at W4240 WI-

50, Lake Geneva. Tickets are \$25 each for general entry and sells out so it's advised to purchase them early. The event, which is on Sunday, May 4, runs from noon to 3 p.m.

There is a VIP ticket option for \$50, which allows entry an hour earlier at 11 a.m.

For more information or to purchase tickets for the Geneva Lakes Burger Throwdown, visit the Facebook page. Tickets can also be purchased directly by visiting vancoevents.com/us/CVSM.

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