

Fascinating Folks of Delavan

A KEEPSAKE EDITION



the Delavan Enterprise 2025



'Coffee, creative spaces and community'

Boxed and Burlap's downtown location a café, event space, bar, art studio and more

As a husband and wife team, John and Lindsay Neighbors love to be creative.

By Jennifer Eisenbart
STAFF WRITER

While the couple has built a successful wedding and event venue plus coffeehouse near Highways 67 and 50, the downtown location at 230 E. Walworth Ave., Delavan, offers a different vibe.

A combination café and event space, the downtown space has both indoor and outdoor expansive seating. The 18,000-square foot building, according to the Neighbors, prides itself in offering more than just coffee and food.

The site is home to Boxed and Burlap's coffee roastery, an art studio, a cocktail bar and enough space for individuals and small groups – as well as events.

"Our faith has led us through an amazing adventure to bring the community a marvelous store," the couple says on the website. "The truth is, Boxed and Burlap is a feeling, fed to the soul with coffee, creative spaces and community."

The mission of Boxed and Burlap is simple – stay true to the couple's faith, be inspired by the past and encourage others for the future.

Downtown Delavan

After opening the wedding venue in 2016, the couple ironed out numerous details – including renovations and making the decision to roast their own coffee.

The downtown space, however – a former Schultz Bros. Five and Dime and the Tommy Guns Antique Mall – remained vacant for a decade prior to the

couple purchasing the space in 2020.

Like the flagship Highway 67 space, John Neighbors took the lead in redesigning the space, handling most of the actual construction and finishing carpentry.

After a few soft openings early in 2023, the space officially opened March 15 of last year.

Menu and more

The downtown café offers both a breakfast and lunch menu, with coffee, espresso, tea, hot chocolate, steamers and more available for purchase.

In addition, breakfast sandwiches and pastries are available, with breakfast served daily from 6 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

The lunch menu – available from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. – includes salads and wraps, a variety of sandwiches and Roman-style crusted oval pizzas called pinsas – topped with cheese, sausage or the barbecue-chicken-bacon option.

In addition, the site features a cocktail bar Fridays from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m., and Saturday from noon to 10 p.m. Known as Bar 119, the Twitter/X handle for the space is @Speakeasy_119, with "access granted to those who know."

The bar features crafted cocktails, mocktails, bourbon, tequila, wine and Wisconsin craft beer. Membership to the bar is \$190 for the year.

The location also offers events throughout the year, including art classes, private events and more.

To learn more about Boxed and Burlap – including art classes and the art gallery – visit the website, boxedandburlap.com. Hours for the downtown site are Sunday through Thursday, 6 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 6 a.m. to midnight.

The website offers a place for inquiries about private events and an online form to book tours of the lower level, downtown space.

John and Lindsay Neighbors stand in the new Boxed and Burlap venture they opened a couple of years ago. The downtown Delavan café offers breakfast and lunch, a cocktail bar, art gallery and event space.

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The inside of the downtown Boxed and Burlap space offers plenty of seating for both individuals and small groups.

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on the cover: American Legion Post 95 in Delavan fires a 21-gun salute at a past Veterans Day ceremony. The events also include the tolling of the bells, the playing of "Taps" and an invocation reading.

FILE PHOTO Delavan Fascinating Folks

Filmmakers aim to shine spotlight on Delavan

Local residents make award-winning film using area locales, people in bit parts

Wisconsin has more than its fair share of movie-worthy scenes, but how many actually end up in movies?

By Jennifer Eisenbart
STAFF WRITER

For a handful of locals, the answer was: not enough. And Mark Roling, Erik Voss, Andy Drefs and Peter Oylooe came up with a solution to the problem: Creative Wisconsin Filmmakers.

The group recently finished its first movie – “Visions of Her,” about 40 minutes long – utilizing, among other Delavan places, Lake Lawn Resort.

The film debuted at Lake Lawn Resort in February, sponsored by the Delavan-Delavan Lake Chamber of Commerce for its annual banquet.

“We’re the main event,” both Voss and Roling said.

The group wanted to see more being done with the area.

“We have such unique architectural and natural landscapes,” Oylooe said.

Roling, a former vice president of studio entertainment at Warner Brothers, would often come to the area from California to visit his mother.

“I would fly back at least once a year, if not more,” he explained. “I’d just go from California brown to the plush green forests and lakes in Wisconsin.

“I’d go, ‘why isn’t there more shooting going on here?’”

That’s when he, Oylooe and Voss decided to start Creative Wisconsin Filmmakers.

“We’d do our own films,” Roling explained. “While doing that, educate the nearby colleges and the high schools about what it’s like to produce a professional-type film,” adding, “not only educate, but bring more attention for people to shoot in Delavan and, in general, southern Wisconsin.”

“Visions of Her” certainly utilized the



At the Delavan-Delavan Lake Area Chamber of Commerce’s annual dinner and awards night at Lake Lawn Resort, there was a showing of the short film, “Visions of Her,” which was shot in the Delavan area and is up for numerous film festival awards. Creative Wisconsin Filmmakers were presented the Tourism Visionary Award that evening, from left: Andy Drefs, Peter Oylooe, Mark Roling, chamber director Malinda Obershaw and Erik Voss.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS Delavan Fascinating Folks

area. The storyline focuses on a man who loses his wife in a car crash, “and he just spirals downward,” Roling explained.

The man is from Chicago, and he and his wife had a favorite place to visit – Lake Lawn Resort.

“He comes up here, and he realizes that life is meant to go on,” Mark explained.

So far, the film has been raking in award nominations.

Sam Whitten, a proven stage and film actor – with credits like “Army Wives” and the Hallmark Christmas film “Santa, Maybe” on his resume – is the lead in the film and already has a best male lead actor

nomination from the Accolade Global Film Competition. The film also made the short list for Best Short Film.

Additionally, it’s been selected for the American Golden Picture International Film Festival awards – for best lead actor, best supporting actress (Cynthia Church), best screenplay, best fiction short film and best first-time film.

Those nominations turned into awards in early December, and the film has been accepted into several other independent and international film festivals, as well as picking up a number of other awards from organizations based in California.

“The film festivals we’re winning out of Los Angeles are industry pros,” Voss said. “We’re getting recognized.”

The film was also accepted into the Beloit International Film Festival.

For a film that is basically a proof of concept to potentially expand into a full-length feature film or a series, it

has been an unqualified success.

All four of the men involved said they want the film to encourage others to do more filming in this area.

Not only did “Visions of Her” film locally – using Delavan Lake, the downtown brick streets and Penwern Mansion – it involved local students and residents in bit parts.

Creative Wisconsin Filmmakers is calling the second floor of Wishing Star Theatre – another creative work in progress in the Delavan area – home, and the four area residents have found a passion for the project.

Actually, they didn’t need to find the passion. Their passion is what led to creating CWF from the friendship and collaboration that Voss and Roling had done previously, as well as involving Oylooe.

Voss has numerous local connections, having been with the Town of Delavan Police Department for 30 years, while Oylooe is an actor and musician with a history of non-profit work.

Roling said he remembers the impact that “Bridges of Madison County” had on the small towns in Iowa where it was filmed, and he’s hoping to inspire the same here.

“That film was one of my driving forces,” Roling explained. “If they can do it in Winterset, why not in Delavan?”



For our country...

Delavan-Darien High School hosted Elkhorn Area High School last August so the football teams could square off in the second annual Hero Bowl. It’s a non-conference, season-opening game for both schools, whose communities neighbor each other. America’s colors were on display, members of various branches of the military were on hand to answer questions and games were available for youngsters to enjoy.

DAVE DRESDOW PHOTOS Delavan Fascinating Folks

Celebration of Freedom!

The City of Delavan kicked off its 2024 Fourth of July happenings with a pancake breakfast at the firehouse. In the afternoon, crowds gathered along the streets of downtown for a parade, which made its way to Phoenix Park. At the park, a Celebration of Freedom was held with members of the Walworth County Marine Corps League shown presenting the colors prior to a concert in the park. The festivities culminated with a Flag Ceremony and fireworks show at Congdon Gardens.

DAVE DRESDOW *Delavan Fascinating Folks*



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Treasure Hut a longstanding family business

What started as the business of Nieman's Greenhouse, the boasting point of the flower shop once was that they could telephone or telegraph flowers anywhere. "Times have changed," said Kevin Hermann, son of the couple who purchased the business in 1969 and renamed it Treasure Hut.

By Jennifer Eisenbart
STAFF WRITER

Now a staple in the Delavan area and greater Walworth County community, the flower shop and greenhouse boasts a large variety of flowers, plants, gifts and even furniture.

"I was born and raised in Delavan and Walworth County has always been my home," explained Hermann. "I believe if you're part of the community, you need to contribute."

Located on the eastern edge of the City of Delavan at 6551 Hwy. 11, the flower shop offers a large variety of services and has for many decades.

When asked about his involvement in the business, Hermann joked he's been around greenhouses since birth.

"I grew up tugging my dad's pants legs, asking him questions," Hermann explained.

Those questions led Hermann into the business.

In 2000, he and his wife, Stacy, purchased the business from his parents, Richard and Jean Anne. Since then, he has continued the family business' motto of serving the public.

"Our advertising motto is, 'where quality counts,'" Hermann said, who is hopeful the business will pass into a third generation with his son, Logan.

"We've just tried to continue the family business," he added.



above: Among the many displays Treasure Hut puts together each year are hanging flower baskets for places like Lake Lawn Resort. **far right:** Kevin Hermann is shown with his son, Logan, who Kevin is hoping will make Treasure Hut a three-generation family affair.

JENNIFER EISENBART/SUBMITTED PHOTO Delavan Fascinating Folks



Customers can make appointments with staff at the Treasure Hut for weddings. While scheduling in advance is well advised (as are all things related to planning a wedding), the flower shop's website also offers photos from recent weddings it has done – so customers can

both get ideas and see the quality of the work.

Anniversaries can also be set up with the staff.

But it's not just weddings and anniversaries. Somber occasions, such as funerals, can and will be accommodated.

Regardless of what the occasion is, the shop will work within a variety of budgets.

Treasure Hut handles arrangements for corporate events. Right now, the business is preparing the hanging baskets that are normally on display at Lake Lawn Resort and in the City of Lake Geneva, which head out in May.

In addition to the work going out, the greenhouse crew is spending time on similar plants and flowers that they'll sell outright.

Hermann said the shop will do its best to handle all requests, but asks customer to remember to book early when possible.

"We try not to say no to anybody, but sometimes we have more than we can handle, especially on weekends," he explained.

The big spring weekend for many flower shops and greenhouses is Mother's Day, which is also true for Treasure Hut. But the inventory is around year round, focusing not just on plants but the fresh-cut flowers.

The shop also handles holiday displays. "For Christmas, we do Pier 290," Hermann said.

In addition to the fresh flowers and plants, though, Treasure Hut has a large variety of gifts available in its shop. Those items range from stuffed animals and candles to antique Victorian glass lamps and even artificial flowers.

Special orders can be requested with those artificial flowers.

"We do stuff for houses and resorts," Hermann explained. "They need planter boxes and such."

For more information about Treasure Hut, call 262-728-2020 or visit treasurehutflorist.com. Hours are Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Appointments on Sundays, or after hours, can be requested.



THOSE WHO GAVE ALL...

In the City of Delavan's Memorial Day observances in 2024, fallen U.S. military were honored in various ways. A parade was held through the downtown area and a ceremony followed at Old Settlers Cemetery. Shown: Motorcycle riders show the United States colors while riding through downtown Delavan that day.

DAVE DRESHOW Delavan Fascinating Folks

Blain's Farm & Fleet earns business achievement award

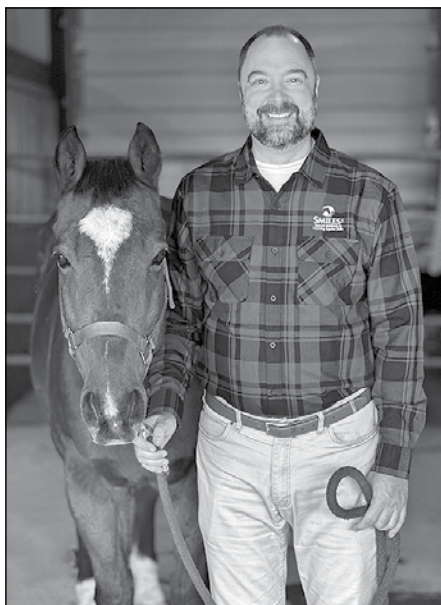
COMPANY CHOSE TO DONATE THE CASH PRIZE TO SMILES

Blain's Farm & Fleet has been named the recipient of the Wisconsin Business Achievement Award, presented by the Flowers Family Foundation, a leading organization committed to uplifting local businesses and community initiatives. Now in its 10th year, this award honors businesses driving Wisconsin's economy and highlights those dedicated to supporting their communities.

The WBBA is a symbol of excellence and commitment, recognizing companies that demonstrate contributions that support economic growth and community development in Wisconsin. This award represents Blain's Farm & Fleet's commitment to fostering a vibrant business ecosystem in Wisconsin, underscoring the importance of the company's active role in addressing community needs.

"We are especially proud to receive the Wisconsin Business Achievement Award," said Mark Hasting, Chief Executive Officer and President of Blain's Farm & Fleet. "This honor reflects our deep commitment to giving back to the communities where our stores are located. Supporting local organizations and initiatives is at the heart of what we do, and we are grateful for the opportunity to make a positive impact alongside our neighbors."

As part of the award, Blain's Farm & Fleet chose to donate the \$75,000 cash prize to Special Methods in Learning Equine Skills (SMILES.) This Wisconsin-based non-profit uses horseback riding to promote social,



Troy Moldenhauer, Executive Director of SMILES, spends time with Rodney, one of the program's horses.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Delavan Fascinating Folks

emotional, physical, and personal growth in individuals facing physical, emotional, and cognitive challenges.

Blain's Farm & Fleet's ongoing support of SMILES is not limited to financial contributions; the company also provides essential product donations that aid the horses' care and training.

"We are incredibly grateful for our



Josiah, a young rider, practices balance and learns confidence with Rio, a horse at SMILES.

SHADOW DOG PHOTOGRAPHY
Delavan Fascinating Folks

partnership with Blain's Farm & Fleet," said Troy Moldenhauer, Executive Director of SMILES. "Their generosity strengthens our equine-assisted program, allowing us to provide life-changing experiences and make a profound difference in the lives of those we serve."

The WBAA ceremony was held last fall at The Fireside Theatre in Ft. Atkinson. It

brought together business and community leaders from throughout the state to recognize the efforts of Blain's Farm & Fleet and other local organizations committed to driving economic success and community impact.

For more information about Farm & Fleet, visit farmandfleet.com. For more about SMILES, go to visitsmiles.org.



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Making their mark around the county

Delavan men among outstanding seniors honored at last year's county fair

Last fall's Walworth County Fair, 175th, kicked off during the opening ceremony on Aug. 28 at the Peggy's Park Stage with the presentation of State of Wisconsin citations honoring the service of four outstanding senior citizens for decades to their communities. The senior citizens honored included Larry Malsch from Delavan, Rick Bottlemey from Delavan, Ruth Pfeiffer from Elkhorn and Andy Pearce from Walworth.

The opening ceremony also included a singing of the national anthem led by students from Elkhorn Area High School, a tribute to Peggy Fraser – the longtime fairgrounds staff member who passed away earlier this year – and awards for outstanding vendors, exhibitors, and friends of the fair.

In his opening remarks to the presentation of citations to the senior citizens, State Sen. Steve Nass said it was an honor to recognize the volunteer efforts of others.

"The citations that we give out are allowed under our rules. We can't just give willy-nilly give citations to whomever we want," he said. "They have to have earned it, and these people have certainly earned it."

Nass presented the state citation to Malsch in recognition of "his many years of countless hours as a volunteer, and in other positions of service and value to the community."

Nass said that Malsch began his service to others by serving our country in the United States Navy as a Navy corpsman – who provides emergency, preventative, and routine medical care to Navy personnel – and continuing as an officer in the Delavan Police Department rising to the



rank of Police Chief.

Malsch has served on the Delavan city and town boards and on both the city and town's fire and police department boards, "ensuring the safety of his community."

Nass noted, as an active member of American Legion Post 95 serving in roles as Commander and Adjutant, Malsch "demonstrated his belief in serving those who served our county."

Malsch attributed his drive to serve the community in part to his grandfather, who served on a volunteer fire department for more than 50 years.

"We're sitting there eating supper and the whistle goes off and he goes," Malsch said. We'll be doing a birthday party or something like that, and the whistle goes off and he goes. I just learned that you do things like that."

He also pointed to Harry Larsen, Delavan Chief of Police, for instilling in him the importance of serving the community: "He was my guide and my inspiration and my model."

Rounding out his contributions to the legal system, Malsch has served as a jail bailiff in the Walworth County Circuit Court for 16 years whose role is the maintenance of order in the courtroom.

Wisconsin State Representative Nik Rettinger presented Bottlemey with his Outstanding Senior Citizen award.

Rettinger cited that as an active member and director of the Walworth County Farm Bureau, Bottlemey "has served an extensive amount of volunteer hours, giving freely of his time to the Elkhorn Ribfest and at the Walworth County Fair ice cream stand and Dairy Breakfast."

Bottlemey is a devoted supporter of the Walworth County Historical Society, and a long-time Big Foot High School FFA alum for more than 50 years and the Walworth County FFA.

Rettinger said that Bottlemey "serves his brothers and sisters in agriculture throughout his career at implements and other farm related jobs for many farmers throughout Walworth County."

Nass presented the citation for Andy Pearce, who was unable to attend the ceremony, to his son, Dan Pearce. Nass stated, "Andy ensures that Walworth County is a better place to live, to work, and to go to school."

A member of the Big Foot Lions Club for 36 years, Andy has been responsible for organizing and managing the annual Lobster Boil that is the main fund-raising event for the club where "100% of the money goes back into the community and state."

According to John Tucker, President of the Big Foot Lions Club, the Lobster Boil on the last Saturday in July, is an event known across the nation.

"We have people from Florida, St. Louis, and California who plan their vacation to this area and time it to coincide with the Lobster Boil," Tucker said. "The atmosphere that his event produces is nothing short of magical."

Andy recalled later, "I got involved right away when I joined the community and just never looked back."

Regarding his membership in the Big Foot Lions Club, he said, "One of the most rewarding things that we do is being able to screen the children in the grade schools, and when we do that there will be probably 80 kids out of 600 kids that we refer to get eyeglasses, otherwise they might not know they need eyeglasses."

Wisconsin State Representative Ellen Schutt presented the 2024 Outstanding Senior Citizen Award to Pfeiffer, noting having known her "from exhibiting in the open class horticulture building. She is a wonderful volunteer, always helping in the flower department. Ruth is the person who always answers the call, selflessly offering her time and efforts to assist her community in any way she can."

"Ruth has proudly served as a volunteer with the Walworth County Senior Nutrition Program for over 17 years," Schutt said, "demonstrating unwavering commitment to the well-being of others."

In addition, as an active member of the Senior Travel Club, Pfeiffer has "further enriched the lives of her peers" and she has "generously volunteered with the Walworth County Farm Bureau, contributing her time and energy to community events such as Elkhorn Ribfest, the Walworth County Dairy Breakfast, and the Ice Cream Stand."

In a simple but powerful summary of Pfeiffer's contributions to her community, Schutt said, "Ruth is a dedicated servant, and genuinely cares about family, friends, and community."



State Sen. Steve Nass (center) leads the honoring of the Walworth County Outstanding Seniors at the 2024 Walworth County Fair. He was one of a handful of state legislators on hand to recognize those selected for making strong contributions to the community. Nass hands an award to Larry Malsch, of Delavan, one of the honorees.

TOM GANSER Delavan Fascinating Folks



Showing their support

United States Gypsum Company's Delavan Plant donated \$5,000 to the Shop with a Cop event, run through the area police departments and the Delavan-Darien School District. Plant Foreman Joe Jameson said employees identify a charity each year, and chose Shop With a Cop. Shown here with USG employees are Officer Ben McMasters from the Town of Delavan Police Department (left) and Lt. Josh Flitcroft from the City of Delavan Police Department (right). It was the sixth year of the Shop With a Cop event in Delavan, held in December at Lake Lawn Resort.

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