



SPECIAL
BRIDAL
EDITION

THE SPIRIT of Geneva Lakes



Vol. 37 No. 6

COMPLIMENTARY COPY • Since 1989

JUNE 2025

VISIT A LOCAL
SAFARI PARK

WEDDING
FLOWERS GUIDE

IT'S STRAWBERRY
SEASON



BRIGHT &

Beautiful



ELKHORN GUN BARREL

BUY-SELL-TRADE

SILENCER  SHOP

KIOSK

**NOW AVAILABLE
FOR ALL NFA PURCHASES**



\$20



**ALL GUNS!
ALL IN!**

**INCOMING
TRANSFERS!**

NO HIDDEN FEES!

Why shop with us?

**Take our Virtual Store Tour and see
the difference for yourself!!!**



Elkhorn Gun Barrel



SHOP ONLINE

www.elkhorngunbarrel.com

9am-7pm

7 days a week

**ON 12 NEXT TO
WORLD FAMOUS**

Lefty's HOT DOGS

Advertiser's index

1903 Saloon.....	5
AAA Tent Masters.....	14
Abbey Springs.....	14
Addie Water Systems.....	22
AMB Roofing & Sheet Metal.....	22
Apple Barn Orchard and Winery.....	32
Aronson Fence Co Inc.....	12
B & D's Village Inn.....	5
Burtness Chevrolet Buick GMC.....	20
Caravelle Lighting Inc.....	8
Command Service Center, Inc.....	5
Elkhorn Gun Barrel.....	2
Evergreen Golf Club, LLC.....	18
Geneva Crossing Senior Neighborhood.....	20
Green Grocer & Deli.....	5
James R. Taylor & Sons.....	24
John Thielmann & Sons, Inc.....	26
Jerry Kroupa.....	10
Local Folks Restaurant & Pub.....	5
Luisa's Pizza Inc.....	5, 18
Lyle's TV & Appliances, Inc.....	30
Mars Resort.....	5
Michael's On The Lake.....	5
NL Promotions LLC.....	28
Paper Dolls.....	24
PATS Services Inc.....	18
Pine Street Cafe.....	5
Rau Salon.....	16
Sportsman's Pub & Grub.....	5
Stowell's Catering Service.....	20
Sugar Creek Mutual Insurance.....	31
Verlo Mattress LG.....	6
Veteran's Truck Line, Inc.....	22
Waterfront Pub and Eatery.....	5
Westenn Mgmt LLP.....	6
Wilson Farm Meats.....	20



ON THE COVER

Among the many decisions to be made for a wedding is the flowers, from the bridal and bridesmaid bouquets to ceremony and reception accents. At this wedding on the waterfront, the bride displays a colorful bouquet complimented with fresh greens.

PHOTO COURTESY
KELLY GRACE PHOTOGRAPHY/TOMMI'S
Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Content

▶ June events calendar	4
▶ Dining directory	5
▶ A close encounter with wildlife	7
▶ Local florists talk wedding flowers	15
▶ Pick (or pickup) some ripe strawberries	25



IT'S COMIN' UP

JUNE EVENTS

6-8 Bacon Fest Friday, June 6 through Sunday, June 8 at the Walworth County Fairgrounds in Elkhorn

Join three days of bacon, music & fun! Featuring live music and unique bacon creations. Come and have a sizzlin' good time with a wide variety of bacon-inspired dishes, treats, and drinks while listening to live music from a range of performing artists.

Fest hours are 3-10 p.m., Friday; 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday. For more information, visit baconfestwi.com.

Free concerts Phoenix Park Bandshell, which is one block south of downtown Delavan on 2nd Street between Washington and Wisconsin, offers free concerts various Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Many great concerts this summer!

Kick off your shoes and dance to favorites or sit back and listen. Bring your own chairs or blankets to sit on. Most shows begin at 7 p.m.

Keep an eye on the website, phoenixparkbandshell.com or Facebook page for updates to the schedule.

Train rides On the weekends, take a 14-mile train ride on the only remaining electric interurban tracks in Wisconsin. Historic museum and carefully maintained rail cars from 90 to 100 years ago. Stops at the Elegant Farmer in Mukwonago.

Located 15 miles north of Lake Geneva on Highway 120. Several trains depart each day on weekends from the East Troy Depot at 2002 Church Street in East Troy.

For more information, call 262-642-3263 or visit easttroyrr.org.

through Oct. 30 Lake Geneva Farmers Market The annual market, which runs through Oct. 30 is underway for the season. The market's held at Horticultural Hall, 330 Broad St., Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain or shine. For more information, send an email market@horticulturalhall.com.

Williams Bay Farmers Market Held Fridays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Edgewater Park, Geneva Street in Williams Bay, this is a unique boutique Friday market with a variety of farmers, makers and bakers with home-grown, hand-made, and home-made foods and goods.

All local produce, fresh cooked dishes, baked goods, sweet treats, fresh flowers, hand-made jewelry, hand-designed art and décor, soaps and gifts.

For more information, follow Williams Bay Farmers Market on Facebook.

Saturdays on the Square This 14-Week Farmer's Market Veterans Park, 100 W. Walworth St., Elkhorn, hosts local artisans, bakers, crafters, commercial and nonprofit vendors Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend.

Vendors set-up on a first come first serve basis. Find food trucks and a morning workout on the square and get your weekends started off right!

For more information, email info@elkhornchamber.com.

Avant Cycle Sunday Coffee Rides The riding season has started and Avant Cycle, 912 S. Wells St., Lake Geneva, hosts group rides at a casual pace (12-15 mph). This is a no-drop, fun ride. Stopping for breakfast before heading back to the shop. Start your Sunday with us!

Rides weather dependent. Routes subject to change, helmets required. All rides, unless noted, leave from Avant's back entrance. Destinations subject to change. Weather patterns will cancel any rides that would be hazardous.

For details including start times and destinations, visit avant-cycles.com.

Live Music @ The Getaway The Getaway on Lake Como, W4190 West End Rd., Lake Geneva, offers live music 6-9 p.m., Fridays, 5-9 p.m., Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sundays. For a schedule of performers and more information about the venue, visit thegetawayrestaurant.com.

Thursday Night Dinners Let the Green Grocer make dinner Thursday nights with dine-in or carry out options. They offer a different menu weekly, 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.

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

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., Lake Geneva, has illusions added every year. Come see what all the buzz is about! Purchase tickets online at lakegenevamagic.com or call the box office at 262-248-0505.

THE SPIRIT

IS A PUBLICATION OF



GENERAL MANAGER

David Habrat

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Heather Ruenz

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Vicki Vanderwerff

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Dave Drogos

PAGE DESIGN

Jennifer DeGroot

SALES

**Pete Hansen
Tamera Hamilton**

DISTRIBUTION DIRECTOR

Lindy Sweet

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

Send all correspondence to:

THE SPIRIT

**SOUTHERN LAKES
NEWSPAPERS**

1102 Ann Street
Delavan, WI 53115



SpiritofGenevaLakes.com

262.728.3411



COMMAND SERVICE

- Heating • Air Conditioning • Appliance Repair
 - Attic Insulation • Water Purification
- Serving Lake County For 55 Years**



Since 1970



"Your Complete Service Company"

\$79.00
SERVICE CALL
REGULAR HOURS
 (1st Time Customers)

Limited time offer. Not valid with any other offer.
 Must mention coupon at time of appointment.
 During regular business hours only.
 Limit one coupon per system.

0% FINANCING
UP TO 60 MONTHS
 on
ANY NEW
HEATING & A/C SYSTEM

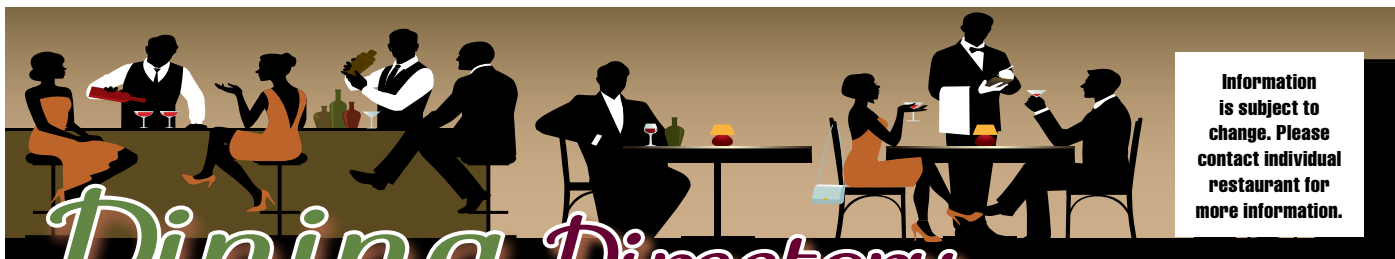
Limited time offer. Not valid with any other offer.
 Must mention coupon at time of appointment.
 During regular business hours only.
 Limit one coupon per system.

\$99.00
AC or FURNACE
CLEAN & CHECK
 (1st Time Customers)

Limited time offer. Not valid with any other offer.
 Must mention coupon at time of appointment.
 During regular business hours only.
 Limit one coupon per system.

(847) 215-9880 • www.commandservice.com

471865



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

Dining Directory

Call for Carry Out & Delivery Options

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

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

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

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

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

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, ☎

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

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

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 of our Igloos on our "Fire and Ice" Deck for a truly unique experience. We created special platters that are sure to please all of our guests. Enjoy our Piano Bar for fun Friday and Saturday nights. Call **262-245-5689** today and visit www.mars-resort.com to view our menu. L, D, FF, \$\$\$ †

WATERFRONT PUB & GRILL • 408 State Rd. 50, Delavan, WI. **262-728-4700. www.waterfrontdelavan.com** Great atmosphere for all occasions with homemade food! Indoor patios available for private parties. Dine in or pick up through our drive thru window. Daily specials including Friday Fish Fry and Saturday Prime Rib. Specialty cocktails and 19 beers on tap. Open 7 Days A Week -11 am 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

471746

verlo **SUMMER** Savings Event

M A T T R E S S

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

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

CUT OUT THE MIDDLEMAN



v1 FIRM
1-Sided No Flip

QUEEN SET PRICING

\$699

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

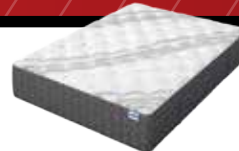


v3 PLUSH
1-Sided No Flip

QUEEN SET PRICING

\$999

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



v5 FIRM
1-Sided No Flip

QUEEN SET PRICING

\$1599

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



v7 PLUSH
1-Sided No Flip

QUEEN SET PRICING

\$2099

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

Thank You

for continuously voting us

#1

MATTRESS STORE



SAVE UP TO
\$150 OFF
v5 Set Purchase*

SAVE UP TO
\$200 OFF
v7 Set Purchase*

SAVE UP TO
\$250 OFF
v9 Set Purchase*

SAVE UP TO
\$300 OFF
v11 Set Purchase*

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

ADJUSTABLE BEDS ON SALE NOW!



Great for watching TV or reading in bed

Aids in circulation

Reduces snoring & acid reflux

Alleviates lower back, knee & leg pain

Adjustable Bed Bases**

Twin XL Starting at

\$399

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



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

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

LAKE GENEVA
2462 Hwy 120
262.249.0420

CRYSTAL LAKE
5150 North West Hwy
815.455.2570

McHENRY
3710 West Elm St.
815.578.8375

verlo.com
1-866-99-VERLO



WHERE THE *Wild* THINGS ARE

Safari Lake Geneva offers up-close experience with animals

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

While many think of Lake Geneva and the surrounding area as a place to enjoy swimming or boating on a lake, enjoying meals at one of the numerous restaurants and spend time shopping for a variety of items in area stores, there is another experience residents and visitors alike should consider.

Safari Lake Geneva is about 5 miles south of downtown, easily accessible by automobile, which is needed to travel through this local safari and its inhabitants. While it has been called such, it is not a zoo, or even a theme park, but rather a true and unique wildlife preserve.

Here a variety of special animals from throughout the world are found, living in harmony with each other in open fields, just as they would in their homelands.

Jay Christie came up with the idea of a wildlife sanctuary for the world's diminishing breeds so he began looking for property that would be suitable.



from top: With the sun shining on the fields, these animals sleep, nibble on grass and enjoy some time in the sun. "Jungle" Jay stands near one of the camels at the safari park, while it politely ignores him as it nibbles on food.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

*Caravelle Lighting has all your
summer fan needs, including*

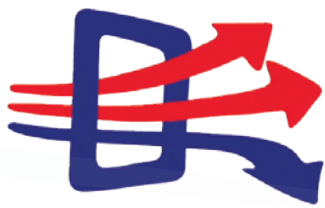


**Caravelle
Lighting**

9307 S Rt. 12, Richmond, Ill.
815-678-4558

www.caravellelight.com
Hours: Tues. 9-6; Wed.-Fri. 9-5; Sat. 10-2;
Closed Sun. & Mon.

373331



WESTENN

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

PROFESSIONAL. HONEST. VALUE.



Ray Alberth, Owner

Service on all brands 24/7
100% Service Guarantee

- RESIDENTIAL
*Replacement • Remodel
New Construction*
- COMMERCIAL
- INDUSTRIAL



Free Estimates!

990 Koopman Lane, Elkhorn | 262-723-4955 | www.WestennHeatandAir.com

412111

He searched various areas but knew it had to be close enough proximity to an area whose population would be robust enough to support it through visits and large enough to give the animals the room they needed to roam.

“After looking at a variety of places that did not work out for various reasons – including size, cost, location, or the amount of work needed to turn the area into a safari park – we were fortunate to find this location on Litchfield Road just south of downtown Lake Geneva,” Christie explained.

“The area was an old farm with much of the ground being an alfalfa field. We found we didn’t have to take out many trees which was great as we do not like to take down trees, which are so beneficial to the environment,” he added.

The land had been like most of the areas in Wisconsin, a farm. The original house was built in the 1850s and the barn, which is now used for hay for the animal’s feed, was built in 1918.

A dream come true

Christie – also known as “Jungle” Jay because of his love of jungle animals – was the ideal person to develop the site as his past experience included being CEO of the Racine Zoo along with his interest in and passion for endangered animals.

Once the land was purchased and prepared, it was time to gather animals.

“We started with about 60 animals that were either loaned by acquaintances or purchased,” Christie said.

While at the time of the opening, there were only 60 animals (still a large number) today there are about 200 animals on site, from various countries.

Most of the animals on site are owned by Christie and Safari Lake Geneva but a few are still loaned by acquaintances.

Most of the animals remain on site year-round even though the park is only open to



SANDRA LANDEN/MARCHAL Spirit of Geneva Lakes



from top: The question for many when it comes to zebras are whether they’re white with stripes or have white stripes; The world’s largest rodent, the capybara is not native to the U.S. but to South America. They are somewhat barrel shaped and semi-aquatic and can reach a weight of 150 pounds; Enjoy the antics of the monkeys while traveling through the safari park as they swing through the air or keep an eye on the visitors.

COURTESY SAFARI LAKE GENEVA Spirit of Geneva Lakes



262-949-3618

JERRY KROUPA

View my properties at www.lakehomeswi.net

OFFICE AT 102 N. WISCONSIN ST., ELKHORN



Jerry Kroupa, REALTOR®

@properties

CHRISTIE'S INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE



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 Ktch with wood floors, large breakfast bar, granite tops and new Bosch appliances WiFi capable. Off the ktch 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**



W5672 Ridge Rd, Elkhorn - Experience lakeside luxury with this custom-built Thelen Construction home, offering 83' of private frontage on Lauderdale Lakes. This elegant 3BR, 2.5BA lake home is designed to impress, blending timeless craftsmanship with upscale finishes throughout. Enjoy stunning lake views from expansive windows, a gourmet kitchen, vaulted ceilings, and a spacious open-concept layout perfect for entertaining. Step outside to a beautifully landscaped yard with ample space for lakeside relaxation and recreation. Trex balconies, screened porch w/ heaters facing the lake, LL family room, stone fireplaces, wet bars, zoned heating & heated 3 car garage. For additional fun, turn the rec space into a bar or gym. A rare opportunity to own a true luxury retreat on one of Wisconsin's most sought-after lakes. **\$1,699,700**



W1260 South Shore, Palmyra - Your lakefront search stops here! Move-in ready two-story with walk-out lower level and 65' of frontage on Blue Spring Lake. Low-voltage lighting runs to the floating pier and boat Shore Stations which stay in year-round. Lakeside kitchen with large breakfast bar and dining area offer extended lake views and access to multi-level decking which leads to lake access. Lakeside level lawn and shed. Cozy living room with wood-burning fireplace. In-floor heating system upgraded in 2021 with backup furnace and new A/C system installed in 2025. Main floor laundry room and Master Suite with lakeside sitting room. Upstairs offers four bedrooms and a full bath. Lower-level rec room with sliding glass door for lake access. Blue Spring Lake is an all-sports lake with crystal clear water. **\$789,700**



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. **\$1,049,700**



W5135 Sterlingworth Ct, Elkhorn - Located in a prime spot at Sterling-worth Condominiums in the atrium, this 2-bedroom, 2-bath unit is just steps from the beach with its own boat slip. Enjoy stunning lake views through a wall of sliding glass doors leading to a spacious deck. The eat-in kitchen features a breakfast bar and dinette, while the living room offers a cozy gas fireplace. The master suite boasts an updated bath with a walk-in multi-head tile shower and double vanity. Wood flooring throughout. Direct access to the indoor pool, tennis and pickleball courts, and the finest sand beach on the lake. Just a short walk to Lauderdale Golf Course & minutes to Kettle Moraine trailhead. Turn-key for effortless lakefront living! **\$697,700**



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**



N7729 Laura Lane, Elkhorn - Luxurious lakefront estate on Lauderdale Lakes' exclusive "Gold Coast" with 142' of pristine sand frontage and 1.28 acres of gated, wooded privacy, all on a private road for additional exclusivity. The 4BD, 4.5BA main home is designed for elevated lake living, with panoramic views, lakeside dining, a vaulted screened porch, and a lakeside primary suite with private deck. Entertain with ease in the walkout lower level featuring a family room, wet bar, brick fireplace & patio with fire pit. A rare wet boathouse includes a stunning 2BD/1BA guest cottage above with vaulted ceilings, full kitchen, living room, and screened porch. Premium amenities include a 36x30 heated/cooled garage with 4 vaulted rooms including workout room & dog run, plus an additional heated 3.5-car detached garage **\$3,199,997**



W5693 Ridge Rd, Elkhorn - 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**



210 E Walworth St, Elkhorn - Endless possibilities with B1 zoning—ideal for a variety of business ventures or easily used as a single-family home. Charming 1900s Farmhouse in Prime Location - Walk to Town! Step into timeless charm with this beautifully maintained 1900s farmhouse, perfectly situated within walking distance to the heart of Elkhorn. Featuring 4 spacious bedrooms and 1.5 baths, this home blends historic character with everyday convenience. Whether you're drawn to the inviting front porch, the classic architectural details, or the unbeatable location, this property is ideal for those seeking comfort, charm, and community. Don't miss this rare opportunity to own a piece of local history in an ideal setting. **\$319,700**



9 S Wisconsin St, Elkhorn - Prime Downtown Elkhorn Location! Unlock the potential of this versatile 2,000 sq ft commercial space, ideally situated in the heart of downtown Elkhorn. Featuring two bathrooms and a flexible second level—perfect for additional retail, office use, or even conversion into an apartment. Enjoy excellent street visibility with large window displays and high foot traffic. Just steps away from popular shops and restaurants. Bring your vision and watch your business thrive! **\$259,700**

visitors from May to October.

“When we do purchase animals, we only do so through any legal means,” Christie said.

The park opened in 2016, and Christie said they are pleased with the progress they have made in the first 10 years.

There are two different ways to travel through the park. For the majority of visitors, they travel with their family or a few friends in their own vehicle. The other option is through a group tour in which a wagon that holds about 40 visitors make its way through the park.

Once inside, the park is open land that appears much as it might where many of these animals originally made their homes. Here they live with each other, often traveling in herds – although the herds are much smaller here than they would be in the wild as a result of the number of animals present.

Seeing the animals

It is recommended that you make reservations through the website ahead of time – especially on weekends when they tend to sell out in advance.

Visitors are also able to purchase bowls of feed for \$5 to feed the animals that approach their vehicle while going through the park. The food is a grain much the same as the food they are fed daily.

While traveling through the safari park, visitors will see a variety of animals roaming about, some recognizable and others many people have never seen due to their rarity.

Some of the animals will quickly approach the vehicles, knowing they may be offered some of the food from the bowls that have been purchased by the visitors. The visitors quickly learn to hold tightly to the bowls so that they aren't grabbed by the animal.

Fair warning: According to many visitors, the animals are not the neatest when eating the food and much of it ends up inside various areas of the vehicle.

Animals that will likely be known include camels, horses, bison, alpacas and Llamas. Today, the emu is also recognized thanks to a series of television commercials featuring them.

As for some of the rarer wildlife on site, the Watusi cattle from Eurasia are known for having the biggest horns of all. Not only are the horns long but also thicker than others.

The endangered Addax that makes North Africa its home is another animal not seen in many places. It is believed there are fewer than 100 of these antelopes left in the wild as they are severely endangered.

What might come as a surprise is that the water buffalo at Safari Lake Geneva came from California while the giraffes on site are from northern Wisconsin.

It's okay to feed any of the animals that approach except for the zebras and the giraffes because they receive special food. There are times of the days when it is possible to feed the giraffes but not with the



COURTESY SAFARI LAKE GENEVA *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



from top: Animals at the park are viewed much as they would be seen in the wild, co-existing with others. Here an emu (back) is seen sharing this space with an oryx, one of the rarest animals residing at the park. Tracker Tucker's Trading Post, named after one of Jay and Maggie's children, features unique stuffed animals and other safari memorabilia.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

ARONSON AFENCE^{CO., INC.}

SERVING NORTHERN ILLINOIS AND SOUTHERN WISCONSIN



▪ Wood ▪ Aluminum ▪ Polyvinyl ▪ Cedar ▪ Chainlink ▪ Custom



**CONTACT US AND REQUEST
A FREE ESTIMATE**

(262) 248-3390

FINANCING AVAILABLE

Check Out Our Website
Gallery at aronsonfence.com
info@aronsonfence.net

▪ **Over 30 Years In Business** ▪



food purchased for the general population of animals. Special food is purchased to feed the giraffes, it also costs \$5, and the money is used to help giraffes in the wild.

The animals at the park that are sensitive to the cold are the monkeys and the giraffe. Both species have a space where they can go indoors for heat. While they usually will go indoors for a short period to warm up, they generally then return to the outdoors.

There is no limit to the number of times an automobile can ride through the park so there is ample opportunity to view as many animals as possible. Most vehicles make at least two circuits through the park and spend about 1 1/2 to 2 hours on site.

Different than a zoo

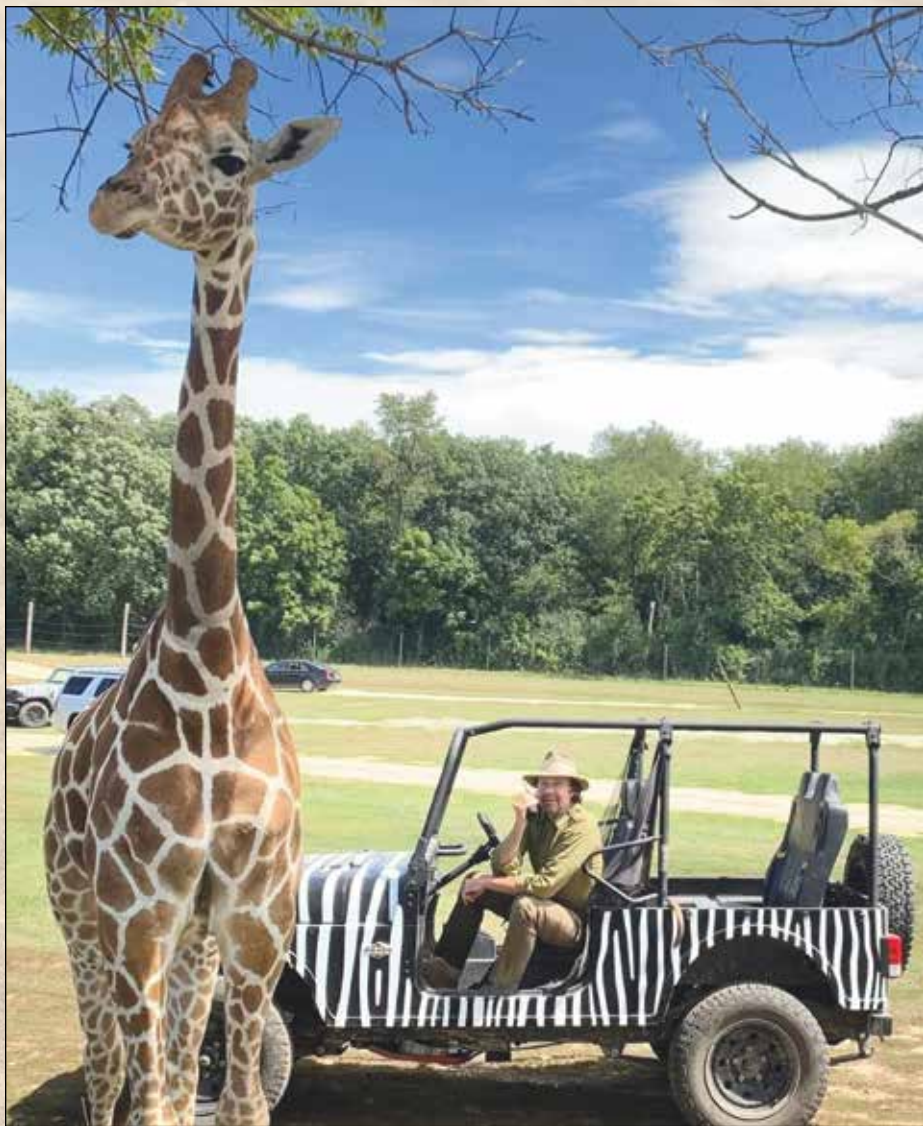
“Here at Safari Park, it is very different from attending a zoo. At the zoo the animals are caged, and the visitors walk freely through the zoo,” Christie said. “Here it’s the visitors who are caged (in their vehicles) while the animals roam freely.”

Group tours – including guided safari tours and educational field trips for kids – can be arranged to accommodate up to 40 participants. The groups are taken out on the property in a wagon, a good option for business outings, family reunion, scout troops, camping groups, classes and more. Advanced scheduling is required for group tours.

Christie and his wife, Maggie, work together to keep Safari Lake Geneva growing.

“It isn’t the first time we have worked together,” Christie explained. “We met while we both worked at the Racine Zoo. Maggie was the Curator of Education while I was the CEO.”

At Safari Lake Geneva, Maggie is the Director of Conservation. Other family connections found at the park include the names of Jay and Maggie’s oldest children, Audrey and Tucker, used at different features



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

on site.

Audrey’s Amazon Adventure is a place to meet some of the animals on an up-close and personal level. There are monkeys that are loose in the area and eager to interact with visitors.

Across from Audrey’s Amazon Adventure is Tracker Tucker’s Trading Post. Here one can find a plethora of memorabilia. Among the items sold are stuffed animals, a favorite among children, especially because they are replicas of some of the animals found in the park.

There are also two Capybara in the pond. These semi-aquatic animals are from South America and are known as the world’s largest rodents, weighing up to 150 pounds according to Christie. The two living here are named Barbara and Cathy, and special time with them can be booked as well.

They are still in need of a place to be

named after their third child, Lorelei, but given the success of “Jungle” Jay’s dream, that will likely happen sooner rather than later as Lake Geneva Safari continues to grow.

Tickets, which should be purchased in advance, are \$23.95 for adults (16 and older) weekdays and \$25.95 on the weekends. Children 3 to 15 years of age are \$16.95 weekdays and \$18.95 on the weekends. Children 2 years and younger are admitted free.

Safari Lake Geneva is at W1612 Litchfield Rd., Lake Geneva. For more information, call 262-475-8089 or visit safari.lakegeneva.com. The website contains details about preparing for a visit and the animals that are on site.

The park is open from May 1 to Oct. 31 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. with the last group admitted at 5 p.m. though it’s advised to arrive by 4 p.m. at the latest to ensure a full experience.

from above: “Jungle” Jay Christie poses with the tallest resident of Safari Park, the giraffe. While many of the animals in the park may be new to visitors, the giraffe is among the most recognizable. Easy to spot due to its height, not only does it tower above the other animals and other structures on site, but is even taller than some of the trees on the property.

PHOTO COURTESY SAFARI LAKE GENEVA *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Have the Wedding of Your Dreams

Right in Your Backyard



- Beautiful Tents in All Sizes
 - Large Variety of Tables & Chairs
 - Endless Linen & Dish Options
 - Dance Floors & Staging
 - Bars & Catering Equipment
 - Specialty Lighting & Décor
 - Portable Restrooms
- & So Much More!*



Kenosha, WI • 262-857-TENT (8368)

www.AAATentMasters.com

Contact Us Today for All of Your Event Rental Needs!

Serving All of Northeast Illinois & Southeast Wisconsin

455341



Abbey Springs

abbeysprings.org 262.275.6113

455349

FINDING THE PERFECT *Wedding Flowers*



by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

Planning a wedding involves numerous details that must be arranged far in advance of the actual wedding date. Once the proposal is accepted, the race to plan the perfect wedding begins.

With so many details to work on, one might wonder where to begin in planning this important event. A wedding is often a once-in-a-lifetime event, and the couple must count on a variety of others to not only help them pull everything together but also make them aware of all that needs to be arranged.

One of the first items on the checklist is to choose a date and find a venue to hold their wedding, whether it'll be at a church, a wedding venue or elsewhere. Whether it will be held locally or be a destination wedding is another consideration. Wedding venues tend to be booked a year or more in advance, so searching for the venue of a couple's dreams is the first important step.

Then there are the flowers, which add beauty to many types of events, but few if any in which they play such a significant role than a wedding. Flowers decorate the ceremony space and those involved as the bride, the groom, and attendants generally all have flowers. And of course, the wedding venue is also decorated with a variety of arrangements. That includes decorating the tables, from where the wedding party sits to the individual tables



This sweet pea bridal bouquet is an example of a simple design of mostly white with accent flowers.

PHOTO COURTESY PESCHE'S Spirit of Geneva Lakes



where the guests are seated.

Making decisions about flowers for a wedding is not a job that should be left to the last minute. Local florists who specialize in weddings recommend making arrangements at least a year in advance. Quality florists – especially those who specialize in weddings – also are booked well in advance, just as the wedding venues are.

While flowers have long been a part of weddings, each is unique and over the years, flowers have changed. It used to be standard that the bride held a bouquet of pure white flowers, usually high-end options such as roses or lilies. Today, the bride may have a bouquet of multi-colored flowers featuring many varieties.

A popular decorative look, seen here at Grand Geneva, is decorating the chandelier with white flowers and loose greens and lanterns.

PHOTO COURTESY PESCHE'S Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Rau

SALON



From the smallest detail, to the grandest event, effortless beauty starts here.
Now booking Bridal Parties for 2025 & 2026

Bridal Bliss by Rau:
Your Dream Day, Perfected



Say "I do" to flawless beauty with Bridal Bliss by Rau! Whether you envision a classic, elegant look or something uniquely you, our expert team is here to make your bridal dreams come true. We offer luxurious in-salon experiences or convenient on-location services for both intimate gatherings and grand celebrations. From hair to makeup, we ensure you look and feel stunning every step of the way.

Book now and let us add a touch of magic to your special day!

Email all Bridal inquiries to info@rausalon.net

***Now offering on-site
bridal hair and makeup!***



471743

316 N. Lake Ave., Twin Lakes, WI • 262-877-2188 • www.rausalon.com • Instagram: [@bridalbliss_byrau](https://www.instagram.com/bridalbliss_byrau)



Where to begin

Sometimes the flowers reflect the colors chosen for the wedding – such as the bridesmaid’s dresses – other times different flowers are chosen based on the type or style the bride desires.

“It is often the bride and her mother who come in to talk about and decide what kind of flowers are needed for the wedding,” said Stefanie Rasch, floral shop manager for Pesche’s Greenhouse, Floral Shop and Gift Barn in Lake Geneva.

“We recommend that the bride bring in some photos of bridal flowers that appeal to her, so we get an idea of her style,” Rasch added.

Then comes what can be a difficult conversation, that of discussing the budget, which will likely determine whether the types and number of flowers a bride wants will be affordable.

“Sometimes we can still include one or two of the flowers she really wants rather than a whole bouquet of them, to keep within the budget,” Rasch explained.

Florists can also help negotiate differing views on what flowers are preferred, whether it be differences of opinion or what is pictured versus what is available.

“Oftentimes, the bride to be will bring in photos that she has collected online that may include flowers in colors that are not the colors the flowers actually come



above, from left: Pocket squares fit into the groom’s pocket in place of the traditional boutonniere; This smaller bouquet is perfect for the bridesmaids.

PHOTOS COURTESY KELLY GRACE PHOTOGRAPHY/TOMMI’S Spirit of Geneva Lakes

left: While some brides choose large arrangements for their wedding, including the reception, others go with smaller yet just as beautiful options.

PHOTO COURTESY PESCHE’S Spirit of Geneva Lakes



LUISA'S

Since 1996...



**GOING EAST...GOING WEST...
Discover The Best!**

Just off Hwy. 50 ~ 12 miles east of Lake Geneva
Serving Chicken, Ribs & Pasta

Superb Italian & American Cuisine

PIZZA! PIZZA! PIZZA!

Classic thin crust, pan, stuffed & hand-tossed

Thursday
30% Off Food
Only
with cash

**Wedding
Rehearsal
Dinners &
Wedding
Catering!**

**PASTA - SANDWICHES
BURGERS & SO MUCH MORE!
DINE-IN, CARRY OUT,
DELIVERY, CATERING**

Call ahead on your way to or
from Lake Geneva and We'll
Have it Hot & Ready!

www.luisaspizza.co



Hwy. 50 & 317th Ave., Wheatland • 12 Miles East of Lake Geneva
262-537-4795

437149

Planning an Outdoor Reception?

We'll provide the comfort and
reassurance your guests deserve!



- ❖ Portable Restroom & Sink Rental for Any Occasion
- ❖ Holding Tank Pumping
- ❖ Septic Tank Cleaning
- ❖ Prompt, Professional Service

PATS
SERVICES, INC

38331 60th St., Burlington, Wis.

Call (262) **537-4988**

www.patsservice.com

162158

The Lake Area's Premier Wedding Facility



**The Evergreen Room • Outdoor Patio
The Pub Bar • Evergreen Golf Club**

Evergreen features exclusive wedding
& banquet facilities for up to 250,
an outdoor ceremony site with waterfall
backdrop and a wedding coordinator to
assist you every step of the way.

*Let your wedding day stand out with
elegant country club service, while being
able to customize every detail..
within your budget*



N6246 Hwy. 12/67, Elkhorn, WI 53121 • (262) 741-6200 • EvergreenGolf.com

471742



from above: This bridal arch, which is dressed with fabric, is highlighted by a large display of colorful flowers; This beautiful centerpiece features white and blue hydrangeas and white roses, which graced the tables at a wedding held at Abbey Springs.

PHOTOS COURTESY PESCHE'S *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

in,” said Tommi Hackler, owner of Tommi’s Garden Blooms in Lake Geneva.

“Most of those pictured online are photos of artificial flowers such as silk ones, and while the color palette looks beautiful the real flowers may not come in those shades,” he explained. “One example of this is that they often use a photo of a blue rose and there are no blue roses in live flowers, something the bride may not want to accept.”

Regardless, seeing what the bride has collected gives the florist a better idea of the type of flowers and the color palette the bride has in mind for her bouquet and her attendants’ bouquets.

What’s popular

The look of the bouquets used in weddings these days is more casual than they used to be. Garden colors are popular and flowers such as peonies, lisianthus and delphinium with grasses and greenery are often the favorites.

These flowers come in beautiful shades, making an attractive bouquet. Flowers such as gardenia and stephanotis are not used as often now as they once were. Lillies, too, are not seen in bouquets often, as they are delicate and don’t hold up well.

According to Hackler, smaller weddings are also trending, sometimes as small as 50 guests. Despite that, the wedding party usually remains large, with six or more attendants. Over the years, the number of attendants has increased from the three to four that were the standard in the past. Flower girls continue to



WILSON FARM MEATS

EST.  2004

THE FINEST MEATS START ON OUR FARM

We bring the finest quality farm-fresh meats to your table



**FOR ALL YOUR
GRILLING
MEAT NEEDS...
STOP IN!**



406 S. Wisconsin Street • Elkhorn, Wisconsin 53121
(262) 723-2919 • www.wilsonfarmmeats.com

*Memories
To Savor!*



We'll make it an affair to remember!
Catering for all occasions to your order. Call for all the facts.

Stowell's Catering Service

W1127 Spring Prairie Rd., Burlington, WI 53105
(262) 763-8316 • (800) 640-5703
www.stowellscatering.com

231551

Meet Your Friends at Geneva Crossing!

Lake Geneva's Premier
55+ Neighborhood

**The Terraces
& Highlands**

Active Senior Living 55+

**Arbor Village
& Village Glen**

Assisted Living and
Memory Care Neighborhood



262-248-4558 • www.genevacrossing.com

3830369

BURTNES



GMC

1389 West Main Street
Whitewater, WI 53190



1421 West Main Street
Whitewater, WI 53190



WHEN THE PRODUCTS ARE SIMILAR IT'S THE DEALER THAT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

262-473-2522 • 262-473-3072 • www.driveburtness.com

471736

be included in many weddings.

While the bouquet of flowers the bride carries have long been larger than that of the attendants, trends have reduced the difference in size between the two, according to Rasch.

“The bridal bouquet is usually between 9 to 11 inches in size, with 10 1/2 inches being average,” Rasch said. “Bridesmaids bouquets tend to be a bit smaller at 7 to 8 inches. They used to be even smaller but now there is a desire for more movement in the flowers.

“They may use more economical flowers, which still are beautiful but at a cost savings if they have a limited budget,” she added.

Let’s not forget the groom and the groomsmen. For years, they have worn a single boutonniere, but many of them have a new look for weddings. The pocket square – which fits into the suit jacket pocket and has a row of flowers – has replaced the boutonniere in many instances. The groom’s matches the bride’s flowers and the groomsmen’s compliments those



top: This happy couple displays a beautiful bouquet of mostly white flowers and greens. The groom is wearing a traditional boutonniere.

COURTESY ANNA URBAN PHOTOGRAPHY *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

above: The bridal arch is complimented beautifully with flowers. **left:** St. Francis Church is decorated for a wedding with floral displays along the main aisle. After the ceremony, the flowers are taken to the reception venue.

PHOTOS COURTESY PESCHE'S *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

AMB ROOFING

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL

& SHEETMETAL

Building Relationships One Roof At A Time

RESIDENTIAL - COMMERCIAL
 Shingle Roofs ▪ Metal Roofing
 Flat Roofs ▪ Metal Siding
 Gutters ▪ Repairs

We Now Offer Financing!

FREE ESTIMATES
(815) 385-2621

MasterCard
 DISCOVER
 VISA

Visit us at
www.ambroofing.com

435872

Top Drivers Can Earn Up To \$100K!



Veteran's Truck Line INC.
 in Burlington, Wis is now accepting applications for:

TRUCK DRIVERS

- Home most nights/every weekend
- Paid health benefits • Competitive Hourly Wages
- Time & 1/2 over 40 hours • 401(k) w/contribution
- Drive newer equipment • Paid vacations/holidays
- Paid life/disability
- Must have a Class A CDL and pass medical/drug screen

262-539-4460 Go to: www.vetstruck.com
 for applications

433770



ADDIE Water Systems inc.

PURE WATER FOR ALL THOSE IMPORTANT PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE



CALL TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE!

SATISFYING CUSTOMERS SINCE 1978

1604 Plainfield Avenue
 Janesville, WI
608-755-1031
or 800-982-1652
addiewatersystems.com
Terry@addiewatersystems.com



Terry Addie

\$50 OFF
 WITH INSTALLATION OF REVERSE OSMOSIS DRINKING WATER SYSTEM

Only one coupon per order. Not valid with other specials. Good only when sale is made and ticket is written. Expires 7/15/25

SL

\$25 OFF
 WITH INSTALLATION OF ANY NEW WATER HEATER

Only one coupon per order. Not valid with other specials. Good only when sale is made and ticket is written. Expires 7/15/25

SL

\$25 OFF
 WITH INSTALLATION OF ANY NEW WATER SOFTENER OR IRON FILTER

Only one coupon per order. Not valid with other specials. Good only when sale is made and ticket is written. Expires 7/15/25

SL



from above: This wedding reception featured a unique setup with black tablecloths and chair covers, accented with white floral arrangements; This unique high standing centerpiece is mostly composed of white peonies and roses with a touch of blue in the hydrangea.

PHOTOS COURTESY PESCHE'S
Spirit of Geneva Lakes



carried by the bridesmaids.

The pocket square is considered much easier to place versus trying to pin on the boutonniere straight.

A good portion of the budget for flowers will go into those chosen for the ceremony and the reception, especially when held in a large room. And generally, the flowers used to decorate for the ceremony serve a dual purpose as they're also used for the reception.

"For those who are having a church ceremony, there are often elaborate floral pieces decorating the aisle. These will be taken to the reception after the ceremony to be used there," said Rasch.

Some brides choose simpler options as well as accents in addition to flowers while others opt for large floral pieces.

"Flowers for the guest tables may vary from a single flower in a bud vase, perhaps with candles around it to full centerpieces," Hackler said.

Grown locally and beyond

Most flowers do not come from the United States because they don't grow here, although a few are grown in California. For the most part, flowers are imported from Ecuador, Cuba and other warm-weather areas. Holland, too, is a place that produces flowers for export. Most of the commercial flowers are grown in greenhouses.

Peonies are a favorite flower for bouquets as well as table arrangements. In May, when they are in season here, they can usually be purchased from a local grower.

"While most of our flowers are purchased from growers out of the country, we purchase as many as we can from local growers here in the summer," Rasch said.

Roses, of course, are a favorite flower for many but they are in the high-end realm. To save money, many brides limit the number of roses and choose less expensive flowers to complete the bouquet or décor arrangements.

It's important to be honest with the florist about the budget from the start. They are very knowledgeable about all types of flowers and can make recommendations on what might work best to achieve the desired look. And as many brides have discovered, smaller floral centerpieces can still be a beautiful – and ideal – addition to their very important day.

Pesche's and Tommi's are two of the local shops in the area that can provide beautiful flowers and service that will work within any budget.

Pesche's Greenhouse, Floral Shop and Gift Barn, is at W4080 State Road 50, Lake Geneva has been in business since 1970. For more information, call 262-245-6125, or visit peschesgreenhouse.com.

Tommi's Garden Blooms, N3252 County Trunk H, Lake Geneva is in its 10th year. For more information, call 262-729-4162, or visit tommisgardenblooms.com.

James R. Taylor and Sons, INC.

Family Owned & Operated For 3 Generations

262-642-7970

ROOFING, REMODELING, SIDING
WINDOWS, KITCHENS & BATHS
ADDITIONS & FLAT ROOFS

*Your Local Contractor!
Free Estimates & Fully Insured*

WWW.JRTAYLORANDSONS.COM



467819



Advertising works in the Spirit of Geneva Lakes!

Promoting your business in the right publication is essential to growth and overall success. Knowing that your message is reaching your intended audience is what makes The Spirit of Geneva Lakes uniquely effective. We can create an image that is both creative and compelling!

For advertising opportunities contact:

Pete Hansen
Email: phansen@standardpress.com
Office: 262-473-3363
Cell: 414-801-2360

Tamera Hamilton
Email: tamera@southernlakesnewspapers.com
Office: 262-728-3411



369800

Paper Dolls Home Furnishings & Interior Design



We have the Largest Selection of In-Stock Home Furnishings & Accessories in the Area

- Interior Design Services •
- Custom Window Treatments, Blinds & Shades •
- Wallpaper •

138 E. Geneva Square
Lake Geneva, WI 53147 • 262.248.6268
paperdollsinterior.com

471740

Ripe and ready,
it's time for

Strawberries

Strawberries sometimes grow in the shape of a heart, fitting considering how many people love them. Remi shows off a strawberry "heart."

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

Take a ride past the Apple Barn Orchard & Winery on Sugar Creek Road in Elkhorn right now and it's clear spring has arrived. The plants and trees on the farm have once again come to life with the assistance and care by owners Steve and Judy Jacobson, their family and staff.

While Apple Barn is well known for its quality apple production in the fall, it is not a one-crop farm. They are working hard to produce this year's crop of locally grown fruits and vegetables, just as the farm has done since the 1800s for six generations of the Jacobson family.

Seeing the more than 4,000 apple trees blooming is a sight in and of itself on the farm in the spring. The Country Store has gone through its deep cleaning in

PHOTO COURTESY APPLE BARN, Spirit of Geneva Lakes

0% FINANCING AVAILABLE



THE
THIELMANN
GROUP
HEATING & COOLING



\$129

Furnace Tune-Up
Special

**SAVE
BIG**

**ON INDOOR
AIR QUALITY
SOLUTIONS**



6 Locations to Best Serve Southeastern Wisconsin!

Call us
(262) 299-6197

Visit us at
THIELMANNGROUP.COM

preparation to open with the picking of fresh asparagus – the first crop ready to be harvested and sold.

Then it is time for the favorite fresh fruit for many, locally grown strawberries that ripen in June in the southern Wisconsin area. While strawberries can be obtained year-round from other areas and other countries, they do not have the same fresh flavor ones freshly grown and picked right here offer.

While it's challenging to predict precisely when strawberry season will begin each year, the Jacobson crew is ready to roll.

"We never know exactly when the season will begin," Judy said. "We are so dependent on the weather as to when the strawberries will blossom, and the fruit will form and grow. But whenever it's ready, so are we."

Generally speaking, strawberries in the southern Wisconsin area are ready in early to mid-June. Cool nights, which are known to occur in this area well into spring, are known to delay the flowering of the plants and the growth of the berries.

"We expect our strawberries to be ready to pick this season between June 10 and 15, but again, we have to rely on the weather," according to Emma Jacobson, one of Steve and Judy's daughters who works with them at the farm.

Picking options

At the Apple Barn, when the strawberries are ready to be harvested, they can be self-picked from the fields. This is often a fun outing for families and a way to teach children lessons about how food makes its way to our tables. It's a realization for many young pickers that the fruit (and many other fresh produce items) need soil, rain, and sunshine – along with physical work by people – to blossom and grow.

If spending time picking strawberries is not possible or for those who prefer to purchase them already picked, there are some available at the Apple Barn that have been pre-picked. However, it's recommended to order ahead for pre-picked strawberries to ensure some are available.

Since the strawberry season is so short, coming early once they're ready is also advised – especially if planning

from top: In addition to fresh fruit, the gift shop on site has fresh baked goods, jams, jellies, homemade wine and a variety of décor and gifts for a home or to give to someone special. There are few things more enticing for many in the spring than a bucket – or several – of freshly picked berries.

PHOTOS COURTESY APPLE BARN *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*





to make more than one trip. An early arrival will increase the likelihood that berries are available.

Strawberries are popular for many reasons. First, they are attractive to the senses – bright red and juicy, with a sweet but not overly sweet taste. They are also a healthy food and while they do contain natural sugar, it's a lower sugar content than many other fruits. According to the USDA, strawberries are a healthy food low in sugar and calories, but high in fiber and Vitamin C.

There are many ways to enjoy strawberries from simple snacking or in a salad to cooked in a dessert or made into preserves.

More than berries

When visitors arrive at Apple Barn and stop by the Country Store area, the aroma of freshly baked donuts greets them. While in the fall, the apple cider donuts are the specialty, in June, it's strawberry donuts that are featured. For many visitors, the urge to purchase fresh donuts and sample them is not easily overcome and for good reason.

But strawberry donuts are just the beginning of the sweet treat offerings.

"In addition to the strawberry donuts there are also strawberry glazed donuts with a fresh strawberry glaze on them," added Judy Jacobson. "Try our different donuts for a variety of taste treats."

There are also plenty of home-baked goodies to be considered. While the baked treats vary by the number of strawberries available and the desire of the bakers, it's not unusual to find pies, tarts or cookies – strawberry as well as other flavors – available for sale.

For those who would like to purchase freshly made bakery items but unable to get to the store early in the day, it's recommended to call and order ahead of time for they sell out quickly.

The County Store yields the Farmer's Daughter brand of jellies and jams, which are also made at Apple Barn. This time of year, many are looking for the strawberry jams and jellies but there is a wide variety of flavors to choose from.

There are also gifts of many kinds including strawberry-themed decorations that can be purchased.

Homemade fruit wine

For many years, Steve Jacobson has been known for the many fruit wines that he produces. His wines are made from fruits, many of which are grown on site. They are created from

Picking your own berries can be a task but is the only way to go about it for many people in the area.

PHOTOS COURTESY APPLE BARN *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Do you enjoy reading this publication?

We sure enjoy bringing it to you. To those readers who have sent a donation to help underwrite the increasing costs of producing *The Spirit of Geneva Lakes* magazine, We Thank You! For those who haven't but would like to help assure future editions, please send a donation in any amount to:



1102 ANN STREET, DELAVAN, WI 53115

IF YOU THINK THE SPIRIT IS WORTH:
\$1.50 an issue - **\$18** covers a year
\$1 an issue - **\$12** covers a year
BUT, ANY AMOUNT IS APPRECIATED!

You won't get a tote bag, T-shirt, coffee mug or CD of Elvis Presley's Greatest Hits. But you will get the satisfaction of knowing that you have helped to support your favorite local magazine.

388406

ELKHORN
ANTIQUE
 FLEA MARKET
EST. 1982

ELKHORN, WI

**ANTIQUE
 FLEA MARKET**

June 29 • August 10 • September 28

Gate \$5.00 • Free Parking • Opens 7 am • No Pets
 Over 500 Inside & Outside Dealers
 Rain/Shine • Fairgrounds Hwy 11
 414-525-0820

elkhornantiquefleamarket.com

469919

fruits but not grapes.

Among the wine flavors Steve makes are pear, rhubarb, cranberry, apple, raspberry, peach and blueberry, many of which have been entered in competitions and earned awards.

While the family has not been entering wine in competitions since the COVID-19 pandemic, the strawberry wine produced at the Apple Barn is still created from the same recipe as the 2014 prize winner.

That year, the semi-sweet strawberry wine was entered by Steve into the Mid America Wine Competition. According to the Apple Barn's website, the wine captures everything a fresh strawberry has to offer.

"The fresh aroma of the strawberry may bring you back to memories of making strawberry jam with grandma," it states in describing the wine. "The fresh strawberry taste will make you think you have just satisfied your daily serving of fresh fruit."

Aside from drinking a glass of this wine, there are a variety of other ways to enjoy it for the adults, of course. From pouring a bit over a scoop of ice cream or on some freshly picked berries to using it in a sangria with fresh fruit, there are many options.

While at the Apple Barn, guests are encouraged to take a walk to the wine tasting room where they can try some of the wine available for sale.

All of the wines are created, bottled, corked, capped and labeled on site. A tip jar goes toward the family's commitment to making donations to the Leukemia-Lymphoma Society of Wisconsin. The Jacobsons have donated \$19,000 over the past couple of years, thanks to the generosity of visitors.

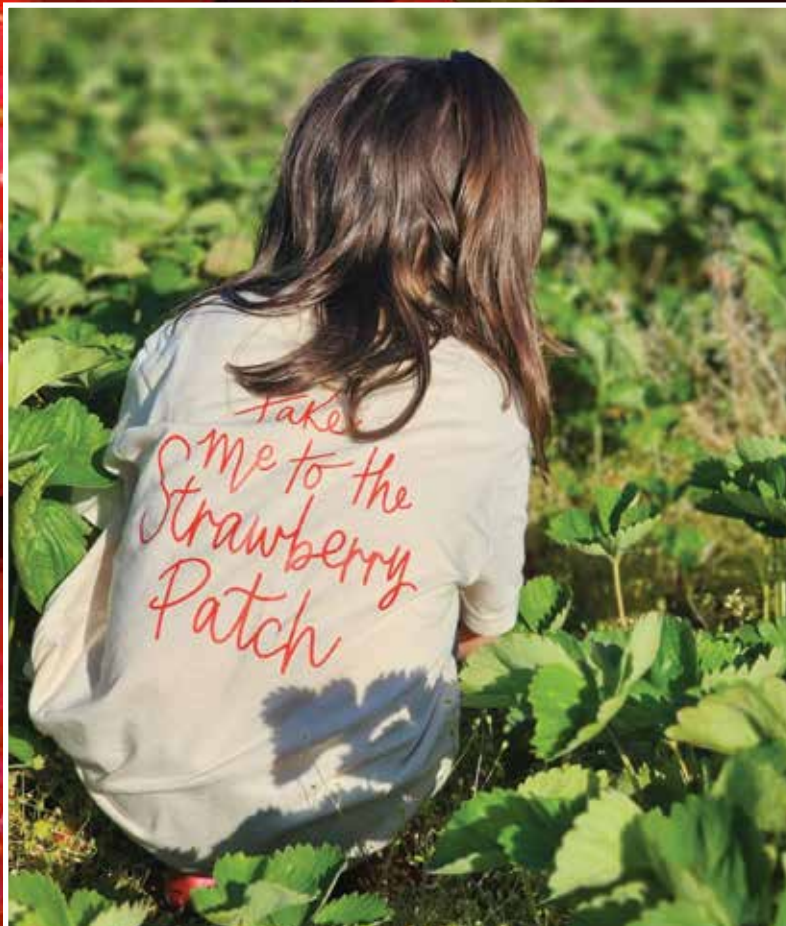
Whether interested in coming to pick fresh strawberries, enjoy some fresh baked pastries, jams, or grab a bottle or two of strawberry wine, there might be no better place to spend time than on a historic farm in Wisconsin on a pleasant June day.

Just be sure to stop by before the strawberry season is over. Much like time itself, the season goes by quickly.

The Apple Barn is at W6384 Sugar Creek Road, Elkhorn. For more information, call 262-728-3266, visit www.applebarnorchardandwinery.com or follow their Facebook page for updates including current picking conditions and hours.

from top: Judy Jacobson and daughter, Emma, show off the fruits of the family's labor during a past strawberry season at the Apple Barn; This shirt says it all, since strawberry season is almost here.

PHOTOS COURTESY APPLE BARN *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



STOP IN AND SEE OUR *Smart Home* Showroom



NOW CARRYING  COUNTERTOP APPLIANCES



Lyle's TV & Appliance
ELKHORN, WI

17 S. Washington, Elkhorn
(262) 723-3477

www.lylestv.com • Online Parts & Service

The Appliance Store with So Much More

Stop in & Shop Our
Fully Stocked
Beautyrest
SHOWROOM

Sugar Creek Mutual Insurance Company
Elkhorn 262-723-3244

Banco Insurance Agency
Palmyra 262-495-2118
Whitewater 262-473-7334

Breck Ward
Elkhorn 262-215-5633

Patricia Lauderdale
Elkhorn 262-742-3818

Daniels Insurance Agency
Burlington 262-537-2677

Grams Insurance Agency
Edgerton 608-884-3304
Evansville 608-882-6515

Schaal Agency LLC
Waterford 262-534-7801

**“I CHOOSE MUTUAL INSURANCE
BECAUSE I KNOW WE’RE
IN THIS TOGETHER.”**

Policyholders who work with a mutual insurance company have a shared purpose: getting the best coverage and protection available. And mutual insurance delivers because mutuals serve policyholders, not shareholders. Our decisions are always based on what’s best for you. Plus local agents offer customized solutions for all your insurance needs. Find out how mutual insurance can work for you.

Member of the National Association
of Mutual Insurance Companies

“SHARED PURPOSE. MUTUAL VALUES”™ is a registered trademark of the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies. All rights reserved. © 2012 National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies.



SHARED PURPOSE. MUTUAL VALUES.™



- Strawberry season starts early to mid June
- Fresh Donuts & Bakery
- Homestead Fruit Wines and WI Cheese
- Pre-Picked Berries - Call to order
- Check website for more information, Facebook or call us!
- Store open 9-6, Picking open 7-6

applebarnorchardandwinery.com • 262-728-3266
W6384 Sugar Creek Road, Elkhorn, WI 53121