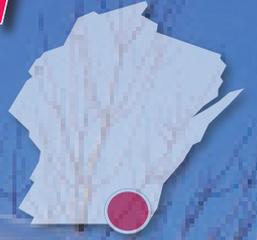


plus!
**Health &
wellness**
inside →

THE SPIRIT of Geneva Lakes



Vol. 29 No. 1

COMPLIMENTARY COPY • Since 1989

JANUARY 2017

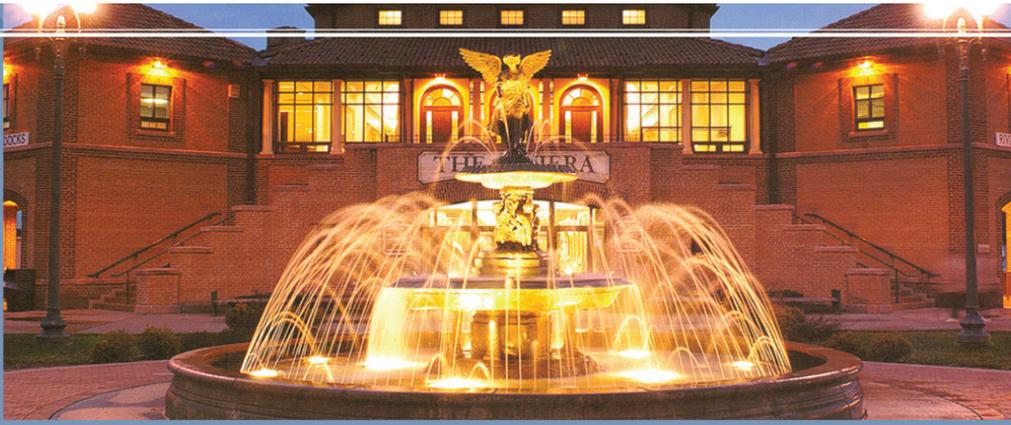
■ Make your plans
for Winterfest 2017

■ Remembering
the ice harvest on
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■ Going deep
at Gino's East

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WHO'S AFRAID OF A LITTLE COLD?

An ice sculpture created by Mike Austin sparkles in the sun on a frigid morning following Burlington's first Ice Festival at Wehmhoff Square Park earlier this winter. Residents of the Southern Lakes area are nothing if not hardy. They've been known to laugh at the cold as they whoosh down ski hills, zip across frozen lakes astride snowmobiles or quietly trudge along a snow-covered hiking path. The ability to embrace the season - regardless of temperature - is evident in the area's winter festivals. The biggest of these, Lake Geneva's Winterfest, will beckon thousands outdoors during its 2017 run Jan. 28 through Feb. 12. See page 17 for more.

Photo by Ed Nadolski *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



IT'S COMIN' UP

JANUARY EVENTS

7 Grand Re-opening Celebration at Wilmot Mountain. Help celebrate \$13 million in improvements at Wilmot Mountain. An all-day event beginning at 10 a.m. with family friendly activities. Hang out in the lodge, have a meal at Walt's Tavern, and spend some time on the slopes. Music throughout the day provided by Red Bull Cate Firetruck and live music by Floog at 7 p.m. Other events include a ribbon cutting at 10 a.m., an ice-sculpting demonstration at 1 p.m. and a Terrain Park Rail Jam at 2 p.m. 11931 Fox River Rd., Wilmot.

12 Free Full Moon Hike With Clear Water Outdoor, 8 to 9 p.m. at Big Foot Beach State Park. Event features a one-hour hike through the state park. Participants should meet at the pavilion just past the ranger shack. It is free to the public and no registration needed. Headlamp/flashlight needed. State park pass required.

20 Free Winter Speaking series – Clear Water Outdoor invites you to enjoy part two of four in a free educational winter speaking series. Join us as we listen to ambassadors from the historical Black Point Estate to discuss the history on one of the finest examples of Queen Ann architecture in America. This event is free to the public and there is no need to preregister. Cider and cookies will be served. The store is in the heart of downtown Lake Geneva at 744 W Main St. For information, call (262) 348-2422.

22 Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra Chamber Music Series at 3 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 700 N. Bloomfield Rd., Lake Geneva. Concert is free.

28 Abominable Snowman Race at Grand Geneva Resort. Conquer The Mountain Top at Grand Geneva Ski Resort. A cool new take on obstacle racing with a course featuring more than three miles and 20 obstacles. No skis, no dogs, no sleds. This race is just you, a snowy course and the abominable

weather. After you dominate the course, head into the yetis lodge and grab a craft brew, chill by the fire pit, chow down on gourmet food, cheer on your fellow racers, enjoy music and live games, dance with new friends. Call (800) 558-3417 for information. To register, visit abominablesnowrace.com.

28 "Gulliver's Travels" presented by Missoula Children's Theatre at the Young Auditorium on the campus of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater at 2 p.m. Tickets range from \$9.75 to \$14. A tour team arrives in a given town with a set, lights, costumes, props, and make-up, everything it takes to put on a play... except the cast. The team holds an open audition and casts 50-60 local students to perform in the production. The show is rehearsed throughout the week and a public performance is presented on a Saturday. Auditions for children in grades K-12 will be held on Monday, Jan. 23, 2017 at 4 p.m. Call (262) 472-1432 for information.

28-Feb. 12 Lake Geneva's annual Winterfest featuring the US National Snow Sculpting Competition featuring music, magic, refreshments, activities, helicopter rides, shopping and dining. The US National Snow Sculpting Competition Champion's Award, second, third place and the Peoples' Choice award are featured at this great event at the Riviera on the lakefront in downtown Lake Geneva. (262) 248-4416

29 Sing-A-Long "Grease" at the Young Auditorium, 3 p.m., on the campus of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. Tickets are free for this event. The evening includes a free fun pack and lots of opportunities to participate, watching Danny, Sandy and the gang, while singing (and dancing) along with the lyrics on the big screen.

Although we attempt to provide accurate information regarding area events, dates and times may change or events may be canceled. We suggest you confirm events before you finalize your travel plans.

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Steaks, along with the Stage Stop specialty of baked potatoes with heaps of butter, are ready for serving.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Stage Stop rises again

by **Jason Arndt**
STAFF WRITER

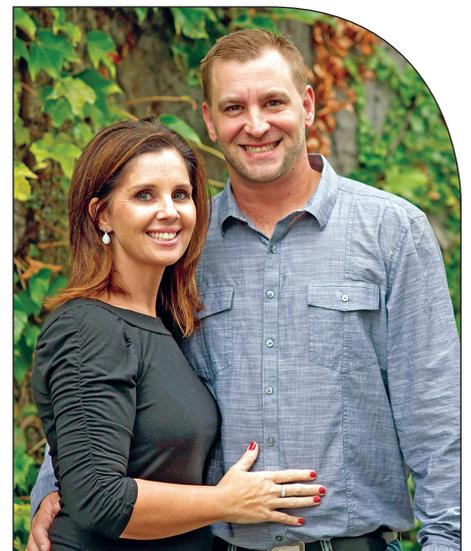
Restaurant re-opens as family continues 168-year tradition

When the Wilmot Hotel opened its doors in 1848, the San Francisco Gold Rush was one year away, Wisconsin was not yet admitted into the United States and the telegraph was in its infancy.

Since then, the Wilmot Hotel, now known as Wilmot Stage Stop has stayed in the same family for seven generations as they saw the United States grow into 50 states and countless technological innovations.

As the United States grew, the Stage Stop, 30646 113th St., Wilmot, in western Kenosha County, continued to maintain the historical integrity of the three-story building consisting of a restaurant, museum and third floor where settlers traveling by horse stayed in the 1800s.

The 168-year-old history came to an abrupt end in July, but following an outpouring of community support and overwhelming



SUBMITTED PHOTO *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Jill Wood, daughter of Wilmot Stage Stop owners Ron and Nancy Hackett, and her husband, Craig, have taken a hands-on role in reopening of the seven-generation business.

response, the family vowed to re-open with a rejuvenated spirit.

According to Jill Wood, daughter of fifth-generation owners Ron and Nancy Hackett, the support gives the family strength to plan a re-opening on Jan. 17.

"The response, not only from the local community, but the surrounding communities to re-open the doors was a magical response," Wood said. "It gave you the motivation and the enthusiasm that the family needed to carry on the tradition."

The enthusiasm, she said, included phone calls, handwritten letters and customers showing up to the property in tears.

"There was a lot of emotion, not only from the (customers), but the family," Wood said. "After 168 years of being open seven days a week, it was a great opportunity to close the doors for six months and concentrate on the quality of what we had."

For the past six months, Wood and her staff have assessed not only the food and service quality, but for ways to improve the overall customer experience.

Known for its steak, Stage Stop upgraded to Certified Angus Beef, replaced the T-bone and top sirloin with a 20-ounce bone-in ribeye and butcher steak.

Those are not the only upgrades, however, with the Stage Stop adding a vegetable of the day and a new addition to the menu.

"We have added the Ahi tuna steak and then we have taken two steaks off and replaced them with two different steaks," said Wood. "We've also added a vegetable of the day because that is what people had been requesting."

Although they improved the menu options, some of the old customer favorites are slated to stay the same, including homemade desserts and the trademark

baked potato with a stick of butter.

"That is definitely going to be still here," Wood said, in regards to the baked potato.

Furthermore, for the last six months, the family opted to add more historical features to the building and hired a new chef and master mixologist.

Personnel changes

One of the reasons for the July closure was staff turnover, but Stage Stop found two new employees they believe can make a remarkable impression on guests.

Stage Stop added Ashley Rupp, who is a pioneer in the 168-year-old history of the business.

"We are bringing in the first woman chef to ever be behind the grill," Wood said. "She has culinary degree."

Along with a new chef comes a master bartender, Wood said, noting Cory Ludwig delivers several years experience as both a



Dining Directory

MARS RESORT • W 4098 S. Shore Dr., Lake Geneva. **262-245-5687**. A classic Wisconsin Supper Club on the shores of Lake Como. Newly updated Piano Bar, live music in the summer. Open daily: 11am. Out of this world ribs and spectacular sunsets! L, D, FF, \$\$\$ ☹

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CHUCK'S LAKESHORE INN • 352 Lake St., Fontana. **262-275-3222**. www.chuckslakeshoreinn.com On the lake in Fontana. Kitchen open: 11am-9pm. Bar open: 11am-Close. L, D, FF \$ ☹ ☺

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

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MOYS RESTAURANT • In the historic square, 3 N. Wisconsin St., Elkhorn. **262-723-3993**. Chinese and American cuisine. Open 6 days a week, closed Monday. L, D, FF, \$\$\$ ☹

RIGA-TONY'S DELICATEZZI ITALIANO • 5576 C State Rd. 50, Delavan (in the Dairy Queen Plaza). **262-740-2540**. Open Tues.-Sat. Closed Jan-March L, D \$

EGG HARBOR CAFE • 827 W. Main St., Lake Geneva. **262-248-1207**. www.eggharborcafe.com Featuring gourmet breakfast and lunch. Open daily 6:30am-2pm. B, L \$ ☺



Key

B: Breakfast L: Lunch D: Dinner NC: No credit cards accepted \$: Mostly under \$10 \$\$: Mostly under \$20 \$\$\$: Mostly under \$30 FF: Fish Fry ☎: Reservations requested ☹: Alcohol served ☺: Kids menu

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

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SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Historical artifacts adorn the floors and walls of Wilmot Stage Stop, in existence since 1848, when Wisconsin was not yet admitted into the United States.

bartender and a teacher.

Under Ludwig, who plans to keep up with today's trendiest cocktail concoctions, guests will have a diverse array of choices, Wood explained.

"We have taken the time to update our cocktail menu with mixing old classic cocktails with today's trends," said Wood. "We have a master mixologist, I would call him."

"(Ludwig) has worked for a bunch of liquor companies that has done a whole bunch of training and teaching," she added.

Historical appreciation

As guests enter the doors in January, they should expect the same physical structure and more, including enhancements for both children and those with physical limitations.

"The goal was to increase the customer experience. That is what we really concentrated on," Wood explained. "With that being said, we closed down the gift shop and added more historical representations from the family, including the original bar that we brought back in."

The original bar, still in storage, was replaced on the first floor with new counters decades earlier.

Wood added historical information from multiple eras on to the original bar, which is now on the second floor, where the gift shop was located.

Instead of a gift shop, staff plan to guide guests through the building, offering a more interactive opportunity.

"We are now going to be doing history museum tours upstairs, so people can actually hear the story behind the family and the artifacts, instead of just visually seeing them," she said.

According to the Stage Stop website, the second floor was primarily used as a ballroom, where travelers in the 1800s sought a night of fun and relaxation as they ventured between Kenosha and Galena, Ill. en route to the Wilmot Grist Mill.

While travelers had a warm meal on the first floor, and danced the night away on the second floor, they needed an overnight resting spot.

Enter in the third floor, which consists of 13 cubicles, where travelers slept.

"When (Ephraim) Wilcox constructed the 13 small sleeping rooms on the third, he felt quite confident that Wilmot would serve as the perfect location for his hotel on the stage line between Kenosha and Galena," the website states.

Today, nearly all of the artifacts are viewable through a tiny window.

Noting its mission to enhance the quality of the guest experience, Wood said, she opted to make the third floor child friendly, noting the small window is unreachable for them.

"On the third floor, I put a lot of additional artifacts in the rooms," she stated. "I also took photos of all those rooms so that children could see what was in them as well, because there was always that small window."

For guests with physical limitations, Wood opted to bring both

the second and third floor to the first floor, with a photo scrapbook for everyone to peruse.

Next generation

While Wood has taken the reigns in the day-to-day operations of the business, there is a seventh generation entering the business, with her three children showing an interest in maintaining the family tradition dating back to John and Anna Hegeman.

“My parents still own it, they are still in ownership,” said Wood, mother of 11-year-old Maci, 13-year-old Erik, and Molly, who is 16 years old.

“Two of my children have a lot of interest in it,” said Wood. “They were, I want to say, part of the motivation to reopen as well. They were pretty heartbroken when it was closed.”

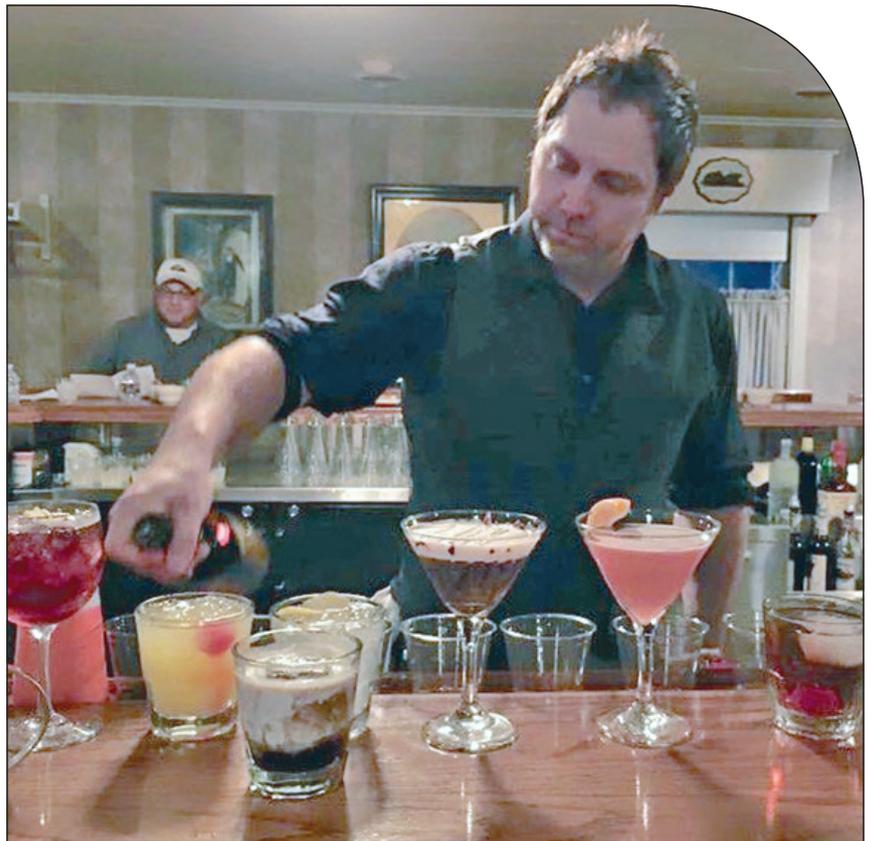
For more information

Wilmot Stage Stop reintroduced an overhauled website Nov. 18 and includes details on the updated menu along with more historical information.

Additionally, Wilmot Stage Stop plans to start taking reservations Dec. 1 in anticipation of the Jan. 17 re-opening date.

Holiday gift certificates are available, and guests can receive them in-person at Wilmot Stage Stop Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m.

To place a reservation, place a call to (262) 862-6212. The website is found at www.wilmotstagestop.com.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Cory Ludwig plans to add new cocktail concoctions to the menu at Wilmot Stage Stop.

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FILE PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

A selection of excellent exercise equipment is available for purchase at Doheny's. Brands include some of the best currently on the market, such as Schwinn, Nautilus, Sprint, Bodycraft, and Bowflex.

Making it easy

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One of the biggest impediments to regular exercise for many people is the time commitment needed to get a meaningful workout.

In addition to the time needed for actual exercise, people have to factor in the time it takes to drive to and from the gym and, if it's crowded, the time spent waiting for equipment.

Doheny's, of Kenosha, has been helping people overcome

those hurdles to make working out as painless as possible by providing the quality fitness equipment and spas needed to turn homes into home gyms.

Beginning as a small business housed in the family garage, Doheny's has prospered for more than 45 years by helping people make the most of their fitness and recovery time.

Why go to a gym to work out when an excellent selection



FILE PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Elliptical fitness machines make a statement standing shoulder to shoulder in Doheny's window. The blue and white sign at the edge of the parking lot says it all: Pools, Spas, Fitness, Supplies.

of equipment stands at attention in the shop's windows at 5102 Green Bay Rd., Kenosha? Brands include Bodycraft, Bowflex, Schwinn, Sprint, and Nautilus. Treadmills, exercise bikes, ellipticals, and more are on sale, all dedicated to help people reduce stress and stay in shape.

Now a person can have a challenging day, drive home in traffic, change clothes, work on the treadmill or Bowflex or stationary bike for an hour, eat a little dinner, relax in the hot tub, then get some restful sleep and be ready to conquer the world again the next day.

Soothe your bones

Now, about all those spas and hot tubs: Doheny's sells some of the best on the market.

"There are a lot of things to take into consideration before buying one," Ron Meitz, Doheny's retail general manager, said in a previous Spirit magazine interview. "Such as, what kind of space is available? Does the customer want waterproof speakers, or would colored lights do more to reduce stress? Does the seating need to be vertical, or should it include an area for reclining? Is the person buying the spa short or tall? Is this copper color pleasing, or would a softer shade be better? And perhaps most important, what type of aches or pains does the customer want to treat, and how many jets does he or she need to relieve them?"

Those jets make all the difference in good hydrotherapy. If the problem areas are the feet, legs, and lower back, the jets require proper placement to address those trouble areas. The same is true for shoulders and the neck. Rheumatism, arthritis, insomnia, and sometimes even high blood pressure are common health complaints that may be lessened or banished by a consistent application of

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soothing jets of warm water.

"I'm on my feet for long hours, sometimes six to seven days per week," Meitz said. "I highly recommend the foot jets."

Hydrotherapy is not new. For thousands of years, Chinese, Japanese, Greeks, Romans, and Egyptians have benefited from immersion in naturally occurring thermal springs and pools. The rewards required re-discovery in the 1700s-1800s, when physicians throughout Europe and Great Britain published papers advocating the curative properties of water therapy. Towns and cities such as Bath, England, and Aix-les-Bains, France, became famous places for "spa cures."

Affordable options

What is relatively new about hydrotherapy is that innovative techniques and materials now make it more affordable and practical for individuals to own spas. Hot tubs come in a variety of sizes and shapes, and are customizable to each customer's requirements.

Huge tubs can be put outside the house – some homeowners have a special addition built for them. There are smaller spas that can fit through a normal-sized front door, and take not much more room than a regular bathtub.

"You don't need a hot tub," Meitz said. "But it's a positive investment in your quality of life."

Care of the tub itself no longer demands lots of scrubbing – it requires only a few minutes per week, and minimal regular maintenance. There are even apps for smart phones or iPads that will start a spa warming to the perfect temperature as the owner travels home.

"It's always ready when you are," Meitz said with a smile.

Most hot tubs currently on the market will work well for 10-20 years if given regular maintenance.

"We've got one of the largest selections of hot tubs in the area," Meitz said. "Everyone needs something different, so we have many models to choose from."

They also have above-ground and in-ground pools, exercise equipment, a large selection of pool toys and accessories, and everything a homeowner or business requires to keep water fun and hydrotherapy clean and worry-free.

Pool supplies

In addition, Doheny's is known as one of the premier national distributors of quality discount pool and spa supplies. Nine regional warehouses mean an order is just hours away instead of days.

"You'll find what looks like lower prices at mart-type stores," Meitz said. "But you have to read the labels to really find what you're getting."

The supplies sold by Doheny's have a higher percentage of active ingredients.

The chemicals may seem more expensive initially, but over time the price proves itself more reasonable because they are more consistent and reliable, according to Meitz.

The shop's knowledgeable staff is always ready to help customers understand this difference. "We explain it a lot, particularly during the summer," Meitz says. "Educating people about quality is part of our customer service. We have excellent name-brand products at competitive prices. I've been in the business for about 25 years. This is a fun business because we love to establish a good rapport with all our customers. They're absolutely great."

Backed by service

Doheny's services the products it sells, offering repair on spas and exercise machines at competitive rates. The team also answers

questions about everything dealing with the pools, spas, pool supplies, patio furniture, and exercise machines. "If we don't know the answer, we'll find someone who does," Meitz said.

Doheny's offers a catalog and a website for ordering ease. They have a toll-free order line on the website.

Ready for a little hydrotherapy, anyone?

Visit Doheny's Pool Supplies at 5102 Green Bay Rd., Kenosha. For questions, call (262) 654-3341 or visit doheny.com



FILE PHOTOS Spirit of Geneva Lakes
All Doheny's hot tubs can be customized considering color combinations, seating arrangements, placement of water jets, and the color and texture of the surround. This one is fitted with a large step to aid getting in and out of the spa, and a table for drinks and snacks with matching stools on one side. Upper photo: This model features a double-lighted fountain on one side of the hot tub, an option available to aid relaxation.

An awakening

BODHI TREE ACUPUNCTURE
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JASON ARNDT Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Katie Kupietz finishes treating patient Elizabeth Mueller at her Bodhi Tree Acupuncture and Wellness business in Burlington.

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by **Jason Arndt**
STAFF WRITER

After spending 13 years as a licensed physical therapist, the thought of Eastern medicine piqued the interest of Katie Kupietz.

“I was more curious about healing and wellness care versus sick care,” said Kupietz. “It just seemed too good to keep to myself so I had to share it.”

Kupietz decided to share the alternative medicine practice seven years ago when she opened Bodhi Tree Acupuncture and Wellness, 201 N. Pine St., Burlington.

The name of business is inspired by Buddhism, she said, in which the key figure often meditated under a Bodhi Tree.

“The word Bodhi means, awakening, and the Bodhi Tree is an actual tree with stories of Buddhism’s beginning,” Kupietz said. “Buddha meditated under the Bodhi tree, and that is where he received his enlightenment.”

“When I opened this business, I wanted to be that awakening for people to take control of their health,” she added.

However, before Kupietz could pursue the opportunity, she underwent extensive study to obtain certification on the state and national levels.

She earned a master’s degree in acupuncture and a bachelor’s degree from the Midwest College of Oriental Medicine to receive state license in acupuncture along with U.S. certification in the field.

Variety of services

In addition to several variations of acupuncture, her Burlington facility offers nutritional consultation, Chinese herbal formulas, ear seeds and other services.

“I think a lot of my patients utilize my services for wellness as part of their regimen,” she said.

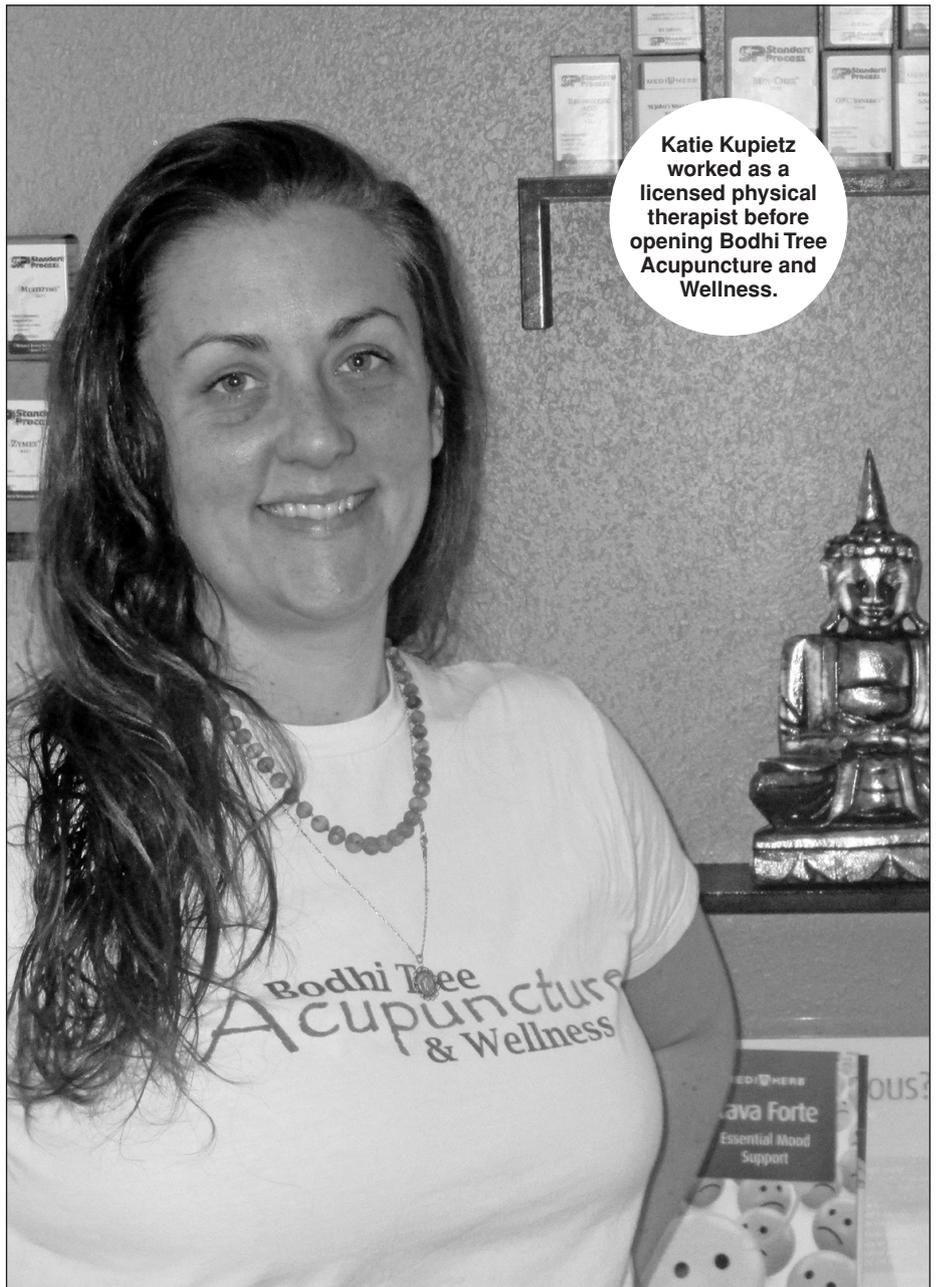
“It can treat anything from insomnia to arthritis, to patients coping with chemotherapy or radiation.”

However, the most common service involves lower back pain and other joint issues, she said.

“People with any joint or low back pain, is a popular one that I see,” said Kupietz, who also offers remedies for women’s health issues, including menopause.

Since she opened the business, Eastern medicine has started to become more widely accepted in the United States and other Western countries.

That was evident during the 2016 Summer Olympics, where gold medal



Katie Kupietz worked as a licensed physical therapist before opening Bodhi Tree Acupuncture and Wellness.

JASON ARNDT *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

swimmer Michael Phelps had purple dots along his back and shoulders.

The discovery left several national news sources perplexed, but the recovery technique, known as cupping, was derived from Eastern Medicine.

“Cupping is just as old as acupuncture, for about 5,000 years,” Kupietz said. “Cupping is something we use in addition to an acupuncture treatment.”

The treatment, which also helps with bronchitis and pneumonia, reportedly improves circulation and blood flow.

“It is utilized to increase circulation to the back point of the body, which is what you saw with the athletes,” she said.

While acupuncture is practice using

needles, she said the methods are painless and the risks are minimal when receiving treatment from a certified person.

“Acupuncture is getting more accepted so, as a trend in the state and country, it is elevating,” she said.

“It’s beautiful medicine, it is pain free, and there is no risk factor with the proper licensed professional,” Kupietz said.

More information

To learn more about Kupietz’s business, visit bodhitreeacu.com, where information related to services are available.

Bodhi Tree Acupuncture is also found on Facebook by searching for Bodhi Tree.

Offering an alternative

HEALTH FOOD STORE FINDS A NICHE IN GROWING MARKET

by **Jennifer Eisenbart**

STAFF WRITER

Susan Cwik, the owner of Burlington Health Foods, has the date of June 23, 2014, written by the back door of the store on Chestnut Street in downtown Burlington.

“Madeline had put the date when she bought the store, and we decided to put the date we bought the store under that,” explained Cwik, who took over the store from Madeline McKenna in 2014.

Cwik has worked at the store for about 12 years, and her daughter Jessica, another employee, has been in and out of the store since her childhood.

The reason they stay is that alternative health supplements have become a larger trend. “People want to live longer, that’s part of it,” Susan Cwik explained. “Part of it is not trusting the mainstream media.

“It’s just a lifestyle.”

Jessica added, “I’ve grown up here. I enjoy this industry. I’ve learned so much. There’s so many things my mind has been opened up to besides what the doctors recommend.”

After owning the store for two and a half years, Susan Cwik said she does turn a profit, but it’s not why she’s in the business.

“It’s OK,” she said. “But I’m not in it for the money. We’ll turn away a sale if it is the correct thing to do.”

Cwik said that an example of that is when raspberry ketones were popular in the aftermath of Dr. Oz report. The health food store declined to carry them.

“If there was a magic pill for weight loss, we’d all be skinny,” she said.

That said, the store carries many items that fall under alternative medicine. Among the items on the shelf is red yeast rice, what Cwik calls the “original Statin.”

“They pretty much work the same way,” she said. “You may not get the severity of the side effects.”

Supplements in the store are used to treat anything from inflammation to pain to coughs and sinus issues. Cwik said, though, the store isn’t intended as a doctor’s office.

“We can’t diagnose or treat anything,” she said. “We suggest.”

Turmeric is also popular right now. The spice, often used in curry, has been said to have anti-inflammatory properties.

“Most people are taking it in the supplement form,” Cwik said. “You can cook with it.

“But most people are taking it in a tablet or a capsule for pain,” she added.

The store also offers a number of other options that aren’t strictly medicine. There is a line of all-natural health and beauty products – including makeup – pet products, household items and grocery goods.

There are also options for aromatherapy, including diffusers and the standard essential oils.

“There are many ways people want to approach treatment,” Cwik said. “Whether it’s supplements, aromatherapy, acupuncture, massage therapy, we all fall under alternative therapy.”

The store is open Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday through Friday and then 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

Cwik and her daughter are the main employees, with Shelley White also working at the store.

For more information, contact the store at (262) 763-7709.

“

There are many ways people want to approach treatment. Whether it’s supplements, aromatherapy, acupuncture, massage therapy, we all fall under alternative therapy.”





Turn the page to get the lowdown on Lake Geneva's winter festival running Jan. 28 through Feb. 12 and featuring the U.S. National Snow Sculpting Competition.

It's Winterfest 2017!



Winterfest 2017 to feature 'Abominable Snow Race'

Lake Geneva's Winterfest, known for its snow sculpting, human dog sled races, helicopter rides, shopping, music and more, will have a new attraction this year.

This year's event, which runs Jan. 28 through Feb. 12, includes the Abominable Snow Race, which features three to five miles of snowy course with more than 20 obstacles to challenge the most hearty of competitors.

The Abominable Snow Race is at the Grand Geneva Resort on Jan. 28 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To register, visit abominablesnowrace.com.

SNOW SCULPTING

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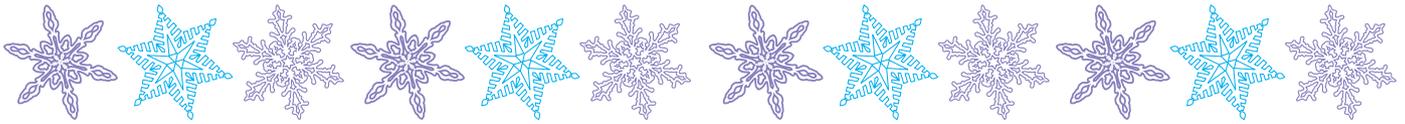
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As it is an open event, visitors may watch sculpting teams from around the U.S. create pieces of art from snow throughout the day on Jan. 30 and 31. The competition begins on Wednesday, Feb. 1 and continues through Saturday, Feb. 4.

The sculptors will officially end their work at 11 a.m., but the sculptures will remain in place for public viewing throughout the week.

Each team will receive a cylinder shaped block of snow 8 feet in diameter and 9 feet high on the grounds of The Riviera. Each team's snow block will be chosen via a lottery. If snow is not available and snowmaking is not possible, an ice-carving competition will be held.

Teams consist of three members 18

years and older from the same state. Both professionals and amateurs are eligible. Additional sculpting assistance is not permitted except that given by competition organizers and the grounds crew. The final sculpture must fit within a 12-foot circle. Height is determined by the teams.

No media other than water, ice or snow may be used. Competitors are to use snow available on-site only. Colorants are prohibited. Armatures or molded shapes are not allowed.

Sculptors may provide their own tools at their own risk and liability, but no power tools are allowed. Snow removal equipment, axes, machetes, buckets, long-handled ice scrapers, ladders and shovels will be available on site.

Individual artists are judged. The sculptures and winners will be determined based on creativity and originality of expression (50 percent); technique including utilization of materials, excellence in execution and presentation (30 percent); and message, particularly the visual force of the message (20 percent).

The first-place winning team receives the U.S. National Competition Champions Award and trophy and an invitation to compete in Association International de Sculpture sur Neige et Glace sanctioned International Snow Sculpting competition.

The second-place winners receive the State of Wisconsin Award and trophy. The third-place winners receive the City of Lake Geneva Award and trophy.

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A snow sculptor gets face to face with his work during Lake Geneva's Winterfest in 2016. The 2017 event runs Jan. 28 through Feb. 12.

- DAVID BAKER Spirit of Geneva Lakes ~



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The Gene Kempfer People's Choice Award is determined by public vote held on the site of the competition between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 4. The award ceremony is at 3 p.m. at the Riviera.

The Klaus Ebeling OMM Award is given to a team or person that promoted the spirit of the event. The award is named after Klaus Ebeling of Watertown, NY. Previous winners of the award decide the winning team for the award.

❄️ HUMAN DOG SLED RACES

The human dog sled races will be held on Feb. 11 at 9 a.m. Teams of six compete against on another in a double-elimination tournament at Lake Geneva Canopy Tours' 100-acre wooded property minutes from downtown Lake Geneva.

Each team will consist of six people: four sled pullers, a sled rider and a sled pusher.

The sled racecourse is approximately 135 feet long. Team members are encouraged to dress in wacky costumes. A prize is in store for the most creative attire.

Visit lakegenevaevents.com for entry information.

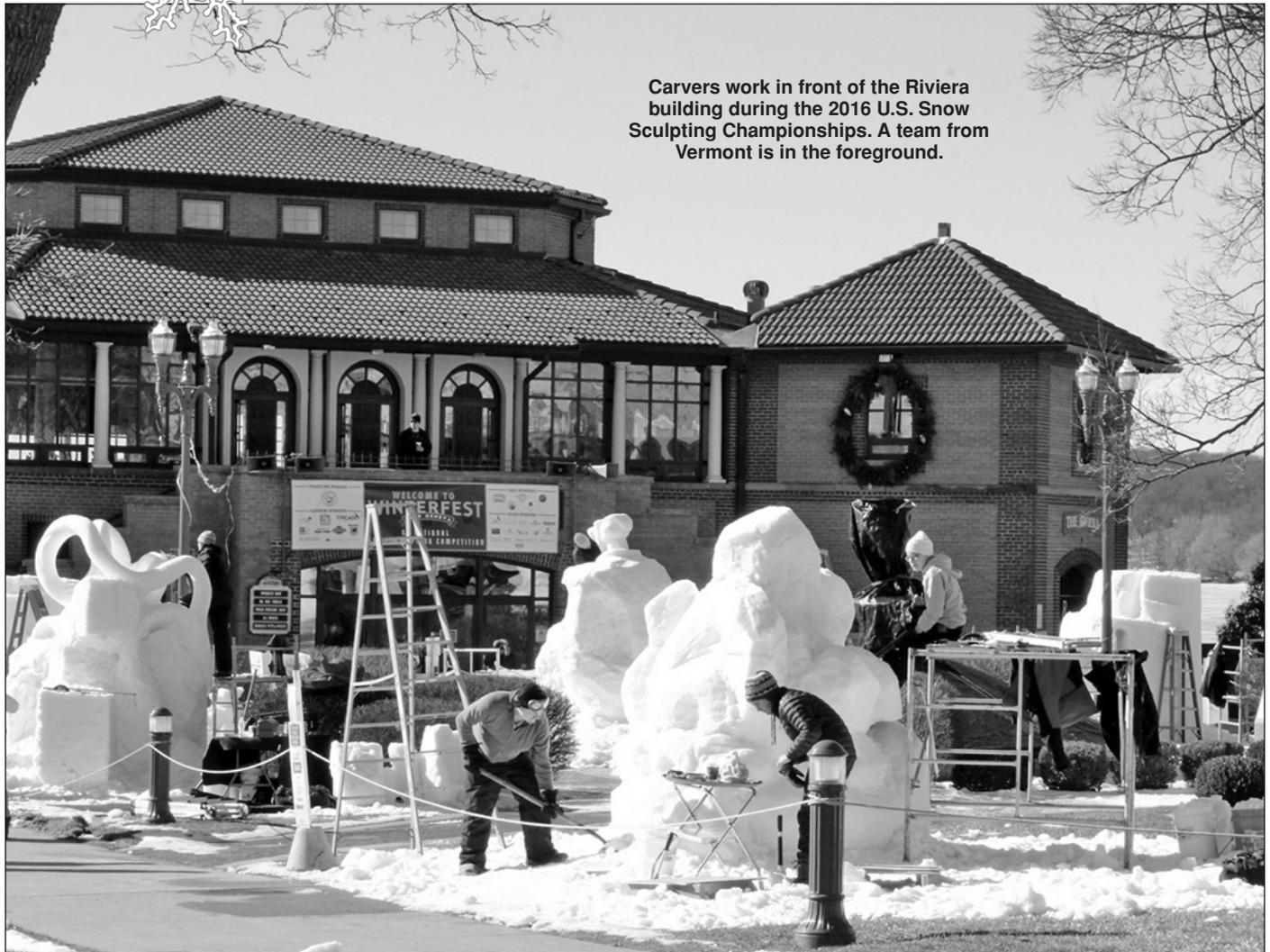
"I think the communities and businesses – we couldn't do this without their support and we're so pleased they are so involved," said Nan Elder, director of Winterfest.



Joe Shafner (left) and Beth Shafner, of New Hampshire, work on a block of snow in Flat Iron Park during the 2016 Winterfest in Lake Geneva.



PENNY GRUETZMACHER *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



Carvers work in front of the Riviera building during the 2016 U.S. Snow Sculpting Championships. A team from Vermont is in the foreground.

PENNY GRUETZMACHER *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

LECTURE SERIES TO EXAMINE history of dolls

Black Point Estate and Horticultural Hall of Lake Geneva continue their winter lecture series with “Doll Play” featuring Wisconsin Historical Society Curator Leslie Bellais.

Since the mass production of dolls began around 1850, these toys have reflected society’s attitudes towards gender roles, child rearing, materialism, and social status. In the time period under discussion dolls changed from delicate porcelain and bisque beauties that emphasized fashion and social rituals to more rugged and realistic composition dolls that children played with and nurtured.

Bellais, curator of social history at the Wisconsin Historical Society, will illustrate this evolution of doll forms by showing examples from the society’s extensive collection.

This program also includes a brief presentation on Black Point’s dollhouse, which was constructed in the 1870s for the Seipp family children.

“Leslie is an expert in the field of textiles and 19th century children’s toys and social norms as well as an excellent presenter so we are thrilled to bring her back to the Lake Geneva area,” said Black Point’s Director, David Desimone. “Bellais last presented in the Lake Geneva area in 2015.”

Additional programs in this year’s series include: “Wisconsin Supper Clubs” with author Mary Bergin and filmmaker Holly Deruter; “Pabst – The Man and The Mansion” with Pabst Mansion executive



director John C. Eastberg; and “The Impact of World War One on Milwaukee” with Milwaukee County Historical Society archivist, Kevin Abing.

Additional information about each event will be released as the program date approaches.

For more information on any of these programs, visit Black Point Estate at www.blackpointestate.org. To purchase tickets call (262) 248-1888.

If you go...

WHAT: “Doll Play” featuring Wisconsin Historical Society Curator Leslie Ballais

WHEN: 1 to 3 p.m.
Saturday, January 21

COST: \$5 per person.
Reservations can be made by calling Black Point Estate at (262) 248-1888.

WHERE: Horticultural Hall, Lake Geneva, 330 Broad Street, Lake Geneva

The Ridge Hotel gets Innovation Award

The Ridge Hotel on Highway 50 in Lake Geneva was awarded the Business Innovation Award from the Walworth County Economic Development Alliance at the organization’s Nov. 10 annual meeting.

“The Ridge Hotel’s extensive renovation was an intentional approach to appeal to millennial travelers and locals who want to live and work in the area,” said WCEDA Executive Director Derek D’Auria during the award presentation. “The Lake Geneva area already has an upscale brand. The Ridge is now opening this brand to the millennials and will help our area tap this enormous target segment.”

Specifically, D’Auria pointed beyond The Ridge Hotel’s sleek, contemporary

facelift to the technological and cultural upgrades that further strengthened the hotel’s competitive edge and performance.

“Today’s e-social consumer and hospitality customer wants soundproof meeting rooms, convenient impulse areas for grab-and-go, plug-ins and media throughout a property and speed of response,” said D’Auria.

The Ridge Hotel responded with such innovations as floating ceiling sound barriers; a coffee and wine bar situated in the open lobby; real-time information projected throughout the public spaces on flat screens at eye level; and a completely new WiFi system with enough bandwidth to allow every room and customer to stream Netflix

on three devices at the same time.

Ridge Hotel General Manager Todd Baior accepted the Business Innovation Award on behalf of the hotel and its management company, Paloma Resort Properties.

“The Ridge Hotel’s redesign gives our property – and the Lake Geneva area as a whole – a leg-up in a very competitive market,” Baior said. “When we book more rooms, we help raise sales – and the tide – for area businesses.

“Our goals dovetail with that of WCEDA as a whole in that by creating a successful state-of-the-art facility, we also provide more jobs and attract qualified millennials as both employees and guests.”

Artistic Endeavors

Elkhorn's Firefly Art Glass is a labor of love for owner Debbie Pflanzer

By **Dave Fidlin**
CORRESPONDENT



A

lthough she has long enjoyed art in all its forms, running a store draped in the theme was not a venture Debbie Pflanzer initially envisioned in her professional life. But one experience after another helped chart the course she is on today.

The ensuing result of her most recent artistic journey is Firefly Art Glass, a shop and studio nestled in the heart of Elkhorn. In a nod to the entrepreneurial evolution that has taken form, Pflanzer describes her store as “three businesses in one.”

Firefly’s product line includes original works of artwork – including decorative glass pieces and jewelry. Rounding out

the shop’s services are a range of supplies available for purchase within the store.

Additionally, Firefly offers a full menu of classes in fused glass and stained glass within the shop throughout the week.

Pflanzer, who grew up in Milwaukee, began her foray into artistic endeavors in college. She graduated magna cum laude from Eastern Michigan University with a bachelor’s degree in graphic design.

For a number of years, Pflanzer expressed her creativity by working as an art director and graphic designer for publications. But as she navigated her way through her career, she said she was ready for a change.

The answer to her next step came after meeting with an art teacher at Tibbets Elementary School in Elkhorn. In a happenstance moment, Pflanzer learned how kilns play intricately into created fused art glass pieces. The entire process, Pflanzer said, intrigued her and whet her appetite to learn more about the ancient practice.

The art form grabbed Pflanzer’s attention so much, in fact, that she was inspired to

“

I love that it allows you to be so creative. There are so many things you can do with fused glass. It’s so colorful and bright. It’s fun to do.”

– Debbie Pflanzer

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DAVE FIDLIN *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

A sampling of the dishes and plates made at Firefly Art Glass are displayed on a wall at the facility in Elkhorn.

purchase her own kiln in 2010. Pflanzler began making custom works of art out of her basement, and Firefly Art Glass was born.

“I basically had my studio in my basement, and I was going to different shows,” Pflanzler said.

Firefly grew to such heights that Pflanzler, after six years of creating custom works of art out of her home, decided to move her business out of her basement and into a highly visible storefront. A year ago, Firefly officially became a part of Elkhorn’s business community.

“I kind of stumbled into this specific location,” Pflanzler said of the North Wisconsin Street perch she has taken up within the heart of Elkhorn.

When asked how the community has received her business, Pflanzler said, “It’s been very nice. There’s been a lot of excitement. There have been a lot of repeat

visitors, which has been great.”

Pflanzler said she enjoys sharing her enthusiasm with everyone who enters her shop. One way she spreads this joy is through education, particularly on the ins and outs of fused glass – which she quickly points out is different from blown glass.

With the help of kilns, glass fusing gives users a wide swath of creative options. The heat runs so high that various glass pieces can be bonded together in ways that are otherwise not possible. Glass fusing can be accomplished when kilns fire at ranges from 1,099 to 1,501 degrees Fahrenheit. Although the specific origins are not known, glass fusing is believed to have roots in ancient times. The practice was under the radar for a long period of time, but gained popularity in the U.S. in the 1960s – first as a hobby and more recently as a practice within the world of fine art.

Artists using glass fusing as their palate

have a number of options at their fingertips. One common practice involves stacking, or layering, thin sheets of glass. Commonly, different colored glass pieces are used to create patterns or simple images. Higher temperatures bond the pieces together and soften the edges.

“I love that it allows you to be so creative,” Pflanzler said. “There are so many things you can do with fused glass. It’s so colorful and bright. It’s fun to do.”

A number of glass-based pieces can be created through the glass fusing method, including art glass, glass tiles and various pieces of jewelry – most notably, beads.

Depending upon the specific temperature and technique used, glass fusing can result in a number of unique items. Pflanzler’s portfolio of glass-infused works comes in the form of candle art, coasters, nightlights, plates and vases.

While glass infusion follows a general

pattern, there are a few diverging techniques that can be used to bring about an intended result. A kiln firing on a lower end of the temperature spectrum, for example, will create a slumped piece of artwork.

By contrast, pieces created within higher temperatures typically have a fuller appearance with more pronounced depth, relief and shape.

There are a number of steps involved in fused glass, including a lengthy cooling process that typically lasts anywhere from 10 to 12 hours and occurs over the course of three different stages.

Stained glass is another technique used to create some of the pieces available within Firefly. Fellow artist Carol Dietenberger, who runs an aptly named business known as Carol's Stained Glass, plays a role in this segment of Firefly's operations.

Dietenberger, who grew up in Hartford and has a background as a dental hygienist, has been honing her interest in art through stained glass. The practice, she said, gives her the opportunity to tap into a creative outlet by mixing colors and textures.

Although Dietenberger generally designs her art in her own home studio, she offers classes in the art of stained glass within Firefly's facilities.

Long associated with churches or other houses of worship, stained glass is another ancient technique that has withstood the test of time. It uses a variety of different types of



DAVE FIDLIN *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

A platter made with fused glass is among the items on display at Firefly Art Glass.

colored glass — most notably red, yellow, green, blue, purple, white and transparent.

The practice is noted for creating unique pieces — some as simple designs, others as direct replicas of a specific image.

As Firefly's location within the heart of Elkhorn has become known, Pflanzler said she has been pleased with the reception the community has given the studio's classes. They are generally offered three to four times on an average week.

"The number of people (participating in classes) has been picking up," Pflanzler said, pointing to the changing seasons as one possible barometer for the scenario. "People

work on a variety of projects."

Some classes run over multiple sessions, while others are one-time gatherings. Pflanzler said class offerings are frequently switched on a seasonal basis. Throughout the holidays, for example, Christmas- and winter-themed classes were held within Firefly's studio.

"I push the students to be creative and do their own thing," Pflanzler said. The goal, she said, is to have no two pieces resemble one another — even if the pieces' creators are gathered in the same room at the same time.

In December, Dietenberger offered participants an opportunity to make a

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stained glass ornament or snowflake, while Pflanzer gave students a hands-on opportunity to make a glass-infused snowflake dish or festive refrigerator magnets.

"A new schedule comes out every month with a variety of projects in different price ranges," Pflanzer said.

With the goal of ensuring all participants receive the individualized attention they deserve, Pflanzer said Firefly caps its class sizes. The maximum number of participants in the fused glass offerings is set at six persons, while the stained glass ones max out at four persons.

Firefly's classes are geared toward beginners, ages 10 and up. However,

the facility does offer custom classes for younger children with built-in safety precautionary techniques, such as no glass cutting.

Although tools and supplies are generally offered during classes, Pflanzer said participants are welcome to bring their own as well, if desired.

While Firefly has a number of scheduled offerings each month, Pflanzer and Dietenberger are also available for private classes. Pflanzer said the option serves as a great opportunity for friends to come together and have a keepsake of a fun experience together.

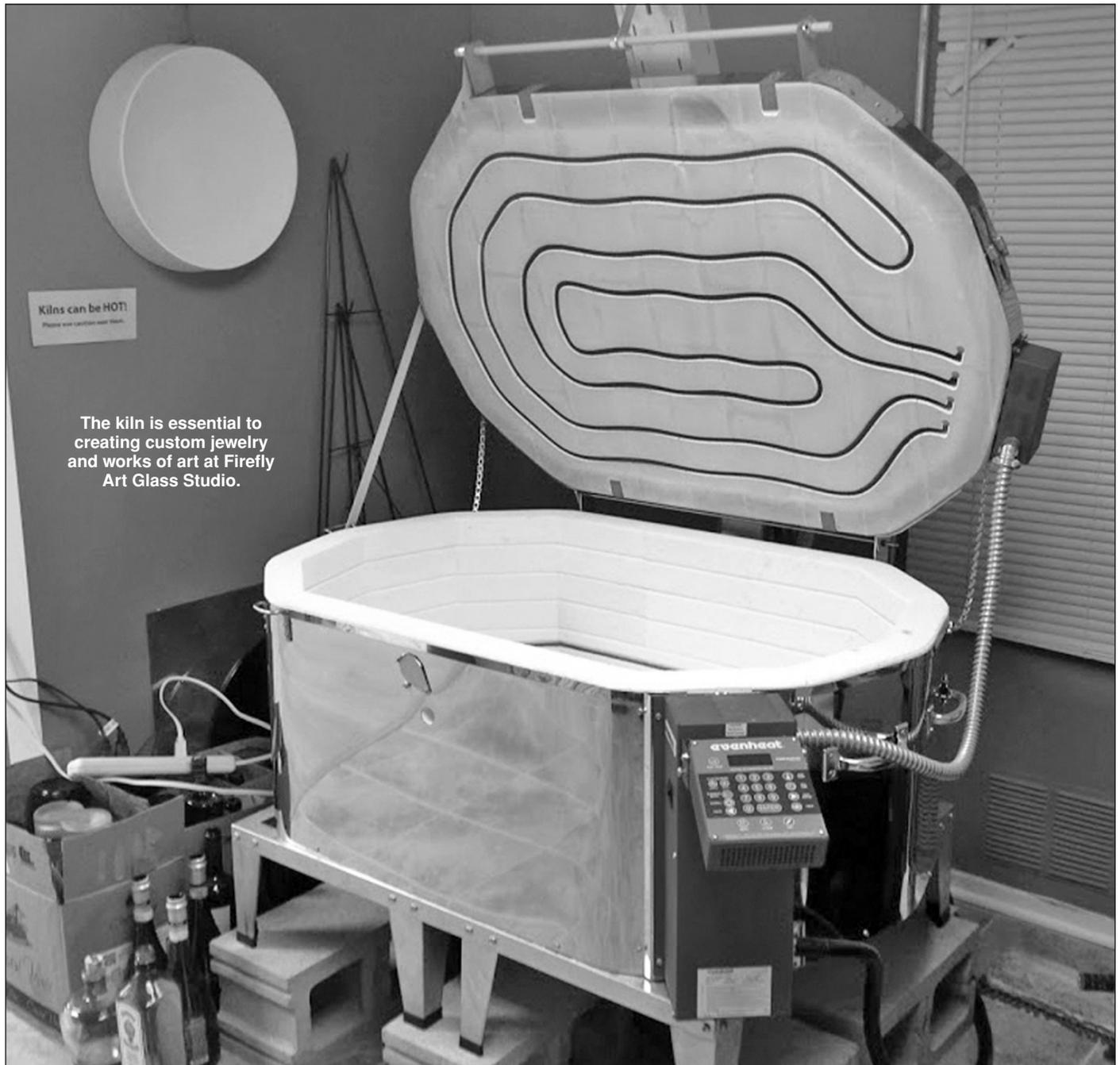
The private offerings are highly customized and flexible, Pflanzer said, and give group participants an opportunity to

determine a specific project they would like to tackle.

"The customers are the best part of what I do," Pflanzer said. "It's fun when they pick up their projects and see what they've made."

As Firefly's class offerings have taken hold, Pflanzer and Dietenberger have created an email list, which they said is growing in popularity. The list updates subscribers on the monthly offerings and the dates and times they are offered.

Firefly Art Glass is at 39 N. Wisconsin St., Elkhorn. The store is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. For more details, visit Firefly's website at www.fireflyartglass.com or call (262) 742-2030.



The kiln is essential to creating custom jewelry and works of art at Firefly Art Glass Studio.

DAVE FIDLIN Spirit of Geneva Lakes

WHEN ICE WAS THE Harvest

Geneva Lake was prized for its pure, crystal blocks

By **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

In wintertime Geneva Lake has a far different look than it does in the summer when the area is filled with summer residents and visitors. This was especially so in the early 1900s, when the majority of the elegant mansions along the lakefront, which were not equipped to handle the winters of Wisconsin, were vacated.

But the lake, even though it was empty of boats and swimmers, became a busy and

active place once the temperatures dipped below freezing.

By December the crystal blue waters of Geneva Lake were transformed into a solid sheet of ice often from 12 to 20 inches deep. The serene look of the lake would not remain so for long, for in the late 19th and early 20th century, the frozen lake was a field ready for harvest.

In those days, before electricity was found in homes and businesses, ice was a necessary commodity to keep food fresh, not only in the area, but as far away as Chicago and Milwaukee. In the Lake

Geneva, which abounds with lakes, ice-cutting companies became as prevalent as the lakes and ponds.

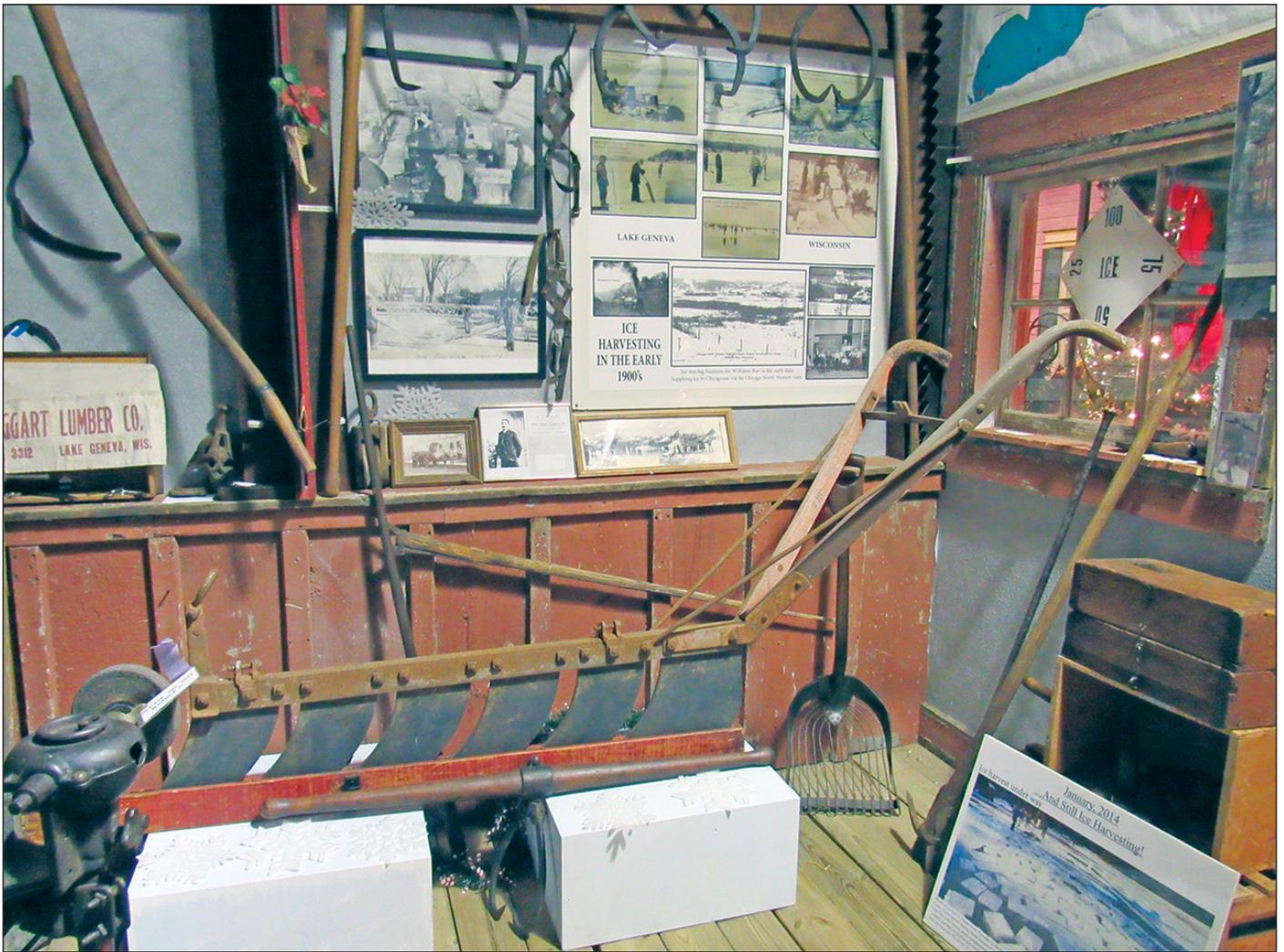
The ice-harvesting season was a short one, from December until March – that is if the weather held out. The beginning and end of the harvesting season was weather dependent. Most of the ice was for industrial use and ordered in specific sizes. Dale Buetter is the Operations Director of the Geneva Lakes Museum and their resident ice-harvesting specialist.

“The ice was usually not harvested until it was 12 inches thick,” Buetter said.



COURTESY OF GENEVA LAKE MUSEUM *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Ice harvesting was a major business in the Geneva Lake area. Much of it was transported to Chicago or to Milwaukee by train. Here a train is shown making its way to Chicago.



COURTESY OF GENEVA LAKE MUSEUM *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

On display at the Geneva Lake Museum, this ice scorer was taken across the ice to score the sides of the block that would be carved out of the ice. The ice ideally would be 12 inches thick before it would be harvested.

“Then it was cut into 16 by 16 modules. This size was chosen because of the length of the wagons that were used to transport the ice from the lakeshore to the icehouses for storage or to the trains for transportation to the city. It was also important that the ice be no thicker than the 12 inches for stacking purposes.”

An arduous task

The cutting of the ice was an arduous process that began with the ice harvesters, having to scrape the snow off the ice at regular intervals long before the actual process of harvesting began. The snow acted as an insulator and would hamper the freezing process if not cleared. Measuring the ice frequently determined its readiness for harvest. When the ice reached its ideal depth, the true work would begin.

The team of ice cutters and horses would make their way to the shore. Using a plow-like tool, attached to a horse and guided by one of the ice cutters, the job of scoring the ice blocks would begin.

Once the deep score was placed on

the ice, marking the rectangular blocks that would be cut into individual blocks of ice, the workers would begin to saw them apart. A channel was then cleared which would allow the blocks to be floated toward the shore. The field of ice that the harvesters worked at a time was often as large as five acres.

The ice harvesters were a combination of local residents and temporary workers who drifted into town. They worked for room and board and minimal wages of a couple of dollars each day. The work was not easy or enjoyable for they were out in the elements the entire day. One of the dangers was falling into the lake, which happened with some regularity, according to historical accounts.

When a worker fell in, other workers would gather around with a tool called a pike, regularly used to slide the blocks of ice, and use it to pull him out of the freezing water.

Peril for man and horse

Horses were an important part of the

ice-harvesting team. In addition to being used to score the ice they were needed to pull the heavy blocks to the shore. Horses, too, suffered from being dumped in the icy water when the ice they were standing on cracked or they stepped off the ice. The horses would be guided along through the channel using a choke rope around their neck as they swam to shore. Occasionally a horse or sometimes a whole team of horses would drown.

Depending on the size of the operation, the ice blocks would be moved onto a wagon pulled by horses and taken to the rail station or to the icehouse. There it would be moved up a conveyor belt to the icehouse for storage.

“The blocks of ice were stacked on top of each other, with sawdust layered between each block,” said Buetter. “The purpose of the sawdust was not so much for insulation as many people think but to keep the blocks from freezing together.”

When the blocks were loaded into the icehouse by the conveyor, the crew inside the icehouse would then stack it in the



Horses, too, suffered from being dumped in the icy water when the ice they were standing on cracked or they stepped off the ice. The horses would be guided along through the channel using a choke rope around their neck as they swam to shore. Occasionally a horse or sometimes a whole team of horses would drown.”

icehouse, which were constructed of wood and usually had heights of over 30 feet.

The icehouses themselves were massive structures. The buildings were usually triple walled and were filled with sawdust, horsehair and hay to provide better insulation for the ice. Surprisingly the ice lasted even through the hot 80 and 90 degrees of summer. One of the major problems with the icehouses was that they were built of wood and filled with flammable materials and so were susceptible to fires. Lightning often seemed to strike them perhaps because they were the tallest buildings. The top blocks were often covered with swamp grasses to also keep them from melting too quickly.

Industry booms

The first ice cutting business in the Lake Geneva area was founded by Daniel Gross and Elyas Brooks in 1874. It was so successful that the 400-ton capacity



COURTESY OF GENEVA LAKE MUSEUM *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Ice was harvested not only in the Lake Geneva area but also in Fontana and at other areas around the lake. The harvesters often would harvest a field of ice up to 5 acres.

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storage house built that year had to be enlarged to 800-ton capacity by the next year. New ice harvest companies were quickly established to take advantage of the need for ice especially in Chicago.

J.V. Seymour was one of the largest ice producers in the area and was known as the "Ice King." He is reported to have cut as much as 35,000 tons of ice in one winter and had approximately 300 men on his payroll. His icehouse was near the rail depot, making transportation fast and easy.

Seymour sold the depot icehouse in 1900 to the Knickerbocker Ice Company, but that did not mean he was out of the ice business. Instead he built another icehouse closer to the lake near the western edge of the property, which today is known as Library Park. He maintained this icehouse known as the Lake Geneva Ice Company until 1908 when again he sold out, this time to Martin Kelley and Peter Russell.

The refrigerated railroad cars moved meats to Chicago in a safe manner. Prior to its transportation by train in ice-cooled cars, much of the meat being shipped would spoil before reaching the final destination. Another famous Wisconsin product, beer, also had to be kept on ice to keep from spoiling in the days before beer was pasteurized. Other ice was sent for use in homes and restaurants in the city.

Ice was harvested from almost any water source that froze. Lake Geneva ice was considered to be of the highest quality. Because the spring fed lake was crystal clear, so was its ice and it was highly desired especially by the bars for use in their drinks. The body of water that was used to harvest ice affected the quality and the purity of the ice. Ice that came from polluted lakes and ponds spread disease and caused epidemics of illness such as typhoid if consumed.

Iceboxes to refrigerators

In the early 20th century, food at home was kept cold by being placed in an icebox, as electric refrigerators were not common in the homes of average people. The iceman would come to the home two to three times a week and deliver the block of ice to be placed in the upper chamber of the icebox. Food would be placed in the bottom chamber to be kept cold.

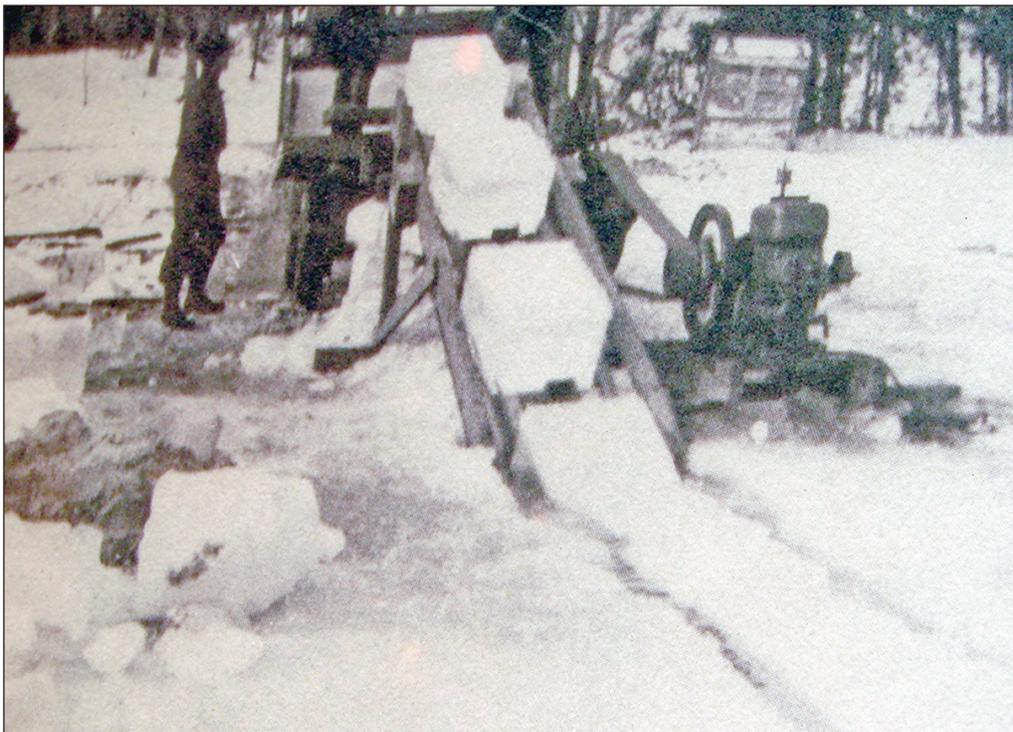
A sign would be placed in the home's window alerting the iceman what quantity of ice was needed that day. Blocks of 25, 50, 75, and 100 pounds were available and sold for about 50 cents per 100 pounds. Many of the mansions along Geneva Lake had their own smaller icehouses to meet the estate's needs. These would be filled by the ice companies during the winter harvest so the mansions would have plenty of ice when the families returned in spring.

Ice companies flourished in the Geneva Lake area until the 1930s when electric refrigeration began to make its way into family homes. The conversion to electric



COURTESY OF GENEVA LAKE MUSEUM *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Signs such as this one were hung in the window to let the iceman know how many pounds of ice were needed that day. Ice was delivered up to three times a week and placed in the icebox to keep food cold.



COURTESY OF GENEVA LAKE MUSEUM *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

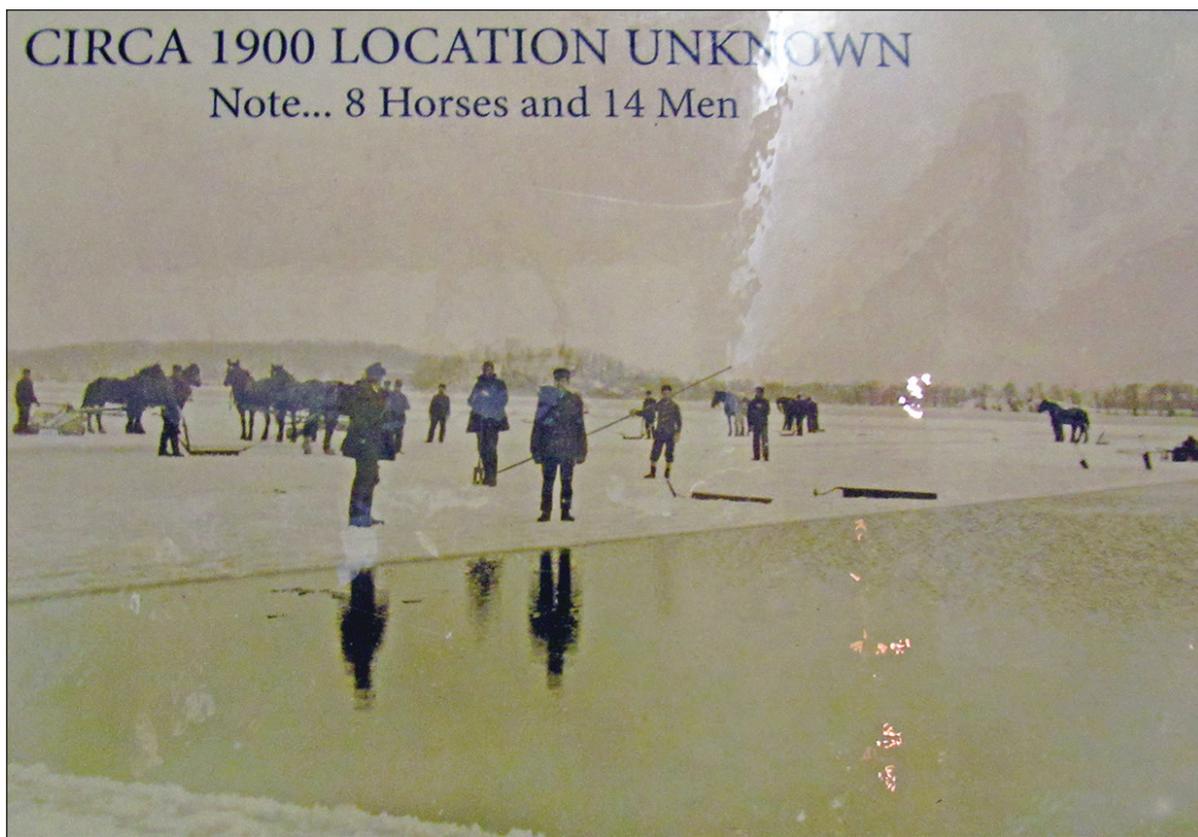
This photo on display at the Geneva Lake Museum shows ice being directed up the conveyor onto a trailer. The motor used to move the conveyor often had to be repaired on site when it failed during the ice harvest.

refrigeration was slowed with the advent of World War II as factories turned to supporting the war needs and metals were used to manufacture trucks, tanks, and bullets rather than home appliances.

So while the ice harvesting business had slowed it managed to hang on for another 10 years or so until the end of the war brought servicemen home and new households began to purchase the new electric refrigerators.

For more than 50 years, ice harvesting was a major industry in the Geneva Lake area but today it has been replaced by refrigerators and commercially frozen ice.

The Geneva Lake Museum, 255 Mill St., Lake Geneva, features a display of ice harvesting tools and photos. The museum is open Tuesday, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Ice harvesting was hard work and required not only the ice harvesters, but a team of horses to pull the ice blocks that weighed more than 100 pounds.

COURTESY OF GENEVA LAKE MUSEUM *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

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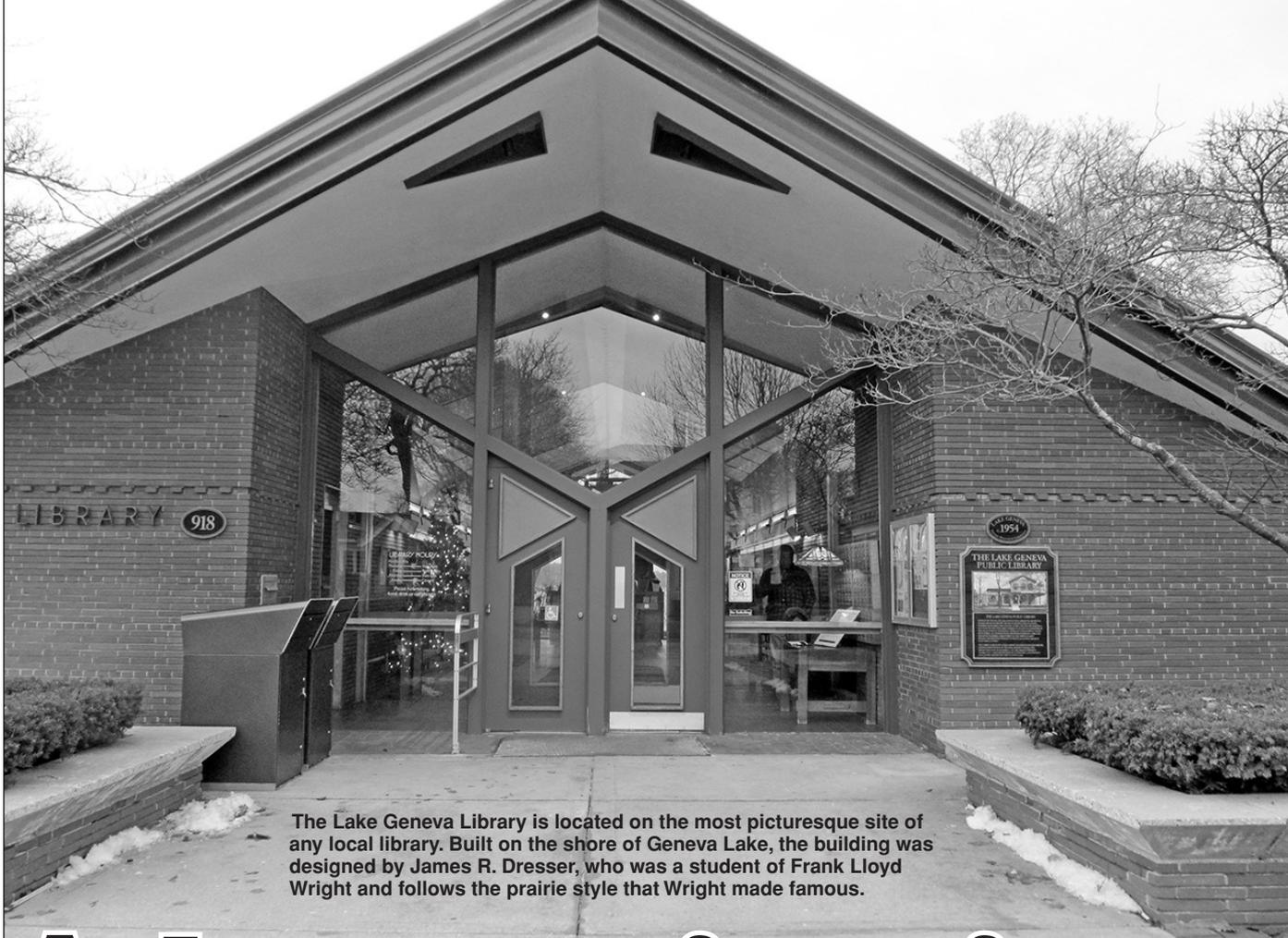
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The Lake Geneva Library is located on the most picturesque site of any local library. Built on the shore of Geneva Lake, the building was designed by James R. Dresser, who was a student of Frank Lloyd Wright and follows the prairie style that Wright made famous.

A beacon in winter

LOCAL LIBRARIES OFFER RESPITE FROM THE COLD



While winter winds blow and daylight is scarce, the local library shines as a beacon of activity for weather-weary Wisconsinites.

Whether it's quietly cozying up to a good book while your child enjoys a storytime session, or doing a bit a research on the best new kayaks for the coming season, the library remains a great winter getaway right in your hometown.

Today's libraries are not just book repositories. Today's library contains all the technology and support to access enough materials to fill thousands of libraries. But books still remain the building blocks of the library.

Today, movies and DVDs – so popular with everyone from teenagers to senior citizens – are among the most popular items to be borrowed from the library. These items are borrowed almost as often as books, according to one area librarian.

Technology rooms, which contain computers or WiFi for those who bring in their own laptops or tablets, are found in almost all libraries today. In the morning retired people or those working late day shifts can often be found working on the computers. After school the student population takes over the library's resources to complete their homework assignments.

The Wisconsin Digital Library commonly known as

Overdrive is available for all Wisconsin libraries. Through this program, patrons may download ebooks and audio books for 7, 14 or 21 day periods. Each patron is allowed up to 10 checkouts at a time.

The other program that is available for Wisconsin residents is called Badgerlink. This program allows the downloading of magazines, art, newspapers and ebooks and is found at most libraries in the area.

Many libraries have become community centers, offering programs for adults and children that often cover such diverse topics as book clubs, making your own cards, learning to use programs such as Ancestry.com to search family history, or hosting movies and author visits. In many cases the library is becoming the community center of old – it is a place for locals to meet and share information and activities.

Now is a great time to visit a local library to see what is new.

Here are a few of the libraries that offer diverse opportunities for knowledge.

Lake Geneva Library

For many visitors to this library come not because they want to take out a book or do some research, but to see the beautiful building. It is set on the shore of Geneva Lake and

designed in the prairie style by architect James R. Dresser, a student of Frank Lloyd Wright.

After pausing for the breathtaking view, visitors can turn their attention to the library itself and enjoy the many services and products available.

While Lake Geneva is a municipality of just 7,000 year-round residents, the library actually serves a population of 17,500. Many of the smaller communities that surround the lake may not have a library or may have a smaller facility that does not have the newer technology programs or they may just not have the variety of materials that Lake Geneva has available.

Contact the Lake Geneva Public Library, 918 W. Main Street, at (262) 249-5299, on Facebook or online at www.lakegeneva.lib.wis.us.

Matheson Memorial Library, Elkhorn

The Matheson Library is the largest library in Walworth County. It is housed in a beautiful facility that combines the original building with the newer addition while still maintaining the character of the original. The library serves not only the City of Elkhorn but also much of the surrounding area.

The library has nearly 70,000 items including books, DVDs, audio books, magazines, and newspapers. Throughout the library there are comfortable reading nooks, including one with a fireplace.

Visit the Matheson Memorial Library at 101 North Wisconsin, or call (262) 723-2678. Additional information can be found online at www.elkhorn.lib.wi.us or on Facebook.

Burlington Public Library

First founded by the Burlington Library Association in 1908, the library became the city library in 1913 and has continued to grow.

The Burlington Public Library is a member of the Lakeshores

Library System and thus shares a system with them and also the Mid-Wisconsin Library System and the Burlington Area School District, which allows patrons the ability to access materials at all the locations serviced by these systems.

The Burlington Library is at 165 E. Jefferson, Burlington. The telephone number is (262) 763-7623.

Aram Public Library, Delavan

In 1885 the Delavan Public Library was started under a program called the Caxton plan. It basically worked by having 100 people pay \$1 a year for 2 years and 200 books would be provided by the Caxton Library Company of Chicago.

Then in 1889 the Delavan Lake Library had a donation of 500 volumes, available for loan to any lake resident.

The Aram family made a bequest of \$20,000 to build a library to be named the Aram Library in memory of their daughters who died in childhood and, thus, the building in use today was built.

The Aram Library is at 404 E. Walworth, Delavan. New hours beginning in January are Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Sunday 1 to 4 p.m.

Community Library, Twin Lakes

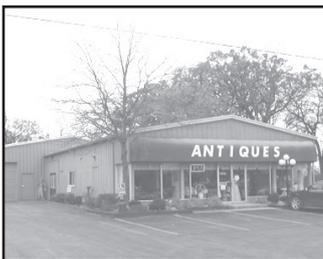
The library in Twin Lakes opened in 1993. It is a part of the Community Library System with branches in Randall, Paddock Lake and Salem, and is a part of the Kenosha County Library System.

Looking to download a book? Use Badgerlink, which is available at this location and available for all Wisconsin residents. Books may also be borrowed from any library in the Community Library System.

The library is at 110 S. Lake, Twin Lakes. The phone number is (262) 877-4281.

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COURTESY OF MARK LALASZ Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Gino's on the shore

Gino's East Pizzeria, 300 Wrigley Drive, Lake Geneva, is in the Harbor Shores Hotel with a tableside view of Geneva Lake.

Whether it's pizza or service, Gino's East goes deep

By **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

Visitors to Lake Geneva who have ties to Chicago are often surprised when walking along Wrigley Drive to discover Gino's East Pizzeria in the Harbor Shores building, directly across from Geneva Lake.

For many of Chicagoans and suburban residents, memories of special trips to Gino's East in downtown Chicago recall a special time in their lives.

Gino's opened in downtown Chicago 50 years ago and quickly became a favorite place to enjoy deep-dish pizza. As its popularity grew, so did the number of restaurants opened by Gino's East sites in the Chicago suburbs. In 2007 the Lake Geneva restaurant became Gino's East's first location in Wisconsin.

There is no doubt the Lake Geneva Gino's East is special. The panoramic dining room with its high ceiling and elegant chandelier is not typical of the



COURTESY OF MARK LALASZ Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Although Gino's is famous for deep-dish pizza, they are able to please the thin crust lover with their variety of pizzas available.

average pizza restaurant. The outdoor deck also facing the lake and overlooking Harbor Shores' swimming pool is popular in the warmer weather. So indoors or out, the view and the food can't be beat.

Pizza of all kinds

Mark Lalasz, manager of Gino's East

in Lake Geneva, said while many people associate Gino's East with its famous deep-dish pizza, it also provides thin crust pizza for those who prefer it.

"Our pizzas come with a variety of toppings," Lalasz said. "Our best seller is the Gino's Supreme. The supreme includes a choice of Italian sausage or pepperoni and onions, green peppers, and mushrooms."

If the Gino's Supreme is not your preference, there are many variations of toppings for the pizzas. Among the other popular combinations are the Chicago Fire, with spicy sausage, fire-roasted peppers and red onions. Perhaps the Meaty Legend is your choice with all meat toppings, including pepperoni, Italian sausage, Canadian bacon and regular bacon. The opposite extreme from the all-meat pizza is the veggie pizza.

If the combinations listed on the menu aren't exactly what you prefer, customers are invited to build their own pizza.

For a different pizza experience try the Buffalo Chicken pizza, which is topped with spicy buffalo sauce in place of pizza

sauce, along with blue cheese and Buffalo chicken. Today with many people following a gluten-free diet, Gino's offers a pizza that fits the bill.

"Many people think of Gino's East for pizza but it is more than just a pizza restaurant," Lalasz said. "We have some interesting and tasty appetizers, salads, soups, and Italian foods."

More than pizza

The appetizers offer a variety of choices, including deep-dish nachos, fried calamari, spinach and artichoke dip and a variety of other options. Perhaps the most unique item on the appetizer menu is the crispy Brussels sprouts. This version is served with a slightly sweet sauce featuring pancetta and garlic.

Soups are all made in-house, as are all the sauces and salad dressings used on site. Currently chili is made each day along with minestrone soup, which is always on the menu – two popular choices on a cold winter day. Sandwiches, fish and chips and, of course, spaghetti marinara are other great choices for lunch or dinner. For the dessert lover the traditional Tiramisu or chocolate cake are available. The real specialty in the dessert line is the homemade brownie baked on site.

The full-service bar gives customers a chance to enjoy their favorite beer, wine, or



COURTESY OF MARK LALASZ Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Gino's East has been known for its deep-dish pizza for the past 50 years.



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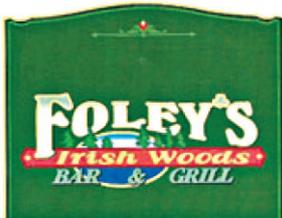
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COURTESY OF MARK LALASZ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Deck seats are at a premium during the summer season. Customers have the option of tables overlooking the pool or the lake.

cocktail. This is a great place to visit with friends while sharing an appetizer or pizza in late afternoon or evening.

While not available at this time of year, outdoor dining service is available at the Harbor Shores pool for registered guests of the hotel during the summer months.

While the food served at Gino's East is excellent, customers return not just for the food, but for the great and friendly service. A permanent staff works year round and additional staff members are added during the tourist season when business is much heavier. The additional help ensures that the same efficient service is available no matter what the season.

Parties welcome

Looking for a place to hold a small private party? The Gino's East private banquet room is available to host a variety of events. Corporate or business luncheons, birthday parties, anniversary parties, showers, graduations, and wedding rehearsal dinners are often featured in the private Harbor Club. The room will hold up to 60 guests and a variety of menu items are available, including a sit-down dinner, an all-inclusive pizza bar or, perhaps, just an appetizer and cocktail event.

Catering for outside events is enjoyed by many customers. When hosting a group at home what could be better than having Gino's East prepare the food? Order one of their great party pans. Each serves 10 or 20 people. Choices include Buona Italian beef, Italian meatballs, chicken Parmesan or Marsala. Or how about basic favorites such as spaghetti marinara or sausage and peppers? Other choices including fettuccini Alfredo and cheese ravioli, will make hosting this event at home easy.

Warming kits, which include the pan, a rack, and canned heat to keep the food warm are available for a nominal fee. To make things really easy, disposable tableware, which includes plates, forks, knives and napkins, are available in settings of 10. Clean up will be a breeze since everything is disposable.

Even on a boat

In the summertime boats abound on the lake so it is not surprising that Gino's East also caters events on the boats. A variety of meals from boxed lunches and sandwiches to buffets and plated lunches can be arranged.

Are you planning a wedding? Gino's East will provide the food and the setup with linens and china. While smaller

weddings can be held at the banquet room on site, Gino's East will also provide food at several larger banquet facilities such as the Riviera and the Horticulture Center – two of the popular wedding venues in the area.

Special items are on the catering menu such as chicken limon and chicken Marsala. Lalasz recommends making reservations as early as possible whether you are dealing with an outside venue or looking to book an event in the banquet room on site at the restaurant.

"Things book up early. Our banquet rooms are usually booked up to six months in advance. So come in as soon as you can to book the space," he suggested.

Gino's East is a family friendly establishment and encourages parents to bring children. There are children's menus available, but what child isn't excited to eat pizza? They are also handicap accessible. Parking is available on site.

Gino's East is open seven days a week. Sundays through Thursday hours are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Gino's East Pizzeria is at 300 Wrigley Drive, Lake Geneva, in the Harbor Shores building.

For more information or to see menus go to www.ginoseastlakegeneva.com.



The dining room at Gino's East is warm and friendly, creating a great space for customers to enjoy their famous deep-dish pizza or other Italian specialties.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

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COURTESY OF NICK'S UPHOLSTERY AND LIDIA DESIGNS *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

A fusion of design and craftsmanship

Nick's Upholstery and Lidia Design offer high-end services from Fontana showroom

By **Sandra Landen Machaj**
CORRESPONDENT

Driving along Valley View Drive in Fontana, it is difficult not to notice the changes that have occurred in the building that was known by many in the area as Old Fontana Sports and Miniature Golf.

Last year Nick's Upholstery and Lidia Design completely remodeled the space and reopened it as their Fontana showroom.

The showroom is a work of art with furniture and cabinet collections displayed as they would

be in a fine home. From the kitchen with its innovative cabinet designs to the enticing conversational seating group centered in front of the fireplace, each grouping gives visitors the feeling of home.

The displays portray the home where we wish to live – welcoming, cozy and inviting. The showroom and retail store is a great place to visit even to look for single pieces. All the furniture and accessories on display are available for sale.

So much furniture these days is poorly made and becomes disposable after a short use, unlike the furniture of old made with fine quality woods and built by

craftsmen who understood the importance of creating pieces that are expected to last for generations.

Nick Pastiu is a firm believer in the importance of fine quality and craftsmanship. Born in Romania, Nick served an apprenticeship under some of the master craftsmen in the furniture business in Romania. Upon moving to America Nick started a furniture business in Chicago, first as a hobby doing work for friends. But it did not remain a hobby for long as customers appreciated his high-quality work.

PASSION TO PROFESSION

As requests for his work increased due to referrals from his many satisfied customers, it became his full time job. It isn't always possible to turn a passion into a livelihood, but Nick did, and Nick's Upholstery was born.

His residential work first centered in Chicago and along the North Shore. Many of his customers owned second homes in the Lake Geneva area and called Nick for their furniture needs. He also expanded into restaurant and hotel furniture, but residential work remains his main passion as he works one on one with each customer.

It would be remiss not to speak of Nick's wife, Lidia, who also was born in Romania, although the two met and married here. Lidia, while owning her own design firm, partners with Nick on many projects. From a young age Lidia enjoyed rearranging furniture in her childhood home to give it a fresh look. That along with her creativity and her love of art made her the ideal candidate for home design.

However, like many who find their true passion later in life, she began her journey along a different path – accounting. It was not long before she realized this was not her passion. While working in Chicago for a company that was turning a bare concrete building into a warm home environment, she realized what path she wished to follow.



COURTESY OF NICK'S UPHOLSTERY AND LIDIA DESIGNS *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*
Lidia and Nick Pastiu, owners of Lidia's Designs and Nick's Upholstery, pose in their showroom. Working together, this husband and wife team helps customers meet their design and furniture needs.

Juggling full time employment with raising a family, Lidia returned to school to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in interior design at the International Academy of Design and Technology in Chicago. Accomplishing that goal in 2001, she then spent almost eight years working with a prestigious architectural firm before opening her own business.

LISTENING IS KEY

Lidia is described as a good listener with a pleasant personality, skills that are very helpful in learning to understand the desires of the customer. She emphasizes the importance of learning a customer's lifestyle and personal style to determine the look and needs he or she has. Lidia doesn't impose her taste

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on the customer, but chooses to work with them to find the perfect balance for their home.

These days, while Nick and Lidia operate independently and as a team, their businesses continue to grow.

The couple describe themselves as eclectic in style. They love to blend different styles and often suggest blending old and new pieces of furniture to give a more personalized look. Nick will reupholster any piece of furniture that has “good bones” and he will restore other pieces that may just need repair or refinishing. Lidia is comfortable with any style as she is knowledgeable about a variety of styles from her background in school and her workplace experience.

Furniture is Nick’s passion. He does not merely recover furniture, but actually reupholsters it taking it down to its frame. There is so much more involved than just sewing a new piece of fabric in place. After deconstructing a piece of furniture, Nick then begins the hard work of verifying the frame, platform, and interior of the piece to determine that it is structurally sound. Then begins the work of reconstructing the piece, reinforcing, re-tying springs, updating hinges and, finally, applying the new fabric to make something old into something new.

According to Nick, you can expect to get 15 to 20 years of wear out of a piece that has been reupholstered. It may seem expensive at the time but when you realize the quality involved and the length of time that it will be enjoyed in the home it is worth the price.

A LOST ART

Many of the craftsmen that Nick employs have worked with him for many years. Upholstery is becoming a lost art as it is no longer taught and customers settle for the fast and inexpensive furniture available in retail stores today. Some people are no longer willing to wait for their custom-built furniture to be completed but instead work on the premise that they must have it now.

In approximately four weeks, Nick can make custom furniture, to the customer’s specification and deliver it to their home.

Nick and Lidia work on large projects and small ones. Looking to remodel your kitchen? Give them a call and they will make your dream kitchen a reality. With their fine quality design and custom-made cabinets, the kitchens they create are both functional and unique.

To view a custom-built kitchen, visit their retail shop in Fontana where their unique style really comes through.

“In making new furniture, we want to offer customers a custom solution to a retail market that has limitations in style and quality,” Lidia said. “As a designer, I lay out furniture plans to fit the room I

am working with, but often feel limited looking to local stores for options. In making new furniture, there are really no limitations and the end results are so much more rewarding.

“We believe in quality and comfort, something that you can’t quite find in today’s market,” she added. “We design from an idea based on customers’ needs and style and we perfect it so that the customer is happy and comfortable with the end product. We advise and assist in the process to make the journey a bit easier and the customer is more than satisfied in the end.”

CUSTOM STYLE

The custom furniture upholstery business is a combination of different services, from restoring old furniture pieces to restyling and updating furniture to make it fit today’s lifestyles, to making new pieces that fit the comfort, style and size of any home.

Recognizing the proper scale of the furniture for a home is a problem for many people as they have their heart set on a sofa or cabinet that is too large or too small for the space. These are problems that Lidia as a designer and Nick as a furniture maker can help solve. By building a style of sofa that is loved in the size appropriate for the space, Nick and Lidia are able to overcome such problems.

The variety of fabrics that are offered through Nick’s Upholstery are carefully selected to fit a variety of styles and

budgets. Nick works with various vendors of high-quality fabrics both in the United States as well as Europe and other countries that meet Nick and Lidia’s standards. Their design rooms display a vast array of choices.

For Nick and Lidia this is not a new business in the Fontana area, but rather a



Dining room chairs often have very different looks – from simple lines to intricately carved woods. This antique dining chair reupholstered by Nick Pastiu will add a touch of elegance to a dining room.

COURTESY OF NICK'S UPHOLSTERY AND LIDIA DESIGNS Spirit of Geneva Lakes



On display at the Fontana retail store and showroom is this warm kitchen. With subway tile along the wall and custom wooden shelves as an accent point, this kitchen is one that will give a home a very special look.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ Spirit of Geneva Lakes

new showroom. They have worked with customers in the Lake Geneva/Fontana area for about 10 years through their Highland Park location. Now they have a great showroom in Fontana to meet with local customers.

The Fontana showroom, at 543 Valley View Dr., is open weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Highland Park showroom is at 1426 Old Skokie Rd., Highland Park. Hours are Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The telephone number for both locations is (847) 579-1820.

Visit the websites, www.nicksupholstering.com or www.lidia-design.com for further information about their services.

Nick's Upholstery and Lidia's Designs new showroom and retail store, 543 Valley View Dr, Fontana, is an open-concept building that has a large display of elegant furniture and accessories.



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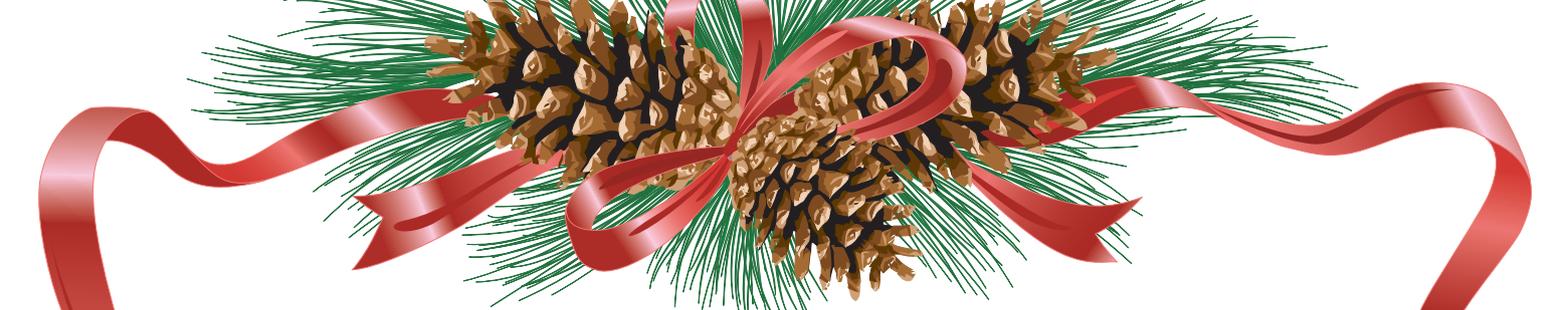
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