



THE SPIRIT *of Geneva Lakes*



Vol. 29 No. 11

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NOVEMBER 2017

Where to find your
Thanksgiving feast

Delavan's new Trout
House restaurant

Geneva Lakes
area gift guide



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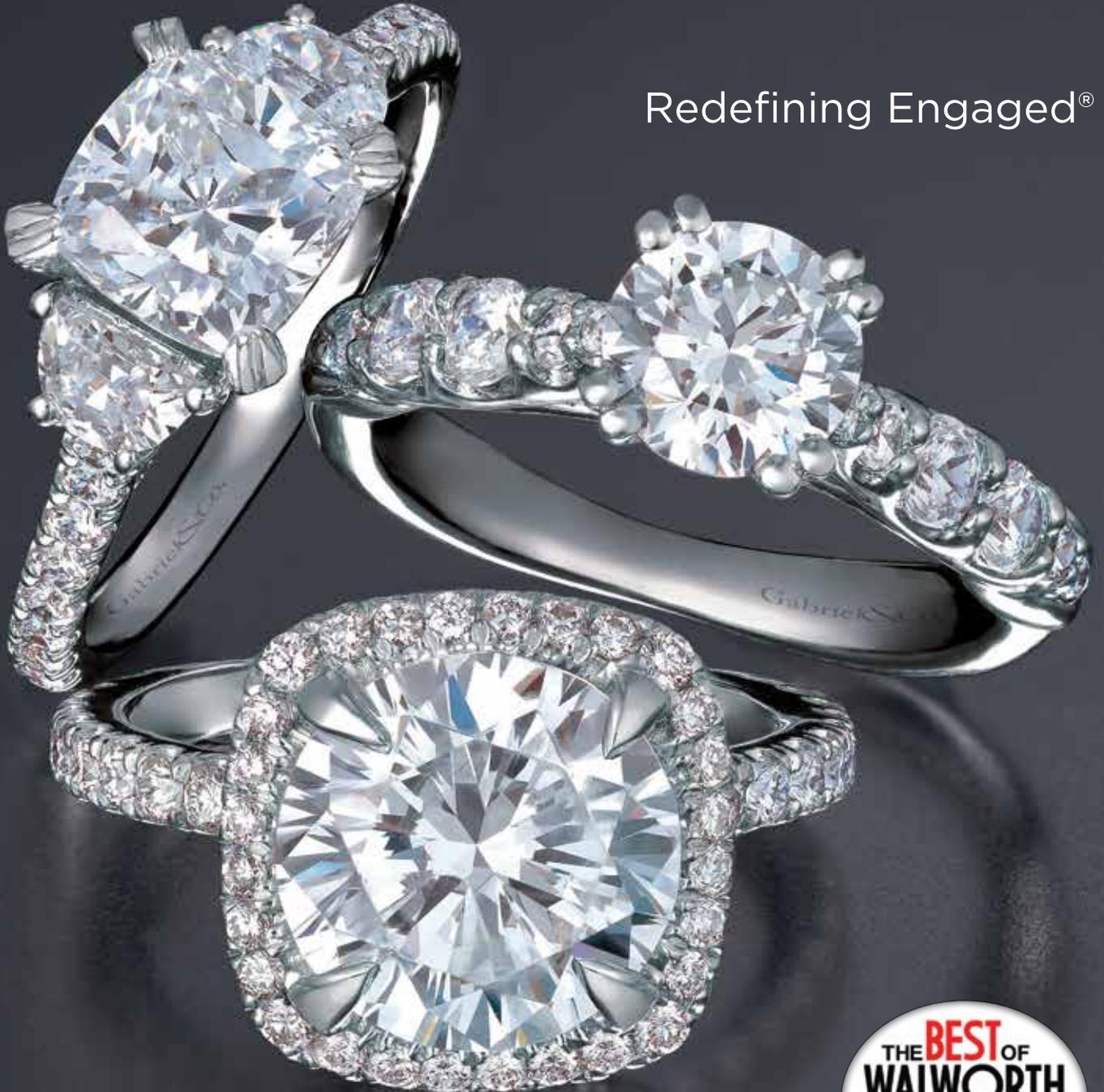
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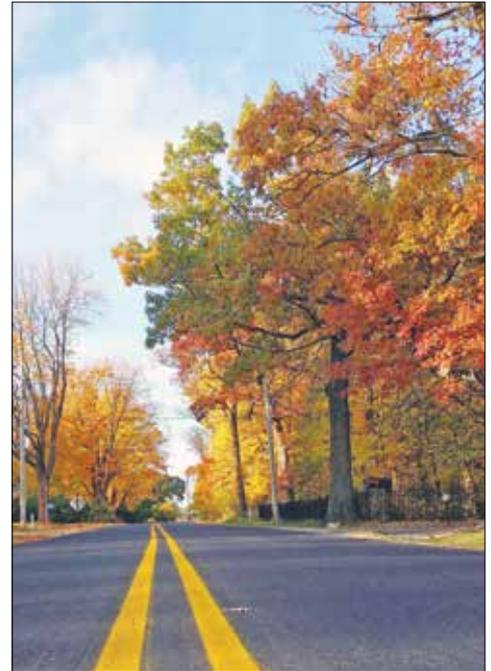
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THE ROAD HOME

November is the month of homecomings. Students return from far-flung universities, family and friends arrive to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal. It’s a time-honored ritual that endures because it gathers near the things we love most as we celebrate the prosperity of the harvest season. The road home also offers an opportunity to enjoy the natural beauty of the Geneva Lakes area – like this shot captured along Springfield Road in the Town of Geneva.

PHOTO BY HEATHER RUENZ
Spirit of Geneva Lakes



IT'S COMIN' UP



NOVEMBER EVENTS

3 Opera for Toddlers - Up in the Mountains

– UW-Whitewater Young Auditorium. Up in the Mountains is a one-of-a-kind Opera for Toddlers that is sure to be a memorable experience. Children ages 0-3 will be in awe as a single storyteller uses song, gestures, video projection, and expressive sounds to recreate a well-known fairy tale. A children's play area and additional arts activities will be available for older siblings to enjoy before, during and after each show. Each performance is approximately 20 minutes in length. Event is free, but tickets are required by calling 262-472-2222 or visiting tickets.uww.edu

3 First Friday Art Walk, 5 to 8 p.m., East Troy Village Square. www.easttroy.org

3-12 Dine Around the Lakes – The fourth annual Dine Around The Lakes is a restaurant week for the Walworth County area. Participating restaurants will offer a unique three-course menu for lunch and/or dinner. Enjoy a three-course lunch for \$10 or \$15 per person. Come back for a three-course dinner, for \$20 or \$30 per person. Reservations at all restaurants are strongly encouraged. For information and participating restaurants, call 800-395-8687 or visit dinearoundthelakes.com

3-5 Love Letters at Lake Lawn Resort, Delavan. Starring Tony Dow (of "Leave It To Beaver") and his wife, Lauren, "Love Letters," comes to Lake Lawn Resort for a three-show run. It is a two-character play with the two reading the notes, letters and cards in which, over nearly 50 years, they discuss their hopes and ambitions, dreams and disappointments, victories and defeats. The theater performance will be in the Geneva Ballroom. Meals in the Frontier Restaurant. Friday and Saturday shows are at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday show is at 2:30 p.m. Play-only tickets are \$25 for Friday and Saturday performances and \$20 for Sunday's show.

4 Whitewater Farmers Market, 8 a.m. until sell out, (around noon), rain or shine, in the parking lot at the Winchester True Value Hardware, 1415 W. Main St.

4-5 Holiday Open House –9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Cornerstone Shop and Gallery, 214 Broad St., Lake Geneva. Event features special guests, holiday and tabletop decor and tips, trunk shows, vendor specials and gift with purchase, drawings and more. The first 100 customers each day will receive a complimentary gift, and there will be drawings both weekends for an assortment of prizes including entertaining pieces, gift baskets, and more. 262-248-6988, www.cornerstoneshoppe.com

5 Every Splash Counts: Timber Ridge Family Day, noon to 8 p.m. at Timber Ridge Lodge and Waterpark, 7020 Grand Geneva Way, Lake Geneva, (262) 379-1401. Family fun for great cause. Cost: \$15 per person. A portion of sales goes directly to Open Arms Free Clinic,

Inc. www.openarmsfreeclinic.org

11 The 15th Annual Holiday Affair Craft Show, a "round robin" event featuring more than 250 crafters at six locations – Walworth County Fairgrounds Activity Center and Log Cabin; Monte Carlo Room; St. Patrick's School; Elkhorn Middle School; Elkhorn High School, and; Jackson School. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., \$2 admission. (262) 723-3228

12 Thanksgiving-Inspired Wine & Dine at Staller Estate Winery, W8896 County Rd. A, Delavan, (608) 883-2100, www.stallerestate.com. Featuring a five-course meal paired with Staller Wines at noon. \$45 per person plus tax

18 Comedy Club, 5 to 10 p.m. at Evergreen Country Club, N6246 Highway 12, Elkhorn, (262) 723-5722, www.evergreengolf.com. Cocktails (cash bar), appetizers, dinner buffet and comedy show featuring Denise Ramsden and Tom Clark. Tickets are \$50

19 Christmas at Northwind Perennial Farm, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Holiday charm and unique items make Christmas at Northwind an unforgettable shopping experience. They offer fresh, premium greens, berries, wreaths and garland and a selection of unusual ornaments and holiday decorations. 7047 Hospital Rd., Burlington, (262) 248-8229, www.northwindperennialfarm.com

20 Transgender Day of Remembrance Candlelight Vigil, 6:30-8 p.m., downtown square in Elkhorn (corner of Walworth and Wisconsin streets.) Candles will be provided and a presentation with refreshments will follow at the UCC Church, 76 S. Wisconsin St., Elkhorn. www.lgbtwalco.org

25, 26 Christmas Express Santa Train, 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., noon, 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. boarding for magical ride from the East Troy Depot, 2002 Church St., to Santa's Workshop at the Elegant Farmer. Children can visit Santa, get a photo taken, and complete with a craft project. Hot chocolate and cookies, too. The trolleys are heated and bathrooms are available at the East Troy Depot. Tickets: www.easttroyrr.org. Bring a non-perishable food item with each member of your party and receive a 25 percent discount on tickets at the depot. All donated items benefit the East Troy Food Pantry. Cost: adults, \$17.50; children (ages 3-14), \$15; toddlers, \$5.

30 Union Grove Tree Lighting Ceremony, at 5:30 p.m. at Village Square Park. Families enjoy refreshments and music provided by the Greater Union Grove Area Chamber of Commerce and Christmas Comes to Union Grove Sponsors. Children will be awaiting the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Claus on the Fire Engine who bring stockings for all children 11 and younger.

Although we strive to provide accurate information about area events, dates and times may change or events may be cancelled. Please call ahead to verify before making travel plans.

THE SPIRIT

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'To the children of tomorrow'

Kishwauketoë Nature
Conservatory celebrates
area's natural beauty —→

W

isconsin has long been known for its natural beauty. With rolling terrain, numerous sparkling lakes, beautiful woods and natural spaces, the state attracts visitors throughout the year.

While many who come to the Geneva Lake area are here mostly to enjoy a day or several days of fun on the water, the lake itself is certainly not the only place to enjoy the outdoor beauty of the land.

One special place found in the Williams Bay area is the Kishwaukee Nature Conservancy, 230 acres of lush vegetation, woods with a variety of indigenous trees, wetlands and wildlife. Many have likely passed the entrances to Kishwaukee while traveling along Highway 67 just south of Highway 50 or along Geneva Street just across from the public beach.

Those drivers have perhaps noted the lush greenery and variety of flowers from the roadway or the parking lot, but

never took the time to learn what Kishwaukee was really all about.

On a recent pleasant morning, that all changed for me as I met with Harold Friestad to learn more about the history of this natural place of beauty. Friestad can best be described as the father of Kishwaukee, who continues to support and work along with many other volunteers, to keep the grounds beautiful and open, keep out invasive species and encouraging the growth of wildflowers and natural grasses.

by
**Sandra
Landen
Machaj**
CORRESPONDENT

A familiar face

Friestad has been a familiar name and face in the Geneva Lakes/Williams Bay area for years. He spent more than 50 years with the Geneva Lakes Cruise Line, working his way up to vice president and general manager of the boat line. He also spent four years, 1988 to 1992, as village president of Williams Bay.



COURTESY OF HAROLD FRIESTAD *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

A golden glow shines on the prairie grasses at Kishwaukee, enhancing the color of autumn.

“It was during my time as village president that developers began to show interest in this open area,” Friestad said. “When the second set of developers inquired about subdividing the land and building high-density condos, a group of us decided it would be best if the village were to buy the land.”

And so they did. There was no referendum just a purchase by the village of the 230 acres for \$1.5 million. It really wasn’t quite as easy as Friestad makes it seem.

When the land was purchased officials promised that they would never go back to the taxpayers for money. To ensure the land would be cared for without tax dollars, Friestad set up two groups. The first was the Conservancy Commission, which was responsible for providing volunteers for the restorative work necessary to keep the land vibrant and healthy.

The second group was known as the Friends of Kishwauketoe, which is the fundraising arm of the organization. The “friends” have all contributed at least \$1,000 of their own funds to the conservancy. In addition they look for and write grants and choose fundraising events. Many members of the committees are not limited to being on just one of the committees but work with whatever needs to be done. Most also seem to be lifetime members. Once they become involved, they don’t quit.

The power of volunteers

Throughout the year, it is the work that volunteers put in to keep the conservancy healthy and beautiful that allows it to thrive.

“In summer we have four paid interns who help with mowing and pulling weeds,” Friestad said. “Other than that everything is done by volunteers. Many jobs are worked on regularly to keep the property looking good.”

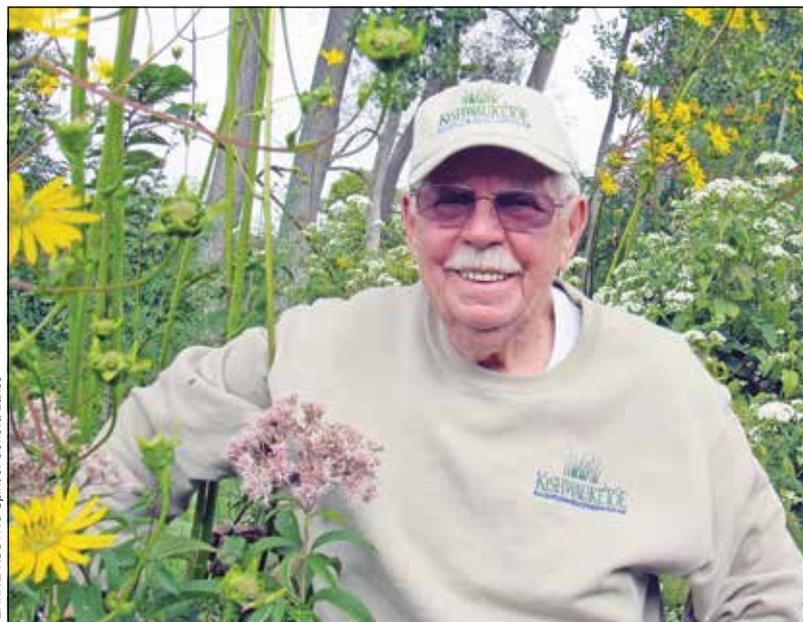
On Wednesdays throughout the fall, volunteers harvest native seeds, to be replanted in other areas. “They collect about 60 pounds of seeds each year,” according to Friestad. Then these seeds are planted in areas that have had invasive weeds removed and especially along walkways where the flowers can be enjoyed by those walking the paths.

The group has one volunteer workday a month when serious clearing and cleaning out are attacked. In November, clearing the buckthorn is high on the list of jobs to accomplish.

“The buckthorn is so dense



Along with the flowers and the trees, there is always a chance to view some wildlife when walking through Kishwauketoe Conservancy. On this day a heron perched in a tree adorned with bright yellow flowers.



Harold Friestad was instrumental in the creation of the Kishwauketoe Nature Conservancy. He worked to purchase the land when he was Williams Bay village president and to ensure that it would remain a nature conservancy.

JEANNE KOSTRO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

JEANNE KOSTRO Spirit of Geneva Lakes



that nothing grows beneath it,” Friestad said. “Once it is removed, native flowers grow. Many of the seeds have been there dormant, just in need of some sunshine.”

During this time box elder trees are also removed. Each year there are controlled burns to remove unwanted species. On the south end of the property several areas of red canary grass, another invasive species, was burned during one of these controlled burns. Each year invasive species like garlic mustard, burdock, and dame’s rocket are removed by burn or by hand.

Once the trees are cut down the stumps need to be coated with herbicides. Otherwise, according to Friestad, 10 more trees will grow for each one cut down. When the box elder trees are removed, the volunteers plant other trees in the area.

“We want it to look like a forest, not an arboretum,” he said.

Along Highway 67 yellow and purple flowers and prairie grasses have replaced the buckthorn and box elder trees.

Color-coded signs direct hikers to follow their trail while they enjoy the beauty of Kishwaukee. Maps to follow the trails are available online and along the trail.

Into the wild(life)

It is not only the plants that are important, but the wildlife that makes its home in these grounds.



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The Thomas Johnson Bridge was donated in memory of the Kishwauketoe Nature Conservancy board member by his family and friends. Johnson served on the Kishwauketoe board from 2005 to 2008.

A large variety of birds find shelter and food along with many other woodland animals in the 75 acres of open prairie.

More than 50 years ago Highway 67 was widened, which altered Southwick Creek that meanders through Kishwauketoe to Geneva Lake. German brown trout have been seen in the area near the lake and attempts are being made to get them into Kishwauketoe waters by clearing and evening out the creek. It is another major task that is being taken on by the volunteer staff with the help of grants and the DNR.

The Kishwauketoe property, although purchased in 1989, was officially dedicated as a protected conservancy on July 1, 1990. It was dedicated “To the Children of Tomorrow.”

Because the Potawatomi people once inhabited the area, it was given the Potawatomi name, which is loosely translated as “Clear Water” or “Lake of the Sparkling Water.” The name is a perfect fit for this land near the shore of the Geneva Lake along with lush and expansive pockets of nature.

At the main entrance a plaque attached to a large rock commemorates the dedication of the conservancy. It reads “Dedicated July 1, 1990, to the Children of Tomorrow. Theirs is the Dower of bird and of flower and theirs is the earth and the sky.”

“And that is our goal,” Friestad said, “to preserve this

beautiful area for the children of the future.”

Hitting the trails

There are four miles of trails that meander through the land. Trails are marked and maps are available either online or at the entrance to the conservancy. There are markers along the trails to guide hikers. Both children and adults will enjoy climbing the two-story observation tower, which will give an impressive aerial view of the land and a chance to enjoy its many changing colors.

Fall is a great time to visit as the leaves turn to red, orange, and yellow to prepare themselves for the winter ahead. The trees conserve their energy until spring when once again new leaves appear and the forest becomes a canopy of green.

The flowers also lose their petals and remain dormant through the cold winter until the warmth of spring has them peeking out of the ground, as they come to life again. During winter, when everything is coated with a fresh dusting of snow, a look of peacefulness dominates the conservancy.

Nature's classroom

Many activities are held at the conservancy. School groups come out to learn about nature. On Arbor Day in April, 500



COURTESY OF HAROLD FRIESTAD *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Harold Friestad remains instrumental in the upkeep of Kishwauketoë Nature Conservancy. The main entrance is along Highway 67 (Elkhorn Road) in Williams Bay.

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students from five area schools arrived to plant 68 trees. Each class, under the guidance of a master gardener, planted two trees. Nameplates for the schools that planted the trees were posted.

The students worked with mulch, carried water from the creek to give the new trees a solid watering and helped the master gardeners. For 2-1/2 hours the students worked to be certain that their tree was properly planted to give it the best chance to survive.

Butterflies, especially the Monarch, are becoming scarce and Kishwauketoë encourages plants to attract the butterflies. It has been recognized as a Butterfly Park.

In these days when there is so much artificial light, it is often difficult to see the stars at night. Kishwauketoë has begun a series of Dark Sky Park nights. Two interns

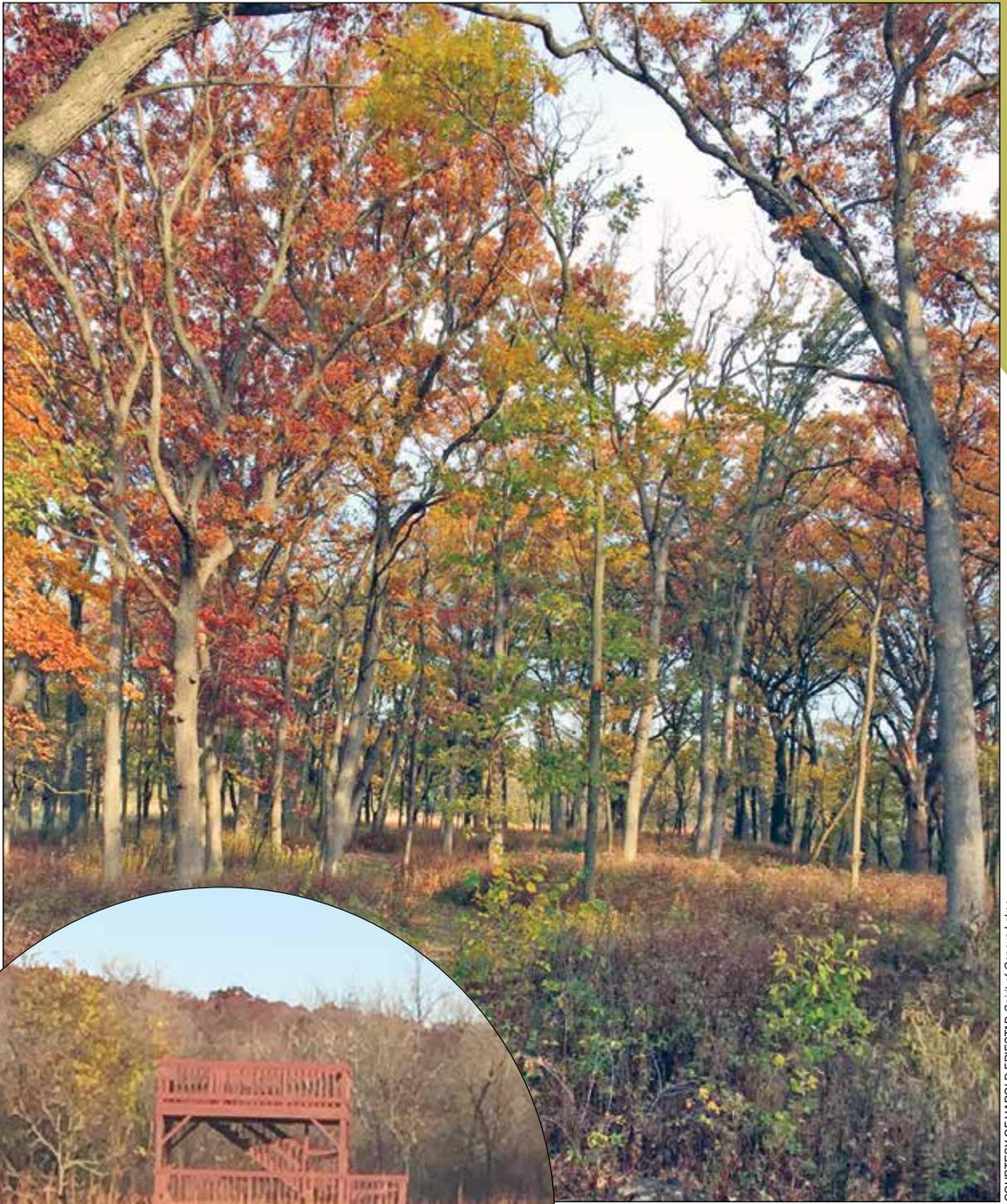
from Yerkes Observatory accompanied by four telescopes set up a viewing of the sky. Fifty-six people arrived to view the sky at night during the inaugural event with the interns helping them to recognize star formations.

For Friestad the conservancy is a true labor of love. Now that he is retired, he begins each morning with a three-mile walk through Kishwauketoë. Is it then that he dreams of the many projects for Kishwauketoë? There are many projects in progress and many more that will someday be fulfilled when the money and the workforce is available.

Currently volunteers are working with the DNR to clear Southwick Creek. There are plans for a future children's fishing pond. There are also plans for moving the shelter and placing a council ring as the Native

Americans had, surrounding a fire pit. And there is talk about starting a vegetable garden in the future.

There are many dreams and there will be more as the volunteers of Kishwauketoe continue to make this nature conservancy a place for everyone. For this is truly for the children now and in the future. Kishwauketoe is at 251 Elkhorn Road (Highway 67), Williams Bay. The telephone number is 262-903-3601. The conservancy is open to the public daily from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Visit www.kishwauketoe.org, friendsofkn.org or on Facebook.



COURTESY OF HAROLD FRIESTAD Spirit of Geneva Lakes



COURTESY OF HAROLD FRIESTAD Spirit of Geneva Lakes

A walk over the hills and through the woods is the perfect way to spend a fall afternoon. Some of the trees pictured were planted by volunteers after the buckthorn and box elder trees were removed.

The two-story platform allows optimum viewing of the various colors of the plants and flowers as they begin to turn in the fall. There are two viewing platforms located along the trails and built by the volunteers.

Winter lecture series opens with a look at WWI propoganda

Black Point Estate and Horticultural Hall are teaming up for their third annual winter lecture series.

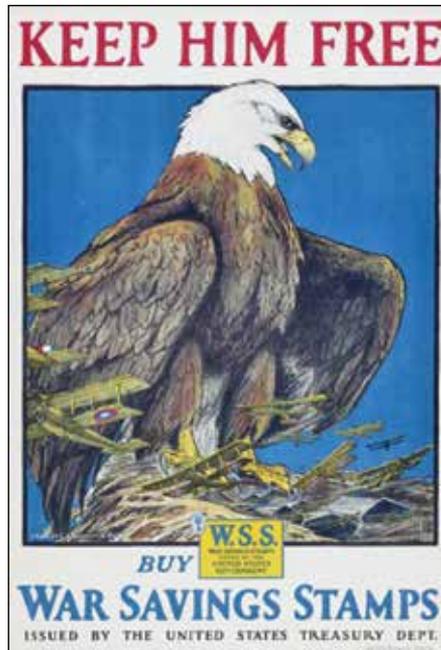
“We have found that the residents of this area are very supportive of diverse cultural programs” said Black Point director, Dave Desimone.

The program grew out of Black Point’s desire to offer winter programming and Horticultural Hall’s interest in offering more community-based programming.

“Both organizations have shared history together through the Lake Geneva Garden Club and other key supporters, so collaborating seemed like a natural fit,” said Horticultural Hall director Beth Gallagher.

The lineup for the 2017-18 winter series includes five programs focused on regional history. These programs will help participants develop a better understanding of the rich and varied history of Southeast Wisconsin during the early 20th century, according to organizers.

Topics include propoganda in Wisconsin during the Great War, the Lake Michigan Christmas tree ship-wreck, Chicago’s brewing history, Frank Lloyd Wright in Racine, and the history of the Wisconsin State Fair.



World War I posters like this will be the topic of the first installment in winter lecture series on Nov. 12.

The series kicks off Nov. 12 at 1 p.m. with “Posters, Pamphlets, and Patriotism during the Great War” presented by State of Wisconsin reference archivist Simone Munson. Munson will examine the posters and persuasive pamphlets created by the U.S. government to influence public opinion during WWI.

Particular attention will be paid to the role of women during the war, as well as military recruitment, food conservation and public fundraising for the war effort. In addition to the talk, Simone will also have original WWI era posters on hand for viewing, as well as a number of pamphlets and printed ephemera from the time period.

Munson earned a master’s degree in history from the University of New Mexico and a master’s degree in library and information sciences from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Horticultural Hall is at 330 Broad Street, Lake Geneva. Tickets are \$5 per person and free for military veterans.

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



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The Trout House at Delavan is at 116 East Walworth Avenue.

RYAN SPOEHR *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

TROUT HOUSE FINDS A NICHE IN DELAVAN

by **Ryan Spoehr**
STAFF WRITER

Popular Palmyra restaurant builds a following at second location

After about two months in business in Delavan, people at the Trout House at Delavan say they have been pleased with their acceptance into the community, but they are ready to take another next step to become a staple for the area.

Eric Taylor, who started working for the Trout House in May at the original Palmyra location, said he feels that improvement is steady at the Delavan location in an effort to make it a successful venture.

“I think they’re improving everyday and from week to week in terms of staff and the quality of service and food we provide in this community,” Taylor said.

Taylor said since he is preparing food for much of the time he works, it is tough to gauge the number of customers who have tried the new restaurant.

However, he said, he is out and about enough to chat with folks as they are getting ready to eat or finishing up their meals.

“One thing I do enjoy is they like to sit and socialize. So because of that, we are not turning over as much as we’d like, but people like

socializing and hanging out,” Taylor said.

As the business continues to develop in Delavan, Taylor said he has seen an uptick in people not just coming to socialize but to delve into menu as well.

“From what I’ve seen, we have this big bar, but people like sitting in the dining room. They like dining,” Taylor said. “If they are at the bar, particularly on Friday nights, they’re waiting on a table.”

Taylor said he continuously receives compliments on items like the seafood-stuffed trout, the trout almondine, baby red and garlic mashed potatoes and house fruits and vegetables like onions, carrots, grapefruit, zucchini and squash.

He said the foods are always fresh, which is just one of the reasons to try out the restaurant.

“We are trying to get into more locally-grown stuff. I cater to more of a healthier style niche. So, probably the unhealthiest is the butter. I have minimal salt and I try to have fresh herbs,” Taylor said.

He said that salt and pepper shakers are not put out on the table, but are available upon request.

“The reason I don’t have salt and pepper shakers

at the tables is I want to discourage the use of it. I want to cater to a demographic of people that enjoy the actual product as opposed to the saltiness of it. If someone asks for it, I will give it to them, but I prefer they would just sit and enjoy that,” Taylor said.

Taylor said he will do what he can to cater to people’s preferences at the dinner table.

“I enjoy really food-critical people, and if they like what we’re doing, then we’re doing the right things,” Taylor said. “I had one guy who came in and said his fish wasn’t crispy enough. I did some research and found out that a cook put a little egg in the batter, so I did that for him.”

The Trout House in Delavan opened in August under the name of “The Trout House at Delavan.” The Palmyra location, known as “The Trout House at Rushing Waters,” has a trout farm store right inside of it. There is a market inside of the Delavan location, but with limited items at this time.

“The two locations are very similar in many ways,” Taylor said.

The two locations share the same menu items, including items like mahi mahi tacos, the Alaskan salmon burger, smoked trout quesadillas and shrimp scampi.

There are also non-seafood items, like the Trout House Cowboy Burger, a sandwich with one-third pound grass-fed beef with barbecue sauce and haystack onion rings on a brioche bun, but with a choice of cheddar cheese. People may also substitute for a short-rib brisket patty.

There is also a stuffed chicken roulade, which is rolled chicken stuffed with asparagus, Gouda cheese and Italian herbs topped with a Mediterranean cream sauce. The restaurant offers a fettuccine alfredo, which may be with seafood, chicken or house vegetables.

The Trout House at Delavan is at 116 East Walworth Avenue. It is open Wednesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. To contact the restaurant, call 262-725-7447.

For a full menu, go to rushingwaters.net.

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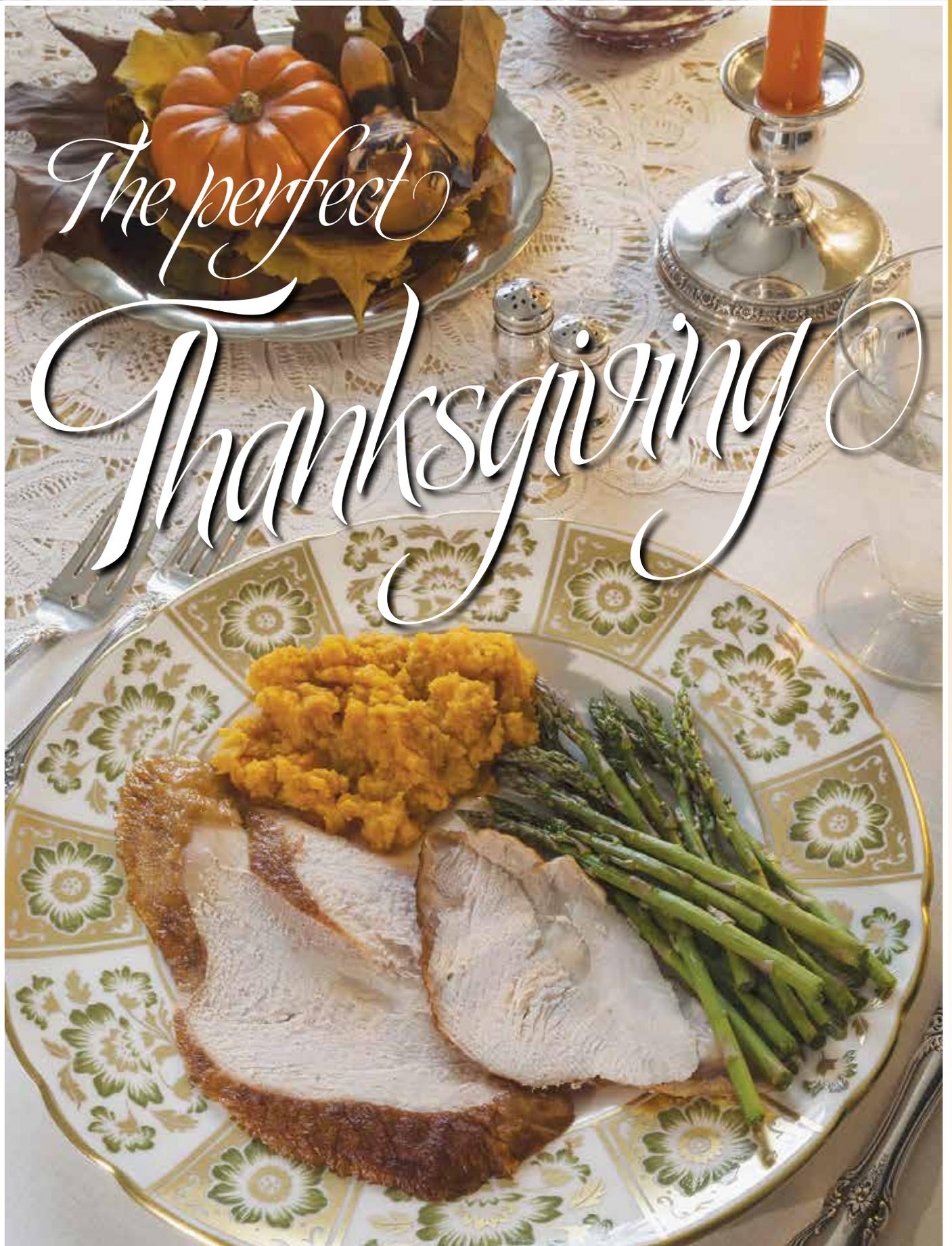
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Whether it's your own creation, a buffet or takeout, food is at the center of the celebration

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**
CORRESPONDENT

Holidays are a time when tradition dictates the celebration. For most holidays there are certain foods that we associate with the date, but this is especially true at Thanksgiving when food choices are the centerpiece of the day.

For most of us, the traditional Thanksgiving dinner has remained much the same throughout our lives. Turkey, dressing, cranberries, sweet potatoes, and mashed potatoes are the centerpiece of the meal.

Side dishes, such as Brussels sprouts, winter squash, root vegetables, rolls and salad, round out the main course. And then there is dessert – often it's pumpkin or pecan pie topped with whipped cream or ice cream.

Preparing Thanksgiving dinner is not just putting a meal together, it is the preparation of a feast and as such requires a significant investment in time. In many households, adults all hold full time jobs outside of the home, limiting the time available for holiday meal preparation.

Executive Chef David Ross has been preparing Thanksgiving



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Executive Chef David Ross has overseen the kitchens of Lake Lawn Resort for the last 20 years. He is putting together new items for this year's Grand Thanksgiving Buffet.

meals at Lake Lawn Resort for the past 20 years, in addition to seeing that his family has a traditional Thanksgiving feast at home. He is responsible for all the food served at Lake Lawn Resort and so he knows the importance of organization when preparing a meal.

Be calm, carry on

For many families, the thought of preparing a Thanksgiving Dinner may be so overwhelming that they give up before they even begin.

"Don't become overwhelmed before you start," Chef Ross advised. "With a little early organization and including

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everyone in the process of putting the meal together the work becomes less difficult. Do everything possible ahead of time to remove some of the last-minute stress.”

Even small children can help with the meal. Giving them jobs such as helping to set the table, or washing the vegetables, makes them feel that they are part of the team.

There was a time when cooking meant following a specific recipe but today creativity in cooking is encouraged. Finding a new way to prepare a favorite food adds a special twist to the meal. Today some of the most popular key ingredients are craft beer and bacon, according to Chef Ross.

“Since I am so involved with cooking here at Lake Lawn, my wife takes over the responsibility for cooking the Thanksgiving dinner at our home,” he said. “Last year our son, who is in his 20s declared that we would have a themed meal. Each dish would have beer as one of its ingredients. Doing something like that always adds a special flavor to the meal. The added ingredient does not need to be beer and it doesn’t have to be in every dish.”

Sometimes just one new dish or one newly flavored dish makes the meal special.

Be prepared

Preparation for the meal does take time and so it is important, according to Chef Ross, that everything that can be prepared ahead of time is done early to allow the cook to focus on those jobs that require last-minute detail.

Many side dishes can be started or completely prepared in advance. Potatoes can be boiled, steamed or baked ahead of time.

“We prepare sweet potatoes by roasting them. Roasting rather than boiling enhances the color and the flavor,” added Chef Ross.

If you flavor the sweet potatoes with butter, brown sugar, a hint of pumpkin pie spice they will be very tasty and will be enjoyed by all even the fussiest of your guests, he said.

The turkey, which is the centerpiece of the meal for most, is also the dish that requires the most work. Preparation begins when shopping for the turkey. The choice between a hen or a tom turkey leads to many different responses. Which is the

“

With a little early organization and including everyone in the process of putting the meal together the work becomes less difficult. Do everything possible ahead of time to remove some of the last-minute stress.”

– Chef David Ross



The turkey, beautifully browned, is the centerpiece of any Thanksgiving Feast. The aroma of freshly roasted turkey permeates the home and brings everyone to the table.

COURTESY OF LAKE LAWN RESORT *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



better choice?

According to Chef Ross, "I prefer the tom as it is a bit more flavorful. Many people also feel that the fresh turkey is far superior to the frozen. But fresh turkeys cost two to three times the cost of frozen turkeys. It probably isn't worth the extra cost. There are ways to enhance the flavor to make the frozen turkey as flavorful as the fresh."

The frozen turkey will need to defrost over several days. Keep it in the refrigerator not on the kitchen counter to avoid the possibility of bacterial contamination. The last thing you want is for your family and guests to become ill.

"The best way to ensure a more flavorful turkey is by brining," Ross said.

He recommends brining the bird in a solution of 4 cups of water to which ¼ cup of kosher salt and ¼ cup of sugar has been added. "Other flavors can also be added, such as maple syrup or cider, to give a subtle flavor to the cooked bird."

Cooking tips

Cooking the bird is a long process but there are ways to make it easier and quicker. First don't stuff the bird. Stuffing will increase the cooking time. At Lake Lawn Resort the dressing is always cooked separately.

"For two reasons," according to Chef Ross. "One, the turkey cooks more quickly. Secondly, our dressing is baked in the oven in its own pans. The dressing is a basic bread dressing enhanced with wild mushrooms, seasoning and fruits. We don't usually add sausage to the dressing so that vegetarians have a hearty dish to enjoy."

Deboning the breast and the thighs will also accelerate the cooking process.

"If your family doesn't eat the dark meat, a turkey breast may be a better choice. Turkey breasts also cook much faster than a whole turkey," Ross said.

He advises cooking the turkey at a low temperature to keep the breast moist.

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Chef Ross recommends fall vegetables to accompany the main dish.

“It is a celebration of the harvest and fresh vegetables with their rich colors and fresh taste compliment the meal.” Brussels sprouts roasted and seasoned with pecans and smoked bacon will soon become one of your family’s favorite vegetables. Winter squash, green beans, and cranberry relish add to the rich flavor of the meal.

Canned cranberries or fresh? “Why would you serve anything from a can,” Ross replied. “Fresh are so simple to prepare. Make a simple cranberry-orange relish by cooking fresh cranberries with oranges, port wine, and water. Flavor them with a little ginger and cinnamon to your taste. Much more flavorful than canned cranberries.”

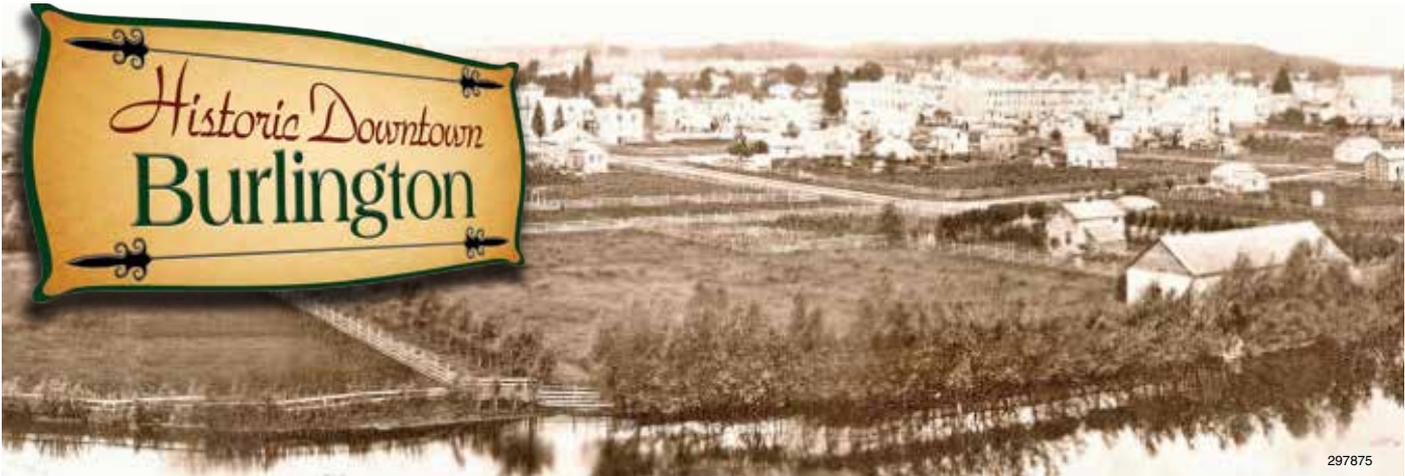
Other meal options

If preparing the Thanksgiving feast still seems too overwhelming for you to accomplish and still enjoy the company of your guests there are two other choices to make the day less stressful.

Instead of struggling to prepare the meal at home, take your family and friends out to eat. A great place to consider for Thanksgiving dinner without any work preparing and cleaning up, is Lake Lawn Resort’s abundant



Lake Lawn Resort is decked out for the autumn season both inside and out.



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Above: Cheese and sausage, fresh fruits and vegetables form the prelude for the Grand Thanksgiving Buffet at Lake Lawn Resort.

Right: In addition to turkey, there are other meats on the buffet table, including this bacon-wrapped stuffed pork with a glaze.



Thanksgiving buffet served in the Frontier Restaurant. Because this meal is so popular, it also spills over into the Lake Lawn Room and the Geneva Club.

Chef Ross each year adds new items to this gigantic buffet, which seems to already feature every traditional Thanksgiving food. Diners start with a choice of several salads, including but not limited to an autumn harvest salad, crimson and golden beet salads, and a gala apple salad with sun-dried cranberries and toasted walnuts.

Seasonal fruits and berries, a selection of Wisconsin cheese and sausages and vegetable crudites served with chipotle ranch dip and other treats start off the meal.

After finishing the salad offerings, guest will move on to the iced seafood bar which will include beer-boiled shrimp, lemon-thyme marinated mussels, smoked lake trout and several other choices. And that's just the beginning.

On to the carving station

Ross has come up with three excellent choices to be served at the carving station. The first choice is the most traditional item, a maple-brined turkey breast which will be carved to order.

“We will also serve an ale-braised pork shank with apple orange barbecue glaze,” Ross added. “The third choice will be a hunter-braised beef stew.”

If you still have room for dessert there will be a grand array of choices. The traditional pumpkin pie and Chef Ross’ suggestions of apple pie or a chocolate bourbon pecan pie will be waiting on the dessert tables.

“There will be some new offerings on the dessert table as we have a new pastry chef, who will create some new and tasty items,”

Ross said.

Seatings for the Thanksgiving buffet will begin at 11 a.m. with the last seating at 6 p.m. Ala carte menus are available after 6 p.m. Reservations required and can be made by calling 262-725-9156. The cost of the buffet is \$40.95 for adults, \$16.95 for children up to 12 years and children younger than 3 eat free.

Meals made easy

If eating out on a holiday is not your preference, but you still do not want to prepare the feast yourself, the Frontier Restaurant has the perfect way for you to have a great dinner and not have to cook.

“We call this Thanksgiving made easy,” said Chef Ross. “We take all the work out of cooking for you. You pick up a finished meal, take it home and present it as your own.”

There are two different size packages of take home meals. The first package features a 10-12 pound turkey or two turkey breasts that will feed 8 to 10 hungry people. For larger groups the double package of both the whole turkey and the turkey breast which will feed 16 to 20 guests. Each package comes with all the usual accompanying side dishes, including pie for dessert. Contact Frontier Restaurant for prices and to place your order.

While food may be one of the highlights of the day, we all must remember what Thanksgiving is about –sharing the day with those we love in grateful appreciation of our prosperity.

Whichever way you choose to celebrate Thanksgiving, here’s hoping you enjoy the day with family and friends.

Adding a look of autumn to the buffet, this elegant display at Lake Lawn Resort combines apples, pumpkins, cornstalks and fall foliage to make elegant Thanksgiving centerpiece.



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Timeless melody

Church looks
to repair
134-year-old
pipe organ

by **Vicky Wedig**

STAFF WRITER

A handwritten note affixed to the side of the organ at Holy Communion Episcopal Church warns unauthorized people not to touch the massive instrument. The note is dated 3-21-08.

The '08 refers to 1908. The organ was 25 years old at the time.

The 134-year-old instrument at the Lake Geneva church is now feeling the effects of time.

The wooden wind chest inside the organ has cracks in it from age, said parishioner Debi McGrath, who is leading a capital campaign to raise funds to restore the organ.

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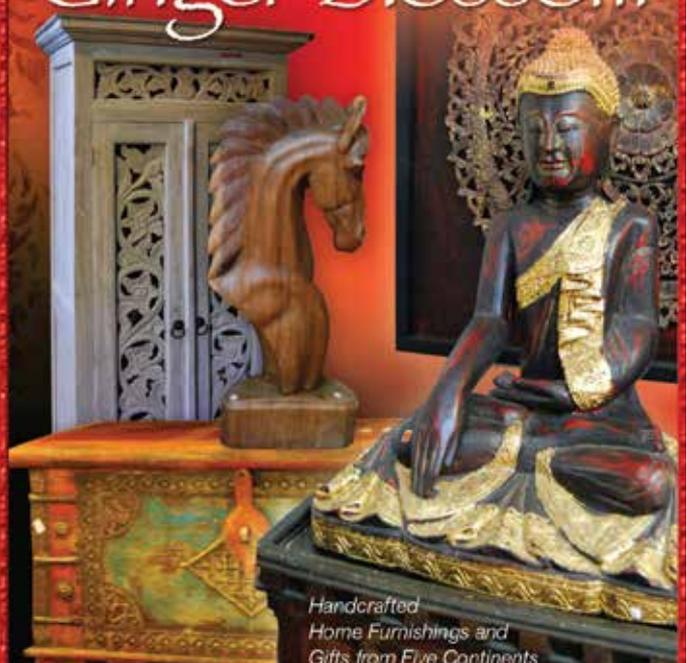
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VICKY WEDIG Spirit of Geneva Lakes

in your lungs,” she said.

Despite the organ’s “breathing problems,” it produces a full sound in the summer when humidity swells the wood and closes the cracks.

“It has a beautiful, bold, wonderful sound,” said organist William Aylesworth, who drives 65 miles from Golf, Ill., to play as a guest organist at the church.

In the wintertime, though, the dry heat shrivels and cracks the old wood, Aylesworth said.

The church began raising funds to repair the organ and solicited bids from organ companies in 2014, McGrath said. The price tag to fix the 1883 Opus is \$65,000. The cost to replace it with a new instrument of similar size would be around \$500,000.

When Holy Communion was built in 1880, Lake Geneva was a summer resort town of wealthy Chicagoans who wanted to the best music for their weekend church services, McGrath said.

The result was the installation of the organ manufactured by Hook and Hastings of Boston, which went out of business in 1936.

“Their instruments were truly world-class throughout the firm’s existence, and the remaining Hook organs are to be treasured as supreme examples of the

Holy Communion Church’s organ, played here by William Aylesworth, was installed in 1883 at the behest of wealthy Chicago parishioners who wanted the best church music. Its manufacturer, Hook and Hastings, of Boston, was considered a world-class organ maker and operated from 1881 until 1936.



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organ builder's art," according to literature from the church.

The church accepted a bid from John-Paul Buzard Pipe Organ Builders in Champaign, Ill., to repair the organ.

The company will only do the repair work in the winter when the wood is at its smallest and the cracks are most pronounced, McGrath said.

The project involves removing the wooden box and taking it to the factory where it will be re-glued and clamped, McGrath said.

The wood wind reservoir that distributes air to seven wind chests that feed the pipes will also be replaced, pipework will be cleaned, and slide tuners and regulating rings will be fitted.

The keys of the organ are connected to a series of valves that are opened by thin wooden rods moved by the force of the organist's fingers when the keys are pressed. The wooden tie-rods rest on leather bushings that are dried out and will be replaced as part of the project.

"The action of the organ is totally mechanical," Aylesworth said.

The church garnered an influx of donations for the organ's repair after the Badger High School jazz band performed at the church a couple of years ago, McGrath said. About \$30,000 has been generated, but donations have tapered off, she said.

After the capital campaign began, the organ's blower went out in 2015, rendering the instrument unusable. The blower is the only automated function of the organ. It replaced "bellow boys" who once pumped bellows to generate air through the pipes, McGrath said.

The absence of organ music during services was visible to parishioners, so the church spent some of the funds it had generated to replace the blower, McGrath said.

She said many churches will remove such old organs when they fall into disrepair, which Aylesworth considers a shame.

"Many of the organs from this era are totally lost," he said.

Aylesworth remembered the organ after playing it during an "organ run" event in the 1980s.

So, when the church sought guest players after their musical directors Fletcher and Eleanor Collidge retired, he readily agreed.

"He was thrilled to come and play for us," McGrath said.

William Aylesworth, of Golf, Ill., plays the 1883 organ, which is completely mechanical, meaning the force of the player's fingers on the keys mechanically opens valves to create sound.



VICKY WEDIG Spirit of Geneva Lakes

A note on the side of the organ dated 2-21-08, which refers to 1908, warns unauthorized people not to touch the organ.



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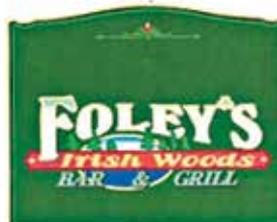
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SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ, Spirit of Geneva Lakes



Lizzy James Jewelry is available at Cornerstone Shop and Gallery. This bracelet appears to be many bracelets worn on one arm but it is just one that is wound around. It can also be worn as a necklace.

All that Glitters

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**
CORRESPONDENT

Find that special gift in the charming shops of the Geneva Lakes area



Here it is November already, leaving few days until Christmas when all those gifts carefully chosen for family and friends must be in place under the Christmas tree.
While many of you are very efficient and probably have everything ready, there are many who are still walking around in a fog wondering how they will ever find the right gift for everyone on their list.
But there is an answer to the dilemma of where to begin. Instead of heading for the big box stores, set your sights on the shops of the Geneva Lakes area where there is a plethora of unique items that can fulfill even difficult Christmas lists.
The following is a list of some of the interesting shops along with the items they recommend for those on your shopping list this holiday season – helping you make quick work of your holiday shopping.



This Uno de 50 elastic bracelet found at Fontana Jeweler is made with rounded beads and a silver-plated hoop design with a white pearl.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FONTANA JEWELER Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Fontana Jeweler

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Shopping at Fontana Jewelers is always exciting. Their fine quality jewelry in a variety of styles and name brand designers make it difficult to pick out the one perfect gift for one very special person on your list. With the help of the staff at Fontana Jeweler, we have come up with a few suggestions.

One of the most popular designers recommended by Fontana is Uno De 50. Their gold or silver plated contemporary jewelry combining leather, crystals and pearls are handcrafted in Spain with many different styles.

For the last several years, visitors and residents of the area have enjoyed the various Geneva Lake charms. Fontana Jeweler recommend coming in and checking out the 75 different Geneva Lake charms and jewelry appropriate for both men and women.

Who would not be thrilled to receive one of Fontana Jeweler's fine quality diamonds? Whether it is that all-important engagement ring or a diamond necklace, bracelet, or earrings it is a gift that will be loved.

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Staller Estate Winery offers locally produced wines that make a great gift – whether it is the holiday present or a host/hostess gift.

In addition to their fine wines, Staller Estate Winery also carries a variety of wine accessories. Wendy Staller offers several suggestions for interesting holiday gifts. Wine bottle holders in a variety of themes such as an airplane, is not only a good bottle holder but makes a great decorative accent.

Staller also suggests unique lights which can be used indoors or out. In the shape of a wine bottle they can be lit with candles or LED lights.

Her final suggestion is a variety of journals for the hobbyist on your list who likes to keep their notes in order.

Not sure what to choose? There is always a gift certificate.

Bruno's Liquors

524 Broad Street, Lake Geneva
262-248-6407

Bruno's Liquors has long been known to have the largest selection of wines, beers, and liqueurs in the Geneva Lake area. So if you are looking for that special bottle of wine, six-pack of craft beer, high-end scotch or a fine cognac for someone on your list, head for Bruno's.

For the sports fan the bottles of commemorative wines will be appreciated. Chose from the Green Bay Packers bottle commemorating the Ice Bowl, the Mike Ditka or the Hall of Fame commemorative bottles. And for the Cubs fans who waited

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COURTESY OF STALLER ESTATE WINERY Spirit of Geneva Lakes

108 years, the World Series commemorative bottle of wine would be most welcome.

Breezy Hill Nursery

7530 288th Ave., Salem
262-537-2111

While Breezy Hill Nursery is known for its excellent nursery products and landscaping, it is also the place to go for wreaths and other holiday decorations and unique gifts.

Wreaths can be selected from those on display or they can be custom made for your décor. Swags and garlands are also available.

A favorite gift for plant lovers who feel they are too busy to properly care for a living plant is the popular air plants, which require no soil or frequent care, just a weekly spritz of water. For the person on your list who feels that this is still too much care, there are artificial air plants. The air plants come in a variety of containers, including ones attached to a small block of wood, to suit your décor.

For the person who enjoys art, small works by Rozanne, a local artist who specializes in birds and holiday scenes will be happily received. Prints of her work are applied to a solid surface and then finishing touches are added by the artist.

Another choice recommended by the staff at Breezy Hill are the sculptures designed by Australian sculptor Aaron Jackson. These sculptures are made in Vietnam from oil drums. Each sculpture is unique. Most of the sculptures are of animals.

Rustic Realm

N4522 Highway F, Elkhorn
262-728-8241

Is there someone on your list with a love of the Northwoods or a Northwoods cabin

to furnish? Or perhaps just someone who would enjoy a touch of the Northwoods in their home?

Rustic Realm carries a variety of items – from furniture to decorations – with that Northern Wisconsin flair. Among the items is a free form holder for a bottle of wine with the wine glasses hanging from the top ready for the bottle to be opened. Place it on the table for an interesting centerpiece and have it handy when it is time to serve the wine.

Small jewelry boxes made of wood make a great stocking stuffer and would be the perfect place to keep those special pieces of jewelry for him or her.

Paper Dolls Home Furnishings and Design

138 Geneva Square, Lake Geneva
262-248-6268

Paper Dolls has many home accessories to catch your eye. It is here that you will find the perfect accent piece for someone on your list.

Accent pillows in a new shade to add a decorative touch to a living room, family room, or bedroom. New holiday table linens are welcomed by those who have just moved into their own apartment or home. Paper Dolls recommends any of the products in Thymes Line of Frazier Fir scents to bring in the spirit of the holidays with that fine Frasier fir scent.

A reed diffuser, candles, soaps, lotions, or the fragrance spray will add a touch of the holiday spirit to any home.

A very special gift for someone on your list who is redecorating would be a gift card for an hour or two with a home designer.



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Ginger Blossom

3016 Highway 173, Richmond, Ill.
815-678-4015

Ginger Blossom is an eclectic collection of unique merchandise from all over the world. Choose from imported wooden furniture, carpets, and decorative items for the home or enjoy some of the more personal items such as scarves, sweaters, gloves, socks, and jewelry, or items for the children on your list.

With the cold winter soon to arrive, one of the gifts suggested by the staff of Ginger Blossom is the hand-knit wool socks with felt linings to keep feet warm when out in the cold weather. They also recommend the “glittens” – hand-knit wool gloves with felt linings that allow the end to be tipped back and free the fingers to use a phone.

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SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ Spirit of Geneva Lakes

This friendly fellow at Rustic Realm would be enjoyed by anyone on your list who enjoys the Northwoods.



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ Spirit of Geneva Lakes

These small works of art by local artist Rozanne make great gifts. From holiday subject to her specialty birds there is a variety of items at Breezy Hill.

hand-knit sweaters, many with felt linings, to stay warm all winter.

Looking for a gift for the home? Beautiful multi-candle holders with hurricane lamps are great for anyone who wants to brighten up their home.

For the child on your list, colorful finger puppets make a wonderful and inexpensive stocking stuffer.

Oh My Gauze!

227 Broad St., Lake Geneva
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Fine quality gauze clothing that is comfortable yet stylish is offered in a variety of colors at Oh My Gauze!

Some of the items are one-of-a-kind as they are painted by a local artist for a special look. They can also be ordered to be painted in a design or color of your choice.

The staff also recommends the felted scarves, which can be worn with any outfit to give it a completed and dressier look. The scarves, which come in a variety of colors and designs, are warm enough for a cold Midwest winter day.

Oh My Gauze! also carries a complete line of costume jewelry to add a special touch to any outfit.

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of items that one could probably purchase items for everyone on their list. The shop features boutique fashionable clothes for women, unique quality jewelry, interesting home décor pieces to give a home a new look, and items for a new baby or children and much more.

The staff at Cornerstone recommends Lizzy James jewelry, one of the fastest selling jewelry lines they have carried. These versatile pieces can be worn as a bracelet or a necklace. The silver or gold plated items with genuine leather cording are made in the United States. They come in different sizes from petite to extra large and in a variety of styles to fit anyone comfortably.

Mia Faccia

235 Broad Street,
Lake Geneva
262-248-3303

Mia Faccia Salon and Day Spa offers a variety of services that could be enjoyed during or

after the holidays. Located in the heart of Lake Geneva, the salon offers a calming atmosphere for guests to enjoy their beauty treatments.

A gift card for a new hairstyle, manicure or pedicure, facial, or massage, any of these items is sure to be at the top of your recipient's favorite gifts.

Doheny's Water Warehouse

5102 Green Bay Road,
Kenosha
262-654-3311

Doheny's has a complete line of pool and spa accessories, all of which will make a great gift. An array of relaxing scents to be added to your spa will relieve the stress of the holiday season.

For those who have a swimming pool, new pool toys from Doheny's will make summer seem not so far away.

And there is always the ultimate gift, a new spa or outdoor swimming pool. Pools



COURTESY OF MARIBETH VAN DIEN Spirit of Geneva Lakes

With the coming winter who would not appreciate a pair of these hand-knit fleece lined wool socks or a pair of "glittens?" Glittens, available at Ginger Blossom, are gloves that can turn the tips down to allow texting. The hand knit wool sweater also fleece lined will keep the recipient warm all winter.

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Sorgs has been a favorite of those in the Geneva Lakes area for their fine quality meats, sausages, and cheese.

The shop's special aged steaks would make a great gift for anyone on your list. Sorgs raises and butchers its own cattle. For the brat lover, Sorgs makes many different flavors of brats.

Pick out a variety of brats for that grill master on your list.

A family taste treat is Luke's Zesty Jambalaya or how about surprising someone on your list with a Bison Pot Pie.

ANTIQUES ABOUND

For the antique lover on your list, or perhaps someone who just loves unique items, antique malls and resale shops often have that special item. Two of our favorites are listed here.

Always Remember That Antique Mall

26301 75th Street, Salem
262-843-1786

Always Remember That is a large antique mall with a number of vendors having individual spaces. With a number of vendors it is not surprising that there is a wide variety of merchandise available.

Christmastime is a time for toys old and new. For many years electric trains have been associated with Christmas. It was then that the boys of the family received their first Lionel train or in subsequent years additional cars and track for their layout.

Always Remember That has a good supply of train cars to add to the set of the child on your list or his father, who may still collect trains.

One special piece of antique furniture is an antique sewing table, which would make a great gift for the seamstress on the list.

The Shy Violet

125 E. Chestnut, Burlington
262-767-8390

The Shy Violet always has interesting items that would make a wonderful gift for someone on your list. Collectibles can be found sprinkled in the various vendors' displays. Old-time toys are often found here that will be enjoyed by the younger members of your family.

Estate jewelry is most likely a favorite of at least one man or woman on your list. Antique watches are also available. Visit the displays of silver jewelry and find a piece that will be appreciated. Consider an antique side table or chair for the antique lover on your list.

THE GIFT OF DINING

How about a gift card for a relaxing romantic dinner after the hustle and bustle of the holiday is over? Here are some of our favorite places to enjoy lunch, dinner or a glass of wine and an afternoon snack.

- **Chuck's Lakeshore Inn**, 352 Lake Street, Fontana
- **Fitzgerald's Genoa Junction**, Highway B, Genoa City
- **Foley's Irish Woods**, 2.5 miles west of Lake Geneva on Highway 50
- **Gino's East of Chicago**, 300 Wrigley Drive, Lake Geneva
- **Lucke's Cantina Food and Spirits**, 220 Elkhorn Road, Williams Bay
- **Mars Resort**, W4098 S. Shore Drive, Lake Geneva
- **Moy's Restaurant**, 3 North Wisconsin St, Elkhorn
- **Sprechers Restaurant**, 111 Center St., Lake Geneva
- **The Chalet**, W6904 County Road A, Elkhorn
- **The Trout House**, 116 E. Walworth, Delavan
- **Ye Olde Hotel Historic Bar and Restaurant**, Lyons

These finger puppets in a large variety of animals make a great inexpensive stocking stuffer for the children on your list. They are available at Ginger Blossom.



Is there someone on your list who enjoys holiday entertaining? This set of holiday-themed tableware is available at Always Remember That antique mall.



Above: Toys are always an important Christmas gift and for many years electric trains have been a favorite – not only with children but also adults who continue to collect them.



Left: The seamstress on your list will love this antique sewing cabinet, available at Always Remember That antique mall.



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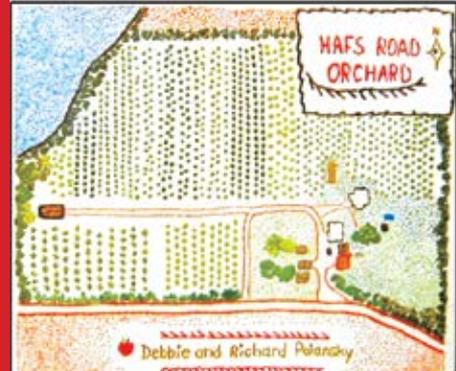
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Christmas **IN THE COUNTRY**



Two million lights to shine on a season of holiday activities

The Grand Geneva Resort and Spa will again usher in the holiday season with Christmas in the County beginning this month.

The annual holiday celebration features a variety of activities and events, including:

23rd Annual Illumination Ceremony:

On Nov. 19, the resort kicks off its annual six-week long Christmas in the Country celebration. The resort flips the switch on more than 2 million lights throughout the property, followed by a fireworks display. Kids' activities and live entertainment will be offered, as well as holiday cookies and hot apple cider. All guests are asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate to the United Way of Walworth County.

Gingerbread House Display:

Area residents are invited to display their masterpieces beginning Nov. 19 through the holidays, just outside Ristorante Brissago. Call 800-558-3417, ext. 3782 or email ggescapades@grandgeneva.com by Nov. 8 to enter the Gingerbread House Competition.

Breakfast with Santa:

Every Saturday and Sunday from Nov. 25 to Dec. 24 from 8



a.m. to 12 p.m., visit the resort's Ballroom for live holiday

music and a breakfast buffet with Santa. It will feature fun holiday activities and separate kids and adult buffets to accommodate taste.

All families will get a keepsake photo and magnetic frame. Call 262-249-4788 to make a reservation – adults \$35; kids (6-12) \$20; kids (2-5) \$12.



Dining Directory

MARS RESORT • W 4098 S. Shore Dr., Lake Geneva. **262-245-5689**. 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, \$\$\$ ☿

SPRECHER'S RESTAURANT & PUB • 111 Center St., Lake Geneva. **262-248-7047**. www.sprecherspub.com Online ordering now available. Happy hour specials Sun.-Fri. Craft beers and gourmet sodas. America's favorite family brew pub. L, D, FF \$-\$ \$ ☿ ☺

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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FITZGERALD'S GENOA JUNCTION • Hwy. B, Genoa City. **262-279-5200**. Featuring famous fish boils all year 'round. Open Wed.-Sun. (summer), Thurs.-Sun. (winter). D, FF \$\$\$

LUCKE'S CANTINA FOOD & SPIRITS • 220 Elkhorn Rd., Williams Bay. **262-245-6666**. Choose from 15 draft beers. Open 7 days a week from 11am. L, D, \$ ☿

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, \$\$\$ ☿

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



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

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

With 2 million lights, the Grand Geneva Resort and Spa sparkles during the holiday season. The resort offers several holiday-themed events during its annual Christmas in the Country celebration.



COURTESY OF GRAND GENEVA Spirit of Geneva Lakes

Holiday Tea:

Enjoy a special afternoon seasonal tea at the Lobby Lounge on Wednesday through Sunday from Nov. 29 through Dec. 24 from 2:30 to 5 p.m. Reservations are required.

Trolley Tour of Lights:

Starting Nov. 20, hop aboard the Grand Geneva tour around the resort to see all of the decorations. Tours are available hourly at 5, 6, 7 and 8 p.m. Reservations are required and can be made starting Nov. 1. Most tours do sell out.

Ullr Fest and Toy Drive:

On Dec. 16 from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., The Mountain Top will celebrate Ullr, the Nordic god of snow and winter. Festivities include a toy drive for the Walworth County Health and Human Services, a viking costume contest, bonfire, beer tent and drink specials.

Additional activities that make up Christmas in the Country are Santa Visits, the Elf Mail Run, Classic Holiday Tale, Holiday Grand Game Zone, and Music To Your Years.

For more information, visit grandgeneva.com.



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Emily Sobacki plays with the Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra during a performance this past summer as part of the Music by the Lake concert series at George Williams College of Aurora University in Williams Bay.

Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra opens season



by **Tom Ganser**
CORRESPONDENT

The Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra opened its 2017-18 season on Oct. 14 at Calvary Community Church in Williams Bay with performances of “Hungarian Dance No. 1” and “Symphony No. 1” by Johannes Brahms and “Violin Concerto No. 2” by Henri Wieniawski. John Heo, a 17-year-old junior at Glenbrook North High School in



Northbrook, Ill., stepped in for Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra Concertmaster Frank Almond who was unable to join the orchestra for the Wieniawski concerto because of a family emergency.

Heo, who has been playing in school orchestras since the third grade, is a scholarship recipient fellow at the Music Institute of Chicago Academy, a training center for gifted pre-college musicians. He has received awards in numerous competitions since 2011.

Prior to the performance of the Brahms symphony, LGSO Music Director David Anderson – in his role as a music educator – led the orchestra in playing excerpts that reveal a pattern of three short notes followed by a long note, reminiscent of the beginning of Beethoven’s “Symphony No. 5” and a musical theme repeated during the fourth movement of the Brahms symphony.

During the concert, Heather Brewer, of the Lake Geneva Rotary Club, introduced Allisan Barrett to the audience.

Barrett, a senior at Whitewater High School who plays the horn, is the winner of the 2017 Young Artist Concerto Competition sponsored by the Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra and the recipient of the Rotary Club of Lake Geneva Neal Heffenan \$750

art scholarship.

“We are indeed blessed in this community to have a symphony orchestra of this caliber and we are even more blessed to have the director and musicians of the orchestra go out of their way to encourage and seek out young musicians to nurture,” Brewer said. “The Lake Geneva Rotary Club and the Neal Heffenan Foundation are honored to support young artists throughout the Geneva Lake area.”

On May 19, Barrett will play the horn with the Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra in a performance of the first movement of Horn Concerto No. 1 in E-flat Major, Opus 11, by Richard Strauss. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. at Calvary Community Church in Williams Bay and will also include “Symphony No. 5” by Ludwig van Beethoven and “Peer Gynt Suite No. 1” by Edvard Grieg.

The next performances by the orchestra will be a trio of Christmas concerts at 4 p.m. Dec. 16 at Woodstock High School in Woodstock, Ill., and 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. Dec. 17 at Calvary Community Church in Williams Bay.

More information about the orchestra’s 2017-18 season and two upcoming LGSO chamber music concerts can be found at www.LakeGenevaOrchestra.org.



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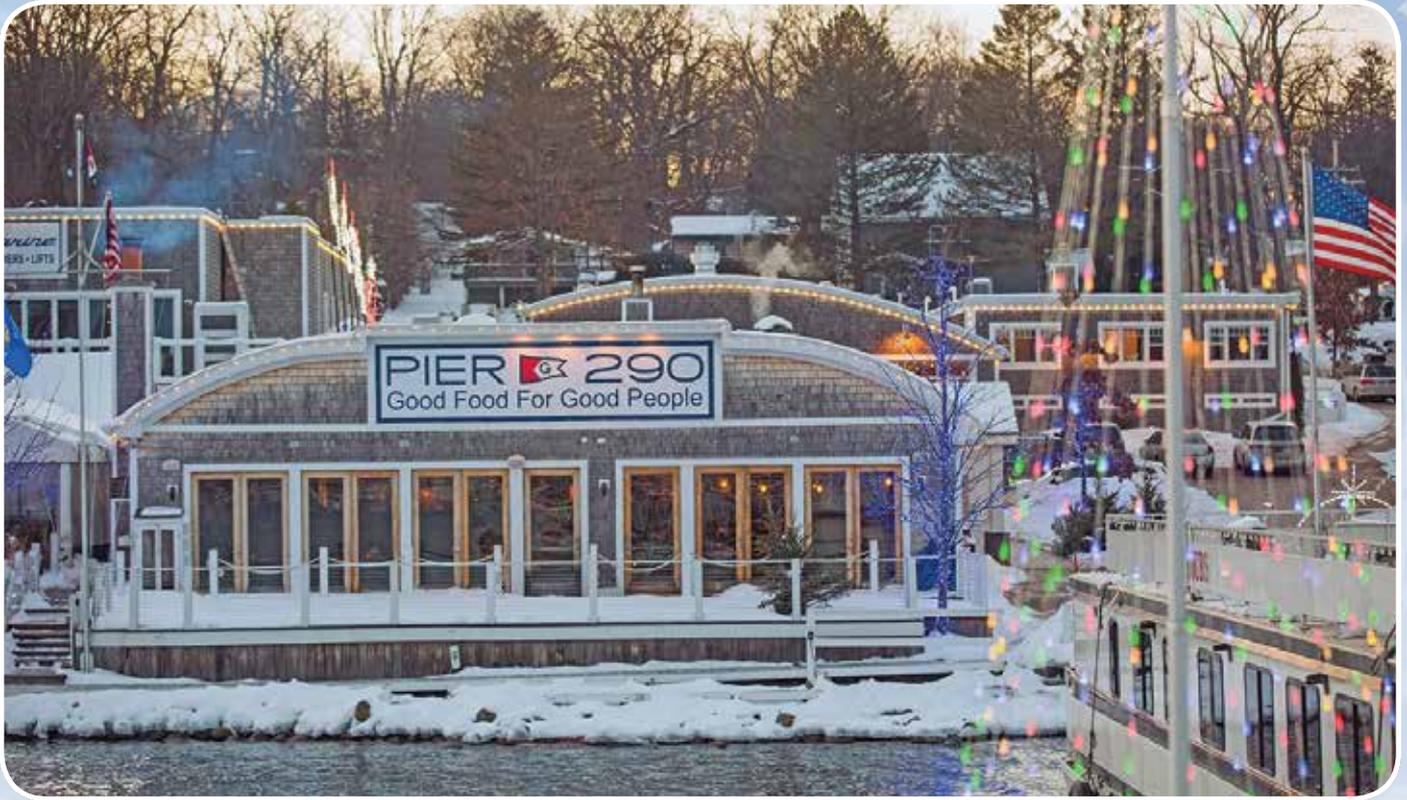
Along the shore of Geneva Lake it is easy to note that Christmastime is near. Lighted displays line the shores and the cruise ships Lady of the Lake and the Grande Belle are dressed in an array of multicolored lights waiting to carry children of all ages on a magical ride to Santa's North Pole hideaway.

Few people know that the route to Santa's hideaway is aboard these decorated boats, for this is just the second year that the journey has been possible. The journey begins at Lake Geneva Cruise Line's Winter Harbor at 1 Liechty Dr., Williams Bay, where the magical boat will be waiting for all the children and their families to board and begin the cruise to lead them to Santa Claus and his hideaway.



COURTESY OF LAKE GENEVA CRUISE LINE Spirit of Geneva Lakes

The Lake Geneva Cruise Line's Santa Cruise culminates with arrival at Santa's hideaway.



The Santa Cruise boards at Gage Marine's Pier 290 in Williams Bay.

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When the boat pulls from the pier and begins the journey the attention of all the passengers is focused on the illuminated light displays along the shore as the story of the voyage to the “North Pole” begins. Through a combination of music and narration, the journey continues as the captain and crew lead the way.

The Santa Cruise is the latest in the Lake Geneva Cruise Line’s popular cruises on Geneva Lake. The idea for the Santa Cruise came from Bill Gage, owner of the cruise line, who had seen another version of the Santa Cruise while in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. He realized the Santa Cruise would work well on Geneva Lake and could be even more exciting.

The cruise is born

Cruise line employees Nancy Waspi, Jack Lothian, Kacey Gallup and Susan Schindler recently spent some time sharing the joys and challenges of organizing this cruise.

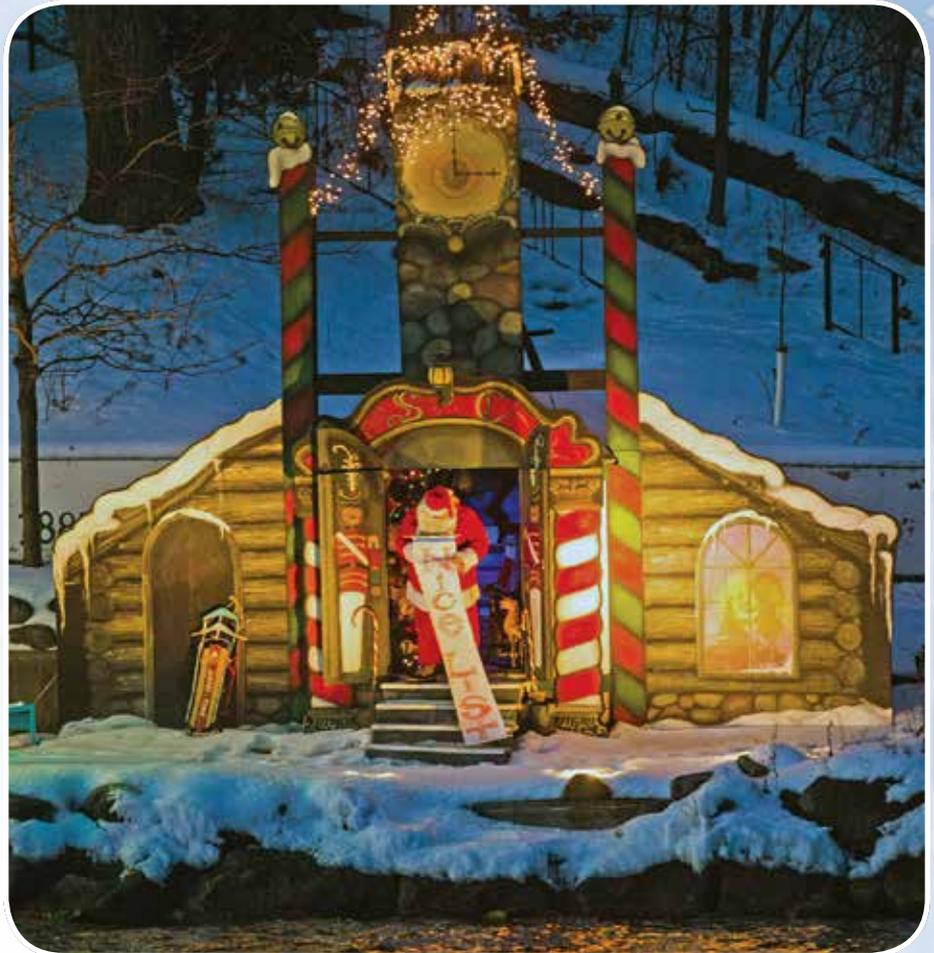
“We considered a cruise that would appeal to families with kids, school groups, clubs, and basically a trip that would appeal to the child in all of us,” Lothian said.

What they didn’t know for sure was how the boats would handle the winter weather as they are not usually in the water and running during the Wisconsin winter. Fortunately once the engines were started and warmed, they did not offer any problems.

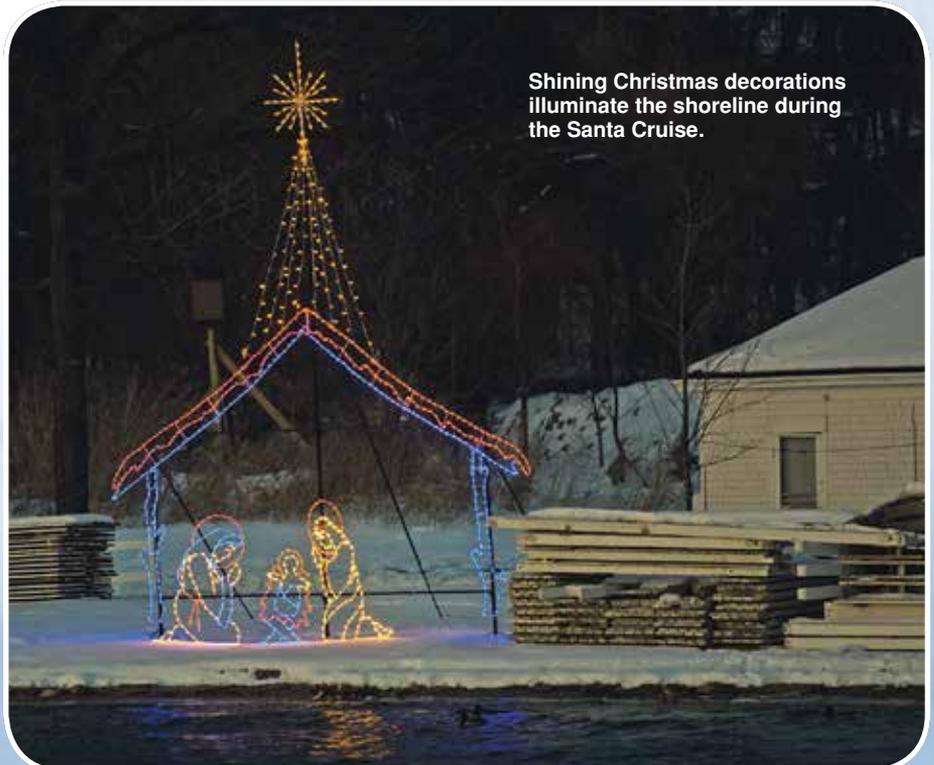
The boats are comfortable, with an enclosed level on each boat where cruisers can stay warm as they make the journey. On the Lady of the Lake, the lower level is enclosed and heated, assuring that everyone will be warm no matter what the outdoor temperature. On The Grand Belle, it is the Upper level that is enclosed and heated.

Passengers are free to move back and forth throughout the boat – dipping into the frigid air and retreating to the heated cabin.

“One of the first problems was finding a spot for the North Pole Hideaway,” Lothian said. “At the corner of Conference Point we found an old storage shed that did not look like a Santa hideaway but we spoke to the set designers, questioning whether it would be possible to turn the storage shed into a Santa’s Hideaway. We didn’t originally have high hopes but surprisingly



To the delight of the children on board, Santa reads the names of all the children on the nice list who can expect to receive a package under the tree on Christmas morning.



Shining Christmas decorations illuminate the shoreline during the Santa Cruise.

COURTESY OF LAKE GENEVA CRUISE LINE *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



Lake Geneva Cruise Line's Lady of the Lake is decked out for its seasonal Santa Cruise.



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the designers came through and what was a little shack became a cute North Pole Hideaway.”

Getting it right

However, like many things in life, things don't always turn out perfect on the first attempt.

“The first year we realized we forgot that the shack that became Santa's home did not have any heat,” Lothian said

It was a problem that they thought would be easily solved. They purchased a space heater so that Santa would not freeze.

“However that first year, there was not enough electrical power for the space heater and the lights to run at the same time,” Lothian said. “This year the power has been increased so Santa can be toasty warm and still have lights.”

The other concern the first year was realizing that some of the illuminations were perhaps a little too small to be seen easily from the boat. This year they have been enlarged.

There are a variety of displays leading up to the North Pole. Dominic the Donkey and the Hippo are among the favorites. Especially when the song “I want a hippo for Christmas” plays as they are passing by.

The fire-breathing dragon, who has a tongue flashes red to make him appear to be breathing fire, elicits a lot of oohs and aahs from the children.

When the boat finally reaches Santa's little home, he appears in the doorway with his list in hand. You know that list that all children worry about. Are they on the naughty or nice list? Can they expect Santa to leave them any Christmas gifts or will it be coal in their stockings? And then the voice of Santa is heard on the boat as Santa begins to read every child's name and the children wait with bated breath.

During the trip there are also activities for the children to enjoy. Hot chocolate, other beverages and some snacks are sold on the cruise as well as adult beverages for the parents.

Neither rain, nor snow...

The trip goes on no matter what the weather. The group spoke of one cruise that took place in a snowstorm. “It was like being in a snow globe.” On another occasion there was a heavy fog. They called it the ghost ship as it would drift in and out of the fog, disappearing from view.

There is also a late-night Naughty and Nice tour for adults only. This tour places those on the trip on one of the lists as Santa reads who is naughty and who is nice.

“It is all in good fun,” Waspi said. If the stories of the naughties are too risqué, they are filtered by Santa.”

The Santa Cruise will begin on Thanksgiving and continue daily until Dec.



Those who ride the Santa Cruise have a chance to bid on holiday prizes as part of the Williams Bay tree festival. The event supports local charities.

COURTESY OF LAKE GENEVA CRUISE LINE Spirit of Geneva Lakes

30. No cruises will run Dec. 24 and 25. The cruise lasts for 40 minutes, long enough to be interesting but not too long for children to lose interest.

The cruise leaves at 4:30 pm each day with three tours held during the week. On weekends the boats will depart at 4:30 and 5 p.m., then hourly through the early evening. Check the Santacruiselakegeneva.com website for times and pricing.

Packages that include dinner are available. A fixed menu is offered at the Pier 290 restaurant before or after the cruise with the purchase of the Ride and Dine ticket. Or make it an overnight package with the Ride, Dine, and Stay package. The cruise, meal and an overnight stay at one of the local hotels is included in the package.

Helping a cause

Those waiting to board the cruise will have a chance to wander through the tree festival on site. The tree festival is the project of Santa Cause a charitable organization, which helps to support 12 charities in Walworth County. It features 12 artistically decorated trees, each produced by one of the charities.

Waspi, who is director of development for the Santa Cruise and Santa Cause, said everyone is welcome to purchase raffle tickets and check out the exciting raffle packages offered at each tree.

“Each year our festival continues to grow with the businesses of Williams Bay working with us to turn the area into a winter wonderland,” Waspi said. “This

year 23 businesses in the downtown area have agreed to let Santa Cause volunteers place white LED lights on their buildings, giving a festive winter glow to the downtown area.”

The Village of Williams Bay begins its holiday kickoff on the day after Thanksgiving. According to Waspi, carolers will be heard along the streets. Selective businesses will offer hot chocolate and cookies. The Delavan Ballet will be in the area to perform dances from the Nutcracker. A decorative pathway from downtown to the dock leads pedestrians to view the festival of trees.

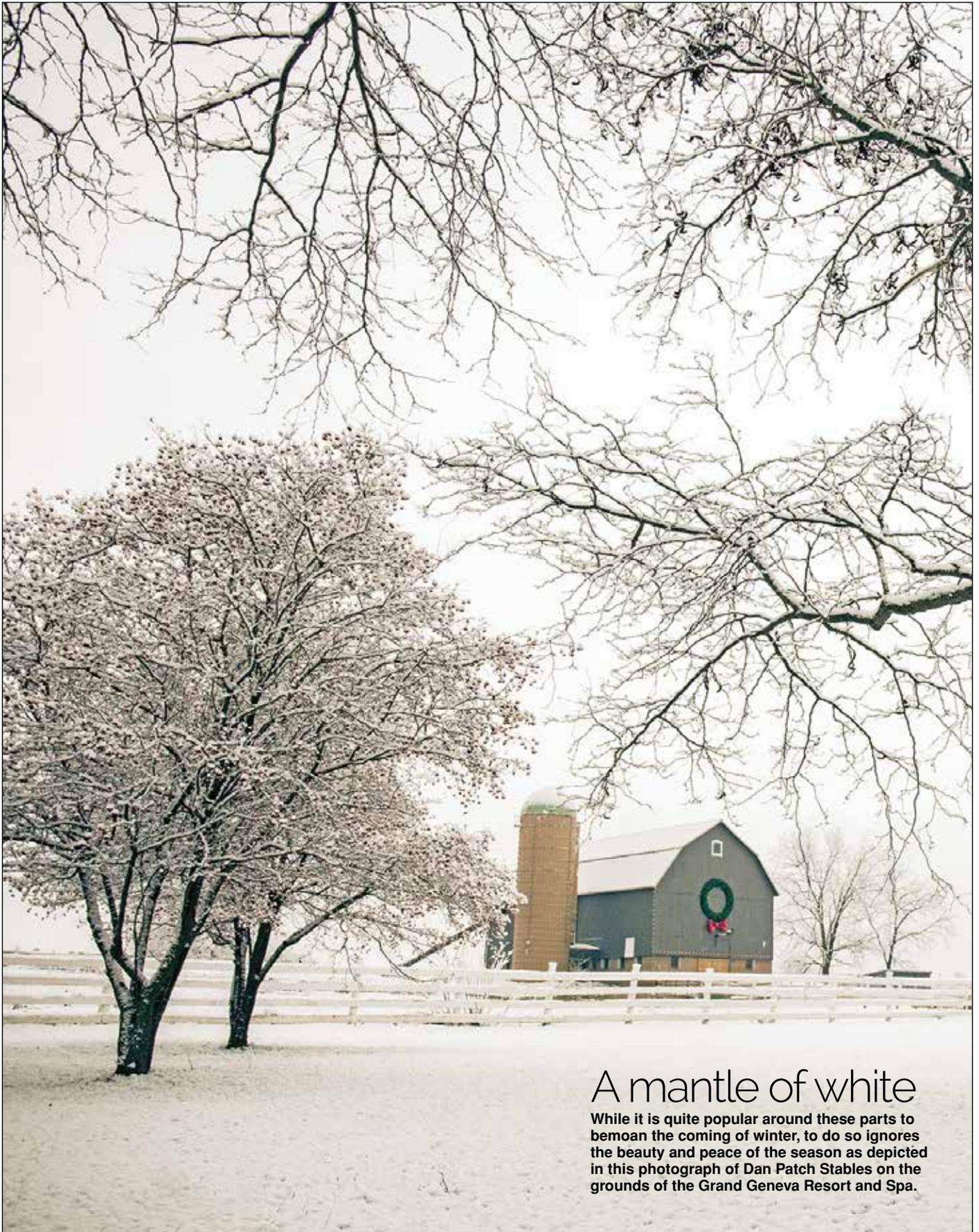
Various activities will be held that will benefit the Walworth Charities. One such activity is Freezin for the Reason. The event challenges people to participate in water skiing, tubing and other events in the chilly waters of Geneva Lake to benefit the charities.

According to Waspi, a three-person ski pyramid will participate this year. Sponsors have donated prizes that will be auctioned. A variety of other fundraising events will also be held.

Last year 6,600 people took the Santa Cruise. This year they hope to increase ridership to 10,000. A portion of the ticket price is donated to the Santa Cause Charity. Last year \$47,000 was raised for Santa Cause charities through its variety of fundraising events.

Contact SantaCause.org for details of all the charitable events.

THROUGH THE LENS



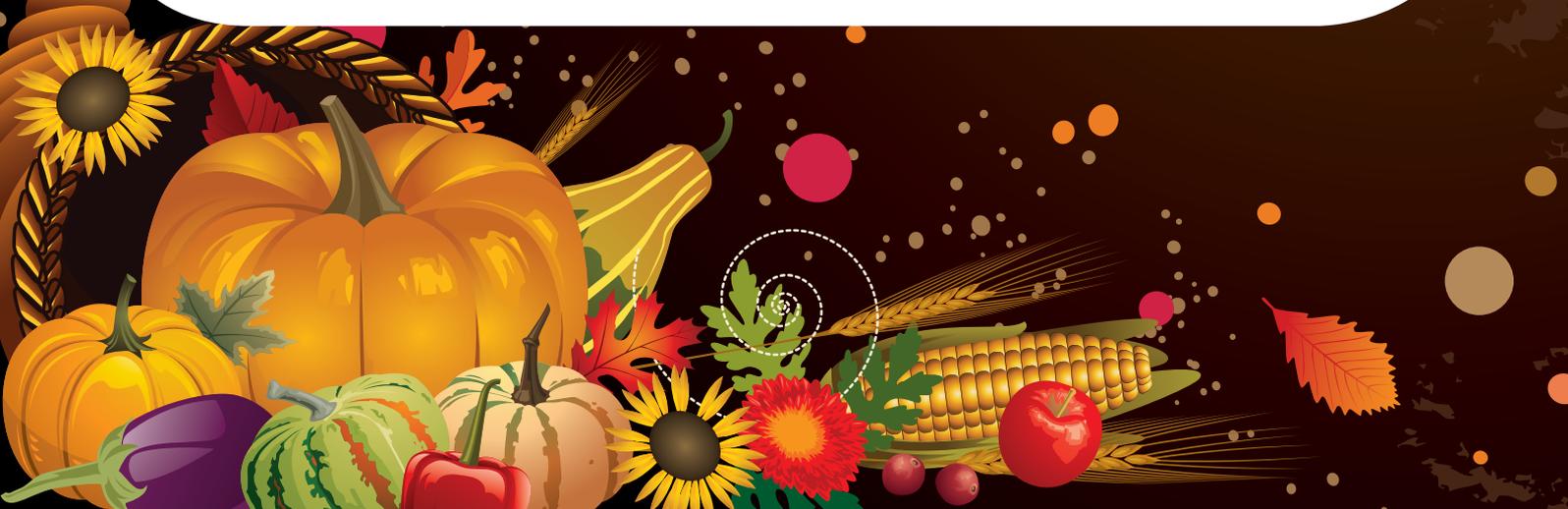
COURTESY OF GRAND GENEVA Spirit of Geneva Lakes

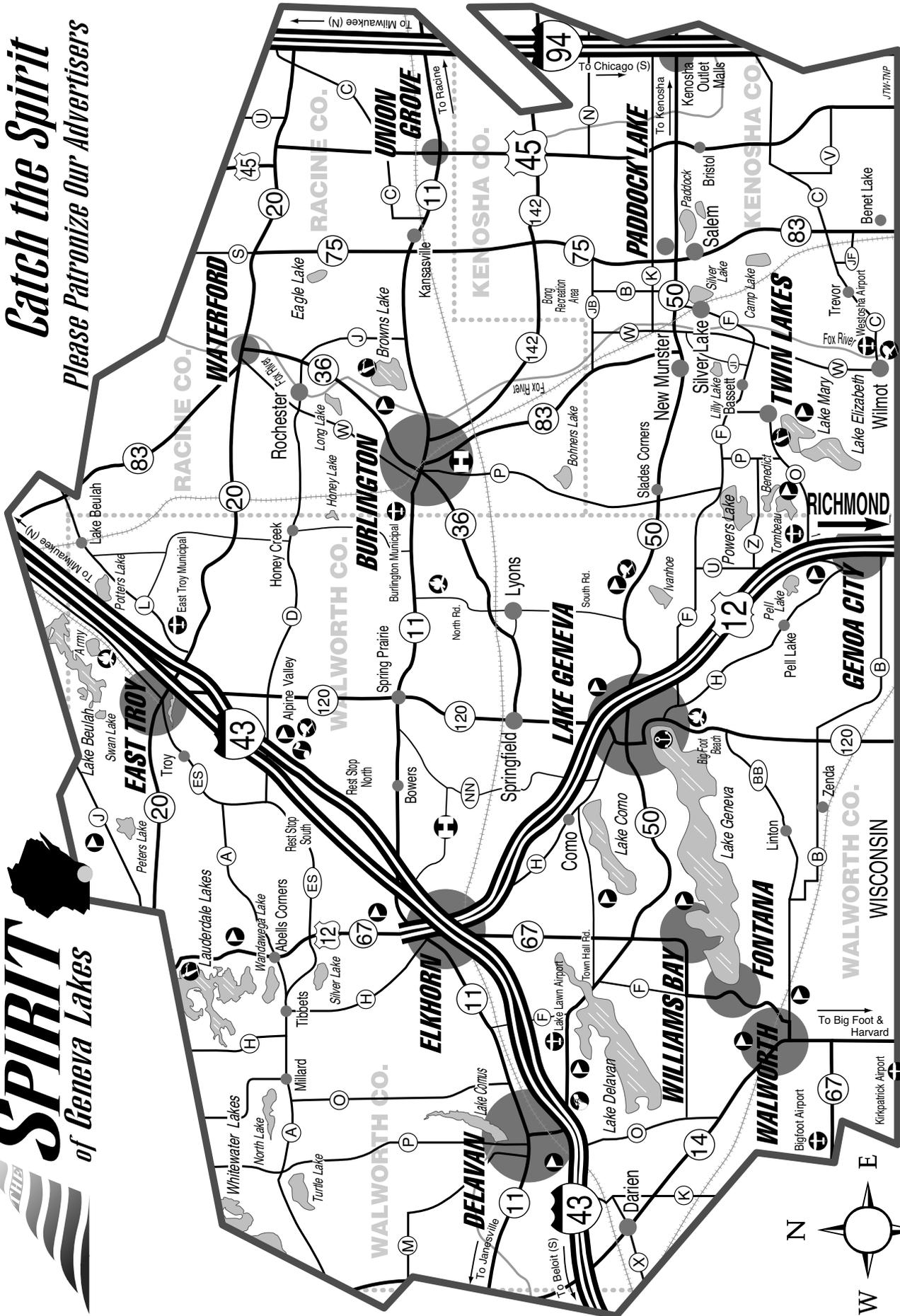
A mantle of white

While it is quite popular around these parts to bemoan the coming of winter, to do so ignores the beauty and peace of the season as depicted in this photograph of Dan Patch Stables on the grounds of the Grand Geneva Resort and Spa.

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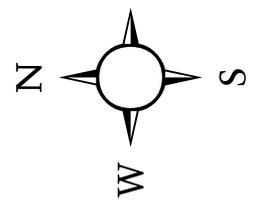
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- Wednesday through Sunday, November 29 - December 24 | 2:30 - 5pm
- Adults \$14.95, Children 12 and under \$6.95
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Meet Santa while enjoying live holiday music, fun holiday activities and a delicious breakfast buffet.

- Every Saturday and Sunday, November 25 - December 24 | 8am - 12pm
- Adults \$30, Kids (6-12) \$18, Kids (2-5) \$10
- Reservations are recommended. Please call (262) 249-4788.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE DISPLAY *Ristoranté Brissago*

Area residents display their masterpieces outside of Ristoranté Brissago from November 19 through the holidays. Come in and view these fabulous creations.

TROLLEY TOUR OF LIGHTS *Concierge Desk*

Hop aboard the Grand Geneva trolley for a tour of the resort's decorations.

- Starting on November 20 | Tours available hourly at 5, 6, 7 and 8pm
- Reservations are required. Please call (262) 248-8811.

OPENING SKI WEEKEND *The Mountain Top*

Start your family ski adventure with us on December 9 (weather permitting). With a friendly staff of certified instructors, Grand Geneva's 30-acre venue is the perfect place to conquer the slopes together and learn at your own pace.

- Visit [Facebook.com/GrandGeneva](https://www.facebook.com/GrandGeneva) for a chance to win a free opening day lift ticket

SANTA VISITS *Main Lobby*

Bring your list and check it twice! Visit Santa and his elves while enjoying musical performances every weekend.

- Every Saturday, November 25 - December 23
- Santa: 2pm - 4pm
- Local Holiday Entertainment: 11am - 5pm

ELF MAIL RUN *Main Lobby*

Drop off your letters to Santa in our magical mailbox, located in the main lobby. Then, join us daily at 4 pm as Santa's helpers collect the mail to deliver to the North Pole.

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BREAKFAST WITH SANTA | NOV 25 & DEC 16

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