

# Fox Cities

MAGAZINE

## Food *for* Thought

Fox Cities Bucket List | Yardening 101

April 2017

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# Fox Cities MAGAZINE

Celebrating the Place We Call Home.



foxcitiesmagazine.com

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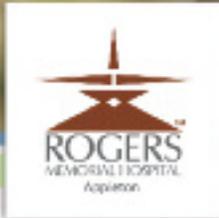
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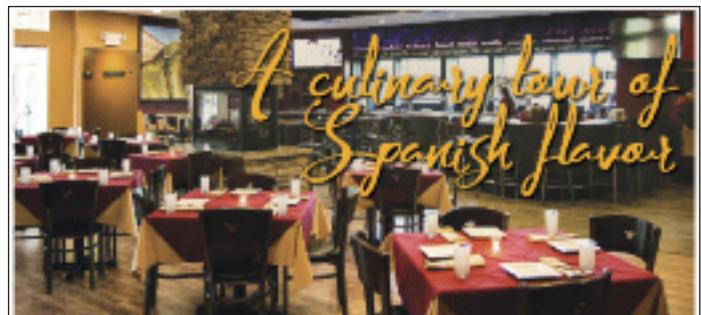


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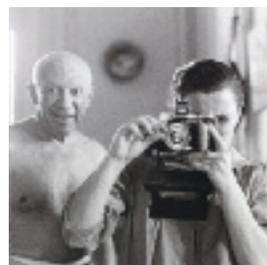
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*By Amelia Compton Wolff & Nicole Witmer*

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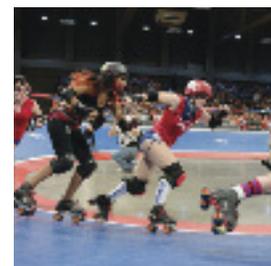
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## foxcitiesmagazine.com

What's up this weekend?  
 Visit foxcitiesmagazine.com to browse our events calendar – updated daily – for the latest on art shows, concerts, classes and more.

### PLUS...

- ▶ Events Listings and Exhibits
- ▶ Searchable Dining Guide
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## ARTIST SPOTLIGHT



The changing seasons bring a surge of inspiration for Karla Huston, Wisconsin's 2017–18 poet laureate from Appleton. "Sometimes the changing of time and circumstance changes the perspective on what you were writing," Huston says.

As Wisconsin's poet laureate, Huston is committed to the growth of poetry reading and writing. She will be facilitating activities through Memory Café, a project by the Alzheimer's & Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin. Memory Café unites victims of memory loss and dementia and



Book cover images courtesy of Thomas Lyons Fine Books, Neenah.

their caregivers through stimulating activities, such as poetry writing.

Huston discovered her talent for writing poetry as a creative writing teacher at Neenah High School about 20 years ago. Since then, she has been an active leader in the local writing community, serving on the board of directors for the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets as well as the Fox Valley Writing Project. She currently serves on the board of the Council for Wisconsin Writers and is vice president of The Mill: A Place for Writers where she teaches fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction and memoir writing. She will be a panelist at this year's UntitledTown Book and Author Festival in downtown Green Bay (April 28–30), where she will discuss her writing experiences with other authors.



Photo by Mike Roemer

Name: Karla Huston  
Residence: Appleton  
Medium: Written word

Huston's latest chapbook "Grief Bone," (Five Oaks Press) a melancholic short collection of poems, has been well-received, especially by former poet laureate of Madison, Sarah Sadie Busse who says, "The result is at once unsettling and too familiar, a little like looking into a tarnished mirror, the view distorted by 'ripple/scar and story.' And reader, there is beauty to be found there, too."

Huston is currently experimenting with writing about inanimate objects like her father's secret tin candy box which now stores her fountain pen collection.

"I believe that the concept and the ideas should underlie the poem," Huston says. "To write

directly about them can sometimes become too sentimental. I allow the description of the box to be the concept and the idea – that's where metaphor comes in."

Learn more at [www.karlahuston.com](http://www.karlahuston.com).

— By Hibah Ansari

### MAN IN GORILLA SUIT ON THE CORNER WITH BALLOONS

By: Karla Huston

Was it the smell of fur that drew you,  
years of it embracing  
the swelter of this day, you leaning  
on the telephone pole, paw raised  
to greet the cars that drove by?

It's 93 degrees, but you look  
almost perky with your biker shorts  
and purple vest. All work is worthy.  
And yet, I wonder about the dignity  
in zipping into those sweaty spaces.

How many have gone  
before you, settled skin against skin  
against poly-fur-something skin  
and there you are breathing inside  
the same plastic mask while you ape  
your mitted hands, resigned to salute  
and wave, to pound your chest  
with some kind of joy?

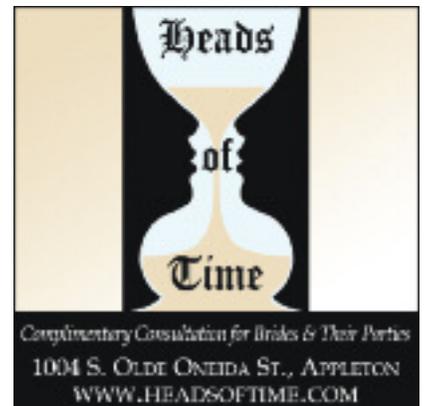
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### MARCH WINNER



Alyssa Nelson, Appleton  
Answer: Heckrodt Wetland Reserve,  
Menasha

## American National Bank Fox Cities



Paul Northway, president

### ANB provides loans that fuel local business

#### Community connection

There is an immediate sense of friendliness and familiarity when you enter American National Bank (ANB). Employees know their customers and understand their unique needs – just ask some of their business clients including Omni Associates Inc., Strategies Ltd and The Learning Shop.

ANB has a lengthy history of serving the dynamic business community of the Fox Cities with two decades' worth of fostering strong, personal connections. According to Paul Northway, ANB president, "Our clients know they can stop by the bank to talk directly with their bankers, and we're not going to refer them to an out-of-state phone number when they have questions about their business banking needs."

#### Local decision-making

Whether it is acquisitions, managing liquidity, succession planning or exit strategies, clients like the fact that the decision makers are at one location. The bank's decision-making model allows their experienced business banking team to be more responsive to their customer needs. Many employees have been with ANB for 10 years or more.

"We keep our process simple. Larger banks make it complicated with too many layers. We appreciate our clients' sense of urgency, and we get things done to ensure timely decisions. It's about teamwork, not just the transaction," says Northway.

At ANB, loan approvals are made locally by bankers who live in and understand the community. When small businesses thrive, local opportunities flourish, which in turn stimulate the local economy. It's a win-win for everyone.



#### Customer service, not lip service

Northway firmly believes that the only way to help a business owner is for his staff to listen more than they talk. The bank's family-like, non-intimidating culture is essential in providing the openness and intimacy that ANB offers as a small bank.

American National Bank provides business banking clients with:

- Access to decision makers who know your name
- Quick loan decisions
- An experienced and tenured banking team
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"Loans are made in a collaborative way at American National Bank," says Northway. "When our business bankers are meeting with a prospective client, they have a great deal of flexibility. Finding creative solutions is at the core of our banking philosophy."

As a certified Small Business Administration (SBA) Preferred Lender, American National Bank is able to help finance businesses ranging from the smallest to those with multimillion-dollar needs. The mission of the bank is to provide customized business banking solutions to fuel economic growth and prosperity in the community.



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# not to be missed

For a complete list of current exhibits and our events calendar, go to [foxcitiesmagazine.com](http://foxcitiesmagazine.com).

## COMMUNITY EVENTS



### Maple Syrup Saturday April 8

Enjoy a pancake and porkie breakfast served in the Girl Scout service center (reservations required) and a tour of the sugarbush to learn about the methods of harvesting sap. After your tour, enjoy a taste of fresh maple syrup served over ice cream. No reservations required for tours. 8:30am-11:30am. Gordon Bubolz Nature Preserve, Appleton. 731-6041.

### Hackerspace April 13

Come "hack" apart AV equipment, electronics, and appliances to see what's inside. 4th grade and up. 6:30-7:30pm. Kaukauna Public Library. 766-6340.

### 8th Annual LGBTQ Ally March April 13

Support the LGBTQ community at this walk celebrating allies who make the community safer. Free and open to the public. 5-8pm. Reeve Memorial Union Ballroom at UW-Oshkosh. 424-1234.

### Little Chute Miniature Quilt Show April 21-23

Tour the working Dutch windmill and vote for your favorite small quilt at this fundraiser sponsored by the Little Chute Historical Society. 21-22, 9am-4pm. 23, 11am-3pm. Little Chute Windmill. 788-4679.



### Fox Cities SOUP April 26

Pulse Young Professionals Network will host a dinner featuring locally-made soups and 3-5 grant proposals for projects that enhance the quality of life in the Fox Cities. Proceeds from each meal donation become the grant awarded to the chosen project, which will be voted upon by all present at the dinner. 6-9pm. Location TBD. More info: [www.pulsefoxcities.com/fox-cities-soup](http://www.pulsefoxcities.com/fox-cities-soup)

### An Evening of Poetry with Ashley Jones April 27

Poet Ashley Jones reads her work with a reception to follow. 7-8:30pm.

Wriston Art Galleries at Lawrence University, Appleton. 832-6942.



Ashley Jones

### 20th Annual Celebrating Volunteers Community Gala May 2

Eight volunteer awards will be presented during this celebration. Each award recipient receives \$5,000 for their favorite Fox Valley charity. Register by April 25. Registration, 5:15pm. Dinner, 6pm. Radisson Paper Valley Hotel, Appleton. 830-1290.



## MOVIES

### The Royal Tenenbaums April 8

An estranged family of former child prodigies reunites when their father announces he is terminally ill. Rated R. 7pm. Time Community Theater, Oshkosh. 231-5500.

### Movie Time April 13

Showing of a cult classic, "The Goonies." Rated PG. Free admission. 6:30-8:30pm. River Room at the Paper Discovery Center, Appleton. 380-7491.



### Becoming American April 19

Hang Sou and his family await resettlement in a refugee camp in Thailand after fleeing their war-consumed native Laos. This film records their odyssey as they travel to and resettle in the United States. Unrated, for mature audiences. 7pm. Neville Public Museum, Green Bay. 448-4460.

*Information is subject to change, we recommend confirming dates and times with the organizer. To have your event considered for publication, submit online at [foxcitiesmagazine.com](http://foxcitiesmagazine.com).*

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## MUSIC

### Oshkosh Symphony Orchestra: 75th Anniversary Concert April 7

Celebrate the lush history of the Oshkosh Symphony Orchestra with a spirited grand finale featuring symphonic masterworks and world-renowned pianist Alpin Hong. 7:30pm. Grand Opera House, Oshkosh. 424-2350.

### Doctors In Recital - Fox Valley April 8

Join talented medical professionals as they share their love for music and raise money to support the Fox Valley Memory Project. 7-9pm. University of Wisconsin-Fox Valley, Menasha. 225-1711.



### Baseball, Hot Dogs, Apple Pie and Chevrolet: The All-American Boy Concert April 8

Join the Appleton Boychoir as they celebrate the beginning of baseball season with a playful concert featuring the music of home-town America and its favorite pastime—baseball. 4pm. Lawrence Memorial Chapel, Appleton. 955-2224.



### Star Wreck April 22

Join the Fox Valleyaires Chorus and its quartets for their spring show, a music revue that takes a comedic look at science fiction television. 3 & 7:30pm. Xavier Fine Arts Theatre, Appleton. 739-7553.

### April Concert: Saint Saens, Maslanka, Jacob and more! April 22

The first concert by the LU Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band of spring term. 8-9:30pm. Lawrence Memorial Chapel, Appleton. 832-6749.

### World Music Series: Zakir Hussain w/ Rahul Sharma April 26

Zakir Hussain is a peerless genius of the tabla, the rhythmic heart of Indian classical music. Rahul Sharma plays the 100



stringed Kashmiri santoor. 8-9:30pm. Lawrence Memorial Chapel, Appleton. 832-6749.

### FVSO Grand Finale with newVoices May 6

Two accomplished musical groups come together to bring the masterful Sea Symphony to life in the closing celebration of FVSO's 50th concert season. 7:30pm. Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, Appleton. 733-3760.

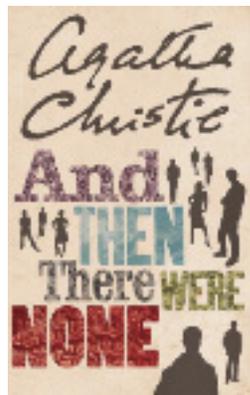
## ON STAGE

### Finding Neverland April 17-22

Broadway's biggest new hit tells the story behind one of the world's most beloved characters: Peter Pan. 7:30pm, 21 & 22, 2pm. Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, Appleton. 730-3760.

### Dream Role: Back to Broadway April 27-30

Over 100 of the area's best talent come together to bring the house down with their favorite Broadway songs. 27-28, 7pm; 29, 2pm & 7pm; 30, 2pm. UW-Fox Valley Communication Arts Center, Menasha. 832-2646.



### And Then There Were None April 27-30

In this classic Agatha Christie murder mystery, statuettes of soldiers break one by one, as eight house guests succumb to a diabolical murderer. 27-29, 7:30pm. 30, 2pm. Fredric March Theatre, Oshkosh. 424-4417.

## CLASSES & LECTURES



### Civil War Facts, Myths and Legends April 20

Presented by Bob Schmall, retired history lecturer. 7-8pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6170.

### Life in Neenah's Progressive Era April 20

Join the Neenah Historical Society to discover how local industrial leaders in the late 19th and early 20th centuries worked with community organizations. Presented by Professor Steven Sheehan. 7-9pm. Neenah Public Library. 729-0244.

### Macro Bowls & Herbs April 27

Presented by Susan Beno, Culinary Specialist. Register by April 20. 6-8pm. Green Bay Botanical Garden. 490-9457.

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## Celebrating Picasso: Photographs by David Douglas Duncan

Get a glimpse into the world of Pablo Picasso in the exhibition "Celebrating Picasso: Photographs by David Douglas Duncan" now on display at The Trout Museum of Art in Appleton. The exhibition chronicles Picasso's life through the works of photojournalist David Douglas Duncan, whose work has been featured in National Geographic, Life and The Saturday Evening Post.

The exhibition, on display through April 30, was curated from 161 inkjet prints that Duncan donated to The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City. Images depict Picasso at work and play at his summer home in southern France with his second wife Jacqueline, his children Claude and Paloma, and guests like Jean Cocteau and Gary Cooper.

The Trout Museum is offering docent-led exhibition tours each Saturday at 11 a.m. to provide greater insight into the lives of both Picasso and Duncan. Tours are open to the public and are free with museum admission.

For more information on the exhibition and events, visit [troutmuseum.org](http://troutmuseum.org).

—ACW



David Douglas Duncan, American (b. 1916). **A smiling Picasso looks over Jacqueline's shoulder as she aims her camera at the photographer, 1957, printed 2013.** Ink jet print. Image: 13 7/8 x 20 7/8 inches. The Nelson Atkins-Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri. Gift of David Douglas Duncan, 2014.11.111. Photo: John Lamberton



David Douglas Duncan, American (b. 1916). **After Jacqueline gave up trying to teach Picasso a ballet routine, the moment she sat down he twirls away in his own routine, stomping and whirling, a combination square dancer and dervish, 1957, printed 2013.** Ink jet print. Image: 13 15/16 x 20 7/8 inches. The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri. Gift of David Douglas Duncan, 2014.11.118. Photo: John Lamberton

## Friend of a Friend Art Show

The Friend of a Friend art show will open at The Draw's Feather and Bone Gallery in Appleton on May 5. Gallery Manager John Adams has asked 20 friends from the area to invite their favorite artists to the table and create a community-curated art show with a twist. The idea is to show the community a whole new stratosphere of artists, but in a way that connects locally.

The concept for the exhibit came from the many conversations Adams had about art with his friends and colleagues. It always led to a friend recommending a new artist they know.

"This show puts my friends, some artists, some just lovers of art, in control. I will be inviting 20 friends to choose a friend they know that isn't from the area to show a current work of art never seen in this area before, resulting in the ultimate community-curated show," Adams says.

The group of exhibiting artists who are "one degree" from Appleton are based outside of a 90-mile radius around the area. While the art will be new, there will still be a local flavor to it since these are the very artists that inspire some of Adams' friends in the art scene here in the Fox Cities.

More information can be found at [www.thedrawappleton.com](http://www.thedrawappleton.com).

—HA

## LIVE MUSIC MUST-SEES

Three shows to pencil in pronto.



### Jazz at The Trout April 20

Jazz at The Trout Season VII celebrates a variety of types of jazz, ranging from classic and contemporary to Brazilian and Appalachian funk. This show features Stuck on Blue, a contemporary jazz trio. 7:30pm. The Trout Museum of Art, Appleton. 733-4089.



### Rhythms & Brews: Sam Trump April 26

Sam Trump is a multi-instrumentalist and singer/songwriter. He not only sings, but plays the trumpet and ukulele, and is heavily involved in Chicago's live music scene, where he's known for creating sophisticated and soulful musical experiences. Free. 7pm. Stone Arch at Riverview Gardens, Appleton. 997-3332.



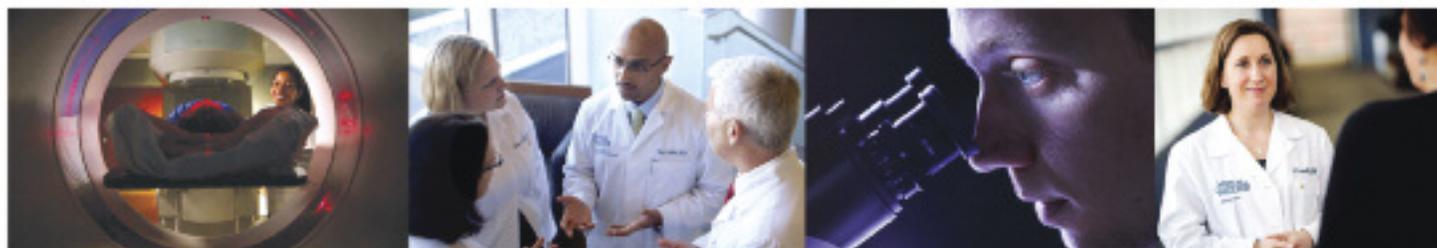
### The Beach Boys April 29

Hailing from Hawthorne, California, The Beach Boys have become an international sensation with famous harmonies and classic songs, bringing "Good Vibrations" everywhere with recognizable hits like "Surfin'," "Fun, Fun, Fun" and "I Get Around." 7:30pm. Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, Appleton. 730-3760.

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## UntitledTown Book and Author Festival

Green Bay is about to get a little more exciting for writers, readers and storytellers. The first annual UntitledTown Book and Author Festival (April 28–30) will promote all aspects of book culture including movable wood type, traditional books, graphic novels, live storytelling and podcasting. The idea was conceived when Alex Galt, owner of Kavarna Coffeehouse and a member of the festival's board of directors, realized how many unknown authors live in the Green Bay area. From there, the idea of a festival connecting authors and readers was born.

Festival events take place in different venues throughout downtown Green Bay from The Brown County Library to St. Brendan's Inn. Attendees may choose from three different tracks to follow, each focusing on different aspects of literature: reading, writing and storytelling. Brian Simons, Brown County Library executive director and a festival board member, says the diversity of each path will be key to the event. "The 'tracks' are very much a choose-your-own-adventure sort," he says. "You can start on any track and jump to another; you aren't tied down to one the entire festival." The writing track will offer published and aspiring authors workshops on topics such as character development and how to land an agent. The reading track concentrates on author-hosted events and book signings. Storytelling, the third track, will offer an immersive experience with Appleton-based Storycatchers performing live. According to Simons, the overall goal of the festival is to build a stronger community. "We want to show people there is more to Green Bay than the Packers," he says. "It's an event that draws those from outside our community and gives people a chance to get to know one another." All events are open to the public and a majority of them free of charge.

For more details and an event schedule, visit [untitledtown.org](http://untitledtown.org).

—NW



## Learn Something New!

Broaden your horizons at these events.

### Adult Street Art and Stencil Workshop

April 10

Learn techniques for creating reusable stencil art and end class by brightening up a local area in the community. Free for ages 18+, but registration required. 6–8pm. Kimberly-Little Chute Public Library. 788-7825.

### Ballroom Dance at Historic Memorial Building

April 22

Doty Island Development Council is hosting a ballroom dance with lessons provided by Boogie Ballroom and Valley Social. Tickets required. 7–11pm. Memorial Building, Menasha. 479-0894.

### Paper Jewelry Workshop

April 22

Learn how to make paper beads of different shapes to turn into beautiful pieces of jewelry. Adult class, children 13+ with adult. Reservations required. 1–3pm. Paper Discovery Center, Appleton. 380-7491.



## Bazaar After Dark: Round Two

Back by popular demand, Bazaar After Dark will be returning for a second time on April 29 for a night of offbeat art, intriguing performances and delicious food. The spring festival will be held on Second and Third Streets in downtown Kaukauna and will run from 5 to 11 p.m. Hosted by Pulse Young Professional Network in partnership with Habitat for Humanity's Rock the Block, Bazaar After Dark is a nighttime festival highlighting local artists, vendors, performers and small business owners. Visitors can expect more than 50 vendors along with live on-stage music, body painters, fire entertainment, hula-hoopers and the creation of a public mural.

Adrienne Palm, director of Pulse, a program of the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce, is most excited about creating the same energy in Kaukauna as last September's inaugural Bazaar on Wisconsin Avenue in Appleton. "The magic of the night coming together is always really exciting, it's an opportunity to learn about the community we live in. It makes me more connected to the Fox Cities as a whole," Palm says.

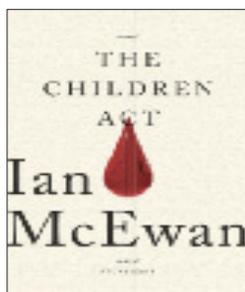
The mission behind Bazaar After Dark is to revitalize hidden corners of the Fox Cities that possess potential, but are in need of foot traffic. Kaukauna's downtown district is a historic part of town with great businesses, but also has some vacancies, Palm says. "The whole concept behind Bazaar After Dark is to bring some attention and vitality to parts of town that may be overlooked," Palm says. Rock the Block, Habitat for Humanity's neighborhood revitalization program, will team up with Pulse to help revamp both the commercial and residential areas near Second and Third Streets.

Visit Bazaar After Dark on Facebook or [pulsefoxcities.com/bazaar-after-dark](http://pulsefoxcities.com/bazaar-after-dark) for more information.

—HA

## BOOK TALK 2.0

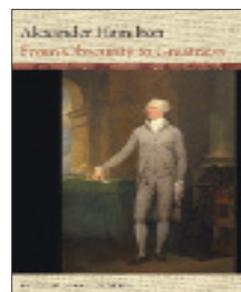
Upgrade your book club with these hosted discussions.



### April Books & Brews

April 13

Discussion of "The Children Act" by Ian McEwan, hosted by Kimberly-Little Chute Public Library. New members welcome. 7–8pm. Seth's Coffee, Little Chute. 788-7825.



### Alexander Hamilton: A "Play" on History

April 19

A discussion by John Kaminski, editor of "Alexander Hamilton: From Obscurity to Greatness." Free and open to public. 6:30pm. History Museum at the Castle, Appleton. 735-9370 x115.



### Downtown Book Club

April 20

Bring your lunch and discuss "Stella by Starlight" by Sharon Draper. Led by Howard Porter. 12–1pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6173.

## Q&A: Sofar Sounds Appleton

Arielle Kaye, Lawrence University student and city director of Sofar Sounds Appleton, fills us in on the movement known as Sofar Sounds (secret music gigs held in intimate settings). Sofar Sounds is found in 319 cities worldwide, including Appleton.

### Why did you decide to bring Sofar to Appleton?

The initial excitement that surrounds Sofar Sounds concerts is that you apply to go to a concert in your city where you don't know the address of the venue until the day before or what kind of performance you are going to see. There is definitely an aspect of adventure and you often get to experience a new

part about your city that you had never experienced before. We have a thriving music scene here in Appleton and the Fox Cities, but I think that Sofar is a different experience from anything that is happening here.

### How would you describe the Sofar concert experience?

A Sofar (which stands for

Songs From A Room) is an intimate event where the best new and upcoming artists perform in unique spaces to an audience of music lovers. It is typically three acts long, without "openers" or "closers." Guests arrive in time for the first act and stay for the entire show. Events are usually BYOB, so there's no waiting in line at a bar. During the music, there is full attention on the performers without any texting, talking or filming. There are breaks in between the acts where audience members are encouraged to meet new people around them or talk to the bands who have just played.

### How are artists and venues selected?

Sofar Sounds Appleton has a listening team that works tirelessly to find incredibly talented musicians and performers in our area. We look for bands of all genres that can do stripped-back sets in intimate settings. Though performers at a Sofar are usually musicians, we also look for artists who do

Nicolas the Transparent, Oshkosh  
Photo credit: Mariah Griffin Photography



spoken word poetry, dance or comedy. Sofar Sounds Appleton's team searches for unique locations all over Appleton, especially up-and-coming businesses and spaces.

### How can attendees get tickets?

To attend a concert, create a free profile on Sofar Sound's website. Once you've done that, you'll be able to apply to attend a show in any city you

choose. Click "Apply for a Ticket" on the event you'd like to go to and your name will be put into a draw. Our team works hard to make sure everyone who applies has the chance to experience a Sofar, so if you're not chosen straight away, please apply again. Pro tip: if you really want to get into one of our concerts, leave a little note to our team.

Watch for upcoming Sofar show dates in April and May. Learn more at [sofarsounds.com/appleton](http://sofarsounds.com/appleton).

— ACW

B Lilly (Lawrence Student from Chicago)  
Photo credit: Mariah Griffin Photography



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*37 quintessential experiences – in no particular order – every Fox Cities resident and visitor must have before their time here is up*

By Amelia Compton Wolff

**W**hether you were born and raised in the Fox Cities or are a recent transplant, there are certain things everyone who calls the 920 home must do before they leave. You aren't a true (or honorary) Fox Citian until you've marked every one of these items off the list, so get cracking!

**Discover Harry Houdini's secrets at The History Museum at the Castle.**

This Appleton museum in an old Masonic temple offers a variety of thought-provoking and entertaining exhibits, including AKA Houdini which explores the world renowned magician's wizardry and brief life in Appleton.

**Take an eclectic museum tour.**

A few suggestions: Visit the Tayco Street Bridge Tower Museum in Menasha, one of the state's smallest museums housed in a two-story bridge tender's tower. Tour the Octagon House, home of the Neenah Historical Society and one of only a few octagon homes in the state. See historical artifacts from the Winnebago Mental Health Institute in Oshkosh at the Julaine Farrow Museum, including a display case filled with items swallowed by patients.



**Drink a Dirty Snowball at Cleo's Brown Beam Bar.**

This world famous drink served at Appleton's iconic Christmas-themed bar is basically a boozy milkshake for grownups. Vodka, dark creme de cacao, coffee liqueur and cream are blended with ice for a tasty cocktail that is perfect any time of year.

**Attend a Native American powwow.**

One of the Midwest's largest powwows, Oneida Nation hosts a weekend of singing, dancing, crafts and food. Enjoy traditional Native American food and crafts at the Woodland Indian Art Show and Market. Oneida Nation's 45th annual powwow will be June 30–July 2 at the Norbert Hill Center Pow Wow Grounds in Oneida.

**Eat deep fried cheese curds—and other divine fair food—at the Outagamie County Fair.**

A delicious rite of passage for every Fox Citian is devouring an order of deep fried cheese curds at the county fair (extra points if you wash it down with a Dairy Bar malt.) Hit up the 2017 fair July 25–30 at the fairgrounds in Seymour.

**Go on a mural walk.**

Downtown Appleton alone has more than a dozen murals for your viewing pleasure, many created by muralist and public art proponent Chad Brady. Hop on a bike and head north to Wisconsin Avenue to view even more, including the Love mural by artist Irineo Medina. Pick up a mural walk map at Atlas Coffee Mill & Cafe in Appleton to plot your course.

**Hit up a night market.**

We love our festivals in the Fox Cities. Most recently, locals have embraced Bazaar After Dark, an open-air night market of which there will be three in 2017. First up is the event on April 29 held in downtown Kaukauna which will feature live music and performances, art and food vendors, family activities and the live creation of a public mural.



Visit [foxcitiesmagazine.com](http://foxcitiesmagazine.com) for more items to add to your bucket list!



**Kayak the Fox River.**

Local kayakers have ample opportunities to get out on the water. Newly-formed Fox River Kayaking Company will begin offering gear rentals and guided tours at four launch points this spring, including Little Chute, Appleton, Kaukauna and Doty Island. Owner Soroosh Werner Karamyar says kayaking is a great way to experience the river's history and ecology, including wildlife like the "dolphin of the Fox River," the carp. The locks officially open May 5, but things could get rolling earlier depending on weather. Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway also has info on routes and paddle events online.

**See a local theater production.**

From Neenah's Riverside Players to the Kaukauna Community Players, local theatrical groups are plentiful in the Valley. This means there is no shortage of productions to see, especially during the summer months. Other groups include Attic Theatre, Freedom Area Community Theatre and Wolf River Theatrical Troupe.



**Go to a taping of Polka, Polka, Polka at The Starlite Club.**

Even if you don't know the difference between Slovenian and Czech-style polka, it would be a crime not to experience the official state dance of Wisconsin in the heart of the Fox Valley. Kaukauna's Starlite Club plays host to an array of polka bands whose performances (and ensuing dance frenzies) are often taped and aired on CW14's Sunday morning polka music show, Polka, Polka, Polka. Your next opportunity to get in on the action is April 16 when the Valenta Orchestra takes the Starlite stage. First-timers shouldn't be intimidated by the pros on the dance floor – just don't get in their way.

**Ride the trolley around downtown Appleton.**

From June through September, this free trolley departs from the Valley Transit Center and makes a complete loop around downtown Appleton and the riverfront every 30 minutes, making stops along the way. Take the trolley to the Flag Day Parade, a show from the Heid Music Summer Concert Series, Art on the Town on Friday nights, or the Farm Market on Saturday mornings. Trolley runs Thursday and Friday evenings, and all day Saturday.

**Hike at High Cliff.**

High Cliff State Park is tucked into the northeast corner of Lake Winnebago in the town of Sherwood and is home to trails of different difficulty levels for the leisurely walker to the experienced hiker alike. Go for a hike in the afternoon and catch the perfect nature photo-op during the golden hour (the hour before sunset.) Watch the sunset from the Tower, and end the night with some ice cream from The Chubby Seagull.

**Take in a Timber Rattlers game at Fox Cities Stadium.**

Opening day for the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers, a class 'A' affiliate of the Milwaukee Brewers, is April 8 and families throughout the Fox Cities can't wait to welcome the 2017 season. On Wednesday Bang for Your Buck nights, attendees can enjoy \$1 Cher-Make hotdogs, \$1 Pepsi products and \$1 domestic beers. The first one is set for April 12.

**Attend a Fox Cities Roller Derby bout.**

Catch the last bout of the home season on April 8 at Skaters Edge in Appleton when the All Stars take on the MedCity Mafia and the 920 Honeys faceoff with the Misfit Dolls. First-timers will appreciate the players who mill the crowd answering questions, since roller derby can be a confusing sport at first. Seating is limited, so bring your own chairs if you wish.

**See a Broadway show at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center.**

Settling into one of Thrivent Financial Hall's red, plush seats to see a Broadway show feels very "big city," as does having a glass of wine waiting for you barside at intermission (just prepay before the show). This year catch Broadway hits like Finding Neverland, Mamma Mia! and Wicked, among others.

*Continued*

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**Take a stroll at the Farmers Market.**

Farmers market season in the Valley is something to be celebrated. The Downtown Appleton Farm Market, the second largest market in the state, operates outdoors on College Avenue from June through October. Pick up fresh produce, cheese, meats and indulge in the obligatory roasted corn – on the cob or in a cup – while you shop. Kaukauna and Neenah also host Saturday morning markets and Menasha holds one on Thursday afternoons. The very first Little Chute Village Market season will begin June 15 from 3–7 p.m. on the plaza next to the iconic windmill.

**Get cheesy at the Great Wisconsin Cheese Festival.**

You know you're in Wisconsin when parade goers receive cheese curds instead of candy – this has been known to happen at the Big Cheese Parade that takes place on Saturday morning as part of the three-day Great Wisconsin Cheese Festival. From cheese carving to a cheese curd eating contest, kick off June Dairy Month on June 2, 3 and 4 at Doyle Park in Little Chute.

**Do the chicken dance at Chickenfest.**

So you think you can chicken dance? Prove it at Chickenfest, a community festival/fundraiser organized by the Kiwanis Club of Darboy. There is usually at



least one chicken dance competition per night, among other things like live music, food (pick up a chicken dinner, by the plate or bucket), carnival games and rides. It all goes down June 22–24 at Darboy Community Park.

**Tailgate at Lambeau Field.**

For Green Bay Packer fans all over the world, tailgating at Lambeau Field on game day is a religious experience, whether you're actually going to the game or not. The Tundra Tailgate Zone, located in the east parking lot outside the Oneida Nation Gate, features live music and prizes, and is free to the public.

**Customize a beer at Lion's Tail Brewery.**

Have you ever selected your own hops to enliven a pint of pale ale? The CPA (Custom Pale Ale) at Lion's Tail Brewery in Neenah puts the imbibers in the brewer's seat through the modern technique of French Press dry-hopping. In other words, the hops steep in front of you on the bar top. Choose from a variety of hops, steep for about 15 minutes then enjoy the freshest IPA you'll ever have.



**Take a spin on the Mile of Music bus in August.**

It's not a true music festival until you've stood shoulder to shoulder with sweaty festival-goers swaying to the beat of a live performance. At Appleton's handcrafted Mile of Music fest, you can have this experience even while you're on the go. Valley Transit provides free rides along College Avenue between State and Richmond Streets, Thursday through Saturday of the festival (August 3–6). The best part? Every loop features live performances by Mile of Music artists.

**Make paper at the Paper Discovery Center.**

The paper industry put the Fox Cities on the map and it continues to impact our local economy. Roll up your sleeves and learn the art of papermaking in the Purdy-Weissenborn Paper Lab at Appleton's Paper Discovery Center. Stop in during regular museum hours and transform a wet sheet of pulp to a dried sheet of paper. A great activity for all ages.

**See the spring sturgeon spawn in the Wolf River.**

Every spring, anywhere from mid-April to early May, spectators gather along the Wolf River to witness the spawning ritual of the ancient sturgeon

which first appeared about 136 million years ago. There are several prime viewing locations along the Wolf River including the Shawano Dam, Bamboo Bend in Shiocton and the Wolf River Sturgeon Trail west of New London. The sturgeon hotline provides daily recorded updates on conditions: 920-303-5444.

**Get historical.**

Take a walking tour of the grand homes built by Neenah's earliest settlers on East Wisconsin and Forest Avenues. Legacy Park on Church Street still has part of the Glatfelter Mill stack on it and this public plaza tells the story of Neenah's papermaking history. Visit the City of Neenah website to download a Neenah Historical Tour map.

**Attend the nation's oldest Flag Day parade.**

Roughly 60,000 people gather at the Appleton Flag Day Parade to thank veterans and honor "Old Glory." This year's 67th annual parade will be held on Saturday, June 10 at 2 p.m. and will give special honor to the United State Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

**Spend your lunch break in Shattuck Park for a free outdoor concert.**

Future Neenah's Out to Lunch Concert Series kicks off June 8. The concerts, which take place 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. on Thursdays through August, feature a variety of live entertainment and a restaurant vendor of the week.

They make the perfect midday break, if you can force yourself to return to the office, that is.

**Chuck a cabbage in Shiocton.**

See cabbage fly at the World Champion Cabbage Chuck sponsored by St. Denis Catholic Church. Registered teams launch cabbage using their engineered machines, like air cannons and catapults, attempting to break the cabbage chucking world record. See the action at the 12th annual competition on Saturday, September 23 at Shiocton Lake Park, rain or shine.

**Pay homage to our agricultural roots at a tractor pull.**

The crowds, the noise, the adrenaline rush of experiencing the sheer power of a tractor's engine – you can't escape the area before you attend a real life tractor pull. The Mackville Nationals Truck & Tractor Pull (June 16-18) is one of the biggest. Weekend activities include live music, raffles, the "Mackville Market" flea market and a polka mass on Sunday morning.

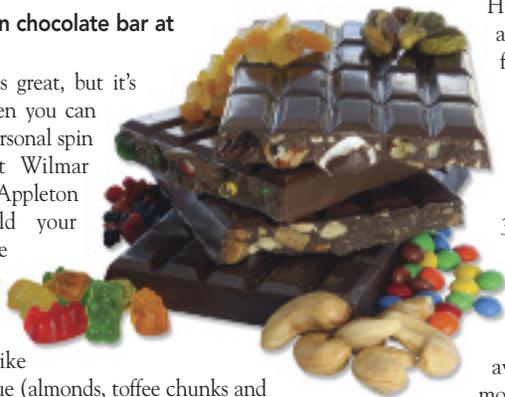
**Watch bald eagles at 1000 Islands Environmental Center.**

Grab your binoculars to see the winter commune of eagles at 1000 Islands Environmental Center in

Kaukauna during the month of January, when temperatures are low. Because the Fox River never fully freezes, it makes prime fishing for eagles and prime viewing for us. Stop in at the Nature Center building and staff or volunteers will fill you in on the best viewing spots.

**Make your own chocolate bar at Wilmar's.**

Chocolate is great, but it's even better when you can put your own personal spin on it. Stop at Wilmar Chocolates in Appleton to custom-build your own bar. Choose your chocolate flavor and up to four mix-ins from options like the tried-and-true (almonds, toffee chunks and caramel bits) to the eclectic (potato chips, sweet curry powder and pop rocks). Watch your creation being made Thursday-Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.



**Milk a cow.**

While you're at it, kiss a pig, feed a goat and catch a chicken. Visitors can do all of the above

during a visit to Mulberry Lane Farm in Hilbert. Spring is a great time to see all the baby animals born on the farm, which opens for the season May 3.

**See an airshow at EAA AirVenture.**

EAA AirVenture (July 24-30) at Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh is the world's greatest aviation celebration, drawing upwards of 550,000 aviation enthusiasts from more than 80 countries around the world. Even if aviation doesn't typically float your boat, you can't help but be impressed by the world's best aerobatic pilots who come to Oshkosh to strut their stuff. Check the AirVenture website for daily show schedules.

**PYO (pick-your-own) produce.**

Whether it's strawberries in June, apples in September or pumpkins in October, there are ample opportunities to get your hands dirty for a tasty cause. A few ideas: Oakridge Farms in Neenah offers strawberry and raspberry picking to the public during the short, but sweet season; PYO apples at Star Orchard in Kaukauna or Hofacker's Hillside Orchard in Appleton; grab some pumpkins at Peter's Pumpkin Patch in Kaukauna.

**Walk across a frozen lake.**

There's something exhilarating about walking across a body of water in its solid state, particularly Lake Winnebago, the largest lake entirely within the state. A great chance to make the nine and a half mile trek across it is during the Walk Across Lake Winnebago fundraiser benefiting the Neenah Animal Shelter. Save the date for next year's event, February 3, 2018.



**What's on your bucket list?**

Tell us what we missed by going to [foxcitiesmagazine.com](http://foxcitiesmagazine.com) and sharing your must-dos and sees in the Fox Valley!



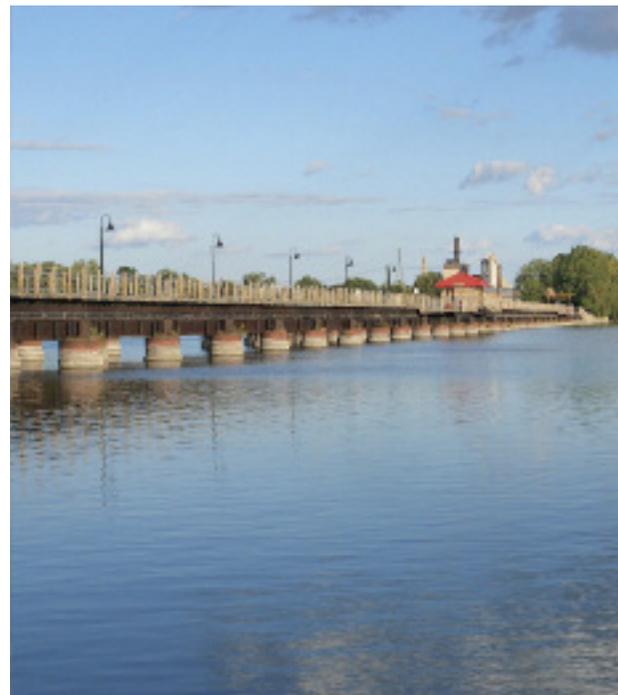
**Visit a lighthouse.**

The lighthouse at Kimberly Point Park, nicknamed the Neenah Light, is a quintessential

landmark and a great place to enjoy a respite while soaking in the history of the area. The lighthouse was first lit in 1945 and is still working today, illuminating Lake Winnebago for recreational boaters.

**Tackle the Trestle.**

The Fox Cities Trestle Trail spans Little Lake Butte des Morts, from Fritse Park in the Town of Menasha to the City of Menasha near the Menasha Locks. Along the trail you will encounter the longest



pedestrian bridge in Wisconsin – a 1,600-foot long, lighted lift bridge over the Menasha Lock. From the trail, loop through Gateway Plaza in Neenah to hop on the foot-operated dance chimes for a musical pit stop.



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◀ **Experience Matcha Green Tea**

Serving the Valley since 2007, **Fava Tea** offers 350+ fresh and fun high-quality loose leaf tea blends. Visit Fava Tea throughout April to experience the vast selection of green teas including the popular Matcha Green. Then, join Fava Tea for Matcha Week starting April 21st celebrating flavored and pure Matcha tea with special tastings, recipes, and promotions. At [www.FavaTea.com](http://www.FavaTea.com) or 706 N. Casaloma Dr. Appleton. 920-997-9920.



◀ **Celebrating Happily Ever After**

Join the **Fox Valley Humane Association** on May 20 at Lions Park in Greenville for the 37th annual Bark in the Park/Rescue Reunion, a celebration for rescued pets and their people. This year's event is truly a Fairytale celebrating their journey from 'once upon a time' to 'happily ever after'. Join us for a fun filled day of activities and events for the whole family. Visit [www.foxvalleypets.org](http://www.foxvalleypets.org). for a schedule of events and to register.

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◀ **Where Vintage Meets Modern**

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▼ **Celebrate Spring!**

Enjoy a modern day General Store! A shop to delight the senses. **Red Door Mercantile** is a unique shop full of goods - finds - gifts for everyone. Perfect for finding that special gift for Mothers Day! Check out our Facebook for fun workshops with your friends. 130 W. Wisconsin Ave., Neenah. (920) 378-7222.



◀ **Where Vintage Meets Handcrafted**

Explore a variety of vintage and handcrafted items by more than 80 local artists and craftspeople at **Sissy's Treats & Treasures!** Stop in before Mother's Day to register to win our beautiful Mother's Day basket. Gift items selected from many of our local Vendors. After browsing the shop, enjoy coffee or tea, soup, a sandwich or fresh baked good. 205 N. Main St., Seymour. Open M-Sa, 10am-6pm. Find us on Facebook! (920) 833-0477.



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# Food for Thought

By Amelia Compton Wolff  
and Nicole Witmer

*Twelve months of dining scene updates,  
broken down in one digestible review*

## **FfT: Notable New Kids**

*Welcoming a new class of Fox Valley restaurants*

### **WILDER'S, APPLETON**

After more than three years cooking at Scuba's Pourhouse in Appleton, Terrance Wilder decided to open his own restaurant. Wilder's, which is billed as a cutting-edge pub and bistro, opened in December 2016 on Northland Avenue in Appleton. It replaces the former Mister G's Food and Spirits that closed in October. "When I heard this building was for sale I figured I would take a chance," says Wilder, who named the restaurant as a nod to his grandparents. "My grandparents were the ones who taught me to cook and made me think cooking was fun." Wilder describes his food as house-made, from-scratch cooking with a Southern flair. "The only things we don't make in-house are the ketchup, mustard and mayo," he says. Popular menu items include the lobster mac and cheese, mahi mahi tacos, burgers and ribs. One of Wilder's favorite items is the smoked prime rib served on Saturdays. He smokes the meat on Thursdays, lets it rest for a day and a half in the cooler, then browns it in the oven for Saturday service. The labor of love results in prime rib with a bold, barbeque flavor. "I want this to be a place where you can get things you can't get elsewhere in the Valley," Wilder says. It was also important to Wilder that the restaurant cater to the late night crowd – Sunday through Wednesday the kitchen is open until 10 p.m. and Thursday through Saturday it's open until midnight, with the bar open even later. The restaurant seats upwards of 200 people, but a renovation planned for this spring could increase that number by at least 100 seats. Wilder plans to upgrade a side room with retractable garage doors so it can be used as an indoor meeting and event space as well as outdoor patio in warm weather.

### **DRAFT GASTROPUB, APPLETON**

Restaurateurs Luis and Shirley Vazquez are well known in the Valley for their restaurants Sangria's Mexican Grill and Mojitos Modern Latin Cuisine, both in Appleton. Last year, they were ready to add another. They opened their third Appleton restaurant, Draft Gastropub, in June. Draft shares a building with Mojitos on South Oneida Street, but operates independently. "The original layout used to be Mojitos and was entirely a Latin concept," says Andrew Kratz, general manager of both Draft Gastropub and Mojitos. "They decided to split the square footage, so it became Draft. The beauty is that it is for anyone and provides the best of both worlds." With a menu featuring American and European-style dishes, Draft has selections fit for everything from a family lunch to a romantic date night. The restaurant's top seller, the prime burger, uses high quality meat and ingredients like pecan-wood bacon, bleu cheese, red onion, greens, tomato and a smoked chipotle aioli to name a few. Another popular feature is Draft's Friday fish fry featuring a pretzel crusted haddock. "It's the number one seller even though it is just one day a week," says Kratz. "It drives people out here because it's a Wisconsin tradition." Draft also serves various other seafood items such as bourbon-glazed grilled salmon. Aside from the printed menu, Draft offers a unique feature on weekends. "Some weekends we have a chef's choice and others we have something called a course meal," Kratz explains. "A course meal is when you come in, say a price and what you have a taste for, and we create a course around it." These customizations are exactly what set Draft apart from other restaurants. The restaurant itself seats 160 people, which includes a bar that boasts craft beers, craft cocktails

and a wide array of red and white wines. Kratz says the cocktail list is one of the biggest draws to the restaurant. "The entire craft cocktail list is exclusive to Draft," he says.

### PARKER JOHN'S BBQ & PIZZA, MENASHA

Though the original restaurant opened in Kiel almost 9 years ago, Parker John's took a leap this year and branched out to the Fox Valley. "Originally, Parker John's was a little pizza place catering towards kids, complete with a small arcade and nightly pizza buffet," says Aaron Sloma, who owns the restaurant with his wife, Jennifer. "We kept this model through the recession and decided after three long years it was time for a change." This change included a two week closing, purchasing a meat smoker, and emerging as Parker John's BBQ & Pizza. After the success of the remodel, the Slomas began searching for the perfect area to establish a second location. Initially, the second location was Sheboygan, not Menasha. "When we began the search for the second Parker John's, we found a great site on the riverfront in Sheboygan," explains Sloma. "In January 2016, while working towards the beginning of construction, we came across the property in Menasha and instantly felt it was the perfect fit." The Menasha location opened in September 2016, while the Sheboygan location is scheduled to open in April. Parker John's BBQ & Pizza also offers a menu inclusive to the whole family. All of the meats including pork, brisket, ribs, wings, sausage and turkey breast are smoked in house. In addition to the meats, the sides of potato salad, coleslaw, smokehouse beans, brisket chili and hand-cut fries are also made in house. The pizzas use Wisconsin whole milk mozzarella and freshly cut vegetables. "We work with a local meat market to make our sausage and Manderfield's for all our buns," Sloma says. "We also sourced our cheese curds from Arthur Bay for our popular appetizer menu." Parker John's BBQ & Pizza also offers off-premise catering. With their ever-expanding business, Sloma has a soft spot for his new Menasha location saying, "We knew within a very short amount of time that Menasha was a perfect fit for us and we are thrilled to be part of the community."



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### POPUPFOXCITIES, VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Popupfoxcities launched last October, bringing an ongoing pop-up dining scene to the Fox Valley. The pop-up restaurant was founded by chef Tracy Darling, who also owns Heirloom Kitchen Company in Brillion. (In her words, "Heirloom Kitchen Company creates the pop-up events; popupfoxcities is the portal for them.") Darling describes her pop-ups as "innovative, handcrafted meals in unique settings with a special sense of place and a convivial joy poured over it all." The decision to pursue a pop-up format, where meals are ticketed, one-time affairs, was two-fold for Darling. "It is essentially what we do in our specialized catering work and a natural extension of that. Also it is wicked fun," she says. Dinners have been hosted everywhere from museums to farms to storefronts, each having a distinct theme. Previous themes have included a meal based on comfort food, a vegan feast and a new Nordic dinner. "We do fuss over the food, whether rustic or elegant, and we endeavor to tie together themes relevant to where we are and what we are eating," Darling says. "There is a really nice connection between us and guests during the meal." What can diners expect from popupfoxcities in the coming months? Think hangover brunches, more vegan and vegetarian dinners and perhaps an excursion to a fragrant field of hay. Sounds good to us.



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Continued

## HOT DISH: Buffalo Chicken MAC

MACS, Darboy

MACS (which stands for Macaroni and Cheese Shop) opened in Darboy in August 2016, making it the fourth location for owners Nick and Jackie Morse. Fox Valley diners have embraced the fast casual restaurant that hangs its hat on one of Wisconsin's most beloved food traditions: mac and cheese. Guests can choose from sandwich melts, wedge salads and about a dozen cheesy mac creations served in skillets, including this fan favorite — buffalo chicken MAC with provolone, mozzarella, blue cheese, chicken and buffalo sauce.



## FfT: Quick Bites

In response to the growing demand for convenient, health-conscious food, the Fox Valley gained some new fast and fresh dining options over the last year. Snaps on College Avenue's west side in Appleton put a new spin on the drive-thru when it opened last spring. It is owned by Abbas Amin, who also owns Chicago Grill in Appleton. Snaps is a drive-thru only restaurant, but you won't find typical fast food here. The menu consists of healthy salads, soups and wraps like the quinoa kale salad and falafel wrap. For fresh-seeking diners looking for a quick and healthy weeknight meal, Green Gecko Grocer & Deli in Appleton recently debuted a home-meal menu, in addition to the items available in their deli case. "During the holidays, people just started asking us to do large batches of various items, so we decided to formalize the program and have been working on the menu you now have," says owner Bob Wall. The home meal menu emphasizes high-quality ingredients like grass-fed beef and organic vegetables. Offerings include everything from pot roast and coconut curry chicken to vegetarian entrees and sides. On-the-go diners must place their orders 24-hours in advance and can pick up their meals hot and ready to eat or to be heated at home.

## FfT: Cafe Culture

Your map to the newest coffee shops and cafes.

### Downtown Menasha: YOUR DAILY GRIND

Your Daily Grind made its grand opening in Menasha this past November. Owners Rebecca Mader and Tim Lenth offer customers a wide variety of menu choices, including vegan-friendly food. "All our bakery is homemade and we even have vegan baked goods," says Mader. "We promote healthy eating through our organic products that we buy locally." Buying locally is an important philosophy at Your Daily Grind. In the warmer months, Mader explains the cafe will try to source most of its produce and ingredients from the outdoor farmers market. "All of our coffee beans are organic," she points out. "Even our syrup is organic and not sugary, so we support the locals and get great organic goods at the farmers market." All of these ingredients combine to make Your Daily Grind's unique menu. Their top sellers currently are the turkey blueberry panini and green goddess sandwich, but it won't stay that way for long. "What's interesting about our menu is it changes about every three months. We want to make sure we can try out new options and keep the menu fresh," explains Mader. Another interesting aspect to the menu is the addition of Benjamin Teas. This tea is based in Chicago and is exclusive to Your Daily Grind; it is the only coffeehouse in Wisconsin that sells this tea. Looking to the future, the cafe is hoping to add a smoothie bar and its own signature drinks. Mader and Lenth hope to eventually expand into a two story coffeehouse.

### Appleton's Riverfront: TEMPEST COFFEE COLLECTIVE

Tucked in the river-facing ground level of RiverHeath's Prairie apartment and retail development is Tempest Coffee Collective, which made its debut last November. Operating partners Stephan Witchell and Tyler Lonadier met and bonded through their shared love of coffee, both having worked at area coffee shops in the past. When setting out on their

own venture, the goal was simple. "We wanted to make good coffee available to everyone," Lonadier says. Witchell and Lonadier had observed how customers "coffee shop hop," sometimes going well out of their way for a caffeine fix. This influenced their decision to set up shop off the beaten path. "We chose a place as a destination and wanted to serve things to people they couldn't forget about," Lonadier says. It worked. Customer word of mouth spread the news of Tempest's Spyhouse Coffee offerings, menu items like the waffle egg sandwich and toast bar, and even its Instagram-worthy lighting and decor. While the duo can lean toward scientific (read: nerdy) when discussing what constitutes the perfect cup of coffee, their mission is heartfelt. "We want to make coffee a career for people by providing employees with a livable wage, especially as the business grows," Witchell says. Come summer, the coffee shop's riverfront outdoor patio will be filled with pergolas, fireplaces and intimate seating arrangements.



### College Avenue: LOU'S BREW CAFE & LOUNGE

Lou's Brew Cafe & Lounge celebrated its one year anniversary on February 9. It is the second Lou's location for owner Laura Loukidis and her family – the original location is in Oshkosh. The coffee shop and restaurant is located in the former Harmony Cafe spot on College Avenue in Appleton. Visitors will recognize much of the vintage decor that was previously part of Harmony Cafe, but will appreciate new additions like the wood beams suspended over the service counter from which exposed Edison light bulbs hang. Lou's offers breakfast items like muffins, Brew Bars, scones, oatmeal and egg sandwiches, along with lunch items like wraps, soup and salads. Grilled cheese fans have a plethora of options from which to choose, from The Basic (cheddar cheese on panini bread) to the Cheesy Mac-N-Rib Melt (mac and cheese, BBQ pulled pork, cheddar, onions and peppers on panini bread). The cafe's beverage menu includes speciality coffee drinks, teas and smoothies as well as wine and beer.

## Fft: Growth spurts

### BROKEN TREE PIZZA, NEENAH

In March, Broken Tree Pizza opened a new banquet room in the lower level of Neenah's Marketplace building on Wisconsin Avenue. Broken Tree Pizza restaurant operates on the ground level of the Marketplace. Owner Keith Schreiner says he began renovations on the space when it was vacated by a business that moved. Schreiner plans to rent out the room for small parties, private dinners and meetings. In addition to the new space, Broken Tree also expanded its menu by offering more appetizers and entree salads, and doubling their specialty pizza list. New appetizers include wood-fired spinach and artichoke dip and a bruschetta sampler with pesto, mushroom and traditional tomato bruschetta. Schreiner says the new entree salads offer a gluten-free option for guests. "A lot of the salads we've added are like our pizzas but in salad form," he says. To accommodate a growing Sunday crowd, in February Broken Tree began opening at 10 a.m. (instead of 11 a.m. as it does the rest of the week), serving a special brunch menu with items like chicken and waffles pizza and huevos rancheros pizza, as well as bloody marys, screwdrivers and Irish coffee. Broken Tree will continue operating its mobile pizza oven by catering weddings, parties and community events like Future Neenah's Wednesday Evening concert series in Shattuck Park. "The mobile trailer is really the anchor of what we do," Schreiner says. "It's how we started and continues to be a very large part of our business, besides the brick and mortar location."

### ISLAND SUSHI, APPLETON

"We were running out of space," explains Alison Porter, owner of Island Sushi on Eisenhower Drive in Appleton. "We lost many customers because of waits and lack of elbow room." After knocking down the wall of the former cocktail lounge next door, elbow room is no longer a problem for the sushi bar which expanded in December. The new space allows for 12 additional seats and more room for those waiting to be seated. The expansion also includes the addition of a bar. "Since the bar was already there when we knocked down the wall, we just took it over," says Porter, "We are still a small restaurant, but now we are comfortably small." The entire restaurant can now seat 70. Looking to the future, Porter says she is looking for a second location in Oshkosh. The new location will be the second Island Sushi under Porter and the third in the region.



### LINDO MICHOACAN, APPLETON

In October, Lindo Michoacan expanded to the storefront next door within its strip mall on Richmond Street. Owner Pedro Juarez says he had been looking to expand ever since acquiring the building in 2015. "As soon as we got the space and signed the lease in 2015, I knew we would have to somehow negotiate to get more space," he says. The biggest reason for the expansion was to shorten the wait time for guests. The new space was previously a Bose Mobile, but the store relocated and Juarez jumped at the opportunity to expand. Along with now being able to seat 100 guests, the expansion includes a full-service bar and a private party room. "The private room is great for events," explains Juarez. "Bigger families can have a more private dining experience." Juarez hopes to finish the remodel to give Lindo Michoacan a more vintage feel with the addition of a more adult-friendly space. "We are working on getting more wood for the walls and plan on creating a tequila lounge."

Continued

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## FfT: Fresh Takes

From new owners to name changes, these old standbys shook things up this year.

### New Name:

#### STONE ARCH BREWPUB, APPLETON

The brewpub formerly known as Stone Cellar officially changed its name to Stone Arch Brewpub in February to align the brand with its beverage offerings. Stone Arch Brewpub in Appleton will continue to serve locally-sourced dishes including salads, burgers, pub favorites and



pizza. Co-owner Steve Lonsway says when the business began selling their handcrafted beer commercially in 2011, they discovered the Stone Cellar trademark was already reserved. They adapted by labeling the beer Stone Arch Handcrafted Beer. “The new name combines it all into one and hopefully ends any confusion,” Lonsway says. Unbeknownst to Lonsway, the brewpub’s new name was actually years in the making. When he and his father, Tom, took ownership of the business in 2004, they made an interesting discovery that would inspire the Stone Arch name. “When we did some remodeling to the building, we found an extravagant stone arch that had been walled off and that sparked the whole thing,” he says. “It was always in the back of our minds and now we are falling back on that name years later.”

### New Concept:

#### MOJITOS MODERN LATIN CUISINE, APPLETON

Mojitos opened in 2013 as a traditional Mexican grill. Co-owner Shirley Vazquez says the restaurant was rebranded last year as a modern Latin restaurant to offer customers something different from the standard Mexican fare found throughout the Valley. “We thought it would be a great change and would give people more choices,” says Vazquez, who also owns Sangria’s Mexican Grill in Appleton with her husband, Luis. Mojitos was entirely remodeled last summer with the opening of their third restaurant, Draft Gastropub, which shares a building but operates independently from Mojitos. Renovations included the addition of a bar, updated decor and new lighting. The menu also got a facelift. “We offer lomo saltado, which is like a Peruvian stir-fry, that has turned out to be quite popular,” Vazquez says. Other popular dishes include the Argentine steak chimichurri and Brazilian cachaca-marinated picana. Vazquez suggests washing your meal down with a pisco sour or caipirinha, the national cocktail of Brazil. “We update the menu seasonally, so we keep everything fresh and new,” she says.

### New Owner:

#### MICHIELS BAR AND GRILL, MENASHA

On April 1, Monte Michiels passed down his restaurant to another Michiels: his niece, Jennifer. “Monte was looking to retire and I was looking to stay in the restaurant business, so it worked out well,” she says. Jennifer has been working in the restaurant business for the past 12 years. Beginning at Fox Banquets Rivertyme Catering while in high school, Jennifer started out setting tables for wedding receptions. “I worked there throughout high school and college,” she says. “My last position there was in sales and marketing.” Though the building was sold in late 2016, catering still remains with Jennifer in her new position. “We changed the name from Fox Banquets Rivertyme Catering to Michiels Catering; it’s still very successful,” Jennifer explains. While taking on this new

position is somewhat intimidating, Jennifer has the whole Michiels clan behind her; her father who previously co-owned the restaurant is now in the kitchen. Looking to the future, Jennifer hopes to make some changes in the restaurant, particularly the food. “Throughout the next year, I want to freshen up our menu and size it down,” she says.

### New Owner:

#### WORLD OF BEER, APPLETON

Wogernese Hospitality Group took ownership of World of Beer last December. CEO Brian Wogernese says his company currently operates 70 hotels in 15 states, primarily Cobblestone Inn & Suites locations. “We usually only do restaurants as a component of hotels, but were interested in this seeing as we are locally-based in Neenah and we could keep a close eye on it,” Wogernese says. The tavern-style restaurant features 50 beers on tap that are constantly changing as well as 500 bottles that stay relevantly consistent. (FYI: there isn’t a host at the door, so just seat yourself.) The restaurant celebrated its second birthday last month by rolling out a new menu with items like a butcher board loaded with artisan cheeses, green chili



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## HOT DISH: Eggs Monterey

Fratellos Waterfront Restaurant, Appleton

Housed in the original Vulcan Hydroelectric Power Plant overlooking the Fox River is Fratellos Waterfront Restaurant, a well-known destination for diners seeking a flawless lunch or dinner with a view. In October, the restaurant expanded its repertoire to include weekend brunch, served from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Menu options range from fresh and unique to familiar favorites, but one of the signature items is the eggs monterey – two poached eggs over crab cakes, sliced tomatoes and sautéed spinach on a toasted croissant drizzled with hollandaise sauce. Got a sweet tooth? Go for the Nutella and banana pancakes or blueberry cream french toast.



chicken nachos and a spicy Italian flatbread. Wogernese says they will be adding more special events, like beer tastings, in the months ahead as well as working on upgrades to their outdoor patio that will be finished by summer.

### New Concept: SCOOP DOGS, NEENAH

Broken Tree Pizza owner Keith Schreiner bought Neenah's popular ice cream destination, Cherry On Top Ice Cream Shop, last year and relocated it next to his pizza restaurant on Wisconsin Avenue. In February, the ice cream shop was rebranded with a new name and concept – Scoop Dogs, a Chicago-style grill and

ice cream shop. Diehards needn't worry. Scoop Dogs will continue serving Chocolate Shoppe brand ice cream, just with some new menu items added. "We'd gotten a lot of comments about the gyros place that closed in downtown Neenah and people missed that, so we are bringing gyros back downtown," Schreiner says. In addition to gyros, Scoop Dogs will offer Italian beef sandwiches, polish sausages, brats, Vienna beef hot dogs, Chicago dogs and a menu of specialty dogs with unique toppings. "It's like what we have done with our pizza at Broken Tree," Schreiner says. "We are taking a basic product and making it a little different."

Continued

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## ASK CHEF JEFF

Have a culinary question for Chef Jeff?  
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Community Chat.

**Q.** What's the secret to homemade fries? Whenever I make mine (which I bake in the oven) they are never as crispy as I would like. Help! — Alex, Menasha



**A.** Homemade fries are delicious, but achieving fries like the ones served in restaurants and other food service outlets are challenging to duplicate. A really good fry is crispy on the outside and fluffy on the inside. To achieve this, the potato has to be completely cooked to the middle which really is the easy part. It doesn't take a lot of cooking time to get the fry done all the way to the middle, depending of course on how thick it is cut. The crispy outside is best achieved by frying in hot fat. Trying to duplicate deep frying with oven frying is almost impossible because the hot air does not provide the same intensity as a food being submerged in hot fat. For best results, blanch your cut fries in water for a few minutes, which will remove some of the excess starch from the potato and begin the cooking process. Drain and dry the fries, even consider drying them uncovered in your refrigerator overnight. When ready to cook, toss them lightly in a neutral oil like canola and place them in your oven at the highest temperature you can and oven fry them until done, which will depend on the size of the fry. This should get you closer to the fries you are looking for, Alex!

► To read more from Chef Jeff and get his recipes, go to [foxcitiesmagazine.com](http://foxcitiesmagazine.com) and click on columns.

Chef Jeff Igel is Program Director of Culinary Outreach at Fox Valley Technical College, Appleton. "Chef Jeff" has spent his entire career in the restaurant and hospitality industry, serving in many capacities.



## FfT: World-Class Cuisine

In the Fox Cities, diners can have the world on a string as the past 12 months have seen a surge of delicacies from around the globe.

### Spain: CASTILLA BISTRO & TAPAS

Offering small plates and Spanish style tapas, Castilla Bistro & Tapas opened on July 28 in Grand Chute. Owner Conrado Lopez, who also owns Il Angolo in downtown Appleton, says this new venture was the brainchild of his brother and business partner, Oscar Lopez. "He was the one who came to the conclusion that there wasn't a restaurant here like this that served tapas, so we found the place and he began coming up with recipes," Lopez says. The menu features authentic Spanish tapas like champiñones con ajo (sauteed mushrooms with garlic, white wine and fresh herbs), croquetas Castilla (bechamel croquettes with a choice of jamon serrano or spinach) and patatas a la riojana (potatoes with Spanish chorizo). "About



75 percent of our food, cheeses and dried meats are imported from Spain which is unique," Lopez says. For a truly authentic experience, Lopez recommends the traditional Spanish seafood paella made with saffron risotto rice and a seafood medley including scallops, mussels and fish. It pairs well with Castilla's made-from-scratch sangria, or anything off the restaurant's craft cocktail menu for that matter.

### Peru: PISCO MAR

Laura Saintgeours and her business partner, Hugo Torres, introduced the Fox Valley to Peruvian cuisine in November 2016. Their restaurant, Pisco Mar, opened its doors in the

### Sayonara, Cy's

Cy's Asian Bistro, a staple of downtown Neenah since 1999, closed its doors for an undetermined length of time last November. Owners Cy and Vong Thounsavath stated they plan to keep their licenses active and don't intend to lease the building which keeps their loyal band of regulars hopeful of their eventual return, although no definitive timeline was given.

former location of Flanagan's Wine Review in downtown Appleton. The restaurant serves Latin food with a Peruvian twist. Diners will notice the menu's emphasis on fresh seafood, which makes sense given the restaurant's name ("mar" means sea in Spanish). Saintgeours says Peru is famous for its ceviche, so it's a staple on Pisco Mar's menu as well. It comes in several variations including fish, shrimp, octopus, scallops or a mix. Another must-try dish is the palta rellena de camarones – stuffed avocado with marinated shrimp and a mild chipotle sauce. The cozy restaurant can accommodate parties of all sizes from couples to large celebrations. "We want people to enjoy a casual, yet sophisticated meal with their family, friends or a date," Saintgeours says.

### Vietnam: PHO SAIGON

After originally opening in May 2016, Pho Saigon Vietnamese Cuisine closed over the summer to repair extensive water damage and reopened in October. Despite its slow start, the restaurant has been going strong since, attracting a diverse clientele who share one common trait: a serious pho obsession. Pho, a traditional Vietnamese noodle soup, comes in many forms, but Manager Jared McGinn says his favorite variations are sliced beef and brisket. In addition to pho, the menu includes appetizers, rice and noodle dishes, as well as Thai specialties. McGinn recommends that guests also check out the restaurant's extensive drink menu. "We have a big drink menu with things like bubble tea, Vietnamese coffee and Thai tea that are unique to this area," he says.

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**HOT DISH:** Italian Amarena Cherries & Cream and Giandua Gelato

*The Knotted Cone, Gelato Co., Appleton*

Last year, Knotted Cone owner Kathy Turek spent two months studying at Carpigiani Gelato University in Bologna, Italy and received certifications while working under several professional gelato chefs. Turek returned to Appleton and opened her speciality gelato and sorbet truck on September 1. Watch for the truck this spring as it roams the Fox Cities serving flavors like Italian Amarena cherries & cream made with Italy's finest sour, yet sweet cherries. Pair it with a scoop of Giandua gelato, a combination of hazelnut and milk chocolate, for a flavor combination that is pure heaven.

*China & Japan:*  
**BAMBOO CHINESE AND JAPANESE RESTAURANT**

Bamboo opened in April 2016, taking over the former spot of Confucius Restaurant in Appleton. The family-owned restaurant serves Chinese and Japanese cuisine including favorites like kung pao chicken, orange beef, lo mein and hibachi chicken and steak. Chuan Shun Chen owns the restaurant with his father who, serendipitously, was the chef for Confucius Restaurant back when it opened in 2004. "My

dad worked in restaurants for over a decade," Chen says. "We were always searching for an opportunity for ourselves. Then this location was available right when we were looking for it." Bamboo's sushi offerings are second-to-none, says Chen, who recommends the Appleton Roll with shrimp tempura, mango, spicy crabmeat and a mango honey wasabi sauce.

*Mexico:*  
**EL AGAVE MEXICAN GRILL**

Originally from Eau Claire, co-owners Rafael Ramirez and Pedro Huerta decided the Fox Valley was the perfect location to establish their first restaurant which opened in July 2016. "We were looking for a building last year and we found this one. We thought it was a good opportunity," Ramirez says. The restaurant serves authentic Mexican food including enchiladas, tacos and of course, margaritas (which

are buy one, get one free all day on Monday and Tuesday). Ramirez recommends diners try the Super Burrito stuffed with shrimp, scallops, carnitas, rice, beans and green sauce, topped with cheese sauce, lettuce, tomato and sour cream. Another popular feature is the Fajita Nortena – a mix of chicken, shrimp, scallops and onions, topped with pineapple rings, cherries and cheese sauce. Ramirez says he plans to up the restaurant's patio game come summer with additional outdoor seating and specials.



# BEER RECIPES

If you think beer's only culinary purpose is to provide an onion-infused bath for your brat, chances are you are not alone. Chef Peter Kuenzi, owner of Zuppas Café & Catering, 1540 S. Commercial St., Neenah, says beer has actually been a staple in the culinary toolbox long before shows such as Food Network's "Chopped" introduced the concept of integrating unorthodox components into dishes.

"There's always been beer in cooking," Kuenzi says.

Whether you're pairing a beer with a dessert course or using a porter-style brew to create a glaze, Kuenzi encourages home cooks to take risks and not be afraid of failing when integrating beer into their dishes.

"Observe where the natural marriages lie between your ingredients and the beer and go from there," he says. "Citrus often lends itself to seafood, so select a beer that highlights citrus notes like lemon or lime.

Steaming mussels in a citrus beer can infuse flavor."

Kuenzi suggests this simple steamed mussels recipe featuring New Belgium Tartastic. With lemon notes and hints of ginger, the beer complements the mussels which make a crisp, warm-weather appetizer or meal.



**NEW BELGIUM TARTASTIC STEAMED MUSSELS**

Ingredients

- 2 lbs Prince Edward Island Mussels
- 2 bottles New Belgium Tartastic (1 for cooking, 1 for drinking)
- 2 shallots, diced
- 2 cloves minced garlic
- 1 tsp minced fresh ginger
- 1 cup coconut milk
- pinch of salt and pepper
- 1 tsp chopped cilantro
- 1 bay leaf

Instructions

Rinse off mussels for any sand or grit and place in large stock pot. Add Tartastic beer, shallots, garlic, ginger, coconut milk, bay leaf and a pinch of salt and pepper. Cover and bring to a boil. Remove from heat, placing mussels and broth in a serving platter. Garnish with chopped cilantro and serve with crusty bread for dipping into the broth. Enjoy immediately.

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# Yardening 101

By Sarah C. Spencer

Garden Majic by Ken Greshowak

*From front yard gardens to backyard mini meadows, yardening incorporates edibles and expands the traditional garden plot to encompass an entire yard's landscape.*



## **Did You Say Yardening?**

Yes, yardening!

"Yardening is the blissful marriage of a yard and a garden," says Margaret Mary Gerhard, yardening pioneer, enthusiast and speaker.

Think yards blooming with native grasses, wildflowers, herbs and veggies; rain gardens, backyard prairies, raised garden beds and more.

"I started planting mugwort, oregano and chives next to and amongst my lilies, anemones, heirloom peonies and spiderwort," says Gerhard, who eventually recycled her entire lawn when she realized it didn't serve her the way fresh flowers, mint and lemon balm did.

Steve Schultz, president of Outagamie County Master Gardener Association, says that yardening is representative of a country-wide back-to-nature trend, and isn't just for the home; it's for schools, communities and businesses too.

"Yardening is a way to add more variety to an outdoor space and learn about plant and food sources at the same time," Schultz says. "People want to know where their food comes from. It's

neat to see kids who've only ever known perfectly machine-shaped, store-bought carrots discover what a carrot really looks like."

## **Yardening for Benefits**

While the uniformity of a manicured lawn can be pleasing to the eye, a landscape mimicking the natural world can offer much more than just visual appeal.

Schultz says "exercise, exposure to fresh air, flexibility, strength in lifting, as well as a sense of inner peace and enjoyment," are just a few of the benefits you'll experience.

Yardening can also foster community connection.

"People often stop to ask me what type of plant this or that is," Schultz says. "They'd never guess rhubarb or horseradish could have such big beautiful leaves. I've met a lot of people that way."

Harvesting edibles, like dandelion, burdock and mullein, says Gerhard, can also save you big bucks.

"Weeds are tasty and nutritious, and often

## Upcoming Event

### Yardening: Reusing and Recycling with Margaret Gerhard April 13

Presented by Fox Valley Sierra Club, learn how to make your own yard art, save the earth and some money too. 7-8pm. Gordon Bubolz Nature Preserve, Appleton. 730-9515.



Photo courtesy of Pepperwolf

Go to [foxcitiesmagazine.com](http://foxcitiesmagazine.com) for more yardening event information.

## Overcoming the Challenges

Though yardening offers up innumerable benefits, it takes work, says Schultz.

"Gardens aren't always beautiful year-round. Maintenance is key. Annual plants like tomatoes will die, and you need to be diligent in picking up fruits and vegetables that have gone bad," he says.

Perry agrees, but points out maintenance is less intensive than with a conventional lawn.

"Planting something that is struggling less with nature takes less work," she says. "Prairies are native to our region; they've evolved and adapted to our conditions, so they have a built-in survival benefit."

In addition, some neighbors may be concerned by yardening. Before you start, advises Schultz, talk to your neighbors about what you're trying to accomplish and why. Avoid taking your garden up to your neighbor's property line. "Most neighbors want to see at least some grass, such as a small strip between the sidewalk, their yard and yours."

Perhaps the biggest challenge yardeners face is the law. City codes often specify what plants are considered noxious weeds and how high grasses are allowed to grow in urban areas.

To learn what your city's codes are, contact the Wild Ones, says Perry. "Send a message on our website's contact page and we'll put you in touch with the right person."

Continued

powerful, good medicine," she says. "Most are actually herbs, and are pricey when sold in health food shops. One of my most welcome spring dishes is sautéed dandelion greens with herbs and garlic."

The list of benefits goes on. Working native grasses, wildflowers, shrubs, fruit-bearing trees and edibles into your native landscape diversifies your yard's ecosystem, supports healthy soil, reduces flooding and stormwater runoff and provides privacy from neighbors. It saves you time, money and labor, and creates an oasis for birds, bugs, and butterflies.

"There are lots of benefits for wildlife," says Joy Perry, chair of the Speaker's Bureau from the Wild Ones of the Fox Valley Area. "Birds, insects, pollinators all evolved on native plants. If more people create natural corridors for birds, we can give them more habitat and food sources when they migrate."



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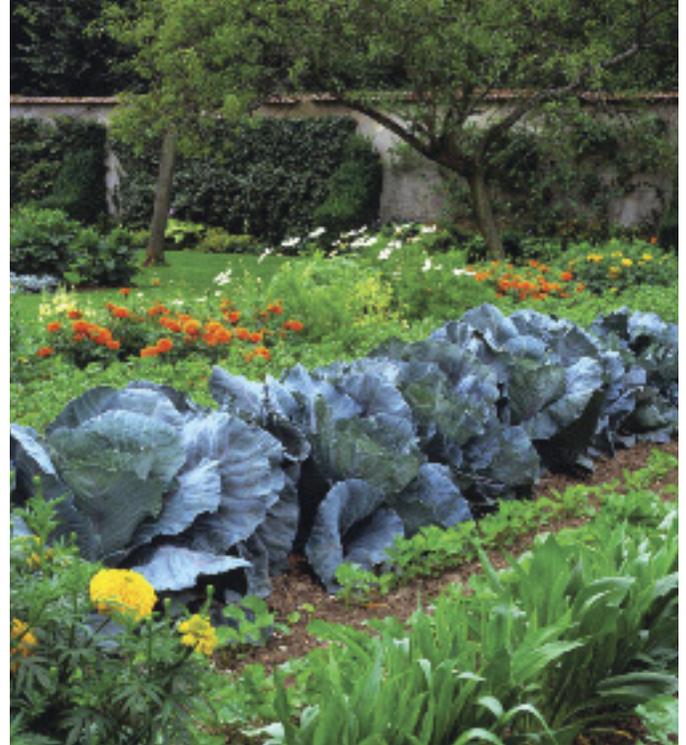
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## Start Small

Gerhard, Schultz and Perry suggest potential gardeners begin by asking these questions:

Do I want to ...

- simply add variety to my lawn?
- make it a neighborhood destination or personal art project?
- create a more natural, sustainable environment such as a prairie?
- harvest herbs and vegetables, make medicinals or have fresh flowers for my home?



Once you define your goals, advises Schultz, don't dig up your whole yard right away.

"Instead try using planters, or pots, or raised beds," he says.

Kim Diaz, event coordinator for the Green Bay Garden Blitz, says buying a garden box or volunteering during the weekend of the Blitz is a great way to introduce yourself to edible gardening too. The public can pre-order raised garden boxes on their website, and on May 5, 6 and 7 volunteers will install them if you live within a 10 mile radius of the Brown County UW-Extension hub.

"It's a great way to learn how easy it is and the many reasons why growing your own food is so important," Diaz says.

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## WHERE TO DINE

### Basil Café

1513 N. Richmond St., Appleton 830-6741  
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### Café Debé

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