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Building upon the past | Parade of Homes Special Section | Dock for dinner

August 2015

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What Is Possible is an easy drive to suburban Milwaukee.
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By Amy Hanson

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
Visit foxcitiesmagazine.com to register for a free online account by clicking on “Events” in the top navigation and then the “Click here to submit your event” box. Fill out the form and your account will be approved within 24–48 hours. Events will be considered for both print and online calendars. Contact Associate Editor Amy Hanson at edit@foxcitiesmagazine.com for assistance.

On the Cover
“Lawrence Fly-By” by Jared Birkholz of Appleton. Birkholz is the grand prize winner of this year’s People, Places & Things Photo Contest.
Cross stitch has come along way. In fact, for creative artist Beth Hudak it’s a craft that hasn’t outrun its course. “I think it’s taking people a while to not just think of cross stitch as something your grandmother does,” Hudak notes. “What I’m able to provide in cross stitch can maybe clarify what fiber art can be.”

The 31-year-old Green Bay resident has brought her take on subversive cross stitch, with catchy phrases influenced by pop culture including reality TV, films, song lyrics and current literature, to the area with scented sachets, pillows and more. While she says everything is slightly “silly,” Hudak doesn’t take the fun side for granted.

“I love to make things. I would make pretty much anything,” she shares. “I feel very lucky to have whimsy in my world.”

Hudak also has done “pseudo taxidermy” by making gold leaf dinosaur skulls and creating jewelry pieces, like earrings, from diodes and electrical parts. The Ohio transplant came across the later pieces and couldn’t pass up the potential she saw in them. “I saw them and was like, ‘Oh, those look like pretty beads,’” Hudak says.

She followed her fiancé, and now husband, to the Dairy State from Columbus, Ohio in 2013. Her family has had a cottage in the Rhinelander area for more than 100 years so she’s “very familiar with Wisconsin.” Hudak left behind a job with a small nonprofit, but gained the opportunity to figure out her skills and what she wanted to do next.

“I actually got to explore crafts in a way outside of relieving stress,” she explains. Hudak spent a year almost exclusively creating before she moved into a position with another nonprofit.

“I was amazed with the welcoming artistic community here,” Hudak says. “My passion is in creative problem solving, as well as creating things.” Initially, Hudak thought she’d just do custom pieces, but was surprised to find “(people) liked what I liked.” She’s excited to see what comes of her wares as she begins to sell them and get her website, bethhudak.com, up and running.

“I’m also a big fan of knitting, but I’m not a very good knitter,” Hudak confesses, even though she started at age 6 or 7 and learned from her mother. “Creativity was always encouraged, whether it was creative thinking or actually creating,” Hudak says of her childhood.

Hudak plots her cross stitch designs using graph paper and spends about 30 hours a week on projects while talking on the phone, on FaceTime with friends or listening to podcasts. Hudak also is hoping she can take up reading while cross stitching since she’s figured out how to read and knit at the same time.

So, where does Hudak find her materials?

“I love craft stores, it’s a terrible addiction!” Hudak exclaims. “I’ll always keep an eye out for things that could be used in a different way. … It’s terrible, I’m like a hoarder.” Yard sales, thrift stores, and even Home Depot have all produced unexpected finds for Hudak in a variety of colors, shapes and sizes. She recently cleaned out her craft room and found oodles of yarn, fabric, rolls of tape, 300 needles and paper crafting items.

“It’s all beautiful, so I can’t get rid of it — ever,” she says with a mock cringe of the paper leftover from her wedding that she used to make flowers. But, there are always more projects in the queue, like Halloween costumes or what to do with upholstery fabric she picked up during a treasure hunt.

“Now I have a ton of vinyl that I need to figure out something more exciting to do with than just envelope clutches,” she says.

— By Amy Hanson

Name: Beth Hudak
Residence: Green Bay
Medium: Fiber and creative arts
Price range: $5–$20 depending on piece; custom work varies

**ARTIST SPOTLIGHT**

**Leaving people in stitches**

Hudak tries her hand at subversive cross stitch, unexpected crafts

**HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT**

Do you recognize this local architectural detail?

Send us your answer along with your name and address no later than Aug. 12, 2015.

Correct submissions will be entered in a drawing for a $25 gift certificate to

Submit your entry to info@foxcitiesmagazine.com or FOX CITIES Magazine P.O. Box 2496 Appleton, WI 54912

**JUNE WINNER**

Gary McGoey, Appleton
Answer: Roosevelt Middle School, Appleton
New name, same mission

Exciting changes have been happening for the family medicine clinic tucked into a nook along the river on South Morrison Street. On July 1, 2015, UW Health Fox Valley Family Medicine officially became Mosaic Family Health, and local health systems Ministry Health Care and ThedaCare assumed sponsorship of the clinic. In addition, the residency program that makes its home at the clinic changed affiliations from the UW School of Medicine and Public Health to the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW). Although the clinic has a new look and the residency program has a new academic partner, the mission is unchanged: to provide full-scope family medicine services while training future physicians and improving the overall health of the Fox Cities.

Local care
These changes allow the clinic to continue providing local access to high-quality care for more than 6,000 patients. Through its new affiliation with MCW, the Fox Valley Family Medicine Residency Program’s academic partner now provides more resources from Milwaukee and the Green Bay campus. The change presents creative opportunities for growth of the clinic and residency program. Annually, about 50 percent of the program’s graduates remain in Northeastern Wisconsin. In partnership with MCW and the community, Mosaic Family Health is addressing Wisconsin’s pending physician shortage.

Full-scope services
At Mosaic Family Health, patients help teach doctors, enjoy longer appointments and are treated with deep respect. The clinic goes above and beyond to provide patients with caring conversation and quality medical attention.

Faculty doctors and resident physicians work together to provide holistic care for individuals and families. The clinic provides care and support needed from infancy through adulthood, with the following services:

- Maternity care
- Women’s health care
- Health assessments and physicals
- Acute and chronic illness care
- Minor surgical procedures
- Mental health care
- Hospital care

Community partnerships
Mosaic Family Health’s name reflects its many community collaborations and diverse patient base, all of which form a beautiful mosaic.

The clinic’s doctors also care for patients at St. Elizabeth Hospital and Appleton Medical Center — local hospitals operated by the clinic’s sponsors. Residents collaborate with, and learn from, community physicians, while enhancing the overall health of the Fox Valley by contributing knowledge and fresh perspective to the local medical community.

As part of the clinic’s mission to provide quality care for every stage of life, Mosaic Family Health physicians also regularly see patients and provide needed care at local nursing home Brewster Village.

Mosaic Family Health and the Fox Valley Family Medicine Residency Program are essential partners in improving community health and local quality of life. Look for the new name around town, and check out our new website, mosaicfamilyhealth.org!
Silent Film Series features theater organ, 1920s comedy

John Philip Sousa directs an orchestra to “Stars and Stripes Forever” as beloved actor Harold Lloyd performs onscreen. Sounds of delight erupt as Yankee star Babe Ruth appears in a fun cameo. These were the sights and sounds of the opening night of “Speedy” at the Rivoli Theatre in New York circa 1928. On Aug. 3, the same Academy Award runner-up will be screened at the History Museum at the Castle, accompanied 87 years later by Frank Rippl of the Packerland Theatre Organ Society.

“In the silent film era, theaters in big cities had full orchestras,” explains Emily Rock, curator at the History Museum at the Castle. “For smaller towns, the silent film would be accompanied by the theatre organ. It’s a fun throwback to see it like this.”

“Speedy” stars Lloyd as Harold “Speedy” Swift, striving to save the last horse-drawn street car company in New York. The battle between modernity and nostalgia — trolley out of business — combines with light romance to entertain the whole family.
Kite festival soars to new heights

More than 30,000 people from across the U.S. are expected to flock to one of the largest kite festivals in the Midwest this year. Neshotah Beach in Two Rivers will become a destination to marvel at kites of all shapes, sizes, colors and designs Sept. 5-6 at the 10th annual Kites Over Lake Michigan.

A brand-new performance pavilion on the beach will hold the free community festival’s first live music show Saturday night, with a performance by Boogie & the Yo-Yoz from 8-11 p.m.

This year, another first is planned for Saturday evening by attempting to break the sky lantern record. “Every year that we have done the sky lantern release has been bigger than the previous year, conditions permitting. Last year, we released over 1,000 of them and it was a spectacular sight,” says Chow Chong, owner of Unique Flying Objects, a specialty kite shop that sponsors Kites Over Lake Michigan.

Spectators also can expect to be wowed by giant show kites, a fireworks show and choreographed performances by precision stunt kite flying teams. Chong says these routines hail the most “ohs” and “ahs” from the crowd. “They fly dual- and quad-line kites and absolutely thrill the crowds with their maneuvers and artistry,” he says.

Barbara Meyer, a kite flyer who travels from Maple Grove, Minn., to attend the festival every year, says between the variety of entertainment and the friendly atmosphere, it is nearly impossible to name just one reason why Kites Over Lake Michigan is so great.

“Both the fans and the volunteers are just swell people. You can tell that everyone is having fun,” says Meyer. “This is a festival that is not to be missed.”

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Fair offers fun for everyone

Ferris wheels, food on a stick, festivities and fun. These are just a few of the ideas that come to mind when thinking about a traditional summertime activity — county fairs.

“There will be many new attractions in terms of Junior Class exhibitors and Open Class exhibits,” says Tom Egan, president of the Winnebago County Fair Board. “That makes the fair.”

Participating youth will either now be old enough to exhibit or moving up in class, Egan added of the variety of opportunities for children to become involved in with the fair.

The Winnebago County Fair will take place Aug. 4-9 at the Sunnyview Exposition Center in Oshkosh. Entertainment includes tractor pulls, barrel racing, bull riding, bands and comedy shows. Of course, there will be a variety of good eats and midway rides for the whole family. The fair kicks off on Tuesday night at 5 p.m. and continues through Sunday.

Egan also is anticipating that young and old alike will be drawn to local bands, including Bad Habitz. “They’re a very good, upcoming band. They hit it up very well with the young and older crowds,” Egan says of the returning group, which will perform in the main tent this summer after performing last year in the Expo Tent.

Admission to the fair is $10 in advance or $12 at the door and includes admission onto grounds, Grandstand Shows and unlimited carnival rides.

“Our fair is one of the cheapest ones in the state,” says Egan. “That’s hard to beat at that price, you can’t go to a movie for that these days.”

—By Julia Lammers and Amy Hanson

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**LECTURES, READINGS, DISCUSSIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

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<th>Life on the Bay: A Human History of Green Bay</th>
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<td>Join a naturalist on the shores of Green Bay as we explore the tools, trades and stories of those who have called the Bay home. Afterwards, enjoy a sunset. 7:30-8:15pm. Bay Shore Park, Green Bay. 448-4262.</td>
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| 5, 12 | Get Up and Go History! |
| A guided walking tour of downtown Appleton. Compare historic photos to our changing landscape, discover hidden ghost signs and learn about forgotten historic sites. 6pm. History Museum at the Castle. 735-9170. |

| 5 | Green Bay Historic Architecture Segway Tour |
| Experience the landscape of historic Green Bay like never before. Participants will glide through downtown and the Astor neighborhood to see many of the buildings that shape the identity of this community. 10am, noon, 2pm. Neville Public Museum. 448-4460. |

| 8 | Bilingual Conversation Club |
| Practice your Spanish and English skills with engaging activities while interacting with people from different countries and cultures! 10-11:30am. Menasha Public Library. 731-9831. |

| 10, 24 | Garden to Table Family Series A B |
| Families will harvest fresh produce and learn to prepare a healthy snack. 6-8pm. Green Bay Botanical Garden. 490-9457. |

| 10 | Master Gardeners: Composting |
| In this presentation, the Outagamie County Master Gardeners will demonstrate how to turn your kitchen and yard waste into the best soil amenders. 6:30pm. Little Chute Public Library. 788-7825. |

| 12 | Oshkosh Memory Café |
| The café offers a comforting way for you and your care partner to have fun and socialize with others who are living in the early stages of Alzheimer’s or another dementia. 1-2pm. every second Wednesday of the month. Oshkosh Public Library. 727-5541. |

| 15, 29 | The Bluffs of Bay Shore: A Natural Wonder |
| Join naturalists to explore the geology found at Bay Shore Park. 10:11am. Green Bay. 448-6242. |

| 17 | Memory Café: Luau |
| For those experiencing early stage dementia, mild memory loss or cognitive impairment, and for family and friends of those affected. A great opportunity for information, camaraderie and fun. 1:30-3:30pm. Neenah Public Library. 886-6315. |

| 17 | Suburban Homesteading: Canning Tomatoes |
| A presentation by Christine Kniep, Family Living Educator at Winnebago County UW-Extension. 6-8pm. Neenah Public Library. 886-6315. |

| 18 | Knit2Together |
| Multi-generational knitting circle. Newcomers welcome. 6-9pm. Appleton Public Library. 832-6173. |

| 19 | Downtown Book Club |
Mile 3’ eyes continued success

Mile of Music returns to Appleton on Aug. 6-9 and will feature more than 800 live performances. “Mile 3,” as this year’s festival has been dubbed, will look to build on the success of previous years.

More than 200 artists are set to perform for crowds expected to total around 40,000. Since its inception, Mile of Music has steadily drawn larger and larger crowds because of the fun summer atmosphere provided and the talent displayed on stage.

The main stages will be in Houdini Plaza, Jones Park, Lawrence Memorial Chapel, and OuterEdge Stage. There will be more than 60 other venues featuring live music during this year’s festival.

Mile of Music co-founder and director Dave Willems says this year he looks forward to continued success and expansion. More visual arts, biking events, and even yoga will be incorporated this year. Also, there are plans in the works for artist “pop-ups” in new venues, as well as mobile stages, which will serve to increase excitement and anticipation.

“What I’m most excited to see is how the community evolves with the festival, making it their own,” Willems says. While he has enjoyed the success achieved in recent years, what Willems cherishes most is the community coming together to celebrate new, up-and-coming artists.

VIP tickets are on sale for $140, which will provide exclusive access to events and activities, discounts on Mile of Music-related showcases and merchandise, and admission to the kickoff concert on Aug. 5. For more information, visit miloofmusic.com.

— By Isaac Barthelmess
27 | Invaders in the Landscape
The DNR has released the updated version of the NR40. Come learn if you have plants on the most unwanted list. 5:30-7:30pm. Green Bay Botanical Garden. 490-9457.

31 | Cooking with Sunflower Oil
Learn how sunflower oil can shine in recipes including stir fry, salad dressing, baked goods and popcorn. 6-7:30pm. Green Bay Botanical Garden. 490-9457.

CHILDREN’S EVENTS & CLASSES

3-15 | Summer Science Fun: Electric Science
Explore electricity and all the technology and science behind it. 10am-4pm. Paper Discovery Center, Appleton. 380-7491.

3 | Youth Summer Camp: Nature Explorers
Kids, ages 9-12, will get into nature with games, crafts and adventures. 9:30am-12pm. Green Bay Botanical Garden. 490-9457.

3 | Garden Shutterbugs for Families
Learn about photo composition and basic operations with photographer Marc Amenson. Designed for families with children ages 5-12. 5:30-7pm. Green Bay Botanical Garden. 490-9457.

4, 11, 18, 25 | Children’s Story Time
Drop in for stories, songs and activities all with a garden or nature theme. 10am. Green Bay Botanical Garden. 490-9457.

4, 11, 18, 25 | Young Artists Mask-Making Mayhem
During this fun class, students will create a papier-mache mask and decorate it. Rahr-West Art Museum, Manitowoc. 11am-12pm. 686-3090.

5 | Crime Scene Investigator Experience
Explore the basics of forensic science in a fun way and learn how the scientific labs of crime scene investigators work to identify “who done it.” Neville Public Museum, Green Bay. 9am-noon & 1-4pm. 448-4460.

5 | Family Nature Night: Pond Life
Learn about the plants and animals that come out in the evening. 5:30-6:30pm. Green Bay Botanical Garden. 490-9457.

7 | Wisconsin Public Television’s Get UP and Go! Day
Children and their caregivers are invited to this free family friendly event featuring music, dancing, hands-on activities and crafts and more, with a special appearance by PBS Kid’s “Super Why!” 10am-noon. Jones Park, Appleton. 832-4950.

8 | Pooches and Pages
Children read aloud to registered therapy dogs that are gentle, calm and polite and listen patiently without judgment. 10-11:30am. Neenah Public Library. 886-6335.

12, 14, 15 | Storybook Stars Presents: The Berenstain Bears
Join us in the Mielke Family Theater for listening to the story read aloud, meeting the stars of the book and make a take-home craft. 10-10:30am & 2-3:30pm. Building for Kids, Appleton. 734-3226.

19, 20 | Summer Day Camp: Nature Scene Investigators
Grab your detective hats and follow clues to embark on this garden adventure! Ages 6-8 Wed. Ages 9-12 Thurs. 9:30am-3:30pm. Green Bay Botanical Garden. 490-9457.

21 | Children’s Story & Activity Time
Join The Trout Museum of Art for an hour of fun and an exciting story surrounded by Norman Rockwell’s iconic artwork. 10-11am. Appleton. 733-4089.

21 | Garden Sprouts: Veggie Fun!
Sprouts will harvest various vegetables growing in the Children’s Garden, return to the classroom and make a tasty treat to take home. Designed for ages 3-5 and one accompanying adult. 10-11:30am. Green Bay Botanical Garden. 490-9457.

22 | Family Studio: Sun Print Surprise
Drop by the the 5th floor of The Trout Museum of Art to create art as a family with this fun opportunity to engage in hands-on creative projects. Harness the power of the sun to create a print of your own design. 9:30am-1pm. Appleton. 733-4089.

Calendar listings submitted to FOX CITIES Magazine are subject to change. The public is welcome to submit events online or to calendar@foxcitiesmagazine.com. = Reservation required.
Fox Locks restoration project hopes to bring flexibility, recreational interest to riverfront

On Aug. 25, the Fox River Navigational System Authority will be holding a celebration for the 10-year anniversary of their initial restoration efforts of the Fox Locks. The event will be held at the Kaukauna Locks, 1008 Augustine St. in Kaukauna.

Towns along the Fox River have used river locks to allow full navigation of the river since the 1850s. They were maintained by the Wisconsin Corps of Engineers until 1983, but were neglected due to costs. The Fox River Navigational Authority was created in the early 2000s to restore the locks for recreational and commercial use after demands for a working locks system grew stronger over the years.

“The Fox Locks system benefits the economy by promoting tourism and recreation and enhancing community riverfront development,” says Harlan Kiesow, the current CEO of the Fox River Navigational System Authority. The initial stage of the restoration project began in 2005 and was completed earlier this year. Further projects will include a boat transfer and cleansing station to address concerns of invasive species entering Lake Winnebago.

In addition to the restoration of the locks themselves, several stations will have additional renovations to attract public interest. For example, the De Pere lock station will have a small coffee shop constructed and the Appleton No. 3 lock station will have a visitor’s center to show visitors the importance of the Fox Locks.

“The restoration of the Fox Locks preserves a unique resource that showcases the river history of the Fox Valley for local residents and visitors,” says Kiesow. As the restoration continues, local residents will be able to enjoy the river to a greater extent.

—By Daniel Davis

Did you know?
An insert from the Fox River Navigational System Authority has been included in this issue. Please see the center of the magazine for more information.
As the old adage goes, what’s old is new again. Such is the case for homes being showcased by five companies with entries in this year’s Valley Home Builders Association Summer Parade of Homes that will incorporate reclaimed materials.

The 38th parade will include 34 homes and be held throughout the Fox Cities Aug. 22-23 and 27-30, with remodeling and landscape projects open Aug. 28-30. Tickets are available online at vhbaparadeofhomes.com, via the mobile app, at the VHBA office and all homes during event hours.

“Beginning in February with the 2015 Winter Parade of Homes, we started selling tickets online,” says Heidi Zich, VHBA executive vice president. “We now track those ticket redemptions per home via a QR code that is scanned by a smart phone or tablet. This produces great information for the builders at the conclusion of the event. We also have a brand-new website dedicated solely to the parade and an updated mobile app.”

Zich notes that about ¾ of attendees go to the parade for entertainment, while the remaining ¼ have an interest in building, buying, remodeling or redecorating. Whatever your motivation, there are plenty of tips and tricks to be seen at this year’s parade.

**ALEXANDER HOMES, LLC**

Sandra and Troy Blob will be making their own home in one of their two entries from Alexander Homes, LLC in this year’s Parade of Homes. The Alexander Homes member and president, respectively, chose to incorporate reclaimed materials into their Greenville home’s design when Sandra found a piece at a store that she envisioned being part of her home’s esthetic. Fortunately for her, the table sold and she was left to figure out a way to create one. Alexander Homes had used barn wood, sourced from different barns, previously on mantles in homes they built and was able to build a table that mirrored the look of the one Sandra had spotted.

“We started going with a little rustic theme,” Sandra says. “With the table I found and my husband found the barn wood, this all came together. ... It just gives the house a little something extra special.”

While Sandra loves the unique nature of the table, it’s not the only item in the Blob’s home where the wood has been incorporated. Reclaimed boards also were used in the basement to create lockers and a bench in a mud room area, along with a theater bar area, vanity, and upstairs mantle and entertainment center.

“Once we started with it, we saw how it would all come together,” Sandra says. “We were always planning to do the mantle.”

She wanted to tie the reclaimed look throughout their home to make it cohesive and cozy. Finishing touches like a ladder purchased from an antique store add to the ambiance, which Sandra is hoping parade-goers identify with.

**GRIFFIN BUILDERS INC.**

Foundry brick recovered from Milwaukee, brown board and tobacco lath all will be incorporated into features in the Griffin Builders Inc. home on Purdy Parkway in Appleton. The materials will be highlighted in the lower-level pub and hearth room fireplace in the home that has been sold on contract, shares designer Amy Griffin.

“Naturally, we all have this subconscious desire to honor our history. When we start seeing these products and materials being reused, it pays homage to those who came before us,” Griffin says.

“I think all of it is rather humbling.”

The pub will feature a brick built-in structure with columns and the back wall will showcase the brick, along with brown board, or the non-painted side of barn boards, on the interior of the columns. A two-inch solid reclaimed material also will be used for the shelves and counters, Griffin explains.

Griffin Builders is no stranger to using reclaimed materials. In fact, they’ve worked with it for more than 10 years. The business’ Appleton office space incorporates a variety of materials they’ve worked with, including wood found on the Door County side of Wisconsin after the Peshtigo Fire and wood from a Jim Beam distillery. Griffin notes that there is a “charm” to reclaimed materials and she often wonders about the stories the wood could tell. For individuals she has worked with, the stories can be personal and circle back to childhood.

“Like a lot of things, it’s just taken that long to see enough of it and now it’s become exponential,” she says of reclaimed materials. Griffin enjoys using it in unexpected ways by juxtaposing the wood or other materials against something modern from the floor to the ceiling. Finished basements and accent walls have been popular. Most clients start with “bits and pieces,” Griffin says.

“That can make it feel like a very casual room, and yet at the same time, if you’re entertaining it can feel like a very formal room,” Griffin adds. “I always tell people to go with your heart. ... It’s about you and how you’re going to use your home.”

**HEADLINER HOMES, LLC**

Headliner Homes, LLC’s Neenah parade entry will feature reclaimed and modern materials throughout the whole home from reclaimed mica.
in the first-floor powder room to concrete countertops with butcher block in
the kitchen, along with a brick wall in the dining room using materials from
a building in Chicago and a hand-hewn mantle in the three-seasons room.

“Reclaimed stuff is actually more expensive than new stuff by far. It just
depends where you want to put it,” says Katie McGuire, owner and principal
designer of Collaborations, LLC, who works with Headliner Homes.

“Like Katie said, you have to pick your battles though because the costs
add up quickly,” says Ryan Smith, owner of Headliner Homes, who says
reclaimed materials are on average double the cost. “It’s usually the touches
and mix to make it all flow.”

Smith enjoys being able to push the envelope with his homes and
appreciates when clients give him creative freedom. His focus is aligning
creativity with the continuity of the design.

“When all is said and done, you won’t know if this lumber is old or new,”
he says motioning around the room.

“If you do it throughout the whole home, it looks like it was planned out
from the beginning,” McGuire adds.

Still, it takes a lot of time, effort and energy from sourcing materials to
executing a design to get it all just right. And, of course, building with
reclaimed materials isn’t without its challenges and flexibility is important,
Smith notes.

“(Clients) know what they want to see, they can see it in their mind, but
it’s only available when its available,” he adds.

**Midwest Design Homes**

Metals from factories, barn board mantles and industrial lighting is what
Katie Jane Ferrito, designer and new home consultant with Midwest Design
Homes, is finding clients are gravitating toward. Midwest Design Homes will
include a spec design located in the Clearwater Creek subdivision in
Appleton in this year’s parade. The home’s design will include a steal ceiling
and barn door.

“I think it’s just something different that people like that patina or
natural look,” Ferrito explains. “It’s time for things to get a little rustic.”
Barn doors are an updated take on an older design trend.

“The barn doors right now are what people really like,” Ferrito says. “People have always gravitated to pocket doors and this functions like that, but gives them something pretty to look at.”

Ferrito likes to mix elements together, even though materials like barn wood and metal are opposites from an esthetic perspective. Basement bars, great rooms and tray ceilings in bedrooms are all getting the reclaimed treatment, along with floors, kitchens, dining areas and mantles.

“Everyone likes a little bit of it. At least one little touch,” she adds.

**VKB Homes, LLC**

A Neenah home, bought as an estate purchase in December 2014, was “a diamond in the rough” for interior designer Misty Hermanson of VKB Homes, LLC. The first-time entry from the company that specializes in flipping homes is a house built in 1931 with a completely changed floor plan. Hermanson and her husband, Rich, began the project in March 2015 and finished it at the end of June.

“I knew instantly I wanted to take this character and charm, and put a modern flair on it for a family who would appreciate this kind of architecture with modern touches,” Hermanson says. “With flipping, we have a tight budget, it’s not just about restoring and reclaiming.”

Because of the nature of the homes that VKB Homes works with — found through foreclosures and estate sales primarily — each home sold comes with a one-year warranty, Hermanson adds. The property will be put up for sale for an asking price of $219,900.

“We tried to restore everything we possibly could,” Hermanson notes of features like the living room’s fireplace and lead pane windows, an old accordion-style coat rack in the front closet, the railing on the stairway leading upstairs, glass doorknobs, skeleton keys and hardwood floors throughout the home.

The first floor initially included a bedroom with a makeshift bathroom that has been transformed into a dining room and full bath. Doorways also were redirected. The four bedrooms upstairs and the main-level and second-level closed-in porches remain untouched. It was important to Hermanson to keep the bones of the home, retain the structure and respect the property. She makes lists before any demolition work begins in order to ensure items don’t find themselves in the dumpster.

“This is what I love, this is my canvas. I’m the artist, I’m the painter,” Hermanson explains of the pride she takes in her work. She’s hoping those who look at the home “see there is beauty in pretty much every house. … I’m not a ‘lipstick flipper.’ I care about people, I want to do it the right way.”
Welcome to the boutique real estate firm of the Fox Valley, Lighthouse Point Homes and Realty. We represent buyers and sellers of residential and commercial properties throughout the Fox Cities, and are dedicated to providing our clients with the best professional brokerage service. Our business can help first-time home buyers, clients who are moving up and those who are downsizing. When your lifestyle has changes, we can make the process very smooth. We care about every individual and view everyone as long-term clients. Our clients are thrilled and delighted with our services.

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Honesty: This is our only policy in all of our dealings and with all parties.

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Edward Klug

Edward Klug has held his Wisconsin Brokers License since 2003. Klug also is actively involved in the community with Big Brothers Big Sisters and has held several city appointments.

Margie Hundsrucker

Margie Hundsrucker is a Wisconsin native who began her real estate career in Orlando, FL. She moved back to Wisconsin in 2010 and continued with real estate in the Fox Valley as an office manager for a local real estate firm. Her path has led her to Lighthouse Point Homes and Realty.

Her experience includes short sales, foreclosures, buyer’s agent and listing agent. If you are looking for an honest and hardworking agent, then you have found her. Call Hundsrucker to build a great working relationship!

Klug and Hundsrucker have formed this office and partnership because they have the same beliefs and values. They also have partnered with Big Brothers Big Sisters to make a donation for every closing. The firm believes the heart of the business is its agents and staff, and treats them like family. Health care benefits are offered to agents and staff. And, monthly outings are held to bond with family. Lighthouse Point Homes and Realty is one family.
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Discounted tickets ($12/adult) will be available Aug. 17–21 at the VHBA Member Center located at 920 W. Association Dr., Appleton. During the event, tickets are sold at all participating homes for $15/adult and $10/child (ages 5–17). A full-color guidebook accompanies ticket purchase. Home locations will be revealed by Aug. 17 on vhbaparadeofhomes.com and on VHBA's mobile app.

For more information go to vhbaparadeofhomes.com or call (920) 731-7931.
DATES: Aug. 22–23 & 27–30*
TIMES: Weekends, 11 a.m.–5 p.m.; Weeknights, 5–8 p.m.

*Remodel projects open Aug. 28–30 only

Calmes & Rohm Construction LLC
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Calmes & Rohm Construction LLC
Neenah        2,006 sq. ft.

Executive Developers LLC
Town of Ellington     2,179 sq. ft.

Griffin Builders Inc.
Appleton       4,890 sq. ft.

Jacob Const. & Development Inc.
Appleton        4,535 sq. ft.

Jon Huss Custom Homes Inc.
Appleton        3,870 sq. ft.

N.J. Schmidt Construction Inc.
Appleton        3,721 sq. ft.

PortSide Builders Inc.
Appleton        1,790 sq. ft.

Springhetti Custom Homes LLC
Menasha         4,374 sq. ft.

Steckling Builders LLC
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“If it makes your eye travel throughout the rest of the photograph, that makes a good photo,” shares moderator Debbie Daanen of a key characteristic this year’s panel of judges took into consideration, along with color, detail in shadows, highlights, story-telling and personal connection, when selecting the grand prize winner.

Judge Paul Brunette felt “there’s a lot of strength in the photograph with the eagle, and the cupola and Lawrence behind it.” And he adds, the “tie to the community” also grabbed his attention and vote.

“I love the eagles, I love birds. I take a ton of photography. I’m kind of an obsessed hobbyist, I guess,” confesses Jared Birkholz who managed to snap this eagle in flight on the south side of the Fox River facing Lawrence University at the end of April during his lunch hour.

“I thought in my mind it would always be cool to get a photo like that,” he adds. “It was one of those photos where I don’t think I’ll ever get another picture like that.” Birkholz had been to the spot many times and seen eagles in the area previously perched on trees and watching for fish. It just happened on that particular day before he was about to leave, he was able to catch an eagle emerging from the water’s surface after going down for a fish. Birkholz shot a sequence of 10-15 images with his Canon DSLR and a lens for shooting wildlife, which he lugs around in a backpack, he says. This shot was from the middle of the pack.

“I definitely will keep that as one of my favorites for a very long time,” Birkholz shares of the shot.
PEOPLE, PLACES & THINGS

Our ninth annual photo contest

By Amy Hanson

PANEL OF JUDGES

Julie Poburka, assistant store manager, Simon’s Specialty Cheese
Moderator: Debbie Daanen, owner and professional photographer, Debbie Daanen Photography
Paul Brunette, Contractivity! operations leader, Ralph B. Shiner, Jr. Center for Goodwill
Pam Seidl, executive director, Fox Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau
Matthew Carpenter, executive director, History Museum at the Castle
Michael Spurlock, senior partner, Spurlock Runyan Miller & Associates

PRIZES

Sincere thanks to the area businesses that have generously provided our winners with the following prizes:
CopperLeaf Boutique Hotel, Appleton
Grand Prize: One-night stay
Bridgewood Resort Hotel & Conference Center, Neenah
First Place Prizes: $75 gift certificate toward a stay, dinner or golf
The Frame Workshop, Appleton
Second Place Prizes: $50 framing gift certificate
Murray Photo and Video, Inc., Appleton
Third Place Prizes: $25 processing gift certificate

Winning photographs will be on display at Murray Photo in City Center Plaza on College Avenue, Appleton during the month of August.
SECOND PLACE

“Autumn Afternoon”
Christine A. Jackson, Grand Chute

During a Saturday afternoon in late October with friends, Christine A. Jackson was able to capture a sincere shot shared between two young girls at the Gordon Bubolz Nature Preserve in Appleton.

“She was walking and carrying my basket, and I just caught it at the right time,” Jackson says. “I just captured that moment when the two were bonding and sharing a moment, and they didn’t think anyone was looking.”

Jackson enjoys shooting at the nature preserve and says “the leaves were almost completely off the trees” when she took the “afterthought” image with her Canon EOS 7D in fall 2014. She jumped around with the color of the image, but ultimately went with sepia.

“For some reason, the sepia worked so much better than the black and white did,” she says. While the judges liked the sepia of the photograph, they would have preferred more highlights and lowlights within the image.

THIRD PLACE

“Rowing Under the 441 Bridge”
Dolores Howse, Appleton

Motion created an obstacle for Dolores Howse with her photograph.

“That was the major challenge. The boat was moving and you’re moving, so I got a lot of blurry photos,” she shares.

Howse was perched in an old aluminum coach boat taking shots of experienced and beginning rowers during a session of the Fox Valley Rowing Club’s Learn to Row Classes with the Appleton Parks & Recreation Department.

“It’s a little bit of encouragement for the new rowers,” Howse explains of why she took on the task with her Canon. This image was taken somewhere between Telulah Park and the Roland Kamp Memorial Bridge on Wisconsin Highway 441 near Northland Avenue.

“You know it was on the river and the people aren’t perfect. … It speaks to the average Joe,” says Pam Seidl of why the shot caught her eye.
“One photographer, a Thousand Islands”
Beth Spiering, Combined Locks

What started as an outdoor outing, turned into friendly competition between Beth Spiering and her husband, Weston (also a winner in this year’s photo contest). The couple had ventured to Thousand Islands Environmental Center in Kaukauna for the first time after Beth found images that intrigued her from previous photo contest winners through a Google search of area nature centers.

At eight months pregnant, Beth took the image of Weston with her iPhone in October 2014 while he was using their new Nikon DSLR, she says. “We were competing with the new camera and the iPhone,” she adds and the composition of the shot caught her eye. The judges appreciated the inclusion of the nature center.

“We really like to explore nature centers in the area,” Beth shares. “At least once a week, we try to get out, weather permitting.” The couple’s 8-month-old son, Liam, now joins his parents on their excursions.
FIRST PLACE
“Urban Vibe”
Justin Meyer, Menasha

Justin Meyer was able to capture his colorful creation off of Drew Street in Appleton, near Lawrence University.

“I kind of knew about the area and came across that spot after parking my car,” he shares. “I just liked the urban feel of it. … I thought the color of it was really cool and vibrant.”

The hues also caught judge Julie Poburka’s attention. “There’s so much color and movement in it without being gaudy, which surprised me,” she shares.

Meyer, who typically shoots nature photography, shares that this was his first time doing graffiti work.

“It wasn’t too hard, the traffic was pretty slow,” he says of standing to the side of the wall on the curb “on a really great sunny day” around noon in June. The image was taken with a Nikon D7100.

THIRD PLACE
“Star Spangled Lambeau” by Cara Jakubiec, De Pere

“I took the photo at a Monday night game. It was just the perfect photo,” recalls Cara Jakubiec of the Dec. 8, 2014 face-off between the Green Bay Packers and the Atlanta Falcons at Lambeau Field. “At that moment, I didn’t realize what was happening, I just started snapping photos and the fireworks went off at the same time.”

Jakubiec, a Packers fan, attended the game with her family and went onto the field prior to its start due to a family connection. She remembers the game being “really cold” and shot the lasting memory with her iPhone.

The judges all agreed they enjoyed the patriotism of the image, along with its connection to the Packers.
HONORABLE MENTION

“Winter Fog” by Christine A. Jackson, Grand Chute

“I drive by that tree all the time,” says Christine A. Jackson of this photograph’s subject matter. “It just amazes me that this tree stands year after year and hasn’t been knocked over. … Every time I drive by it, I’m like ‘Where is that tree?’”

On her way elsewhere, Jackson stopped to photograph the dead limbs, with the barn in the background, as it was surrounded by the effects of fog during the month of January.

“I always come back to this photo because it’s one of my favorites that I’ve shot because it’s so simple, yet has a feeling to it,” says Jackson who took the photo with her Canon EOS 7D.

“There was no need to change that photo because I liked it exactly the way it came out.”

“I like the honorable mention because people drive by there and know where it is,” says judge Michael Spurlock. The other judges agreed.

For the individual who can identify where Christine A. Jackson’s photo was taken, FOX CITIES Magazine will provide a gift certificate to an area restaurant. Detailed answers should be submitted via email to Associate Editor Amy Hanson at edit@foxcitiesmagazine.com by Aug. 28; please include your name and a daytime phone number. In the event that more than one correct submission is received, a random drawing will be held. A winner will be notified in early September.

SECOND PLACE

“Nightlife on College Avenue”
Dolores Howse, Appleton

License to Cruise in Appleton has become one of Dolores Howse’s favorite Fox Cities events to shoot photos at and last year’s September festivities were no exception. This time, however, Howse went later in the evening instead of going right after work as she had in the past.

“There were a lot of people milling around and I knew I wanted some people, but not too many,” Howse explains of the shot she took with her Canon. “I like the older cars. I like the shape.” She wanted to show that people were attending the downtown gathering, but have the focus remain on the car since it’s an event that draws people because of the variety of vehicles, she explains.

Judges Paul Brunette and Matthew Carpenter both liked this selection.

“I’m a car guy,” shares Brunette of being drawn to the color and saturation in the shot. “I like its tie to College Avenue and License to Cruise.”

While Carpenter was torn about it’s category, “I kind of want to move it to ‘Things’ and have it win,” he says.

Can you guess the location of this photo?

For the individual who can identify where Christine A. Jackson’s photo was taken, FOX CITIES Magazine will provide a gift certificate to an area restaurant. Detailed answers should be submitted via email to Associate Editor Amy Hanson at edit@foxcitiesmagazine.com by Aug. 28; please include your name and a daytime phone number. In the event that more than one correct submission is received, a random drawing will be held. A winner will be notified in early September.
THIRD PLACE
“Intense Young Owl” by Rod MacKenzie, Appleton

Just outside of Thrivent Financial on Ballard Road in Appleton, Rod MacKenzie came across a face that wasn’t too pleased to see him.

“We had seen them when they were little and I didn’t have my camera that day,” MacKenzie recalls of discovering a pair of owls. “There were two, but one flew away,” he says. “He didn’t act too happy to see me, but I took the photo.” The remaining owl, captured in this photo, was clicking back at MacKenzie as he clicked his camera, a Nikon P500, which he zoomed in 30 feet away to get the owl who was about 15 feet off the ground by MacKenzie’s estimate.

“Most of the pictures I take are just for me. It was just a nice shot. The owl was sitting up for once,” MacKenzie shares of the early afternoon in April. “He’s just staring right at me. It was basically eye to eye.”

The judges also were drawn into the owl’s expression. “That little guy with his tongue out just makes me happy,” says judge Pam Seidl.

FIRST PLACE
“Beyond the Eye” by Weston Spiering, Combined Locks

“The composition of the photo looked really good to me at the time,” says Weston Spiering of his winning photo.

Moderator Debbie Daanen also took note of what Spiering captured. “I ride my bike down there all the time,” she says of the photo. “I don’t know where that cleat is, but whoever saw that had a vision.”

A lunchtime walk led Spiering to a pleasant surprise along the bike trail that runs parallel to the Fox River in the Eagle Flats area of Appleton. Spiering discovered the shot with his Nixon DSLR.

“I would go past that area quite frequently,” says Spiering. “It was just an awesome day out and a friend of mine and I wanted to shoot in the Locks area.”
SECOND PLACE

“Double Flight Landing” by Beth Spiering, Combined Locks

Sitting along the runway at Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh watching planes come in prior to AirVenture, landed Beth Spiering her second win in this year’s contest.

“That photo just happened to have both planes at the same time,” she says. “It was a very sunny day. I was just trying to get as close a photo as I could. I wanted to capture the planes coming in and seeing that experience.”

It was her first time at the airport watching the event set-up and she used her iPhone in July 2014 to capture the photo.

Judge Michael Spurlock was drawn to the photograph because of the reach AirVenture has around the world and the visitors who attend each year.

“You’re just talking to so many people,” he says. “You feel so global, yet so cosmopolitan.”
Whether by powerboat or paddle, there are plenty of waterfront dining options that are luring boaters during the summer dining season. Establishments are hoping customers drop anchor for a while as a new trend in waterfront dining emerges. FOX CITIES Magazine has taken note of restauranteurs who have set sail on a course to offer boaters specialized menus, a place to rest their head or the opportunity to enjoy the water from another perspective by making their eateries an oasis for easy access, electricity and much needed fuel-ups for both watercraft and water lovers.

Dockside Tavern Food & Spirits

“Any of the places that are on the river, I think part of the attraction is outdoor dining,” says Brian Lammey, general manager of Dockside Tavern Food & Spirits in Oshkosh. “Our docks are usually full on the weekend.”

Dockside has 48 tables for outdoor seating and 12 slips to accommodate all types of boats. The restaurant opens everyday at 11 a.m. and serves the same menu all day. Live music also is featured on the patio Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Lammey shares. Performers are posted on the restaurant’s website and Facebook page.

“I think that is a little bit of a draw,” Lammey says. “We do a lot of one- and two-piece bands.” Larger groups typically perform on the weekends.

“We are coming and going all day — whether they’re going to Lake Winnebago or Buttes des Mortes, we’re in a pretty convenient location being right at the mouth of the river,” Lammey adds.

Hagemeister Park

“The ease of the slips, how many there are, how big they are and the entertainment,” is what draws customers to Hagemeister Park in Green Bay, says General Manager Curt Cornell.

Situated in The City Deck area, 100 slips are available for day use to boaters, pre-orders and food deliveries are available, and ice also is for sale. Hagemeister Park also offers live entertainment on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Another draw is craft beer. The Packers-themed eatery has more than 220 beers available and 29 on tap; the majority of which are craft options, including local selections.

“We have everything from appetizers and wings up to steaks,” Cornell says. “It’s casual, but nice.”

The Lake House Supper Club

Being across from the 90-slip Menasha Marina was appealing to Kelly Taylor when she opened the Lake House Supper Club with her husband, Stuart, in the former Nauts Landing location in Menasha.

“We wanted it to be upscale food in a pretty casual atmosphere so you could feel comfortable if you’re coming off a bicycle or a boat,” Kelly says. The Taylors also have been working with the marina to have menus available, and will even run orders over to boaters.

The supper club serves brunch on weekends, and cocktails, appetizers and dinner Wednesday through Sunday. Items like prime rib, steak, seafood, hearty appetizers and Friday fish specials like sea bass have been a draw, Kelly says.

“We have a boat and what I find is it’s nice if you have somewhere to go instead of just going around the water,” she adds. “Even if it’s just drinks and an appetizer on the deck, it seems they’re just looking for somewhere to enjoy a weekend.”

The Taylors have been approached to consider opening for lunch as well and may be adding that on Fridays in fall to test the waters.

Mr. Brew’s Taphouse

“Really our draw is our craft beer selection. We have 48 on tap and fresh ingredients (and) meat from The Meat Block,” says Tammy Verhagen of what’s drawing customers to Mr. Brew’s Taphouse, which recently opened in Appleton near Lock No. 4. The beers have changed since opening as well and will continue to do so.

“We do have options for people who don’t want hamburgers,” says Tammy of their non-beef black bean and turkey burger options. “People seem to like them as much as the burgers.”

A favorite burger that customers can’t seem to
River View Diner

The Verhagens wanted a restaurant that was comfortable for families. Craig also enjoys being able to watch wildlife including eagles, pelicans, herons, ducks and turtles. He’s hoping to work more with the Fox River Navigational System Authority to increase boat traffic.

Nauti Turtle Bar & Grill

A new riverside bar known as the Nauti Turtle Bar & Grill, is the latest venture from Jim VanderGeest who also owns Ted’s Grandview Supper Club in Fremont. The space, with 82 dining chairs and a dozen bar stools, is on the same property as the established supper club.

VanderGeest is catering to the waterfront crowd by offering free electric service at the docks for up to 14 boats to plug into overnight, along with two bathrooms with showers. To-go packages, ice and beer also are available for purchase.

The entrepreneur says he’s trying to “utilize the waterfront dining experience” and sees watercraft traffic turnover throughout open hours.

“There are only a couple of restaurants on the water,” says VanderGeest referring to the Wolf River. “There’s more boaters than restaurants right now.”

The Nauti Turtle offers a laid-back, island vibe with decor including stamped cement and sun shades over the patio. Diners also can enjoy Caribbean-style music and live acoustic tunes on the weekend. The scaled-down menu, which is different than Ted’s, features salads, wraps, sandwiches, burgers, appetizers, pizzas and a daily special, VanderGeest shares.

“They (boaters) come in during their lunch time, get back on the boat and then it gets busy again for dinner,” he adds. The Nauti Turtle is open Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to dusk with the full menu offered until 4 p.m., and pizzas and appetizers available after 4 p.m.

River View Diner

River View Diner in Little Chute “has a beautiful dock,” says manager Kurt Koehler.

The dock accommodates easily half a dozen watercraft from powerboats to kayaks and includes electricity.

“We would certainly welcome more boaters,” Koehler adds. “We’re looking at adding more signage down there.”

Because the diner, which is attached to the Hawk’s Nest, is on top of a hill it may be tricky to be seen by those who pass by. Still, Koehler, and owners Gary and Dorrie Konetzke, are entertaining new possibilities.

“There have been a few that have stopped for a meal or they’ll have a drink at the bar,” Koehler says of boaters who have come into the restaurant. “We certainly want to build that part of the business. … Our menu has changed and has grown tremendously since we opened.” The restaurant is open for breakfast and lunch and later on Fridays for fish frys.

River View Diner has been open a little over a year now and has seasonal options, like garden and chef salads, along with nachos for the summer.

TJ’s Harbor Restaurant

With panoramic views of Lake Winnebago and two levels of outdoor dining connected to TJ’s Harbor Restaurant, the Oshkosh dining establishment is hopping during summer.

TJ’s plans to open a new screened-in space with a glass garage door during this year’s EAA AirVenture that will be open to the public following the event, says Brad Lind who is a partner in the restaurant with TJ Rodgers. The roughly 800-square-foot new space includes a bar area, high-top tables and a few other tables for seating that will accommodate 40-50 people. This is the first half of creating a courtyard area that can be used year-round to increase traffic for parties, holidays or in inclement weather, Lind says. The second facility will have a capacity of 99 people, he adds.

“We have 980 feet of harbor area and you could not get another boat in there,” Lind says of the traffic he sees from boaters each summer. The stretch offers tie-off docking. “Our problem is our harbor. When it’s full, it’s full.”

“The harbor is usually packed on the weekends. We have a line of boaters waiting to get in,” adds General Manager Kristin Treichel.

Live entertainment from local bands also is available on Sundays.

“When you come to TJ’s, we don’t have frozen. We do our best to have something a little different,” says Lind. The restaurant specializes in items like chicken, prime rib and duck cooked on a rotisserie, says Treichel, but also offers steak and pasta, with locally sourced products.

The Waters Supper Club & Lounge

Taking advantage of the Wolf River in New London, The Waters sees mostly locals with pontoon boats, but offers a 140-foot long, tie-off dock, says Jim Adrian, owner and manager.

The Waters features specials every day and entertainment on the deck on Sunday afternoons. Information is posted on The Waters’ website.

When the water is high, Adrian says he sees more traffic. He has a sign out front to alert passing traffic of his establishment, which features a full soup and salad bar, pizzas, reubens, chicken sandwiches, burgers, chicken dinners, steak, seafood and fish frys on Friday. Adrian also has grab and go options.

“Some of them will come up here knowing that they’ll get a steak dinner,” he adds. “Or, sandwiches. It doesn’t take long to cook a burger when the grill is hot.”

In addition to refueling customers, The Waters also is a fueling station for boats in need of gas.
Area photographers share their vision of
Adventure

THE PLACE WE CALL HOME

Stephanie Harvey of Boomerang Photography, Kimberly

Yuun Murphy of Vivo Lux Photography, Appleton

Katie Ball of Studio 609 Photography, Appleton

Tracy Van Zeeland of M.C. Kinney Photography, Appleton

PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS
To be considered for participation in this monthly feature, contact Ruth Ann Heeter at raheeter@foxcitiesmagazine.com.
WHERE TO DINE

Carmella’s: an Italian Bistro
716 N. Casaloma Drive, Appleton. 882-4044.
Authentic Italian cuisine in a European-style setting with a lively atmosphere and welcoming staff. Enjoy pastas, entrees, appetizers, salads and sandwiches any time of day. Divine desserts are made in house and the wine list spotlights Italian wines. We offer a private dining area for small groups, and off-site catering. Winner of 10 2014 FOX CITIES Magazine Golden Fork Awards, including Best Overall. Su–Th, 11am–9pm; F & Sa, 11am–10pm. Reservations accepted for parties of six or more. carmellabistro.com.

GingeRootz Asian Grille
2920 N. Ballard Road, Appleton. 738-9688.
Discover how the finest ingredients come together to create a new world of flavor. Stop in for lunch or dinner in our contemporary dining area, or relax with a drink in the Zen Lounge. Enjoy dining and drinks in our cozy outdoor space. Special event on the horizon? From business meetings to birthdays, our banquet room will spice up any party. We also cater parties for all occasions. Open daily 11am–9:30pm; bar open 11am–close; Happy Hour, M–Th, 4–7pm. Complimentary appetizers with drinks. gingerootz.com.

Houdini’s Escape Gastropub
1216 S. Oneida St., Appleton. 574-2616.
Newly re-modeled and double the size, Houdini’s has some major improvements to show off. From the new brick patio with three fire tables to keep you warm, to the spotless kitchen with ample room to serve all who enter. Houdini’s offers elevated cuisine in a pub and grill atmosphere, unlike anywhere in the Fox Valley. Order a Chef-inspired feature and watch it disappear before your eyes. A selection of more than 160 local craft and Chef-inspired feature and watch it disappear before your eyes. A selection of more than 160 local craft and microbrew beers, and a rotating wine list complement our atmosphere, unlike anywhere in the Fox Valley. Ordering our four-seasons patio. Winner of six 2014 FOX CITIES Magazine Golden Fork Awards, including Best New Restaurant. Open M–Su, 11am–2pm. Dinner: M–Th, 4–9pm; F & Sa, 4–10:30pm. SuiRamCuisine.com.

SAP
708 N. Casaloma Drive, Appleton. 257-2194.
SAP offers breakfast and lunch classics any time of the day! We use locally sourced eggs from organic-fed chickens in all of our dishes, and our pork is from a farm down the road. Stop in for a coffee or espresso drink and a from-scratch pastry or dessert from our bakery case. Our deli case is full of artisan Wisconsin cheeses and meats, organic rotisserie chickens and house-made favorites. No time to sit down? Order to go! On warmer days, we’ll open the garage doors on our four-seasons patio. Winner of six 2014 FOX CITIES Magazine Golden Fork Awards, including Best New Restaurant. Open M–Su, 7am–8pm. sapbrunch.com.

Seth’s Coffee
106 E. Main St., Little Chute. 687-6551.
Two-time winner of FOX CITIES Magazine’s Golden Fork Award for Best Cup of Coffee, Seth and his crew brew by the cup, treating coffee as a craft rather than a commodity. In addition to coffee, Seth’s is now serving craft beer and wine alongside panini-grilled sandwiches and tapas. Visitors will find a Wisconsin cheese plate, hummus plate, salads, made-from-scratch baked goods, tea and, of course, coffee and espresso! M–Th, 6:30am–8pm; F 6:30am–10pm; Sa, 7am–10pm; Su 8:30am–6pm. sethsofcoffee.com.

Stone Cellar Brewpub
1004 S. Olde Oneida St., Appleton. 731-3322.
Located in the Between the Locks, a 156-year-old historic brewery building. Stone Cellar Brewpub features the Fox Cities’ best handcrafted, national award-winning beers made on premise. The restaurant features an extensive menu including steaks, seafood, pasta, burgers, award-winning pizza, creative appetizers and traditional pub favorites. In addition, we enjoy our selection of gourmet sodas made in the brewery. We even have Appleton’s oldest beer garden! Come enjoy the unique atmosphere, experience excellent food and great service. Brewpub fare with a flair! stonecellarbrewpub.com.

Vince Lombardi’s Steakhouse
333 W. College Ave., Appleton. 733-8000.
Located inside the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel, Honored with the NPL’s Most Valuable Property (MVP) Award in 2009. Extraordinary steaks, superb wines and legendary service. Enjoy world-class dining set among Coach Lombardi’s personal memorabilia and classic photos. Experience a commitment to excellence in food, beverages and service that is commensurate with the standards of our namesake. The award-winning restaurant features extraordinary USDA prime cuts of beef and a wine list that Wine Spectator Magazine has named “one of the most outstanding in the world.” vinclombardisteakhouse.com.

Zuppas – Market, Café & Catering
1540 S. Commercial St., Neenah. 720-5045.
Our top-flight chef team led by Chef Peter Kuenzi, urban cafeteria setting and penchant for local ingredients, ensure that your food is creative, fresh and ready fast. For breakfast, lunch and dinner, Zuppas Café offers chef-prepared soups, sandwiches, salads and more. Enjoy handcrafted pastries and desserts with coffee or take home a variety of freshly prepared salads and entrees from our deli. Our Green Room is perfect for your personal or business gathering. M–F, 8am–8pm; Sa, 11am–3pm; closed Su. Visit zuppas.com for daily specials.

SHOWCASE

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Visit us at 2753 Freedom Road, Appleton or simonscheese.com. Hours: M–F, 8am–6pm; Sa, 8am–5pm. (920) 788-6311.

▲ Show your support with a night out
Join Fox Valley Humane Association Thursday, Sept. 17 for an exciting night our sampling fine food and beverages, an amazing silent and live auction and lots of surprises you won’t want to miss. Evening emcees include Bill Jartz from WRAY and Doug and Mary from KZ Radio. 100 percent of the proceeds benefit the Veterinary Wellness Center and will help us save thousands of lives this year! For more information visit foxvalleypets.org or call (920) 733-1717.

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