



THE SPIRIT *of The Lakes*

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IT'S COMIN' UP

MARCH/APRIL EVENTS

Upcoming events

Bingo at the VFW

The VFW, 75 North Ave., Antioch, Illinois, hosts bingo Tuesdays. Early bird begins at 6 p.m., regular bingo at 6:45 p.m. There are also 50/50 raffles and Queen of Hearts tickets.

Enjoy the canteen and video gaming during breaks. Food is available from the auxiliary.

"Remember, everything you do at Antioch VFW supports our troops, veterans and their families," members said.

For more information, call 847-395-5393 or email antiochvfw@gmail.com.

Class of 68 concert

March 22, from 2 to 5 p.m. at House of Music & Entertainment, 1227 N. Rand Rd., Prospect Heights, Illinois.

Save-A-Pet is happy to present Jay Goepfner and The Class of 68 Classic Rock and Roll Band.

Come join the fun and listen to the "British Invasion" sounds such as The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, The Who, and many more. You will have a chance to win incredible raffle items and make song requests throughout the concert. Tickets for the raffle can be purchased on the day of the event.

Admission tickets are \$35 each and can be purchased at <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/Jayandtheclassof68band>

Each ticket comes with two drink tickets (beer/wine).

There will be indoor seating and food and beverages available for purchase.

Sponsorship opportunities are available (for more information, visit the event website listed above.)

All proceeds go to helping, healing, and rehoming our Save-A-Pet cats and dogs.

Silent Book Club

March 26 will be the next gathering for the McHenry Chapter of the Silent Book Club, which meets monthly at Shop 3430, 3430 W. Elm St., McHenry, Illinois.

What is a Silent Book Club? It is an opportunity for you to read anything you want without distraction without the burden of assigned reading or discussion. In fact, you can join us and never say a word if you so choose.

Meet ups will be held monthly and begin at 6 p.m. Uninterrupted reading begins at 6:30 p.m. and lasts for one hour. Organizers ask that everyone departs by 8 p.m.

Shop 3430 is a BYOB venue so book club guests are welcome to bring any snacks and beverages (including adult beverages) that

they would like to enjoy during their visit.

Future book club dates include April 30, May 21, June 18 and July 23.

For more information, visit the Shop 3430 page on Facebook.

Golf league

Beginning April 2, held Wednesdays, join a season of fun and friendly competition at the Chain O'Lakes Chamber Golf League!

"We're welcoming 36 golfers (singles or twosomes) to hit the greens every Wednesday from April 2 – Oct. 8 at Hickory Knoll Golf Course, 24745 W. Monaville Rd., Lake Villa, Illinois.

Registration fee: \$50 (covers 27 weeks of golf weather permitting end-of-season party, and awards).

Weekly green fees: \$18 (walking) or \$27 (with cart) – valid anytime at Hickory Knoll throughout the season. Weekly payment (or yearly) will be made at the golf course.

Shotgun start: 4:30 p.m.

Don't miss out—space is limited! Secure your spot today and enjoy a fantastic golf season with fellow Chamber members and community players.

For more information, send an email to info@chainolakeschamber.com.

Fido Fest

April 26, from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the East Gym at Grant Community High School, 285 E. Grand Ave., Fox Lake, Illinois.

The community is warmly invited to attend the Fido Fest Adoption and Fundraising Event, free admission, suitable for all ages but please leave your pets at home.

The event is organized by the GCHS Canine Connections Club, which will be raising funds for several animal rescues, including American Brittany Rescue, Love Hope Believe Galgo Adoption, Save-a-Pet, and Young at Heart Senior Pet Adoptions. There will be a variety of items for sale, including dog treats, dog toys, dog paw magnets, painted rocks, and a large assortment of raffle baskets.

Additional fundraising activities will feature face painting and Beanie Baby dog adoptions. Please note that all sales for fundraising items will be cash only, with proceeds benefiting the four featured rescues.

The event will also host dog-themed vendors and organizations, four different demonstrations, fun games for kids, and light food and beverage options.

Check out the discussion area on the Facebook page for regular updates: <https://www.facebook.com/share/1Bjx9Fe87y/>

THE SPIRIT

IS A PUBLICATION OF



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THE SPIRIT

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On the cover: Among the early signs of spring on the Chain O'Lakes are pelicans, which make stops along the way during their journey north. Even though parts of the water are still frozen, they find open areas to gather.

Welcome, Flo!

Antioch Police Department adds comfort dog to staff

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**
CORRESPONDENT

In the fall, the Antioch Police Department welcomed its newest recruit.

But Flo is very different from the other members of the department – a 3-year-old black lab who came into the department with a specific job already assigned to her.

While many police departments throughout the country have police dogs on their force – K-9 units who respond to emergency calls, sniff out drugs and help apprehend criminals – Flo has an untraditional job.

“Flo will provide emotional support wherever needed,” said Kelley Crimmins, communications specialist for the Village of Antioch.

“While traditional police dogs focus on law enforcement, Flo is a comfort dog, where the focus is on well-being and providing emotional support wherever needed,” Crimmins explained.

Flo has been in training since she was a puppy, so she was ready to begin her work immediately after her swearing in, which took place Oct. 23, 2024, at the Village Board Meeting.

Like all other members of the force, Flo has a badge. Hers, though, is embroidered on her jacket, which identifies her as a support dog and a member of the Antioch Police Force.

Her fellow members of the police department, however, had to learn how she would assist them in enhancing public safety – as well as how to partner with a dog, share the work load among officers and function with the department.

Crimmins said that the transition was fast and easy, as both Flo and her teammates fell in love with each other.

Taken on a tour of the station, courtesy of Flo

In a recent visit to the station, Flo greeted her visitors with tail



above: Flo is never without someone at the police station to take her outside to enjoy the fresh air or conduct business.

top: Flo was introduced to the community with this photo on an announcement. **left:** Flo heads for her cage when she needs a break from comforting or entertaining staff and visitors. **at right:** The Antioch Police Station is now also known to many locals as the home of Flo. **opposite top:** This photo captured Flo with her big new family, the entire Antioch Police Department force.



wagging, along with Nicholas Garcia, Commander of Administration.

Flo took the lead in going through the station, as if showing off her home – though Commander Garcia was allowed to tag along (perhaps because he brought a cup of Cheerios along and that’s her favorite treat).

There’s no question the station is her home. She is in and out of the offices of all the officers and other employees on site, with each person stopping to say hello and give her a pet.

“Flo has definitely taken over,” Garcia said. “Before she arrived, we emptied a storage room, painted it pink for her and turned it into her room.

“While her cage is kept in this space, the cage is never locked,” he added. “She is free to go in, especially if she needs some time and space away from people, or a nap, but she is never locked in it.”

Another change to the station is in the Sergeants’ room, where a dog bed is located under each sergeant’s desk.

When she is the one who needs comfort – or just a break – Flo is the one who chooses where to settle in.

According to Garcia, she does sometimes play the officers against one another as she chooses her spot.

“Flo lives at the police headquarters full time and is there 24 hours a day unless she is out in the community



Official oath

Flo, as a member of the Antioch Police Department, took an official oath that is now on display at the station. It reads:

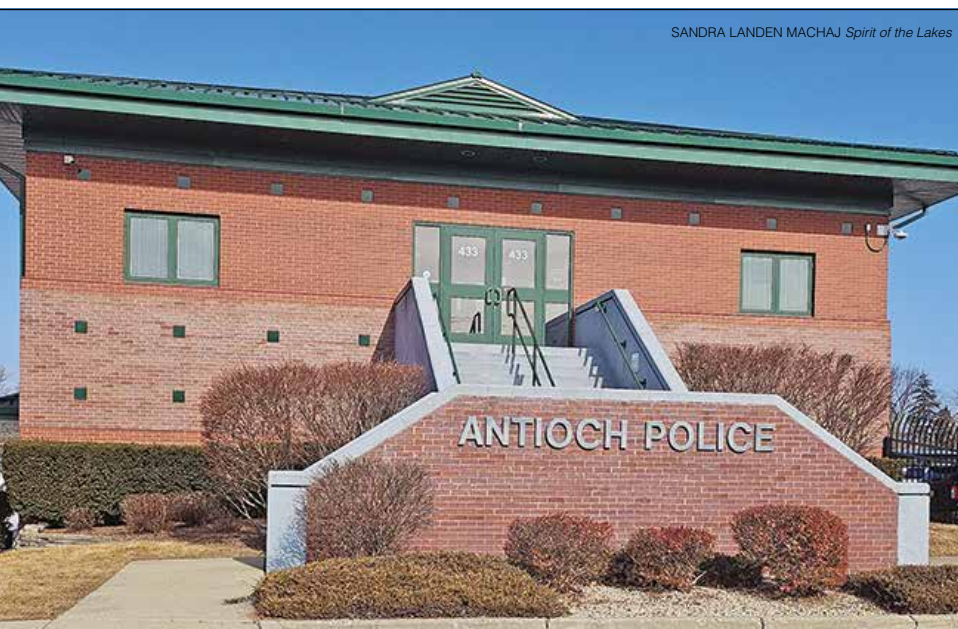
I, Flo, as the official comfort dog for the Village of Antioch Police Department, do solemnly pledge to serve with a warm heart and gentle spirit.

I promise to bring peace, support, and companionship to all in need, easing distress with every wag of my tail.

To the best of my abilities, I will be a source of joy, comfort, and calm in our community.

It was signed and sworn Nov. 13, 2024, and has the village’s official stamp.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of the Lakes*





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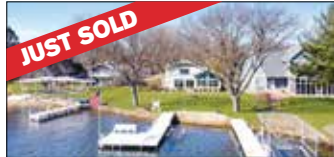
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S96W32955 Hickorywood Trl, Mukwonago - Vacation at home in this stunning prairie style retreat. Your own everyday paradise. Enjoy resort-style living w/inground pool, cabana bar, pergola, and sport court—perfect for both relaxation & recreation. Upon entering through the grand 2-story foyer, you'll be greeted by a spacious living room w/ vaulted ceilings, a gas fireplace, & a wall of windows offering breathtaking country views. The beautifully updated kitchen features stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, a breakfast bar, & a cozy dinette, all adjacent to a charming 3-season room with deck access. Master suite is a true retreat, boasting an ensuite w/ a glass steam shower, heated floors, a double vanity, & private screened porch. The walk-out LL is an entertainer's dream. This home offers both luxury & convenience **\$1,199,700**



W5369 Baywood Dr, Elkhorn - Welcome to your home that's surrounded by lake views, a large yard for family fun as well as plenty of parking for everyone. Enjoy amazing 4th of July fireworks with the best seats in the house. Situated on 103' of level frontage on 0.81 of an acre, you'll find an updated, move in ready, 4BR, 3BA, two story home with upper end finishes. The large vaulted ceiling kitchen has an adjacent dining area & bonus playroom/den. The family room, also with vaulted ceilings, features a wall of windows that welcomes the lake inside. The living room with a natural fireplace and sliders leads to a spacious brick patio. This home offers the privacy of a main floor primary bedroom and the upper level has 3 generous sized bedrooms and 2 full baths. Accommodates 19 guests. **\$1,800,000**



300 W Main St, Palmyra - Located downtown Palmyra you'll find this Turnkey established Restaurant/Bar and separate 4 lane bowling alley waiting for an energetic entrepreneur to bring their vision to life. Restaurant/Bar has a seating capacity of 173 with an updated kitchen in 2018. Charming bar area overlooking main street and soaring ceilings in the dining area. Potential outdoor space for a beer garden and additional space to expand the bar area or rental opportunity. Income producing apartments on the second floor which consist of a 3 Bd, 2 Bd and 1Bd currently rented. Liquor license included. Palmyra is in the heart of the Southern unit of Kettle Moraine Forest offering hiking, mountain biking and equestrian trails. Minutes from Blue Spring Lake and steps to Lower Spring Lake. **\$685,000**



214 N Church St, Elkhorn - Classic Brick Two Story on Church St within walking distance to all the restaurants, Elkhorn square and Fairgrounds activities. This 4 Bedroom, 2 full bath is awaiting its new owners personal touches. Hardwood floors on main level. Situated on .50 acre lot offering a ton of outside entertaining possibilities. Spend evenings on the large covered front porch. Also you'll find a two car detached garage and 4 garden sheds. **\$205,000**



902 & 904 W. Walworth St, Elkhorn - Side by side Ranch duplex within walking distance to Sunset Park. 2 Bdrm, 1 bath units with one car attached garage and laundry room. Kitchen feature breakfast bar and dinette, Master Bdrm has walk in closet. Nice size living room adjacent to Kitchen. Large back and front yard. Newer Roof and central air. **\$269,700**



W5742 North Dr, Elkhorn - Why go through the hassle of building when this 2023 custom built 4 Plus Bedroom, 3.5 bath two story is ready to enjoy. Situated on 75' of Middle lake frontage you'll find this open concept main level with wall of windows lakeside. Inside Kitchen offers everything the discriminating chef would demand and ultimate living and dining space with gas fireplace, custom wet-bar and deck access. Master Bdrm ensuite with breathtaking lake views offering double vanity, large tile shower and ample walk-in closet. Family room walk-out with gas fireplace, full bath, work-out room or Bdrm, 4th bdrm and screened porch. Kitchen also features large island/breakfast bar with Delkon countertops and Zine Autograph appliances. Outside fireplace and level lakefront yard by pier and storage shed **\$1,639,700**



W5357 Lauderdale Dr, Elkhorn - The Iconic Lauderdale Lakes home, "The Boathouse" on Deakin Isle is situated on 192' of premier shoreline. Rebuilt in 2015 to its original 1915 Jazz Age glory, this 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath home is bursting with historical details and architectural styles. Bathroom features 7,200 sq ft with original hand rock maple floors, unique hanging Meiji era Japanese lanterns, with the original Opium Den prep room for a future hidden wine cellar. All 3 Lauderdale Lakes are visible from numerous vantage points throughout the four levels. Kitchen features custom marble countertops, farm sink, Wolf & Sub-Zero appliances. Master BR ensuite with luxury freestanding tub, full steam room, and private deck with fireplace. A finished swim basin provides access to the marquee wet boathouse w/ underwater lighting. **\$4,499,700**



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working,” shared Garcia. “Since we are open 24 hours and the station is manned at night, we do have to encourage her to sleep during the night.

“(It’s) often difficult for her because there are people there (at the station) who may need some attention or are ready to give Flo some attention,” he added.

Trained for a specific job

Flo is a service dog who was trained by Supporting Independence through Teamwork Service Dogs, which is located

in southern Illinois.

The organization specializes in canine therapy and offers a variety of different canine services.

Antioch Police Chief Geoff Guttschow became interested in obtaining a comfort dog for the village after seeing the positive impact the dogs are having in police departments across the country.

It’s been shown that these dogs benefit not only the community, but also members of the police force.

As the department often does when

they have a need for something that is not covered by their budget, Guttschow approached the Lions Club of Antioch for assistance to help cover the cost of a comfort dog. It was his hope that the Lions Club would be able to provide at least part of the funds to allow Antioch to bring a support dog (also referred to as a comfort dog) to the community.

“And once again the Lions Club, as it so often does, came through for us,” shared Commander Garcia. “The Lions Club has always been there to help the police department and other community organizations, for which we are very grateful.”

Flo has a variety of jobs, including going out in the community with an officer to visit schools, childcare facilities, independent living facilities, support groups, community events or just to walk the streets, meeting residents.

Officers find they are more approachable while out and about if accompanied by Flo, who loves responding to the attention she receives from those they cross paths with.

She serves as a bridge between the community and the department, but that is not her only job.

Flo is often made available to victims and witnesses who have been exposed to excessive trauma. Having Flo there to



upper photos: The newest member of the Antioch police force, Flo, a comfort dog, is introduced to the board by Commander Nicholas Garcia. The two then spent a little time showing off some of her tricks to the board members. **at left:** Officer Johnson spends quality time with Flo at the station.

COURTESY KELLEY CRIMMINS/VILLAGE OF ANTIOCH
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SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of the Lakes*

console the person lowers stress levels and helps the person affected deal with the event more easily.

One big family

“Police work is a highly stressful profession,” Garcia said. “We gain so much personally from having Flo here in the station.

“When our stress levels are up, coming into the station and being given a friendly greeting by Flo helps to lower them,” Garcia explained.

Flo lives at the station full time and there is not any one person in charge of her. All of the police department officers and staff pitch in feeding her, as well as taking her outside for walks and needed breaks.

“Even dogs need a day off from their jobs now and then,” Garcia said. “So occasionally one of the members of the staff will take her home for a long weekend. It seems that Flo enjoys her short weekend vacations, and we always get good reports that she has behaved well.”

While she enjoys getting away, Garcia said she’s also happy back in her space.

“She always seems happy to return to her real home, The Antioch Police Station... where her entire family lives.”

The Antioch Police Station (and Flo’s home) is at 433 Orchard St. in Antioch. For more information on where to see and meet Flo, call 847-395-8585.

above: Commander Garcia and Flo take a break in Flo’s room, which was painted pink in recognition of her being a female. **top right:** Students at a local school are happy to get a special visit from Flo. **at right:** Flo enjoys giving love to staff and students at school. Visits throughout the community are the highlights of a day at work for Flo.

COURTESY KELLEY CRIMMINS/VILLAGE OF ANTIOCH
Spirit of the Lakes





SPRING IS COMING FOR

Chain O'Lakes

Winter work on Grass Lake could help with fishing

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

Spring is the time of year where everyone begins looking forward to returning to the water.

Although there is some winter activity on the Chain O'Lakes, it's relatively small compared to the time and activities there in warmer weather. Ice fishing and skating are popular, but safe ice is important.

For the majority of the community and those who come to the Chain O'Lakes from other areas, it's the springtime that brings joy as life on the water resumes.

The Chain O'Lakes encompasses more than 65,000 acres of water, 488 miles of shoreline, and 45 miles of river and is considered to be the busiest inland recreation waterway per acre in the U.S., according to Wikipedia.

Because of the chain's large size and



the need to protect this waterway, the Fox Waterway Agency was given the task of overseeing both the Chain and the Fox River and caring for its health and well-being.

“We work on the lakes throughout the year, including the winter,” said Joseph Keller, executive director of the Fox Waterway Agency.

Winter project recap

“This winter we have been working on a project around Grass Lake to remove the sediment that has settled there. Grass Lake is one of the shallowest lakes, once known primarily for its lotus beds,” he added.

“Now, due to its shallow depth, it is a place great for fishing but the sediment must be removed to keep some depth to the lake to allow boats to travel through,” Keller explained.

According to Keller, the organization removed the sediment from the lake. Through arrangements with shore owners, the sediment can then be piled on the shore, then removed from the area while the ground is still frozen.

“By removing the sediment while the ground is still frozen, there is no damage to the landscape,” said Keller. “Our job is to get it off the shore before the ground thaws.”

Grass Lake is a favorite fishing area because of its shallow depth. The larger boats must stick to the center of the water to avoid running aground, leaving the sides closer to shore undisturbed for the fish to grow and anglers to catch them.

There are two types of fishing



COURTESY PATRICK WERTZ Spirit of the Lakes

SPRIT of THE LAKES • March/April 2025

above: Sandhill cranes can be seen in many open areas along the Chain O'Lakes during the spring and summer. **top:** One of many signs of spring is seeing that the pontoon boats are out and about on the chain. **opposite:** The beauty of sunset across the water is a favorite sight for many.



The Fox Waterway Agency headquarters, under the direction of Director Joseph Keller, is at 45 Pistakee Lake Rd. in Fox Lake. The agency oversees the management of the waters in the Chain O'Lakes as well as the Fox River.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of the Lakes*



Even though the lake is still partially frozen, the pelicans find space to swim, while steering around the water's icy sections.

COURTESY PATRICK WIRTZ *Spirit of the Lakes*

enthusiasts often seen on the lake – those who fish to catch and prepare the lot for dinner, and those who fish for the pleasure of fishing, catch them as a sport and then release them back into the water.

Both types of fishing are important to maintaining the balance of fish in the chain.

Grass Lake has a large variety of fish, including catfish, carp, muskie, large- and small-mouthed bass, and even some blue gill and walleye.

The Native Americans who lived in this area before the arrival of the European immigrants used this area as a place to hunt and fish because of the large numbers and variety of waterfowl, fish and other wildlife.

They never over-fished or over-hunted in one area and would always move on before they did any damage. This now is the job of the Waterway Commission – to protect the waterway, maintain the clarity of the water and protect the fish in it.

Signs of spring

With spring in the air, changes are beginning to be seen on the chain.

Early piers begin to reappear on the shore. They are followed quickly with boats coming out of storage and returning to their home base.

According to Keller, the boat owners are ready to be on the water once the temperature hits 74 degrees.

“While seeing the boats return to the water is a sure sign that spring has arrived, there are other signs that spring is here,” Keller said.

“One such sign is the return of wildlife to the area – both those animals that will remain here through the warm weather and those just migrating north. Right now, we are seeing a large number of bald eagles in the Grass Lake area. 28 have been noted here, more than usually observed,” he said.

At this time of year, pelicans also make their way through the Chain O'Lakes. They do not come to stay but travel through on their way north for the summer.

Pistakee Lake and Fox Lake – being the largest of the lakes on the chain – make a wonderful, even if only temporary, home for the pelicans. The pelicans bed down along Half Moon Island near the junction of Pistakee Lake and the Fox River.

With the raising of the water depth in the chain from the construction of the Stratton Dam in McHenry, Half Moon Island mostly disappeared below the water.

Once the location of several homes, today it is just a small encampment of trees with sandbars around it, making it a perfect place for the pelicans to gather and sleep on the sandbars.

Historically, the pelicans used to travel up the Mississippi River but several years ago, according to local residents, they changed their path and now yearly are seen in the Chain O'Lakes area.

With the large number of freshwater

lakes that are full of fish, there is plenty of food for them to enjoy as they travel north.

Once the pelicans leave the Chain itself, there are many lakes in Wisconsin that will continue to feed and shelter them as they continue their journey north.

Important work of dams

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers along with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources have been conducting a study on the dams along the Fox River in Illinois.

There are 13 dams along the river, many built during the years 1830-1850 to provide power for sawmills and flour mills and ice cutting during the winter.

Over the years, these dams have been improved and replaced and now they are being considered as to what their future may be.

The Corps of Engineers are working on recommendations to remove, modify or simply leave the dams as they are.

The two dams that are most important to the Chain O'Lakes are the Stratton Dam in McHenry and the Algonquin Dam in Algonquin. These dams, especially the Stratton Dam, are responsible for controlling the water level in the Chain and on the Fox River. Neither of these dams are being considered for removal by the DNR, according to Keller.

"The dams help control the level of the Chain at the appropriate level for recreational activities throughout the season," Keller said.

He said the dams can be opened when there is a large melt into the lake from nearby lands.

"They can also be closed during times



While the waterway is still partially frozen, including near the Stratton Dam on the Fox River, it will not be long before the water runs freely again.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of the Lakes*

of low water to keep the water in the lakes and keep the chain open for recreational boating," Keller added.

The goals of the Stratton dam include maintaining a recreational pool of water, to utilize available storage in the Chain O'Lakes to minimize regional flooding, and to maintain flows for water supply and aquatic habitat. It also helps to limit water flows during periods of ice jams.

"We are pleased that they are not being considered for removal," Keller said. "They are important in maintaining the recreational aspect of the Chain O'Lakes and continue to keep the Chain open to boating."

He said their work in keeping the

Chain O'Lakes clean and clear has been successful.

"It is paying off with not only keeping the waterway a clean and pleasant place to enjoy water activities, but also seeing an increase of wildlife," Keller said.

Keller also issued a reminder that all watercraft on the waterway are required to have a yearly sticker for their boats. The cost is dependent on size of the craft and horsepower of the boat.

The stickers may be purchased at the Waterway Office, 45 Pistakee Lake Rd., Fox Lake, or online at www.foxwaterway.com.

For more information, call the Waterway office at 847-587-8540.



With wings extended, a pelican gets ready to fly, possibly to hunt for food.

COURTESY PATRICK WIRTZ *Spirit of the Lakes*

Activities at Chain O'Lakes State Park

Chain O'Lakes State Park is located in both McHenry and Lake counties in northeast Illinois. It borders three natural lakes – Grass, Marie and Nippersink – and the Fox River, which connects the other seven lakes.

Below are just some of the many activities offered.

Archery range – An archery range for target practice is located on Rt. 173 West of the Fox River for target practice.

Bike trails – There are four surfaced bike trail in the park totaling 6 miles.

Boating – A user fee issued by the Fox Waterway Agency is required for all boats using the Chain O' Lakes. Call 847-587-8540 for agency regulations. There is no charge to launch boats at the park, nor is there any horsepower limitation on boats using any of the Chain O' Lakes. Only electric trolling motors only are allowed on Turner Lake, a 44-acre lake inside the park. All watercraft must comply with State of Illinois Watercraft rules and regulations.

Concession/Boat Rental – The park's concession stand is open January to October. Hours vary so it's advised to check the website. Offers food, ice, firewood, soft drinks, ice cream, fishing equipment and baits, and camper supplies. Boat and canoe rentals are available. The required safety equipment must be provided by the user or rented from the concessionaire. For additional information call 847-587-7165 or visit Gillsonthechain.com.

Fishing – Among the popular fish available to anglers in the Chain O' Lakes are bluegill, largemouth bass, walleye, crappie, muskie, northern pike, bullhead, catfish and yellow and white bass.

Hunting – Dove, waterfowl, archery deer and permit pheasant hunting are available at the park. Details available at the park office and online. All hunting is by registration only.

Picnicking – Chain O' Lakes State Park features seven picnic areas, Oak Point, Deer Path, Hickory Grove, Pike Marsh, Oak Grove, Catfish Cove and Maple Grove, with tables, water, grills and toilets.

Facilities for visitors with disabilities – The Pike Marsh North Picnic Area has been developed to provide accessibility for disabled and/or elderly visitors, including a 1/4-mile hiking trail. There are six class A accessible sites.

Trails – Chain O' Lakes has four trail systems. The Nature's Way hiking trail starts at Oak Grove Picnic Area and is 2 1/4 miles in length. The Pike Marsh North Picnic Area has an accessible trail that is 1/4 mile long. The park also contains an equestrian trail with three loops and a total length of eight miles. A biking/hiking trail, 6 miles in length, can be accessed at any picnic area between the concession stand and the park office.

For more information about the park, visit dnr.illinois.gov and scroll down to "State Parks and Recreation."

What's on stage at PM&L Theatre

Marjorie Prime • March 28 – April 13

Consider a future where artificial intelligence brings past relationships to life. This compelling drama explores the intricate dance between memory and technology, posing thought-provoking questions about the essence of human connection. This drama delves into the complexities of memory, identity, and the impact of artificial intelligence on our lives.

The Lyres • Friday, April 18

PM&L Theatre is bringing improv to Antioch! The gathering space will new talent (to the theatre) for a unique and hilarious evening of entertainment.

Hairspray • May 30 – June 22

Join Tracy Turnblad on her quest for fame on a 1960s TV dance show, championing diversity and inclusion along the way. Bursting with catchy tunes and vibrant dance numbers, this energetic musical is a feel-good hit for all ages. Get ready to shake and shimmy with the irresistible energy of "Hairspray"!

Bursting with infectious music and unstoppable dance numbers, this big-hearted musical celebrates diversity, friendship, and the power of change.

About the theatre

A theatre community since 1960: Palette – symbol of the artist; Masque – symbol of the actor; Lyre – symbol of the musician.

These three symbols were put together to form the name of the group of people who were interested at that time primarily in producing (overseeing the executive and financial aspects) of plays, art works, and concerts, according to history shared on the website.

A dozen individuals (actors, business people, artists and musicians) banded together and donated \$10 each. With \$120 burning a hole in their pockets, the group set out to bring culture to Antioch. Shows and art exhibits were given for the benefit of the Antioch Women's Club, Lake County Mental Health Group and various P.T.A.s.

In 1963, the group was offered the opportunity to rent the Lakes Theatre (originally named the Crystal Theatre, constructed circa 1914) on Main Street. With the added responsibility of maintaining a theatre and putting something on the stage with some regularity, it was decided membership should be broadened to include general members.

Palette, Masque, and Lyre, Inc. moved into what is now the PM&L Theatre, and with few exceptions has not looked back since.

Get involved

PM&L has been run and operated by its volunteer membership for over 50 years. From the sets they build, the props they make, the refreshments they serve, and the spectacles they create they are entirely volunteer driven.

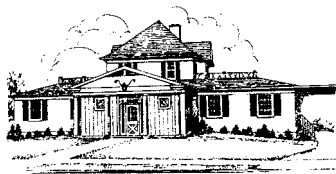
Many may call it "community theatre" but to them it's really a theatre community – a group of dedicated volunteers with the mission of bringing the arts to the communities they serve through a community they create.

"No matter your experience, no matter your level of talent, there's a way for you to help us. Drop us a note and start your journey to becoming a part of the PM&L community," the website states.

PM&L Theatre is at 877 Main St., Antioch, Illinois. For more information, including to purchase tickets, visit pmltheatre.com, call 847-395-3055 or email tickets@pmltheatre.com.

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