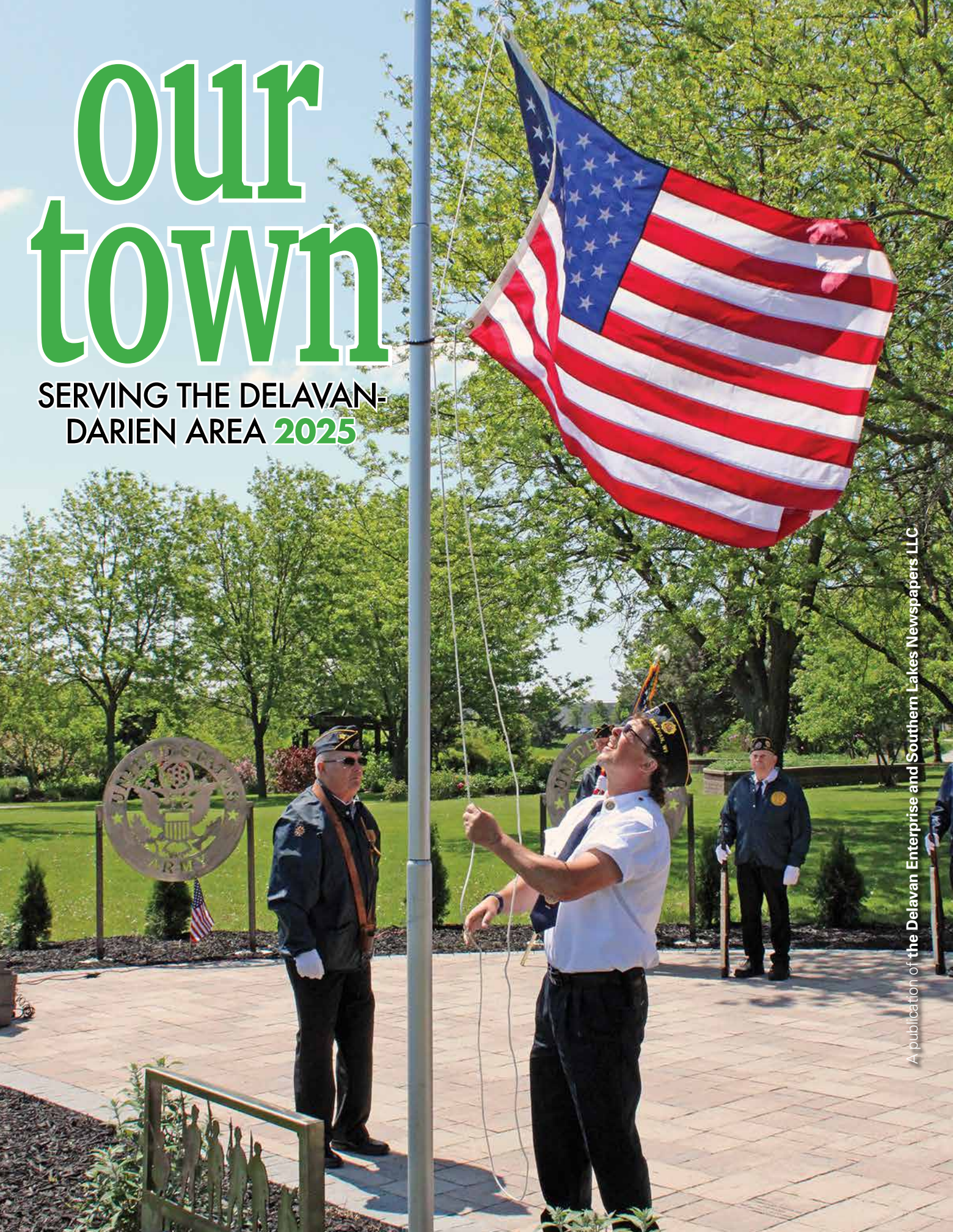


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As part of last year's Cinco de Mayo celebration in the City of Delavan, a parade was held down Main Street. **above:** Flags and costumes were a huge part of the celebration.

DAVE DRESHOW *Our Town*

Friends and neighbors, welcome to Delavan!

Greetings, to those who already call Delavan home, those who once lived here and will always call this area their home, and to those who are considering our community as a place to reside, work, or visit in the future.

As mayor, I am honored to have been raised here, and to now represent thousands of families similar to my very own in the City of Delavan. As many individuals can already attest to we are a community proud of our past history, and know strategic programs and policies put in place now will benefit future generations in the years ahead.

We are fortunate to have stakeholder organizations like the Delavan-Delavan Lake Chamber of Commerce/Visit Delavan, the Lions Club, Delavan Service League, the local library, and others who are strong partners in our efforts to encourage economic investment, business expansion, tourism, residential growth, and a quality of life that makes our community prosperous for all.

Delavan is a welcoming, vibrant, sustainable destination city. The city council, city staff, and myself are working hard together to encourage the kind of community investment and smart growth that will lead to a higher quality of life for all Delavan families.

Many of us are alumni of DDHS, have raised kids who went through the schools,

or are raising kids now that currently attend the district. I'm excited to continue the strong partnership between the city, our school board officials, a new school administrator, and teachers to offer our kids the best education environment possible.

We've made great strides in recent years to give our Police, Fire, and EMS services the tools and resources necessary to protect and keep us all safe in Delavan. No doubt that will remain a priority as we know our citizens value that commitment and new residents look for those safety procedures in place when choosing a community to reside in.

Delavan has grown, and will continue to do so. Yet, I'm confident we'll never lose our small city charm where we know our neighbors, and help look after those most in need. Those qualities have made us love Delavan so much in the past, presently, and in the future.

If you aren't already familiar with Delavan, we invite you to visit during one of our many community events this year. Enjoy a stay with us and discover what has made Delavan unique all these years, and what sets our community above the rest.

SINCERELY,

Ryan J. Schroeder

MAYOR CITY OF DELAVAN

Follow the Delavan Brick Road

Delavan-Delavan Lakes Chamber Director Malinda Obershaw welcomes visitors and residents alike to the area, and encourages them to "follow the Delavan Brick Road."



Malinda Obershaw

"Follow the Delavan Brick Road means so many things," Obershaw explained. "Not just traveling down the historic downtown road, but exploring everything that Delavan has to offer."

Obershaw said that the entire area – not just the downtown – has sights to see, restaurants with great food, people with stories to tell and festivals to brighten their day.

The "Top Ten" of Delavan's must-see experiences:

- The Delavan Lake – a boater's paradise. It offers fishing, kayaking, scenic cruises and more.
- The Historic Downtown with colorful murals, charming boutiques, coffee shops and much, much more.
- Phoenix Park Bandshell – Live music and entertainment greet everyone from spring to late fall.
- Thriving Hispanic culture and cuisine, honoring the vibrant Hispanic community that calls Delavan home.
- Greater Delavan area wineries and

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

2025 Delavan-Darien our town

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on the cover: Veterans raise the American flag at Congdon Gardens' veterans memorial.

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dhalbesma@ddschools.org

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Schools partner to provide program with ‘character’

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**
EDITOR

With a gathering at Gateway Technical College that featured six students, numerous teachers and administration, the Elkhorn and Delavan-Darien School Districts showed off a new partnership in late January.

The program is called Craftsman With Character – a semester-long initiative connecting students with skilled trades and emphasizing character development at the same time.

Elkhorn’s College and Career Academy has three students participating – Abel Chavez, Colten Welch and Griffin Brieschke. The Delavan-Darien Technical School is represented by Cesar Medrano, Josh Hersrud and Rafael Perez.

The six students will spend four days each week working directly with six local companies – Propshaft, R & L Springs, Wisconsin Oven, Integra, Continental Plastic Corporation, and Royal Basket Trucks, Inc.

One day a week, the students will take part in classroom-based character development, led by two people – Jon Anzalone, the EASD Community Engagement Coordinator, and Lisa Pavett, the program manager for the Walworth County Economic Development Alliance’s Inspire & Made in America Walworth County program.

The partnership was coordinated by Chris Trottier, EASD’s Director of Strategic

Partnerships, and Mike Rick, Delavan-Darien Tech Administrator and Career and Technical Education coordinator.

“The launch of the Craftsman with Character Program by the Delavan-Darien School District and Elkhorn Area School District showcases the power of collaboration in education,” said Rick, adding that pulling character development into the skilled trades will not only steer students on a meaningful career path, but teach them values at the same time.

“With the support of local businesses and dedicated mentors, these students are building the foundation for a bright future – one rooted in craftsmanship, character, and community,” Rick said. “The Delavan-Darien School District takes great pride in having three of its DD Tech students participate in this transformative opportunity.”

Trottier was equally enthusiastic.

“The launch of Craftsman with Character demonstrates two districts’ investment in strategic partnerships and experiential opportunities for students,” he said. “The Elkhorn Area School District continues to ensure all students have an identified career pathway where they are earning stackable credentials. Collaborating with the Delavan-Darien School District, six employers, Craftsman with Character, Gateway Technical College and WCEDA exemplifies our value



With the launch of the Craftsman with Character program that is a collaboration between the Delavan-Darien and Elkhorn School Districts, six students from the two schools are getting a chance at a unique educational opportunity. Upper photo, from left: Program students Cesar Medrano, Josh Hersrud and Rafael Perez (from Delavan-Darien Technical School) and Abel Chavez, Colten Welch and Griffin Brieschke from Elkhorn’s Career and College Academy. Above: Lisa Pavett, who will be offering character education through Walworth County Economic Development Alliance’s Inspire & Made in America program, offers her congratulations to Medrano.

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

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OUR Service Clubs & Organizations

At the hub of any great city are the service clubs and organizations that host fun events and worthy fundraisers, or offer support to those in need, positively impacting the people of the greater community. Here are some of those located in the area:

AMERICAN LEGION POST 45

Meetings are held the second Monday of every month at the Walworth County Veterans Museum. Commander Mark Gajewski, (719) 238-6653

BIG BROTHERS

BIG SISTERS

1545 Hobbs Dr., Delavan. Info: (262) 728-8865 or visit bbb4kids.org

CYCLING WITHOUT AGE

Cycling Without Age aims to bring joy and vitality to non-driving, older adults and those with differing abilities via a trishaw, a three-wheel, pedal-assist cargo bike.

The Dementia Friendly Community Initiative of Walworth County (see below) is bringing the program to the area. Two bikes have already been purchased but there are ongoing fundraising efforts for additional bikes and maintenance as well as training sessions for volunteers to pilot the bikes.

For more information about or to help with the Cycling Without Age program, visit dfcwalworth.org, send an email to dfcwalworth@gmail.com or call 262-320-7325.

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

The Dementia Friendly Community Initiative of Walworth County is a non-profit group of volunteers that aims to insure all county businesses, faith communities, organizations and service providers are equipped to serve individuals affected by Alzheimer's/dementia.

The group meets at 8:30 a.m., the second Thursday of the even months (Feb., April, June, etc.) at Health & Human Services, 1910 County Rd NN, Elkhorn in the Kettle Moraine Trail Room on the first floor.

For more information call 262-320-7325, follow the group on Facebook, email dfcwalworth@gmail.com or visit dfcwalworth.org.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY IN WALWORTH COUNTY

P.O. Box 174, Lake Geneva, WI 53147. Info: (262) 949-0542 (please leave a message), visit

habitatwalworth.org or like and follow Habitat for Humanity in Walworth County on Facebook.

HOPE NOW, INC.

107 W. Walworth St., Elkhorn. A nonprofit organization that raises charitable funds to help local families in need. Info: call (262) 723-4711 or like and follow HOPE NOW, Inc. on Facebook.

KETTLE MORAINE LAND TRUST

Contact Rory Klick, managing director at rory@kmlandtrust.org or Liza Fischel, administrative coordinator at liza@kmlandtrust.org, by calling 262-379-4283 or by visiting kmlandtrust.org

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Patrick's, 107 W. Walworth St., Elkhorn. Info: (262) 723-4998, stpatrickselkhorn.org.

LAKELAND ANIMAL SHELTER

3615 Highway 67, Delavan, P.O. Box 1000, Elkhorn. Open Monday-Friday from noon-6 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Info: (262) 723-1000, lakelandanimalshelter.org

LAKELAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Meets September through March (excluding December) at 7 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Lions Fieldhouse, Highway 67 and Stark St., Williams Bay. Info: (262) 248-4535 or lakelandaudubon.com.

LAKELAND PLAYERS

15 W. Walworth St., P.O. Box 234. Providing enjoyable entertainment, a creative home and volunteer opportunities. Info: follow Lakeland Players on Facebook, call (262) 728-5578 or visit lakeland-players.org

NEW BEGINNINGS APFV

20 N. Church St., Elkhorn. Support and advocacy for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and sexual abuse. Key goals include awareness, education, support groups and prevention. Info: 24-hour helpline at (262) 723-4653, or email newbeginningswalworth@gmail.com or visit newbeginningswalworth.com

OPEN ARMS FREE CLINIC

205 E. Commerce Ct. (Dental Clinic, 209 E. Commerce Ct.), Elkhorn. One hundred percent supported by grants and donations, Open Arms is the

only free medical and supportive care clinic in Walworth County serving low-income and uninsured residents with primary medical, dental, vision, behavioral health, lab and pharmaceutical assistance. Hours vary with volunteer providers availability but are generally 9 a.m. to 4 or 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Info: (262) 379-1401, openarmsfreeclinic.org

PREGNANCY HELPLINE WALWORTH COUNTY

28 S. Wisconsin St., Elkhorn. Open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Wednesdays from 3 to 5:30 p.m. 24-hour helpline at (800) 712-4357. Info: (262) 723-2020, phlwalworthco.org

S.M.I.L.E.S.

N2666 Highway K, Darien. Helping to improve the lives of those living with disabilities through a partnership with horses. Info: (262) 882-3470, smiletherapeuticriding.org

TREE HOUSE CHILD AND FAMILY CENTER

W4063 Highway NN, Elkhorn. The nonprofit organization advocates for children and their families who are the victims of abuse and neglect through community outreach. The alliance's Tree House provides a safe place for abused children and their families to turn to for help. Info: (262) 755-8733 or visit treehouseforkids.net.

SOUTHERN WAKES UNITED WATER SKI SHOW TEAM

P.O. Box 434, Whitewater. The team is a merger of the Lauderdale Aqua Skiers and Whitewater Lake Sports Club (Minneiska.) A non-profit water skiing organization that performs on lakes in the area in addition to tournaments. Info: southernwakesunited.com

UNITED WAY OF WALWORTH COUNTY

203 E. Walworth St., Elkhorn. Info: (262) 374-4474, uw-wc.org

VIP SERVICES, INC.

811 E. Geneva St., Elkhorn. Info: (262) 723-4043, vip-services-inc.org

WALWORTH COUNTY CIVIL AIR PATROL

401 E. Fair Ave., Elkhorn. Info: (414) 588-2053, gocivilairpatrol.com

UW-EXTENSION

The University of Wisconsin-Extension teaches, learns, leads and serves while connecting people with the university and engaging them in transforming lives. A variety of programs and resources are available from horticulture to health, families and finance to nutrition education. Info: (262) 741-4961, walworth.extension.wisc.edu.

WALWORTH COUNTY BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

Providing a safe supervised, educational and fun environment for children and teens. Info: (262) 745-2153 or bgcwalco.org

WALWORTH COUNTY FARM BUREAU

President: Terry Papcke. 119 S. Broad St. Info: (262) 723-2613, www.wfbf.com

THE BRIDGE FOOD PANTRY & DIAPER BANK

205 E. Commerce Ct., Elkhorn. Hours are Fridays, 1 to 4 p.m. and Saturdays, 9 to 11 a.m. Info: (262) 723-4488 or walworthcountyfoodpantry.org

WALWORTH COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

President, Karen Weston. P.O. Box 159, Delavan 53115. Meets the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the community center at Matheson Memorial Library. The society's library in the Mary Bray Room at Matheson Memorial Library, 101 N. Wisconsin St., Elkhorn, is open and staffed from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesdays (until 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday) of each month. Info: walworthcgs.com or (262) 723-9150

WALWORTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Facilities for the Historical Society include: Webster House, located at 9 E. Rockwell St., P.O. Box 273, Elkhorn; and the historical society building at 9 S. Broad St. Open Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 4 p.m. and by appointment.

For information call (262) 723-7848, visit walcohistory.org, email walcohistory@tds.net or follow the Society on Facebook.

FRIENDS OF THE WHITE RIVER STATE TRAIL

White River State Trail bicycle club; note that there is a trailhead in Elkhorn. Info: follow Friends of The White River State Trail on Facebook.



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Food of the irish

The Delavan Lions Club holds its annual corned beef and cabbage (plus other foods) dinner each year at Lake Lawn Resort. This year was the 62nd year of the event, which also had baked chicken for non-corned beef fans. Clockwise from top left: City of Delavan Mayor Ryan Schroeder served up food at the event; a variety of sides were available; Participants line up for the buffet-style dinner.

DAVE DRESLOW *Our Town*

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OUR *County Government*

County Board of Supervisors

The Walworth County Board of Supervisors meets the second Tuesday of the month at 3:30 p.m. in the County Board Room of the Walworth County Government Center, 100 W. Walworth St., Elkhorn. Meeting dates and times may vary therefore, it's advised to contact the County Clerk's Office at (262) 741-4241 to confirm meetings. For more information about county government, visit co.walworth.wi.us

WALWORTH COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER

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Elkhorn

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mluberd@co.walworth.wi.us

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Deputy County Clerk
Susi Pike

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Deputy Director, County
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Commissioner
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Management
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DPWGeneral@
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Making their mark around the county

COUNTY FAIR HONORS OUTSTANDING SENIORS

By **Tom Ganser**
CORRESPONDENT

The 175th Walworth County Fair kicked off at the Peggy's Park Stage with the presentation of State of Wisconsin citations honoring the service of four outstanding senior citizens for decades to their communities.

The senior citizens honored included Andy Pearce from Walworth, Larry Malsch from Delavan, Rick Bottlemy from Delavan and Ruth Pfeiffer from Elkhorn.

The opening ceremony also included a singing of the national anthem led by students from Elkhorn Area High School, a tribute to Peggy Fraser – the longtime fairgrounds staff member who passed away earlier this year – and awards for outstanding vendors, exhibitors, and friends of the fair.

In his opening remarks to the presentation of citations to the senior citizens, State Sen. Steve Nass said it was an honor to recognize the volunteer efforts of others.

"The citations that we give out are allowed under our rules. We can't just give willy-nilly give citations to whomever we want," he said. "They have to have earned it, and these people have certainly earned it."

Nass presented the citation for Andy Pearce, who was unable to attend the ceremony, to his son, Dan Pearce. Nass stated, "Andy ensures that Walworth County is a better place to live, to work, and to go to school."

A member of the Big Foot Lions Club for 36 years, Andy has been responsible for organizing and managing the annual Lobster Boil that is the main fund-raising event for the club where "100% of the money goes back into the community and state."

According to John Tucker, President of the Big Foot Lions Club, the Lobster Boil on the last Saturday in July, is an event known across the nation.

"We have people from Florida, St. Louis, and California who plan their vacation to this area and time it to coincide with the Lobster Boil," Tucker said. "The atmosphere that his event produces is nothing short of magical."

Andy recalled later, "I got involved right away when I joined the community and just never looked back."

Regarding his membership in the Big Foot Lions Club, he said, "One of the most rewarding things that we do is being able to screen the children in the grade schools, and when we do that there will be probably 80 kids out of 600 kids that



State Sen. Steve Nass (above center) leads the honoring of the Walworth County Outstanding Seniors at the Walworth County Fair last summer. Nass was one of a handful of state legislators on hand to recognize the seniors who have made strong contributions to the community. Top: Nass hands an award to Larry Malsch, one of the honorees.

TOM GANSER Our Town

we refer to get eyeglasses, otherwise they might not know they need eyeglasses."

Nass also presented the state citation to Malsch in recognition of "his many years of countless hours as a volunteer, and in other positions of service and value to the community."

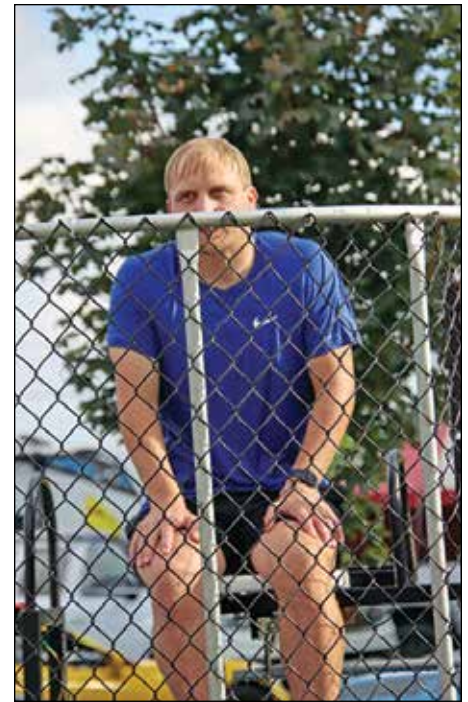
Nass said that Malsch began his service to others by serving our country in the United States Navy as a Navy corpsman – who provides emergency, preventative, and routine medical care to Navy personnel – and continuing as an officer in

the Delavan Police Department rising to the rank of Police Chief.

Malsch has served on the Delavan city and town boards and on both the city and town's fire and police department boards, "ensuring the safety of his community."

Nass noted, as an active member of American Legion Post 95 serving in roles as Commander and Adjutant, Malsch "demonstrated his belief in serving those who served our county."

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



Making a splash

Raising money for various organizations, Kunes Auto Group hosted a pair of dunk tanks at the Walworth County Fair this past year. Among the battles was one between Elkhorn Area High School Athletic Director John Handel and Delavan-Darien High School Activities Director Kyle Polzin. Above, from the left: A youngster pushes the button to give Handel a dunk; Elkhorn Area High School Community Engagement Coordinator Jon Anzalone takes aim at the target; Polzin drip dries after taking a dip in the tank.

DAVE DRESHOW *Our Town*

OUTSTANDING SENIORS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Malsch attributed his drive to serve the community in part to his grandfather, who served on a volunteer fire department for more than 50 years.

“We’re sitting there eating supper and the whistle goes off and he goes,” Malsch said. We’ll be doing a birthday party or something like that, and the whistle goes off and he goes. I just learned that you do things like that.”

He also pointed to Harry Larsen, Delavan Chief of Police, for instilling in him the importance of serving the community: “He was my guide and my inspiration and my model.”

Rounding out his contributions to the legal system, Malsch has served as a jail bailiff in the Walworth County Circuit

Court for 16 years whose role is the maintenance of order in the courtroom.

Wisconsin State Representative Nik Rettinger presented Bottlemey with his Outstanding Senior Citizen award.

Rettinger cited that as an active member and director of the Walworth County Farm Bureau, Bottlemey “has served an extensive amount of volunteer hours, giving freely of his time to the Elkhorn Ribfest and at the Walworth County Fair ice cream stand and Dairy Breakfast.”

Bottlemey is a devoted supporter of the Walworth County Historical Society, and a long-time Big Foot High School FFA alum for more than 50 years and the Walworth County FFA.

Rettinger said that Bottlemey “serves his brothers and sisters in agriculture throughout his career at implements and other farm related jobs for many farmers throughout Walworth County.”

Wisconsin State Representative Ellen Schutt presented the 2024 Outstanding Senior Citizen Award to Pfeiffer, noting having known her “from exhibiting in the open class horticulture building. She is a wonderful volunteer, always helping in the flower department. Ruth is the person who always answers the call, selfishly offering her time and efforts to assist her community in any way she can.”

“Ruth has proudly served as a volunteer with the Walworth County Senior Nutrition Program for over 17 years,” Schutt said, “demonstrating unwavering commitment to the well-being of others.”

In addition, as an active member of the Senior Travel Club, Pfeiffer has “further enriched the lives of her peers” and she has “generously volunteered with the Walworth County Farm Bureau, contributing her time and energy to community events such as Elkhorn Ribfest, the Walworth County Dairy Breakfast, and the Ice Cream Stand.”

In a simple but powerful summary of Pfeiffer’s contributions to her community, Schutt said, “Ruth is a dedicated servant, and genuinely cares about family, friends, and community.”

DEHAVAN • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

breweries – check out the beers and wines that make the area special.

- Outdoor adventures – Delavan’s parks total more than 100 acres and are beautifully maintained...great for biking, hiking and even cross-country skiing.

- Unique shopping opportunities include The Market at Tower Park from June to September every Thursday.

- Year-round festivals and events, including ScarecrowFest, Delavan Dasher Days, wine and beer walks and the Cars Time Forgot Car Show.

- Family friendly fun – dancing horses and animal gardens, golf courses and cruises on Delavan Lake are just a few of the offerings.

- Welcoming resorts and cozy stays – both luxury resorts and cozy B and Bs are available for all tastes.

“No matter the season, Delavan is full of adventure, culture and small-town charm,” Obershaw said.

For more information on events and places to visit, go to delavanwi.org, or visitdelavanwi.com.



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City of Delavan changing up Fourth of July

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**
EDITOR

Partnering with the Delavan-Darien School District, the City of Delavan will see a difference in the Fourth of July celebration this year.

The annual Independence Day celebration will move from Congdon Gardens to Borg Stadium this summer, with a full day of patriotic festivities offered.

The event schedule is tentatively planned as follows:

- Pancake breakfast, City of Delavan Fire Station, in the morning hours.
- Independence Day Parade, 3 p.m., downtown to Phoenix Park Bandshell.
- Celebration of Freedom, 4 p.m., with live music at Phoenix Park Bandshell.
- Pre-fireworks celebration, 5:30 to 9:45 p.m., Borg Stadium, children's activities, vendors, music, concessions and more.
- Fireworks and flag ceremony, 9 to 9:45 p.m., viewable from the Borg Stadium stands.

"This partnership is a game-changer for community engagement and a wonderful opportunity to bring our #CometNation family together in a meaningful and exciting way," said Ashley Duchemin, Marketing and Communications Coordinator for the Delavan-Darien School District.

"Aligned with DDSD's mission of 'Dream, Discover, Connect,' this event provides a unique opportunity for current students, families, staff, alumni, and the entire Delavan-Darien community to dream big, discover new opportunities, and connect in celebration of our nation's independence. It's a day to honor traditions, foster connections across generations, and showcase the unity of our community," she added.

Tom Klug, the city's Parks and Recreation Director, said hosting this event "at Borg Stadium allows us to enhance the experience for attendees with the fantastic facilities of the Delavan-Darien High School."

For more information, sponsorship opportunities or to get involved, contact Duchemin at 262-233-6756 or aduchemin@ddschools.org, or Klug at 262-728-5586, ext. 132, or prdirector@ci.delavan.wi.us.



United States Gypsum Company's Delavan Plant donated \$5,000 in 2024 to the Shop with a Cop event, held through area police departments and the Delavan-Darien School District. Plant Foreman Joe Jameson said employees identify a charity each year, and chose Shop With a Cop. Shown here with USG employees are Officer Ben McMasters from the Town of Delavan Police Department (left) and Lt. Josh Flitcroft from the City of Delavan Police Department (right). This year marked the sixth year of the Shop With a Cop event in Delavan, held in December at Lake Lawn Resort.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Our Town



The Walworth County Dairy Breakfast, held each year on a county farm, was held on the Davis Family Farm in Sharon in 2024. The event produced a huge turnout, though organizers did not have exact numbers. Long lines for food and ice cream were the norm, though, as families came out for a breakfast of deluxe scrambled eggs, sausage, pancakes, juice, milk, coffee and ice cream. **clockwise from above:** State Assembly member Ellen Schutt serves sausages at the breakfast; Tours of the farm were available, with these children checking out the cows in a barn; Volunteers cook pancakes at the breakfast.

JENNIFER EISENBART Our Town

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Find fresh fruit, produce from the **Sweet Corn Lady**

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**

EDITOR

On a sunny afternoon near the Delavan Lake inlet, Theresa Lee tries to shoo off a photographer.

"You can't take a photo now. You have to come in the morning," she said. "We're almost out!"

That it's 2:30 in the afternoon and the Sweet Corn Lady produce stand is nearly empty when it's normally open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. is a clear sign of how business is going.

In addition to the eponymous sweet corn, the stand also stocks tomatoes, peaches, muskmelon and watermelon – among other fresh delights when available, like nectarines and plums.

On Saturdays, the stand has homemade Amish bread, along with several selections of homemade jam.

Add in peppers, cucumbers, green and wax beans and zucchini, and the Sweet Corn Lady stand has just about everything fresh a visitor could look for.

"We are well known because we have been there for 68 years and are known for our quality," Theresa said last summer.

The farm stand is part of a Wisconsin tradition – fresh product from fields and trees, brought to market by farmers, who then sell the fruits and vegetables directly to the consumer.

The Sweet Corn Lady, located on Highway 50 in Delavan, near the bridge in the inlet, is also part of that tradition. The stand started by selling sweet corn out of the back of a truck in downtown Delavan back in 1957.

The woman behind it all, Jerry Lee, moved the location to the inlet area in the early 1970s and has been there since.

In the 1980s, she added a second location in Elkhorn, though that one no longer exists.

The stand has been a destination for many a family, but Jerry Lee raised four daughters and six grandchildren at the stand.

"My dad started to raise melon in 1940," Jerry said. "He then got into the sweet corn. He would just take the truck to Delavan or whatever and they'd just buy it from the truck."

When Jerry graduated from high school, she asked if she could take the truck to Delavan – which started the business in 1957.

Jerry worked at the stand, at least in part,



The Sweet Corn Lady farm stand – located on Highway 50 near the inlet on Delavan Lake – has been a standard in quality for the last 68 years for fresh produce. Children have been a part of the Sweet Corn Lady stand for most years, as first Jerry Lee and then her daughter, Theresa, brought their children to work at the stand. Shown here is Theresa Lee's daughter, Sierra (left), with family friend Tanner.

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

JENNIFER EISENBART *Our Town*

Putting past experiences on the written page

Local author publishes middle-grade book with relevant experience

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**
EDITOR

Local author Carol L. Paur, who said she has been writing since she was 10 years of age, has always enjoyed penning stories that appeal to children.

While she writes in all age groups, her current success is with middle-grade books, and her third published book is hitting the shelves.

"Rowley Peters and the Lumberjack Ghost" is an early middle-grade book for children ages 8 to 10. The book was released earlier this week through Chicken Scratch Books.

Ghosts, mummies and frogs are all in the works for Rowley Peters, who is camping with her parents. She begs to go to a waterpark, but her parents insist she experience nature.

When her best friend, Huey, shows up, things should have gotten better, but they don't. Huey doesn't believe in ghosts and makes fun of Rowley. To save their friendship, Rowley will need to solve the mystery of the Lumberjack Ghost.

This is Paur's third children's book, though she self-published three books before finding a publisher.

What makes Rowley Peters and the Lumberjack Ghost special is that Rowley has a bilateral cleft lip and palate.

"I was born with a cleft palate," Paur said. "I wanted to put it all behind me."



Carol L. Paur



Paur said surgeries, medical exams and teasing were a regular part of her childhood, and she was eager to push all of it into her past.

"When I joined the Facebook page, Our Cleft Lip and Palate Support Group, I realized there were a lot of suffering children and parents who needed love, support, and even a heroine who has a bilateral cleft and palate," she explained. "There was a need for a hero, albeit not a very courageous hero, who people could get behind and cheer for them.

"Rowley is that heroine."

Paur has written in a number of fields and in addition to books, she's a screenwriter and has freelanced for newspapers in the past. She is also a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, as well as being a mentor for fellow writers.

She said she wants all books to have universal appeal, and to make sure all readers are valued.

"I want all readers to know they have value and they're more capable than they give themselves credit for," she said.

"Rowley Peters and the Lumberjack Ghost" is available on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) by searching for Paur or the title, as well as Barnes and Noble and through Chicken Scratch Books.

For more information, check out Paur's webpage at www.clpaurauthor.com.

Carol Paur's most recent publication, "Rowley Peters and the Lumberjack Ghost," is a middle-grade book that is near and dear to her heart, as the main character was born with a cleft palate – like Paur.

SUBMITTED ARTWORK *Our Town*

SCHOOLS

• CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

on community engagement and strategic partnerships and the impact collaboration has on student achievement."

CWC is a workforce development program founded in 2013 by Dave Hataj of Edgerton Gear. The program offers a structured model and curriculum that brings together schools and local businesses to provide meaningful job shadowing, character education, and mentorship.

Speaking about the program, Hataj said, "In choosing 'craftsman,' we honor the tradition of excellence while embracing the diversity of talents and voices that contribute to the world of craftsmanship.

"We believe that anyone who embodies these values and skills is, indeed, a craftsman."

SWEET CORN LADY

• CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

until three years ago when she broke a hip. Now, Theresa has taken over the stand, with her children working beside her – just like she did.

"They've all done well for themselves," Jerry said of her family.

Jerry explained the stand is a people-oriented business, with families coming up and sharing hugs when the stand first opens at the end of June. The children working for the Sweet Corn Lady also learn better people skills, Jerry said.

Operating a farm stand allows the flexibility in working part time and still having time for family.

But the stand also stands (pun intended) on what it carries and the quality of what it provides to its customers.

"We just carry what is popular," Theresa explained.

In July, that is ripe, ready-to-pop watermelon, the sweet corn, and Missouri peaches that taste nothing like the ones in the grocery store.

"We are known for our peaches now," said Theresa, adding that the stand is the only one in the area with the particular kind they carry.

The reason for the stand lasting 68 years, though – in addition to the family dedication – might just be attributed to the dedication of the customer base.

"We have kept it going because of our amazing customers telling us we can never leave them," Theresa said.

The Sweet Corn Lady stand is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day from mid-summer through Labor Day. For more information on the stand, including special notices and new arrivals of fruit and vegetables, search for Sweet Corn Lady and Daughters on Facebook.



Weaving together a successful business

Brick Street Yarn carries a variety of supplies needed

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**
EDITOR

There's an old saying among knitters and crocheters – one can never have too much yarn.

"I do my best," said Debbie Raye, owner of Brick Street Yarn in Delavan. "I don't know if I necessarily agree with it, because my customer base seems to be split.

"Half of them have a stash at home that is equal to my shop," she added. "Others will buy yarn for a specific project at a time."

Any way you look at it, Brick Street Yarn – now located at 725 E. Wisconsin St., Delavan – has plenty of yarn, knitting needles, crochet hooks and other notions for any crafter out there.

"I try to stock a good variety of fibers and

in several price ranges," explained Raye, who owns the store with her husband, Glenn.

She opened the store in 2012, and laughs when asked why she decided to open it.

"I had retired," she explained. "After about five years of retirement, I was frankly a little bored."

Raye has been knitting most of her life. When she and Glenn moved to Wisconsin from the Chicago area, she "accidentally" found a knitting community.

"I guess that's how it started," she said.

She first had a small store near the Duck Inn on Highway A, in a former schoolhouse. Staller Estate Winery eventually bought that building, and Raye moved to downtown Delavan in 2019.

It was on East Walworth Street until this spring, when she moved to her current location.

In both cases, the space she was renting was sold.

"It's more modern," Raye said about her current space, adding that parking is easier for customers.

The space is about the same as her former store, but any fiber artists who walk in is immediately greeted with a lot of color and variety.

Raye stocks yarn from the smallest of sizes – known as lace weight to knitters and crocheters – to bulky and super bulky, all of which can lead to projects from lace to socks to scarves to blankets.

"Don't forget sweaters," she added.

Colors range the entire scope, with bright fluorescent pinks to deep heathery greys.

Raye also stocks yarn in the green and gold of the Green Bay Packers, and has been known to stock blue and orange for the Chicago Bears and red and white for the Badgers – for anyone interested in wearing their favorite team's colors.

Yarns vary in material. She will stock synthetics on the lower end of the price point, but also alpaca yarn, which is at the higher end.

Additionally, there are hand-dyed skeins,

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

Debbie Raye owns Brick Street Yarn, 725 E. Wisconsin St., Delavan. The current location of the store, which got its start at an old schoolhouse, is the third incarnation. **inset:** Among the many different kinds and colors of yarn that Raye stocks are the familiar green and gold of the Green Bay Packers.

JENNIFER EISENBART *Our Town*

Comic Alley store reopens in Bradley's

Owner moves business to new location in downtown Delavan

By Jennifer Eisenbart
EDITOR

A comic book dealer in the City of Delavan is looking forward to reopening his store on the main drag this week.

Tryke's Comic Alley closed Aug. 21 after a leak in the leased space in the Baymont Inn forced owner Tryke Kemnitz to close and eventually move.

He is setting up shop across the street at Bradley's Unique Home Décor, 222 E. Walworth St., Delavan.

Kemnitz was caught unexpected by the move, but was excited about the switch to the new space.

Early last summer, Kemnitz noticed a leak in his store, which was located in a small, first-floor space that used to be part of the tavern at the hotel.

"There had been persistent leaking," Kemnitz explained, adding that the leak finally reached a breaking point in

August, with the temporary fix overflowing.

He estimated he initially lost about \$500 of inventory, though none of it was older, more valuable comics that are part of his offerings.

"It was all the new stuff," he said. "I don't have anything that sets the world on fire. I have comics for people to read."

The lease with the Baymont has since been terminated, and Kemnitz found a new home within the Bradley shop.

Ironically, after spending 29 years in Lake Geneva, Kemnitz moved the store to Delavan last year and was initially looking at the space it will now be occupying.

The comic store is now located on the basement level, according to Kemnitz.

"I'm actually very grateful Fred was able to make the space," he said, referring to owner Fred Gahl.



Tryke's Comic Alley, formerly located in Lake Geneva and at the Baymont Inn in Delavan, last fall moved to the basement of Bradley's Unique Home Décor at 222 E. Walworth St. Shown here is owner Tryke Kemnitz.

JENNIFER EISENBART Our Town

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Kemnitz said the space is "interesting," and offers somewhat of an old-time soda fountain feel.

"Over the years, it's been a lot of different things," he said of the store. "In a historical place like that, it's just kind of neat to be there sometimes."

Kemnitz is looking forward to reopening and offering his wares, which include back issues of Marvel, DC and independent comics.

He also offers toys, superhero-related items, games and more.

"All my regulars found me," Kemnitz said of the initial move from Lake Geneva to Delavan. "People from town were starting to find me (in the last year, in Delavan)."

For more information about the store, search Facebook for "Comic Alley" and follow the page, where Kemnitz posts updates.

WEAVING • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

which lend themselves to specialty projects that need to have all the yarn bought at once.

"Some people want natural fibers, some people want easy care," Raye said. "You have to walk that fine line. What is the intended project? Is it a gift? Is it an intended heirloom? Or is it utilitarian?"

There's much more than yarn. Raye also stocks knitting needles and crochet hooks, plus other items like stitch markers, suede slipper bottoms and notion holders.

In addition, Raye hosts two open knits – free time for crafters to come in with their projects – twice a week: Tuesdays from about 1 to 4 p.m. and Thursdays in the early evening, starting around 5 p.m.

"It's very social," Raye said. "We share skills, we share project ideas, we help each other with knitting terms and patterns and a lot of hand holding."

Brick Street Yarn is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursdays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sundays. It's closed on Wednesdays.

For more information, call the store at 262-725-7779.

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