

2020 Waukesha County

SUMMER FUN GUIDE

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To our readers:

Like so much in our lives, the 2020 Summer Fun Guide looks a little different. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many events have been canceled, rescheduled or their status remains unknown at press time.

Some events are still listed in the guide, but please note, their dates could change. Check with the organizer to confirm the event will go on as planned before attending.

As a result of fewer events being held this summer, the Sumer Fun Guide contains stories on activities you can do with your family at home and in your communities, such as crafts, baking and park exploration.

We hope that no matter what you do this summer, it's an enjoyable and healthy one.



File photo

Chris Knapp, left, and Al Pederson along with members of American Legion Post #196 prepare corn on the cob for block partygoers in downtown Delafield for the city's Block Party.



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Summer activities to keep kids captivated

Waukesha Parks and Recreation recommends easy projects for fun

By Quinn Clark
Special to Conley Media

WAUKESHA — As families' favorite places close or summer plans are canceled, it can be easy for children to start to feel stir-crazy. Luckily, there are plenty of ways for kids to stay active and have fun this summer that are in your own backyard.

The Waukesha Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department has had to cancel many youth programs and classes due to COVID-19. In response, on their website, they have listed activities for children to do at home.

"The benefit of families being 'Safer at Home' is that time enjoying nature, taking walks together and playing outside are all ways to positively cope," said Mona Bauer, customer and administrative services manager at Waukesha Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department.

Some activities listed on their website include:

Making cardboard forts: Using old boxes, families can create an entire city for Barbies or Hot Wheels, or even their own mini home to decorate and furnish.

Going for a neighborhood color walk: At the start of a family walk, decide on a color to look out for. Then, have the children "collect" items of that color by shouting them out when they see them.

Making a time capsule: Choose a container for each member of the family and have family members personalize it with decorations. Then, have each family member pick an item that is special for that time period, or defines them at that age. Family members can also write a letter to their future selves. Then, put all containers together in a shoe box or large plastic container and determine where to store it for the years to come.

The WPRF also provides a guide for 30 days of fun at home. Categories include messy fun, cooking, equipment-



free games and more. For example, a hands-on activity provided includes creating your own solar oven.

1. Take a shoe box and line the inside with foil.

2. Take 5 kabob skewers and poke them through the shoe box the "hot dog" way. This will act as your baking rack. The closer to the bottom of the box, the better.

3. Place the item you want to cook on the rack

4. Place plastic wrap over the top

5. Set your oven outside on a hot, sunny afternoon.

Another way to stay active and set a goal for the family is to follow WPRF's virtual 5K Run/Walk Training Manual. Workouts are provided for six weeks leading up to your family's potential 5K, along with weekly topics to stay motivated.

All resources for ways to keep kids captivated at home can be found at waukesha.wi.gov/1900/Things-to-Do-with-Kids-Safe-at-Home.

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JUNE events

June 7: 1860's tea in the Afternoon, seatings at 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. June 7, Dousman Stagecoach Inn Museum, 1075 Pilgrim Parkway, Brookfield. Enjoy afternoon tea in the historic dining room of the inn. Tea sandwiches, fruit breads, fresh fruit, dessert, beverages and a guided tour are included. Limit 10 people. \$20 per person. Advance reservation and prepayment required. Leave us a message at 262-782-4057 or email at: elmbrookhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

June 12: Elmbrook Humane Society's Lure Course, 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, June 12, EBHS, 20950 Enterprise Ave., Brookfield. A fun and socially safe way for your dog to burn physical and mental energy. Your \$10 (pre-pay) donation gets your pup up to 4 runs around the course. Pre-registration is required by calling 262-782-9261. Check ebhs.org or facebook.com/EBHS1964 for more information and updates to lure course events.

June 14: Show Us Your Collection, noon to 4 p.m. June 14,

Clark House Museum/Steele Exhibit Bldg., 206 E. Wisconsin Ave., Pewaukee. Presented by the Pewaukee Area Historical Society. Attend and see what people collect and learn about their collections. Everyone is welcome. Free event. 262-691-0233, www.pewaukeehistory.org

June 19: Elmbrook Humane Society's Summer Kindness Camp, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, June 19, EBHS, 20950 Enterprise Ave., Brookfield. Young animal lovers, ages 6-7, will enjoy a variety of fun animal-themed activities, crafts, a behind-the-scenes tour of the shelter, and much more during this half-day camp. Kids will also have the opportunity to enjoy educational interactions with several certified therapy dog teams. \$50 per student, with pre-registration required by calling 262-782-9261. Check ebhs.org or facebook.com/EBHS1964 for more information and camp updates.

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A fun and socially safe way for your dog to burn physical and mental energy! Your \$10 (pre-pay) donation gets your pup up to 4 runs around the course. Pre-registration is required by calling 262-782-9261. Check ebhs.org or facebook.com/EBHS1964 for more information and updates to lure course events.

June 20: Wisconsin Car Enthusiast Club "6th Annual Season Opener Showcase and Meet", noon to 5 p.m. June 20, Waukesha County Expo Center, 1000 Northview Road, Waukesha. \$5 per carload. The event consists of an indoor showcase space, outdoor showcase space, meet & greet parking for day of entrants, and spectator parking. Tug-O-War, feet drag racing, and much more. www.theofficialwcec.com

June 25-26: Elmbrook Humane Society's Two-Day Summer Kindness Camp, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., June 25 to 26, EBHS, 20950 Enterprise Ave., Brookfield. Young animal lovers, ages 8-12, will enjoy a variety of fun animal-

themed activities and interactions, crafts, a behind-the-scenes tour of the shelter, and much more. Kids will also have the opportunity to enjoy educational interactions with several certified therapy dog teams. \$110 per 2-day camp, with pre-registration required by calling 262-782-9261. Check ebhs.org or facebook.com/EBHS1964 for more information and camp updates.

June 28: St. Mary's Strawberry Fest, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 28, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, corner of highways 18 & 67 in Dousman. Delicious strawberry treats, bake sale, plus grilled food. Beautiful Haitian art on sale. For more information, call: 262-965-3924 or check <https://www.stmarys-dousman.com>.

JULY events

July 10: Elmbrook Humane Society's Summer Kindness Camp, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. July 10, EBHS, 20950 Enterprise Ave.,

262-970-9524 info@OttosArtAcademy.com



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Brookfield. Young animal lovers, ages 6-10, will enjoy a variety of fun animal-themed activities, crafts, a behind-the-scenes tour of the shelter, and much more during this half-day camp. Kids will also have the opportunity to enjoy educational interactions with several certified therapy dog teams. \$50 per student, with pre-registration required by calling 262-782-9261. Check ebhs.org or facebook.com/EBHS1964 for more information and camp updates.

July 10-11: Delafield Block Party, 5 p.m. to midnight July 10 and July 11, downtown Delafield.

July 12: Ice Cream Social, noon to 4 p.m. July 12, Clark House Museum/Steele Exhibit Bldg., 206 E. Wisconsin Ave., Pewaukee. Old-time games for the kids, entertainment, museum tours and ice cream treats for purchase. Free event. 262-691-0233, www.pewaukeehistory.org

July 15-19: Waukesha County Fair, noon to 10 p.m. Wednesday, 10 a.m. to midnight Thursday, 10 a.m. to midnight Friday, 10 a.m. to midnight Saturday and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday, Waukesha County Fairgrounds, 1000 Northview Road, Waukesha. www.waukesha-countyfair.com

July 16-Aug. 2: "Cabaret," Sunset Playhouse, 700 Wall St., Elm Grove. 262-782-4430, <https://sunsetplayhouse.com>

July 17: Elmbrook Humane Society's Lure Course, 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. July 17, EBHS, 20950 Enterprise Ave., Brookfield. A fun and socially safe way for your dog to burn physical and mental energy. Your \$10 (pre-pay) donation gets your pup up to 4 runs around the course. Pre-registration is required by calling 262-782-9261. Check ebhs.org or facebook.com/EBHS1964 for more information and updates to lure course events.

July 23: Elmbrook Humane Society's Two-Day Summer Kindness Camp, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. July 23 - 24, EBHS, 20950 Enterprise Ave., Brookfield. Young animal lovers, ages 8-12, will enjoy a variety of fun animal-themed activities and interactions, crafts, a behind-the-scenes tour of the shelter, and much more. Kids will also have the opportunity to enjoy educational interactions with several certified therapy dog teams. \$110 per 2-day camp, with pre-registration required by calling 262-782-9261. Check ebhs.org or facebook.com/EBHS1964 for more information and camp updates.

July 25: Ted Vigil's Tribute to John Denver, 7 p.m. July 25, Oconomowoc Arts Center, 641 E. Forest St., Oconomowoc. www.theoac.net, 262-560-3172

July 30: 2nd Annual Beer, Distillery, and Cigar Night, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. July 30, Sanfelippo New Berlin City Center Market, 15055 W. National Ave., New Berlin. Free admission, live music, food available for purchase. Contact Becky Sanfelippo at 414-254-8407 or rsanfelippo@outlook.com with any questions.

AUG. events

Aug. 2: 1860's tea in the Afternoon, seatings at 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Aug. 2, Dousman Stagecoach Inn Museum, 1075 Pilgrim Parkway, Brookfield. Enjoy afternoon tea in the historic dining room of the inn. Tea sandwiches, fruit breads, fresh fruit, dessert, beverages and a guided tour are included. Limit 10 people. \$20 per person. Advance reservation and prepayment required. Leave us a message at 262-782-4057 or email at: elmbrookhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Aug. 6: Waukesha Civic Band

Concert, pre-concert activities from 7 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. and concert from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. Aug. 6, Les Paul Performance Center, Cutler Park, 321 Wisconsin Ave., Waukesha.

Aug. 7: Elmbrook Humane Society's Summer Kindness Camp, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 7, EBHS, 20950 Enterprise Ave., Brookfield. Young animal lovers, ages 8-12, will enjoy a variety of fun animal-themed activities, crafts, a behind-the-scenes tour of the shelter, and much more during this half-day camp. Kids will also have the opportunity to enjoy educational interactions with several certified therapy dog teams. \$50 per student, with pre-registration required by calling 262-782-9261. Check ebhs.org or facebook.com/EBHS1964 for more information and camp updates.

Aug. 7-8: Waukesha Rotary BluesFest, 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday, August 7 and 8, Naga-Waukee Park on Highway 83 off Interstate 94, Delafield. Headliners: Friday — Robben Ford and Saturday — Sue Foley. Plus art show and food and beverages. www.waukeshabluesfest.com. Info line: 800-366-1961

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Ava Valasek, 10, learns "hands-only" CPR from Waukesha fire inspector Steve Komar during Waukesha Night Out in Frame Park in 2018.

File photo



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Crafts to soothe the soul

Ideas for indoor and outdoor activities for kids and adults

By Quinn Clark
Special to Conley Media

OCONOMOWOC — Adapting to all of life's changes can feel overwhelming, but Lynda Laugavitz, class and event coordinator at Ben Franklin Crafts in Oconomowoc, says that crafts can help soothe the soul.

"The act of making and doing provides us with a sense of control and mastery which is very important in uncertain times," Laugavitz said.

She recommends turning to individual projects, as well as ones to enjoy as a whole family. Most materials referenced can be found at Ben Franklin Crafts, and are available through their curbside service.

"Crafts allow people of any age to learn skills of patience and determination," Laugavitz said.

Family crafts

For a hands-on activity to do as a family, Laugavitz recommends making a batch

of play dough or slime.

"Adults and children both can benefit from the soothing sensory experience," Laugavitz said.

She recommends using a recipe that can make the slime firm.

"Use firmer recipes to create simple sculptures for a guessing game, or have a time limit for everyone to mold the same item, then vote for the best one," Laugavitz said.

Laugavitz says that a project that also serves as a great way to show compassion for others is to decorate sidewalks with chalk.

"All ages can participate in celebrating the work of our essential workers or creating a loving message for grandparents or neighbors who may not be getting out much these days," Laugavitz said.

Ben Franklin Crafts also offers a wide variety of packaged craft kits with plenty of ideas for families to try.

"There's something for every age and interest. Adults,



Submitted photo

Olivia Laugavitz poses with an Eiffel Tower project.

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- July 18 • Chicago & Military Day - Ride historic South Shore and Elevated cars. Active duty military and vets in uniform are FREE.



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All materials needed to get started on a knitting project can be found at Ben Franklin Crafts.

like me, have been known to appreciate the fun and creativity inspired by these activity books,” Laugavitz said.

Individual crafts

For a project to try on your own, Laugavitz recommends trying out knitting, crocheting or embroidery.



Submitted photo

Lynda Laugavitz, class and event coordinator at Ben Franklin Crafts in Oconomowoc, recommends coloring in adult coloring books to destress.

“I have great memories of learning these skills as a child, and now there are so many resources available for people to take online classes or view free tutorials,” Laugavitz said.

If you are unsure of how to start, Ben Franklin Crafts has all materials required for beginners.

“We carry all the yarns, hooks, needles and threads needed to get started,”

Laugavitz said.

Laugavitz also recommends looking into adult coloring books.

“We have basic coloring tools through artist grade mediums for any level of coloring aficionado,” Laugavitz said.

A great skill to try to acquire to incorporate into many different projects, Laugavitz says, is the art of lettering and calligraphy.

“There are a number of ‘how to’ books available, which allow the learner to acquaint themselves with the skill while providing wonderful ideas for how to incorporate lettering into various art and craft projects,” Laugavitz said.

For more ideas, go to Ben Franklin Crafts’ Pinterest board at www.pinterest.com/benfranklinwi where new ideas are posted regularly.

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WISCONSIN AVIATION

Waukesha County Parks open for the summer

Find new trails and a geocache, too

By Quinn Clark
Special to Conley Media

WAUKESHA — Although summer plans may come with uncertainty due to COVID-19, you can count on Waukesha County Parks to be there for a fun summer activity to enjoy with friends and family.

“Regular exercise helps improve your mood by reducing anxiety and depression,” said Emily Heller, public communications coordinator for Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use.

“We know that our parks, trails and golf courses provide opportunities for physical activity and stress relief that is critical to the health of our community during the COVID-19 pandemic,” Heller said.

Hikers can participate in geocaching, which is a virtual scavenger hunt that uses a global positioning system device and internet-published coordinates to locate surprises such as a hidden view or a physical trinket.



Submitted photo

A view of the lake on a Nashotah Park trail.



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To find a geocache near you, you can download the Geocaching app on your iPhone or Android. For more information, go to waukesha-county.gov/geocaching.

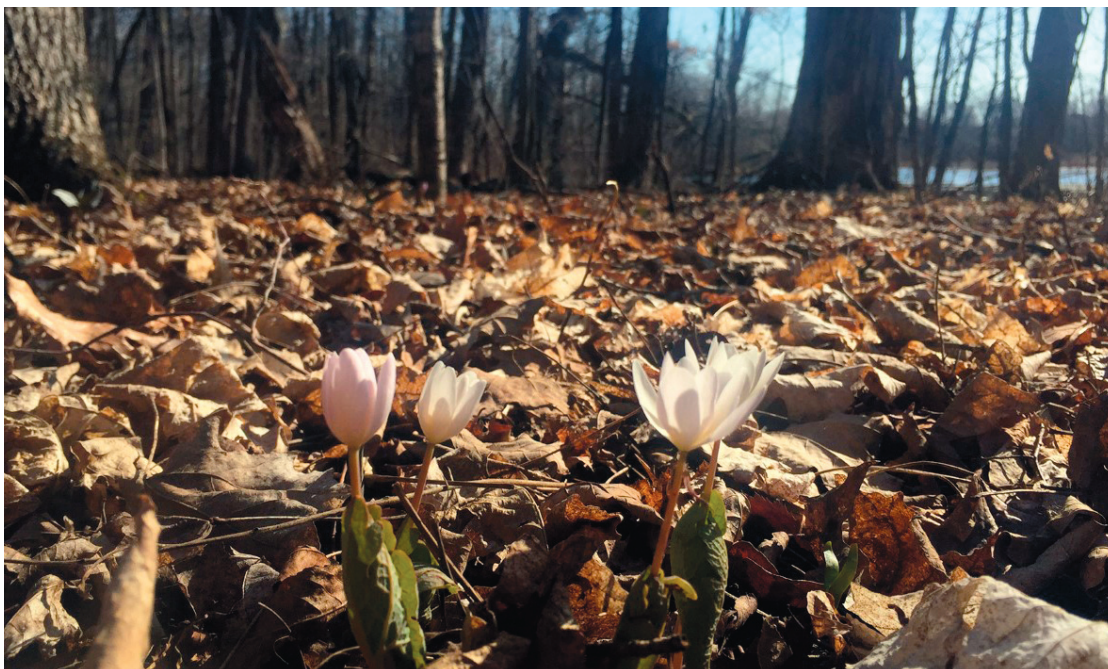
Heller also recommends finding a trail that best suits you for the most enjoyable experience.

“The wonderful thing about the outdoors is that it’s for everyone,” Heller said. “Pick a trail that meets your fitness level. There are a variety of trails within the Waukesha County Park System for all abilities.”

To find the best trail for you, go to waukesha-county.gov/landandparks/park-system/find-a-park.

Renters and homeowners can do several things to improve indoor air quality. Tips include:

- A zero use approach to tobacco, vaping products and cannabis.
- Dusting and vacuuming to minimize dust and pet dander.
- Cleaning bed linens, throws, blankets and curtains regularly.
- Keeping pets cleaned and groomed, with brushing taking place away from common



Submitted photo

Bloodroots bloom in Muskego Park.

living areas.

- Keeping windows closed at times of high pollen and outdoor mold counts.

- Maintaining 40 to 50 percent relative humidity in the home.

- Placing room air purifiers in spaces that could benefit from air filtering and circulation.

- Changing furnace filters as recommended by the manufacturer.

- Regularly maintaining heating and ventilation systems.

- Cleaning throw rugs semi-weekly. Professionally cleaning large area rugs and carpets at least once a year.




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September 11th

**Lake Country
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September 26th

**Halloween
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**Breakfast with
Reindeer**
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Brookfield Farmers Market:
7:30 a.m. to noon Saturdays May through October, new location in Brookfield Central High School North parking lot, 16900 Gebhardt Road, Brookfield. www.brookfieldfarmersmarket.com

Delafield Farmers Market:
8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, May 1 through Oct. 24, Fish Hatchery municipal parking lot, Main and Dopkins streets, downtown Delafield. <http://delafieldfarmersmarket.com>

Delafield Chef's Market: 9 a.m. to noon Wednesdays, municipal parking lot, Main and Dopkins streets, downtown Delafield. Open to chefs, cooks and foodies to pick up produce. For dates, go to delafieldfarmersmarket.com.

Dousman Farmers Market:
2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesdays, May 20 through Oct. 21, Dousman Village Hall parking lot, 118 S. Main St., Dousman. Youth Day July 15. <http://www.dousmanchamber.org/special-events/farmers-market>

Mukwonago Area Farmers Market: 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesdays, Field Park, highways 83 and NN, Mukwonago. May 20 through Oct. 14.

New Berlin Farmers Market:
8 a.m. to noon Saturdays, May 2 through Oct. 31. Sanfelippo's City Center Market, 15055 W. National Ave., New Berlin. sanfelippofarmmarket.com

Oconomowoc Farmers Market:
8 a.m. to noon Saturdays, parking lot at First Bank Financial Centre, 155 E. Wisconsin Ave. For dates, go to <http://www.oconomowoc.org/events/summer-farmers-market>.

Pewaukee Farmers Market:
3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesdays, Koepp Park, 201 Oakton Ave., Pewaukee. Check for dates at www.pewaukeechamber.org.

Waukesha Farmers Market:
8 a.m. to noon, Saturdays, May 2 through Oct. 31. Waukesha State Bank employee parking lot, corner of Madison Street and St. Paul Avenue, Waukesha. www.waukeshafarmersmarket.com



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July and August Programming TBA

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WAUKESHA CIVIC THEATRE

continued from page 5

Aug. 9: The Frame Park Car Show, 8 a.m. to 3:3 p.m. Aug. 9, Frame Park, Waukesha. <http://www.waukeshaoldcarclub.org>

Aug. 10-11: Elmbrook Humane Society's Two-Day Summer Kindness Camp, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 10 and 11, EBHS, 20950 Enterprise Ave., Brookfield. Young animal lovers, ages 8-12, will enjoy a variety of fun animal-themed activities and interactions, crafts, a behind-the-scenes tour of the shelter, and much more. Kids will also have the opportunity to enjoy educational interactions with several certified therapy dog teams. \$110 per 2-day camp, with pre-registration required by calling 262-782-9261. Check ebhs.org or facebook.com/EBHS1964 for more information and camp updates.

Aug. 11: Tribute Tuesday concert, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Aug. 11, Les Paul Performance Center, Cutler Park, 321 Wisconsin Ave., Waukesha.

Aug. 13: Waukesha Civic Band Concert, pre-concert activities from 7 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. and concert from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. Aug. 13, Les Paul Performance Center, Cutler Park, 321 Wisconsin Ave., Waukesha.

Aug. 14: Run With the Cops 2020, 7:30 p.m. Aug. 14, downtown Waukesha. 5k fun run/walk in downtown Waukesha. For more information or to register, go to runwiththecops.waukesha.com.

Aug. 14: Elmbrook Humane Society's Lure Course, 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., Aug. 14, EBHS, 20950 Enterprise Ave., Brookfield. A fun and socially safe way for your dog to burn physical and mental energy. Your \$10 (pre-pay) donation gets your pup up to 4 runs around the course. Pre-registration is required by calling 262-782-9261. Check ebhs.org or facebook.com/EBHS1964 for more information and updates to lure course events.

SEPT. events

Sept. 12: Elmbrook Humane Society's 13th Annual Wagfest, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 12, Mitchell Park, 19900 River Road, Brookfield. Loads of activities for dogs and humans. Day-long festival includes food, music, shopping, several different raffles and of course, activities for dogs — lure course, agility and practice arenas, and Zoomie Zone to name a few. Check ebhs.org/Wagfest or facebook.com/EBHS1964 for more information.

Sept. 25: Elmbrook Humane Society's Lure Course, 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Sept. 25, EBHS, 20950 Enterprise Ave., Brookfield. A fun and socially safe way for your dog to burn physical and mental energy. Your \$10 (pre-pay) donation gets your pup up to 4 runs around the course. Pre-registration is required by calling 262-782-9261. Check ebhs.org or facebook.com/EBHS1964 for more information and updates to lure course events.

ONGOING events

TUESDAYS

Classic Car Shows every Tuesday night, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesdays, July 7 to Aug. 25, Sanfelippo New Berlin City Center Market, 15055 W. National Avenue, New Berlin. Free entry, food available for purchase. sanfelippofarmmarket.com

WEDNESDAYS

Food Truck Events, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesdays, May 27, June 17, July 15, Aug. 19, Sept. 16, Sanfelippo New Berlin City Center Market, 15055 W. National

Avenue, New Berlin. sanfelippofarmmarket.com

FRIDAYS

Waukesha's Friday Night Live, 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Fridays, June through August, in downtown Waukesha. waukeshafridaynightlive.com

SUNDAYS

Dousman Stagecoach Inn Museum, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. first and third Sundays, June through October (closed Labor Day weekend), 1075 Pilgrim Pkwy, Brookfield. Admission required. Aggies Antiques will also be open. 262-782-4057, elmbrookhistoricalsociety.org

Arts and crafts vendor fairs, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 2nd and 4th Sundays, Sanfelippo New Berlin City Center Market, 15055 W. National Avenue, New Berlin. May 31 through Aug. 23. sanfelippofarmmarket.com

Antique and rummage vendor fairs, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 1st and 3rd Sundays Sanfelippo New Berlin City Center Market, 15055 W. National Avenue, New Berlin. June 7 through Aug. 30. sanfelippofarmmarket.com

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Cooking and making memories in the kitchen

Families encouraged to make food together

By Quinn Clark

Special to Conley Media

WAUKESHA — While it may seem like all the fun events in life have been canceled, it's still possible to spend time with the whole family. Pam Dennis, owner of Chef Pam's Kitchen in Waukesha, says it's a good time to create memories as a family through learning to cook a recipe.

"Now is the time to break out those family recipes and teach your kids how to make them," Dennis said. "Now is the time to spend making homemade bread versus store-bought with your children."

At Chef Pam's kitchen, Dennis hopes to share her love of cooking through teaching various classes. She is inspired by her past living in Italy as a Navy nurse and in Spain on a culinary internship, where she took part in three- to four-hour meals shared around the table. Dennis knows the importance of taking the time to share a meal as a family.

"At Chef Pam's Kitchen, my hope is that the kids and adults leave with a little more culinary knowledge than when they arrived, but also leave with a relaxed feeling of sharing a delicious meal, leisurely since other days are more of a rushed eating style," Dennis said.

Prior to COVID-19, it may have been impossible to find the time to cook a meal as a family. Now, Dennis wants families to take advantage of the extra time together.

"I believe that during this time of the pandemic more than ever families, by dinner time, are ready to gather for a fun activity," Dennis said. "Especially when they have been working hard during the day with homeschooling and working remotely."

If you are unsure of what recipe you should try, Dennis recommends making stuffed French toast.

"This is something I would make all the time with my two kids when they were little,"

Dennis said. "They are now 21 and 24 years old, but hopefully someday they will be making it with their families."

The best part for children, she says, is making the homemade whipped cream.

"When they see it go from a liquid to the final whipped product, you can see their excitement," Dennis said.

MK Drayna is the owner of her own small business, Whisk Chick in Milwaukee, creating custom cupcakes, cakes, cookies and more. She still remembers when she used to bake with her mother when she was growing up.

"My fondest memories from being a kid are making holiday cookies with my mom," Drayna said. "It was really validating to feel like a trusted team member in a project with an adult."

In these times of uncertainty and isolation, Drayna recommends that other families try to do the same.

"Involving yourself and your kids in creative projects is a great way to build your kids'

confidence," Drayna said.

She says that taking on a new recipe and being able to enjoy the finished product is one of the reasons why she fell in love with baking in the first place.

"I fell in love with baking because your final product is a physical thing you can touch and taste — nothing beats that feeling of accomplishment when everything else in life seems to be holding you back," Drayna said.

Now, she wants you to try and take on baking as a family. Drayna recommends trying to make sugar cookie bars for a recipe simple enough for all ages to take part.

"Plus, it's picky-eater proof," Drayna said.

In her child cooking classes, Dennis finds that children love food that comes in small sizes. For a small-sized dinner, she recommends mini chicken enchilada cups.

Next, she says not to forget to give everyone in the family a job.

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“Important part of cooking as a family is to give everyone a job in helping prep and cook the meal, and even little ones can set the table,” Dennis said. “I use plastic chef knives in my kid’s cooking classes and we also have smaller version aprons for the kids.”

To learn more about Chef Pam’s Kitchen, go to chefpamskitchen.com. To learn more about Whisk Chick, go to whiskchick.com.

Stuffed Strawberry French Toast

Ingredients:

2 tbsp butter
2 cups sliced fresh strawberries, reserve 1/4 cup for garnish
2 tsp cinnamon
2 tsp brown sugar
4 oz of cream cheese
4 tbsp of strawberry preserves
2 eggs
1/4 cup French vanilla creamer
1 pint heavy cream
1/4 cup confectioners sugar
1 tsp vanilla extract
8 slices of Texas toast bread

Directions:

Melt butter in a large skillet over medium heat and sprinkle brown sugar over. Stir until sugar begins to melt for about 1 minute. Add strawberries. Sauté until

strawberries are tender and juices form, about 10 minutes.

Take eight slices of Texas toast bread. Spread a layer of cream cheese and a layer of strawberry preserve over four slices of bread. Place another slice on top to make a sandwich.

Beat eggs with the cream, vanilla and 1 teaspoon cinnamon. Dip the bread sandwich in the egg mixture.

Pan fry until golden brown. Take a pint of heavy cream and whip in a KitchenAid or hand mixer until stiff peaks. Add confectioners sugar, vanilla and 1 teaspoon cinnamon and whip 1 minute more to incorporate.

Place a French toast sandwich browned golden on a plate. Top with the strawberry compote and then add a dollop of whipped cream. Sprinkle with powdered sugar and top with fresh strawberry slices.

Enchilada Cups

Ingredients:

2 cups chopped cooked chicken
1/2 cup chopped multicolored peppers
1/2 cup chopped yellow onions
1/2 cup enchilada sauce
1 clove garlic, minced
2 tbsp olive oil
Salt & pepper to taste
2 tbsp cilantro, minced

2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
24 small flour tortillas
Herbed olive oil for brushing
tortilla cups (you can use 2 tsp of Italian mix dry herbs with 1 cup olive oil)
3 tbsp sour cream for garnish

Directions:

1. Grease 2 cupcake (12 count) pans and curl a tortilla in each one.
2. Brush tortilla cups with herbed olive oil and bake at 400 degrees until golden brown on edges.
3. Heat a sauté pan, add olive oil and when hot add garlic. Sauté until lightly browned.
- Then add peppers and onions and sauté until soft. Add cooked chicken just to heat through.
4. Take sauté pan off the heat and add 1 cup of cheese and 2 tsp cilantro. Mix well.
5. Salt and pepper to taste.
6. Fill cups with chicken mixture, top with other cup of cheese and bake at 375 degrees just until the cheese has melted.
7. Serve with cilantro garnish on top and sour cream is optional.

Sugar Cookie Bars

Yields 15 servings

Cookie base:

Ingredients



Submitted photo

MK Drayna, owner of Whisk Chick, recommends making sugar cookie bars as a family because of its simplicity, while also leaving room for creativity to decorate.

1 cup unsalted butter, softened
8 oz cream cheese, softened
1 1/3 cups sugar
1 egg
1 tsp vanilla extract
1 tsp almond extract (omit for nut allergies)
2 1/2 cups flour
1 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp baking soda
1/2 tsp salt

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 350°F.
Beat butter and cream cheese with an electric mixer until smooth.
Add sugar. Scrape down the
continued on next page

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bowl.

Add the egg and vanilla. Scrape down the bowl.

Add flour, salt, baking powder and baking soda.

Spread the mixture into a 9x13 pan lined with parchment paper.

Bake for 25-30 minutes, or until the edges are slightly golden brown.

Wait for it to completely cool before adding frosting.

Frosting:

Ingredients:

3/4 cup unsalted butter, softened

2 1/2 cups powdered sugar

1 1/2 tsp vanilla extract

2-3 tbsp heavy whipping cream

1/4 tsp salt

Sprinkles for decorating

Directions:

Beat butter with an electric mixer until smooth.

Add the salt and vanilla.

Add powdered sugar by the cup and cream by the tablespoon alternately.

Beat on medium high for three to four minutes until fluffy.

Spread it evenly onto your cool cookie base, and add sprinkles to your liking.

It's cleaner if the whole thing is cooled again and removed from the pan before cutting your bars. Enjoy!

Date night at home

Chef Pam recommends recipes for couples

By Quinn Clark
Special to Conley Media

WAUKESHA – Date nights may have been put on hold for months, but Pam Dennis, owner of Chef Pam's Kitchen in Waukesha, recommends creating your own date night at home.

Normally, Dennis teaches couples cooking classes at Chef Pam's Kitchen, but because she had to cancel classes until further notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic, she has some recipes for couples to try at home.

For the main course, she recommends stuffed pork tenderloin.

What is fun about this meal is that in order to get the pork tenderloin stuffed and trussed for the oven, couples need to work as a team, Dennis said. One person holds in the stuffing as the other is trussing.

Dennis also recommends making Chocolate Decadence with chocolate ganache, that requires few ingredients, but



creates a delicious dessert.

It is a flourless cake, so it is also good for the gluten-free people, Dennis said.

Stuffed Pork Tenderloin

8 oz sliced Portabello mushrooms

4 slices bacon, chopped

2 tbsp cream cheese

2 tbsp butter

2 tbsp olive oil

1/4 cup crushed butter and garlic croutons

1 clove garlic, minced

1/4 cup chopped onion

1/4 cup minced shallot

1 tsp chopped thyme

2 tbsp chopped Italian parsley

Salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

1. Heat a sauté pan on medium heat. Add about 2 tbsps of olive oil and let it heat up.

2. Add chopped bacon (or can cut with kitchen shears into small pieces) and cook until browned. Remove from pan into another bowl.

3. Add butter and about 1 tbsp of olive oil and let it heat up, then add the onions, shallots, garlic and thyme. Sauté until onions are translucent.

4. Then add the mushrooms and cook until softened. Take off the heat and add the cream cheese and the crushed croutons. Sprinkle in 1 tbsp of parsley



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(reserve other tbsp for garnish once pork is sliced after cooking).

Let stuffing cool. Take pork tenderloin and remove any silver skin with a chef knife. Butterfly the pork tenderloin and then place in either wax paper or parchment paper. Pound out the pork until you have a pretty good size rectangle about 1-inch thick. Salt and pepper the pork rectangle all over. Spread stuffing onto one side of the pork tenderloin. Fold over like a book and tie with kitchen twine the whole length of the pork.

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Place stuffed pork tenderloin on a sheet pan with parchment paper on it. Cook until internal temperature reaches 145/150 degrees. Let rest for 10 minutes covered with aluminum.

Chocolate Decadence with chocolate ganache

Yields: 6 large, 10 mini

9.8 oz 65% chocolate
9.8 oz butter
7.4 oz eggs
4.9 oz sugar
pinch of salt

1. Melt the chocolate and butter together.

2. Whip the eggs, sugar and salt in a mixer until combined and just slightly lightened.

3. Add the chocolate and butter mix (should be warm, not hot) and mix just until combined.

4. Pour into sprayed silicone molds.

5. Bake at 325 degrees until the cake is just souffléd.

6. Refrigerate overnight after unmolding to chill before putting ganache over them.

Chocolate ganache:

1 pint heavy cream
5 oz sugar
5 oz. corn syrup
1 lb, 3 oz 65% chocolate
5 oz butter, in small pieces

Directions:

1. Bring cream, sugar, and corn syrup to a boil.

2. Combine the chocolate and butter in a bowl.

3. Pour the boiling cream mixture over the chocolate. Let the ganache sit for 1-2 minutes before stirring.

4. Stir the mixture with a rubber spatula to combine. The ganache should look smooth and shiny, not separated.

5. The ganache may be used now or cooled, depending on desired consistency (use now if coating the chocolate decadence).



File photo

Al Forbes of Menomonee Falls steps onto a dock from his boat as he prepares to take his boat out on Big Cedar Lake in Town of West Bend.



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