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Lake Country

THIS MONTH

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The competition and community of curling

Kettle Moraine Curling Club offers unique winter sport for all ages and abilities

By Isabella Kostolni
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DELAFIELD — If hockey, skiing, or snowmobiling aren't really your thing, there's a certain cold weather sport that might be just what you're looking for: curling. For over 60 years, the Kettle Moraine Curling Club, located in an old horse barn at 2630 Oakwood Road, has been bringing athletes of all skill levels together to engage in sportsmanship and community.

Communications Manager Steve Everett says that curling is the perfect opportunity to get out of the house and pick up a new activity.

"It's a great way to pass the winter months here in Wisconsin, get you out of the house and doing something active at a time when people might be a little more sedentary," he explained.

Those who aren't familiar with the sport might recognize it as an event in the Winter Olympics where players slide polished 42-pound granite stones (called "rocks") across a sheet of pebbled ice in hopes of landing it in the house — a set of concentric circles located on either end of the playing area. The pebbled surface forces the rock into a rotation, causing it to "curl." To extend the path of the rocks or straighten its trajectory, players can sweep the ice with a broom. Everett says the objective of the game is to get your rocks closer to the center of the house than your opponent.



Courtesy of Kettle Moraine Curling Club

Kettle Moraine Curling Club members Carey and Jeff Nelson sweep a rock on the ice. Curlers use brooms to sweep the ice, which can extend the path of the rock and straighten its trajectory.

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Lake Country Rotary Club celebrates ‘best giving-year’ for food drive

33rd annual holiday food drive raised \$34,688

By Karen Pilarski
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HARTLAND — The Lake Country Rotary Club had its best-giving year for the 2023 Yule Feed Families Food drive since the pandemic began, according to the club. A total of \$34,688.55 were contributed to the holiday food drive from 50 distinct donors to raise money for five Lake Country food pantries: Hartland, Pewaukee, North Lake, Kettle Moraine and St. Vincent de Paul. The 2023 donations have raised the total giving to the Lake Country Yule Feed Families drive to

\$1.02 million since its inception in 1991. If spinoff drives are included for Sussex, Oconomowoc and Mukwonago, the grand total for giving since the drive began stands at \$1.2 million plus 51,389 grocery items. “Giving this year was the 13 highest in Yule Feed Families history,” the club said. “Huge thank yous go out to Lake Country Rotary members and Executive Director Maggie Amin, all of whom played a big role in making this drive what it is,” said Scott Peterson, food drive co-founder. “A special shout-out to the Waukesha Freeman for its wonderful coverage of this event,

too, to really kick things off. We are fortunate to have such a community-focused newspaper serving our area.” Scott Peterson, who with fellow Rotarian Gary Jasiek, co-chaired and co-founded the drive 33 years ago. Jasiek worked at the Lake Country Reporter as the publisher and Peterson as the editor. The paper, which no longer exists, helped with the drives. Jasiek came up with the idea to include the Lake Country Rotary Club. “We are both members of Lake Country Rotary. In 1993, we went to the Rotary Board and asked if they wanted to be partners on this. They all thought it was a good idea,” Peterson said. This year the duo worked hard to reenergize the club thinking about the food drive. “The pandemic has been hard on all organizations and our club had people who retired or moved on. It’s been a challenge but the

club really rose to the occasion. They really stepped up. I was just so proud of how well they did. They just blew me away with their generosity,” Peterson said. Peterson and Jasiek utilized social media for messaging and expanded ways for people to donate such as PayPal, GoFundMe, and other methods. They worked with the Hartland Piggly Wiggly for people to round up on the cash register. There was a fair amount of work involved to make it happen but turned out to be a blessing for them. “No matter how you look at it, the generosity of the good people of the Lake Country area is breathtaking. The level of caring for those in need is beyond description. We are humbled by all those who chose to give so selflessly and make this drive another success story,” Peterson said. A challenge moving forward is to get the rest of the community

involved. “A lot of donations came from club members, which is incredible. The biggest challenge is still reaching deeper in the community and making sure everyone is aware that when they donate to feed families that helps all the local pantries in the Lake Country area,” Peterson said. They thank the members for their huge generosity, but also want others to also care about the mission to feed families. Peterson and Jasiek want to raise the drive’s profile as they move forward. The hope is around Christmastime when people want to give back, they think of the Lake Country Yule Feed Families drive. “So many of us live in a world where we never have to worry about food. There are a lot of people who are no so lucky. Sometimes it’s an unfortunate circumstance like losing a job, having a medical problem or someone gets sick. They are unable to work for a while,” he said. Peterson said you never know when a crisis is lurking around the corner. That is why the drive is so important for the community. Plans are already being made for the 2024 Yule Feed Families drive starting around Thanksgiving.

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Pewaukee Lake home sells for \$5.25 million

TOWN OF DELAFIELD — Located on the northwest shore of Pewaukee Lake, a house and its surrounding property have just been sold for \$5.25 million, according to JJ Hausmann, the seller’s real estate broker.

At first glance the front of the home may appear humble, but the property features multiple piers on over 200 feet of shoreline, five bedrooms and four and a half bathrooms, a boathouse and stunning landscaping. The home is 3,890 square feet.

Located at N26-W30123 Maple Ave., the home set a record for the highest-priced sale on Pewaukee Lake, with the previous record high being \$4.76 million on Rocky Point Road; the JJ Hausmann team was also part of that sale.

This sale was completed off-market between the sellers and buyers; the house was not publicly listed.

Tricia Logue with Lake Country Listings said the high sale price was brought in by the home’s large amount of shoreline property on Pewaukee Lake.

The boathouse on the property is probably one of the best ones on the lake, said Logue.

Additionally, the house was fully renovated with Colby Construction, a Delafield-based custom home building company, giving the new homeowner “very high-end luxury finishes,” according to Logue.



Courtesy of Compass Inc.

Located on Maple Avenue, the \$5.25 million home set a record for the highest-priced home sold on Pewaukee Lake.



Courtesy of Compass Inc.

Prior to its sale, the home was refinished by Colby Construction, a Delafield-based company, leaving the new homeowner with very high-end finishes.



Courtesy of Compass Inc.

The home has over 200 feet of shoreline property, including multiple piers and landscaping.



The boathouse on the home’s property serves as a lounge and bar space on the shore of Pewaukee Lake.

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Curling

From Page 1

The communications manager explains that newcomers often think the sport looks either way too easy or way too difficult. Luckily, neither assumption is true.

“It’s a unique blend right in the middle,” Everett explained. “The way curling is done on TV at the professional, Olympic level and its tournament conditions ... is not like it’s done in an amateur club.”

KMCC is a low-pressure environment for beginners. They even offer accommodations like poles to help push the rocks across the ice. Referred to as a “stick delivery,” Everett says this method is ideal for those who can’t bend into the typical gliding lunge position used to deliver the rocks. For those who opt for that standard delivery method, KMCC encourages the use of stabilizers to help keep your balance. In terms of the scoring, Everett says curling will help you challenge your brain, as well.

“It’s much more strategic than people realize, because where you place rocks at the beginning of your game is going to really influence how the end of your game plays out,” he noted.

Players have to think about where they want to place their rocks, how to avoid their opponent’s rocks, and which way they want the rock to curl along the pebbled ice in order to get there.

Beyond mental stimulation, Everett says the sport offers physical benefits. Depending on how intensely you play the game, you can get different levels of activity out of curling. Everett says there are some KMCC members who consider it to be an aerobic workout. Others might consider it to be a more casual opportunity to get their blood flowing.

A sport for everyone

Regardless of the amount of energy you exert during the game, Everett notes that you’re guaranteed to find a sense of community. KMCC has over 230 active members and during the entire curling season — which stretches from the end of September to mid-April — some might only curl once or twice. The rest of their time is spent participating in fundraising events, helping host tournaments (or “bonspiels” as curlers call them), or cooking in the club’s kitchen. Everett says those individuals find the social aspect of the sport to be their favorite.

“They’ll tell you that the best part about the community has nothing to do with the games on the ice, but rather it’s baking bread and making pastas with other friends and neighbors,” he noted.

“It’s something that you can pick up and put down as your life evolves. It’s a little bit like riding a bicycle, you never really forget.”

— Steve Everett
Communications Manager,
Kettle Moraine Curling Club

No equipment is needed to start curling at KMCC — they’ll provide the stones and brooms. All they ask is that you wear a clean pair of gym shoes, as those will provide the best traction on the ice.

Everett notes that one of the best things about KMCC is that people of all ages are welcome. The club has members as young as kindergarten and as old as 86. For youngsters, curling can be a great way to get into athletics. Everett says that at just \$30 for the season for children ages 5-12, it’s a great value for youth sports.

As for adults, some people at KMCC have been curling for decades while others are brand new to the sport. The communications manager explains that curling is an activity you can revisit at any phase in life. They have a member who began curling as a young woman, left the sport to raise children, and has now returned to it in her late 50s.

“It’s something that you can pick up and put down as your life evolves,” Everett said. “It’s a little bit like riding a bicycle, you never really forget.”

But there are two members of KMCC who have taken curling to the next level. Tom Howell and Laura Dwyer both curl for Team USA on the global stage. This year, Howell will be joining the men’s team for a championship in New Jersey and Dwyer will be headed to South Korea for the World Wheelchair Curling Championship.

Community members who want to see competitive curling in action are welcome to watch the 57th Annual Men’s Invitational from March 15-17 at KMCC. Everett says this event features both local and international teams.

Whether you’re young or old, an athlete or social butterfly, KMCC has a place for you. To learn more about the 100% volunteer-run nonprofit organization, visit <https://kmcurlingclub.com/>.

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