

Brookfield & Elm Grove

The FREEMAN

THIS MONTH

JUNE 2024

Summer activities announced at the Corners of Brookfield

TOWN OF BROOKFIELD — The Corners of Brookfield has announced its lineup of summer events and programming; whether you're looking for food-centric events, beer gardens, kid-friendly or dog-friendly events, The Corners of Brookfield has you covered.

The Corners will again be the location of Discover Brookfield's Town Food Truck Festival, taking place June 19, July 17, Aug. 21 and Sept. 18 from 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Each date features over a dozen food trucks, a beer tent, live music and family activities.

If you're looking to bring your dog to an event, The Corners will be hosting the first-ever Dog, Dash, Discover 5K on June 1. In partnership with Discover Brookfield and K9 Resorts Brookfield, the 5K benefits the Wisconsin Adopt a Golden Retriever.

Every Thursday between July 11 and Sept. 12, there will be a beer garden courtesy of Café Hollander with local live music. On Tuesday nights in August, family-friendly movie night returns to the Market Square. Showtimes begin at 7 p.m.; movies are shown on a 12-foot by 20-foot screen.

Vibe Yoga and the Goddess & the Baker will host Friday morning coffee and yoga groups every Friday morning until Sept. 27. If yoga isn't your thing but you want to get some exercise in, there will be complimentary pop-up workouts in the Market Square throughout the summer; details for these fitness classes will be posted on The Corners' event page.

Finally, for the car lovers, the Mercedes car show will hit The Corners this Saturday from 12 to 3 p.m. On Aug. 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Jaguar car show will be in town, and the Porsche car show will be on Sept. 14 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Courtesy of The Corners of Brookfield

Movie night from a previous year at The Corners. Attendees of the family-friendly movie nights this year will enjoy movies like "Luca", "Sing", "Finding Nemo" and "Paw Patrol the Movie."



Join a group of fellow yoga and coffee lovers every Friday morning for some exercise with Vibe Yoga and complimentary coffee from Goddess and the Baker.

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County Board Chairman Heinrich: Hitting the ground running

By James A. Heinrich

It is my privilege to be chosen as Waukesha County Board chairman by my fellow supervisors. I am a veteran of local government, serving eight years on the Brookfield Common Council and appointed to the County Board in 2007. For the last 10 years I served as chair of the County Board's Finance Committee, which reviews the entire county budget. I valued this role because it fits perfectly with my professional background as a certified public accountant, and my desire to keep Waukesha County a low-tax leader in the state.

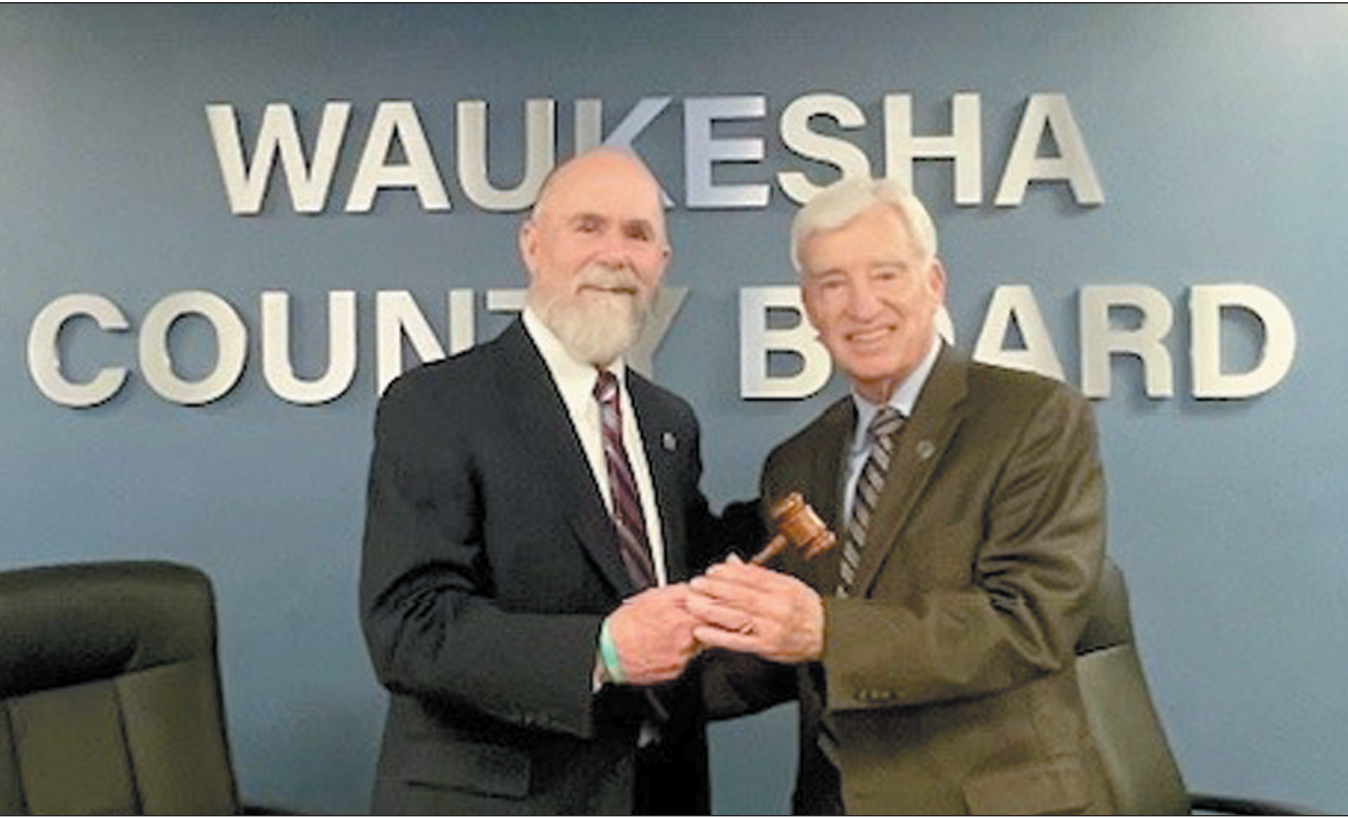
One thing you might not know about me is I am a runner. I started later in life, at age 60, at the urging of my wife, who in all likelihood was just trying to get me out of the house. To date I have run one marathon, over 20 half-marathons and countless 5Ks. Starting to run later in life seems intimidating, but I was able to stay motivated by following best practices that I also plan to apply to my role as County Board chairman.

Discipline and consistency are essential. Even if you like running, there are days you don't feel like running. Resisting the temptation to skip a training day is a mental hurdle every runner must learn. At the county level, it's very tempting to fund

GUEST OPINION

every program or project that we are contacted about, but that would put us on an unsustainable path. We create discipline and consistency in budgeting through policies adopted by the County Board. When the county is constructing Moorland Road or remodeling our courthouse, we always put 20% down and pay off our debt in 10 years. This policy prevents us from taking on projects we cannot afford that run counter to our conservative budgeting philosophy.

Each training run gets your body and mind one step closer to achieving the long-term goal of the race. If you ran 1 mile today, a 2-mile run next week won't look so difficult. The county determines long-term goals and steps to achieve them through its strategic planning process. The county establishes links between core county functions and measurable program outcomes to make sure we are providing high-quality services at the lowest possible cost to our constituents. Every time we survey residents, they resoundingly say public



Courtesy of Sarah Spaeth, chief of staff, Waukesha County Board Office

James Heinrich, left, was elected the new County Board chair on April 16 during the County Board's Organizational Meeting. Pictured are Heinrich with former Chair Paul Decker as he hands over his gavel.

safety is their number one priority, and our county budget reflects that, with 41% of tax levy going toward public safely.

Things rarely go as planned when training for a race. Setbacks are part of the training process, and as a "senior runner" I had to deal with my share of injuries. Navigating these obstacles only improves your ability to

problem solve on race day. When the county has been hit with outside obstacles, whether it is inflation or a public health crisis, we are in a better position to respond because of our past conservative fiscal management.

In running when you put in the work, the results will come. Waukesha County has received its share of accolades.

Our borrowing policies have preserved the county's esteemed AAA/Aaa bond rating. Waukesha County has the second lowest property tax rate and the lowest rate of counties without a sales tax. All this to say, I see some challenges ahead of us. County Executive Paul Farrow is leading us forward with the formation of a Budget Task Force to

provide direction for future county budgets. I am looking forward to working with him to keep Waukesha County on the steady path.

Please reach out with any questions or concerns to: jheinrich@waukesha-county.gov.

(James Heinrich is chairman of the Waukesha County Board.)

RNC keeps national convention local to Wisconsin

Emphasis on lodging guests in state hotels

By Brian Huber
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BROOKFIELD — With just weeks to go before the Republican National Con-

vention focuses the nation's eyes on Milwaukee and the surrounding areas, a hotel room just about anywhere in southeastern Wisconsin for that week is becoming an increasingly rare find.

The RNC will take place in Milwaukee July 15-18, bringing delegates from around the nation to nominate the party's candidate for president in the 2024 elections, likely to be Donald Trump.

Estimates put the number of people coming into the area at 45,000, with an estimated financial impact of \$200 million, according to

Visit Milwaukee. All those visitors will need a place to stay, and the city proper has about 6,000 hotel rooms, necessitating a need to draw on lodgings from as far away as Madison, Lake Geneva and Sheboygan. But the RNC made a commitment to keep its guests in Wisconsin.

"The reason we emphasized that is we think that it was a stark difference from the (Democratic National Convention) that was slated to happen in 2020 here. They sought other hotels, frankly a lot of hotels outside of Wisconsin, specifically Illinois, so the RNC made a commitment from the get-go that all of our hotel placements would be in Wisconsin," said Jacob Fischer, spokesman for the 2024 Republican National Convention. "We think Wisconsin is an important state and we wanted to make sure local businesses benefited from the convention."

He added in a press

release, "Wisconsin is known for its first-rate hospitality, and we are confident that convention guests will enjoy their experience in Waukesha County."

The RNC is handling placements of its delegates in about 110 state hotels, booking rooms in downtown Milwaukee and the entire metropolitan area, as well as Racine and Kenosha, Lake Geneva, Sheboygan/Kohler and Madison, he said — all within an hour's drive from the host venue Fiserv Forum.

The hotels will serve as a place for delegations and other groups to meet before and after sessions, host breakfasts and dinners and more.

Nancy Justman, president & CEO of Visit Brookfield, said the RNC will tell the hotels who is staying there, and her organization does not know which delegation or media workers or other partners that will be

until the RNC tells them.

"It's super tough to get a hotel room right now. All our hotels are booked," Justman said.

The city has almost 2,000 hotel rooms, and they've been mostly blocked off for the convention for some time as the hotels had to commit quite some time ago, she said.

It stands to reason that beyond hotels, restaurants, taverns and other businesses will receive a boost from convention traffic.

But when asked if Brookfield's distance from downtown Milwaukee might blunt some of that impact, she said there was no easy way to predict that until it is known who will be staying there and what their schedules will be. But Justman agreed there was a sense of optimism in the business community.

"I think all the hotels and local restaurants and retailers are all very hopeful," she said.

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Brookfield Piggly Wiggly to close mid-June

BROOKFIELD — The Piggly Wiggly at 2315 N. 124th St. will be closing on June 15, Assistant Customer Service Manager Ashley Majkowski told The Freeman on May 17. The store's general manager, Earl Brunelle, was unavailable for comment on the reason behind the closure. There were rumors in early March that the store would be closing in May. At that time, Brunelle told The Freeman he didn't know the fate of the store, if it would be changing ownership or closing. Owner Tony Sendik has been unavailable for comment.

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The Elbow Room in Brookfield to reopen in June under new ownership

By Karen Pilarski
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BROOKFIELD — CC's Elbow Room, 2850 N. Brookfield Road, has been purchased by Sydra Group. Sydra Group is owned by longtime Milwaukee nightlife veteran and Brookfield resident Jake Dehne. Dehne, along with his business partners Robert Jude and Seth Dehne, purchased the property and business and plan to open it back up in June as The Elbow Room.

Jake Dehne and Robert Jude are both residents of Brookfield. Jake Dehne is an alumnus of Brookfield Academy, where his mother taught for decades, his wife works and which his daughters attend.

Robert Jude worked several years with the Bartolottas and Lupe and Iris, and will maintain his position as the food and beverage manager at Westmoor Country Club. His kids attend Brookfield Christian.

Jake has a history with the bar location.

"We used to drive past Buddy's, which was the original spot and it then changed to Sabella's. My friends and I used to go to Sabella's. I've probably driven by the spot 5,000 times," Jake said.

The location was also on his radar.

"Living in Brookfield, we used to go to CC's. When she put it for sale, I thought about it and talked about it. The timing was finally right," Jake said.

Cee Cee Ceman purchased the closed Sabella's in 2020 and transformed it into a Brookfield favorite, CC's Elbow Room, in 2021. She put the business up for sale in November 2023.

"Normally when a bar closes it is usually negative such as no customers, bad management. She (Ceman) closed it because of personal reasons that was out of her control. The city loved the bar," he said.

The plan is to take what Ceman did and add the new owners' experience to put their twist on it.

"It's a good community bar," he said.

Jude said they "plan on focusing on amazing food with smash burgers, pizza, and wings as our main components on the menu as well as adding a stellar bourbon, wine, and tequila list. We know it is a smaller space to work with, but we have a huge patio for people to enjoy the outdoors. We plan to add a pergola and heating elements to extend into the fall."

There will be weekly specials and open for lunches and late night.

"Our goal is to be open 7 days a week for lunch and into the evening. We want to be that neighborhood bar where they know your name when you walk in, and you can relax after work or hang out with friends and celebrate a birthday or do a fundraiser," said Jake Dehne. "We



Courtesy of Jake Dehne

Seth Dehne, Jake Dehne and Robert Jude in front of the former CC's Elbow Room, 2850 N. Brookfield Road. The bar has been purchased by Sydra Group, owned by longtime Milwaukee nightlife veteran and Brookfield resident Jake Dehne. Dehne, along with his business partners Robert Jude and Seth Dehne, purchased the property and business and plan to open it back up in June as the Elbow Room.

are tied into the community and want to be very involved."

The owners are planning a grand re-opening in June with Father's Day weekend as a target time. They will do a beer tap sampling, a tented event in the parking lot.

"Kind of a neighborhood welcoming. Come meet us and meet you. We want to show we are here to be a part of the community and a fun place for everyone," he said.

Not the normal 9-5

Sydra Group is owned by Jake Dehne and currently owns and operates RWB, Lucky Clover Irish Pub and the soon to be open retro dance club 90s20k Café.

They are all by The Fiserv Forum. Dehne previously owned and operated Buckhead Saloon, The Pub Club, Suite, Upper 90 Sports Pub and Have a Nice Day Café.

Jake said his career aspirations included become a veterinarian but he wasn't able to get into veterinary school after college.

"I went to a career fair where the Bartolottas had a table. I went and talked to the woman working there

who asked me if I ever thought of managing a bar. I thought, what? She said I have experience and they were opening up restaurants at Potawatomi," he said.

Jake was hired to be a sports bar manager.

"I kind of got into the business that way. After a while I needed some growth so I worked for Marcus Corporation at the Hilton running Miller Time Pub," Jake said.

Eventually he went on to own several businesses.

"It kind of grew into me. I went from 'sure I'll be a manager' to 'sure I'll be a partner' and then I guess I could be an owner," Jake said.

He loves being an owner and the opportunity to meet cool people at the different locations.

Jake admits it is challenging to run several businesses but he finds being organized helps, as well as the ability to ward off temptations.

"There are a lot of temptations in the business. You are around alcohol and late nights. You are around people that sometimes are letting loose or trying to figure out their own life. It is different and definitely not your 9-5 job," Jake said.

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• IN MEMORIAM (1943-2020) •
James E. Conley Jr.

ROADSIDE WONDERS

From giant statues to miniature homes, Waukesha County has its fair share of attractions

By Bridget Dean
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262-513-2644

Next time you're making a trek across Waukesha County, see if you can cross paths with one of the many "odd" attractions scattered throughout the county. Over the years, both locals and visitors have documented a number of places and items in the area that make for a great photo opportunity or history lesson.

Some of these attractions have existed for decades and have long histories and community meaning, while others seem to have popped up with little-to-no explanation. Whether you're interested in art and the history of Waukesha County or just enjoy a short road trip for some sightseeing, find the time to visit our roundup of 10 unique attractions in the county.

1.) August Klatt Miniature Village – North Prairie

The Klatt Houses are a collection of mini houses constructed in the 1930s by August Klatt, a German-born carpenter who built homes in North Prairie. According to North Prairie Historical Society, he built these homes to provide a setting for his wife Emma's flower garden. During the Great Depression, Klatt continued to build the mini homes with the materials he had, recreating his childhood village.

In 2003, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation condemned the old Klatt home and the intersection nearby was slotted for expansion. Thankfully, the historical society and the Kohler Foundation moved the houses to Veteran's Park, where they are available for viewing today. The historical society also has put effort into recreating Emma's beautiful flower gardens.

2.) Downtown Waukesha Guitars and Murals – Waukesha

Waukesha-born inventor and musician Les Paul's creation of the solid body electric guitar in 1941 and a number of other musical innovations have led to him being known as the Wizard of Waukesha and the city twice being named a Gibson GuitarTown. Les Paul was buried here as well; his gravesite, which is located in the Prairie Home Cemetery off South Prairie Avenue in Waukesha, features a carved stone guitar and his life history.

Across downtown Waukesha is a series of 13 murals, depicting the history of Waukesha and the story of Les Paul. Most of the murals were painted by members of the global painting and artist group Walldogs. Also scattered across downtown are 15 10-foot-tall fiberglass guitars painted by local Waukesha artists. A map of the mural and guitar locations can be found on the VisitWaukesha webpage.

3.) Easter Island Head – New Berlin

"On a whim," Joe Stanke says, he decided to create a 14-foot-tall Easter Island Moai statue in his yard back in 1980. It can be found on West Cleveland Avenue just east of South Moorland Road in New Berlin, on the property of the artist. There he also has his studio, where he paints daily. He said that visitors are welcome to visit the sculpture in his yard and take pictures with it but asks that people refrain from climbing on it or otherwise damaging it.

The frame was created from plywood; then the structure was covered in a heavy diamond mesh screening and cement plaster. After that, he glued stones from his driveway onto the structure to imitate the original landmarks. Completed, it weighs 400-500 pounds and took five to 10 people to carry it to a cement slab he poured for a base.

4.) Gertrude Basse the Cow – Waukesha

Located at 2101 Delafield St. in Waukesha is a Lifeway Wisconsin Inc. Kiefer production plant. Beloved Waukesha icon Gertrude Basse the Guernsey cow, a 12-foot-tall fiberglass cow weighing 500 pounds, stands just inside the fence line of the plant, easily visible from the roadway. She even gets dressed up for holidays now and then, sometimes sporting a Santa hat around Christmas time, and she was seen in a face mask during the peak of COVID-19.

According to newspaper clip-



Bridget Dean/Freeman Staff

4.) Outside the Lifeway Kiefer plant in Waukesha stands a large fiberglass cow known as Gertrude Basse, or Bossy. She was constructed in 1972 for the previous building occupant, Golden Guernsey Dairy.



Courtesy of Maria Luther

9.) Visible while traveling west on Interstate 94 in Delafield, the Smiley Barn is presently home to a toy and candy shop, a Playmobil playroom and Dick Smith's Live Bait and Tackle. Come May, Mullen's Ice Cream will open on the main level.



Bridget Dean/Freeman Staff

3.) Joe Stanke stands next to the Easter Island Moai sculpture he created in the 1980s. It still stands in his yard in New Berlin today.



Courtesy of Oconomowoc city documents

7.) The five pictured "Wizard of Oz" statues were installed in the Oz Plaza near City Hall in 2019. Presently, the plaza is barren, as the statues have been removed for enhancements. They will be joined by Glinda the Good Witch and The Coroner when the expanded plaza reopens.

pings in the Waukesha County Historical Society and Museum, she was originally named Bossy. However, roadside attraction websites and recent articles refer to her as Gertrude Basse. Golden Guernsey Dairy had her constructed in 1972 by Sculptured Products Co. of Sparta for a cost of \$2,800. In 1977, a car drove into Bossy and fractured two legs. She was repaired for another \$500.

5.) Hobbit House – Brookfield

At the entrance to Brookfield subdivision "The Shire" is a small Hobbit House. Surely placed as a nod to the subdivision's name, the small wooden structure sticks out in the otherwise typical manicured landscaping alongside the road. The little home can be seen just off the road on Rivendell Drive off North Brookfield Road.

6.) Hulk Statue – Town of Oconomowoc

Standing at nearly 10-foot-tall, a 300-pound Hulk statue can be seen while driving through the W300-N6200 block of Brown Street in the Town of Oconomowoc. He stands near an old farmhouse, which, when sold, became a rental property. One of the owners, Cameron

Krahn, previously stated that he occasionally brings the Hulk to birthday parties or other special occasions.

7.) Oz Plaza – Oconomowoc

Oconomowoc's Oz Plaza is a tribute to the 1939 classic "The Wizard of Oz" which held a premiere in Oconomowoc several days before the Hollywood premiere. Currently, the Oz Plaza is being prepared for reconstruction, and the statues of Dorothy, Toto, Cowardly Lion, Scarecrow and Tin Woodman are not out. However, they will be returned to the plaza in the summer when the construction is completed prior to the movie's 85th anniversary.

8.) Spectacular Sculpture – Colgate

Paul Bobrowitz's six-acre outdoor gallery of metal sculptures, titled Spectacular Sculpture, draws art-lovers in from across southeast Wisconsin and afar. The gallery is open to the public anytime during daylight hours. For those looking to meet Bobrowitz or see his on-site studio, his website asks you to call ahead to make an appointment.

According to the artist's web-



Courtesy of Cameron Krahn

6.) The Hulk statue can be seen while driving through the W300-N6200 block of Brown Street in the Town of Oconomowoc. It's a big hit with kids' birthday parties.



Courtesy of North Prairie Historical Society

1.) One of the Klatt houses inside Veteran's Park in North Prairie. August Klatt, a carpenter, constructed the houses for his wife's garden in the 1930s.



File Photo

2.) Scattered throughout downtown Waukesha are a series of 13 murals and 15 fiberglass guitar statues. This mural depicting a welcoming message and nod to the city's title of GuitarTown is located on the side of the Shoe Werks shop near the intersection of West St. Paul Avenue and Wisconsin Avenue.



Brian Huber/Freeman Staff

5.) Located at the intersection of North Brookfield Road and Rivendell Drive in Brookfield is a small Hobbit Home. It stands guard for The Shire estates subdivision.



Patrice Shanks/Freeman Staff

10.) Overlooking the village of Eagle is a bright yellow smiley-faced water tower. A smiley-faced plaque adorns the village's welcome sign.



Courtesy of Paul Bobrowitz

8.) One of the countless sculptures in Paul Bobrowitz's Spectacular Sculpture gallery, located in Colgate. The six-acre gallery is open to the public during daytime hours.

store. Despite upsetting the community, the barn was painted red, later painted black, and the smiles were sold.

Fortunately for smiley-face lovers, Maria Luther purchased the barn in 2017 and restored the yellow paint and smiles. It is now home to a Playmobil playroom and toys and candy. Dick Smith's Live Bait and Tackle is located in the basement, and come May, Mullen's Ice Cream will open on the main level.

The barn is located at 2420 Milwaukee St.

10.) Smiley water tower – Eagle

The village's smiley water tower is sure to catch your eye. Located just off Highway 67 and Highway 59 at 331 Kettle Moraine Drive, the tower is painted a bright yellow and features a simple smiley face painted on two sides of it.

What did we miss?

What other roadside attractions or hidden treasures do you know of in Waukesha County? Do you have any stories about any of the attractions we did find? Email us and they could be featured in another story.

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