

CANDLEWICK LEISURE

The Candlewick Garden Club Is Always Busy

Article & photos by Dale Miedema, Communications

The ladies of the Garden Club are always planning interesting and informative events, and the fall season offers plenty of ideas for forums on how we can help our trees and bushes survive the winter season. The most recent forum was given by University of Illinois Extension member, and Master Gardener Jennifer Crider. She went on to share some interesting ideas of how to trim trees and shrubs, and also told of a tree trunk wrap that is available at most garden centers that would help younger trees better withstand the rigors of winter. The club had a "Soup and Bread" luncheon at the meetings' end as well.

Although most of our recent winters have been pretty benign both in terms of temperature and snowfall, I think the odds favor a real 'Nor'easter,' that would bring heavy snowfall along with a healthy dose of ice. Most of us still remember the ice storm of last year that had many of the roads in our community blocked by fallen trees. Yow!

Another event this fall was an event that had nothing to do with gardening, but was titled "Sip and Swap." It encouraged all the ladies of the community to look through their jewelry boxes, and pull out pieces of jewelry that were rarely worn anymore, and bring them to the event and perhaps trade them for something others had brought. There were also make up and hair products as well. The only rule was you had to bring something to take something... Fair enough!

The club has a Christmas Caroling stroll planned for the holidays, and then there will be a hiatus of a few months, unless these ladies figure out how to grow daisies in a snowdrift, but ya never know about this bunch!



Ladies at the Sip'n Swap.

Savannah Oaks Halloween Fun for All Ages

Photos & article by Lynn Pehanich, Golf Commission



Savannah Oaks was a busy place on Saturday, October 26th to celebrate Halloween. The day began at 10:00 am with family activities that included pumpkin decorating, donut contest and hotdogs and chili!!

The evening was the time for adults to party in their costumes and enjoy listening to live music by ViceRoy. It was a chilly night, but the bonfire and bundles of hay provided a warming atmosphere to complement the great music.

What was so nice is that many of the families that participated, had not been to Savannah Oaks before. Many said they didn't realize we had such a nice facility right inside our community and will be back for sure!

Amenities

2024/2025 Amenity Information

Watercraft Registration & Renewals Email documents to cwl@candlewicklake.org
Boats & Personal Watercraft (Jet-skis/Waverunners)

Mail, email, or drop off your current registration, proof of \$100,000.00 liability insurance,

and the completed watercraft registration form and a new decal will be issued.

Maximum boat length is 20' and there is a 90 HP limit on all motors operating on the lake.

There is no charge for the decal. All watercraft not registered to your Candlewick Lake address in 2023 must be inspected by Public Safety before it goes on the lake. All motorized watercrafts are required to be registered, have a new decal displayed every year, and have the member's unit and lot number preceded by CWL displayed on both sides of the watercraft.

Guest watercraft are not allowed.

Canoes, Kayaks and other Non-Motorized Watercraft

Non-motorized watercraft that are not required to be registered with the State, must display the member's unit and lot number preceded by CWL on both sides of the watercraft. You do not need to register non-motorized watercraft at the office. Candlewick decals are not required for non-motorized watercraft.

Storage Site Renewal Email documents to cwl@candlewicklake.org

Mail, email, or drop off your completed registration form, payment, along with registrations

for each item stored in the storage area and a new decal will issued. A current year's decal must be displayed on all items.

Storage Site locks will be changed on May 1st. Please renew your storage site and exchange your key.

Large sites – Yearly Rental \$250.00

Small sites – Yearly Rental \$175.00

Boat Dock Rental

Marina Docks \$500 per season

Stationary Docks \$325 per season

\$25 Key Deposit

To be put on the waiting list, please contact the Administration Office

Dog Park Registration

The dog park is located by the Outpost. All dogs must be registered and have a dog park tag and a key to enter. The tags and keys are available at the Recreation Center.

The lock will be changed on May 1st.

You must be registered for 2024-2025 season to use the park

Dog Tag \$10.00/Annually plus a \$25 Key Deposit

You must provide:

A copy of your homeowner's/renter's insurance

A copy of your dog's rabies vaccination including rabies tag number

Dog Park Registration Form

Extended Fitness Memberships

Residents may use the Fitness Center during regular hours of operation by presenting a valid Member ID card.

Extended Membership hours are 4:00 am – 10:00 pm daily. You must be 18. Sign up at the Recreation Center.

\$10.00/month per person

You must have a change of shoes to use the Fitness Center and Gym.

Savannah Oaks Golf Course

Please call ahead for a tee time. 815-339-0500 Ext. 410

Guest Fishing Passes Email pass request form to cwl@candlewicklake.org

Anyone age 16 and over is required to always have an Illinois Fishing License and a Candlewick Guest Fishing Permit in their immediate possession while fishing at Candlewick Lake. Active-duty military personnel and disabled veterans need to present a Military ID in lieu of an Illinois Fishing License and Candlewick Guest Fishing Pass.

Mail or email completed pass request form along with check made payable to CWL.

Annual Pass (Valid May 1st – April 30th) \$30.00 each - Limit 4 per household

Daily Pass \$10.00 each - Limit 5 per day

Three Day Pass (Consecutive Days) \$15.00 – Limit 5 per day

Guest Pool Passes Residents must be with their guests while at the Candlewick Lake Pool.

Children age 9 and younger must be accompanied by a chaperone that is at least 16 years old.

Annual Pass (Valid May 25th – September 2nd or when pool closes for season.) \$35.00

each - Limit 4 per household

Daily Pass \$5.00 each Your Member ID serves as your Resident Pool Pass.

A complete list of rules and regulations can be found at candlewicklake.org.

2024/2025 Member ID Card

Information

It is not necessary to renew your Member ID card if your Member ID card has your bar code printed on it. The following amenities will be included with your dues and will require a Member ID card. Your Member ID card must be presented at the time of service. If you do not have your Member ID card, additional fees may apply. All members of your family residing with you and wishing to use these amenities will be required to get a Member ID card.

(A Member ID card will not be issued to children under age 3.)

Resident Pool Pass

Resident Fishing Pass

Resident Green Fees

Resident Gym Pass

Fitness Center

Boat Decals

Snowmobile Decals

ATV Decals (for operation on the ice only)

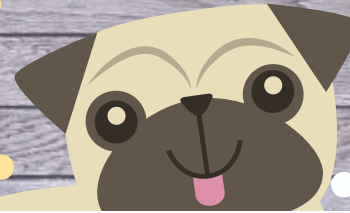
Your member ID is also available on the Candlewick app.

Waiver Forms

A waiver form must be on file if you, your children, or your guests wish to use the pool, fitness center, gym, or participate in any classes or camps. All guests under the age of 18 must have the waiver form signed by their parent or legal guardian. Waiver forms that are already on file are still valid. Contact the Recreation Center for more information. Blank waiver forms are available online, at the Recreation Center, and at the Administration Office.

PLEASE BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR!

Please do not deposit your animal
waste bags in the port-a-potties.



This causes a major problem
with the pump system.
If this continues,
the port-a-potties will be
removed.

SAVANNAH OAKS

Candlewick Lake's Community Clubhouse and Golf Course

WINTER HOURS

SAVANNAH OAKS CLUBHOUSE WILL CONTINUE TO STAY OPEN,
PROVIDING FUN, FOOD, AND DRINKS THROUGHOUT THE WINTER SEASON.

GOLF CART AVAILABILITY WILL BE WEATHER PERMITTING

BEGINNING MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH, 2024:

MONDAY - WEDNESDAY CLOSED

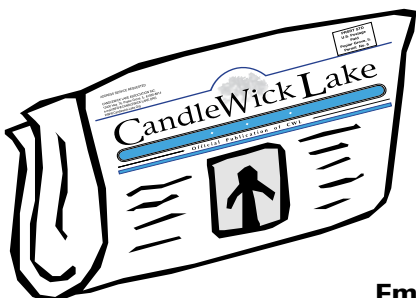
THURSDAY 4:00PM - 10:00PM

FRIDAY - SATURDAY 2:00PM - 10:00PM

SUNDAY 11:30AM - 10:00PM

STAY TUNED FOR MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS OF EXCITING
EVENTS AND GREAT DEALS ON FOOD & DRINKS

Advertise in Candlewick Lake



For Display Ads call...
Bob @ 815-742-8333



Email: rbmadvertising@gmail.com

For Classified Line Ads call...
the CWL Office @ 815-339-0500
or visit us online @ www.candlewicklake.org

Savannah Oaks

Savannah Oaks News

by Mike Pehanich, Golf Commission

Coming December 5

Karaoke Comes to Candlewick: Mic Night at Savannah Oaks

There's a song in everyone. You know it. We all know it. Even the butterflies that madly flutter in your gut at the thought of singing alone know it! Song touches the heart. Song resonates in the soul. Song brings back memories. Song rallies us to unity and to victory. Songs tell stories. Best of all, song is coming to our community with monthly regularity as Candlewick Karaoke: Mic Night at Savannah Oaks starting Thursday night, December 5.

Inaugural Karaoke event

When: Thursday, December 5, 2024

Where: Savannah Oaks Clubhouse

Theme: A Motown Holiday

The spotlight shines on you!



Singing in the shower is a hoot. So is singing with friends and belting out tunes in the car. But there is nothing quite like taking the microphone before a welcoming crowd. "Grabbing the mic and singing that first song to an audience is a tremendous thrill," says Mike Pehanich, Mic Night DJ. "Overcoming those initial jitters is part of the rush. But after that, the excitement and satisfaction only grow!"

Karaoke is a chance to feel the crowd, challenge your vocal chords, be a part of the music in a way that only a live performer can realize. "Hearing your voice resonating from a speaker with band accompaniment takes you by surprise at first," says Pehanich. "But you adjust quickly, and, more often than not, you find yourself fine-tuning your voice and gaining confidence along the way."

And, of course, you don't have to sing at all. Many will come to karaoke night just to socialize and share in the music – though often with the dream of working up the gumption to pick up the mic themselves!

Theme night

Singers will be able to choose from a catalogue of tens of thousands of songs initially and a virtually limitless selection in the months to follow. Song options remain open on any given karaoke night.

But a special Mic Night attraction will be the select musical theme threaded through the evening – music to fill break time, prompt memories of forgotten songs and open "memory lane" for prospective singers.

"As strange as it might seem, people familiar with hundreds or even thousands of songs seem to draw a blank when the prospect of taking the microphone hits them," says the Mic Night host. "Theme Night helps to prime the pump, bring back memories of songs from a certain time or of a certain genre, and to create a kind of musical momentum for the evening."

The opening Mic Night theme is "A Motown Holiday," resurrecting the soulful era of The Temptations, Smokey Robinson & the Miracles, The Supremes, Sam Cooke, Otis Redding, Tina Turner, The Four Tops, Lionel Richie, Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, The Jackson Five and more. And with the holiday season in full bloom, songs of Christmas and sleigh rides and mistletoe may slip into the mix.

Theme nights to follow: "Classic Country," "Ain't Love Grand?" "Elvis," "Sad Song/Glad Song," "Beatlemania," "Bad Boy Music," "Hard Rock at the Oaks," "Disco Night," "70s Favorites," "Break up/Make up," "That Good ol' Rock 'n Roll" and more.

Mic Night provides yet another opportunity to spend time with neighbors and friends and partake of community amenities. Savannah Oaks events are open to all Candlewick residents, most of which are free of charge. Events include Friday Night Bingo, Euchre Night, Pub Trivia, Bags Tournaments and special sports and holiday events.

So tune up your vocal chords and mark your calendar for Mic Night on December 5.

There's a song in you, too!
Note: The equipment used for Mic Night was purchased with money raised by the Friends of Savannah Oaks, independent of Candlewick dues.

Euchre Comes to Savannah Oaks



Another new activity with an enthusiastic group of participants. Twenty people played Euchre on a Friday night. Many more people have shown interest, so Euchre will become a monthly activity starting in January 2025.

Winners: Dave & Debbie
Second Place: Jake & Sean



SAVANNAH OAKS

ONGOING EVENTS AT YOUR COMMUNITY CLUBHOUSE!

DID YOU KNOW...?

Savannah Oaks offers even more than golf! The Clubhouse is your go-to for great food and drinks, streaming sports, fun events and games. Check out the Savannah Oaks Clubhouse to meet your neighbors, try our famous flatbread, play bingo, pub trivia, and more!

WIN-BIG-WEDNESDAYS

4pm - 8pm

\$10 Gift Certificate Raffle!



one ticket for each item purchased, drawing at 7:30pm, winner does not need to be present

\$1 OFF PIZZA!

\$0.50 OFF DRAFT BEER!

- Flatbreads - \$12.75
- Italian Beef - \$7
- Mac & Cheese - \$5
- Long Island - \$6
- Pirate's Booty - \$6
- 7&7 - \$3
- Cherry Bombs - \$5.50

WINTER HAPPY HOURS 4PM - 7PM
THURSDAY THROUGH SUNDAY!

FRIDAY BINGO

DECEMBER 13TH, 7:30PM

Five winners each receive a \$10 gift card!



SUNDAY BAGS LEAGUE

INDOORS FOR THE WINTER!

December 6th & 20th, 4:00pm

\$5 ENTRY EVERY WEEK

Sign up at the Clubhouse or contact tgarrity@lurveys.com

BLIND DRAW WEEKLY!



PUB TRIVIA

1st place - \$25

2nd place - \$15

DECEMBER 14TH
8:00PM

WINTER BASH

DECEMBER 21ST, 2:00PM



THURSDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL!

\$2 LIGHT DRAFT BEERS
\$4 SPECIALTY DRAFT BEERS

\$1 OFF ALL FOOD ITEMS
\$1 OFF ALL MIX DRINKS

THIRSTY THURSDAYS

4:00PM - 10:00PM

\$10 GIFT CERTIFICATE RAFFLE!

- ONE TICKET PER ITEM PURCHASED (FOOD OR DRINK)
- 8PM DRAWING TIME
- WINNER DOES NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT DURING DRAWING

KARAOKE NIGHT

THURSDAY
DECEMBER 5TH
7:00PM

FOOTBALL SUNDAYS

GREAT DEALS ON FOOD AND DRINKS EVERY SUNDAY!

FLATBREAD FRIDAYS - ALL FLATBREADS \$12!
15 FLAVORS TO CHOOSE FROM!!

Rec Center

CWL Rec Center Member IDs

You are required to show your Candlewick Lake ID to enter the fitness center, gymnasium, and pool for any reason other than programs.

It will cost all individuals a daily fee of \$4.00 to enter the gym, \$4.00 for the fitness center and \$5.00 at the pool if you do not have an ID. All guests must be accompanied by a Candlewick Resident.

Dog Park Tags/Keys

Locks are changed on the gate May 3rd. You must be registered for 2023-2024 season to use the park.

Please bring:

- a copy of your homeowners/renter's insurance declaration page
- a copy of your dog's rabies vaccination including rabies tag #
- Dog Park Registration Form, available on website,
- \$10 for Dog Park Tag
- \$25 Key Deposit

**If you have previously registered your dog for the Candlewick Dog Park you do not need to fill out a new registration form.



LENDING LIBRARY

Stop by the Rec Center for a book!

We have a great selection of books to choose from in the Water's Edge.

Take a book, leave a book!

Seeking Coffee Sponsorships

At the Rec Center

The agreement will be \$200.00 per quarter. The sponsor will be allowed to advertise their business with a sign not to exceed 12"x16" provided by the sponsor and business cards can be displayed in the provided holder.

If interested call 815-339-0500 ex 301 or email recmanager@candlewicklake.org.



**New & Used Gun Sales
F.F.L. Gun Transfer Service**



Helsell Gun Shop
815-389-3692

Hours: M-W-F, 12:00 - 3:00 Saturday, 10:00 - 3:00
1288 Rockton Road, Caledonia, IL 61011

PICKLEBALL



**Wednesdays at 6pm - 8pm
Thursdays at 1pm - 3pm**

Join the Pickleball League every week in the gymnasium! Rackets and balls are available at the Rec Center. Players must be 18 years or older. Residents may bring a guest for a \$3 fee per visit. Remember to bring a change of shoes to keep the floor clean!

BUNCO



6:30pm - 8:30pm First Friday every Month

Anyone 18+ is welcome to join us in the Water's Edge Room the first Friday of every month! BYOB & a snack to share!



PONY CANASTA

**Wednesdays
1pm - 4pm
Water's Edge**

CANDLEWICK CRAFTERS



**1pm - 4pm
2nd & 4th Monday
every month**

Looking for a friendly group where you can learn a new skill or simply work on your current project? Meet the Candlewick Crafters in the Lakeview Room twice a month!



KIDS GYM

**10:30am - 12:00pm
EVERY TUESDAY**

A fun non-instructional environment for both you and your children to gather and socialize! Equipment such as balls, mats, and toys will be available for your children to use.

FREE for Residents. Bring your CWL ID and a change of shoes. No registration required. Parents/Guardians must remain with children and supervise their play at all times.



Fitness Center Orientation Classes

The Rec Center will be offering Fitness Orientation Classes for anyone wanting to know how to properly use the fitness equipment and for resident's ages 16-17 who want to use the Fitness Center without needing a parent present to workout.

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Sign up at the Rec Center front desk.

Class Cost: \$10.00

Your \$10.00 will be **forfeited** if you are a **no show** when you have scheduled a class.

If you call the instructor and cancel, you will have a \$10.00 credit.

Rec Center

REC CENTER GYM SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Morning Walking 9:15am - 10:15am	Morning Walking 9:15am - 10:15am	Morning Walking 9:15am - 10:15am	Morning Walking 9:15am - 10:15am	Morning Walking 9:15am - 10:15am	Open Gym 9:00am - 5:00pm
	Open Gym 10:30am - 6:00pm	Kids Gym 10:30am - 12:00pm	Open Gym 10:30am - 5:30pm	Open Gym 10:30am - 1:00pm	Open Gym 10:30am - 6:00pm	
Open Gym 12:00pm - 4:00pm				Pickleball 1:00pm - 3:00pm 18 years +		Volleyball 12/14 & 12/28 1:00pm - 3:00pm 14 years +
				Open Gym 3:00pm - 8:00pm		
GYM CLOSED 4:00pm	Full Court B-Ball 6:00pm - 8:00pm 16 years +	Dodgeball 12/3 & 12/17 6:00pm - 8:00pm 14 years +	Pickleball 6:00pm - 8:00pm 18 years +		Full Court B-Ball 6:00pm - 8:00pm 16 years +	GYM CLOSED 5:00pm
GYM CLOSED 8:00pm						

GYM RULES:

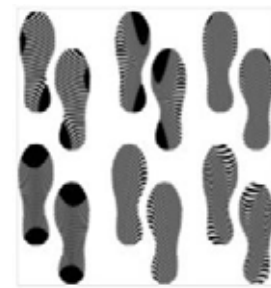
- CWL Member ID must be presented to front desk staff to use the Gym.
- No one under the age of 14 is allowed in the Gym at any time without someone 14 years or older to supervise them
- \$4 Guest Day Passes are available for non-residents and may only be sold to someone who is with a CWL resident with proper ID.
- Liability waivers must be signed by anyone entering gym or fitness center. Minor waivers may only be signed by parent/legal guardian.
- Family Gym ("Kids Gym") is designed for the enjoyment of Candlewick families. No unaccompanied children.
- Shoes must be changed before entering the Gym.
- No street shoes, no dark soled tennis shoes, no stocking feet
- No drinks (except water), food, or gum is allowed in the gym
- No playing kickball
- No full court basketball unless scheduled

REMINDER

You Need a State Fishing License as Well as a CWL License to Fish on Candlewick Lake!
Get Yours Today!



Share your news with us! Congratulations, condolences, births, life events, etc., can be announced here in our paper!
We welcome your photos and news.
Send your information to newspaper@candlewicklake.org.



CWL Morning Exercise

Fitness walking is serious exercise!
It is a safe and fun way to health and fitness!
Participants walk & march in place while working out to DVD's.
You will choose your own work out intensity & speed.

Monday - Friday

**9:15-10:15 a.m.
Rec Center Gym**

THIS IS A FREE CLASS!!

Community Events


BREAKFAST With Santa

Bring your little ones for a delightful morning filled with joy and wonder. Join us at the Rec Center for Breakfast with Santa Claus, where children can share their holiday wishes, enjoy a delicious breakfast, and revel in the magic of the season

Saturday, December 7, 2024 at 10:00am

Tickets are \$10 per person.
 Tickets sales start Monday, November 4th through Sunday, December 1st or until tickets are sold out.
 Tickets are not available at the door. No entry without ticket

Tickets include:
 DELICIOUS FOOD
 FESTIVE CRAFTS
 PHOTO WITH SANTA
 A GIFT FOR CHILDREN AGE 13 AND UNDER

BOOK CLUB

Join the Candlewick Lake Book Club!
 Meetings take place the last Wednesday of each month at the Rec Center (Water's Edge Room)
 No sign-up required!

Due to the Holiday, December's meeting date will be the third Wednesday of the month.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18TH
5:30PM SOCIAL TIME
6:00PM BOOK DISCUSSION

READING IN DECEMBER:
"Knots and Crosses"
 by Ian Rankin

HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST

DECEMBER 16TH
 6:30PM - 9:00PM

NOMINATE YOUR NEIGHBOR OR YOURSELF!
 Please email nominations to:
ksmith@candlewicklake.org

DON'T FORGET TO LEAVE YOUR LIGHTS ON BY 6:30 ON THE 16TH. IF LIGHTS ARE NOT ON, THEY CANNOT BE JUDGED.



Candlewick Garden Club

Invites the CWL Community to a
CHRISTMAS DOOR SWAG WORKSHOP
 Saturday, December 14 at 10 am

Rec Center, Waters Edge Room



- ◆ Fresh evergreens and decorating materials provided
- ◆ RSVP and place order by Dec. 6 to: Candlewickgardeners@gmail.com
- ◆ \$20* payable Dec. 14
 *You will be contacted if price changes.

Community Events

Fall Festival Fun Continued!

Photos by Debbie Breese, Events Commission





About Aqua Aid.

Aqua Aid is an assistance program designed to enable customers in need to receive uninterrupted water service. The program is focused on customers within the communities Aqua serves and is funded by donations from Aqua customers like you. That way, neighbors can help neighbors directly in their own communities. One hundred percent of each donation goes directly to those who need it and the contribution is tax deductible.

In addition to financial assistance, customers can learn about water conservation and leak detection through **WaterSmart Tips** available at AquaAmerica.com.

How are funds awarded and disbursed?

When a customer calls Aqua to request assistance on a delinquent account, they are prescreened for eligibility and referred to a Salvation Army office that facilitates the program. The Salvation Army provides an application to the customer and conducts an interview to determine if the customer qualifies for assistance under the Aqua Aid program. Upon approval, credits are applied electronically to the customer's account.

How can I make a donation?

If you don't need Aqua Aid, you might want to help others who do. If so, please complete the form below and include the amount of your tax-deductible donation with your regular water bill payment. Your donation will go toward water bill credits for those less fortunate.

AquaAmerica.com

/MyAquaAmerica

@MyAquaAmerica

I authorize Aqua to add the amount below to each of my water bills. (These deductions will continue until you call 877.987.2782 to request that they stop.)

\$5 \$10 \$15 OTHER \$ _____

I would like to make a lump-sum donation to Aqua Aid. (Please enclose check made payable to Aqua Assistance Initiative – Illinois and marked "Aqua Aid.")

Name _____

Address _____

Aqua Account # _____

Please fold and include this form with your donation in the envelope along with your Aqua bill payment.

Information

Beyond the Gates - December

S. Bartels Drew Ct., Communications Commission

For ALL events please check on line for more details, cost, tickets, etc.

Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens, 1354 N. 2nd St., Rockford, 815-987-8858, <https://nicholasconservatory.com>

DEC 1 to JAN 6- All Aglow- Lights are on Dusk until dawn. Free

DEC 7 to JAN 26- Smississippi Station-Garden

Train Exhibit: Trains, Trolleys, Miniature Landmarks, Trestle Bridges & more.

DEC 13-Family Garden Hike- Guided Hike. Check on line for details

Coronado Theatre, 314 N. Main St., Rockford, 815-968-5222, <https://coronado.asmrockford.com>

DEC 1- An Evening with Peter Billingsley and A Christmas Story. Q & A with Billingsley, movie screening & a chance to win a Free Leg Lamp.

DEC 7 & DEC 8- The Nutcracker Ballet

DEC 9- Chicago, the Musical Live on stage

DEC 14- Mannheim Steamroller Christmas Concert

DEC 21- RSO Holiday POP Concert

Rockford University, Howard Coleman Library, 5050 E. State St. Rockford, <https://www.rockford.edu>

DEC 1 to DEC 22- Chasing a Dream- The Story of Girls & Women in Baseball- Exhibit Free

The Landscape Connection, 4472 S. Mulford Rd., Rockford, 815-639-0903, <https://www.thelandscapeconnection.net>

DEC 1 to DEC 28- 10th Annual Walk of Light- Free, **DEC 7 & DEC 14- Family Nights-** Crafts, special guests, cocoa, cookies & more.

Edgebrook Mall, 1639 N Alpine Rd, Rockford, 815-398-8957, <https://edgebrookshops.com/events/farmers-market/>

DEC 4 & DEC 11- Indoor Farmer's Market- Located in two stores next to Ackerman Shoes

Rockton Christmas Walk- Downtown Rockton, 815-624-0935

DEC 6 to DEC 8- Lighted Christmas Parade, Scavenger Hunt, Make & Take Ornaments, Breakfast with Santa, Ugly Sweater Pub Crawl, Cocoa Crawl, Caroling and MORE! Check on line:Rockton Christmas Walk for detailed daily itinerary.

Belvidere Park District-

DEC 6- Hometown Christmas Celebration-

Downtown Belvidere. A magical evening of Christmas festivities. Some activities require pre-registration-

check on line: Belvidere Hometown Christmas

Boone County Conservation District- 603 N Appleton Rd., Belvidere, bccdil.org/explore/winter-holiday-walk/, 815-547-7935

DEC 7- Holiday Winter Walk- See how people celebrated the Holidays in the 1800's. Admission is free (Donations accepted) Space is limited- Pre-registration is required

Nature at the Confluence, 306 Dickop St., South Beloit, 815-200-6910, <https://natureattheconfluence.com>

DEC 6- Holiday Tree Lighting- Bonfire, marshmallow roasting, unlimited hot cocoa (Bring your own mug), nature walk, crafts, family photo ops, caroling & more. Check on line for parking info. Free Event
DEC 21-Winter Solstice Rejuvenation- through crafting, movement, sound healing and snacks. Advanced registration required.

Carlson Ice Arena, 4150 N. Perryville., Loves Park, 815-969-4069, <https://www.icerockford.com>

DEC 6- Frosty Fridays- Recurring weekly on Fridays. Family friendly event. (Adaptive skating equipment for people with disabilities are also available)

United Church of Christ, 4500 Spring Creek Rd. Rockford <https://www.springcreekucc.org> 815-979-1945

DEC 7- Concerts on the Creek- Second City Chorus Anderson Japanese Gardens, 318 Spring Creek Rd., Rockford, 815-229-9390 www.andersongardens.org
Illuminated (DEC 7&8), (DEC 12 to DEC 15), (DEC 18 Thru JAN 5 –nightly) –Amazing Wintertime Lighting Display.

Discovery Center Museum, 711 N. Main St., Rockford, 815-963-6769, <https://www.discoverycentermuseum.org>

DEC 7 to JAN 5- Polar Playground in Discovery Town- A Winter Wonderland with sock skating on an indoor rink, make ice castles and visit the Polar Petting Zoo.

DEC 31- Countdown to Fun! – A Time Square style Ball & Confetti Drop! Make sparklers, noise makers and 2025 themed hats to celebrate.

Rockford City Market, 116 N. Madison St., Rockford 815-977-5124, <https://www.rockfordcitymarket.com>

DEC 7 Winter Market & DEC 13- 15th Holiday Merry Market- Vendors with Vintage Holiday Items & more

Prairie Street Brewing Co., 200 Prairie St., Rockford, 815-277-9427, <https://psbrewingco.com>

DEC 8 - Winter Handmade Market- Locally crafted & handmade goods.

DEC 20 -Barrel of Laughs - Joe Kilgallon & Zach McGovern

The Norwegian, 1402 N. Main St., Rockford, <https://www.thenorwegian.com> 815-329-6191

DEC 13 to DEC 15- Snowmarket- Outdoor annual market. Enjoy horse drawn carriages, play games, sing Christmas Carol-oke, listen to Viking tales and much more. Check on line for daily itinerary.

Boone County Museum of History, 314 S. State St., Belvidere, <https://www.bcmuseumofhistory.com>, 815-544-8391

DEC 14- Christmas on the Prairie- See what it was like in an 1800's Cabin with crafts, snacks, decorations and a mini lecture. \$10 per family.

Funderburg House, 605 N. State St. Belvidere. Contact Boone County Museum of History for information on events at Funderburg. 815-544-8391

DEC 20- Ghosts of Christmas Past- Kathi Kresol will share stories of ghostly Holiday encounters

BMO Center, 300 Elm St., Rockford, 815-986-6465, <https://bmocenter.asmrockford.com>

DEC 14- Ice Hogs- United for Literacy Night,

DEC 15- Ice Hogs Pizza Hut Family Night & Post Game Skate with the Ice Hogs,

DEC 27-Ice Hog Screw City Youth Jersey Give Away,

DEC 28- Harlem Globetrotters,

DEC 31- New Years Eve Ice Hog Pizza Hut Family Pack Night

Midway Village Museum, 6799 Guilford Rd.

Rockford, 815-397-9112 <https://www.midwayvillage.com>

DEC 14- Christmas in the Trenches- Re-enactment of the unofficial Christmas Truce in WWI, in which enemy soldiers came together to decorate, exchange gifts, sing carols and play football. Visitors will see a replica of the 150 yard trench with bunkers, hear letters from the soldiers, sip hot chocolate, view artifacts and more.

Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Gardens, 2715 S. Main St., Rockford, <https://klehm.org> 815-965-8146,

DEC 21-Solstice Tranquility Walk- A slow silent, guided contemplative walk through the forest at night. Summerville Farm & Zoo, 3088 Flora Rd. Belvidere, 815-547-4852 <https://summervillefarmandzoo.com>,

DEC 1 to DEC 22 –Christmas Town- Recurring weekly on FRI & SAT. Visit with Santa, his elves, reindeer; check out his flight school and more.

PARK AND WAKE HOURS

PARKS ARE OPEN FROM DAWN TO DUSK.

DAWN IS 30 MINUTES BEFORE SUNRISE

DUSK IS 30 MINUTES AFTER SUNSET

SPEEDS EXCEEDING “NO WAKE” ARE ONLY PERMITTED BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 10AM AND 7:30PM OR SUNSET, WHICHEVER OCCURS FIRST.

Information/Classifieds

From the Table - Just a Bite

By S.L. Bartels, Drew Ct.

In my quest to purge some of my cookbooks, I thought a safe place to start was with books about barbecuing. After all, it is almost Christmas!

As I paged through the first book, I kept seeing interesting articles and recipes. After about a dozen pages, I thought I should mark the "good ones" to determine if this book would be a keeper or not.

My sister suggested that if there were only a few pages to keep - "Just make copies of them and get rid of the book." When I showed her the book with dozens of page markers attached, she said ... "Never mind."

Ok, ok, ok... I know it's late in the season for cooking out of doors, but as the author of this book points out, "The view of barbecuing has been blurred over the years. There are many ways to barbecue and a very few set rules (most of which involve internal meat temperatures). **EVERYTHING** else is up for discussion" including... being only a warm weather activity.

Many cooking methods fall under the term barbecuing:

Grilling- Which is what most people do when they "barbecue": They season, baste and cook foods over direct high heat.

Smoking- (Indirect Cooking) - This is when the heat source is kept away from the food being cooked or smoked.

Pit Cooking- involves cooking food in a pit dug into the ground and heated with hot stones or embers.

Broiling- Using intense high heat from above.

Searing- Blasting high intense heat for a short time to brown meat.

Traditional Barbecue- Slow, low heat cooking; taking a tough cut of meat and through the use of rubs, marinades, sauces, smoking and time, transforming it into something succulent.

Whether you are cooking outdoors or indoors, no matter what cooking method you use, they all can benefit from marinating the meat.

Marinades are used to tenderize and flavor meat. The acids in marinades break down the tissue and the oil carries the flavor of the spices through the meat. Tough meats may need additional help. Using a tenderizing tool or adding yogurt or pineapple juice to your marinade can provide that help. It may take 3 hours or more to break down fibers in pork or beef; chicken requires only about an hour and fish about 30 minutes.

A bottle of salad dressing can be used in a pinch as a marinade. Creamy dressings are good for chicken or fish, while those with oil and vinegar are better for pork and beef. You can also turn your favorite seasoning or rub into a marinade by adding a liquid like citrus juice or vinegar to it.

NOW, is everyone ready to fire up that grill again? Here are a few recipes to try out.

Kent's Basic Rub

Ingredients:

4 tbsp. freshly ground black pepper	2 tsp. salt
4 tbsp. paprika	2 tsp. chili powder
2 tbsp. garlic powder	



Directions:

Combine all the ingredients. Rub thoroughly into the meat before cooking

Butter Barbecue Sauce

This sauce is good for basting, topping, finishing or dipping.

Ingredients:

1 cup melted butter	1 tsp. hot sauce (or to taste)
1/4 cup water	2 tsp. sugar
2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce	1 tsp. salt
1 tbsp. lemon juice	1 tsp. flour



Directions:

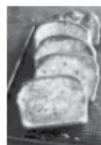
Mix all ingredients and bring to a boil in a saucepan; let it cool. If needed add a bit more flour to thicken.

*This sauce is also good for dipping chicken, French Fries and such.

Couch Potato Barbecue Pork

Ingredients:

1- 4 lb. pork roast	
1/4 cup mustard	
1 cup beef broth	
1 tbsp. apple cider vinegar	
1/3 cup hot pepper sauce (or to taste)	1/4 cup chopped onions
1/3 cup Worcestershire sauce	1 tsp. garlic powder
1 cup ketchup	1 tsp. crushed red pepper (or to taste)
1/2 cup molasses or syrup	1 tsp. lemon juice



Directions:

- Place the roast in a slow cooker. Combine, beef broth, hot pepper sauce and Worcestershire sauce, then pour it over the pork. Cover and cook for 5 hours on high. Check every hour and spoon the juice over the meat. (You may need to turn the meat over.) Cook to an internal temperature of 200 degrees f.
- For the sauce- combine the remaining ingredients in a large saucepan and simmer for 10 minutes.
- Place cooked pork roast on a cutting board. **(Make sure to keep 1/2 cup of juice from the slow cooker.)** Chop or "pull" the pork, mix with the sauce and add the 1/2 cup of juice from the slow cooker; simmer 10 min more.
- Serve hot with Texas toast or burger buns. ENJOY your Barbecue indoors and just watch that snow tumble down...

The Florida Transplant

by Whitney Johnson

The second question we were asked when we told our friends and family we were moving from St Pete, Florida to Poplar Grove Illinois, was "Are you now gonna root for Da Bears?" The first question was, as we alluded to in last month's column, was "Do you know they have winter up there?" It got to the point where we would answer "Winter? Really? What is that?" But the answer to the second question came easily. Growing up in New Jersey in the late 60s and 70s, my favorite football player was the late great Dick Butkus. There was something about this great bear of a man (see what I did there?) that came blasting through the little black and white tv screen in our living room. At Roxbury High, I played linebacker and wore number 51 proudly! Posters of him soon adorned the walls of my room. To this day, I play 51 in the lottery and 5-1 in the exacta or daily double when we hit the racetrack.

But moving to Florida to go to college, I found out quickly that the Bears were the arch nemesis and division rival of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers! We would go to the games in our orange jerseys, but secretly underneath it all I was rooting for the Bears. You guys might have been at some of these games in the 80s as 50,000 Bears fans would regularly make the trip and fill up Tampa Stadium. But, as the decades passed, and Chicago was reassigned to a different conference, I became a massive Buc fan. So much so, that one of the first things I did to our new home was to hoist up our Buccaneer flag outside the garage. But the first thing I hung up inside the house was a framed picture I bought at the craft fair at the Rec Center the day we moved in. A photo tribute to my man Dick Butkus. So to answer the question of for whom I am now rooting for? After watching the Bucs and the Bears this season all I can say is.... let's go Chiefs!



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1 Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Collection Begins	2	3	4 6:00 PM Golf Commission Meeting Rec Center 6:30 PM ECC Meeting Admin Office 7:00 PM AA Meeting Outpost	5 7:00 PM Karaoke Night Savannah Oaks	6 6:30 PM Bunco Rec Center 6:30 PM Bags League Savannah Oaks	7 8:00 AM AA Meeting Outpost 10:00 AM Breakfast with Santa Rec Center Tickets Required
8	9 1:00-4:00 PM CWL Crafters Rec Center	10 6:30 PM Lake Management Rec Center	11 11:00 AM Communications Admin Office 7:00 PM AA Meeting Outpost	12	13 7:30 PM Bingo Savannah Oaks	14 Last Day of Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Collection 8:00 AM AA Meeting Outpost 10:00 AM Garden Club Rec Center 8:00 PM Pub Trivia Savannah Oaks
15	16 6:30-9:00 PM Holiday Lights Contest Lights on by 6:00 PM	17	18 5:30 PM Book Club Rec Center 6:30 PM ECC Meeting Admin Office 7:00 PM AA Meeting Outpost	19	20 6:30 PM Bags League Savannah Oaks	21 8:00 AM AA Meeting Outpost 2:00 PM Winter Bash Savannah Oaks
22	23 1:00-4:00 PM CWL Crafters Rec Center	24 CHRISTMAS EVE OFFICE CLOSED	25 CHRISTMAS DAY OFFICE & REC CENTER CLOSED 7:00 PM AA Meeting Outpost	26	27 REGULAR GARBAGE PICKUP	28 8:00 AM AA Meeting Outpost
29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE OFFICE CLOSSES AT 12:30 PM 5:00 PM-12:00 AM New Year's Eve Party Savannah Oaks				

January Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED	2	3 REGULAR GARBAGE PICKUP 6:30 PM Bunco Rec Center	4 8:00 AM AA Meeting Outpost
5	6 6:30 PM Events Commission Rec Center	7	8 1:00-4:00 PM Pony Canasta Rec Center 6:00 PM Golf Commission Meeting Rec Center 6:30 PM Public Safety Rec Center	9	10 7:00 PM Euchre Night Savannah Oaks	11 8:00 AM AA Meeting Outpost 9:00 AM Citation Review Rec Center 10:00 AM CWL Garden Club Rec Center
12	13 1:00-4:00 PM CWL Crafters Rec Center	14 6:30 PM Lake Management Rec Center	15 Board Statement of Candidacy Due by 4:30 PM 1:00-4:00 PM Pony Canasta Rec Center 6:30 PM ECC Meeting Admin Office 7:00 PM AA Meeting Outpost	16	17	18 8:00 PM Pub Trivia Savannah Oaks 8:00 AM AA Meeting Outpost
19	20 1:30-7:00 PM Blood Drive Rec Center 5:30 PM Finance - Admin Office	21 6:30 PM Board Meeting Rec Center	22 1:00-4:00 PM Pony Canasta Rec Center 7:00 PM AA Meeting Outpost	23	24 7:30 PM Bingo Savannah Oaks	25 8:00 AM AA Meeting Outpost
26	27 1:00-4:00 PM CWL Crafters Rec Center	28	29 11:00 AM Communications Admin Office 1:00-4:00 PM Pony Canasta Rec Center 7:00 PM AA Meeting Outpost	30	31	

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