

Whitewater Hot Spots & Happenings

Compiled by Jason Francis

Hot Spots

The John Muir Bike Trails, N9097 Cty. Rd. H, include 25 miles of rough, natural surface, single-track mountain bike trails fit for bikers looking for a challenge. Located north of the Town of La Grange and US Hwy. 12 and south of the Town of Palmyra, this is the most popular trail system within hundreds of miles. Five different loops ranging from 1.25 miles to 12 miles are featured. Parking, water, and vault toilets are available. A big part of the attraction is one-way trails in the challenging terrain of the Kettle Moraine State Forest. The one-way trails make the experience seem almost private. The rugged terrain, hills and kettle-like depressions make for some tough riding, and may not be for everyone. Park hours are 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. 262-594-6200, dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/kms/trails.html

Art enthusiasts should visit the **Whitewater Arts Alliance's Cultural Arts Center**, which is located at the city's former library at 402 W. Main St. The center is open April-December, Thursdays-Sundays, from noon to 5 p.m. (from January through March, the days and times are the same except the center is not open on Thursdays). The alliance sponsors many exhibits, events and art shows each year. The mission of the Whitewater Arts Alliance, Inc. is to promote the visual and performing arts through an alliance of artists, individuals, educational resources and organizations to



A 4.8-mile segment of Wisconsin's famed Ice Age Trail winds through territory located just north of Whitewater Lake. (Photo courtesy of the Whitewater Area Chamber of Commerce)

promote creativity and diversity that will serve to educate and enrich the lives of the residents of the Whitewater community and surrounding areas. 262-472-0204, www.whitewaterarts.org

If you are more interested in leisurely sun and fun, then grab a picnic basket, beach towels and head to **Whitewater Lake Beach** on Kettle Moraine Drive. Enjoy BBQs, hiking trails, jungle gym equipment, sand and surf. The beach is in a free area on the 625-acre lake. Two public boat landings are also located on the lake. Fish include panfish, largemouth bass, northern pike and walleye. The lake's water clarity is low. 262-473-6427, dnr.wi.gov/lakes/lakepages/LakeDetail.aspx?wbic=816800

Happenings

Tuesdays-Whitewater City Market: Located in Cravath Lakefront Park in downtown Whitewater. All things local and handcrafted, from eggs and organic produce to craft beer and farm-raised beef. Relax on an adirondack chair in the courtyard with food from the carts and free music. Also features activities for the kids. More than 50 vendors. May-October, Tuesdays, 3:30-7:30 p.m. 150 W. Main St. 262-473-2200, downtownwhitewater.com

Saturdays-Whitewater Farmers Market: Located in the Winchester True Value Parking Lot, 1415 W. Main St. Offers fresh, locally grown produce including a large variety of seasonal fruits and vegetables. The market offers fresh baked goods and treats as well as honey and preserves. Other items include hand crafted jewelry, birdhouses, tomato cages, trellises, perennial flowers, shrubs, and vegetable plants. Hours are 8 a.m. until noon Saturday, all summer through the first Saturday in November. 262-949-4508, www.local-harvest.org/whitewater-farmers-market-M28248

June 24-The Whitewater Classic: The Drum Corps International Tour returns to Whitewater. Headlined by the Madison Scouts, a great lineup of World, Open and All-Age Class corps will take the field at Perkins Stadium on the campus of UW-Whitewater. Perkins Stadium (910 W. Schwager Dr.) was the site of the very first DCI World Championship in 1972. 7 p.m. 859-803-3463, www.thewhitewaterclassic.com

June 30-July 4-Whitewater 4th of July Festival: There are many scheduled events for your entertainment and plenty of food, rides, activities and music. Ski shows, car show and Miss Whitewater pageant. Fireworks both Friday and Saturday nights at 10 p.m.

Cravath Lake Park, 341 S. Fremont St. www.ww4th.com

Aug. 4-5-Brat Sale/Maxwell Street Days: Purchase a brat, hamburger or hot dog on Friday. Then, the fun begins on Main Street in downtown Whitewater on Saturday with hands-on art activities, sales in local stores, music, local foods and more events all day long. Brat sale will take place at the Downtown Whitewater office, 150 W. Main St. 262-473-4005, www.discoverwhitewater.org/

Aug. 5-6-Bike MS: TOYOTA Best Dam Bike Tour: An unforgettable ride with an unbeatable destination – a world free of multiple sclerosis. This all-inclusive, fully-supported cycling event travels from the Milwaukee area to Madison, with an overnight stay in Whitewater, and features 50-, 75- and 100-mile route options each day. 262-369-4400 or 800-242-3358, main.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR/Bike/WIGBikeEvents?pg=entry&fr_id=28198

Sept. 16-Whitewater Main Street Festival: This annual event celebrating the arts is held against the backdrop of historic architecture and natural beauty throughout Whitewater. Explore galleries, local shops and restaurants. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Downtown. 262-473-9845, www.wmsfestival.blogspot.com

Sept. 17-Discover Whitewater Series Half Marathon, 5k, Fit Kid Shuffle: The race starts at the Whitewater High School, 534 S. Elizabeth St. 920-397-0601, www.runwhitewater.com

Sept. 30-The Fall Color Biking Festival: This annual mountain bike event held at the John Muir trails features fun-filled activities for the entire family. There's a children's ride and a children's activity tent. A mountain bike clinic presents tips on proper riding skills and trail fixes. This is the only event that raises money for trail maintenance and future trail development in the Southern Kettle Moraine. John Muir Trailhead, County Road H, Whitewater. 262-495-8600, www.fallcolorfestival.org

Oct. 13-14-Whitewater's Spirit Tour: Guided tour through the bizarre history of Whitewater, also known as "Second Salem." Grab hold of some courage and enter the crypt of Mary Worth, the rumored leader of Whitewater Witches, and feel your skin crawl as you learn about the Poison Widow. 262-473-4005, www.whitewaterchamber.com

Information compiled from internet sources, including local chamber of commerce websites, municipal websites, the Wisconsin Department of Tourism's www.travelwisconsin.com, and other websites, unless noted.

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N8066 County Hwy. P, Whitewater, WI 53190

262-473-5960

M-F 8-5, Sat 8-3, Sun 8-12

