

Janesville Hot Spots & Happenings

Compiled by Jason Francis

Hot Spots

The Janesville Performing Arts Center (408 S. Main St.) is a 633-seat theatre found at the former site of the original Janesville High School. Construction on the center concluded in 2004, when a 1920s architecturally-styled facility was unveiled featuring Prairie-style stained glass, ornate plaster molding and original light fixtures. A wide variety of shows and performances are offered, including a series of family-oriented events. 608-758-0297, www.janesvillepac.org

The highly decorated and successful **Rock Aqua Jays** water ski team performs shows twice weekly between Memorial Day and Labor Day at RAJ Stadium in Traxler Park along the Rock River. Watch as the talented skiers present themed performances featuring gravity-defying pyramids, ballet moves, jumps and barefoot skiing. Admission is free to the 70-minute shows; donations are encouraged. Shows are Wednesday and Sunday nights at 7 p.m. through mid-August and 6:30 p.m. for show dates thereafter. 608-754-5879, www.rockaquajays.org

The **Helen Jeffris Wood Museum Center** (426 N. Jackson St.) and nearby **Lincoln-Tallman House** (440 N. Jackson St.) showcase Janesville and Rock County's intriguing history. Open daily June-December 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the museum features numerous exhibits in a 1912 Prairie-style home and is also the home of the Rock County Historical Society. The Lincoln-Tallman House, so named because Abraham Lincoln once slept there, is a newly refurbished 26-room Italianate-style mansion. Tours are available daily June-December, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with the last tour leaving at 3 p.m. Museum: 608-756-4509. House: 608-756-4519, www.rchs.us

Rotary Botanical Gardens, 1455 Palmer Dr., offers a breathtaking 20 acres of themed botanical gardens showcasing 4,000 varieties of plants. Some gardens have an international focus, such as the Japanese, Scottish, French Formal, Italian and English Cottage Gardens. Also on-site are a visitor center, gift shop and a beautiful facility that may be rented for wedding receptions, reunions, meetings, etc. Hours from May through September are 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. In October, hours are 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. See website for hours for other months. 608-752-3885, www.rotarybotanicalgardens.org

Happenings

Saturdays, May-Oct.-Janesville Farmers Market: Located on Main Street in downtown Janesville. 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. A completely local outdoor market. 608-289-9292, www.janesvillefarmersmarket.com

Sundays, mid-May-Oct.-Rock County Farmers Market: At Nature's Touch Garden Center, 5013 Hwy. 11 West. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fresh produce, meat vendors, flowers, baked goods, crafts and more. 608-314-6721, www.rockcountyfarmersmarket.com

Select Saturdays-Stories & Stones Cemetery Tour: Meet at the Oak Hill Cemetery Chapel for this informal historical walk led by Sherry Thurner. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Held on second Saturdays of the summer months, including June 10, July 8 and Aug. 12. 10 a.m., Oak Hill Cemetery, 1725 N. Washington St.

Ongoing-Victorian Bright Ideas exhibit: At the Rock County Historical Society's newest exhibit, see how Pepper's Ghost is used for special effects, how a zoetrope produces moving images and much more. An interactive exhibit, guests are encouraged to have fun with these integral exhibit objects. The exhibit runs throughout 2017 and is open daily from June 1-Dec. 30 (closed holidays). Helen Jeffris Wood Museum Center, 426 N. Jackson St. Hours are daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 608-756-4509, www.rchs.us

Select Fridays-Movies in Optimist Park: Bring your blankets and lawn chairs to enjoy a free movie under the night sky, with concessions and pre-movie barrel rides. All movies are rated PG or G. Sponsored by the Optimist Clubs. Movies begin at dusk, approximately 8:30 p.m. Optimist Park, 4201 Ruger Ave. June 16: Jungle Book, July 21: Moana, August 18: Sing. 608-755-3030

Ongoing-Crafting Excellence: Pauline Pottery and Pickard China: Exhibit at Helen Jeffris Wood Museum Center, 426 N. Jackson St. Pauline Pottery and Pickard China have long been recognized nationally as some of the finest pottery and china, both for its functional use and as highly sought-after artwork. Selected artists and their distinct style are showcased, telling the story of their unique contribution to each medium's success and growth. Hours are daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 608-756-4509, www.rchs.us

June 2-3-Artistry in Motion: a showcase of all forms of dance, full of excitement and emotion. Ages 3 to adult, beginners to competitive dancers, take the stage to move you emotionally and entertain you. Janesville Performing Arts Center, 408 S. Main St., 7 to 9 p.m. both days, plus 1-3 p.m. afternoon show on

Saturday. 608-758-0297, www.dance-attitudes.com

June 6-Bike Night and Hot Rods: Free night of fun, food, beer gardens and live music at Boardtracker Harley-Davidson, 3223 N Pontiac Dr. The Calendar Girls will be there and live music is being provided by Zac Matthews Band. Proceeds from the bar will support the Milton Mad Dogs and its support of youth baseball. 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. 608-314-7653, www.boardtrackerhd.com

June 10-Rock County Dairy Breakfast in rural Clinton: Enjoy a morning on the farm and a delicious, all-you-can-eat dairy breakfast consisting of pancakes, ham patties, yogurt, cheese sticks, applesauce, ice cream, milk and coffee. Farm fun includes crafty cow contest, farm tours, tractor wagon rides, crafters, small animal display, kids games with prizes, music and more. 6:30-11 a.m. Brandl Farm, 10817 E. Lake Shore Rd., Clinton. www.dairydaysofsummer.com

June 14-Rock County Porkfest: 5-7 p.m. (drive-through opens at 4 p.m.), Rock County Fairgrounds, 1301 Craig Ave., 608-757-5696. Drive up serving begins at 4 p.m. Pork chop dinner served with potato salad, applesauce, rolls and beverage. Fresh, uncooked seasoned pork chops for sale as well. Live music, kids activities, dessert sales and the annual Pork Fest Car Show. www.wppa.org

June 16-17-MDA Tub Run: This 23rd annual Tub Run is hosted by the Boardtracker Harley Owners Group #3588 and serves as a fundraiser for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The Tub Run is a fun-filled two day event that brings together hundreds of motorcycle enthusiasts in an effort to support MDA. Following a scenic ride that departs Boardtracker Harley Davidson (3223 N. Pontiac Dr.) at noon on Saturday, the bikes will gather at Traxler Park (600 N. Main St.) in downtown Janesville from 3-11 p.m., where riders and the general public can enjoy live music, entertainment, food, vendors, a car show and more. 262-432-7992, www.mdaturun.org.

June 17-Janesville Morning Rotary's 17th Annual Pie Ride: This bicycle event features a 20K, 50K, 100K, and Century Route through scenic southern Wisconsin. Serious riders can choose a longer ride, while the 20K ride is perfect for a fun family activity. Registration includes a pie and T-shirt, as well as free admission to Rotary Botanical Gardens. Riders are invited to begin the ride any time after 6 a.m. and the event features a shotgun start at 8 a.m. Lions Beach, 1401 Palmer Dr. 608-449-4961, 608-295-4915

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