

Planning that perfect romantic Wisconsin night

By Cindy Mich
Special to the Lakes Edition

Wisconsin residents tend to travel to "typical" cities which have been coined the capitol of romance. Examples of said escapes include Cedarburg, Lake Geneva and Door County. However, couples can delve through different counties to pursue a night of true passion.

Any date could first commence at The Angel Museum, located at 656

Pleasant St. in Beloit. The building originally housed a Catholic church and was then converted into a museum in 1998.

Run as a not-for-profit, the mission of the museum is to extend an experience which will stimulate the human spirit. It's a sanctuary of sorts where one can behold the beauty of colorful cherubs. Owners Joyce and Lowell Berg happen to house more than 11,000 angels, stemming from sixty different coun-

tries. Figurines start at 1/8 of an inch and go as large as life size. Couples can spend a few hours admiring these antique treasures within a decorative domicile.

The Bergs began collecting back in 1976, frequently finding artifacts via a slew of second-hand markets. One big bonus to this attraction are the angels of color donated by the one and only Oprah Winfrey. Visitors may meander through the banquet room or back garden patio, which have been the host of business meetings, anniversaries and parties. The gift shop has a generous number of offerings, including balloons, books, coffee mugs and cookbooks.

If you are native to the area, be sure to volunteer your services, as the museum needs maintaining by many hands. Memberships are also available at a minimal cost. Normal business hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. from Thursday through Saturday. Visit www.angelmuseum.org for more information. Being swarmed by spirits who symbolize joy and

goodness can only bring out the best in two people.

Upon taking a tour of the museum, snatch a second to call and chat with the owner of Art-Vark Paint and Sip, Tannis Woodman. This company combines paint palettes and premium wine for both public and private events. All materials are made available by the moderator of said soirees.

The concept here is to get couples to create in a rather relaxed setting. One can explore their inner artist, which can be an intimate and intriguing experience. Luckily, registration is not always a prerequisite, as walk-ins are allowed. To see a list of upcoming events which occur at various southern Wisconsin locations, visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Art-VarkPaintNSip.

Now that you have taken a tour and made a masterpiece, time for a trip down memory lane. Remember when drive-in movie theaters were a staple and not a scarcity? Watching a big screen under the stars screams sensuality. For a night of four-wheel romance, head to highways 18 and 89 in Jefferson County. You will soon see the Highway 18 Outdoor Theatre.

Flattered by being Wisconsin's first digital cinema drive-in, the theater's first day of business was in 1953. The venue is scattered with old-fashioned and horn-type



The Nelson Salisbury Home in Whitewater. (Photo submitted by Cindy Mich)

speakers. Patrons may also use their own personal stereo system.

Movies are shown regardless of storms or sunshine and pets are allowable patrons. The theater's season starts normally at the end of April, initially open only on weekends. Starting from Memorial Day to September, guests can see showings seven nights a week.

Highway 18 is also a sensible solution for economically challenged couples. Tickets for adults cost \$9, while tickets for seniors and active military are \$7. For a list of weekly showings, go to www.highway18.com.

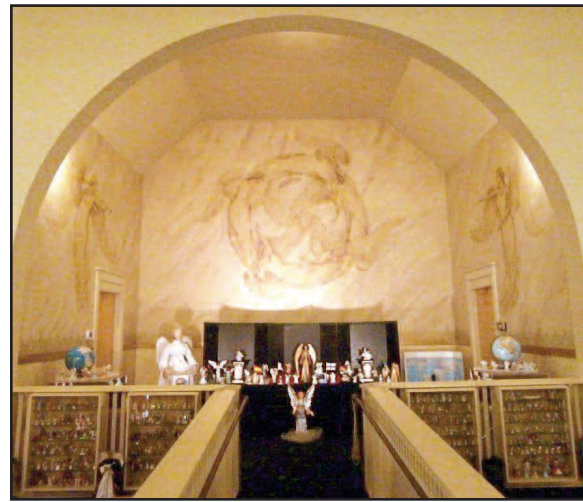
To end the evening, reserve a room at the Historic Landmark Nelson Salisbury Home in Whitewater (404 W. North St.). Original construction was completed in 1873, serving as a symbol of celebration for Salisbury's wedding.

Being based in a highly historical area gives guests a beautiful

outdoor backdrop. A fountain and arts center are across the street. Nearby niceties include a lake, dam and creek. One may go hiking or paddle boating within their waters.

The current owner makes regular renovations; however, the house remains draped in decor of the 1800s. Amenities available include free Wi-Fi and a full kitchen where couples can cook together. There is a first floor parlor, two porches and a set of steep stairs which are aesthetic house accents. Drafty homes can also encourage strong snuggling! Check-in is any time after 2 p.m., with check-out at 10 a.m. There has been talk of hauntings inside and outside of Salisbury House, but presently these are unproven claims.

In conclusion, pick one or all four of these creative choices to spoil a partner or spouse. Outside-the-box thinking can cause inside-the-heart happenings!



Inside Beloit's Angel Museum. (Photo submitted by Cindy Mich)

BELOIT EVENTS

Saturdays, May-Oct.-Downtown Farmers' Market: Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., 300 block of State Street, 400 block of East Grand Avenue and Gantry parking lot. An award-winning community tradition spanning over 50 years, the market continues to grow with more than 85 vendors weekly, selling local produce, organics, baked goods, honey, jams and jellies, herbs, bedding plants, fish, meat, eggs and cheese, fresh flowers, artisan crafts, scents and skin care. downtownbeloit.com/us/farmers-market-2/

Select Mondays, June through August-Dancin' at Harry's Place: Love to dance or just wish you could? Dancin' at Harry's Place is the spot to learn Swing, Cha Cha, Tango, Line Dance, Waltz and more. Free lessons select Monday nights at the Harry C. Moore Pavilion in Riverside Park, 1240 Riverside Drive. Lessons at 7 p.m., open dancing 8-9 p.m. Dates include June 12, June 26, July 10, July 24, Aug. 14 and Aug. 28. 608-365-4838, www.friendsofriverfront.com

July 4-Pops on the Rock: 7:45 p.m., Harry C. Moore Pavilion, Riverside Park, 1240 Riverside Dr. in Beloit. Celebrate the Fourth of July with an outdoor concert on the riverfront. The Beloit Janesville Symphony Orchestra's patriotic performance is followed by a spectacular fireworks display. Free family event. 608-365-4838, www.rockriverphil.org

Aug. 4-5-Celebrate Downtown Weekend, 300 block of State Street in downtown Beloit. Beloit's biggest street dance kicks off Celebrate Weekend every year. A sidewalk sale, farmers market, food concessions and other family activities complete the weekend. The street dance will feature live music. 608-365-0150, www.downtownbeloit.com/us/

Aug. 5-U.S. Kubb Open: Will be open to players of all skills, ages, genders and nationalities that want to compete and discover new abilities. Kubb is a lawn game where the object is to knock over wooden blocks, known as "kubbs," by throwing wooden batons at them. Riverside Park, 1160 Riverside Dr. www.kubbunited.com

Aug. 19-Beloit Dirty Dash: Youth run/walk and obstacle course for ages 4-18. The event includes a loop around the Dirty Dash course, a T-shirt and other goodies. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes You are guaranteed to encounter mud pits and nature trails. Rinse station available. 9 a.m. to noon. 608-364-2890, ext. 3, www.beloitrecreation.com

Sept. 9-10-Festival on the Rock: Festivities include carnival rides, craft

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tents, bags tournament, food vendors, beer tent, live music, fireworks and more. Free admission and parking. Preservation Park, 3444 S. Riverside Dr. Friday, 4 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, 9 a.m.-midnight, Sunday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. 608-362-4612, www.townofbeloit.org

Sept. 9-11-Heritage Days: Tour historic neighborhoods and buildings, tour Beloit's oldest cemetery and attend special events at Beckman Mill and the Angel Museum. Tour the Indian Effigy Mounds on the Beloit College campus and enjoy live music and demonstrations of old-fashioned crafts. Throughout Beloit. Times vary. Free admission to most events. 608-365-4838, www.visitbeloit.com

Sept. 15-Folk 'n' Blues Fest: Beloit College will host six outstanding musical acts on campus starting at 8 p.m. It is fun, it is funky and it is a sure sign that students are back on campus at Beloit College. Free admission. 608-365-4838, www.beloit.edu

Sept. 17-Autorama: Annual car show, swap meet, car corner, as well as an arts and crafts sale. One of the largest automotive one day events in the Midwest for classics, collectibles, street rods and trucks. Preservation Park. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. 608-290-3628, www.beloitautorama.com

Sept. 22-Oktoberfest: The Downtown Beloit Association is bringing back Oktoberfest. Dancing, cold beer, live music all night. Admission \$5 for adults, \$1 for children ages 4-11 and free for kids younger than 4 years old. 5:30-11 p.m. State Street, downtown. 608-365-0150, www.downtownbeloit.com

Sept. 30-Walk to End Alzheimer's: Two-mile walk to further the care, support and research efforts of the Alzheimer's Association. Registration available online or at the event. There is no registration fee; however, every walker is asked to make a personal donation and commit to raising funds in the fight against Alzheimer's. Registration at 8 a.m., ceremony at 9 a.m., walk at 9:30 a.m. Riverside Park, Harry C. Moore Pavilion Park Shelter, 1240 Riverside Dr. 608-449-9638, act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2017/WISouth-CentralWisconsin?pg=entry&fr_id=10221

Oct. 28-Halloween Parade and Party: Children show off their costumes in a parade down Grand Avenue visiting downtown Beloit businesses for treats during the last Farmers Market of the season. The fun includes live music and activities. 9:45 a.m.-1 p.m. 608-365-4838, www.downtownbeloit.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.



Join us
for these
great
events in
2017

Friends of Beckman Mill offers guided tours of the mill and museum on Saturdays and Sundays from May through October. Demonstrations of corn being ground on the mill's original stones are held on the first Saturday of each month.

Tour times are 1 to 4 pm. In addition to the weekend tours, there are a number of special events as described below.

Group tours by appointment, please call 608-751-1551.

Prices: Donations of \$3 on Sat. & Sun. - School Tours \$3 per student

Ice Cream Social & Artist in the Park Sun., July 16 Noon - 4 pm

Enjoy delicious ice cream, cake and beverages in the picnic shelter. Local artists will be at work in the park along with displays of their art. The mill, cooperage, visitor center & gift shop will be open as well. And, be sure to take a leisurely stroll through the nearby oak savanna to enjoy its native plants and wild flowers.

Heritage Sunday Sun., Sept. 12 11 am - 4 pm

Visit the past at Friends of Beckman Mill's Heritage Sunday. There'll be guided tours of the mill and the Cooperage/Beckman Home Museum as well as historic trade demonstrations of vintage crafts. Other attractions include antique cars, tractors, machinery, horse drawn wagon rides, live music, great food and more. To honor all our veterans there will be a military timeline display. Before departing, be sure to stop by the Visitor Center to see the creamery and blacksmith shop displays and to purchase neat gifts.



Beckman Mill County Park

11600 South County Road H, Beloit - 6 miles west of Beloit, South off of HWY 81
608 751-1551 • info@beckmanmill.org • www.beckmanmill.org

