

# Stoughton Hot Spots & Happenings

Compiled by Jason Francis

## Hot Spots

The recently constructed **Stoughton Area Veterans Memorial Park**, located on approximately three acres at the intersection of Dane County Hwy. B and Country Club Road (just north of Stoughton), was unveiled to the public in an open house in November 2016. It is expected to be fully completed in 2017, when the official dedication will occur. The park's Facebook page sums up the awe-inspiring, thought-provoking sights featured in the park: "As you enter beneath a wrought iron arch supported on granite pillars, you encounter a broad walkway with flags of the branches of service running down the center. The flags are set in individual granite bases and flanked by granite benches. The outer edges of the walkway have two rows of granite pillars, depicting in text and engraved images, historic moments in the military history of the United States. These will serve as educational markers to provide future generations with knowledge and perspective of the role veterans have played in securing and preserving our freedoms we all enjoy today." Perhaps even more significant and poignant to local visitors, the names of hundreds of brave local service members are recognized on bricks and memorial benches in the park.

**Lake Kegonsa State Park**, 2405 Door Creek Rd. (three miles north of Stoughton), offers a natural, peaceful setting beside a glacier-hewn lake. Covering 340 acres, the park offers camping, swimming, hiking, nature study, boating, sailing, fishing and waterskiing opportunities. The lake covers 3,209 acres and is more than 30 feet deep. The park, which also features playgrounds, is open year-round from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. 608-873-9695, 888-947-2527, [dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/lakekegonasa](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/lakekegonasa)

The **Stoughton Opera House**, 381 E. Main St., is a 100-year-old beautifully restored Victorian opera house that now functions as a performing arts center for a variety of special events. Known for sublime acoustics and an early 20th century aesthetic, the theater plays host to a wide variety of musical and theatrical performances throughout the season, including rock, folk, classical, oddities, comedy and more. Box office hours are Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and

90 minutes prior to performances. 608-877-4400, [www.stoughtonoperahouse.com](http://www.stoughtonoperahouse.com)

The **Stoughton Historical Museum** (324 South Page St.) is located in a former church built in 1858 on land donated by Luke Stoughton. The building is on the National Registry of Historic Places. Museum hours are Saturdays from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Mid-May through Labor Day weekend. The historic **Luke Stoughton home** (315 Division St.) is open during special events and by appointment only. The historic **Stoughton depot** (532 Main St.) is open for self-guided walk-through tours Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; guided tours are by appointment. 608-873-4797, [www.stoughtonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.stoughtonhistoricalsociety.org)

## Happenings

**Thursdays, June 1-Aug. 31-Gazebo Musikk:** Series of free outdoor concerts in Stoughton Rotary Park (381 E. Main St.) every Thursday evening from 6-7:30 p.m. From Americana to Honky Tonk, everyone is sure to get a lesson in music appreciation without even knowing it, as attendees are exposed to a wide array of music genres. [www.facebook.com/gazebomusikk/info/?tab=overview](http://www.facebook.com/gazebomusikk/info/?tab=overview)

**June 2-Stoughton Chamber Singers:** The Stoughton Chamber Singers, under the direction of John Beutel, will present a variety of choral music for the group's annual spring concert. The program will feature choral music from various composers and various musical periods. Tickets will be available at the door for \$5, general admission. 7:30 p.m., Stoughton Opera House, 381 E. Main St. 608-877-4400, [www.stoughtonoperahouse.com](http://www.stoughtonoperahouse.com)

**June 3-Wisconsin Folks: Masters of Tradition:** Wisconsin's rich cultural heritage shines in this annual concert. Experience the talent of Wisconsin masters in Hawaiian dance and chant, Bharatnatyam classical Indian dance, Armenian "oud" (a stringed instrument), Slovenian-style polka, and Hmong "qeej" (a type of reed pipe). Joining these performers on stage are their apprentices who are poised to carry it forward. Off stage, meet expert craft artists whose handwork carries their culture in Norwegian rosemaling, Iroquois raised beadwork, Anishinaabe hand drums, and southwest Wisconsin hand-forged hunting knives. Tickets cost \$10, \$5 per student. 3 p.m., Stoughton Opera House, 381 E. Main St. 608-877-4400, [www.stoughtonoperahouse.com](http://www.stoughtonoperahouse.com)

**June 9-Bach Dancing and Dynamite Society:** BDDS celebrates its 26th season of summer chamber music in the south-central Wisconsin area. Its three-week festival is widely known for a diverse repertoire played by an ensemble of distinguished Wisconsin musicians and top-flight artists from around the country. A BDDS hallmark, musicians explain the work from the stage, making even the most challenging new work accessible to a general audience. "Chamber music with a bang!" is serious music-making suffused with high energy, surprises and lots of audience appeal. Contact BDDS for tickets: 608-255-9866. 7:30 p.m., Stoughton Opera House, 381 E. Main St. [www.stoughtonoperahouse.com](http://www.stoughtonoperahouse.com), [bachdancinganddynamite.org](http://bachdancinganddynamite.org)

**June 10-Art Walk Stoughton:** Local businesses will host Wisconsin artists and musicians in their shops and restaurants to introduce visitors to Stoughton's vibrant scene of shopping, art, culture, history, and cuisine. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. 608-492-0220, [www.artwalkstoughton.com](http://www.artwalkstoughton.com)

**June 16-17-Relay For Life of Stoughton/ McFarland/Oregon:** The American Cancer Society Relay For Life movement symbolizes hope and our shared goal to end a disease that threatens the lives of so many people we love. If cancer has touched your life, participating in a Relay For Life event is a way to take action and help finish the fight. This is your opportunity to honor cancer survivors, remember those you have lost, and raise funds and awareness to fight back and help end cancer forever. 6 p.m. June 16 to 7 a.m. June 17 in Mandt Park, S. 4th St. 608-662-7544, [main.acevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLCY16MW?pg=entry&fr\\_id=75054](http://main.acevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLCY16MW?pg=entry&fr_id=75054)

**July 4-9-Stoughton Fair:** Midway rides, commercial exhibits, tasty treats, Kiddie tent with baby farm animals, and 4-H/FFA exhibits. Great grandstand entertainment including rodeo, tractor and truck pulls, and demolition derby. Fireworks Sunday night. Mandt Park, 400 Mandt Parkway. Open daily until 10:30 p.m. 608-873-4653, [stoughtonfair.com](http://stoughtonfair.com)

**Aug. 19-Coffee Break Festival:** Small town fun in the place where the coffee break was born. Sample coffee from a host of coffee vendors, check out the art and craft show, car show, children's activities, music, food and beer. Also participate in the 1-mile or 5k run. Mandt Park, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. 608-873-7912, [www.stoughtonwi.com](http://www.stoughtonwi.com)

*Information compiled from internet sources, including local chamber of commerce websites, municipal websites, the Wisconsin Department of Tourism's [www.travelwisconsin.com](http://www.travelwisconsin.com), and other websites, unless noted.*



Springers  
of Lake Kegonsa

## Great Food & Fun on Beautiful Lake Kegonsa in Stoughton

Whether you come by car or boat, you'll enjoy the great food, bar and beautiful views of Lake Kegonsa at Springers. Conveniently located close to Interstate 90 and County Hwy. N on the northeast shore of Lake Kegonsa in Stoughton, Wisconsin, Springers features an exciting dining menu with many of your traditional favorites including a great Wednesday & Friday Fish Fry and some of the best prime rib and shrimp you'll find anywhere. Our casual bar menu features excellent burgers, sandwiches and appetizers as well as tasty non-traditional fare such as mollusk mania with mussels, shrimp and clams or steamed "peel and eat" shrimp.



For some of the best lake views, food and fun in  
Dane County, be sure to stop in soon at Springers!

3097 Sunnyside St, Stoughton, WI

608-205-9300

[www.springersonthelake.com](http://www.springersonthelake.com)

Closed Mondays

Tuesday - Saturday

Bar/grill opens @ 11am

Dining room opens @ 5pm  
with full menu

Sunday 8:30 am - 11:45am  
Serving Breakfast

Grill opens @ 12 noon for lunch

