

Cambridge Hot Spots & Happenings

Compiled by Jason Francis

Hot Spots

Built in 1906, the **Cambridge Historic School** (213 South St.) is now a museum. It was once home to eight grades as well as the four-year high school. When a new middle school opened in the city in the early 1990s, a citizens group organized to turn the historic school into a museum, and in 1997 the Cambridge Historic School Foundation, Inc. opened its doors to the public and later that year the building was accepted and listed on the Wisconsin Register of Historic Places. Today the museum houses seven rooms of historic collections, including a Far East exhibit, Cambridge and surrounding area artifacts, an African collection, farming community collection and a room dedicated to the school history of Cambridge. The museum is open May-Oct., Wednesdays and Saturdays, 12:30-3 p.m. Admission is free. 920-563-9095, www.cambridgehistoricmuseum.org

Covering 422 acres, **CamRock Park** is located in eastern Dane County along Koshkonong Creek between the villages of Cambridge and Rockdale. This park has three separate use areas with shelter facilities and play areas. Section 1 is found at 68 Cty. Hwy. B, Cambridge; section 2 at 136 Cty. Hwy. B, Cambridge, and section 3 at 2334 Highland Rd., Cambridge. The trails are suitable for hiking and cross-country skiing. CamRock Park III has a single-track mountain bike trail. 608-423-4438, www.countyofdane.com/lwrp/parks/cam-rock.aspx

Don't speed to get there, but the **Matt Kenseth Fan Club headquarters, museum and gift shop** is found at 210 W. Main St. The museum has some of the Cambridge native and NASCAR star's race cars and race gear, along with the trophy from his Winston Cup-winning season. In the Kenseth-themed store you will find hats, T-shirts, infant sleepers, jackets, loungewear, glassware, mugs and more. Hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 608-423-3626, www.mattkenseth.com

Happenings

Select Fridays-Cambridge Open Air/Farmers' Market: Held on Fridays in downtown Veteran's Park, 100 E. Main St., from June through September. In ad-

dition to the fresh fruits and vegetables, you'll find artists, crafters and entrepreneurs, along with free live music from the summer concert series. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. 608-423-3780, www.cambridgewi.com

Select Fridays-Summer Concert Series: The Cambridge Arts Council presents the free concerts from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in downtown Veteran's Park, 100 E. Main St. This summer's dates and acts include The Moon Gypsies (Americana, Rock and Blues) on June 9, Patchoulie (New American Folk) on June 23, All That Jazz (Big Band Swing) on July 14, Oak Street Rambler (Bluegrass) on July 28, and The Driftless (Americana) on Aug. 11. enjoyjeffersoncounty.com

June 4-Battle at CamRock WORS Bike Race: Enjoy a day of off-road racing competitions, picnics and fun events at CamRock Park. The trails are waiting. CamRock Park III. www.battleofcamrock.com

July 8-Cambridge EMS Cannonball Run 1M, 5K & 10K: Run, jog or walk the family-friendly Cannonball Run, which winds through CamRock Park along the Cannonball Rail bed. Cambridge EMS Station, 6:30 a.m. start. 608-423-3511, caemscannonballrun.com

July 22-23-Midwest Fire Fest: This demonstration-heavy show is limited to 20 artists in clay, welding and sculpture firing. The event includes a VIP dinner and sales, music, fire performers and concessions. West Side Park and around Cambridge. Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. (times subject to change). 608-423-3780, www.midwestfirefest.com

July 29-Cambridge Lake Ripley Ride: Featuring three distances: a family friendly 22-mile (mostly flat) route, a longer and slightly hilly 40-mile route, and a more challenging 62-mile metric century route. You will ride quiet country roads and visit Cambridge, Rockdale, Marshall and London. 8 a.m. start, Lake Ripley Park, Park Road. 608-423-8108, www.cambridgecap.net

Aug. 4-5-Maxwell Street Days: Main Street business sidewalk sales, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. In conjunction, the Cambridge Library will hold its Annual Community Book Sale, including children's, vintage, novels in hardcover, paperback and audio. Book sale runs 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day in the Amundson Center, 200 Spring St. There will also be a community-wide garage sale. 608-423-3780, www.cambridgewi.com

Aug. 4-6-Utica Festival: Horse pull, live music, bingo, Badger State Super Farm & Hot Farm Tractor Pull, mini-rod pull, spectator truck pull, kids' sawdust money dig, softball tournament, food and concessions. Friday opens at 5 p.m., Saturday opens at 8 a.m., Sunday opens at 9 a.m. Utica Community Association Park

in Utica, located between Cambridge and Stoughton. 608-764-8480, uticapark.org

Aug. 20-Try Cambridge Tri: This sprint distance triathlon will take you along the shores of Lake Ripley, traveling scenic country roads and through beautiful downtown Cambridge. The event will start and end at Ripley Park at 7 a.m., and features a 1/4 mile swim, 15 mile bike and 5k run. Lake Ripley Park, 4310 Park Rd., Cambridge, 608-423-8108, www.cambridgecap.net/TryCambridgeTri.php

Sept. 9-Cambridge Volunteer Fire Dept. annual Dance and Poker Run: Live music, ice cream social, raffle, car show, fire fighter games, dance and more from 3-9 p.m. Poker run starts at 11 a.m. Bingo 1-3 p.m. Fire station, 273 W. Main St. 608-423-2013, www.visitcambridgewi.com

Sept. 16-Family Wellness Expo: Annual family wellness event. Family fitness walk through Cam-Rock Park, information booths from Cambridge area businesses and health care providers, free blood pressure checks, karate, yoga and jazzercise demonstrations, lectures, kids' games and healthy refreshments. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Westside Park, 300 West Water St. 608-423-3780, www.cambridgewi.com

Sept. 16-Fall Fest: Tractor hayrides, scarecrow building, chainsaw artist live demo, live music, pie contest, auction benefitting the Cambridge Food Pantry, bee-keeping demo, face painting and FFA farm animal petting zoo. Veterans Park, 100 E. Main St. The Cambridge Community Activities Program will also be conducting its annual Fun Run and Family Wellness Fair in the morning at downtown West Side Park. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 608-423-3780, www.cambridgewi.com

Sept. 23-2nd Annual CamRock Challenge: The race consists of a 10-mile bike ride on rural Cambridge roads, followed by a 3-mile run/hike through CamRock Park and finally a 3-mile canoe/kayak ride down Koshkonong Creek. Following the race, each racer will receive a full meal. Participants can compete as a solo competitor or as a team of two and all athletic abilities are welcome. Canoe and kayak rentals are available. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Make-A-Wish Wisconsin. www.finishlineeventswi.com/camRock.php

Sept. 24-Barktoberfest: Free and fun canine festival and party for you and your dog(s). The festival includes vendors, rescue groups, dog demos, a demonstration of lure coursing, costume and trick contests with great prizes, food and more. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. "Yappy Hour" 3-5 p.m. West Side Park, Cambridge. 608-345-8821, www.cambridgewi.com

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