

Lakeview and Countryview come together

By Michelle Lovrine Hon-eyager
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Countryview building from the bank in June of last year. Chad Jahnke manages the food service and banquet portion of the new Countryview facility. Jake Pettit oversees both facilities.

"We wanted to make sure we had a nice clean bar and restaurant closer to the campground," said Pettit. He said there's always been a bar there, under various owners, since the 1960s.

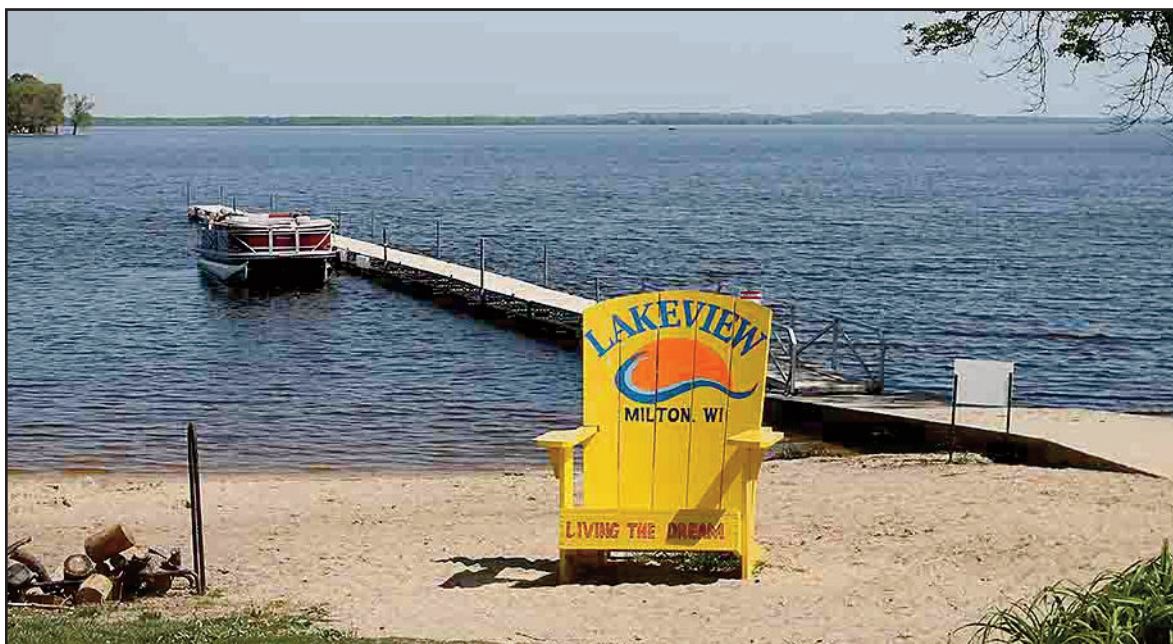
Since renovations, the building now contains a 4,000-square-foot space with a raised stage in the center. That space will be used as a dining area and banquet hall. Historically, Countryview was known for its banquet space.

Pettit is also hosting live bands on weekends at Countryview, a favored tradition that the location was known for prior to closing. A full music schedule can be viewed at the restaurant's website, www.countryviewbar.com.

Many campgrounds want you to "get away from it all." But Lakeview Campground Bar & Grill in Milton combines a beautiful natural camping experience with modern dining and entertainment options right on site. This summer, meanwhile, we will see the newly renovated Pettit's Countryview, "Lake Koshkonong's newest hot spot," serving and entertaining guests.

Pettit's Countryview was remodeled last year, finishing in October of 2016. The remodel added overflow seating and parking in its now 6,000-square-foot facility. The new renovation creates more dining, banquet and entertainment capabilities.

The Pettit Family, owners of Lakeview Campground Bar & Grill and Countryview, bought the



Live the dream on the beach at Lakeview. (Photo by Toni Turnquist)



Exterior of Countryview. (Photo by Toni Turnquist)



The Lakeview Bar & Grill at Lakeview Campgrounds. (Photo by Toni Turnquist)



Inside the Lakeview Bar & Grill. (Photo by Toni Turnquist)



Enjoying the summer is what Lakeview Campgrounds is all about. (Photo by Toni Turnquist)

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Keeping childhood memories alive

The Pettit family goes way back with Lakeview Campground. Pettit grew up in Illinois and his family made treks up to the campsite going back to 1985.

"We liked it because it's on the water and it was a friendly place," said Pettit.

Then, in 2009, that campground was hit by the recession and fell into bankruptcy. It closed and was sold at auction. To save their favored vacation spot, the Pettit family purchased the campground and renovations began right away.

The campground had new sewer and electric by 2010. The 90 RV stalls the campground boasts all have electricity.

"Then in 2012 we built a new bar and restaurant," said Pettit. "There was a small bar here. We built an entirely new structure." That structure would become Lakeview Bar & Grill that sits right in the campground. The facility went from 800-square-feet to 2,300-square-feet. It features drinks and food with bands and karaoke nights. Lakeview Bar & Grill is open year-around, even when the campground is closed.

The Lakeview Bar & Grill fills up quickly during the summer months. So with the new parking and seating at Countryview, the goal is to have some of the extra space for the overflow. Both Lakeview and Countryview have live music.

The two restaurants are aimed to complement each other. Lakeview has a beach club feel to it, while Countryview is a larger, more traditional restaurant space. Countryview boasts comfort food like mac and cheese bowls that are served with a side of warm cornbread and honey.

"The food is totally different at the two places. Nothing is repeated," said Pettit.

The newly renovated Countryview also has large-screen TVs for watching sports through-

out, and an attached 2,000-square-foot bar area that has a sports motif.

A wonderful family area

Jennifer Hamm, lead server at Countryview, has worked for the Pettit family for around four years. "It's a great place to work, since it's family-owned," she said. "They really take care of their employees and we're friends outside of work, which is great. It's like one big family."

She listed some of the most popular attractions at the site, including the convenience added by the Countryview restaurant. Hamm mentioned that people love Lakeview be-

cause it has the outdoor seating right on the water.

"During the summer, everyone wants to be on the water," she said. But with Countryview, "when the weather's bad, people can just head up the hill to Countryview to enjoy the music."

She mentioned outdoor activities at Lakeview, like bean bag tosses - a huge draw, along with live music right out on the patio. The boathouse is available to rent out for parties, which is a big draw as well. Lakeview sits right along Lake Koshkonong and near the mouth of the Rock River.

"It's like a mini vacation," said Hamm.



Countryview's sign along Highway 59, nicely summarizing what the establishment is all about. (Photo by Toni Turnquist)



A pirate stands guard at The Lakeview Bar & Grill. (Photo by Toni Turnquist)