

Sun Prairie Hot Spots & Happenings

Compiled by Jason Francis

Hot Spots

The **Sun Prairie Historical Museum and Library** (115 E. Main St.) offers thought-provoking exhibits that document the area's fascinating heritage. Museum exhibits change annually. Walking tours and presentations are also part of the experience. The 1924 red-brick building located in downtown Sun Prairie was designed by Alvin E. Small, who was born in Sun Prairie in 1869. He attended school in Sun Prairie and became a well-known architect in Madison, responsible for the design of many prairie-style homes along with other well-known Madison buildings. The museum is open Monday-Saturday, 12-4 p.m. Check website or call to verify open hours. 608-837-2915, www.cityofsunprairie.com/322/Sun-Prairie-Historical-Museum-Library

Patrick Marsh, a natural wetland area on the north-east side of Sun Prairie, along Highway 151, offers picturesque walks among the sights and sounds of Mother Nature. The 145-acre marsh, which includes 60 acres of water, is the first wetland mitigation bank site in Wisconsin. In 2015, new visitor features were installed, including a wildlife viewing platform, information signs, upgraded trails and additional access to Sun Prairie neighborhoods. www.nhlt.org/page.asp?page=patrickmarsh

Angell Park Speedway (315 Park St.) is abuzz during the summer months, as the Badger Midget Auto Racing Association sanctions weekly races from mid-May through Labor Day each year. On select Sunday nights, racers from around the world compete. The 1/3 mile track has been traveled by many now-famous drivers, including Tony Stewart and Jeff Gordon. Owned

and operated by the Sun Prairie Volunteer Fire Company, Angell Park Speedway is also the home of the National Midget Auto Racing Hall of Fame. 608-837-5252, www.angellparkspeedway.com

Happenings

June 3-Taste of Sun Prairie: 12 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at Cannery Square Plaza, East Main Street. Fifteen or more area restaurants will be set up so that you can sample their best dishes for \$5 or less. Kids activities, games and lots of fun. Special sales by local vendors. Live music. 608-298-3475, www.cityofsunprairie.com

June 10-Taste of the Arts Fair: Art and craft vendors from around the state. Wine and cheese tasting, central shelter, free parking, food vendor booths, entertainment, children's playground and more. Sheehan Park, 9 a.m.-10 p.m. 608-837-4547, www.sunprairiechamber.com

June 17-Annual Strawberry Fest and Craft Fair: Family friendly strawberry festival featuring craft fair, run/walk, breakfast/lunch, raffles, children's carnival, computer arcade, book sale, skateboard competition, lots of delicious strawberries and more. Colonial Club Senior Activity Center, 301 Blankenheim Lane, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. 608-837-4611 www.colonialclub.org

July 1-Flags of Freedom Parade and Field Show: The Sound of Sun Prairie competition band along with many competition bands from across the United States will be performing in a parade down Main Street with a field show in the evening. Parade at 2 p.m., field show at Ashley Field at 7 p.m. 608-834-7825, www.spbb.org

July 2-Budweiser Fireworks: Angell Park, 300

Park St., at dusk.

July 14-Relay for Life: Cardinal Heights Upper Middle School, 220 Kroncke Dr., 5 p.m. to midnight. main.acsevents.org/site/TR?pg=entry&fr_id=80193

Aug. 4-Classic Car Show: Downtown, 6 p.m.-8 p.m.

Aug. 5-Book 'n It Run: 5K and 10K USATF Certified Course that is Chip timed and runs through the open farmland to the west, Sheehan Park and the Sun Prairie Business District. The event is designed to offer something for people of all ages and abilities. 6:30-7:30 a.m. registration, 8 a.m. race. Sheehan Park, S. Bird St. 608-825-7323, www.booknitrn.com

Aug. 17-20-Sweet Corn Festival: Festival begins with a parade down Main Street on Thursday evening. Events includes craft show, carnival rides, concessions, family stage, beer tent with live bands, kiddie korner activities, petting zoo, tractor pulls and lots of sweet corn on Saturday and Sunday. Thursday-Friday, 6-10 p.m., Saturday, noon-midnight, Sunday, noon-10 p.m. Angell Park, 100 Park St. 608-837-4547, www.sunprairiechamber.com

Sept. 16-Georgia O'Keeffe Art Festival and Gala: Festival at Sun Prairie Historical Library and Museum, 115 E. Main St., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Gala at Colonial Club, 301 Blankenheim Lane, 5-9 p.m. 608-837-2915, www.cityofsunprairie.com/museum

Sept. 9-10-Sacred Hearts Fall Festival: Musical entertainment Saturday afternoon and evening, and Sunday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Chicken and ham dinner served Sunday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sacred Hearts Catholic Church, 315 Columbus St., Sun Prairie. 608-837-7381, www.sacred-hearts.org

Oct. 21-Downtown Fall Festival: Cannery Square, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., www.downtownsunprairie.com

Tips for boating season

you are in the boat looking forward, an easy way to remember these terms is to relate the "left" side and "port" side. Both have four letters and mean the same.













When it comes to the term "No Wake," there too seems to be some confusion. The actual definition of "No Wake" states: Operating at a speed in which the vessel moves as slowly as possible while still maintaining steering control. Technically it has nothing to do with wave height and everything to do with boat control. There are specific rules when it comes to no wake; however, if you simply remember to travel at no wake speed in designated areas or within 100 feet of shoreline or stopped vessels, you will be safe.

Waterway marking systems are another topic many boaters have trouble with. There is a universal system when it comes to buoys and navigational markers. The most common colored navigational buoys are red and green. These buoys typically mark channels and show the safe path for vessels to travel. In all systems, red buoys will be on the right (starboard) side of a vessel when traveling up stream or when returning to shore. The phrase "Red, Right, Returning" is an easy way to remember this. If traveling downstream or away from shore, green buoys will be on the right (starboard) side of a vessel. The picture shows common navi-

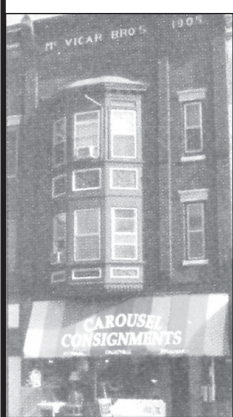
gational markers seen on many waterways.

White buoys with shapes indicate a message, along with lettering above and below the same.

shape. These buoys typically designate "No Wake" or "Swim" areas, while others indicate "Danger" or "Prohibited" areas. These are very important

Symbol	Meaning	Examples
	Danger A diamond shape alerts boaters to hazards	 
	Restricted Operations Marks with a circle indicate areas with regulated operations	 
	Exclusion A diamond shape with a cross means boats are prohibited from the area	 
	Information Marks with a square provide helpful information such as directions, distances, and locations	 

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to understand when operating any vessel on the water. Navigational buoys and markers also indicate a specific message. Some are also equipped with corresponding colored lights for nighttime navigation.

Please take time to prepare yourself and your vessel before hitting the water this season. Making sure your vessel is safe and understanding a few simple rules of the water will help ensure everyone has fun. Please visit the DNR website or Coast Guard website for information. Safe boating!

About the author: Adam Walton is the owner of Pike Pole Fishing Guide Service, located in Edgerton, Wis. He is certified

USCG Captain who specializes in year round multi-species fishing on a variety of Wisconsin waters. Adam helps promote fishing topics through seminars, media, and sporting show events. You can also find him, along with fellow angler

Hurricane Jerry, co-hosting the radio show "The Fishing Hole" every Saturday morning on Iron Country 101.9 FM. For more information on Pike Pole Fishing Guide Service, check them out on Facebook or on-line at www.pikepolefishing.com.



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