

Lake Mills Hot Spots & Happenings

Compiled by Jason Francis

Hot Spots

Aztalan Museum, N6284 Cty. Rd. Q (one mile east of Lake Mills), offers a throwback to yesteryear in Wisconsin, with a pioneer village that includes 1840s style cabins, school and church. Ancient Aztalan artifacts are displayed. The "Princess" mound is also on the museum grounds. The burial has no known parallel in Wisconsin for an ancient female, as she was wrapped with three beaded belts containing more than 1,900 shell beads. Hours are Thursday through Sunday, noon-4 p.m. May 15 through September. 920-648-4632, www.lakemillsaztalanhistory.com

Aztalan State Park, 1213 S. Main St., offers day-use hiking trails and a replica Indian village stockade. Hours are 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. year-round. The park is a National Historic Landmark and contains one of Wisconsin's most important archaeological sites, as it showcases an ancient Middle-Mississippian village that thrived between A.D. 1000 and 1300. The park is mostly open prairie with 38 of its 172 acres in oak woods. Northern pike, catfish, and walleye are caught in the Crawfish River, which is also used for boating and canoeing. No camping. The park is in the Town of Aztalan, on the east side of Jefferson County Highway Q, just south of County Highway B. The Aztalan Museum is located just north of the park. 920-648-8774, www.wiparks.net

The **Glacial Drumlin Trail**, a portion of which skirts the southern edge of Lake Mills, offers recreation for hikers and bikers. The 52-mile trail, which follows an old Chicago and Northwestern railway track path (save for a 1.5 mile section northeast of Jefferson), is open 365 days a year. Running between Wisconsin's two largest urban areas, this trail stretches through farmlands and glacial topography. The trail travels through 10 small towns from Cottage Grove to Waukesha. Along the trail near Lake Mills, you will find the **Zeloski Marsh**. This area is a result of a large wetland restoration effort and involves nearly 2,000 acres. When fully restored, the marsh is expected to attract more than 200 species of birds, which would make it a top birding location in southeast Wisconsin. dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/glacialdrumlin/

Happenings

Wednesdays, May-October, Artisan/Farmers' Market: Every Wednesday from 2-6:30 p.m. in Commons Park in downtown Lake Mills. Offers fresh and seasonal produce, crafts and art, all produced by farmers, crafters and artisans who grow or create their products. legendarylakemills.com/farmers-market

June 4-Lake Mills Triathlon: This sprint distance race includes a 400M swim, 16-mile bike ride and a 5K run. It is a wonderful introductory event for beginner racers and the flat, fast course provides a competitive atmosphere for experienced racers. Pre-race water and post-race refreshments will be served. 7 a.m., Sandy Beach Park. www.lakemillstri.com

June 22-25 - Town and Country Days: Carnival, parade, sidewalk sales, live entertainment, brat stand and lots of family fun all weekend long. Parade Saturday at 10:30 a.m. with more than 100 units that starts on Main Street by the Lake Mills High School and travels downtown to Prospect Street. Thursday and Friday 5-11 p.m., Saturday noon-midnight, Sunday noon-4 p.m. 920-648-3585, www.lakemills.org

July 4-4th Of July Fireworks: Fireworks start at dusk. Viewing grounds are at location to be announced. Concession stand opens at 7 p.m. Free face painting and temporary tattoos. Lake Mills Fire Department on site with fire trucks. Event is free to the public. www.facebook.com/LM4thofJuly

July 15-Arts Festival: Annual lake community arts celebration in historic downtown Lake Mills features a juried show of Wisconsin fine artists. Enjoy food, live music, children's activities, and free parking and admission. More than 60 Wisconsin artists, representing multiple genres, will be set up in Commons Park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 920-648-4368, www.lakemillsartsfestival.com

July 16-Aztalan Day: Celebrates the Native American and pioneer heritages of the township of Aztalan. Featuring outdoor exhibits, food and historical points of interest. The old school is opened for public viewing, and the Aztalan Museum is open for admission. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the museum grounds, N6284 County Hwy Q. 920-648-4632, www.lakemillsaztalan-history.com

Aug. 2-Lake Mills Night Out Against Crime: Hosted by the Lake Mills Police Department, the sixth annual free event located at the Lake Mills High School runs from 6-8:30 p.m. Watch the UW MedFlight Helicopter land and take off, see an EMS demonstration with paramedic intercept, take advantage of free health screenings, and much more including face and wound painting, car seat checks, refreshments and music. www.legendarylakemills.com/



Aztalan's main ceremonial mound. (Photo by Kelly Tyrell)

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Sept. 16-Tyrannena Oktoberfest Bike Ride: 25, 45 and 65-mile routes through Jefferson County countryside begin and end at the Tyrannena Brewery. Rest stops, SAG support, and free tours of the brewery in the afternoon. Enjoy beverages, live music (1-10 p.m.), and a complete dinner. Riders leave between 9:30-11 a.m. Tyrannena Brewing Co., 1025 Owen St. 920-648-8699, www.tyrannena.com/bikeride

Oct. 1-Lake Mills Fall Festival of Color: Downtown Commons Park, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. More than 130 vendors selling pumpkins, gourds, mums, crafts, artwork, and jewelry. There will be games for kids, face painting, and more. A large variety of food vendors can also be found in the park. All are nonprofit organizations from the area. 920-648-3585, www.lakemills.org

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.

HARLEY MUSEUM

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freedom, pride and camaraderie of Harley-Davidson riders are always on display here," said Bill Davidson, vice president of the Harley-Davidson Museum and great-grandson of company founder William A. Davidson.

Some of the highlights in the collection include:

- The oldest Harley-Davidson in existence – Serial No. 1

- A replica board track complete with race bikes banking on a corner

- A movie sampling of Hollywood's best motorcycle moments

- The inspiring stories of personal freedom that only a Harley-Davidson can bring to people

The facility is also the location of the Harley-Davidson Archives, home to the original historical collections dating to the earliest days of the company.

The museum campus is a hub of activity 363 days a year. In addition to the world-class museum, the 20-acre park-like space also features a full-service restaurant – MOTOR Bar & Restaurant – as well as a shop where Harley fans can find authentic reproductions and other Harley-Davidson apparel and gifts. And the calendar is always full of legendary events that can only be found at the museum, whether it be the outdoor bike nights taking place all summer long or special events and exhibits.

This summer, the museum will open its special summer exhibit, "The Race of Gentlemen," which features world-class photography as well as motorcycles and vehicles pulled from the famed race that

takes place on the beaches of the New Jersey Shore.

Visit the museum's website (www.H-DMuseum.com) for more information on upcoming events and programming.



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