

Whitewater Hot Spots & Happenings

Compiled by Jason Francis

Hot Spots

The John Muir Bike Trails, N9097 Cty. Rd. H, include 25 miles of rough, natural surface, single-track mountain bike trails fit for bikers looking for a challenge. Located north of the Town of La Grange and US Hwy. 12 and south of the Town of Palmyra, this is the most popular trail system within hundreds of miles. Five different loops ranging from 1.25 miles to 12 miles are featured. Parking, water, and vault toilets are available. A big part of the attraction is one-way trails in the challenging terrain of the Kettle Moraine State Forest. The one-way trails make the experience seem almost private. The rugged terrain, hills and kettle-like depressions make for some tough riding, and may not be for everyone. Park hours are 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. 262-594-6200, dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/kms/trails.html

Art enthusiasts should visit the **Whitewater Arts Alliance's Cultural Arts Center**, which is located at the city's former library at 402 W. Main St. The center is open February-December, Thursdays-Sundays, from noon to 5 p.m. The alliance sponsors many exhibits, events and art shows each year. The mission of the Whitewater Arts Alliance, Inc. is to promote the visual and performing arts through an alliance of artists, individuals, educational resources and organizations to promote creativity and diversity that will serve to educate and enrich the lives of the residents of the Whitewater community and surrounding areas. 262-472-0204, www.whitewaterarts.org

If you are more interested in leisurely sun and fun, then grab a picnic basket, beach towels and head to **Whitewater Lake Beach** on Kettle Moraine Drive. Enjoy BBQs, hiking trails, jungle gym equipment, sand and surf. The beach is in a free area on the 625-acre lake. Two public boat landings are also located on the lake. Fish include panfish, largemouth bass, northern pike and walleye. The lake's water clarity is low. 262-473-6427, dnr.wi.gov/lakes/lakepages/LakeDetail.aspx?wbic=816800

Happenings

Wednesdays-Weekly Walk of Ice Age Trail: From dramatic wooded hills to expansive rolling prairies, the scenic 26-mile Ice Age Trail in the Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest is an experience in contrasts at

any time of year. Hikers split up into two groups, one hiking a three-mile route and the other a six-to eight-mile route. 10:15-1 p.m. Beginning at the Highway 12 crossing located four miles east of Whitewater (Highway 12 and Sherwood Forest Dr., in DNR parking lot). 262-949-0286, www.whitewaterchamber.com

Tuesdays-Whitewater City Market: Located in the Whitewater Depot (301 W. Whitewater St.) in downtown Whitewater. A vibrant market with all things local and handcrafted, from eggs and organic produce to craft beer and farm-raised beef. Relax on an adirondack chair in the courtyard with food from the carts and free music. May-October, Tuesdays, 3:30-7:30 p.m. 341 Fremont St. 262-473-2200, downtownwhitewater.com

Saturdays-Whitewater Farmers Market: Located in the Winchester True Value Parking Lot, 1415 W. Main St. Offers fresh, locally grown produce including a large variety of seasonal fruits and vegetables. The market offers fresh baked goods and treats as well as honey and preserves. Other items include hand crafted jewelry, birdhouses, tomato cages, trellises, perennial flowers, shrubs, and vegetable plants. Hours are 8 a.m. until noon Saturday, all summer through the first Saturday in November. 262-949-4508, www.localharvest.org/whitewater-farmers-market-M28248

June 23-The Whitewater Classic: The Drum Corps International Tour returns to Whitewater. Headlined by the Madison Scouts, a great lineup of World, Open and All-Age Class corps will take the field at Perkins Stadium on the campus of UW-Whitewater. Perkins Stadium (910 W. Schwager Dr.) was the site of the very first DCI World Championship in 1972. 7 p.m. 859-803-3463, www.madisonscouts.org/whitewater-classic

June 30-July 4-Whitewater 4th of July Festival: A parade will take place on the 4th along with fireworks, live music, food vendors, car show, and a carnival happening each day. Cravath Lake Park, 341 S. Fremont St. www.wv4th.com

Aug. 4-Brat Sale/Maxwell Street Days: Spend the day (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) finding great shopping



Cravath Lake in downtown Whitewater. (Photo courtesy of Whitewater Chamber of Commerce)

deals. Will be held throughout the downtown and up-town areas. Children will enjoy their time in the play area filled with inflatable games, temporary tattoos, dinosaur bouncy house and more. This area is open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. A brat sale will take place from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. (both Aug. 3 and Aug. 4) hosted by the Whitewater Chamber of Commerce. 262-473-4005, www.discoverwhitewater.org

Aug. 4-5-Bike MS: TOYOTA Best Dam Bike Tour: An unforgettable ride with an unbeatable destination – a world free of multiple sclerosis. This all-inclusive, fully-supported cycling event travels from the Milwaukee area to Madison, with an overnight stay in Whitewater, and features multiple route options each day. 262-369-4400 or 800-242-3358, main.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR/Bike/WIGBikeEvents?pg=entry&fr_id=29301

Sept. 15-Whitewater Main Street Festival: This annual event celebrating the arts is held against the backdrop of historic architecture and natural beauty throughout Whitewater. Explore galleries, local shops and restaurants. Will include sidewalk sales, art exhibits and art activities with art and craft booths, hands on activities for the family, music, food and more. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Downtown. 262-473-9845, www.wvmsfestival.blogspot.com

Sept. 23-Discover Whitewater Series Half Marathon, 5K, Fit Kid Shuffle: The race starts at the Whitewater High School, 534 S. Elizabeth St. 920-397-0601, www.runwhitewater.com

Sept. 29-The Fall Color Biking Festival: Celebrating its 25th year in 2018, this annual mountain bike event held at the John Muir trails features fun-filled activities for the entire family. There's a children's ride and a children's activity tent. A mountain bike clinic presents tips on proper riding skills and trail fixes. This is the only event that raises money for trail maintenance and future trail development in the Southern Kettle Moraine. John Muir Trailhead, County Road H, Whitewater. 262-495-8600, www.fallcolorfestival.org

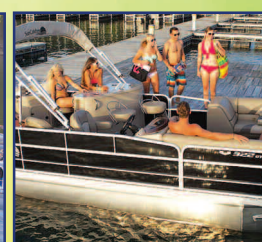
Oct. 12-13-Whitewater's Spirit Tour: Guided tour through the bizarre history of Whitewater, also known as "Second Salem." Learn about the Poison Widow and enter the crypt of Mary Worth, the rumored leader of Whitewater Witches. Also enjoy a stop at The Fuzzy Pig for drinks and appetizers. Check-in begins at 5:30, tour last until 10 p.m. 262-473-4005, www.whitewaterchamber.com/spirit-tour

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.

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N8066 County Hwy. P, Whitewater, WI 53190

262-473-5960

M-F 8-5, Sat 8-3, Sun 8-12