

# Stoughton Hot Spots & Happenings

Compiled by Jason Francis

## Hot Spots

The recently completed **Stoughton Area Veterans Memorial Park**, located on approximately three acres at the intersection of Dane County Hwy. B and Country Club Road (just north of Stoughton), was unveiled to the public in an open house in November 2016. In October 2017, it was officially dedicated. In an article by Jack McLaughlin appearing that month in the Edgerton Reporter, the park is described thusly:

*The park ... features an elegant set of displays commemorating all of the Stoughton-area service men and women from the Civil War until the present. After passing beneath a large, wrought-iron gate, visitors are able to walk down a paved corridor of 20-foot flagpoles (each flying the flag of a different United States military branch) flanked on either side by 6 granite pillars, carrying inscribed information about major American military conflicts. This walkway ends at the park's centerpiece, a pentagon-shaped memorial engraved with the names of each of the 176 Stoughton-area military members who lost their lives in service. "We wanted to recognize all of the people who gave so much for our freedom, so much for our way of life," said Bud Erickson of American Legion Post 59, a Korean War veteran who acted as publicity director and master of ceremonies for the park's mid-October dedication. Flanking the memorial are a series of granite slabs carved with the names of every Stoughton-area veteran since the American Civil War (over 5,500 individuals). On the far ends stand several blank slabs, which will take on the names of future Stoughton service men and women.*

The park was constructed as a joint project between Stoughton's Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 328 and the city's American Legion Post 59.

**Lake Kegonsa State Park**, 2405 Door Creek Rd. (three miles north of Stoughton), offers a natural, peaceful setting beside a glacier-hewn lake. Covering 340 acres, the park offers camping, swimming, hiking, nature study, boating, sailing, fishing and waterskiing opportunities. The lake covers 3,209 acres and is more than 30 feet deep. The park, which also features playgrounds, is open from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. 608-873-9695, 888-947-2527, [dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/lakekegonsa](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/lakekegonsa)

The **Stoughton Opera House**, 381 E. Main St., is a 100-year-old beautifully restored Victorian opera house that now functions as a performing arts center for a variety of special events. Known for sublime acoustics and an early 20th century aesthetic, the theater plays host to a wide variety of musical and theatrical performances throughout the season, including rock, folk, classical, oddities, comedy and more. Box office hours are Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and 90 minutes prior to performances. 608-877-4400, [www.stoughtonoperahouse.com](http://www.stoughtonoperahouse.com)

The **Stoughton Historical Museum** (324 South Page St.) is located in a former church built in 1858 on land donated by Luke Stoughton. The building is on the National Register of Historic Places. Museum hours are Saturdays from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Mid-May through Labor Day weekend. The historic **Luke Stoughton home** (315 Division St.) is open during special events and by appointment only. The historic **Stoughton depot** (532 Main St.) is open for self-guided walk-through tours Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; guided tours are by appointment. 608-873-4797, [www.stoughtonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.stoughtonhistoricalsociety.org)

## Happenings

**Thursdays, May 31-Aug. 30-Gazebo Musikk:** Series of free outdoor concerts in Stoughton Rotary Park (381 E. Main St.) every Thursday evening from 6-7:30 p.m. Everyone is sure to get a lesson in music appreciation without even knowing it, as attendees are exposed to a wide array of music genres. [www.facebook.com/gazebomusikk](http://www.facebook.com/gazebomusikk)

**June 1-Stoughton Chamber Singers:** The Stoughton Chamber Singers, under the direction of John Beutel, will present a variety of choral music for the group's annual spring concert. The program will feature choral music from various composers and various musical periods. Tickets will be available at the door for \$5, general admission. 7:30 p.m., Stoughton Opera House, 381 E. Main St. 608-877-4400, [www.stoughtonoperahouse.com](http://www.stoughtonoperahouse.com)

**June 22-Bach Dancing and Dynamite Society:** BDDS celebrates its 27th season of summer chamber music in the south-central Wisconsin area. Its three-week festival is widely known for a diverse repertoire played by an ensemble of distinguished Wisconsin musicians and top-flight artists from around the country. The 2018 theme is "Toy Stories." "Chamber music is a great vehicle for recapturing that spirit of imaginative play that came to us so easily as kids," states BDDS on the Stoughton Opera House website. "Our 'toys' aren't dolls and bears and rubber ducks, but incredible pieces of music that live and breathe, that have their own personalities, that cry with us and laugh with us. We 'play' chamber music in every sense of that word. Each of our programs is organized around our quirky take on iconic toys." Contact BDDS for tickets: 608-255-9866. 7:30 p.m., Stoughton Opera House, 381 E. Main St. [www.stoughtonoperahouse.com](http://www.stoughtonoperahouse.com), [www.bachdancinganddynamite.org](http://www.bachdancinganddynamite.org)

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**Left:** Stoughton Area Veterans Memorial Park is located on 2.83 acres of farmland donated by the Linnerud family at the intersection of Highway B and Country Club Road in the Town of Pleasant Springs. John Lynch, President of the Wisconsin Vietnam Vets, was photographed at the park's front gate during an open house on Veterans Day 2016. **Right:** Susan Kloth of Oregon views one of the several educational plaques on granite pillars at the Stoughton Area Veterans Memorial Park on Veterans Day. (Photos by Samuel C. Martino)



# Welcome to Stoughton!

*While you are here, we invite all Veterans and their families and the public to enjoy our newly dedicated park commemorating all veterans.*

*Reflect on the freedoms we enjoy because of our military men and women!*

## Stoughton Area Veterans Memorial Park

This park was created and built by:

Stoughton VFW Post #328



Stoughton American Legion Post #59



Park Location: Corner of Highway B and Country Club Road,

Parking: On-Site Parking Available