

Fort Atkinson Hot Spots & Happenings

Compiled by Jason Francis

Hot Spots

The Fireside Dinner Theatre, 1131 Janesville Ave., offers runs of numerous top-rated Broadway musical productions each year, plus delicious meals in a 1,000-seat restaurant and five gift shops featuring 50,000 items. Each show features professional talent, beautiful costumes and exceptional choreography in a 700-seat theatre-in-the-round. This summer and fall, shows include "A Second Helping" (May 31-July 15), "Disney's The Little Mermaid" (July 19-Sept. 2), "Grease" (Sept. 6-Oct. 28) and "Elf - The Musical" (Nov. 1-Dec. 23). Numerous concerts are also featured each year at The Fireside. 800-477-9505, 920-563-9505, www.firesidetheatre.com

The **Glacial River Bike Trail**, trailhead at 30 N. Water St., is an 8.6-mile former rail bed bike trail running south from downtown Fort Atkinson to the Jefferson/Rock county line. The northernmost 4.5 miles are asphalt paved, the rest is surfaced with crushed limestone. This recreational attraction features an archway, bronze sculptures, rest areas and fountains. The trail is open year-round during daylight hours. 920-563-7781, www.fortparksandrec.com

The **Hoard Historical Museum and National Dairy Shrine**, 401 Whitewater Ave., is a local history museum and center that showcases the dairy industry's history. The museum focuses on Sauk warrior Black Hawk and the 1832 Black Hawk War, the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln, William Dempster Hoard (the father of American dairying), and world famous poet Lorine Niedecker. The National Dairy Shrine includes historical dairy farming exhibits, providing information on the significance of dairy farming to our culture and industry pioneers. The Dwight Foster House, the first frame home built in Fort Atkinson, is also on site. In addition, the museum partners with the UW-Extension Jefferson County Master Gardeners to develop and maintain the museum's five gardens. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission is free; donations are appreciated. 920-563-7769, www.hoardmuseum.org

grass-fed beef, organic chicken, local elk, sausage and fish, speciality breads, honey, jam, syrup, arts, crafts and more. Across from post office on Milwaukee Avenue. 920-563-3210, www.fortfarmersmarket.com

First Saturday of month, May-Oct.-1901 Water Tower Open House: Tours sponsored by the Fort Atkinson Historic Preservation Commission. Visitors must be 48 inches tall to climb to the top of the viewing platform. All ages may enter the ground floor. Allow 20 minutes for the climb to the top. Tours 10 a.m.-12 p.m. except for the July 4 date, when tour will be offered 12-3 p.m. Corner of South High and South Fort Street. 920-568-8069, www.fortpreserves.org/minutesnews

Second Mondays of month, May-Sept.-Fort Atkinson Cruise Nights: Music, food, old cars, and more. Featuring more than 400 vehicles including restored vintage trucks, tractors and classic automobiles. Summer/fall dates include June 11, July 9, Aug. 13, Sept. 10. 5:30-8:30 p.m., Jones Park, Janesville Ave. 920-563-7501, www.kentsbigbar.com/id4.html

Select Mondays-Fort Atkinson Community Band Concerts and Ice Cream Socials: Dates include June 18 (theme of "Trip Across the U.S.A."), July 2 ("American Variety Show"), July 16 ("Great American Songbook"), July 30 ("Polkas/Waltzes and a Surprise") and Aug. 13 ("Audience Favorites of 2018"). The events begin at 6:30 p.m. with an ice cream social followed by the concerts at 7:30 p.m. Founded in 1960, the band is a volunteer group of around 45 musicians. Barrie Park bandshell, 210 Robert St. In case of inclement weather, the social and concert moves across the street to Trinity Lutheran Church. 920-563-3210, www.fortatkinsoncommunityband.org

Select Wednesdays-Summer Charity Concerts in Barrie Park: Summer concert series at the Barrie Park bandshell (210 Robert St.). All funds raised will be donated to various local charitable efforts. Concerts run from 6-9 p.m. The schedule this year includes Rod Ellenbecker and Lily DeTaeye on June 6, Layers & Layers and Gabe Burdulis on June 27, Skyline Sounds and The Belle Weather on July 11, Driftless Music and The Brothers Quinn on July 25, A Rose Among Thorns and Wade Root and Flashback on Aug. 8, and Euphoria and Altar Boy Picnic on Aug. 22. www.facebook.com/FASummerCharityConcerts

June 2-Dairy Day at the MOOseum: Learn about the dairy industry—both past and present—from the cow to the final products of cheese, yogurt and milk. Booths featuring dairy-related businesses, groups, and dairy samples available throughout grounds and mu-

seum. Cow parade at 1:30 p.m. Hoard Historical Museum, 401 Whitewater Ave., 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. 920-563-7769, www.hoardmuseum.org

June 3-Wings & Wheels Fly-In Breakfast: Municipal airport on Highway K, 8 a.m. to noon. Featuring a traditional all-you-can-eat country breakfast prepared by Jones Dairy Farm, 50/50 cash raffle, raffle baskets, airplane and helicopter rides for purchase and car show. www.bgcfortatkinson.org/wingswheels

June 14-17-Fort Atkinson Generals Baseball Festival: A Home Talent League tournament is the highlight of this event hosted by the Fort Atkinson Generals. Festival also includes a carnival and concessions. Jones Park, Janesville Avenue. 920-563-7811, www.fortgenerals.com

July 4-Ice Cream Social: Celebrate the history of the 4th of July and the United States while eating ice cream sundaes and homemade treats. Enjoy live music, readings of the Declaration of Independence, and history-based activities for all ages throughout the museum building and grounds. Hoard Historical Museum, 401 Whitewater Ave., 1-3 p.m. 920-563-7769, www.hoardmuseum.org

July 20-Kids From Wisconsin: The Kids From Wisconsin revue is produced in collaboration with some of this country's best writers, arrangers and choreographers. Costumes are designed and created in Broadway style, adding to the already exciting performance. The 2018 show will feature musical selections celebrating the decades following the inception of the group. 7-9 p.m., Fort Atkinson High School, 925 Lexington Blvd. 414-266-7067, www.kidsfromwisconsin.org

Aug. 4-FORT 14: This inaugural event features a 14-mile road race beginning and ending in beautiful Fort Atkinson. Run alongside the riverbank of the Rock River, stroll through the countryside and race through the downtown as you complete America's only organized 14-mile road race. Competitive and non-competitive runners are all welcome. 7:30-11 a.m. 262-457-2279, www.racelighthouse.com/fort14

Aug. 19-Tour de Fort Metric Century: Metric Century Course (63-mile) with Half-Metric Century (36-mile) and Quarter-metric Century (18-mile) options. This ride pays homage to the Hoard heritage, as the road passes through some of the picturesque farmland that made the region famous. General mass start at 8:30 a.m. for all bikers from Jones Park at the corner of Janesville Avenue and Park Street. 8:30 a.m. to noon. 920-542-4099

Happenings

Saturdays, May-Oct.-Fort Farmers Market: Saturday mornings 8 a.m. to noon. More than 30 local vendors each Saturday. Organic cheese, cheese curds,

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WED Half Chicken **\$10.50**
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8 oz. Sirloin..... **\$10.50**
FISH FRY... Sm. **\$7.00**, Med. **\$9.25**, Lg. **\$10.75**

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Lobster Tails in the shell (4 oz. ea.) **\$18.00**
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