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PUBLISHER**

Area Director / Publisher
Gary L. Smith
262-994-5390
gary@StrollWindPointmagazine.com



**LET'S CELEBRATE THE GREAT THINGS HAPPENING
IN WIND POINT!**
This is your neighborhood publication. Please send
your pictures, stories, suggestions, and requests to
gary@StrollWindPointmagazine.com

Wind Point Living

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ANNUAL VILLAGE HOLIDAY WREATH LIGHTING

Sunday, November 30, 2025 5:00 pm

Please RSVP your group at:
windpointcommunityclub2024@gmail.com
to help us plan for food.

The annual wreath lighting ceremony at the Wind Point Lighthouse will take place on Sunday, November 30, 2025 at 5:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to bring their families and have a wonderful time celebrating this long village tradition that has taken place for decades.

Families and kids of all ages are invited to the lighthouse for candy, snacks, hot cocoa, and to decorate cookies.

The evening will be headlined with a visit from Santa Claus himself, who will be the guest of honor to light the wreath. Children will also have the opportunity to talk to *The Big Guy* themselves. (Hope that you have been good this year!)

This traditional event always takes place the Sunday after Thanksgiving.

The Wind Point Community Club is once again very pleased to provide this opportunity for all neighbors!

The Village always has a lot to celebrate, and the annual lighting of the wreath is yet another long-standing tradition that makes Wind Point such a very special place.



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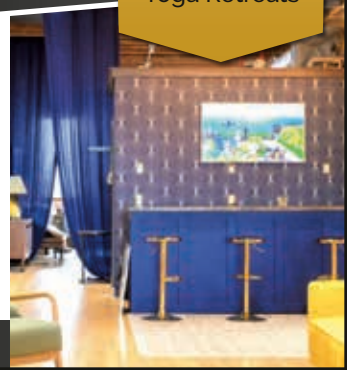
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Happy Thanksgiving From A Hall Of Famer!

Yes...That Is Correct!

Many of you probably know that Thanksgiving has traditionally been my favorite holiday of the year. During this segment of your community magazine, I always try to sprinkle a little gratitude and hopefully connect with you on similar thoughts or common experiences. This means even more to me during these particular months with holidays as we gather and celebrate with our larger and extended families and friends.

Sometimes when I am writing my monthly *Publisher's Note*, I will go back to the same month of the prior year to see where I was at in terms of my mindset. It is very interesting to look back and reflect. I then look at where we are at today.

Last year at this time, our twin boys (Luke and Leo) were seniors at Case High School. At this point last year Marie and I were planning to have each of them

attend two different colleges out of our area. As various factors played out and situations over the months unexpectedly flowed and changed, each of them chose UW-Parkside, and each made their decision in different months. They are now both running their own race and they are absolutely enjoying their first semester of their college experience. Also, by the way, Marie (Dr. Marie) has also worked at the university since 2001 so this makes their decisions even more special.

So, where am I going with this, right? I am usually not the one talk about myself and it is with ultimate gratitude that I share this with you so here we go.

Well, perhaps many of you may not know this but I have been the public address announcer for both Parkside



men's and women's basketball programs over the last 30 plus consecutive years going back to when I was a student. When doing the math, this equates to about 850 basketball games.

Back on July 16 this last summer, I received a very special phone call to inform me that that I had been nominated and selected to be inducted into Parkside Athletics Hall of Fame / Class of 2025 with a ceremony scheduled on October 4, 2025! How cool was this!

If this particular one-time honor was to **ever** occur, what are the odds this would happen this year in October 2025 when both Luke and Leo are students at the university? I am so grateful that we all could be together for this. It was such a memorable day for me. It was a

memorable day for all of us. Yes, this is a sweet time to be a Ranger!

So, as the 2025-2026 basketball season commences, here is my personal invitation for you to come out and enjoy some high-level collegiate basketball at DeSimone Arena. The full schedule is listed at: ParksideRangers.com (Bonus Fun fact: Parkside is the only NCAA Division II school in the state of Wisconsin.) "Let's Go Rangers!"

We have another special issue of *Stroll Wind Point* for you this month with positive stories, information, opportunities, and entertainment.

Our cover story is about Jason and Jessica Mazurkiewicz. This fun, engaging, and loving couple have lived in the Village since 2018. Learn about how they met and how incredible timing resulted in a memorable first date that started all of it! It was fun to put this story together.

We know that Wind Pointers certainly love their pets, and we have a special article written by Tonja Hossalla. Tonja wrote her first book, *A Detour To Destiny*, which is about how a road closure brought her to meet her loving dog, Vera. That unexpected turn in the road changed everything for Tonja, and the book reflects on her adventures with Vera. Tonja also explains why writing this book was so important for her.

Read about the 12th annual Wind Point Golf Putting Championship that took place at Shoop Park last month in which a new champion was crowned. Get information about the upcoming annual Village Wreath lighting on Sunday, November 30.

Enjoy the Word Search, check out the November book recommendations, and make sure to send in your Crossword Puzzle entries to win a prize!

Our next *Wind Point Neighbors Night Out* is coming up on Thursday, November 20 (5p-7p) at Rasmussen Diamonds. Join us for a fun evening of food, friends, prizes, and plenty of sparkle. This is a free event. If you would like to attend, please email your RSVP request to: gary@strollwindpointmagazine.com

If you have been thinking about reaching out to us with your ideas for the publication but have not done so yet, make it happen! Why not, right? Remember, *Stroll Wind Point* is about you and for you. Everyone who has participated has shared with me that it is a positive experience. There are not very many neighborhood publications in our area so take advantage of your personal community magazine. We want to hear from you.

Ok. This is now your time for appointment reading. Relax and sit on the corner of your couch, put down your screens and make this your time to enjoy and soak some positive information in this unique and tangible format.

I would like to recognize and thank the local businesses and organizations who have made a conscious decision of being a fabric in our community by partnering with *Stroll Wind Point* magazine. Please use these businesses and organizations you see in this magazine when you have a need for a product or service.

Please let them know you saw them and all our business partners in in *Stroll Wind Point*.

Like us on Facebook! Let's have a wonderful November! Happy Thanksgiving!

Gary L. Smith
Publisher, *Stroll Wind Point*
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The HER Collection

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Wind Point Neighbors Night Out

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Whether you come for a quick bite or to find your next favorite piece, there's something for everyone at Wishlist Night. Also, if you add three or more items to your personal wishlist, you will have a chance to win a \$500 gift certificate.

RSVP by emailing: gary@strollwindpointmagazine.com

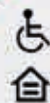


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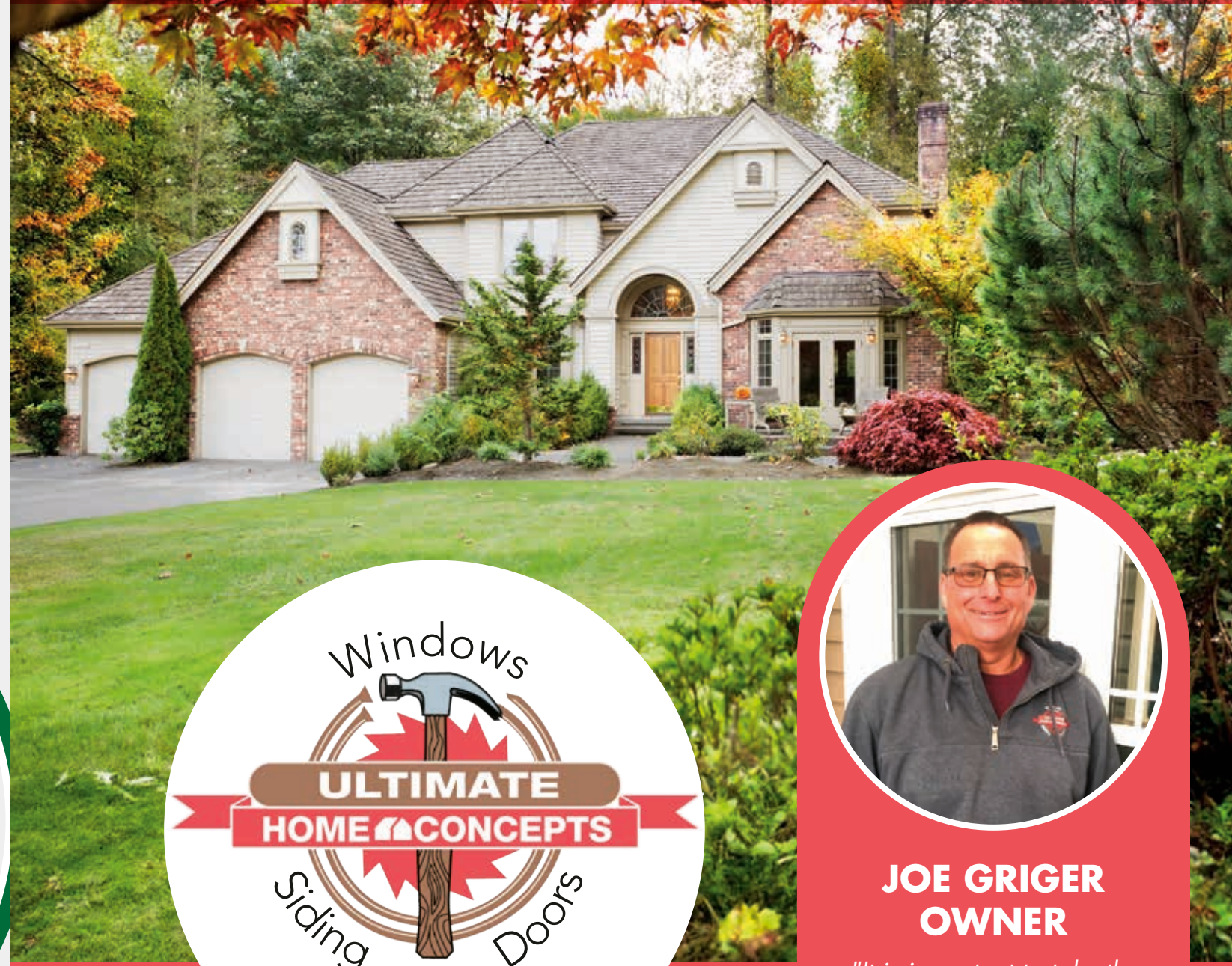
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Jason & Jessica MAZURKIEWICZ

Residents of Sandalwood Court



Jason and Jessica Mazurkiewicz have resided in Wind Point since December 1, 2018. This fun, engaging, and loving couple resonate inspiration through their transparency, hard work, humor, and appreciation.

They were already familiar with the Wind Point area as they had previously lived just a few minutes away on Stonebridge Drive in Caledonia.

For Jessica and Jason Mazurkiewicz, the path to Wind Point began with a simple realization—their Caledonia home no longer felt like the right fit. Even with five kids, space wasn't exactly the issue. Jessica says with a smile, "The layout just wasn't me. I couldn't make my decorating vision work in that L-shaped living room, and the kitchen was begging for a remodel." When they crunched the numbers, the couple realized it would make more sense to start fresh.

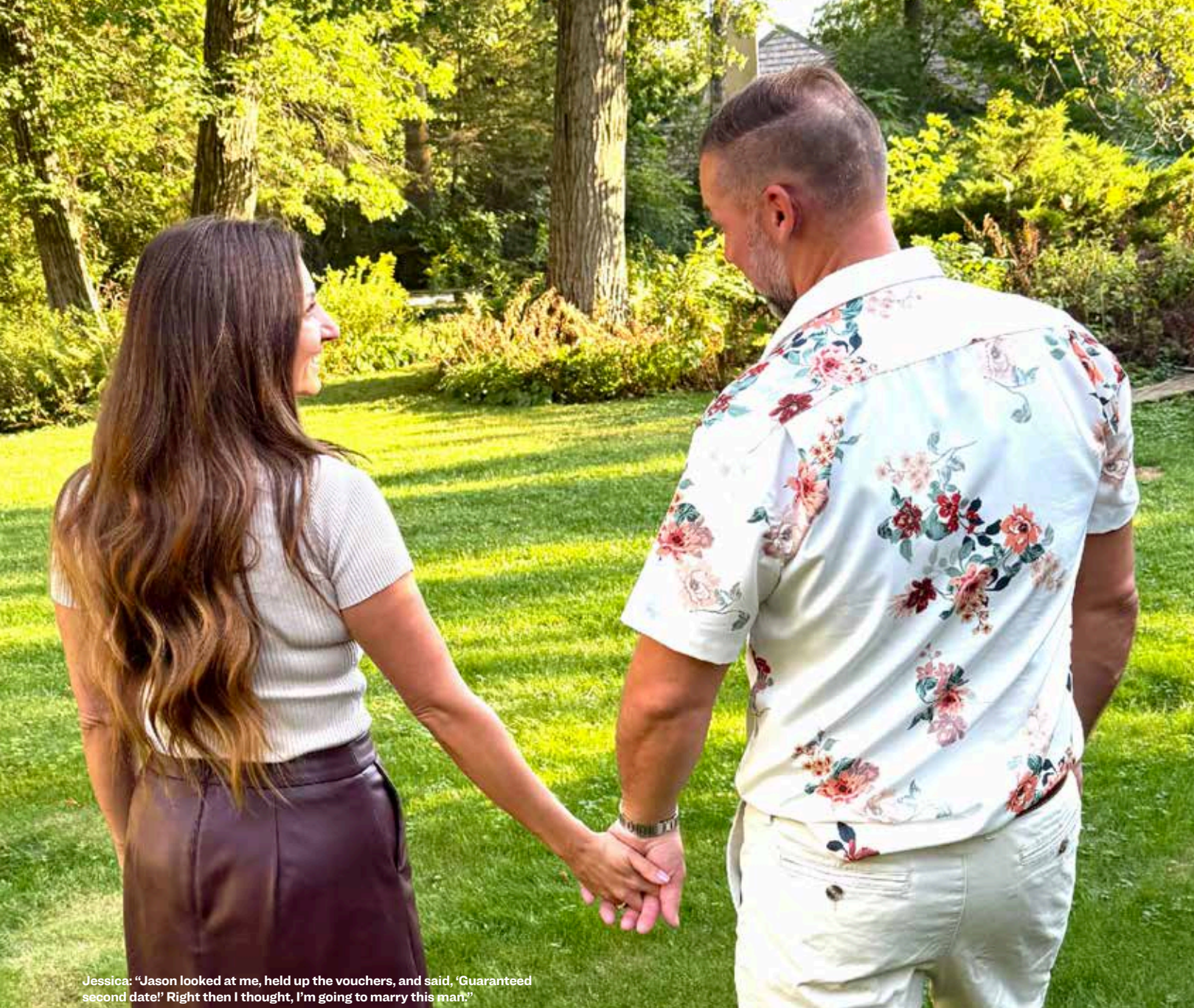
The house hunt was on! Jason remembers calling their realtor to line up five showings. "That first house wasn't even one I had picked," he admits. "During the walk-through Jessica kept pointing out flaws, so I tuned out during our time there. I was excited about another place we were about to see." As they entered their truck afterward, Jessica surprised him. "I told him I actually loved that first house," she laughs. "I tried not to, but I just couldn't help myself."

What won her over? "Charm," Jessica says. "I wanted to be closer to the interstate and my parents. Even though the Sandalwood Court house wasn't where I was hoping as far as location, I couldn't get over how perfect the actual house was for me. Plus, when Jason and I were dating, we'd drive through Wind Point and dream about living here someday. The house on Sandalwood Court had that exact charm I'd always pictured."

They toured the other homes, but Jessica's heart kept pulling her back to Sandalwood. Jason remembers finally making it to one of the last walk-throughs: "It was about 58 degrees inside because the furnace had quit, but looking back, that house was meant to be ours. We're so glad we followed our instincts."

Their love story began years earlier at a local video store on Racine's south side, where Jessica worked. Jason was a regular customer—though

CONTINUED ►



Jessica: "Jason looked at me, held up the vouchers, and said, 'Guaranteed second date!' Right then I thought, I'm going to marry this man."

Jason recalls. "I said that you always ask for my phone number, but I've never asked for yours. Can I have it?" Jessica laughs, "I truly thought he never would!"

not just for the movies. "I'm a big movie guy; Jessica can vouch for that," Jason insists, grinning. Jessica adds, "He was also a little flirty every time. My co-workers teased that he was my 'work boyfriend.' But he never asked me out!"

On Jessica's very last day at the store, Jason finally took his chance although he did not know it was her last day there. "She asked for my phone number like she always did for the account," Jason recalls. "I said, 'You always ask

for my number, but I've never asked for yours. Can I have it?" Jessica laughs, "I truly thought he never would!"

Their first date was February 22, 2012. The restaurant mix-up—where their order never made it to the kitchen—could have ruined the evening. Instead, it left them with a funny story, free meal vouchers from the restaurant manager, and a moment Jessica will never forget. "Jason looked at me, held up the vouchers, and said, 'Guaranteed

second date!' Right then I thought, I'm going to marry this man."

She was right. Five years later, on July 7, 2017, Jessica and Jason said "I do." Today, they're not only partners in marriage but also in life's many adventures—including the joy of raising their family in the Wind Point neighborhood they once only dreamed of.

Outside of work, Jason and Jessica make the most of their free time. Jason loves anything outdoors—whether



Their first date was February 22, 2012. Five years later, on July 7, 2017, Jessica and Jason said "I do."

it's boating on the water all summer, snowmobiling in winter, or hitting the trails on a dirt bike. Jessica enjoys quieter creative outlets like sewing and scrapbooking. Together, they share a love of travel, with the beach being their happy place. "There has to be turquoise water and soft white sand," Jason says. Jessica smiles, "For us, the Caribbean is always a favorite."

The couple also pour their energy into their business, **Superior 24/7 Restoration**, right here in Racine. They take pride in helping families and businesses recover from fire, water, mold, and biohazard damage throughout southeast Wisconsin and northeast Illinois.

At home in Wind Point, they find joy in the simple, everyday beauty around them. "We see deer all the time and love watching the birds—turkeys, hawks, owls, even woodpeckers," Jason shares. "And I've always been drawn to mature trees. Our backyard has them, and I absolutely love it." Jessica adds with a smile, "Wind Point is definitely a wonderful place to live!"

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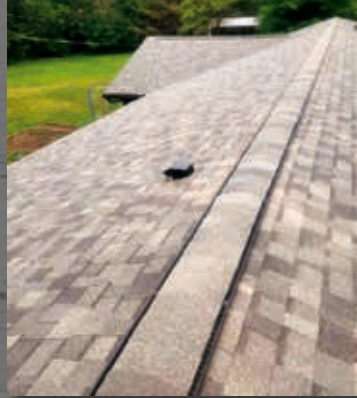


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2025 WIND POINT GOLF PUTTING CHAMPIONSHIP

The 12th annual Wind Point Golf Putting Championship at Shoop Park Golf Course took place on September 27, 2025.

This event, the annual Wind Point Golf Putting Championship, is one of the most cherished contemporary traditions here in Wind Point where chivalry, friendships, and gallantry are encompassed by skills, sportsmanship, and cheering. Some of these games have been driven by dominant performances, and others have been decided by the slightest of margins with unprecedented drama.

There is no financial investment to play in the annual tournament and so it is all about the love of the game with annual bragging rights on the line. Now, each annual champion indeed receives a beautiful Wind Point Golf Putting Championship plaque to place as a centerpiece on the mantle, and there are various gifts for the top three finishers.

During this majestic autumn Saturday morning, the golfers come prepared, the playing area is set on the green, and the scoreboard is ready to

display the results of another champion. Once again, the gentle sound of the theme music to *The Masters Tournament* fills the background air as participants prepare for battle.

This year brings a total of ten participants to Shoop Park on this Saturday morning. Some are participating in their first tournament, while others have been here for several years. This talented list includes the 2024 defending champion, Chuck Christiano (AKA *Captain Clutch*). He is accompanied by returning putting tournament veterans “Magic” Mary Ann Konsin, Mark Levine, Townend Hunt, and Tom Savas. This year also brings a record of four new competitors. This includes newcomers Cathy Gaspero, Marty Barker, Carmen Gaspero, and Tiffnee Monroe.

Long time village resident John Murphy also participates again with the special pregame ceremonies. John performs an original song on his ukulele for all to enjoy titled “The Wind Point Putt-Club Stroll.” (Thank you, John, for your creativity of commencing the



ceremonies and making this such a festive gathering every year!)

Our celebrity score keeper once again is Cindy Johnson. Cindy will keep track of the official leaderboard throughout the tournament.

As each participant is introduced, each golfer explains how long he / she has lived in the community, and shares a fun fact with the group. Then, each one then picks a random number from a deck of cards so we can determine the official putting order.

The rules of engagement for the Wind Point Putting Contest have been very standard over the years. All contestants are provided three putt shots from six different stations set on the putting green which wraps around the middle hole located on the green. All golfers begin at the first station, which is set closest to the hole and then they proceed to each successive station where the distances become farther and more difficult. Each successful putt from stations 1- 5 is allotted one point, and each successful putt from station 6 is allotted two points. If a golfer successfully converts the last shot from the sixth

station, the golfer is then provided another two point bonus shot attempt.

The first station is set up six feet from the hole. Now, the average success rate to connect on a standard six-foot putt is about 61%, however, the slope of the putting green on this particular day at Shoop due to the location of the putting hole would make this and all the attempts much more difficult.

The anticipation is intense and contagious. There is a tremendous amount of proud history tied to the annual Wind Point Golf Putting Championship. Here is a little history: In 2015, John Brashaw pulls out a tenacious win in overtime. In 2016, Jim Baldwin connects with two six round putts to seal the deal. In 2017, Chuck Christiano begins his local legacy by hitting his last ball of the six round, and then connects on his bonus shot for a comeback win. In 2018, *Captain Clutch* is the only one to score in the 6th round to capture his second straight title. In 2019, Chuck once again is the only golfer to connect in the 6th round for a two point victory. The 2020 contest represents one of the most historic pair of shots known as the

“Miracle on Putting Green” as Magic Mary Ann Konsin connects on two consecutive 20 foot shots for one of the most dramatic comeback performances in sports history. The 2022 contest goes to overtime as *Captain Clutch* holds off then new-comer Kerry Brown to earn his fourth championship.

Yes, this putting green represents history, opportunity, and hope. We have seen it transpire year after year. What will 2025 bring?

No two contests are ever alike as hole placements on the putting green consistently change from week to week at Shoop. As a result, sometimes a farther shot is actually easier to sink than a closer shot due to the conditions of the green in terms of angles and breaks. The wind could also become a factor as well.

As fate would have it similar to 2024, Chuck Christiano is the first one to putt from the first station in the 2025 championship. There is a slight disadvantage of going first as the other participants have the opportunity to see how the green is playing the ball in terms of angles.

The angle and slope of the putting green on this day make this shot historically difficult. As a result, only five of the ten contestants get on the scoreboard, and only one, Mary Ann, makes two putts.

All the golfers understand that it is very important to have a strong start as each station afterward becomes tougher and tougher to earn points due to the increased distances from the cup.

The second-round station is located nine feet from the hole, and first-time competitor, Marty Barker, lights up the scoreboard with a perfect three-for-three performance! Townsend Hunt connects with a pair of putts himself. At the end of the round, there is now a three-way tie for first place between Mary Ann, Townsend, and Marty.

During the third round (12 feet), Marty and Townsend both convert a shot to now make it a two-way tie. Also, Chuck Christiano connects on a shot. Every single point is absolutely precious on this challenging course.

The fourth-round shot has a very difficult angle and the scoring is minimal. However, Captain Clutch is



Cathy Gaspero studies the trajectory of the green.



Cindy is back as our official scorekeeper!



Participants strategically gauge the angles of the putts.



Marty Barker has a phenomenal time at this gathering.



Neighborhood sportsmanship is always displayed at this event.



Chuck Christiano (Captain Clutch) leads the group at the first station.



Mark Levine attempts to hit this putt.

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Magic Mary Ann attempts to take back the title!

successful on two of his putts to make it a one-point contest. Also, "Magic MaryAnn" places one of her own to return to a three-way tie for first place at four points. This is now anyone's game as we head into the final two rounds!

The fifth round only has one participant score. Mark Levine's great putt now places him in a two-way tie for second place with Chuck. There is still a log jam at the top with three golfers tied for first.

Now, we move into the magical sixth round which represents a 21foot putt with double value. If golfers should knock in their third and final shot (also known as the *Atomic Ball*), they also earn a fourth bonus shot worth a potential two more points. Statistically speaking, the odds of a good golfer connecting on this distance is roughly 6%. With that fact stated, it is still anyone's contest as a potential eight points are possible in the frame. History has demonstrated that many of these tournaments are won and lost right here.

At this very moment, five of the competitors are within one successful putt from taking the lead. Will we see drama along the lakefront for another fantastic finish!?!

Between the uphill angle and slope of the ground, this final station creates a very difficult scenario for all participants. As each ball is hit, breaths are being held as the balls smoothly roll across the green.

It will take only one successful shot from any five of the top participants on the leaderboard to potentially win the 2025 championship.

As fate would have it on this particular Saturday, no one connects on this difficult shot for a decisive victory.

As result, we now finish regulation with a three-way tie for first place between Marty, Townsend, and Mary Ann. We now go to overtime for a historic finish!

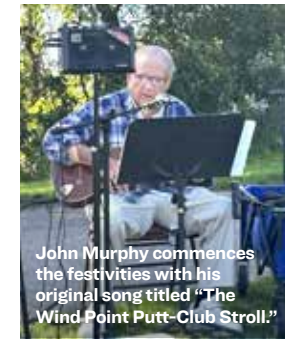
The three remaining participants now go back to the first station for three shots each. In the first round of OT, both Marty and Townsend tie each other again for the lead to force a double overtime.

This double overtime session now represents a historic conclusion to this annual contest. Marty and Townsend go head-to-head, and it is Townsend who seals the deal in historic fashion.

Yes, Townsend Hunt is your 2025 Wind Point Golf Putting Champion! Townsend, who was competing for his second time in this annual contest, is very gracious. He states, "This is such a fun event, and I always enjoy meeting new people."

Marty Barker, who was playing in his first tournament with the support of his wife, Robin, at his side throughout the session, earns second place.

CONTINUED ►



John Murphy commences the festivities with his original song titled "The Wind Point Putt-Club Stroll!"

"Yes, this putting green represents history, opportunity, and hope. We have seen it transpire year after year. What will 2025 bring?"



The stage is set for another glorious Saturday along the lakefront.



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Townsend Hunt is the 2025 champion!

Magic Mary Ann Konsin earns third place.

Yes, the Shoop Park putting green is a special location every year on a late Saturday of September. Champions are crowned and memories are created. The annual golf putting championship is another tradition that makes our community a very special place.

Congratulations to all of our participants.



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Tiffnee Monroe participates in her first Wind Point Golf Putting Championship.



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FUN & GAMES

Feast of Words

Celebrate the season with this fall-themed word search! From cozy traditions to harvest favorites, see if you can uncover every hidden word—before your fellow readers do.

BY CAROLINE PERROTT

Find these words:

Autumn, Leaves, Crisp, Harvest, Cozy, Sweater, Pumpkin, Acorn, Apple, Spice, Turkey, Feast, Stuffing, Cranberry, Gravy, Pie, Corn, Yam, Pecan, Cider, Parade, Football, Gather, Family, Blessings, Thankful, Table, Friends, Celebrate, Leftovers

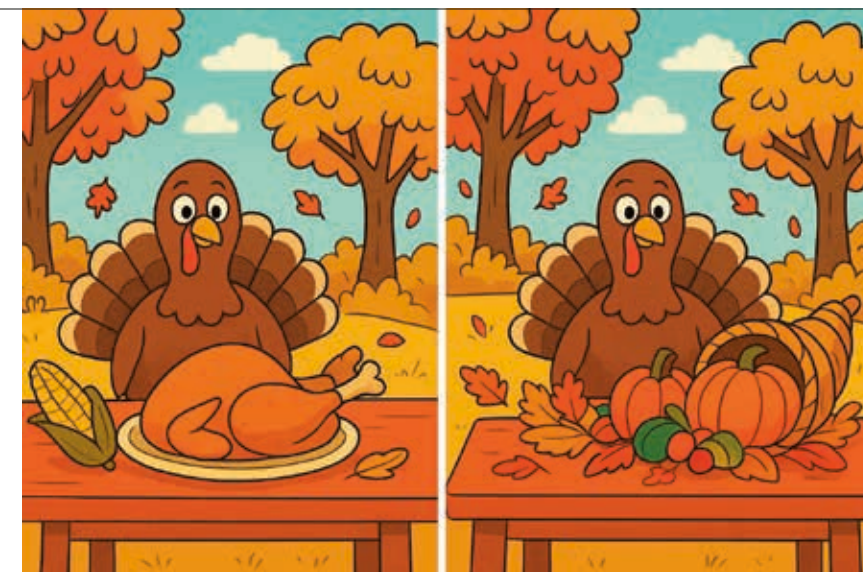


Think you cracked it?
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IN THE LEAVES

These twin Thanksgiving scenes hide 20 tiny differences among the dishes and décor. Settle in, scan the spread, and see if you can spot them all.





The performers, music, and readings have been carefully chosen to create a peaceful, meditative, and memorable experience for the audience.

A Candlelight Concert

The Choral Arts Society and Music & More historic collaborative musical production will take place on December 6, 2025 (7:00 pm) at First Presbyterian Church.

BY PATRICIA BADGER, JAMES SCHATZMAN, AND DR. ELIZABETH STEFFENSEN

The Choral Arts Society of Southeastern Wisconsin (CAS) and the First Presbyterian Church's popular *Music & More* series will present a collaborative program for the first time in their collective histories. "We have been guests of this well-known program," states CAS Artistic Director James Schatzman, "but this is the first time we have sat down and planned an entire program where the CAS is a central part of the presentation."

Georgia Hall, *Music & More* Chair, adds, "I am excited for this first-time collaboration between *Music & More* and the Choral Arts Society! Both organizations have brought the highest quality music to our community for more than three decades, and the historic First

Presbyterian Church sanctuary is the perfect setting for this candlelight event. The performers, music, and readings have been carefully chosen to create a peaceful, meditative, and memorable experience for the audience."

A *Candlelight Concert* collaboration will take place on Saturday, December 6, at 7:00 PM at First Presbyterian Church, 716 College Avenue in downtown Racine. Built by noted architect Lucas Bradley in 1852 and added to the National Register Places in 1973, the church is a special place. CAS Associate Conductor Pat Badger notes, "While the Greek Revival building holds a sanctuary that is one of the best acoustic venues in the area, it also embraces abolitionist history. In the mid-1800s,

while hymns were sung, beneath the floorboards hid courageous and bold African Americans, seeking freedom. Amongst the candlelight of the present, what an opportunity to quietly affirm how we might carry forward their example of hope for the future."

Into this intimate and meditative setting, singer songwriter Mark Paffrath will weave the words of poet Wendell Berry and lyrics of John Jacob Niles. Darlene Rivest, Ryan Andersen, Pat Badger, and Randy Fischer will share the reflective sounds of Mannheim Steamroller's Chip Davis. Poems of American icons Mary Oliver, Susan Cooper, and Rosemary Wahtola Trommer, read by Victoria Vollman, will surround the Choral Arts Society's singing of works by Gustav Holst, Casting Crowns, and Morten Lauridsen.

And adding to the visual wonder of this event will be the dancers of The Studio of Classical Dance Arts, directed by Linda Bennett and Marc Darling, in their imagining of the Snow Scene from Tchaikovsky's iconic *Nutcracker Ballet*. Mark and Linda note, "The Studio is always thrilled to be a part of

the fabulous tapestry of music, dance and holiday spirit that *Music and More* and CAS create! The First Presbyterian Church is beautifully decorated during the Christmas season. It promises to be a magical evening."

The Choral Arts Society was established in 1987 by founder and Artistic Director, James Schatzman. Weeks after its founding, the ensemble sang the Wisconsin premiere of Vaughan Williams' *Hodie* with the Racine Symphony Orchestra. Since its beginning, the CAS has partnered with the likes of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, UW-Parkside, The Studio of Classical Dance Arts, The Prairie School, and contemporary composers, including Adrian Snell, Carol Barnett, Margaret Burk, and Glenn Burleigh. "Collaboration is in our DNA," said Schatzman.

The Choral Arts Society now makes its home at First Presbyterian Church. This fall, the CAS began its 39th season under maestro Schatzman, continuing to commission new works, perform premieres, outreach to young artists, and seek to be innovative while honoring classic masterworks.

Music & More was founded in 1994 by First Presbyterian Church's former Pastor Randy Bush. Each Thursday during the summer, the series welcomes local and regional performers. The aims were—and continue to be—building community, celebrating artists, and providing a way to give back to local non-profit service organizations through a free will offering. Over the years, *Music & More* also embraced performances by young artists and now awards three youth scholarships each season. A staple of the Racine arts community, *Music & More* has grown into one of First Presbyterian Church's significant outreach programs and now includes a summer series, Fall and Spring samplers, and a candlelight concert.

The beauty of song, danced round with word, amongst candlelit history promises to be a feast for the senses. A unique event. More than music. A celebration of being in community with one another in the darkest season of the year.

Tickets are on sale now!



First Presbyterian Church was built by noted architect Lucas Bradley in 1852 and was added to the National Register Places in 1973.

"The beauty of song, danced round with word, amongst candlelit history promises to be a feast for the senses."

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2025 Wind Point Collections Calendar



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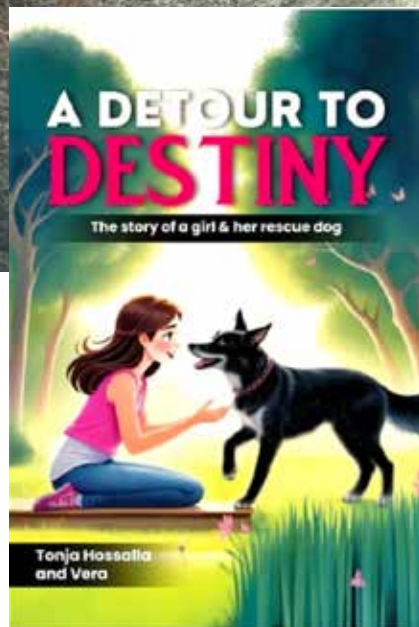




Tonja: "I have been carrying this story in my heart for more than fifteen years."

Tonja Hossalla

A Detour to Destiny



What motivated you to author *A Detour To Destiny*? Have you always enjoyed writing? I haven't always considered myself a writer but I knew that telling this story was deeply important to me, both personally and as a way to help animals. Writing the book gave me the opportunity to share the joy and meaning that rescuing a pet brought into my life, and to hopefully inspire others to consider adoption. It wasn't so much about pursuing a love of writing as it was about creating something that could make a difference for animals in need.

When did you decide to pursue this? What motivated you to take the next step? I knew the day would come when I'd have to say goodbye to my

best friend, my soulmate, my pup Vera. Before that moment arrived, I felt I needed to begin my healing journey while Vera was still by my side.

But more than just my soulmate, I wanted Vera's legacy to carry on. Rescuing her—and our other dogs—inspired many friends and family members to adopt rescues of their own, but I felt we could make an even greater impact. So together, we wrote this book.

Please provide a background of your story: I've always wanted to share our story because it's incredible how one small twist of fate—can completely change your life. For me, it happened in 2009: a simple road-closed detour that led



Tonja: "When I submitted the manuscript, I poured myself a glass of champagne and Vera joined me with her own champagne glass filled with Cheerios."



me past The Humane Society. That turn in the road changed everything, bringing Vera into my world and filling it with love in the best way possible.

The book highlights some of our wonderful adventures, but also the quiet special moments with her by my side and snuggling in bed.

What was the process of putting this story together? I have been carrying this story in my heart for more than fifteen years, and it finally came to life on the pages. It has always been my dream to share our journey, and before saying goodbye, I was able to read the story to Vera and show her the cover art. When I submitted the manuscript, I poured myself a glass of champagne and Vera joined me with her own champagne glass filled with Cheerios.

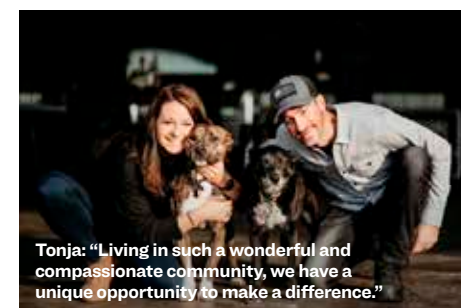
No one knew I was writing this book, not even my wonderful husband. It was a deeply personal project, something I wanted to keep close until the time was right. My hope was to surprise everyone who loved her—and who love me—with a story that honors Vera's memory and the bond we shared.

How can someone purchase your book?

Please go to Amazon and search A Detour to Destiny; however, if you want to purchase multiple copies (Christmas is right around the corner!!) at a discounted rate please feel free to DM me on Instagram at Tonja1913.

In connection with this mission, I'm also proud to share that for every copy of our book that is purchased, we donate another copy either directly to an animal shelter to help spread awareness about adoption, or to children, so they can be inspired by the joy and importance of rescuing pets. This "one-for-one" approach allows each purchase to create twice the impact: not only supporting

CONTINUED ►



our story but also helping to educate and inspire others about the value of giving animals a second chance at life.

What would you like to share with the neighbors here in Wind Point? I would like to encourage everyone to thoughtfully consider rescuing a pet. Every year, countless dogs, cats, and other animals find themselves in shelters through no fault of their own. Many of these animals are loving, loyal, and eager to become part of a family. They simply need the chance to be welcomed into a safe and caring environment.

Living in such a wonderful and compassionate community, we have a unique opportunity to make a difference. By choosing adoption, you not only provide a deserving animal with a second chance at life, but you also help reduce the strain on shelters and promote a more humane approach to pet ownership. Rescued pets do not just gain a home—they gain a family, and in return, they bring joy, companionship, and unconditional love.

It's also important to remember that nearly every breed, whether purebred or mixed, can be found through shelters and rescue organizations. From playful puppies to calm senior pets, from large breeds to small companions, there truly is a rescue animal for every lifestyle and household.

If you or someone you know is considering adding a pet to their household, I sincerely hope you will also visit your local shelters and rescue organizations. In a neighborhood as special as ours, I truly believe we can set an example by giving these wonderful animals the homes they deserve.



TONJA'S FUN FACTS...

- Family:** My Husband, Ryan, and me (although our friends are our family and we are very, very close with our parents)
- Pets:** Two dogs: Ruth is our rescued 9 month-old cattle dog mix who terrorizes our other pup, Stewart, who is our rescued brindle Pitbull who and is an actual saint
- Hobbies:** Spending time with family, friends, and the dogs and anything Peloton
- Sports Teams:** Packers, Brewers and all WI teams
- Favorite Vacation Destination:** Lake Tahoe or anywhere with mountains
- Favorite Meal:** Tacos, specifically from Santa Fe Liquors
- Family Traditions:** I make what I call a “love book” every year for my husband at Christmas that recaps our year.
- Favorite Book:** Can I say “A Detour to Destiny”
- Favorite TV Shows:** Friends, Parks and Rec, New Girl, Schitt’s Creek, Ted Lasso
- Education:** Majored in Human Resources and minored in Spanish
- Career Background:** 20+ years of HR



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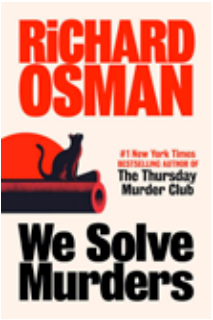
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November Reading and Engagement Recommendations

Building strategy and unearthing mystery

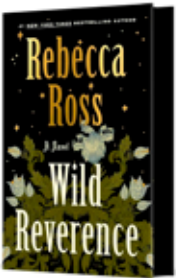
BY OUR FRIENDS AT RACINE PUBLIC LIBRARY



BOOK: *WE SOLVE MURDERS*
Richard Osman
Best-selling author Rosie D’Antonio’s latest publication may have gone a bit too far. After satirizing Russian oligarch Vasilii Karpin in her newest book, Rosie has been receiving death threats. Enter private security agent Amy Wheeler, whom Rosie hires for protection. Amy and her father-in-law, retired police officer Steve Wheeler, investigate leads around the globe to protect Rosie before the unthinkable happens.

Available at the Racine Public library:

- Physical book: Small print available
- E-book: Available on Libby
- Audiobook: Available on Playaway audiobook device and Libby



BOOK: *WILD REVERENCE*
Rebecca Ross
Matilda is the youngest goddess of her clan, born only with messenger magic.

Despite Matilda’s unremarkable powers, she must learn to defend herself against even the most powerful denizens of her god-eat-god world. She discovers an unlikely ally after tumbling through the window of the lord of the river, Vincent of Beckett. Maybe together, Vincent and Matilda can change the blood-thirsty way of the gods.

Available at the Racine Public library:

- Physical book: Small print available
- E-book: Available on Libby
- Audiobook: Available on Playaway audiobook device and Libby



BOOK: *KAKIGORI SUMMER*
Emily Itami
When pop idol Ai encounters scandal, her older sisters Rei and Kiki put their careers aside to aid their baby sister. After reuniting with their sharp-edged grandmother at their childhood home on the coast of Japan, the sisters set to work on supporting Ai. Unfortunately, they find it hard to make much progress without reckoning with the unspoken circumstances of their mother’s death fifteen years ago.

Available at the Racine Public library:

- Physical book: Large print and small print
- E-book: Not yet
- Audiobook: Not yet

MOVIE: *FREAKIER FRIDAY*
Directed by Nisha Ganatra, starring Lindsay Lohan and Jamie Lee Curtis
22 years after mother and daughter Tess and Anna’s unexplainable body-swap incident, Anna is now a mom herself and preparing to welcome a stepdaughter to her family. As Tess and Anna navigate their family’s growing pains, they discover that lightning sometimes does strike twice.

Available at the Racine Public Library?

- DVD: Yes
- Blu-ray: Not yet



BEYOND BOOKS ITEM: *WINGSPAN*
A game by Elizabeth Hargrave
In this beautifully illustrated card game for avian-lovers, play your cards in the right order to build your bird sanctuary. Each bird you play makes subsequent actions easier and stronger. Throughout the game, balance resources and strategize about the best moves to see whose birds come out on top.

Available at the Racine Public Library?

- Yes!

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Our Racine Public Library

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BY SHAY KING, HEAD OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Hello Wind Point! Here are some updates on what is happening at your public library!

YEAR-END CLOSURES

The Racine Public Library building and Bookmobile will close for the holidays on the following days in 2025 (and the beginning of 2026):

- Thanksgiving: Thursday, Nov. 27 and Friday, Nov. 28. Reopening on Saturday, Nov. 29.
- Christmas: Wednesday, Dec. 24 and Thursday, Dec. 25. Reopening on Friday, Dec. 26.
- New Year's: Wednesday, Dec. 31 and Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026. Reopening on Friday, Jan. 2, 2026.

During closures, social services and phone support will not be available. Keep an eye on our website at RacineLibrary.info/hours for our full hours and any changes.

HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER

Save the date for the Racine Public Library Foundation's third annual winter fundraiser! This year's event will be Thursday, Dec. 11 at 326 6th Street in Racine. Doors open at 5 p.m. When tickets sales open, you can purchase your seats at RacineLibrary.info/calendar.

PODCASTING STUDIO RE-OPENED

Our podcasting studio has re-opened for booking! Reserve the studio for a soundproof place to record music, voiceover and other audio. The room's current availability is:



- Mondays and Tuesdays — 10 a.m. - noon, 1 - 3 p.m., and 5 - 7 p.m.
- Wednesdays and Thursdays — 10 a.m. - noon, 1 - 3 p.m.
- Fridays and Saturdays — noon - 2 p.m.

The studio is available by appointment only. To schedule your visit, call (262) 619-2560.

INK AND IMAGINATION CONCLUDES NOV. 30

There's still time left to fill out your Ink and Imagination passport! For every five Prairie Lakes libraries you visit, you will earn one entry into our prize drawings. A bonus ticket goes to anyone who completes their passport by visiting all 22 libraries. The prizes for adults and families include a Finders Seekers game set, a KODAK Mini Shot 3 retro digital camera, and a travel Blackstone.

Participating libraries:

- Aram Public Library (Delavan)
- Barrett Memorial (Williams Bay)
- Beloit Public Library
- Brigham Memorial Library (Sharon)
- Burlington Public Library
- Clinton Public Library
- Darien Public Library
- Eager Free Public Library (Evansville)
- East Troy Lions Public Library
- Edgerton Public Library
- Fontana Public Library
- Genoa City Public Library
- Graham Public Library (Union Grove)
- Hedberg Public Library or HPL Express (Janesville)
- Lake Geneva Public Library
- Matheson Memorial Library

- Milton Public Library
- Orfordville Public Library
- Racine Public Library
- Rochester Public Library
- Walworth Memorial Library (Walworth)
- Waterford Public Library

Are you a home delivery patron? For the home delivery variation of Ink & Imagination, get in touch with libraries throughout the system to spark conversations and learn more about the unique history of each library. Give our home delivery team a call at (262) 636-9193 to get started.

Learn more about Ink and Imagination at PrairieLakes.info/meetings/InkAndImagination/.

DISCONTINUING HOOPLA DEC. 31

As of December 31, 2025, we regret to share that we will no longer be partnering with hoopla to offer e-books, audiobooks and other media to library users. Instead, we will be prioritizing Libby and Comics Plus as our primary tools for digital content.

Through Libby, borrow e-books, audiobooks and magazines from wherever you are. It's a free service that comes with your Racine Public Library card. Items are returned automatically when your borrowing time is over, so you never have to worry about returning your titles. The Libby app is available on iOS and Android devices.

With Comics Plus, check out e-books from our ever-growing collection of comics, graphic novels and manga. All titles are always available to all library users, meaning you can check out anything you want with no hold lists needed. Items are automatically returned after a week, but you can continue to check them out as many times as you want until you're done reading.

Visit RacineLibrary.info/apps to download Libby or Comics Plus. If you'd like assistance getting started with either platform, reach out to us at tech.help@racinelibrary.info.





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RUSD School Calendar*
2025-2026
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Aug. 28.....	Open House (Elementary & K-8)	Nov. 26-28.....	No school K-12 (Thanksgiving Recess)	Mar. 20**.....	No school K-12/contingent weather day (Spring Break Day)
Sept. 2.....	First Day of School K-12	Dec. 12.....	No school K-12 (Prof. Learning Day)	Mar. 27.....	End of 3rd Quarter
Oct. 2.....	No school K-5 (Prof. Learning Day)	Dec. 22 - Jan. 2.....	No school K-12 (Winter Recess)	Apr. 1.....	K-12 PM Parent-Teacher Conferences
Oct. 3.....	No school K-12 (Prof. Learning Day)	Jan. 19.....	No school K-12 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)	Apr. 2.....	No school K-12 (Parent-Teacher Conferences)
Oct. 31.....	End of 1st Quarter	Jan. 23.....	No school K-12 (Prof. Learning Day) End of 1st Semester/2nd Quarter	Apr. 3 - Apr. 10.....	No school K-12 (Spring Recess)
Nov. 1-30.....	RUSD School Choice (rusd.org/schoolchoice)	Feb. 12-13.....	No school K-5 (Prof. Learning Day)	May 15**.....	No school K-12/contingent weather day (Prof. Learning Day)
Nov. 6.....	No school K-5 (P-T Conferences K-5, PM P-T Conferences K-12)	Feb. 16**.....	No school K-12/contingent weather day (Winter Break Day)	May 25.....	No school K-12 (Memorial Day)
Nov. 7.....	No school K-12 (Parent-Teacher Conferences)	Mar. 10.....	No school K-10, 12 (Juniors ACT Day/Prof. Learning Day)	June 11**.....	Last Day of School, End of 2nd Semester/4th Quarter

Please note: All dates are subject to change. *3K, 4K and BEE Center, please use the Early Learning calendar on rusd.org. **May be adjusted due to inclement weather.

August 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

September 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
31	1	2 First Day	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4

October 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
28	29	30	1	2 Diamond	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

November 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6 Diamond	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29

December 2025						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

January 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Diamond	13 Diamond	14
15	16*	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

March 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Blue Circle	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20*	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

April 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2

May 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15*	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

June 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11* Last Day	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4

July 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

■ No school for all students (Holidays, Conferences, Professional Learning) ◆ No school for K-5 (Prof. Learning or P-T Conf.)
● 11 Grade ACT Day and Professional Learning (No school for K-10, 12)

MEDICINE DISPOSAL

Village office contains med collection box

Most unwanted medicine can be properly disposed using the Collection Box at the Village Office (215 E. Four Mile Road) during normal business hours (Mon-Fri: 8 am - 4:30 pm). Residents are asked to remove all packaging and bring pills in a clear plastic bag. Sharp or Biohazardous Material will not be accepted. By using the Collection Box, or another official medication collection site, you can help prevent medications from ending up in area water systems or in the hands of children.

Managing unused medications is a safety as well as an environmental concern. Traditionally, we were told

to flush unwanted medications down the drain or toilet rather than keeping them around so they would not be misused by someone else who was not prescribed the medication and who might use the drugs recreationally or taken accidentally by a child or other individual. Although effective in removing the medication from potentially being misused, flushing creates a new and growing problem in the environment. Antibiotics and other medications in a septic system can destroy beneficial bacteria necessary for the system to operate.

Further, wastewater treatment plants are not designed to remove or process

many compounds found in medications. This means that they end up being discharged into our surface and ground water, with medications thrown in the trash assuming the same fate. National attention is growing to develop more appropriate methods of safely disposing of old, unwanted medications.



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HOME MATTERS

The Art of the Table

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creativity and connection.*

BY CAROLINE PERROTT

A FAMILY EFFORT

This fun fall craft is perfect for little hands and makes the cutest pumpkin decorations to add to your table.

What you need:

- Toilet paper roll
- Chunky yarn (orange, white, or green)
- Scissors (grown-up help!)
- Small stick or twig for the stem
- Glue (optional)

Steps:

1. Cut it down – Ask a grown-up to trim the toilet paper roll shorter (this makes a rounder pumpkin).
2. Wrap it up – Push yarn through the hole, then wrap it around and around until the roll is covered.
3. Tuck the yarn – Hide the loose end inside (or glue it down so it stays put).
4. Add a stem – Stick a twig in the top for the pumpkin stem.
5. Fluff & show off – Pull at the yarn a little to make your pumpkin nice and round.

Table settings have been at the heart of American holidays for generations, and they take center stage at Thanksgiving. A thoughtfully styled table can set the mood for connection, gratitude, and celebration, turning an ordinary meal into something special. The good news? Creating a beautiful, welcoming tablescape doesn't have to be stressful.

Start with the basics: warm linens instantly make a table feel cozy. Layer them with natural textures—wood chargers, woven placemats, or soft napkins, to add depth and interest. Then think about a centerpiece. Seasonal touches like mini pumpkins, gourds, artichokes, sprigs of greenery, or dried florals bring color and life without feeling over the top. Add a few candles for a soft, inviting glow that makes everyone feel at home.

Colors matter, too. Rich amber, rust, and deep green work beautifully together, and a little gold or bronze adds a touch of elegance. Don't worry about matching everything perfectly—mixing patterns and textures actually makes the table feel more personal and adds visual interest. Unexpected accent colors like red and pink are a fun way to incorporate a signature color and make your table feel even more unique to you.

With natural textures, seasonal colors, and thoughtful touches, your Thanksgiving table can be a space that sparks conversation and gratitude. This year, let it reflect the heart of the holiday: coming together, sharing stories, and celebrating the people around you.

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Village News and Notes

November 2025

BY TRAVIS WELLS ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK-TREASURER



PROPOSED 2026 VILLAGE BUDGET AND PUBLIC HEARING

The 2026 Village Budget will be considered for adoption at the Village Board meeting and public hearing on Thursday, November 13, at 5:00 pm. The budget is the result of a four-month-long process that involved several public meetings with the Village Board and finance committee.

The resulting budget reflects the Village’s ongoing mission to provide high-quality municipal service cost-effectively and efficiently. Compared to 2025, the 2026 budget has an overall revenue and expenditure decrease of 12.0%. This is primarily due to fewer capital projects in 2026 being funded through the general fund.

The following are the highlights from the proposed 2026 budget:

Budget Highlights – General Fund

- \$4,422 decrease (7.2%) to General Transportation Aids from the State Department of Transportation. The amount is based on a rolling six-year average of local funds expended for road projects and transportation-related items by the Village.
- \$19,500 additional funds for the Police Department’s grant from the State for the Click It or Ticket seat belt enforcement program.
- \$12,500 (22.7%) decrease in fines/forfeitures due to the decline in citations being issued.
- \$3,000 decrease (21.4%) in Lighthouse Revenues.
- \$4,900 decrease (9.2%) in miscellaneous revenue as the Village’s investment returns are still less than before the start of the COVID pandemic.
- \$103,000 increase (13.3%) in outside services as the Village will explore a referendum planning consultant.
- \$46,00 decrease to assessor services.
- \$14,500 increase for Outside IT service.
- 6.2% for DPW snow wages regular hours as the team will be adding anti-icing to the process of snow wages.
- \$640 decrease (5.3%) to Worker’s Compensation Insurance.
- 3% increase to base wages for Village employees.
- \$4,790 (11.8%) increase in the Village’s contribution to the Wisconsin Retirement System.

Budget Highlights – Proposed Capital Improvement Plan (General Fund)

- \$4.2 Million in General Government Facilities for a new municipal building.
- \$21,200 for equipment replacement. \$5,000 for a new trailer and \$10,000 for a surveyor’s transit for a total of 15,000 for new DPW equipment and \$6,200 for a new copier.
- \$1.3 Million for the reconstruction of 4 Mile Road.
- \$2.6 Million for watermain replacement on 4-Mile Road and \$534,000 for stormwater work.

PLEASE DO NOT FEED THE DEER

Feeding deer and other wildlife may seem like a kind gesture, but it can have serious negative consequences for both the animals and the ecosystem. Human food can disrupt their natural foraging behaviors, leading to dependency on artificial sources of food. This can also result in overpopulation in certain areas, increased disease transmission, and conflicts with humans as animals become more accustomed to urban environments.

Moreover, supplemental feeding can alter natural food webs, affecting other species and the overall health of the habitat. To protect wildlife and maintain ecological balance, it’s essential to admire these creatures from a distance and refrain from feeding them.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY REMINDERS

With the shorter days this time of year, it is especially important to wear reflective gear or carry a flashlight when you go out for a walk or bicycle ride. As a matter of safety, pedestrians need to be visible to vehicles and to other pedestrians. A variety of clothing items are available with



lights or reflective fabric, such as jackets, vests, wristbands, dog collars, shoes, and belts. Many stores also carry reflective tape - and pick something up for your dog while you are at it!

If no sidewalks exist on the road, it is recommended to walk facing oncoming traffic on the same side of the road as the oncoming traffic. Also, you should get as far to the side of the road as possible to provide additional space between you and oncoming cars. When bicycling, you will want to ride on the right (going in the same direction as automobile traffic). Another safe way to get your exercise this winter is to take advantage of the paved walking path surrounding Village Green.

Please do your part to protect yourself, drivers, and other pedestrians!

DOG LICENSING REMINDER!

This is a friendly reminder to residents to license your dogs. Please make sure your furry family members are wearing a dog tag. If they wander away from home, it is much easier to reunite your pups with you if they are chipped or are wearing a dog tag. More information on dog licensing visit windpoint.org or give the office a call (262-639-3524).





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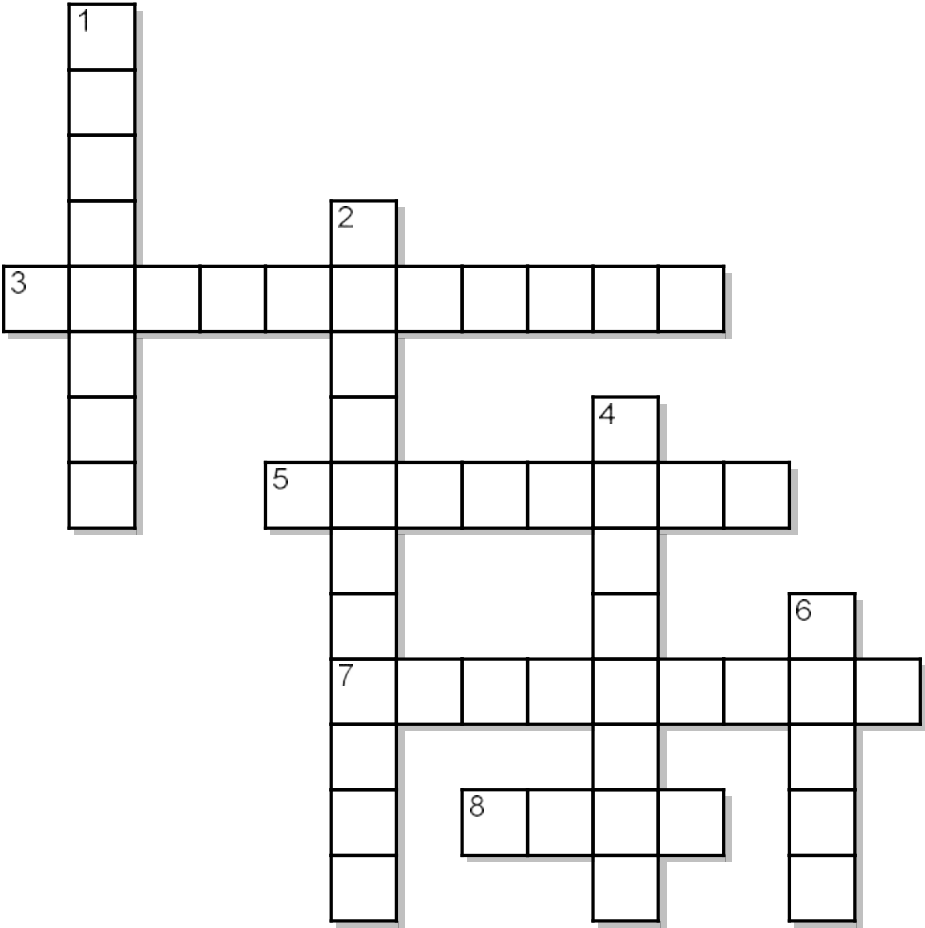


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Wind
Point
Crossword
Puzzle

November 2025



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All of the answers to these clues are found within the pages of your personal November 2025 issue of *Stroll Wind Point*. We encourage you to enjoy a slice of your favorite kringle while you work through the fun clues for a truly sweet experience. Your special Wind Point “Crossword and a Kringle” is sponsored by your locally owned O&H Danish Bakery.

The first one to complete a puzzle and email the image to gary@strollwindpointmagazine.com will receive a \$25 gift card to Buddy's Sports Grill

Across

3. A _____ Concert takes place on Dec 6.

5. The 2025 Wind Point Golf Putting Champion

7. The location of the *Neighbors Night Out* on Nov 20

8. Tonja's soulmate pup

Down

1. She is the author of *A Detour To Destiny*

2. You do not need to be a member to dine here

4. Jason and Jessica's first date was during this month

6. This month's Word Search: _____ of Words



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48 November 2025

STROLL Wind Point 49

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REAL ESTATE
RESOURCE

Source: Multiple Listing Service (as of: 9/30/2025)

This is your neighborhood Real Estate Resource page. This information can be useful when trying to compare property values or for just keeping a pulse on the real estate market in our area. For questions regarding the properties listed, or about real estate in general, consult a real estate professional.

Address	Neighborhood	List Price	Sale Price	Beds	Baths	SqFt	Status
1 Birchwood Court	Single Family	\$329,000		4	2.5	2,582	Active
309 E. Point View Drive	Single Family	\$399,000		4	2.5	2,563	Active
4 Greenwood Court	Single Family	\$465,000		4	2.5	3,083	Active
9 Sandalwood Court	Single Family	\$495,000		4	3.5	3,860	Active
5 Shorewood Court	Single Family	\$529,500		4	2.5	2,480	Active
3 Birchwood Court	Single Family	\$529,900		4	2.5	3,220	Active
2 Redwood Court	Single Family	\$550,000		4	3.5	3,708	Active
4523 Lake Meadow Drive	Single Family	\$639,000		4	2.5	3,353	Active
9 Ironwood Court	Single Family	\$646,000		4	3.5	4,085	Active
8 Lake Pointe Circle	Single Family	\$993,000		5	2.5	5,244	Active
95 Woodfield Court	Condominium	\$329,000		3	2	2,270	Active w/offer
221 Hollow Creek Road	Single Family	\$375,000		3	2	1,688	Active w/offer
Lt5	Vacant Land	\$129,900					Sold
4738 Lighthouse Drive	Single Family	\$415,000	\$415,000	3	1.5	2,600	Sold
151 W. Parkfield Court	Condominium	\$485,000	\$480,000	3	3.5	3,107	Sold



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773-220-5344

Matt Stong
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Rosa Stong
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