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AREA DIRECTOR / PUBLISHER

Gary L. Smith  
262-994-5390  
gary@StrollWindPoint  
magazine.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](mailto:gary@StrollWindPointmagazine.com)

*Wind Point Living*



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JUNE 2026

**RAMAC**  
RACINE'S BUSINESS CHAMPION



Tom Rivers, shares his story of creating musical albums and how this process has been therapeutic and beneficial for him in so many ways. Nicole Reid has put together an inspirational article about Nick Ramsey, who is a local poet and musician who has brought the community together over the years. Resident Nick Comande recaps the details of his recent submission to the annual RAM Exhibition of the PEEPS® Brand Art Exhibition, and shares his appreciation of the fierce and creative competition. Our business spotlight article is about the special 50th golden anniversary of Plumb Gold, LTD.

If you have been thinking about reaching out to us with your ideas for the publication, let's hear from you! 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, put down your screens, grab a comfortable seat on your couch, and make this your time for appointment reading. Read *Stroll Wind Point* from cover to cover to give yourself a chance to win the monthly crossword puzzle contest which is located towards the back of the issue!

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 when you have a need for a product or service. Please let them know you saw them and all of our business partners in *Stroll Wind Point*.

Congratulations to all of the graduates of 2026!

Let's have a great June everyone!

*Gary L. Smith*

Publisher, *Stroll Wind Point*

262-994-5390

gary@strollwindpointmagazine.com

## Publisher's Note

Greetings Wind Point!

I hope this finds you doing well as we are now officially in summer mode!

First, I would like to share a very special honor with you. Recently, RAMAC (Racine Area Manufacturers and Commerce), which is our Chamber of Commerce for the greater Racine area, acknowledged and selected yours truly for the 2026 Business Leader Award. It is an extreme honor as it is acknowledgement and recognition that we are locally making a positive difference. How cool is this? Thank you RAMAC!

As we stay on the topic of trying to make a positive difference, I want to thank all of the volunteers who came out for the 10th annual Wind Point Beach Cleanup a number of weeks ago. We will have a full follow up and recap on this event in next month's issue.

Remember that our Wind Point Night at Kenosha Kingfish is coming up on

Saturday, June 27 (6:35 pm) at historic Simmons Field in Kenosha. Our special limited tickets once again include all-you-can-eat ballpark food through the 5th inning and a wristband good for three adult beverages, ice cream or kids' games. A fireworks display will take place after the ball game. The value of our special ticket is \$29; however, you can pick up these tickets for only \$19 each at Kortendick Ace Hardware. Supplies are limited so do not hesitate.

Save the date for the first ever Wind Point Summer Family Fun Day on Sunday, August 23 (1pm-4pm) at the Wind Point Lighthouse grounds. We will have live music, food trucks, kids' games, and various activities for the family. There is no cost to attend this gathering as the Wind Point Community Club and *Stroll Wind Point* collaborate on this special summer event.

We have another engaging issue for you this month. Longtime Village resident,

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## 2026 Wind Point Wags & Wheels Parade

TUES. JUNE 30 (6:30 PM)  
THE PRAIRIE SCHOOL  
PARKING LOT

Decorate Your Bikes, Wagons, and Pets!

One of the historic traditions in Wind Point is the annual Wags & Wheels Parade (which was longtime known as the doll buggy/bike parade) which takes right before the Fourth of July. This year is Tuesday, June 30, 2026 (6:30pm).

Due to construction on Four Mile Road, the parade will take place this year at the parking lot of The Prairie School.

Neighbors are invited to showcase their patriotic colors as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of our country.

Wear your American-themed clothes and hats! Decorate your bikes, strollers, scooters, and pets in red, white, and blue as we enjoy a quick stroll around the lot. Bill Reid will serve as our celebrity Grand Marshal!

Once we finish the parade, participants are welcome to enjoy snacks.

This fun event is brought to you by The Wind Point Community Club and *Stroll Wind Point* magazine.

So we can plan for snacks, please give us a courtesy RSVP at: [gary@strollwindpointmagazine.com](mailto:gary@strollwindpointmagazine.com)

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# 2026 Wind Point Night at Kenosha Kingfish

**SATURDAY, JUNE 27 (6:35 P.M.)**

*Tickets available at Kortendick Ace Hardware*



**YOUR SPECIAL WIND POINT NIGHT TICKETS ARE ONLY \$19!!!!**

**That's Right....\$19!!!**

Our annual summer tradition continues!

Join us on Saturday, June 27, 2026 at Historic Simmons Field in Kenosha for another fun get-together with neighbors and friends. The Kingfish take on the Battle Creek Battle Jacks!

Our special discount price seats include:

- All-you-can-eat ballpark food through the fifth inning (burgers, brats, hot dogs, cranberry-walnut salad sandwiches, potato salad, coleslaw, and chips)
- All-you-can-drink soda and bottled water
- Three special vouchers to be used for ice-cold beers, ice cream novelty treats, or kids' games.
- A special fireworks show is scheduled after the game.

Purchase these special Wind Point Night tickets exclusively at Kortendick Ace Hardware, 3806 Douglas Avenue. Supplies are limited, so do not hesitate.

We have created some wonderful summer memories at this event over the years. If you have questions, please send us an email at gary@strollwindpointmagazine.com or call 262-994-5390 for the latest information about 2026 Wind Point Day at Kenosha Kingfish!

Play ball!





# 2026 Wind Point Collections Calendar



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

May							June							July							August							
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
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31							28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31									

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

Garbage collection is every Monday. □ = Recycling collection is every other Monday. X = Holidays (collection is delayed one day). ○ = Branch Collection. △ = Yard Waste Collection.

Once per month you may schedule a bulk or electronics collection. Call Johns Disposal at (262) 473-4700 to schedule a pick up. Turn over for additional information about collections.

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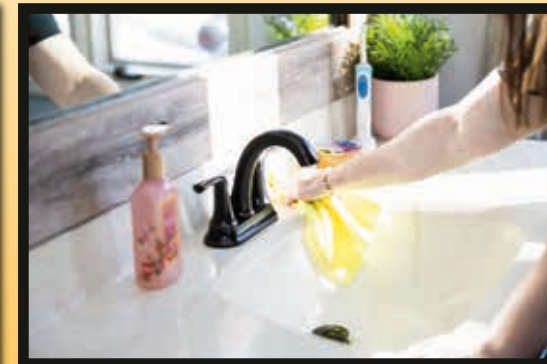
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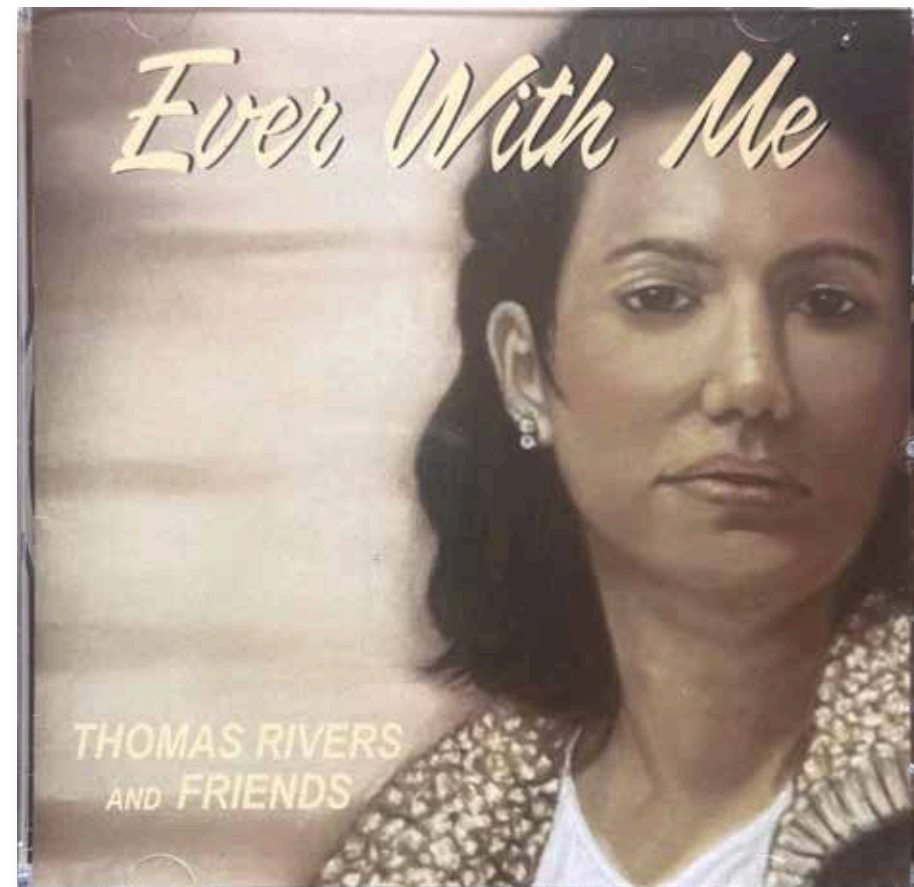


 RASMUSSEN  
DIAMONDS

Tom is often playing on his porch across the street from Village Green.

# EVER WITH ME

BY THOMAS RIVERS RESIDENT OF N. FAIRWAY DRIVE



continue. I bought my first guitar when I was 17 and taught myself how to play.

**What instruments do you play?** I primarily play guitar and harmonica, but also a little piano, mandolin, and concertina. I have a collection of percussion instruments.

**Who are some of the musicians that influenced you during your youth? Do you have some favorites? If so, what is it about them that you admire?** The list is long. I grew up with the Beatles, The Doors, The Grateful Dead to name a few, and songwriters like Bob Dylan, Neil Young, and Cat Stevens. What I admire about the groups is the way they pushed music in directions it had never gone before. What I admire about the songwriters is the depth of lyrical content in their songs. As an adult I focused on traditional Christian hymns and the beautiful 4-part harmonies of Southern Gospel, along with Bluegrass music. I've only recently begun to revisit the music of my youth.

**Did you have a mentor / teacher while learning to play?** I was self-taught on the guitar for most of my life, but two years ago I began taking lessons for the first time. My teacher is Racine legend Gary Ricchio. He has been helping me to unlearn the bad habits I collected by being my own teacher for so long. He is a phenomenal guitarist, entertainer, teacher and friend.

**Music is definitely a form of expression. You have written and produced original music. What is this process like? What are some of the greatest joys and challenges of songwriting?** I started writing songs as a teenager, but those efforts are lost to time. As an adult, I was busy being a husband, father, business owner, and involved with church and homeschooling, and no time remained for songwriting. I did manage to compose about a dozen children's songs based on Bible characters, but that was about it.

My wife's unexpected passing unlocked something inside me and within three weeks of her passing I had composed a song called *One More Time*, about the things I wish we could do just

**How long have you lived in Wind Point? Where was home before moving to the village?** I have resided in the Village for 26 years. My wife and I were born and raised in Racine. After marriage, we spent a few years living in Racine, Union Grove, and Florida before settling in Wind Point in 2000.

**What do you like about living here?** Everything about the Village is great. The neighbors and people are always friendly and welcoming and create a real sense of belonging and community. We live directly across from the Village Green, so it was a fantastic spot to raise a family. The quiet village feel, with no sidewalks or streetlights is a plus, and walks to the Lighthouse, lakefront and the ponds in Wind Meadows are unbeatable.

I was married to my beautiful wife, Connie, for 34 years until her passing three years ago. We have two children, Noah and Hannah, who grew up in the Village and have since moved on to adult lives elsewhere. They love Wind Point, and walks to the Lighthouse are always in order when they visit.

**When do you recall having an interest in music?** I have always been interested in music. My dad loved Swing music and my Mom was a huge Frank Sinatra fan. We sometimes listened to my Dad's 78rpm records of Benny Goodman, Tommy Dorsey, Spike Jones and more. As a teenager I discovered FM radio and it was a real gamechanger for me in developing a wide palette of musical tastes. I was known among my friends for my 600 plus album collection of music ranging from 60's and 70's rock, to jazz, blues, reggae, bluegrass, folk and classical. I was an avid concert goer in my teens, seeing some of the biggest names, in venues ranging from night clubs to stadiums.

My wife was an accomplished pianist and had an innate ability to sing harmony. Connie played in church and we sang in church for many years. Our children were both classically trained in piano and violin. There was always music in the house.

**Do you remember the first time picking up an instrument?** I studied piano from first through fourth grade but didn't



Tom: "My goal is to help the crowd forget their problems, the world's troubles, their cares and anxieties and enjoy the moment, however briefly."

once more. After that, the songs began flowing out and to date I have written over 50 songs about her life, death, character, life without her, memories of our life together, regrets of the past and hopes for the future. Writing through overwhelming grief was therapeutic, and being able to express in song what I was feeling is how I coped with the loss.

Songwriting is hard to explain. Most songs just flow organically. Sometimes I have a melody and then fit lyrics to it. Other times it is just the opposite. Some songs take months to complete. Others are written in five minutes. I have notebooks around the house and car and if an idea comes to mind, I write it down, or hum the melody into my phone. I've often gotten out of bed to write down a phrase because I know, if I don't, it will be forgotten by morning. Often these phrases sit in a notebook for a while until the right

tune comes along and the song comes into being. I try to be keenly observant of the world around me, and often, location or circumstance will trigger a thought for a new song.

I've always loved the richness of the English language. I have read widely in classic literature and poetry, and have studied the Bible for 45 years. These influences find ways into my songs through vocabulary, imagery, metaphor and poetical expressions. That, along with a willingness to be vulnerable and honest hopefully makes my music genuine.

**You have recorded and published original music. What is that process like?** I've recorded my music to honor my wife's memory, and to make my songs available to anyone struggling with similar loss, heartache or broken relationship. To know you are not alone

in your grief and that others have faced similar trials may be just the blessing you need to get through one more day.

I have been blessed with talented musicians and artist friends who play various instruments on my recordings and provide beautiful artwork for the CD's.

The recording process is fascinating. I have a very good friend, Mike Niemiec who owns Particles Studio in Waucosta, Wisconsin, who is my engineer. We gather the musicians and record the basic tracks at my house. We don't all play together but record each track separately and then digitally mix it all together. Mike does all the mixing and mastering at his studio and the finished product is top quality professional sound. Once the album is complete it is distributed to the streaming platforms.

I then work with my talented sister-in-law, Theresa, on the CD layout and design artwork and have CDs made for distribution. Lastly, I apply to the U.S. Copyright Office to copyright the albums. They keep a CD copy in The Library of Congress.

**What is the genre of music that is performed by Thomas Rivers and Friends?** My music is hard to classify. My influences range from folk, rock, hymns, R and B, Southern Gospel, blues, country, bluegrass, pop, Latin; I just call it Mid-West Indie.

**What do you enjoy most about performing in front of a group of people?** For me, it's seeing people smiling, tapping their foot or singing along. When I see that, I know something is touching the listener. My goal is to help the crowd forget their problems, the world's troubles, their cares and anxieties and enjoy the moment, however briefly. I truly believe it is a fulfilling of the commandment: "Love your neighbor as yourself." If I can make a very small part of the world a better place, even for a short time, it is worth it.

**Do you have a favorite song?** Too many to list, and it changes all the time.

**What is the best piece of advice that you could give someone who is looking to become a musician?** Do the things I didn't do, but wish I would have; buy a



quality instrument, find a good teacher, practice every day and perform as often as possible, even if it is just for family or friends. There is a large network of very talented local musicians. Get connected with them and play as often as possible. Performing in public and playing with others pushes you to improve much faster than playing at home alone.

**Is there anything that you would like to add?** I would like to let people know I have CDs available and can be contacted at 4rivers@sbcglobal.net and that my music is available on all the major streaming platforms like Spotify, YouTube, Apple Music etc. and can be found by searching: Thomas Rivers and Friends.

The first album is: *Ever With Me*. The second album is: *The Things I Know Today*. We are currently working towards a summer release of my third album titled: *Painted On My Mind*. Albums four and five are being planned.

Finally, I would like to say: I miss you Connie and wish you could hear the songs I've written for you. I love you.

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Some of the annual gatherings include the annual Easter Egg Hunt, Bike Parade (AKA *Wags & Wheels*), Village Picnic / Family Fun Day, and the annual Christmas Wreath Lighting ceremony which takes place the Sunday after Thanksgiving. What are your ideas?

The Wind Point Community Club holds regular meetings throughout the year. If you are interested to find out more information, please email: [windpointcommunityclub2024@gmail.com](mailto:windpointcommunityclub2024@gmail.com)

### HONORING CECILIA HECK

Longtime Wind Point resident, Cel Heck, was one of the true cornerstones and founding members of the Wind Point Community Club going back to the 1970s. She helped organize holiday events, bus trips, shopping trips, cooking demonstrations, local dinner dances, and bridge get-togethers. Cecilia will be remembered for her strength, devotion to family, and the dedication of bringing people together through love, and of course, her famous delicious meals which she loved to share.

## Join the Wind Point Community Club

The Wind Point Community Club is your opportunity to meet your neighbors, make new friends, and engage with ideas and fun events that bring us all together. Whether if you moved to the Village last month or have resided here for over 40 years, the group would love to hear from you.

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Origins of Hip-Hop Dance Battle

# NICK RAMSEY

*Community is collaboration*

BY NICOLE REID RESIDENT OF WINDRIDGE DRIVE, PHOTOS COURTESY OF NICK RAMSEY AND RENE AMADO



Nick Ramsey graciously allowed me to interview him for this article on one condition: that it not be all about him—LOL! But this is easier than it sounds because Nick is all about promoting the local talent pool through public events and collaborations. He is everywhere. Seemingly. He's a conduit of creativity for our community. Here's a short list of local happenings that he's had a hand in: Family Reunion Music Festival, Grassroots Open Mic, Origins of Hip-Hop, Smörgåsbord at the 6th Street Theatre, Thoughts for Food, Main Gallery and ArtRoot.

Nick Ramsey is a poet and a musician. His favorite things are nature, art, family and community. The majority of the events he helps run are free and open to the public with only a suggested donation taken at the door. As a benefactor, here's a partial list of the beneficiaries that Nick's happenings have fed: Racine County Food Bank, Racine Literacy Council, River Bend Nature Center, Main Gallery, 6th

Street Theatre, Racine Arts Council, Racine Urban Garden Network (RUGN) and more.

Never shy to take the mic and run the show, he insists everything he does is for the greater good. Stealing the spotlight is never his MO. Like his father, a consummate salesman, Nick can talk up the positive side of everyone he meets. Like his mother, an award-winning horticulturalist, his love of nature and gardening came early. A Racine native, his childhood happy place was Johnson Park where he spent many truant days in high school fostering an overwhelming desire to be outdoors rather than inside a linoleum lined classroom. Eventually, Nick finished high school and received a degree as a physical therapist's assistant. For a few years he worked a regular day job while at night he'd work the nightclub circuit promoting his music and poetry. He likened this time of his life to that of Batman and his counterpart, Bruce Wayne. After playing both parts he decided to quit his day job to become a full-time promoter and independent



Nick in his element, holding the mic

contractor—a decision we should all be thankful he made.

As an event coordinator, he has helped produce hundreds of Grassroots Open Mics, over a dozen Origins of Hip-Hop educational events, the Thoughts for Food All Ages Show, and Smörgåsbord at 6th Street Theatre. But the event that is closest to his heart is the upcoming 15th Annual Family Reunion Music Festival. Always held on the last Saturday in June, this year's event will be June 27 from noon until 8pm at his beloved Johnson Park. The event started as The Dan Jam in honor of his best friend who was killed in a car accident. It has evolved into a full day of fun for all ages featuring live entertainment, copious raffle prizes, locally sourced food offerings, a watermelon eating contest, a bounce house and art projects. Nick says this year's event line up is his best yet and includes singer songwriters, soul singers, poetry readings, a drum circle and more. This is Nick's favorite event because, "It brings so much goodness into one shared space."



One thing about the event that I've always appreciated is that it is one of the first and amongst the very few festivals in Racine that is decidedly eco-friendly. With the help of our Southeast Gateway Group of The Sierra Club and Compost Crusaders, they recycle and compost nearly everything to be as close to zero waste as possible. All beverages sold at the event must be in aluminum cans and all food is served in compostable containers. The event is free and open to the public with just a simple request for non-perishable donations for the food bank. The motto for the festival is, "Celebrating Life, Togetherness, and a Mutual Love for Creative Expression." Proceeds benefit his forthcoming non-profit organization and the community gardens run by RUGN. Learn more about the festival at [familypowermusic.com](http://familypowermusic.com)

Nick was our 2014-15 Racine County Poet Laureate and in recent years he has been a member of the ArtRoot committee tasked with reinvigorating Racine through the arts. Through ArtRoot, Nick helped bring to life a beautiful program called

Wall Poems. The program was modeled after one in Charlotte, NC, where famous poets' words are rebirthed onto public murals. However, Nick and the Wall Poem committee realized the importance and benefit of highlighting local poets for the Racine project. In the spirit of collaboration, the program pairs local verse with visuals created by a student from UW-Parkside's advanced graphic design class. Today, eight fantastic murals decorate the city, each with a distinctive voice and aesthetic. One such Wall Poem is found behind the main circulation desk at the Racine Public Library.

In 2010, he and a couple of friends started hosting Grassroots Open Mic sessions in Milwaukee and Racine. The events are still going strong 16 years later and are currently held at the Spectrum School of the Arts at the DeKoven Center monthly, every second and fourth Wednesday. These events are free and open to the public with a non-perishable food item or monetary donation for the Racine County Food Bank suggested.

Nick celebrates inclusion, diversity and range. He's had everyone from ages 4 to 84 participate in the open mic events and the talent has ranged from singer/songwriters, poets, dancers and comedians to short films and visual arts.

When he was starting out as a musician, Nick struggled to find venues willing to book him as a hip-hop artist. He noted how Racine can have a tendency to stick with the status quo and lean heavily on cover bands versus taking a chance on an artist with original, unfamiliar songs. He jokes, "Don't get me wrong, I like those bands too, but how many times can we hear *Mustang Sally!*?" With persistence he's now seeing a bit more appreciation for the singer/songwriter and that could be due in part to his Origins of Hip-Hop events. He says "We are slowly shifting the blueprint." Origins of Hip-Hop started in 2012 and is held the third Saturday of every August at Smoke'd on the Water down by the harbor. It is a day-long educational extravaganza showcasing the four elements of hip-hop: breakin',



A Drum Circle brings everyone together

graffiti art, DJ-ing and MC-ing. The focus is always on themes of peace, love, unity and fun. Guest artists show off their painting skills on a large free-standing wall while smaller boards invite guests to make their own mark. Cash prizes are given to the best B-boy and B-girl in the dance competition. This event is also responsible for bringing love into Nick's life as he met his wife, Nicole Sweet, there.

How does Nick pay the bills? He is currently contracted through RUSD to lead an extended learning program called *Express It Through Words* where he teaches creative writing to students through fun word games, writing prompts, and introductions to inspiring people. He then encourages those who stand out to express themselves onstage at one of his public events. For instance, the popular Thoughts For Food music fundraiser now also boasts a junior talent show held the night before the main event. As lead coordinator, this year's All Ages Show highlighted several kids from his after school program. Recently, Nick has been hired by the city to be the lead artist for the creative writing cohort of the Main Gallery—a summer program of City of Racine's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services to cultivate the creative side of 14-17 year olds while introducing them to the professional side of the art world. Looking ahead, he's helping to coordinate another music event that will be held on North Beach this July.

I asked Nick if there was anything on the proverbial back burner. The response was the only time he put the spotlight on himself. As a musician, he has a full length album ready to drop called *Walk in the Sunshine*. The title track is a moving exploration of loneliness in elders. Nick calls his music poetic funk. As a hip-hop



This year marks the 15th anniversary of the Family Reunion Music Festival



Young Artists of Racine's Main Gallery

artist and natural-born poet it is rooted in language and paired with easy beats and soft electronics. Because Nick is all about collaborating, he insists on commissioning a visual artist to create an image to accompany each of the ten songs on the album. He's more than half-way there but it is proving to be a costly venture that is delaying the release. You can take a listen and contribute to his dream on his bandcamp page.

I've struggled to find the perfect metaphor to describe Nick's ethos. At first I think of an octopus with a minimum of eight arms reaching out and feeling its way through the community. Nick loves meeting people, especially artists, entrepreneurs and community leaders. Then I pictured a puppeteer pulling the strings on a cast of characters but in the most benevolent way possible. Nick encourages fellow artists to follow their

passion by introducing them to other creatives or by putting them onstage when he can. Lastly, I thought of an athletic coach recognizing and recruiting talent, figuring out the best position for them to play and knowing when to bring them onto the field. In this scenario, the city of Racine is his playing field and the athletes are the numerous creative talents in the city, young and old.

As Robert Redford once said, "The glory of art is that it can not only survive change, it can lead it." Change starts with the creative community. Nick Ramsey is someone who cares and people who care can't help but dream of a better world. He may be a modern-day hippie promoting peace, love, and nature, but Nick isn't just a dreamer, he's a do-er! By sharing ideas and connecting people he views the future as a world full of possibilities, fostering imagination and compassion. Or, as Nick himself put it to me, totally off the cuff and with poetic flare, "I see it, recognize it, respect it and connect it." Well said, Nick. Well said.



Young Arya Paquin Performs at a Grassroots Open Mic

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## After The Peeps Were Counted!

BY NICK COMANDE RESIDENT OF MAPLEWOOD COURT

**THIS YEAR'S RAM EXHIBITION** of the PEEPS® Brand Art Exhibition was nothing short of a great success. There were many great displays this year in various forms of motif. It would be an understatement to say that this year's entries were nothing short of phenomenal. Even my entry called Nightpeeps, which I thought was unique and original not only did not place in the finals, but took 10th place in the popular vote. I did not take second, third or fourth place. My entry didn't even get a seat on the bus, and rightly so. Even my last year's 2nd place entry of *12 Angry Peeps*, would have had a difficult time placing in this year's competition.

The other entries that did win were most imaginative, creative and well deserving of the awards they won. While the fine detail I added to Edward Hopper's original Nighthawks painting, such as steam coming from the coffee cups, sugar in the sugar containers, the woman's lip stick on her cup and the tray of glasses being held by the hunched over diner worker. (I had to come up with something to explain his posture) and other fine details that were added, I could not compete to the



other finely handcrafted entries. It is OK to lose when you lose to the best.

I don't know how many people in the city and surrounding areas were able to visit the RAM Peeps Exhibition this year, but it was definitely worth the time to go see it.

While going into this year's competition, I did not expect to win anything, but deep down I think there was still a little hope I would. I will definitely have to up my game next year if I submit another entry.

But keeping things in perspective, when attempting any goal in life, while reaching your destination, remember the enjoyment of the journey getting there. Sometimes that is just as much fun. Building Nightpeeps gave me a great deal of enjoyment and sense of accomplishment when I finished it. So see, I was still a winner.

Also, the official "2026 PEEPlE's Choice Award Winner" was the Costello and Strickland piece, *Peepal Conclave*.



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If you are interested in improving our community this is a great way to get involved. As a reminder, the garden club is casual. We encourage both established and beginning gardeners to join us for sharing ideas and garden camaraderie. We also enjoy breakfast and lunch outings together.

If you have questions or are interested in becoming a member this year, please contact Cheryl Foley at cheryl.foley@gmail.com or call or text 262-598-6121.




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Arbor Day is an annual holiday dedicated to planting, nurturing, and celebrating trees. Overall, the day provides the goal of encouraging communities to improve their environment. The date focuses on the future, which includes promoting trees for clean air, shade, and ecology. This year, it was observed on Friday, April 24, 2026.

The Village of Wind Point is a designated **Tree City USA** community. This designation highlights the Village's commitment to urban forestry, including maintaining and caring for our public trees and holding annual Arbor Day celebrations

This year, the Village planted two new trees. The first tree, a *Spring Flurry Serviceberry*, has now been planted on the west side of the Foghorn building on the Lighthouse grounds. The second tree, an *Ivory Silk Tree Lilac*, has been planted on the east side of Village Green Park.



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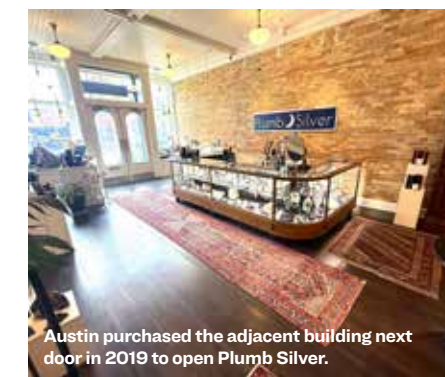


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Plumb Gold has been providing Wind Point and the Racine area with beautiful, distinctive jewelry since 1976. The name Plumb Gold comes from the term for pure or calibrated gold which is otherwise known as “plumb”. Plumb Gold is a full-service jewelry store with ready-to-wear jewelry, GIA graded diamonds, hand-picked colored gemstones, and exclusive designer collections. While Plumb Gold is best known for custom design, the store contains gorgeous items in a broad range of styles and price points. This year represents a very special celebratory 50 year ‘golden’ anniversary milestone for the store.

Austin Schultz, the owner of Plumb Gold, shares his thoughts on this special 50-year milestone. He states, “This anniversary means a great deal. I have

spent my entire career in this store. I started working here as a teenager in 2002 while in high school, and interned here during college. I earned my Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Metalsmithing and Jewelry Design (Miami University of Ohio), and then moved back here full time in 2009. There is a lot of history here, and from someone who has worked here for such a long period of time, I understand the importance of that history. It is important that I honor Judy Olsen, who started Plumb Gold; she was not only an artist but someone who became a very special friend and mentor to me. I think it is significant to recognize what we have done over these last ten years during my personal ownership of the business but also to look forward to the future.”

Austin officially bought Plumb Gold in November 2015, and then the actual building in 2017. He then purchased the adjacent building next door in 2019 to open Plumb Silver.

So how did all of this originally begin? Austin states, “Judy Olsen was my Sunday school teacher back in the day, and her daughter and I were the same age. Judy recognized that I was an artist and enjoyed design. She gave me an opportunity to work here which, looking back, was truly a watershed, life-changing moment. I remember that I immediately came into this business with a strong passion for it. This is a very happy business as we guide people who are in some of the best moments of their lives. It is an honor to be a small part of these moments with our customers. I am

truly grateful for the opportunity that Judy provided me. I think that she would be very happy to see that her legacy continues on, with my own personal touches, which have carried us to this special 50-year milestone.”

Austin discusses the evolution and changes that have taken place over the years. “The jewelry industry is a very traditional industry. At the same time, I always like to say, ‘We honor our history, but we do not rely on it.’

All businesses need to keep moving, pivoting, and evolving. When the pandemic happened, it forced us to make some changes and to think about things more creatively. For example, we never had an E-commerce website before that period of time. Kat (Kathryn Klomp), our manager who has been here since 2012,

spearheaded the website project. She and the whole team worked on it and they were able to get it up and running. It is a constant work in progress and has been very successful. Many of our customers use the website as a wish-listing and pre-shopping tool.”

Plumb Gold has always focused on quality. Austin explains, “We set ourselves apart from other jewelers because our quality is excellent. One of my favorite phrases is ‘Quality is appreciated long after price is forgotten.’ We design pieces to last a lifetime and then some. We also specialize in colored gemstones which a lot of jewelers do not. We have an expertise in this category and I can attribute this valuable knowledge and eye for quality to what I learned from Judy. We certainly carry diamonds, and they

are beautiful, and there is a lot out there in the jewelry industry. Our jewelry is customized, individual, and innovative.”

In addition to consistent quality, the customer service offered at Plumb Gold is always truly above-and-beyond. Earning Trust and developing local relationships represent the foundation of success. Austin reflects, “It is rewarding to receive comments and notes from our customers who appreciate our service. For example, the other day we found an earring on the floor in the store. We looked into the database of all our customers and were able to pinpoint through the style number who had purchased this specific earring. We contacted the customer who had lost the earring. She was so grateful and wrote us a note that said something like ‘This level of personalized service is



Austin: "I am very grateful to our community for their consistent support. I am grateful for our team."

why you continue to be so successful.' I really appreciate that she took the time to understand what we did and put into words how much we care about our customers. Our goal is to achieve 'Beyond Jewelry', meaning it is so much more than the jewelry piece itself, but also about the entire experience."

Austin credits his professional and long tenured team for much of their success. "Our team is made up of two GIA graduate gemologists, one of whom spent years working for Tiffany and Company in New York City. We also have three other GIA accredited staff. We have goldsmiths, graphic artists, designers, and stylists. We have varied creative backgrounds but all view jewelry through an artistic and tasteful eye, and always with an attention to beauty, quality, and originality. I am so thankful for my entire team; they are truly the stars of the show."

Plumb Gold has always been locally owned, and Austin strongly believes that part of being local is giving back. "I believe it is extremely important to set an

example of giving back to this community which has offered me a career and a village of support." Last year, Austin organized a fundraiser for the Racine County Food Bank which tied into his 40th birthday where nearly \$12,000 was raised.

This year, to honor 50 years of Plumb Gold in Racine, Austin has partnered with the United Way of Racine County in an effort to raise \$50,000 for three specific organizations which are performing transformative work. These include: Housing Resources, Inc., Racine / Kenosha Vocational Ministry, and NAMI Racine. Plumb Gold was proud to launch this

initiative with a seed gift of \$5,000. Participants can write a check to United Way of Racine County (UWRC) and either mail it or drop it off at Plumb Gold or UWRC at Domanik Drive. Another option is to use the QR code contained in this article.

Austin would like to share this message with the Wind Point and greater Racine area. "I am very grateful to our community for their consistent support. I am grateful for our team. This 50th year is a wonderful milestone and reason to celebrate. We continue to move forward and future is bright!"

For more information or upcoming special events at Plumb Gold Ltd., please visit their website at [plumbgoldjewelry.com](http://plumbgoldjewelry.com) or stop by and visit Austin and his team at their beautiful, historic downtown location.



Plumb Gold has partnered with the United Way of Racine County in an effort to raise \$50,000.



“ Our goal is to achieve 'Beyond Jewelry', meaning it is so much more than the jewelry piece itself, but also about the entire experience. ”



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Here are three simple, hydrating recipes to get your mixology started:

- **STRAWBERRY BASIL COOLER:** Muddle a handful of fresh strawberries and 3-4 basil leaves in the bottom of a glass. Fill with ice and top with sparkling lemon water. The basil adds a surprising, peppery lift to the sweet strawberries.
- **RASPBERRY ROSEMARY FIZZ:** In a small saucepan, simmer a cup of raspberries, a few sprigs of rosemary, and a splash of water until the berries break down. Strain the mixture to create a simple syrup. To serve, add a tablespoon of the syrup to a glass filled with ice and top with plain sparkling water.
- **BLUEBERRY MINT MOJITO (NO-JITO!):** This is a classic twist. Muddle fresh mint and blueberries with a teaspoon of lime juice. Add crushed ice and top with club soda.

# Berry Good Mocktails

Beat the summer heat with these seasonal faux cocktails. BY CAROLINE EDWARDS

**MIXING AND PRESENTATION TIPS:** To elevate your mocktail, use large ice cubes or frozen fruit instead of small, fast-melting cubes. Always "muddle" herbs and fruits gently to release their flavor without making them bitter. Finally, use beautiful glassware and garnish generously with fresh herb sprigs or lime wedges for a professional, eye-catching finish.



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# What Can I Do About Summer Allergies?

While we all enjoy the warmer temperatures and green lawns and trees, there is more to summer. All of those budding trees, bushes, and grasses bring pollen which can create significant issues.

If you are dealing with red, itchy, watering eyes at this time, don't just deal with it. See an eye doctor for relief!

Contact lenses can also become less comfortable during this time too, and there are Rx medications and better contact lens designs for people who have allergies and wear contacts.

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|------------|-----------|
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| AMETHYST   | OPAL      |
| AQUAMARINE | PEARL     |
| CRYSTAL    | PERIDOT   |
| DIAMOND    | RUBY      |
| EMERALD    | SAPPHIRE  |
| GARNET     | TANZANITE |
| HEMATITE   | TOPAZ     |
| JADE       | TURQUOISE |

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R Z Q T E A N A Q N A O R A T  
J Z U U R R N Y O N B M P D I  
V N A N A Z I M X L Z T C E T  
F Z E P A M A D K C U U R L A  
O T M N O I A T O U E R Y W M  
D B I J D T T R H T P Q S Y E  
P T D Z E I X X I T B U T A H  
E E E M E R A L D N R O A N E  
L R A E P K I Z N G E I L G H  
O P A L B J F H V M B S K K T  
T S Y H T E M A P Y M E K Q R  
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## 2026 Lighthouse Tower Climb Dates

*A must on every Wind Pointer's bucket list!*

The Wind Point Lighthouse Public Tours will take place on the following dates:

- Sunday, June 7- 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
- Sunday, July 5- 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
- Sunday, August 2- 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
- Sunday, September 6- 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
- Sunday, October 4- 9:00 am- 3:00 pm

Tours start every half hour. The cost for tower climbs is \$12 for adults and \$6.00 for children (Ages 6-11). Walk-ups are welcome; however, we recommend that you pre-purchase tickets in advance to make sure that you secure a spot. Pre-purchase tickets can be found on Eventbrite.

If these dates do not work for you, consider setting up a private tower climb. Contact the Lighthouse Keepers for any questions or for more information at 262-639-3777 or [lhkeeper@windpoint.org](mailto:lhkeeper@windpoint.org).

### CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

If you are interested in getting involved at the lighthouse as a volunteer, please contact the Lighthouse Keepers! Extra help is needed to coordinate tours – if going up the tower isn't your thing, we also have a need for people at the ground level to greet and register guests. Light lunch and refreshments are provided on tour dates. Contact 262-639-3777 or [lhkeeper@windpoint.org](mailto:lhkeeper@windpoint.org)

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# JUNE 2026

## Village News and Notes

### DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know you can sign up for alerts on the Village website? These notifications keep you informed about what's happening in the Village, from alerts on what is happening in the Village, and updates to important emergency alerts.

You can choose to receive notifications via text, email, or both, making it easy to stay connected in the way that works best for you. These are good ways to stay up to date on the 4-Mile Road project: by checking the website for alerts.

These alerts are especially crucial during emergencies or situations that may impact the Village, so don't miss out. Sign up today and stay in the loop! Sign up on the website today at: [windpoint.org](http://windpoint.org)

### KEEP GRASS OFF THE STREET!

With warmer days and sunshine, lawn mowing season is here. Please ensure that when you or a contractor mows your yard, your grass clippings go into a bagger system or back into your yard and not into the street.

You may have never thought about it, but grass clippings can act as a sheet of ice for cyclists in the middle of the summer. Grass clippings in the street provide a slippery surface for bicycle and motorcycle riders, making it a riding hazard. Let's keep our roadways safe for all our riders!

### GARLIC MUSTARD INFORMATION

Garlic mustard is a European woodland plant introduced to North America by early settlers. Garlic mustard starts growing earlier in the season than native plants in Wisconsin and outcompetes them. It also produces large quantities of seed, resulting in it rapidly spreading in wooded areas.

Many of our yards are playing host to garlic mustard. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources recommends hand-pulling at or before the onset of flowering. You may also try to control infestations with a 1-2% active ingredient solution of glyphosate, but beware that this solution will kill other plants too. Apply and use the safety measures listed on the product label.

To dispose of garlic mustard, place the plants in their own separate sealed garbage bags and place them in your regular garbage cart. If you have more bags than the cart can fit, you can arrange a special pickup with Johns Disposal.

### NEED MULCH?

Residents can request excess wood chips from the branch collection to use for landscaping. Requests must now be submitted by completing the form at the Village Office. Chips will be delivered after collection in the order they were requested (based on availability). Chips cannot be picked up from the public works yard.



### SAFETY TIPS FROM CHIEF SHARRETT

#### HOME SAFETY TIPS

- Install lighting, such as motion lights or dusk-to-dawn detector lights, on your home's exterior.
- Trim shrubbery around your home to eliminate hiding places.
- Your address should be clearly visible from the street for emergency and identification purposes.
- Close and lock your garage door when you are not nearby. Place valuables stored in the garage in a locking device not visible from the street when the garage door is open.
- Do not leave bikes unattended. Lock your bikes, even if you are going to be away for only a few moments.
- If you sleep on the second floor of your home, keep all first-floor doors and windows closed and locked.

#### VEHICLE SAFETY TIPS

- Always lock your doors and roll up your windows when you leave your car. Make sure to take your keys with you.
- Do not leave valuables in the car. If you must leave possessions in your vehicle, keep them out of sight or hidden in the trunk.
- Before you get into your car, check the backseat and around the car. Lock your doors once inside the car.

#### VACATION TIPS

- If you are going out of town, you can notify the Wind Point Police Department and set up a vacant house watch.
- Make sure your home is locked up and secure.
- Stop your mail or have family/friends retrieve it for you.
- Set a light on a timer inside your home to create the appearance of activity inside.
- Exterior motion sensor lighting can aid in deterring crime.
- Keep valuables away from public view through a window, etc.
- Do not discuss vacation plans in public or on social media.

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SAVE THE DATE



**M**ark your calendars for the first summer Wind Point Family Fun Day! This will take place at the lighthouse grounds on Sunday, August 23, 2026, from 1:00pm to 4:00pm.

We will have live music performed by The Kal Bergendahl Project (KBP), who played in Wind Point last summer at Village Green. KBP is a six-piece instrumental jazz-funk band. Groove and melodic hooks are woven in their deeply focused musical landscape of Jazz-Funk, R&B and Soul.

We will also have food trucks on site as well as a bouncy house, and various yard games.

Face painting and balloon animals will be offered, and plan to have an educational animal encounter with our friends at Racine Zoo.

If you would like to assist, please email the Wind Point Community Club at: [windpointcommunityclub2024@gmail.com](mailto:windpointcommunityclub2024@gmail.com)

## Wind Point Family Fun Day!

Sunday, August 23 2026 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

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Mark your calendars for **Kickoff on Aug. 19** and **Days of Caring on Sept. 16 & 26**, and let us know you're interested in one or both. Get early details on how to get involved!

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## Final Reflections

BY TRAVIS WELLS

When I first arrived in Wind Point in May 2024, I didn't fully know what to expect. This quickly became one of the most meaningful and first administration experiences in my career.

Wind Point has a remarkable civic identity. Residents are engaged, the board is thoughtful, and the staff is genuinely dedicated to the people they serve. What surprised me most was how much weight each decision carries in a community of this size. Every budget line, every infrastructure project, every meeting, every email, every conversation with the public, every policy discussion is

personal, and the community holds you accountable in a way that makes you better at your job. It really touched me in the moments I met with members of the public. Through this process, I have met so many remarkable and skilled people.

In just under two years, we accomplished more than I anticipated when I walked through the door. Rolling out the Four Mile Road construction project was a complex undertaking that required careful coordination, community patience, and long-range planning. To see it come together is deeply gratifying. Earning the Government Finance

Officers Association Distinguished Budget Award not once, but two years running, affirmed that our team was bringing real attention and discipline to how we managed public dollars.

Becoming a Tree City USA Community was another proud moment, one that speaks to Wind Point's character as a place that values its natural surroundings. So, when the May 2025 wind storm hit, securing natural disaster aid for residents reminded me why this work matters: when people are vulnerable, local government either shows up or it doesn't. We showed up, worked as a team with other communities, while saving the community money at the same time.

Updating the village's Outdoor Recreation Plan and launching a new village website may sound like administrative housekeeping, but both represent something bigger, a commitment to modernizing how Wind Point serves and communicates with its residents for years to come.

Leadership in a small community strip away a lot of the noise that can distort priorities elsewhere. You learn to listen differently. A question after a board meeting carries the same weight as a formal public comment, sometimes more. I leave Wind Point a sharper administrator and a more grounded public servant because of that.

The relationships I've built with board members and staff are ones I genuinely treasure. These are people who care deeply about where they live and work, and serving alongside them has been a privilege and opportunity I will never forget.

The values I honed in Wind Point such as fiscal discipline, community engagement, and transparent governance, will always help me.

Wind Point is in good hands. The board is strong, the staff is capable, and the community's foundation is solid. My time here has reminded me so many times why I chose public service in the first place. I am sad to leave the people I've met, and I'm grateful for every moment of this experience.

Best,

Travis

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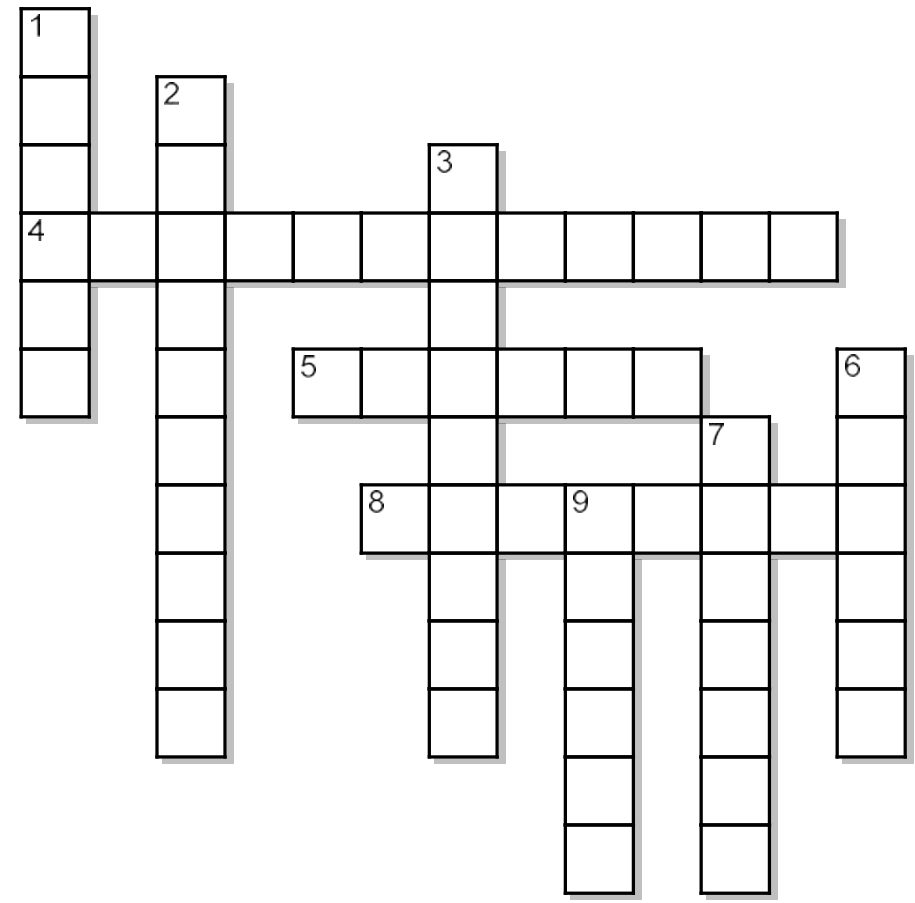
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# JUNE 2026

## Wind Point Crossword Puzzle

All of the answers to these clues are found within the pages of your personal June 2026 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](mailto:gary@strollwindpointmagazine.com) will receive a \$25 gift card to REEFPOINT BREW HOUSE!

### ACROSS

- 4. A *Spring Flurry* \_\_\_\_\_ was planted by the Fog Horn Building
- 5. The local owner of Plumb Gold. LTD
- 8. The 2026 “Peeples” Choice Award Winner: *Peepal* \_\_\_\_\_

### DOWN

- 1. He is a poet and musician
- 2. Purchase your Wind Point Kingfish tickets here
- 3. The theme of this month’s Word Search
- 6. Wind Point “Wags & \_\_\_\_\_” Parade is June 30
- 7. Thomas’s third album is titled: \_\_\_\_\_ *On My Mind*
- 9. Contact \_\_\_\_\_ about the Wind Point Garden Club

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# REAL ESTATE RESOURCE

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.

Source: Multiple Listing Service (as of: 4/30/2026)

Address	Neighborhood	List Price	Sale Price	Beds	Baths	SqFt	Status
130 Lamplighter Lane	Single Family	\$989,900		5	6.5	6,430	Active
7 Sprucewood Court	Single Family	\$600,000		4	3.5	3,266	Active
78 Woodfield Court	Condominium	\$369,900		3	3.5	2,315	Active w/offer
5022 Valley Trail	Single Family	\$479,000		3	1.5	2,148	Active w/offer
10 Lamplighter Lane	Single Family	\$799,900		4	2.5	3,782	Active w/offer
4590 James Avenue	Single Family	\$349,000	\$375,000	3	2	2,690	Sold
1 Birchwood Court	Single Family	\$389,000	\$370,000	4	2.5	2,582	Sold



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