



The best donuts around? Cranky Al's in Wauwatosa gets our vote.



Our guide to everything awesome in Milwaukee...



BEST OF THE

Burbs



but not, you know, in Milwaukee.

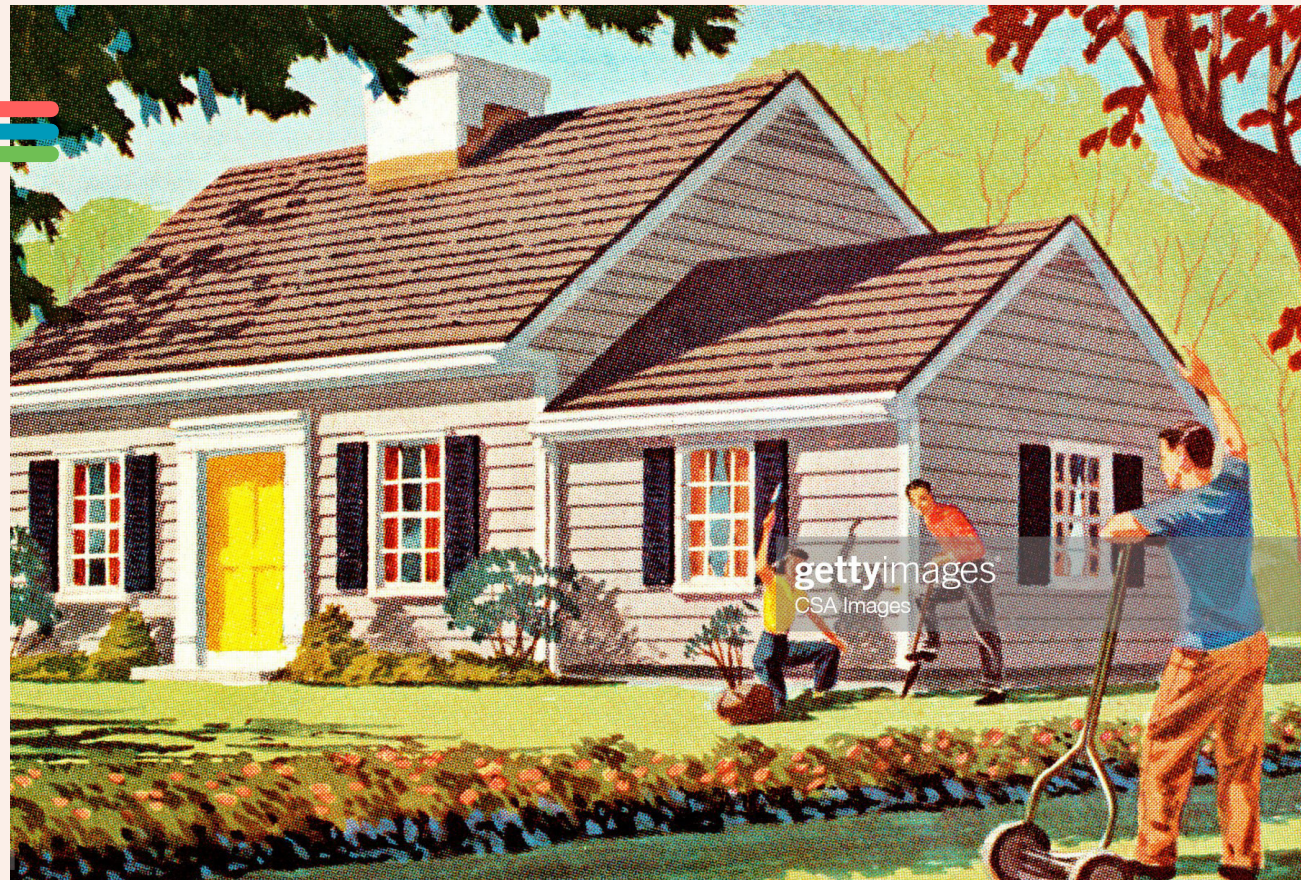
By ANN CHRISTENSON, ALLI WATTERS, CHRIS DROSNER, ASHLEY ABRAMSON LAURA BENGs, KRISTINE HANSEN, CHELSEA MAMEROW and RICH ROVITO

Photo by Matt Haas



Buckle up and let's go!





What Actually Is a Suburb?

By **ASHLEY ABRAMSON**

WHEN MY FAMILY AND I relocated from Minneapolis, we wanted to settle in a suburb that felt like a city. Whitefish Bay fit the bill. In 15 minutes, we can walk to almost everything we need – even a beer garden – and on a good day, we can venture Downtown in that much time. Yet our tiny Cape Cod sits on a lot just big enough to accommodate a kids’ playset. And the property taxes? Painful, but not unbearable (largely thanks to said beer garden).

To me, the Bay is just city enough to keep life fun, and just suburban enough to keep it quiet. For an Ozaukee County resident, though, the constant whoosh of traffic from the highway a half a mile from my house

may not feel “suburban” at all – and for someone from Lake Country, my street probably feels downright urban.

The dictionary definition is fairly obvious: While an urban area has a denser population, a suburb is a “district lying immediately outside a city or town, especially a smaller residential community.” So, theoretically, anything in Milwaukee’s orbit could count as suburban.

But in the real world, it’s a much trickier concept, says Ivy Hu, a professor at UW-Milwaukee’s school of architecture and urban planning. For example, a few blocks away from my house is Milwaukee. Turn one corner and you’re in Glendale, and another, and you’re back in Whitefish Bay. These areas have different addresses, but they feel the same – high-traffic streets lined with mature trees and small, World War II-era homes. And nearby Shorewood, technically outside city limits, doesn’t feel suburban at all; it’s just as densely developed as much of Milwaukee.

More than the arbitrary lines separating them from Milwaukee proper, Hu says, suburbs are about shared values. “A lot of people don’t have a choice, but many

of us choose a community that meets our different preferences and financial abilities.”

Mike Hallquist, a Brookfield alderman, says he sees suburban life as slower and more connected. “The way that the community collates and engages is a little different than the city,” he says. “You have your big four-day church festivals, Packer parties, people socializing at the local town bar and fish fry.” Suburban communities often have distinct identities more akin to city neighborhoods: As you have a Walker’s Point festival, you have a Grafton parade.

Of course, all these perks come with a cost: You’re farther from the city, and maybe your job, and you’re probably going to depend on a car.

But even what counts as a “cost” is elusive. For Hallquist, who grew up in Hartland, a good 40 minutes from the center of Milwaukee, Brookfield feels city-adjacent. “Cutting that 15 minutes down to be Downtown is a huge difference,” he says. “It’s relative to what you’re used to or expecting.”

Just like people and their values or expectations, communities ebb and flow, too. At the turn of the 20th century, Whitefish Bay was a tourist destination outside the city, while Mequon was basically rural. These communities evolved along with society, and the suburbs expanded farther away from Milwaukee – and now places like Shorewood and West Allis feel so urban that we questioned whether to include such closer-in communities in this feature. (We opted for inclusion.)

All that is to say: City limits aside, it seems “suburb” is in the eye of the beholder. I pressed Hu at the end of our conversation, hoping for a more satisfying answer, but she didn’t fold. “I seriously can’t give an answer,” she said. “Readers should define ‘suburb’ for themselves.”

PHOTOS: BY GETTY IMAGES (NEIGHBORS); ALAMY (OPPOSITE PAGE)

THE MINORITY VIEW



The experiences of people of color in Milwaukee’s suburbs

THE SUBURBS MAY HAVE a reputation as a haven for white flight, but as people from all backgrounds prioritize suburban amenities, Milwaukee’s have only grown more diverse. Census data show Waukesha, Ozaukee and Washington’s diverse populations grew significantly between 2010 and 2020, adding more than 33,000 people of color collectively and pushing their nonwhite population to between 9% and 11% of those counties’ totals. (That figure was about half for Milwaukee County.) Still, those minority residents say they don’t always feel welcome, and many face outright discrimination in their mostly white environments. We asked five people of color to share their experiences living in the Milwaukee suburbs.

Carl Brown, Menomonee Falls

Founder, Fresh Coast Jazz Festival

I never expected I’d live in the Falls, but we moved here for the Sussex schools. I’m concerned about my daughter being the recipient of discrimination, and sometimes, when we’re out, people look at us like, “Are you lost?” Our friends jokingly ask why we’d subject ourselves to this, but I’ve gotten so used to it that I shake my head and keep moving. It’s not all bad. We have great friends here who happen to be white, and it doesn’t matter at all.

Josseline Castillo, Waukesha

Artist

I wish I lived in a more diverse area. I grew up in Honduras, and now most of my neighbors are white. There’s an area of town with some Mexican restaurants and stores, and I go there when I feel overwhelmed to find some comfort and speak Spanish with the employees. Once, at a local grocery store, a woman in line was struggling to speak English, and the cashier wasn’t being nice. After I helped her, I sat in the car and cried, realizing that could happen to my own mom.

Maysee Herr, Germantown

CEO, Hmong Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce

We assumed our subdivision wouldn’t be diverse when we moved here last year, but we’ve been pleasantly surprised. We have a couple of Asian families living around us, and white folks have been nice. At my son’s school, people who work in the building sometimes seem hesitant to approach me, but I haven’t experienced outright discrimination living here. I’ve been very careful in public, especially

at the start of the pandemic with all the racial tension. I hope in the future we can all be ourselves and claim our identities without feeling ashamed.

Chauna Perry Finch, Greendale

Restorative practices supervisor, Milwaukee Public Schools

When we lived in the city, my family and I sometimes saw things that weighed on our spirits. Here, we don’t see people stumbling on the street, but we also don’t have a sense of community. People don’t really talk to each other where I live. Before, neighbors having a barbecue would bring a plate for us. Discrimination sometimes comes up when I go out. My family went to a restaurant, and the man greeting everyone else didn’t greet us. Those microaggressions make us feel unwanted. I’m hoping to move back to Milwaukee, where there’s more of a natural feel of acceptance.

Mushir Hassan, Brookfield

Internal medicine physician

Brookfield has become a lot more diverse since I moved here in the late ‘90s. Coming from an Asian background, strong schools are a priority, so the Asian-American population here has grown. It’s also become more progressive, but I’d like it to continue moving that way. I joined the school board in 2020 and began working toward a diversity and equity inclusion plan. It wasn’t approved, and we faced accusations we were pushing critical race theory. When I was pushing for masking at school, one lady said I was pushing my religious beliefs and shouldn’t be in charge because I’m Muslim. But these people don’t represent the whole city. There are also people who want to do the right thing.

TO THE North

BAYSIDE, BROWN DEER, BUTLER, CEDARBURG, FOX POINT, GERMANTOWN, GLENDALE, GRAFTON, MEQUON, MENOMONEE FALLS, RIVER HILLS, SHOREWOOD, THIENSVILLE, WHITEFISH BAY

Burb Bite

In 1944, the then-rural community of Germantown hosted Camp Rockfield, a two-year home for 500 German prisoners of war.



Where to Eat

Cloud Red

Standard bar fare is not how this 6-year-old rolls. Cloud Red is cloud nine for fresh, from-scratch food, some of which leans veg-heavy and healthyish, while some goes full-on comfort. Diners – who place their orders at the buzzing bar – hit the jackpot with plates ranging from pulled pork nachos to the Indian potato-cucumber bhel bowl. And the weekly specials, including seasonal soups and flatbreads, are often outstanding. 4488 N. Oakland Ave., Shorewood

Brandywine

Named after a type of heirloom tomato, this chef-owned enterprise is particularly deft with its handmade pastas, but you really can't go wrong with a seasonal small or large plate, especially if it's beef carpaccio or seared fresh fish. The restored 1862 storefront oozes with historic Cedarburg charm, while the plates have big-city panache. W61 N480 Washington Ave., Cedarburg

Crave Cafe

This little counter-service eatery is mostly focused on burgers – and what burgers they are. Weighing in at a respectable one-third pound, the patty is perhaps at its best slathered in Korean BBQ glaze, American cheese, spicy mayo, kimchi and cabbage slaw. But then there's the Crave burger, which slays with its toppings of melted Swiss cheese, caramelized onion, arugula and white truffle aioli. The crispy seasoned fries are excellent, too. 3592 N. Oakland Ave., Shorewood

Daily Taco & Cantina

The owners of (currently shuttered) Nepalese restaurant The Cheel opened this terrific homage to the tortilla in late 2020. Whether you order a taco, burrito, bowl, etc., it's the protein choices that give it gusto, particularly the lamb birria (stew) served with dipping consommé. They also offer five kinds of salsa – which makes eating chips and salsa a real treat – along with deliciously tart, fresh margaritas. 105 W. Freistadt Rd., Thiensville

Café 1505

Tucked inside the East Towne Square Mall, this longstanding breakfast-lunch spot offers great omelets, quiche and specialty pancakes, plus ace sandwiches and soup of the day. Don't miss baked goods such as ooey gooey cinnamon rolls and sunshine buns. 1505 W. Mequon Rd., Mequon

Where to Shop

Larry's Market

Sure, many supermarkets are putting more effort into their cheese sections, but there's still no place quite like Larry's. It's not just that the artisan cheese counter in this intimate, friendly shop is stocked with wheels of small-batch dairy divinities from near and far, but everything is so meticulously labeled (with sampling encouraged!), you know it was created by someone whose love and knowledge of cheeses is at the expert level. And you'll find everything else you need to create an outstanding charcuterie board that will please even the most discriminating gourmand. 8737 N. Deerwood Dr., Brown Deer

Faye's

Faye's has been around 31 years, but it is always current. The inventory is curated with a very discerning eye, meaning that every piece is on-trend. Plus, the sales team is so helpful, it's like having your own private stylist. East Towne Square Mall, 1505 W. Mequon Rd., Mequon

Bayside Garden Center

Need a vacation? Wander the greenhouses at Bayside Garden Center, where the houseplant selection is unmatched. Whether you're looking for familiar favorites or exotic species, you'll be hard-pressed to find a better array of greenery in the Milwaukee area. Plus, the staff are friendly and knowledgeable. 400 E. Brown Deer Rd., Bayside

Fifth-Main

For pre-owned designer capital-L luxury apparel, Fifth-Main is the place. The prices are steep, but these are collectibles, not plain old used clothes! (Think Oscar De La Renta, Alexander McQueen and Givenchy.) The items are so beautiful that it's worth a visit even if only to look and dream. 174 S. Main St., Thiensville



Faye's

Beat of the Burbs

THREE CELLARS (Menomonee Falls) The best beer selection out here. **KATHERINE KEARNEY CARPENTER PARK** (Mequon) Just try not to cry at this dog park's Rainbow Bridge. **THE WORKROOM** (Shorewood) Fabric stars at this home decor shop. **SCOUT WINE MERCHANTS** (Shorewood) Belly up to the bar for a snack board. **ALLY'S BISTRO** (Menomonee Falls) Those frosted cinnamon rolls – yow! **LION'S DEN GORGE NATURE PRESERVE** (Grafton) A short hike magically transports you to the Oregon coast

Fox Point Rec: The Calderone Club on Port Washington and Bradley is great for dining and take-out. I love everything on their authentic Italian menu, but I often order the pizza.

Why I Live Here
Kendra Whitlock Ingram
 President and CEO, Marcus Center for the Performing Arts
 Fox Point

MOVING HERE FROM DENVER, I knew I wanted to live in an area with plenty of nature. I love city living, but when my husband and I started thinking about where we wanted to end up, Fox Point fit the bill.

When we started looking for a home in 2021, we wanted an environment we'd enjoy coming home to each day. We found a home with a big backyard, where the previous owners had cultivated bluebirds coming to the feeder. (Now, I've gotten into it, too.)

The area is very walkable and bikeable, and everyone's always outside, especially in the summer. We've also got the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center nearby, which has awesome trails – plus, the lake is so close.

Fox Point is a nature-lover's dream, but it also has plenty of amenities. We have lots of great retail and restaurants, and Mequon and Milwaukee are close by if we need to venture out. We were lucky to find something with everything we wanted from a quality-of-life standpoint.



DOWNTOWN WE LOVE

Cedarburg

ONE INDICATOR YOU'RE in Cedarburg? All the limestone and Cream City brick structures. These date back to the mid-1800s when immigrants constructed Italianate-style buildings along Washington Avenue. What was once a dirt road is now a vibrant downtown. The cobbler and woolen mill – just two examples of past businesses – have been replaced by pizza parlors and antiques shops. But the Greek Revival-style Cedarburg Mill still stands proud, showing off its 1855 roots and perched above Cedar Creek, which flows into the Milwaukee River. A few blocks north, sip locally made Cedar Creek Winery wine in another historic structure: Cedar Creek Settlement. Or catch a first-run feature film at the single-screen Rivoli Theatre, which was built in 1936, though its striking art deco facade and sign date to a 2007 renovation.

Can't Miss Pick: Mimicking a general store, Frannie's Market stocks pantry staples, plus cheese and charcuterie, but also carries fun and fancy items for the home, such as reclaimed-wood coffee spoons hand-carved by Guatemalan artisans. Or learn to create a terrarium in one of its classes. W61 N486 Washington Ave.

Suburb Surprise

Here's a feel-good pilgrimage to make this summer: Head to **Lannon Sunflower Farm** for sunflowers you pick yourself. Simply strolling through the sea of towering Helianthus is therapeutic. Customers can pick up to a dozen for \$20, cash only, and must bring their own clippers and container. The season usually runs from late July/early August to early fall. W204 N8525 Lannon Rd., Menomonee Falls

THE CREAMY PIG (Cedarburg) Homemade sausage and frozen custard, a holy alliance. **PASTICHE BISTRO & WINE BAR** (Brown Deer) Snails and cassoulet, ooh la la. **OLSON HOUSE** (Shorewood) Scandi home decor goods you won't

find elsewhere. **GLACIER HILLS COUNTY PARK** (Hubertus) A stunning view of Friess Lake, a big puddle left by a receding glacier. **FOXTOWN BREWING** (Mequon) Don't miss the beer cave tour. **KLETZSCH PARK** (Glendale) Waterfall = natural photo opp. **JOHNNY MANHATTAN'S** (Hubertus) It's all about the steaks. **ST. PAUL FISH CO.** (Mequon) Rock the lobster roll. **TOMASO'S** (Cedarburg) Thin-crust pizzas distinguished by cheese applied under the sauce. **ZARLETTI** (Mequon) The wood-roasted pizza with garlic cream sauce is *buono*. **COCOA TREE CONFECTIONERY** (Mequon) Salted. Caramel. Bonbons.

More Reasons to Go

Ozaukee Interurban Trail

From 1907 to 1951, the Interurban Electric Railway route zipped from Mequon to Belgium. Now it's a blissful, car-free 30-mile paved bicycle trail whose pit stops include Inventors Brewpub in Port Washington, with its poutine, burgers and house-brewed beer.

Schlitz Audubon Nature Center

Hugging Lake Michigan's shoreline in a residential neighborhood, this 185-acre park boasts 6 miles of hiking trails through wetlands, forests and prairies. Birders flock here – pun intended – with binoculars, on the hunt for the 238 species documented on the grounds since 1974. 1111 E. Brown Deer Rd., Bayside

Lynden Sculpture Garden

If an outdoor art museum's your utopia, lace up your hiking boots for a jaunt through this 40-acre garden – Peg and Harry Bradley's former home – with 50 works by sculptors like Mark di Suvero and Alexander Archipenko. The first Sunday of each month (excluding winter) features guided tours. 2145 W. Brown Deer Rd., River Hills

The Hounds & Tap

Pups and people roam freely at this indoor/outdoor dog park and tavern. It breeds community, pampering humans with bar service, TVs, wifi and food trucks and the pooches with pools, play equipment, fresh water and 5,500 square feet of open air. The business also offers daycare, boarding and grooming for dogs. W175 N5645 Technology Dr., Menomonee Falls



Throwbacks Winkie's

A big-box store may have a larger selection, but the whimsy and nostalgia of Winkie's in downtown Whitefish Bay are enough to make a trip. Downstairs, parse the aisles of toys, games, sports equipment, school and art supplies for kids of all ages (gift-wrapping is always free). Upstairs at the Hallmark, you'll find a large selection of greeting cards and keepsakes. 629 E. Silver Spring Dr., Whitefish Bay

Mary Nohl House

Making a pilgrimage to see the Mary Nohl house on Fox Point's quiet Beach Road has long been a rite of passage for Milwaukee-area art aficionados. The reclusive, prolific artist created a striking world of art (some sculptures figural and life-sized) in her lakeside yard and home – a world of concrete and found objects so otherworldly that Nohl was dubbed “the Witch of Fox Point.” The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the John Michael Kohler Arts Center continues to work to preserve the important site, but the property is not open to the public. A better way to view Nohl's work is to pay a visit



The Hounds & Tap

Burb Bite

Academy Award-winning British actor (2015's *Bridge of Spies*) Mark Rylance – then known as Mark Waters – attended University School of Milwaukee in River Hills during his father's tenure as English teacher.



Mary Nohl House



Winkie's

to Art Preserve of the John Michael Kohler Arts Center in Sheboygan. 7328 N. Beach Dr., Fox Point

Fox Point Community Pool

Looking for a place to cool down on a hot summer day? Grab your folding chair and head to the Fox Point pool. There are lap lanes available for those wanting some exercise, and plenty of space to just relax and enjoy the water. For just \$10, you get a whole day of chillaxation. 7040 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Fox Point

The Garcade

There's no better way to burn a rainy afternoon with a couple of 10-year-olds than plunking down for the all-day, come-and-go access to Gar Nelson's Menomonee Falls arcade. At your free-play disposal are more than 175 games, from *Galaga* to *Dance Dance Revolution* to an awesome array of ultramodern and super-vintage pinball tables. When you and the kids need a break, plenty of dining options are just a quick jaunt away before you stop back for a nightcap. Game on! N85 W15920 Appleton Ave., Menomonee Falls

PHOTOS: BY ALAMY (CEDARBURG); MEGHAN WHAN (WINKIE'S); COURTESY OF JOHN MICHAEL KOHLER ARTS CENTER (MARY NOHL HOUSE); VISIT MILWAUKEE (SCHLITZ AUDUBON NATURE CENTER); THE HOUNDS & TAP

TO THE West

BROOKFIELD,
ELM GROVE,
LAKE
COUNTRY,
PEWAUKEE,
WAUKESHA,
WAUWATOSA,
WEST ALLIS,
WEST
MILWAUKEE

Where to Eat

Artisan 179

Bookmark this fine dining locale the next time you really want to impress someone. As the setting sun sends shades of orange and red over resplendent Pewaukee Lake just outside this cozy haunt's windows, you will feel like you're on a mini culinary vacation, complete with exceptional from-scratch dishes such as pan-fried gnocchi with pesto cream and 16-ounce cider-brined Berkshire pork chop. 179 W. Wisconsin Ave., Pewaukee

Coco's Seafood & Steakhouse

Inspired by the owner's love for prime steaks and fish caught off the coast of Florida, this retro-meets-modern escape is where Lake Country folks go to feel pampered – in a white tablecloth setting that feels Lake Country relaxed. The menu has a classic steak-seafood house flavor to it, with top picks ranging from

pan-seared sea scallops with mushroom risotto to a 45-day dry-aged cowboy ribeye. 151 St. Paul St., Oconomowoc

Union House

This “country gourmet” retreat, housed in the circa-1861 former Union House Hotel, is a little outside what we'd usually consider the suburbs, but it's worth the drive. The historic space is known for superb food and staff who lead diners through the experience like they feel personally invested. This is not the night to watch your diet. Indulge in the lobster bisque, roast half-duck with spaetzle, Wagyu



PHOTOS: BY JOHN HART PHOTOGRAPHY (COCO'S SEAFOOD & STEAKHOUSE); CJ FORECKLER (PAUL BARTOLOTTA); COURTESY OF LE RÊVE; THE SMILEY BARN TOY STORE; THE CORNERS OF BROOKFIELD

Suburb Surprise

Even if the tank's full, it's worth a stop for gas at **Daybreak Mobil**. And artisan cheese. And bottles of French wine. And Strauss lamb and free-range poultry in the deli and at the butcher counter. Look for the Cape Cod-ish red-brick, two-story building with dormers. Those run-of-the-mill gas pumps are out back. 622 Genesee St., Delafield

Le Rêve Patisserie & Café



Burb Bite

Before she was a Go-Go, Jane Wiedlin was born in Oconomowoc and lived in West Allis. The future pop star and her family lit out for LA when she was 6.

steak and classic schaum torte for dessert. There's also a Tuesday-Thursday prix fixe menu that's a great deal. 542 W31320 Highway 83, Genesee Depot

Lago Su Bella

This upscale but rustic Italian joint gets its name (Italian for *On a Beautiful Lake*) from its location along scenic Lac La Belle. It's an unpretentious spot for a glass of Tuscan red wine and a plate of spaghetti and meatballs, or a negroni cocktail and the roasted branzino with limoncello caper sauce. The ricotta gnocchi with Italian sausage tossed in Gorgonzola cream sauce isn't labeled a house specialty, but it should be. 128 W. Wisconsin Ave., Oconomowoc

Le Rêve Patisserie & Café

Tosans get their coq au vin and croque monsieur on at this humming two-level French haunt. Besides serving lunch, dinner and brunch, this must-stop also makes baked goods (those croissants!) and French desserts that are truly *enchanté*. 7610 Harwood Ave., Wauwatosa

Where to Shop

DesignXchange

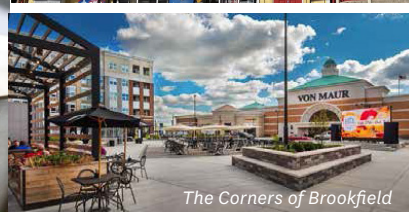
Empty your trunk before going, especially if you love one-of-a-kind finds. Consigners sell their furniture and home decor here, many of them antiques or from top brands. Store managers organize the eclectic wares in stylish scenes. The prices start high but drop each month – that is, if you're willing to gamble that someone else won't buy your prized item first. Head to Pewaukee for your porch and patio needs and Hartland for everything else. 175 Main St., Pewaukee; 600 Hartbrook Dr., Hartland

The Corners of Brookfield

Glittered with local boutiques and national retailers, including the only Von Maur department store in Wisconsin, this 5-year-old, upscale town center serves accessible luxury with a twist of small-town feel. But The Corners goes well beyond shopping, with popular dining options from Wisconsin favorites like BelAir Cantina and Café Hollander to national chains, and entertainment attractions like a live comedy club and dine-in movie theater. Its year-round special events are a consistent draw, too. 20111 W. Bluemound Rd., Brookfield

The Smiley Barn Toy Store

You'll be smiling as wide as the yellow barn when you leave this old-fashioned toy and candy store with play areas sprinkled throughout the store's collection of nostalgic and modern toys. Don't miss the second level's dedicated Playmobil-themed playroom – one of the first two in the nation (alongside New York City's famed FAO Schwarz). 2420 Milwaukee St., Delafield



Beat of the Burbs

LEDUC'S FROZEN CUSTARD (Wales) Don't cast your local custard crown without checking out this spot. **DOC'S DRY DOCK** (Pewaukee) Pizza rules, including the Mega Watt, created by football pro/pie fan J.J. Watt. **SUBURPIA** (Wauwatosa) A sub shop with great variety, even for vegetarians; don't miss the mushroom brie soup. **TOMKEN'S** (West Allis) Solid local bar with standout hot wings. **SHARON LYNNE WILSON CENTER** (Brookfield) The west metro's arts hub. **CHAMPPS AMERICANA** (Brookfield) The vast beer list drops even a beer geek's jaw. **HOYT PARK** (Wauwatosa) Pool, playground and beer garden are a potent trifecta for young parents.



Why I Live Here

Paul Bartolotta

Chef and Owner, The Bartolotta Restaurants
Wauwatosa

MY PARENTS BOUGHT a duplex on 71st Street when our family outgrew the apartment above Connie's Rumpus Room, the tavern my dad owned. He always said “home is a place you can always go back to,” and I guess he was right.

For years, I traveled between Las Vegas, Italy and Wauwatosa, and I permanently relocated here in 2018. Now, I live in that same duplex, which is owned by my sister. I have so many fond memories of growing up in this community, and returning has reminded me why I love it.

You can't beat the location, right between Lake Country and Lake Michigan, surrounded by freeways. It's also a great place to raise a family. The local leaders have done so much over the years to elevate our schools and downtown area. We've got charm, but it's also forward-thinking – like a cosmopolitan hamlet.

I commonly hear people from other areas of the city say, “We want to do what Wauwatosa's doing.” I think we set the tone for the suburbs in many ways, and it's inspiring.

Tosa Rec: My first kitchen job was at age 14 at Balistreri's Pizza on 68th and Wells; it's the kind of pizza that brings back memories of my childhood, and I'll always go there. I also love Ted's, a breakfast/burger place on North Avenue. You need to go there and order the double patty burgers with pickles and raw onions.



MANTRA INDIAN BISTRO (Oconomowoc) Perfect naan sense. **RAISED GRAIN BREWING** (Waukesha) Beer, of course, but also atmosphere and underrated food. **SMOKE ON THE WATER BBQ** (Okauchee) Tater tots smothered in Sloppy Joe meat sauce? You betcha. **ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH** (Wauwatosa) The stunning Frank Lloyd Wright design reflects the faith. **SUMMERSTAGE OF DELAFIELD** Theater without the theater – under the Lapham Peak stars.

DOWNTOWN WE LOVE Brookfield

Skip Bluemound Road and Capitol Drive’s neon lights and big-box stores to step back into time: Brookfield’s lesser-known quaint village environs. In the 1830s, a schoolhouse, tavern and inn first popped up in the area and by 1840, 148 people lived there. Spurred by a new rail line, Brookfield grew in the 1850s, including the building of a sawmill making railroad ties and rail cars. In fact, the 1867 Italianate-style train depot still stands, although it has been moved from its original location. Today, businesses are tucked into older structures, some with porches, and parking is right out front. A buzzy new opening, C.C.’s Elbow Room bar and grill joins Bilboa Brewing Co. (which also serves at the summertime beer garden down the street) and Vino Cappuccino (a piano bar with a robust Italian menu) on the food and drink front. Other indie businesses allow you to give Fido a shampoo and cut (Caring Fur Canines), drop the kids off for dance class (Brookfield Center for the Arts) or invest in new eyeglass frames (Point of View Optical Gallery).

Can’t Miss Pick: Coffeerville Co. opens inside the former train depot this spring. Take a latte to-go on the Waukesha County River Bike Trail – the depot doubles as a trailhead. 2825 N. Brookfield Rd.

ELM GROVE VILLAGE PARK A great community park, pool and library in one spot. **RAY’S WINE & SPIRITS** (Wauwatosa) Exceptional wine and beer selection and service. **GOLDEN MAST INN** (Okauchee) One of the finest fish fries in Lake Country. **HARTUNG PARK** (Wauwatosa) Hiking trails with sweeping views from the suburbs to Downtown. **CAL’S COLLECTABLES AND MANTIQUES** (Waukesha) Man cave decor has never been easier. **SPRING CITY WINE HOUSE** (Waukesha) A welcoming space in the thick of the downtown scene. **RED CIRCLE INN** (Nashotah) Don’t miss the made-to-order dessert souffles. **CAPRI DI NUOVO** (West Allis) Casual family joint with unspeakably good lasagna. **MAD ROOSTER CAFE** (West Milwaukee) A breakfast that draws crowds.

sleep on the thin-crust pizza that’s recently gained wider distribution across metro area shops and bars. And Doughnut Don, the collaboration coffee cruller imperial stout made by fellow North Avenue business Vennture Brew Co., drops again this month. 6901 W. North Ave., Wauwatosa

Sunset Playhouse

This community theater can pack the house with its diverse spread of productions. The shows range from fun musical tributes (*The Artistry of Miss Peggy Lee* this spring) to serious theatrical productions (*Newsies* this summer). There’s a regular children’s theater series, too, with *Shrek the Musical Jr.* a highlight of the upcoming season. 700 Wall St., Elm Grove

Pewaukee Beach

This beach on Pewaukee Lake is clean and family-friendly, though it can be a bit crowded at times. That figures, because it’s a centerpiece of a great downtown with locally owned shops and eateries just across the street. (Is there any better spot for The Chocolate Factory ice cream/sub shop?) Events throughout summer – the music of Waterfront Wednesdays and the annual Kiwanis block party in late June – keep us coming back. 100 block of West Wisconsin Avenue, Pewaukee

Ten Chimneys

Milwaukee-born actor Alfred Lunt and actress wife Lynn Fontanne – both Academy Award nominees – built this 60-acre, summer-home estate in the 1920s and ’30s. Now open to visitors, each of the estate’s 18 rooms holds artifacts and artwork: some were gifts to the couple from Golden Age stars like Noël Coward, Edna Ferber and Laurence Olivier. S43 W31575 Depot Rd., Genesee Depot



Throwbacks The Kiltie Drive-In

The surest sign of spring in Lake Country: the carhops of The Kiltie getting back in action. Founded in 1947 and marked by its towering neon sign, this busy burger-and-ice cream place is a haven for nostalgia-seekers. So fasten the tray to your window, crank up the classic rock and go ahead and dip those salty fries into your chocolate shake. N48 W36154 E. Wisconsin Ave., Oconomowoc

(and natural landmarks) were annotated recently by a park friends group. But the real star is the woods itself, an old-growth forest with trails weaving through the soaring oaks. Near 87th Street off of Watertown Plank Road

More Reasons to Go

Frame Park

Frame Park’s picturesque riverwalk follows the Fox River Trail as it hugs the shoreline, winds through the vibrant formal gardens, and connects to downtown Waukesha. The trail, peppered with segments of brick path, is bookended by a nationally recognized accessible playground and a transportation-themed tot park. The green space is easily explored on foot, but a bike or boat rental is best in summer months. 701 W. Moreland Blvd., Waukesha

West Allis Farmers Market

The 103-year-old source for Wisconsin-based fresh produce, meat, dairy and eggs, plus fresh flowers, plants and more, is beloved by food lovers and restaurant chefs alike. That’s largely owing to the market’s well-deserved reputation for quality. 6501 W. National Ave., West Allis

Cranky Al’s

The doughnuts that made this East Tosa joint famous are exceptional – the raised donuts are pillowy, the cake donuts crumbly, the crullers killer. But don’t



Burb Bite

After the end of World War I, Waukesha County dubbed itself “Cow County USA” due to the fact that it had more bovine residents than people.

PHOTOS: BYLUKE WEIN (THE KILTIE); COPURTESOF: THE VILLAGE OF PEWAUKEE (PEWAUKEE BEACH); SUNSET PLAYHOUSE

TO THE South

CUDAHY,
FRANKLIN,
GREENDALE,
GREENFIELD,
HALES
CORNERS,
MUSKEGO,
ST. FRANCIS,
SOUTH
MILWAUKEE,
NEW BERLIN
OAK CREEK



Where to Eat

Taqwa's Bakery & Restaurant

The flavors of sumac, sesame and fenugreek pop at this Middle Eastern outpost. Dive into the humdinger of a house specialty, mosakhan – fluffy seasoned flatbread draped in caramelized onions and a grilled half-chicken, all moistened with a tart yogurt-cucumber sauce. Finish with an Arabic coffee and a traditional dessert like hareesih, a semolina cake sweetened with rosewater syrup. 4651 S. 27th St., Greenfield

Island Jam

The jam is this menu of Caribbean charmers, from tender jerk chicken to succulent, slow-cooked oxtail with rice and peas or soft, starchy plantains. And with its deep, intricate flavors, the brownstew chicken will win over your heart. It's juicy, peppery, paprika-y good. 2703 S. Chicago Ave., South Milwaukee

Lagniappe Brasserie

Inspired by the Cajun-French word roughly translating to *something extra*, this fine dining haven changes its menu frequently, which means ever-fresh choices like grilled swordfish puttanesca, Caribbean braised rabbit and pan-roasted veal chop in marsala cream sauce. The setting? Elegant but not stuffy. 17001 W. Greenfield Ave., New Berlin



Mimosa

A buzzing breakfast spot with a second location in Brookfield, Mimosa gets the details right – homemade granola and fruit jams, fresh-squeezed orange juice, Wisconsin maple syrup, from-scratch buttermilk pancakes. The menu is pretty traditional (corned beef hash, steak and eggs, classic French toast) but not devoid of chutzpah (morning jambalaya, pulled chicken-chorizo quinoa bowl). 9405 S. 27th St., Franklin

Día y Noche

This spirited hub is two restaurants in one, as its name – Spanish for *Day and Night* – implies. In the morning, the cafe serves coffee drinks, baked goods and a few brunchy items such as a rice-plantain-fried egg bowl. At night, it transitions to a full menu

Burb Bite

Greenfield, originally known as Kinnickinnic, took its current, easier-to-spell name from the local post office in 1841.

of tapas and large plates, the culinary emphasis placed on countries in Latin America. Add to that a lively vibe and you're instantly transported far from our Midwestern landscape. 6601 Northway, Greendale

Where to Shop

The Jewelers Guild

Still picking up bling at the mall? Swing by this jewelry store and workshop instead and commission a custom piece no one else owns. Or get on the bench yourself with DIY Wedding Rings classes (\$415+), or other classes in wax carving, stamping and soldering. 2408 E. St. Francis Ave., St. Francis

Barbeque Supply Co.

Smack in the middle of historic Broad Street, locally owned Barbeque Supply Co. ups the ante for pitmasters. They've got the essentials covered with top-notch smokers, grills, gear and accessories. Looking to dial up the heat? Ask for

recommendations from their curated mix of specialty spices, rubs and sauces. 5668 Broad St., Greendale

Blumel's Garden and Landscape Center

Hordes of gardeners flock here each spring to take advantage of the robust plant selection. Blumel's striking, century-old dome was brought over from its original home on the former South Division High School when it was demolished in the 1980s. Inside, Blüm Coffee Garden serves up local roasts alongside live music. Plus, there's a playground for the kiddos. 4930 W. Loomis Rd., Greenfield

Serendipity Boutique Marketplace

This shop brings the work of local artists, crafters, makers and designers together for an explosion of creativity. Peruse when you need to find a gift for that person who's impossible to shop for (or just for yourself). You'll discover unique clothes, accessories, artwork, furniture, antiques, kitchen tools and much more. 5602 Broad St., Greendale



Why I Live Here
Steve Scaffidi
On-Air Host, WTMJ-AM
Oak Creek

Oak Creek Rec: I love Valentine Café, a funky little addition to our downtown area. The bakery, coffee and atmosphere are fantastic. I usually order a café au lait with a chocolate chip cookie when I'm there for breakfast meetings.

I GREW UP IN OAK CREEK, attended UW-Milwaukee, and then moved out of state to work in network television research. In the early 1990s, I returned to my roots and settled my family down in my hometown.

I've always seen potential in Oak Creek, and until recently, I think it was underdeveloped and underappreciated. That's why I ran for mayor in 2012.

During my tenure, I saw the city grow. We now have a downtown area, Drexel Town Square, a business hub and home to our civic center. We're also becoming more diverse, which makes Oak Creek much stronger and more fun. The interchange around IKEA is starting to develop, and our undeveloped lakeshore is a huge opportunity.

Through every transformation, I've been reminded of what I already loved: the quality of life. I'm a bit biased as the husband of a retired teacher, but our schools are great. The city's laid out and landscaped well, with plenty of parks, and the location couldn't be more convenient, right off the highway and near Downtown.

We wouldn't be where we are today without the forward-thinking leaders I've worked with. Now, if you mention the city of Oak Creek, people have a higher level of appreciation than they did 20 years ago.

Beat of the Burbs

LAKE VISTA PARK (Oak Creek) Walk along the lake, plan a grill-out and stay for the sunset. **KYOTO** (Greenfield) Sake and sushi for the win. **ERV'S MUG** (Oak Creek) The crispy potato pancakes are fish-fry-side gold. **WATER BUGS SKI SHOW** (Muskego) Free shows bring the neighborhood together every Wednesday night. **BOERNER BOTANICAL GARDENS** (Hales Corners) A showcase of perennials and annuals. **APPLES OF EDEN** (Greendale) Caramel apples are a must, but don't skip the old-school candy section.



DOWNTOWN WE LOVE

Greendale

ARCHITECTS, HISTORIANS AND FOODIES alike adore Greendale's downtown, a three-block stretch along Broad Street with flower beds, antique lampposts, a gazebo and a four-faced clock. Sit down to a throwback relish tray and fish fry at Joey Gerard's – A Bartolotta Supper Club or custard and burgers at Milk Can Diner. For a quick jolt, chocolates crafted from molds at Apples of Eden or offbeat coffee drinks like a White Rabbit at Broad Street Coffee do the trick. There's a reason for this Norman Rockwell-type vista. In 1936, the Roosevelt Administration built Greendale as one of three planned "Greenbelt Communities," the others in Maryland and Ohio. Don't leave without walking past some of the famed Greendale Originals: the federal-built tract homes often called "backward houses" because the living room is in the back and the kitchen looks out onto the street. – KH

Can't Miss Pick: The wines that Vintage 38 owner Jennifer Lyden sells and pours at her bar stray from the big brands you'll easily find elsewhere. Can't make a decision? Flights are your friend. Pair with artisan Wisconsin meats and cheeses – or at night, a pizza from Ricardo's across the street, a Greendale institution since 1970. 5690 Broad St.

Suburb Surprise

The city of Cudahy – named after a famous maker of pork products – bucks its meat-loving heritage by being the home to a popular and really yummy vegan restaurant, **Twisted Plants**. Try the Up in Smoke plant-based patty with BBQ sauce, "bacon" (definitely not Patrick Cudahy!), vegan American cheese and grilled onions for maximum deliciousness. 4905 S. Packard Ave., Cudahy

GEORGIE PORGIE'S (Oak Creek) Burgers, custard and serious tree fort vibes. **BASS BAY BREWHOUSE** (Muskego) Chicken-fried chicken and a captivating lake view. **MILWAUKEE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OBSERVATORY** (New Berlin) Open house nights are rain, shine or starlight.

POLONEZ (St. Francis) Sink into the ultimate Polish sampler plate, mmm. **MATTY'S BAR** (New Berlin) A must-stop for Bloody Mary enthusiasts. **LIONS LEGEND PARK PICKLEBALL COURTS** (Franklin) Join a league or play a pick-up game. **LA FINCA COFFEEHOUSE** (St. Francis) Authentic Mexican flavors plus picturesque lake views. **GRANT PARK** (South Milwaukee) One of Milwaukee County's most beloved parks, for good reason. **THE EXPLORIUM BREWPUB** (Greendale) Great beer and food in, yes, a shopping mall. **PATTERSON ORCHARDS** (New Berlin) Snag an apple cider donut before roaming the orchard. **RICARDO'S** (Greendale) Exemplary Milwaukee-style crust with a beautifully lit patio.

More Reasons to Go

Umbrella Bar

This tent built on top of a former dump (these days known as The Rock Sports Complex) encapsulates the spirit of a Wisconsin summer: We'll do anything to have a drink outside. It's a place to sit by the fire, play bags, watch baseball and listen to live music – there's an amazing summer concert series. Food truck Thursdays bring good grub options, too. Don't leave before sunset, or you'll miss one of the best views west of the city. 7900 Crystal Ridge Rd., Franklin

The Gingerbread House

Soak in the floor-to-ceiling farmhouse feel at this adorable coffee shop and bakery, down to the hens running around the patio as you sip your drink. The spot is perfect for catching up with friends over lattes (we recommend the Gingerbread Cookie option) or bloodies – and save time to shop around in the boutique afterward. Or if you just want a quick pick-me-up, take a pass through the drive-thru. S63 W16147 College Ave., Muskego

Root River Parkway

Along the route snaking through much of Greendale you'll see picnickers, disc golf, a fantastic seasonal beer garden and more. Hop out of the car – or, even better, off your bike – to join in on the fun.

Field Workshop

This well-stocked, warmly staffed craft studio nurtures artists of all ages. Kids bring imagination to life as they freely explore floor-to-ceiling shelves of paint, electronics, fabric, beads, pom poms and many more craft supplies. Adults can enjoy self-guided DIY projects or guided classes in painting glassware, boards, canvases and more. 5686 Broad St., Greendale



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF EILEEN SOTO (GREENDALE), THE FIELD WORKSHOP, EAGLE PARK BREWING

Throwbacks Ray & Dot's Tap

Known for affordable suds (a Spotted Cow is just \$2.25) and a friendly atmosphere, this local bar has earned its reputation as the neighborhood watering hole since it opened in 1957. There's nothing fancy about the dive – though the pool tables and neon lighting are nice. What makes it special is the people; it's one of those rare places where you see retirees mingling comfortably with early 20-somethings. 6351 W. Grange Ave., Greendale

Eagle Park Brewing

Beer buffs flock to Eagle Park Brewing for one the most diverse selections of craft beer in the area. Wash down classic grub – curds, pretzels, burgers, fish fries – with a friendly pale ale like Push Play or an excellent German seasonal l'bock or pilsner, or dive right in with a milkshake IPA or hard seltzer smoothie. Can't stay? Food, beer, house-made spirits – it's all available to go. S64 W15640 Commerce Center Pkwy., Muskego

Hawthorne Hill Farm

Artists plus vintage and antique dealers descend upon this historic farmstead owned by artist Bonnie Loduha for Weekend Shopping Markets (May, September, October and November) with set themes: Vintage, Barn Market, Harvest and a holiday market. 16370 W. Small Rd., New Berlin

Classic Lanes

This 16-lane alley offers keggers a traditional atmosphere with open bowling,



Burb Bite To avoid annexation by Milwaukee in 1955, Oak Creek held an emergency vote to make the town a city. Oak Creek town leaders hid from Milwaukee officials attempting to deliver legal papers to halt the vote. It passed before the officials could find them.

league action and a bar and grill. But the real cachet is the significant place it holds in bowling history – two times over. Classic has been the venue for two of the 38 perfect 900 series recognized by the U.S. Bowling Congress, including the second ever, rolled by Tony Roventini in 1998. 5404 W. Layton Ave., Greenfield

Village Days

Beer tents from local breweries, food from neighborhood vendors and two competing concert stages make for the village's largest summer

bash. Cap it off with some spectacular fireworks, and you have a packed weekend that's not only fun for Greendale's residents, but anyone looking to party during the dog days of summer. Aug. 11-13, Downtown Greendale

Conservancy for Healing and Heritage

Tucked away behind a health clinic is a hidden garden oasis that connects to 2 miles of nature trails that end at Koepmier Lake. But before you adventure out, stop at the tiny European-inspired wooden chapel peeking out of the treetops with

floor-to-ceiling windows. It's a perfect place for a moment of peace. 7410 W. Rawson Ave., Franklin

Franklin Public Library

Located in front of peaceful, scenic Lions Legend Park, you'll often see visitors biking or jogging over to get their books. The wide selection and helpful staff are a given, but what sets this library apart are the work areas with both private and public spaces. The children's section features a reading nook nestled inside a tree. 9151 W. Loomis Rd., Franklin