



THE BREEZE



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THANK YOU! John Snyder for writing an article, Jason for sharing his story, and Mike Hermann for helping in this edition! If you have an idea for a future story or would like to submit one, please let us know.

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THANK YOU! Jason Warner for sharing your story with us.

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THANK YOU! Mike Hermann, Parks and Recreation Director, for providing a lot of great information about the VMAC.

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We are looking for help pulling this Newsletter together, please contact Andy Bath if you are interested in helping out.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS The Social Committee's Winter Get Together is scheduled for Saturday, February 25th. Watch Facebook for more details as that date approaches.

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If you have suggestions, comments, or would like to help the HOA, please visit our website or send us an email. Also, don't forget to join the Summer Wind Group page on Facebook.

Continental Motors – A Leap of Faith

By: Andy Bath



If you love what you do for a living, you never work a day in your life. Whether it's by accident, determination, a leap of faith, or a combination of these, being in this situation is something that many people strive towards. Jason Warner works but doesn't "work"; his passion for automobiles is infectious and he defines the term "car guy." Continental Motors, now in its 4th year in operation, may not have been Jason's plan 10 years ago, but when faced with a difficult situation, he took a leap of faith.

Originally an electrician by trade, he found himself out of work due to the housing market crash. While an electrician, his hobby was buying, improving, and selling cars. He would repeat this process, which he excelled at, about six times a year. With the support of his wife, Krista, he turned his hobby into his career and opened MJ's Auto with a business partner in 2009. "The structure itself was dilapidated and we had to invest a ton of money in it. We scraped some money together and started selling \$1,500 cars, which there was a new market for because of the credit crunch, people had to pay cash. We started with six cars, and at our peak we were selling 20-30 cars per month. Many people thought we were crazy for opening a new business during a recession, but it worked out extremely well." After several years working with a partner and learning a lot about the industry, they both decided to go their separate ways and Continental Motors was opened.

Continued on page 4

Veterans Memorial Aquatic Center Exceeds Expectations

By: Andy Bath

With only 156 days until May 28th, the opening of the Veterans Memorial Aquatic Center (VMAC), what better time to recap last season as we look forward to the next? Sure, this winter hasn't been as forgiving as the past few, so far that is. But in the summer months, we are lucky here in Hartford to have this regional attraction right around the corner. Residents and city officials overwhelmingly had positive feedback about the 2016 season and are excited about 2017; here are some of the highlights.

"It was an extremely busy first summer. We exceeded our forecasted open swim attendance by about 10,000 with 26,699 total," explained Mike Hermann, Hartford Park and Recreation Director. "This number does not include the additional attendance from swim team practices, lap swim, water walking in the lazy river, or swim lessons. It was an extremely busy first summer."

With approximately 34% of all 2016 attendees being non-residents, the VMAC's goal of being a regional attraction was achieved. There is something for everyone here from zero entry pools to waterslides to



lazy rivers. "We really liked it [there]. It was family friendly, reasonably priced, and great fun for all. We loved that it has water and dry play areas and that a day pass allowed you to come and go throughout the day," expressed Amber Bartlein. John and Patricia Snyder used the facility several times and shared, "The Hartford water park was really enjoyable. [They offered] Lap swimming from 6:00-9:00am and river water walking against the current from 6:00am-1:00pm. We, along with four others, enjoyed a sunny and warm 72 degree day on their last day open. The staff and other residents were fun to chat with."

Another reason the VMAC is considered a relaxing place is that the safety of all guests is extremely important. "Lifeguards must complete a 40+ hour lifeguarding certification course. This includes passing both a written exam and water skills testing requirements. Both lifeguards and swim instructors are taught the American Red Cross Training certification program." Stated Mike Hermann. Lifeguards must be at least 16 years old in order to work at the VMAC; however, a person can take the certification course starting at age 15. Registrations are now being taken for the next certification course on January 5, 2017. Please contact the Parks and Recreation Department for more information.

The daily admission fees will remain unchanged heading into 2017. For residents that is \$3.00 – youth, \$4.00 – adult, \$2.50 – senior, and under 3 – free. Last year's season pass was discounted 25% due to the late start. Available pass options include family, individual youth, individual adult, and individual senior. The resident family pass for up to four members is only \$145, and an additional \$10 for each family member over four. "There are no major changes proposed to the open swim schedule times, only slight adjustments in

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2017. The swim lesson schedule will be printed and available in the Spring 2017 Park and Recreation Activity Guide, delivered mid to late April.

When Mike was asked about other park facility improvements he said, "The City recently updated the Willowbrook Park playground equipment in November of 2016. We also installed a portable ice rink at Willowbrook for the winter season. A new bridge is scheduled to be installed over the Rubicon River at Bernd Park which is a small park between the Recreation Center & Schauer Arts and Activities Center over to City Hall and downtown businesses. There was recent work completed in November/December to improve the riverbank area and Rubicon River walk path from City Hall over to the Jack Russell Memorial Library. The design of the riverbank creates an alpine rock and floral garden area on the north side of the river. This was a project fundraised and developed with by Volunteers for a Beautiful Hartford. Over the past 15 years, there have been many park improvements including renovated shelters, new or renovated ballfields and soccer fields, new playgrounds, renovated tennis courts, renovated shelters and restrooms, new bridges and trail systems added. I think these improvements and numerous other updates continue to offer Hartford residents with a great opportunity to recreate and enjoy our park system."



As mentioned earlier in this article, Hartford residents are lucky to have a wonderful facility like the VMAC. After researching this topic, it seems fair to say that we are fortunate to have an active Parks and Recreation Department under the leadership of Mike Hermann. Thank you Mike for your time and assistance with this story, and we look forward to an exciting 2017 season at the VMAC.

For more information about The Veterans Memorial Aquatic Center, please visit:
ci.hartford.wi.us/165/Parks-Recreation-Department

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Being the owner of Continental Motors, Jason gets to wear every hat that comes with that title. "I work with a trusted mechanic and detail guy. Everything else from locating, purchasing, selling cars, updating the website, to brushing snow off 35 cars twice per week, is handled by me," he explained. He likes helping people by finding cars, assuming they have a realistic budget and not too specific of a request. The internet has dramatically changed the auto sales business by ramping up competition between dealers, which is a good thing for buyers. Jason's low overhead allows him to pass along savings to his customers making Continental Motors extremely competitive.

When asked about trends he is seeing in the automobile market, some of his general observations were interesting. The \$1,500 car market is not what it used to be when he owned MJ's Auto. He sells more trucks and SUVs than cars. Cars are being built better today and people are hanging on to them longer so they can maximize their value so the majority of cars he sees at auction have almost 200,000 miles. "Everyone has a different mindset in regards to what is 'high mileage.' Based on what I'm seeing, my definition with regular maintenance is 300,000 miles." What is his dream car, assuming he just won the lottery and money was no object? "I suppose a Rolls-Royce or a Bentley because they are more practical than a Lamborghini but my realistic dream car [which he owns] is a Lincoln Continental, that's why I chose the name Continental Motors."



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In the near future, Jason is planning on hiring an assistant to help operate the facility so he can invest more time in developing the business. When asked how he could help someone in our neighborhood, he said "It doesn't matter if someone is a customer or not, if you have a car question, call or email me. I'm happy to help." That "leap of faith" combined with determination and the support of his family has changed their lives for the better. Congratulations on the success of Continental Motors and best of luck to you and its future.

China Lights at Boerner Botanical Gardens

By: John Snyder



Boerner Botanical Gardens in Whitnall Park hosted the overwhelmingly popular China lights this past October and plans to have it return in 2017. It's a great outing for the whole family, and you need to plan to spend 2 hours+ there. We went Saturday, October 8th, and it was 55 degrees and a clear great October night. We got there early (luckily) around 5:15pm and parked close. The sun was out but you still could get the effect. As the sun went down, the detail and the atmosphere really was a "wow." We did not get any of the food nor watch any performances. We could see more people were showing up than expected, and there were weeks to go yet. The Botanical Gardens would also be something to do during the spring and summer as well. There are lots of interesting flowers and plants in a beautiful area. I anticipate that next year they will be more prepared for a much larger crowd. When we did leave about 7:45pm the Whitnall park area roads were lined up with parked cars on both sides and people walking a long way to get to the event. Get there early, wear comfy shoes, and look ahead at the park layout and streets because it will get busy.



Member Spotlight

Meet the Bartlein's



Q: Family member names, including pets?

A: Jayson, Amber, Alex (12), Chris (12), Makayla (10), Jameson (7), Lilyana (18mo)

Q: How long have you lived here and where did you move from?

A: We have been here for 11 years. Amber is originally from IL, and Jayson grew up in Milwaukee/West Allis.

Q: Hobbies?

A: Family game time, swimming, watching movies, baking, dancing, fires outside

Q: What's your favorite destination?

A: Florida-Gulf Coast

Q: What is one item in your house that should be thrown away but probably never will?

A: Crown Royal Bottle Collection

Meet the Werner's



Q: Family member names, including pets?

A: Greg and Melissa Werner and daughter, Jessica Helman

Q: How long have you lived here and where did you move from?

A: We've lived in the subdivision 11 years, since November of 2005 and moved from Waukesha.

Q: Hobbies?

A: We like to bowl and go to the shooting range.

Q: What's your favorite destination?

A: Our favorite destination is Italy. We traveled there in 2008 and have always wanted to go back.

Summerwind HOA Meeting Highlights 10/17/16 6:30-7:30PM

Guest Speakers

* **Rachel Mixon** (Alder Person) attended and spoke about taking our concerns back to the City

- Leaves – dumped in the park right behind residents on Dakota
- Paving the road in Independence Park
- City lawn cutting of empty lots
- Summerwind residents should send email to mixon@ci.hartford.wi.us to complain about the leav

* **Mark Wiener – MyDwelling**

- Interested in renting your home out during the Erin Hills 2017 US Golf Open?
- Summerwind 1st point of contact is **Leslie Korup**

* **Summerwind HOA Budget**

* **Outlot areas of concern**

- Water retention in large sink holes
- Fehrrings will fix in Spring 2017 - \$600 estimated cost**Please mark your calendars and attend, this should be an informative meeting*

Meet the Carlson's



Q: Family member names, including pets?

A: Mike, Ann and Brody (the dog)

Q: How long have you lived here and where did you move from?

A: Move here from Milwaukee in October of 2004.

Q: What's on your bucket list?

A: In 2016 we crossed off a European river cruise, with a Danube Viking River cruise including Germany, Austria & Hungary.

Q: What's your favorite destination?

A: We hope to visit all of the National Parks in the United States. The photo is from Acadia National Park in Maine

Community Announcements

**Happy Belated Birthday
Chris & Alex Bartlein!**



The twins turned 12 on
December 16th!

**Congratulations
Samantha Drew!**



On December 17th she graduated with a
double major in Special Ed and Elementary
Education.
"We are so proud of you!" – Mom & Dad

**Happy Birthday
Makayla
Bartlein!**



Makayla turns 10
on January 14th!

**Happy Birthday
Garrett
McFarren!**



Garrett turns 12 on
December 29th!

**Happy Birthday
Andy Bath!**



Andy turns 38 on
January 30th!

**Happy Birthday
Brooke
McFarren!**



Brooke turns 10 on
January 16th!

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