

Everything's 'Poppin' in Waunakee



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A Waunakee Community
Magazine
Volume 12

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THANK YOU

We proudly announce the 12th edition of our community magazine completed by fifth grade students in Ms. Jacqueline Wells' class. May you feel the *sweetness of a spoonful of sugar* as you read about each of these important people in our community. Our subjects, who live or work in Waunakee, have the admiration of the fifth grade photojournalists, and also show what makes our village such a wonderful community. It is only through the support of people and businesses in "The Only Waunakee in the World" that we are able to create a project which highlights these extraordinary people who touch our lives.

We would like to thank those who helped with our year-long project. First and foremost, deep appreciation goes to Roger Hamilton, photographer for The Waunakee Tribune. He built our knowledge and skills in working with a camera. With his vision of bringing photojournalism to students, this project grew from a small classroom project to a full-fledged community magazine. We also appreciate the help of our parents. A huge thank you goes to Suttle Straus for supporting us each year and donating all the copies of our magazine. Brett Keene and his staff make sure we look professional as they finalize our project on the digital printer at Suttle Straus. We love the tour of the design and printing facilities. Maybe the photography and graphics experiences will continue to inspire these students in their future.

Sandy Taylor



By Marissa Loether

Sandy Taylor comes in with a smile on her face, opens the door and turns on the lights at Waunakee Furniture ETC. As her first customer comes in, Sandy is always eager to help find furniture, place orders, even deliver furniture or anything in between. Some days she has up to 40 customers, and other days she might only have 12. After doing her job for 20 years, she says every day is different. On those days when she doesn't have as many customers, she reads every trade magazine from front to back. She also goes to a furniture show in Las Vegas to buy furniture. What she loves about her job is that she works with different generations. For example, a 10 year old girl might come in to find things for her room, then years later she comes in again trying to find things for her kids' rooms. Some things she says to be careful about are making promises you can't keep and don't over commit so you have time to do other things. After a long day at Waunakee Furniture ETC helping customers find what they wanted, she turns off the lights and walks out of the same door she walked into.

Karen Greiber



By Tyler Endres

Screech, eek, clunk! That's the sound of an air conditioner breaking down. Well, no fear Greiber Heating & Sheet Metal Inc. is here. Karen Greiber has lived in Waunakee many years and likes that the small community gives you safety. What she likes most about owning their own business is knowing the comfort they give others. To become a clerical and accounting person, Karen recommends taking business classes. Her advice to anyone interested in heating and cooling work is to expect many challenges and realize people need heat for survival. Things to be careful about with air conditioning are freon leaks, chemical burns, and gas explosions. An interesting thing that happens once in awhile is a rodent will get in the furnace and chew the wires. Sometimes the rodent dies and starts to stink up the whole house. There are a total of 3 people that work in this family business, including Karen's son, Devon. He brings new ideas and modernizes it to the 21st century. Greiber Heating & Sheet Metal Inc. cares so much for clients they will go out in the middle of the night. Now that's caring for others!

Brad Richardson

By Xander Priest

How much power is needed? Brad Richardson is the Mechanical Maintenance Supervisor for the Columbia Energy Center in Pardeeville, WI. The power plant brings electricity to the Madison area. When asked what he likes most about his job, he replied, "I get a chance to solve a lot of different engineering problems and get the opportunity to fix large and powerful equipment." Prior to his current job at the power plant, Mr. Richardson worked on his parents' farm as a kid milking cows and bailing hay. Following that, he was employed in a foundry, where he cast metal parts for vehicles made by companies such as John Deere and Ford. Mr. Richardson has been living in Waunakee for nearly nine years. He says it's a friendly town and parents are very supportive of activities the kids participate in; he has three boys of his own. He also likes that Waunakee is close to Madison for its cultural activities and superb restaurants where they need the power.



Pastor Doug Locken

By Gabe Guralski

When walking into a church, you can hear many things like bells, pianos, and singing. However, when you walk into Peace Lutheran Church in Waunakee, you may hear Pastor Doug Locken preaching his favorite part of the Bible, the Psalms. Pastor Doug has been working at Peace for the past 2 years, but he has been a pastor for the past 22 years. To become a pastor, he completed four years of college and then four more years of seminary training. When asked what he likes about his job, Pastor Doug humbly admits, "I like the things I do, the people I meet, the studying, and the teaching." Another thing he enjoys is visiting people who need it. There are always a variety of things to do as he rarely knows what will need his attention each day. While he likes working in Waunakee because of how nice and caring people are, many people feel the same way about him.



Dr. Jill Mikkelsen

By Faith Ellickson

With a smile, Dr. Jill Mikkelsen starts off her day by 7:00am walking into her office at Bakke Chiropractic. She checks her schedule with 30-40 patients and begins appointments asking, "How are you feeling today? Any spots you want me to focus on?" She starts cracking and adjusting the aches and pains away. Anyone from babies to senior citizens can have their joints adjusted so they can move better. The thing Dr. Jill likes most about her job is knowing the people that she helps take care of. She enjoys helping patients feel better because the changes are almost immediate. They lead happier, healthier lives because they feel good and can move better! Helping people be as active and healthy as they want to be, and can be, brings her joy and satisfaction. It takes a lot of schooling and perseverance to become a chiropractor, but she was very patient and is now enjoying a successful practice. Her advice to anyone considering a chiropractic career is to shadow people and meet with lots of doctors. Dr. Jill enjoys what she does and wouldn't trade it for the world. When the long day is over, she walks out with a smile, feeling fantastic, and goes home to her family ready to lead her own happy and healthy life.



Ezrah Schmeelk



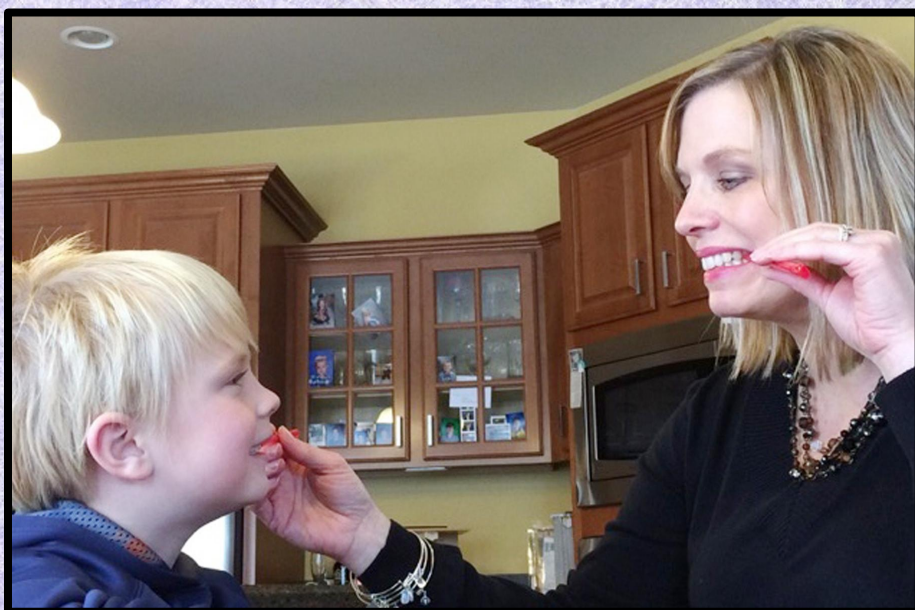
By Rachel Kietzman

With a great big smile and a positive outlook, Ezrah Schmeelk greets his youth group, as the director of Youth Ministries for 7-12th graders at First Presbyterian Church. In 2012, Ezrah moved to Waunakee. He likes to lead weekly youth groups at First Presbyterian Church, helping teens to feel safe, cared for, and connected to God not to mention each other. He also likes to lead summer and winter youth retreats with the focus on God, play, and worship. His favorite retreat of all time is when he and his group went to Guatemala to build houses. The book Under the Overpass is Ezrah's favorite book because it helped him have a better understanding of homeless people. He even tried living like a homeless person, so now he knows exactly what they go through. Ezrah says if you're interested in this career, "Really consider if God is calling you to do this job." He listened to his calling and has been helping teens for the past 9 years. He says the most rewarding part is helping teenagers through a rough time, and being able to care for everyone so they leave with a great big smile on their face.

By Lauren Mikulak

Sarah Samuelson wakes up every day with a good attitude and gets straight to work. She is a speech pathologist who works with newborns up to three years of age. She has helped children for 16 years. When Sarah arrives at someone's home to provide therapy, she has to be careful of not hurting their feelings and respecting their home. Sarah says, "It's hard working with late speakers, genetic and developmental disabilities, and kids who have trouble eating." She always finds a way to help them, no matter how difficult the therapy is. She advises that if you are interested in this job you should go with someone first, to get the feel of it. Anyone would be really fortunate to work with Sarah Samuelson.

Sarah Samuelson



Lori Meinholz

By Anna Linnemanstons

Have you ever wondered who plays the piano at Saint John the Baptist School? Well, it is Ms. Lori Meinholz. She grew up in nearby Ashton, Wisconsin. Ms. Meinholz decided to go into music after completing high school. After earning a Bachelor of Arts degree, she spent the last 9 years teaching music. Ms. Meinholz really enjoys working with young students in grades kindergarten through seventh. One of her favorite things to teach is how to read music. When asked about things to be careful in this career, Ms. Meinholz said, "You need to be careful with the flu and colds, especially with voice and vocal cords." If you were interested in this career, her advice is to enjoy music, performing, and working with people and students. One thing she enjoys is teaching how to play recorders. The two biggest concerts she directs are the Christmas and spring concerts. That preparation takes time due to choosing a theme, picking songs, practicing and creating sets for the performance. Throughout the school year Ms. Meinholz is kind and helpful as she works make music class fun.



Don Brausen



By Aaron Graves

That is Don Brausen laying out the ice rink. He is one of the managers at the Ice Pond here in Waunakee where he's been involved since 2009. "I love to watch the kids progressing over the years," Don says. He loves his job because it's close to home and loves the community. His job isn't very easy. He has to paint the rink, make and refrigerate the ice, and complete general construction, maintenance, not to mention keeping accurate accounting records! A funny story he shared was when he learned to drive the Zamboni. He took too much ice off with each pass, quickly filling the Zamboni. He had to go back to the garage, dump the ice out of the Zamboni, then make a second trip out on to the ice to finish. Don has a son in the Waunakee men's league and a daughter who is also a manager at the Ice Pond. Don grew up in Alton, IL near St. Louis. His favorite National Hockey League team is the St. Louis Blues, as they are the closest team to his home city.

Tom Bunbury

By Kaleb Frey

Clip, clop, clip, clop is the sound of a horse at Carriage Ridge where Tom Bunbury is the owner of the horse stables. Mr. Bunbury has lived in Waunakee for about 15 years, and says he loves Waunakee because of the neighbors and the people. First, he went to Edgewood High, then he went to UW Madison and got a real estate college degree. Tom says, "You can't do it for the money, you really have to love it." That means you have to really love your job and be involved with it. His number one rule is to be polite. In his job, Tom has to make sure he and others don't get kicked. He also has to make sure not to allow a horse in that disrupts other horses. What he likes most about his job, is the quiet relaxing part. There are no meetings and nobody talking. His barn was built in 1989, and he always had a career on his farm. He owns 6-7 miles of trails and 4 horses. Tom is just like the horses he loves because he's strong, a leader, and has a good attitude.



Bryan Hansen



By TJ Doescher

The power is out. When will it come back on? It's a good thing that Bryan Hansen is coming and knows what to do! Bryan has worked in Waunakee for 10 years and currently works for Alliant Energy. He is a lineman, a worker who fixes broken power lines. Bryan works with all kinds of dangerous conditions such as fires, lightning, blizzards, hail, poison ivy, barking dogs and skunks. He has to be careful with 25,000 volts - that could be lethal! He takes great pride in his job. It took one year of college and four years of apprenticeship to become a lineman. Bryan likes working in Waunakee because he says it's a great town with new construction and nice people. So the next time the power is out think of Bryan Hansen. He sure is an overlooked hero when he restores our electricity!

Elizabeth Heiks



By Ashley Luhtala

"One, two, three." Elizabeth Heiks is getting ready to begin a new song with her students. She is the orchestra teacher at Waunakee High School and Middle School. Ms. Heiks grew up in Appleton, Wisconsin where her first string instrument was cello. Later, she went to Goshen College in Indiana to earn her bachelor's degree. Her teaching certificate includes orchestra, general music, and vocal music. She loves working with her students, although Mondays are tough because she and the students are tired. Before concerts, she is 90% excited and 10% nervous. Her favorite type of song is Beethoven because it brings out the passion in everyone. Married to Zac Albrecht Heiks, they have a young daughter named Onie. Juggling being a teacher and a mom is something she is skilled at. "I'm just lucky that my students make me happy, so I go home happy, and my little one makes me happy, so I come back to school happy. I'm pretty satisfied."

Kayla Michels

By Chesney Duren

Kayla Michels is a proud Cabela's outfitter. Even though she has only worked there about 4 months, she is already very skilled at helping customers find what they need. She is always available to help people who come to shop or just to see the taxidermy animals. Matching clothes so the customer is happy with what they buy is something she has a good eye for. Equipment like sporting, hunting, or camping supplies is something she can help you find. Kayla has a great personality and can make anyone she meets have a good day. Every time I see her she always has a smile on her face and her good sense of humor comes out when she works at Cabela's. If you are ever at Cabela's and see Kayla, she will greet you with a friendly smile. Kayla Michels is a friendly, helpful outfitter at Cabela's in Sun Prairie.



Diane Robinson



By Hayden Sarenich

WOOSH! WOOSH! A lady who is bundled up in a hat and a scarf blows into the classroom. She is holding an umbrella in one hand and a carpetbag in the other. Mary Poppins has arrived! She makes herself at home and belts into song. Diane Robinson, acting in her favorite role of Mary Poppins, performs *A Spoonful of Sugar* and *Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious*. She pulls an elephant out of her bag to get him to stop trumpeting and proceeds to feather dust the classroom. Diane, a lifelong resident of Waunakee, has been acting in roles like Mary Poppins since high school. Kind-hearted Diane Robinson visits senior centers and schools in her role as Mary Poppins and she loves to make people smile! Incredibly, Diane has no formal acting training. She humbly credits God and her high school choir director for her amazing expressions and singing abilities. She says that people are overjoyed when they see her carrying her large carpetbag which is filled with songs and spoonfuls of sugar. Her advice to anyone who would like to act in the role of Mary Poppins is, "If children think you can fly, you better be secretive when parking your car."

Ryan Lenzendorf

By Violet Peotter

Walking through the door of the funeral home, one feels a sense of peace. Ryan Lenzendorf strode up with a friendly greeting and an outstretched hand. Ryan lives in Waunakee and is a licensed funeral home director in Madison. It took 5 years to get licensed, 3 years of education, and a 1 year apprenticeship program. For 20 years he has helped families through the funeral process. The thing he likes most is that he is always doing something different like meeting new people, working with families and embalming. The steps to prepare a body are: embalming, washing, dressing, styling hair and applying make up. Some things to be careful about are handling the deceased bodies of people's loved ones and other precautions. Ryan says that if you are interested in this profession, try it! However, it is a 24/7 job that sometimes pulls him away from his family. At the end of the day, Ryan walks out of the funeral home knowing he has given his best.



Roni Rademacher

By Andrew Zimmerman

Snip! Snip! That is the sound of scissors cutting hair. Hair stylist Roni Rademacher has lived in Waunakee for the past 25 years, styled hair for 17 years, and worked at Studio 3ree for 6 years. She is a graduate from Waunakee High School. It took a lot of training to become a hairstylist and business owner. Roni spent a year at cosmetology school and she continues to do training and education to stay up to date on her work. Roni claims, you have to choose your post high school classes carefully, have a strong business plan, and be a good communicator. Listening carefully to customers is the key to her success. In order to start her own business, Roni had to look at available places that were just the right size and in a good location. She had to buy all the furniture, hair products, and equipment. Roni says what she likes best about Waunakee is that "You get to know a lot of nice people". It takes a certain skill set to be a hairstylist. Not everyone is cut out for the job, but Roni is!



Jeff Simon

By Chris Burczyk

Jeff Simon is an architect for Century 21. He helps many people create and design commercial buildings as well as build houses. Jeff is skilled in preparing blueprints for the houses he builds. A lot of Jeff's time is dedicated to finding new ideas for the houses he is working on. Jeff has enjoyed living and working in Waunakee for 30 years and most of his houses are built in Waunakee where there are many nice people. The best part is he manages his own business, and he loves his job. He went to college for construction management. "Learn the trade from the ground up," is his advice for someone interested in this field. Jeff says, "I am a third generation home builder, and I am very careful when customers say 'surprise me'". Jeff loves his job and cannot wait to design and build a house for you.



Robert Bishop



By Patrick Hipskind

Robert Bishop, owner of Blowin' Smoke BBQ, states, "Waunakee is in a good location for catering." Robert likes the small town events they have in the community. He has been catering for over 20 years and has had a store front for the last two years. Being a construction worker helped in the building of his BBQ smokers, vending cart and other cooking equipment. A two year culinary course at Madison Area Technical College also helped him to open the restaurant. What Robert likes most about his career is cooking for large groups of people and the fact that people like his food. Some of the things that Mr. Bishop needs to be careful about with his job include sharp knives, slippery floors, contaminated food and people losing their tempers. Playing with his dog Brisket, relieves the stress. If anyone is looking for delicious french fries and BBQ, come to Blowin' Smoke BBQ!

Laura Barreras

By Kenna Ledwidge

The fresh aroma of the school excites Laura Barreras as she walks into a new building to teach. While attending UW-Madison, she was a student teacher, which helped her prepare for REAL teaching. Currently, Laura is a substitute teacher. Waunakee is her new home where she has lived and worked for the past 12 years. Now, she mostly teaches 5 year olds in the Madison area. Laura says, "It's hard work, but it's rewarding. If you want to become a teacher, ask if you can spend some time with them while they are teaching." She loves her job and would never give it up for anything. As she walks out of the building, she knows that the kids will remember her. Well, at least they will remember the bee puppet that she shows the kids each time she teaches and that she will return another day.



Jason Lyftogt

By Nolan Taylor

Keeping people safe is critical to Jason Lyftogt. Jason is a director for American Family Insurance for loss control. The loss control department inspects buildings to determine if they are in condition where they are willing to insure them. He has worked in this career for 15 years! He loves keeping people safe, being aware of cautious areas. If things are out of order and he does not spot them and help people fix them, someone could get very hurt. So he always does his best spotting things before an incident occurs. If anyone is interested in this career he advises, "Be patient with what you do." Jason loves being in Waunakee for the past 3 years and appreciates the great schools and people. Jason enjoys playing football, basketball, baseball and track. When he attended Iowa State University he was a tight end and enjoyed his college athletic career. Although he loved his sports growing up, he loves coaching his kids now even more. He loves his job and family and would not trade them for anything.



Randy Feasel



By Hays Faul

Iceland, South Korea, Japan, Iraq, and Germany are some of the countries where Randy Feasel has lived and worked as a member of the U.S. Air Force. He has been with the military for many years. Randy grew up in California where he became interested in working in the military by asking questions about it as well as talking with his grandpa and family. He then moved to the small village of Waunakee. He really likes his neighborhood and has lived here for 16 years. Over the years Randy has missed a lot of family vacations, gatherings, and birthdays due to military work, but he didn't let that stop him. Randy started as a parachute packer for jets. No one ever seemed to use them, until one mission when a jet crashed near The Dells. A parachute that he packed saved the pilot's life! After a little while he went through the many ranks of the military and became master sergeant and still is to this day. Thank you Master Sergeant Feasel for your service and dedication to our country and the safety of us all.

Dr. Mike Lutes



By Noelle Butkevic

Whether it's heart disease, lung cancer, abdominal pains or more, there is no typical day in the emergency room for Dr. Mike Lutes! He has been living in Waunakee and working as an ER doctor for 6 years. He explained that it took 4 years of college, 4 years of medical school, and 4 years of residency work in a hospital to get that job! One of the worst injuries he witnessed in his career are gunshot wound victims. He says his work is very challenging, and he learns new things everyday, which is why it makes his job very exciting. He even learned that some people are very unique, for example, one patient would only talk to him through her puppet! Another example Dr. Lutes shared happened a few years ago when one person who used drugs got in trouble with the police. He ran away from them and hid inside the toilet of an outhouse. Eventually, the police found him. After that, it was necessary to have him hosed off by the fire department. Later, they brought him to the emergency room, which is where Dr. Lutes met him and reported that the whole place smelled terrible even after he was rinsed off. So, whenever anyone gets badly injured and needs to go to the emergency room, Dr. Mike Lutes is the man for the job!

Torger Mikkelsen

By Warren Ambord

Torger Mikkelsen has been building in Waunakee for 24 years. In that time the village has doubled in size. "Building is creating," he says, "I can see what I have built in the past, and I can imagine new projects, and then construct them." He continues, "You have to be careful with everything, and learning on the job is the best teacher." Torger loves model railroading, collecting cars, and jukeboxes. His dream house would have a "bright penny" metal roof, a screen porch, a pier, a fire pit, and a lot of family space. Being in business for over 45 years, Torger has built restaurants, large warehouses, and industrial buildings. His favorite houses that he built are the three he constructed for his family, as well as the cabin that became his second home in Black River Falls. Torger is a one of a kind builder.



Chloe Anderson

By Karleigh Endres

Snip! Snip! Chloe Anderson is cutting the hair of one of her clients at *Hello Gorgeous*. When Chloe Anderson's clients walk in the door she greets them with a great big happy smile. What she likes most about her job is meeting new people and the fact that they trust her with their hair. It took Chloe 1 year of schooling to become a hairstylist. Chloe always takes her time. She knows each of her clients deserves a great experience. Chloe says, "It is an amazing and rewarding career as long as you take it seriously and you are devoted." Since age 6, she has always wanted to be a hairdresser. She even practiced on her American Girl dolls. Chloe has lived in Waunakee all her life and has worked at *Hello Gorgeous* for 3.5 years. After a hard day of cutting hair, she always leaves with the same smile as she came in with.



Ken Benson



By David Hyatt

Ken Benson greets his customers, "Welcome to Papa Murphy's!" Ken is the store manager at Papa Murphy's in Waunakee. He has been a store manager for 17 years. He travels to new stores to help them become operational, and he also goes to stores that are having trouble to help them handle any issues. Before working for Papa Murphy's, Ken served in the military for 20 years where he learned that EVERYONE LOVES PIZZA!!!! This helped him decide to work in the pizza business as his post-military career. His favorite type of pizza is crispy bacon and green olive with a pan crust. Even though he could eat pizza every day, Ken only has it twice a week. Ken says that what he likes best about his job is getting to know people in Waunakee. If you're looking for a tasty pizza, check out Papa Murphy's and say hi to Ken!

Fifth Grade Photojournalists

