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Lake Country Reporter

Lakeside Supper Club gets a makeover



Lakeside customers enjoy the updated patio with a view of Silver Lake. Photo By Submitted

By Sheila Nero

July 22, 2015

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This summer is the season of updates at Lakeside Supper Club & Lounge in Summit. The traditional supper club that was formerly Burke's Lakeside is getting an updated menu along with a revamped atmosphere. "I wanted to do something different after five years here. We're putting a new spin on the retro supper club, but keeping the friendly atmosphere that we've always had," said co-owner Shane Valenti, 35, of Oconomowoc.

Blending old and new, for example, diners can still have a signature drink, the Bloody Mary with its summer sausage and cheese curd garnish. But now customers can choose to drink it at a new patio bar with bistro seats that face the lake. Other new touches include paint inside and out, garage doors that lift up to let lake air into the dining room, tabletops, artwork, light fixtures and ceiling fans.

Like the Lakeside itself, the public boat launch on Silver Lake across the street is full of motion. Boats are launched while paddle boarders and water skiers glide by. On Valley Road, bicycles and motorcycles join the parade past the launch, along with cars, pickups and kayaks on wheels that are walked in.

The menu

"We prep food daily, starting over fresh the next day, and get fish flown in every day from Hawaii," Valenti said. A sample of new items:

-Crawfish Etouffee

-Barbecue Combo plate of smoked pulled pork, pulled brisket, smoked beef sausage, macaroni and cheese, cole slaw and jalapeno cream corn. Barbecue is a specialty of Valenti's.

-Honolulu Fish Market Tacos, featuring kajikia, a type of blue marlin.

More new menu items are in progress. Variety has been added; for instance, a sandwich menu rotates choices, and the Lakeside's traditional cod fish fry now offers grilled or baked options.

A full bar is stocked with 28 craft beers and a reserve wine list.

The background

Valenti, who started in the restaurant business at age 12, is the chef. He previously managed Milwaukee establishments, including Turner Hall, Louisa's and Trinity, and recently hired James Barnes, formerly of Coquette Cafe in Milwaukee's Third Ward. Barnes trained under renowned chef Sandy D'Amato.

"I'm very family-oriented. My cousin, Tony Valenti, is the general manager, and my wife, Gabrielle, also works here. Everything we're doing is to be here for the next 30 years as we raise our family," he said.

Local restaurateur Chuck Vecits from Okauchee Lake is co-owner of Lakeside Lounge.

The tables

"It's not the white tablecloth restaurant of the past. Customers get dressed up to dance or come in wearing shorts," Valenti said. On a Saturday afternoon, families with children stopped at the restaurant, which has a children's menu and high chairs.

On Wednesdays, Paint Night features art sessions and socializing. Thursdays bring Latin dancing in the dance hall with drink specials and a rotating menu of Mexican "street tacos." Live music by King Solomon and other bands will be offered on Fridays and Saturdays, with Big Band music to come in the fall. Packers games can be viewed on big screen TVs, Valenti said.

Good to know

Address: 37328 Valley Road, Summit.

Phone: (262) 567-5242.

Fare: Modernized supper club.

Reservations: Recommended.

Prices: \$8-\$14 for small plates, \$12.95 for Sunday brunch, \$15-\$21 for full entrees and \$24-\$29 for steaks.

Hours: Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. (Open until 11 p.m. on Friday-Saturday); Sunday: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Brunch buffet: 10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.)

Wheelchair access: Yes.

Gluten-free options: Yes.

Website: Site is under construction; check Facebook.

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Weekend Happenings

Featured this week:

Free Food for Anyone in Need: 3 p.m. Aug. 21, Roosevelt Pavilion, South Main Street, Oconomowoc. No forms or questions asked. Bring your own bags or boxes. In cooperation with Our Savior's Lutheran Church and St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church. www.feedingamerica.org

Live Music and Dancing: 6:30 p.m. Aug. 21, Seven Seas, 1807 Nagawicka Road, Hartland. Remember When Duo featuring guitar and vocals. Country, 60s & 70s, The Beatles, Johnny Cash, Everly Brothers, The Eagles, Neil Diamond, Rolling Stones, Sinatra and more. www.sevenseaswi.com

"Picnic": 7:30 p.m. Aug. 20-22, SummerStage, Highway C, one mile South of I-94 in Lapham Peak Park, Delafield. William Inge drama. Shows are 7:30 p.m. Aug. 20-22, 27-29; Sept. 3-5, \$18 adults, \$16 seniors, students.

Social Paddle: 6 p.m. Aug. 21; 4:30 p.m. Aug. 23, Downtown Delafield, Genesee Street, Delafield. Led by an experienced guide, participants will enjoy a relaxing paddle around Nagawicka Lake on either a paddle board or a kayak. Guides offer pointers, tips, and tricks to hone your paddling abilities! Participants can bring their own watercraft or rent one from Clear Water Outdoor. Reserve your spot on clearwateroutdoor.com or call (262) 303-4206. Updates to this calendar are made weekly Monday afternoon.

All weekend happenings