

# Lakeview

## NEIGHBORS

JULY 2020



The Port Family Makes  
Memories Together on  
Lake Waubesa

PHOTO BY  
MOLLY MO  
PHOTOGRAPHY



Best Version Media®



# Best Version Media®

## PUBLICATION TEAM

### ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER / MARKET SUPPORT

Dana O'Neill

### CONTENT COORDINATOR Erin Vander Weele

**DESIGNER** Robynn Schopf

### CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Molly Mo Photography

## EXPERT CONTRIBUTORS

**FLOOR CLEANING** Beth Di Loreto

**RESIDENTIAL REALTOR** Joshua Holt

**VETERINARIAN** Sondel Family Vet

## ADVERTISING

### INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING WISCONSIN COMMUNITIES?

Appleton/Neenah, Brookfield, Delafield, Fitchburg, Fond du Lac, Germantown, Green Bay, Kohler, Maple Bluff, Mequon, Middleton, Oak Creek, Oconomowoc, Oshkosh, Pewaukee, Racine, River Hills, Sun Prairie, Waukesha, Wausau, Wauwatosa, Whitefish Bay

Contact: Dana O'Neill Phone: 262-297-3603  
Email: [doneill@bestversionmedia.com](mailto:doneill@bestversionmedia.com)

## HOA SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Are you on the association board for your subdivision?

Contact us for information on how you can submit articles, updates, reminders, events and more to the residents.

We create customized Homeowners Association sections at no cost to the HOA or the residents.

## FEEDBACK/IDEAS/SUBMISSIONS

Have feedback, ideas or submissions? We are always happy to hear from you! Deadlines for submissions are the 13th of each month. Email your thoughts, ideas, and photos to:

[evanderweele@bestversionmedia.com](mailto:evanderweele@bestversionmedia.com)

## CONTENT SUBMISSION DEADLINES

| DUE DATE FOR CONTENT | MAGAZINE EDITION |
|----------------------|------------------|
| December 13.....     | January          |
| January 13.....      | February         |
| February 13.....     | March            |
| March 13.....        | April            |
| April 13.....        | May              |
| May 13.....          | June             |
| June 13.....         | July             |
| July 13.....         | August           |
| August 13.....       | September        |
| September 13.....    | October          |
| October 13.....      | November         |
| November 13.....     | December         |

Any content, resident submissions, guest columns, advertisements and advertorials are not necessarily endorsed by or represent the views of Best Version Media (BVM) or any municipality, homeowners associations, businesses or organizations that this publication serves. BVM is not responsible for the reliability, suitability or timeliness of any content submitted. All content submitted is done so at the sole discretion of the submitting party. © 2020 Best Version Media. All rights reserved.



# DEAR RESIDENTS,

While summer might feel different this year, the nice weather brings the same beauty and enjoyment. It's especially a time to appreciate the serene lakes surrounding us.

The Port family loves fishing and boating on the Madison lakes. While they moved to the Waubesa Beach Neighborhood in 2018, Darren and Katie Port have had a connection to the community for years. See inside this issue to get to know Darren, Katie, and their kids McKenna (12), Xander (10), Graydon (7), Kinsley (10 months).

Also inside this issue, Joshua Holt shares an article on the Evolution of Home Buying and how remote work is changing the way people buy homes. Turn to page 8 to learn more. Please also welcome our new sponsor, Wisconsin Bedding located on Monona Drive. Wisconsin Bedding is a family-owned, independent mattress company located on Monona Drive in Madison. Jesse Frank is a 4th generation, veteran owner and operator. Come see one of the largest mattress selections in Dane County.

Remember, the magazine offers the opportunity for youth to submit free classifieds advertising their services to the community. With parental permission, youth can grow their babysitting, lawn care, pet care and other small business services by submitting a free ad. See page 7 for how to begin.

While the status of many community events continues to evolve, I encourage you to visit community and library websites to stay updated and check if virtual events, activities, or library storytimes are available. Resources to some virtual events are provided on page 10.

Thank you for helping us bring people together. Happy Fourth of July!

*Erin Vander Weele*

Content Coordinator  
[evanderweele@bestversionmedia.com](mailto:evanderweele@bestversionmedia.com)





# THE PORT FAMILY MAKES MEMORIES TOGETHER ON LAKE WAUBESA

BY ERIN VANDER WEELE | PHOTOS BY MOLLY MO PHOTOGRAPHY



**The Port family is happy to call the Waubesa Beach Neighborhood their home,** where they can step out their door any day to go fishing and boating.

Darren, Katie and their children moved into the neighborhood in November 2018 to be part of the Oregon School District and to enjoy lake living.

They had a strong connection to the community prior to moving into their new home. Darren played volleyball at Christy's Landing for over 20 years. Katie used to waitress, bartend and hostess at Christy's Landing during nights and weekends while she was in her first few years of teaching.

"We were excited to move here as we already have a lot of fun memories and established friendships with the neighbors," Darren shares. "We love the idea of lake living, and have already had a ton of fun fishing, swimming, boating, and kayaking on Lake Waubesa. It is a very welcoming, family-centered neighborhood. Everyone is friendly and kind. We couldn't ask for a better neighborhood to raise our family in."

You will often see their kids McKenna (12), Xander (10), Graydon (7), and Kinsley (10 months) walking with Katie in the neighborhood. They also love playing with the neighborhood kids.

Darren and Katie met at Kettle Hills Golf Course in Richfield, WI. Katie was working a summer job as a beverage cart girl and Darren often golfed there. They dated long distance for three years before getting married in August 2005.

Darren attended UW-Milwaukee, earning a degree in Pre-Med. He graduated with a Bachelors of Science (emphasis in Microbiology and Genetics). Darren started running a business as a Junior in college and decided to stay the course.

He has been a business owner for more than two decades and is the Founder and President of Tota Vita Financial Associates ([www.TotaVitaFA.com](http://www.TotaVitaFA.com)). Darren also is on the Advisory Board for, and is part owner of, several start-up companies in the Madison area.

Katie graduated from St. Norbert College with undergraduate degrees in Elementary/Middle School Education. She graduated from UW-LaCrosse with a Masters Degree in Education - Professional Development, and a second Masters Degree in Education from Cardinal Stritch University with a degree in Educational Leadership/School Administration. Katie taught in the Oregon School District for 11 years, and the School District of Beaver Dam and is currently the Chief Operations Officer of the Port household.

*"We are amazed by the connected community, welcoming attitude, and support of all of our lake neighbors."*



## COVER FEATURE

Darren enjoys golf, volleyball, downhill and water skiing, Crossfit, and is a Licensed Skydiver. Katie likes working out, traveling, and reading. They attend Heartland Community Church in Sun Prairie, and are involved in several volunteer organizations. Darren's Firm, Tota Vita Financial Associates, is a founder of the Children's Charitable Golf Outing, business partner and sponsor for Life 102.5, Yahara Member of the Clean Lakes Alliance, volunteer for The First Tee, and member of The East Side Club. The entire family loves the Wisconsin Badgers, and boating on the Madison lakes.

McKenna, Xander, and Graydon enjoy running 5ks, playing golf, fishing, downhill skiing and swimming. McKenna is on Student Council at her school and loves to paint. She also plays soccer, volleyball and is in the Trinity Irish Dancers. Xander is in Cub Scouts. He also plays basketball and golf. Graydon participates in karate, Cub Scouts, soccer, math, and golf.

Each year, the family attends Milwaukee Irish Fest. They often vacation in Florida and never miss a year visiting Door County for a vacation with Katie's extended family.

"It is the highlight of our summer," Darren shares. "The kids treasure their time with cousins."

Darren also takes part in an annual ski trip to Whistler Blackcomb in British Columbia with his long-time skiing buddies.

If the family had a motto to live by, it would be, "Kindness is the best currency. Pay it Forward!"

They would like to share with their neighbors: "We are amazed by the connected community, welcoming attitude, and support of all of our lake neighbors."

