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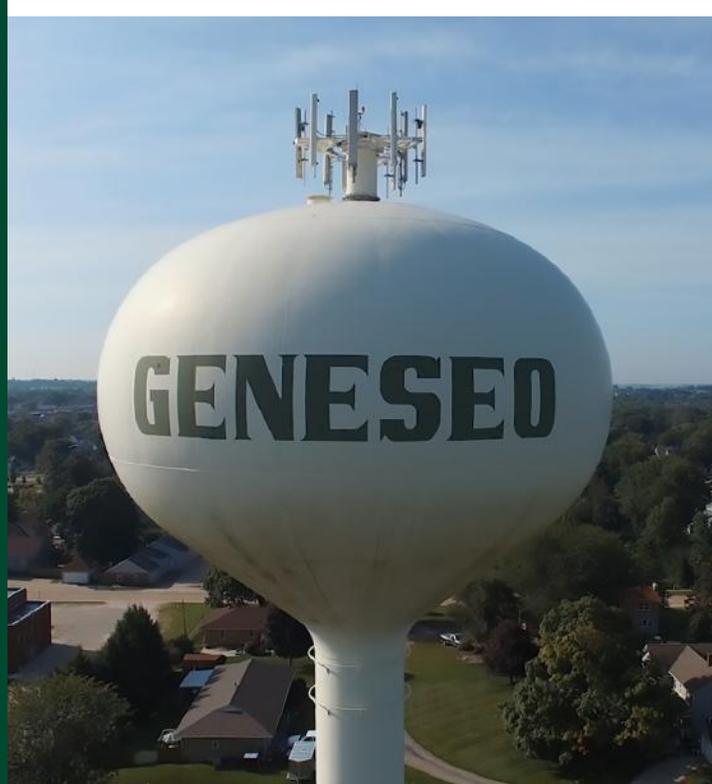
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GENESEO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Reading Garden

Envision yourself sitting on a park bench, surrounded by trees, shrubs and flowers on a warm, sunny day. You feel so relaxed that you close your eyes for a moment. Ahhh. It's peaceful, isn't it? There is a slight breeze blowing. When you open your eyes, you see a small group of young children being led toward you--they're looking for butterflies. They giggle and jump around a bit. They stop in their tracks when they see two butterflies land on a rock. Wait—are you at the library?

You could very well be, since the Geneseo Public Library is planning such a place. Imagine being able to check out a book and sit in a cozy spot on a sunny spring day-- just you and your book for some quiet time outdoors. Sound good? We think so!

The Geneseo Public Library's newest plan is to offer to its patrons a place where they can take some time to enjoy nature while reading a book, attending a meeting, working on a laptop or just relaxing while waiting until your child is finished in a program inside the building. Or passing the time before picking up the children at an after-school program. Or just spending time enjoying the beauty of the flowers planted there.

A black wrought-iron fence encloses the Reading Garden: it does not keep children in nor keep them out; it is to provide a boundary in which the garden is defined. Close to the fence there is a Butterfly Garden that has the kinds of plants butterflies want. In the spring, programs about caterpillars are presented. On a special day, there is a release of butterflies that have emerged from their chrysalises.

All kinds of outdoor activities for children can be experienced in this garden, from experimenting with bubbles, learning how to fly a paper kite, hunting for bugs, planting a vegetable garden or listening to a story. The list is endless.

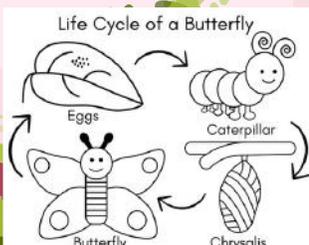
For adults, one can listen to poetry readings, attend a book discussion, learn about types of plants that attract butterflies or sit quietly and just exist. The list goes on. Local artists have pledged to help make this outdoor experience a thing of beauty by hand-painting child-sized benches. The Geneseo Garden Club will also assist with landscaping the garden by installing lush, green foliage and flowering plants that will show off their colors.

This is our vision for the future. We have taken the initial steps to begin the process of making it a reality by planting quality shade trees. A black wrought-iron fence encircles what will become a glorious garden. Next spring, a concrete walkway will embrace the heart of the garden. Six stately iron benches will be made available to the public to purchase as memorials to loved ones. Two comfortable rocking chairs will accommodate parents with babies or adults to relax in. A pergola to shield the visitors from the summer sun will also be constructed; the date for construction is yet to be determined. And a brick memorial walk is another possibility that might surround the seating area.

This has become a group effort, combining the helping hands of the community and their talents to make this garden pleasing to the eye and arousing the curiosity of our young patrons.

Donations have been coming in from both local businesses and patrons. A Go Fund Me account has been created for this project and is available by going to our website at <https://geneseo.lib.il.us>.

We hope those who read this will consider making a donation or donating a memorial bench in honor of a loved one. Inquiries may be directed to Claire Crawford at the library either by calling the library at 309 944-6452 or emailing her at ccrawford@geneseo.lib.il.us.



MANAGING SCREEN TIME:

Setting Healthy Boundaries for School-Aged Kids

In today's digital world, screens are a constant presence in children's lives, from educational apps to social media and video games. While there are benefits to digital tools, it's essential to set healthy boundaries to ensure that screen time doesn't negatively affect your child's development, social skills, or health. Here are some strategies to manage screen time effectively:

1

Establish Screen Time Limits

Set clear, consistent rules around screen time. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends no more than one hour of recreational screen time per day for children aged 2 to 5, and older kids should have limits that don't interfere with sleep, physical activity, or family time. Tailor limits to your child's age and needs.

5

Be a Role Model

Children often mimic the behaviors they see at home. Lead by example by limiting your own screen time during family activities. Show your child the importance of taking breaks from screens and finding balance in their habits.

2

Balance Educational & Entertainment Content

Ensure a balance between educational and entertainment content. Many apps and programs combine fun with learning, helping children develop skills in math, reading, and problem-solving. Incorporating educational videos or interactive virtual trips can make screen time both enjoyable and beneficial.

6

Use Technology to Your Advantage

Parental controls and screen time tracking apps can help manage and monitor your child's screen use. Set limits on certain apps, block content, or track usage to enforce boundaries and encourage responsible screen time.

3

Encourage Active Screen Time

Not all screen time has to be sedentary. Interactive games and fitness apps that encourage kids to move, dance, or exercise can keep them active while using technology. Games like those on the Nintendo Switch or fitness challenges on YouTube can help your child stay active and engaged.

7

Plan Screen-Free Activities

Offer engaging alternatives to screen time, like outdoor play, reading, arts and crafts, or family walks. Providing a variety of screen-free activities will ensure your child has plenty of options for entertainment beyond screens.

4

Set Screen-Free Zones

Designate screen-free areas in your home, such as the dining room or bedrooms, where family interactions and physical activities are prioritized. This encourages mindful communication and helps everyone take breaks from devices.



By setting healthy boundaries and promoting a balanced lifestyle, you can ensure that screen time supports your child's physical, emotional, and social well-being.

Geneseo Farmer's Market

The Geneseo Farmer's Market has been a staple in the city as a summer farmer's market since 2002. In recent years, the market has seen steady growth in the number of vendors during the market season. Over the years, it has been set up at different locations throughout the town, but now has been up at the city park for over 10 years. During the summer season on a typical Saturday market morning, they have between 25 to 30 vendors setting up. Many of the vendors are considered full-time and set up every week with their products. But there also are numerous vendors who are part-time that attend when it fits in their schedule. This allows for a nice variability throughout the summer market season.

The summer season starts the first Saturday in June and goes every Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon on Pearl Street at the City Park. The summer market season runs from June through October and takes place rain or shine. The Farmer's Market doesn't stop when summer ends. In the last couple of years, they started a winter market season to continue offering different products throughout the winter. The winter market has a different schedule and location with it occurring once a month in November, December, February, March and April. The winter market takes place at the Geneseo Moose Lodge on South State Street.

The market believes in community support so has partnered with non-profit organizations to bring educational information to its customers. They also work with the local food pantry to help the community with those that are food insecure by donating unsold produce or performing promotions asking for donations from customers or the general public that will go to the local food pantry.

To keep up with current events and happenings, follow its Facebook page at Geneseo Farmer's Market, Instagram page, and website at www.geneseofarmersmarket.com.



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Farmers National Bank: *Growing Strong While Staying True to Our Roots*



Since opening our doors in 1902, Farmers National Bank has been committed to serving our communities with personalized banking solutions. Over the years, we have grown and adapted to meet the evolving needs of our customers, and in 2024, we proudly expanded to a fourth branch in Mount Carroll, IL. While our footprint continues to grow, our values remain firmly rooted in what has always set us apart: local decision-making, personal service, and a deep investment in our communities.

At Farmers National Bank, we are more than just an agricultural bank. While agriculture remains a vital part of our business, our services extend far beyond farming. We offer a full range of financial products, including residential and commercial loans, checking and savings accounts, and cutting-edge digital banking services. Every one of our locations is equipped with Interactive Teller Machines (ITMs), ensuring that customers have access to convenient banking options while still experiencing the personal service they have come to expect from us. Additionally, we offer in-house wealth management services, providing personalized financial planning and investment strategies to help our customers secure their future.

Our growth has never come at the expense of our commitment to our customers. Unlike large corporate banks, we remain locally owned and managed, ensuring that every decision is made with the best interest of our communities in mind. As we expand, we continue to prioritize the relationships we build with our customers, reinforcing that we are, and always be, “A Real Community Bank.”

With over a century of experience and a strong foundation of service, we look forward to continuing to grow while staying true to what has always made us unique. Whether you need a farm or home loan, business financing, wealth management, or the latest in digital banking, Farmers National Bank is here to serve you—just as we have been since 1902.





GARDENING FOR BEGINNERS

A Simple Guide to Growing Your Green Thumb

Spring is the perfect time to roll up your sleeves and dive into gardening. Whether you have a sprawling backyard or a small balcony, growing your own plants is both rewarding and relaxing. Here's a beginner-friendly guide to help you get started, plus some easy-to-grow plants and resources to make the process enjoyable.

Step 1: Plan Your Garden Space

Start by assessing your space. Determine whether you'll plant directly in the ground, in raised beds, or in containers. If you're short on outdoor space, consider vertical gardening or window boxes. Ensure your chosen area gets adequate sunlight—most plants need at least 6 hours of sun daily.

Step 2: Choose Your Plants

As a beginner, it's best to start with plants that are easy to grow and maintain. Here are some great options:

Vegetables: Lettuce, radishes, and cherry tomatoes are fast-growing and beginner-friendly.

Herbs: Basil, parsley, and mint thrive in small spaces and are perfect for kitchen use.

Flowers: Marigolds, zinnias, and sunflowers add color and are resilient to mistakes.

Step 3: Prepare the Soil

Good soil is the foundation of a healthy garden. If planting in the ground, loosen the soil and mix in compost or organic matter to enrich it. For containers, use a high-quality potting mix to ensure proper drainage and nutrients.

Step 4: Water Wisely

Consistency is key when it comes to watering. Most plants prefer deep, infrequent watering to encourage strong root growth. Water early in the morning to reduce evaporation and prevent diseases that thrive in damp conditions.

Step 5: Monitor and Maintain

Keep an eye on your plants for signs of pests or diseases. Regularly weed your garden to reduce competition for nutrients and space. Prune as needed to promote healthy growth and encourage blooms or fruit production.

Local Resources and Tips

Community Gardens: Many neighborhoods have community garden spaces where you can learn from experienced gardeners and share resources.

Workshops: Check with local libraries, gardening clubs, or extension services for beginner gardening classes.

Seed Swaps: Join a seed swap group to get free seeds and gardening tips from fellow enthusiasts.

Gardening is a journey, and even experienced gardeners learn through trial and error. Start small, have patience, and enjoy watching your efforts come to life. Who knows? This spring hobby might just grow into a lifelong passion.

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MEMORY LANE



Fitness for the Mind at Liberty Village of Geneseo

In January 2021, Liberty Village of Geneseo proudly opened our new Memory Lane - Fitness for the Mind, a dedicated space within our retirement community. This expansion adds a 30-room wing specifically designed for Assisted Living residents experiencing dementia or dementia-related illnesses, complementing our existing independent and assisted living apartments.

Every detail of Memory Lane has been thoughtfully crafted to support our residents. From the flooring in the hallways to the ceilings that mimic the sky, and even the use of red plates, each feature is tailored to create a nurturing environment for those with cognitive challenges. Our Support Services team continuously researches the latest developments in dementia care, ensuring we implement innovative strategies that help our residents not only live but thrive.

Our Mission: Exercise the Brain, Enhance Memory, Maintain Independence

Memory Lane - Fitness for the Mind is more than just a name; it embodies our mission. We focus on exercising the brain, enhancing memory, and maintaining independence for our residents, particularly those with mild to moderate cognitive impairments. By concentrating on each resident's strengths, we develop personalized therapeutic programs that enhance memory functions.

While we acknowledge that dementia cannot be stopped or reversed, we are committed to providing every resident with the quality of life they deserve. Our programs are based on a thorough assessment of each individual's unique functioning level. The Memory in Motion programming emphasizes independence, allowing residents to engage in activities as much as possible with the support of our dedicated Memory Care Specialists.

Research indicates that establishing a routine is vital for individuals with dementia. To facilitate this, we offer a variety of activities focused on daily living tasks, cognitive well-being, and group interactions. Our approach is designed to help your loved one thrive throughout the progression of their condition, emphasizing a person-centered care model.

Recognizing Signs of Dementia

Identifying dementia can be challenging, and many families may overlook subtle signs. Common indicators include forgetfulness, misplacing items, and repetitive storytelling. However, pay attention to how your loved one engages in conversations during family gatherings. If they seem quiet or primarily listen without contributing, it may indicate difficulty following discussions or fear of exposing their memory challenges.

Additionally, note how they respond to specific questions, as vague answers may suggest cognitive issues. Caregivers often experience moments of false hope, believing that their loved

ones are fine. Unfortunately, dementia can be difficult to detect, even by medical professionals, especially if the individual is being seen for a short period of time or has become adept at masking their symptoms.

Our trained team is equipped to assess loved ones and determine their stage of dementia. This comprehensive screening process lasts at LEAST 45 minutes and involves various techniques to accurately gauge where individuals stand in their cognitive health. We communicate with families throughout this process, ensuring you understand your loved one's needs and where they would best fit within our community, or if they require a higher level of care. This screening is offered free of charge with no commitment necessary.

Determining the Right Time for a Move

We understand that caregiving can be overwhelming, and it's uncommon to feel stressed, guilty, or burdened. However, it is crucial to recognize that seeking help is not a failure. Instead, it's an opportunity to provide quality time for you and your loved one rather than merely quantity.

Once residents transition to Liberty Village Memory Lane, many experience significant positive changes. They are no longer required to mask their symptoms and can relate to others in a similar situation. This environment allows them to engage in activities without the fear of making mistakes, while you can reclaim your role as a husband, wife, daughter, or son. You can freely visit, share meals, and enjoy each other's company without the constant worry about medication management or personal care - that responsibility lies with us.

At Memory Lane, we prioritize the well-being of our residents afflicted with memory loss while providing peace of mind to their families. Knowing that your loved one is safe, healthy, and happy in an environment designed to support their maximum potential is invaluable.

Community Support and Resources

For families caring for loved ones at home or those participating in our program, we offer a Dementia Support Group every third Tuesday of the month at 5:00 p.m. in the Memory Lane conference room. This group provides a space for sharing experiences and finding support among others facing similar challenges. Additionally, we encourage you to reach out to us anytime if you need someone to talk to. Remember, you are never alone in this journey; simply call 309-944-0460.

We invite you to come and see for yourself the exceptional care and environment we provide at Memory Lane - Fitness for the Mind. Our facility surpasses even the highest expectations, and we are eager to share this incredible journey with you. Schedule a tour today and join us in creating a brighter future for your loved ones.



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Easter MINUS EGGS

If you want to celebrate Easter without using real eggs, here are some fun and creative crafts that keep the holiday spirit alive!

1. DIY Eggs

Cut egg shapes out of cardstock, scrapbook paper, construction paper, or felt. Decorate them with markers, stickers, glitter, or even fabric scraps. These make great Easter decorations or garlands!

2. Easter Bunny Paper Plate Masks

Use paper plates to create bunny masks. Cut out eye holes, add a cotton ball nose, draw whiskers, and attach ears made from construction paper or felt.

3. Clay or Salt Dough Eggs

Make Easter eggs using air-dry clay or homemade salt dough. Shape them, let them dry, and then paint or stamp designs onto them. These can be turned into ornaments or keepsakes.

4. Flower Pots

Paint small terracotta pots with pastel colors, polka dots, or bunny faces. They make adorable decorations and great gifts when filled with flowers or candy.

5. Sock Bunnies

Turn mismatched socks into adorable Easter bunnies! Fill them with rice or cotton stuffing, tie off sections to create a bunny shape, and add googly eyes and a pom-pom tail.

6. Easter Egg Rocks

Find smooth rocks and paint them to look like Easter eggs. These can be used for decoration, hidden for a scavenger hunt, or gifted as little keepsakes.

7. Bunny Ears Headbands

Make adorable bunny ears using a headband and pipe cleaners wrapped in felt or fabric. Kids will love wearing them for Easter photos!

8. Pinecones

Paint pinecones in pastel colors and turn them into mini Easter trees or decorations for a rustic look.

9. Easter Carrot Treat Bags

Fill orange tissue paper or small orange gift bags with candy or popcorn, then tie them with green ribbon to look like carrots!

10. Edible Easter Egg Treats

Skip real eggs and make egg-shaped sugar cookies, Rice Krispies treats, or chocolate-covered pretzel eggs. Decorate them with icing and sprinkles for a delicious alternative!



Grilled Chicken & Veggie Skewers

Ingredient and Equipment Notes

Boneless, Skinless Chicken Breast – Steak would also work

Your Favorite Veggies For Grilling – zucchini, yellow squash, onion, peppers, mushrooms, eggplant, etc.

Italian Dressing – This homemade version is best, but your favorite store-bought variety will work in a pinch.

The dressing contains:

Vinegar

Lemon juice

Sugar

Dry mustard

Kosher salt

Red pepper flakes

Black pepper

Fresh garlic

Neutral oil or olive oil

Parmesan cheese

Italian seasoning

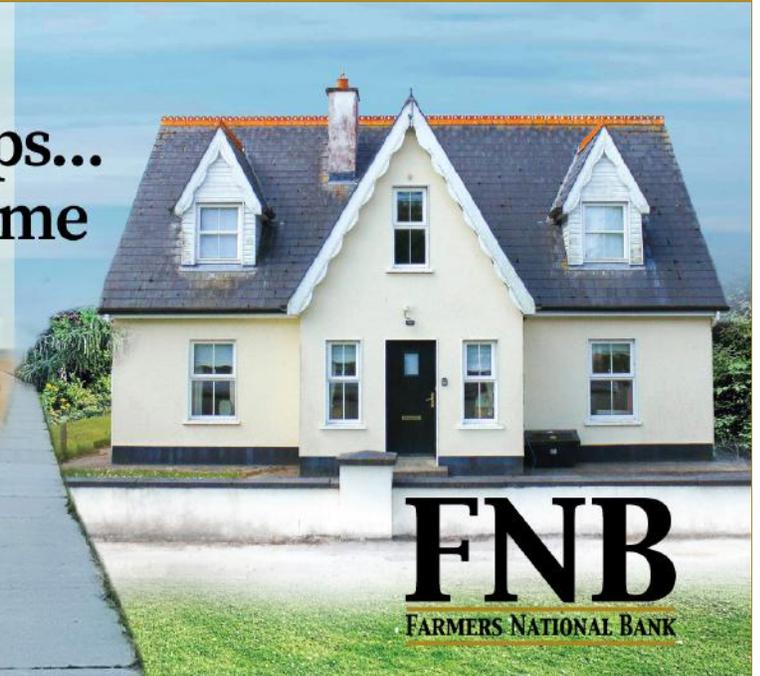
Skewers – You can use metal or bamboo skewers. Just remember that skewers made from bamboo or wood need to be soaked in water for 30 minutes before being placed on the grill so they hold up to the heat. See the note below about my preferred variety of metal skewers with a wood handle.



How To Make Grilled Chicken and Veggie Skewers

1. Place your veggies in a gallon-sized Ziploc bag and drizzle about 3/4 of the dressing over the vegetables.
2. Place the cut-up chicken in another large Ziploc bag and pour the remaining dressing over the chicken. Seal and refrigerate both bags for at least 4 hours, no more than 24 hours.
3. When you're ready to cook, preheat your grill over medium heat to about 425°F.
4. Thread the meat and veggies loosely onto the skewers.
5. Lightly oil the grill grates before adding the skewers and then grill for 4-5 minutes. Flip the skewers and grill another 4-5 minutes on the other side and voila! You have one of my most favorite meals of all time!

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Caprese Salad with Balsamic Glaze

Original recipe (1X) yields 4 servings

ingredients

1 cup balsamic vinegar
1/4 cup honey
3 large tomatoes, cut into 1/2-inch slices
1 (16 ounce) package fresh mozzarella cheese,
cut into 1/4-inch slices
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
1/2 cup fresh basil leaves
1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil

directions

1. Gather all ingredients. Stir balsamic vinegar and honey together in a small saucepan and place over high heat.
2. Bring to a boil, reduce heat to low, and simmer until mixture has reduced to 1/3 cup, about 10 minutes. Set aside to cool.
3. Arrange alternating slices of tomato and mozzarella decoratively on a serving platter.
4. Sprinkle with salt and black pepper, tuck basil leaves around slices, and drizzle with olive oil and the balsamic reduction.



Butter Rum Pound Cake

For the Cake Batter:

3 cup (3 cups) all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon kosher salt
1/4 teaspoon baking soda
1 1/2 cup unsalted butter, room temperature
1 1/4 cup granulated sugar
1 3/4 cup brown sugar
5 eggs, room temperature
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
1 teaspoon rum extract (optional)
1/2 cup buttermilk
1/2 cup rum

For the Butter Rum Simple Syrup:

1/3 cup water
1/3 cup granulated sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
1/8 teaspoon fine sea salt
1-2 tablespoons rum
2 teaspoon butter
For the Final Glaze:

For the Final Glaze:

2 cup confectioner's sugar
1/8 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
2-3 tablespoons rum
.5-1 tablespoon heavy cream or whole milk

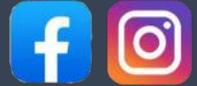
Instructions

To Make the Batter in a Stand Mixer:

1. Preheat oven to 325°F. It is highly recommended to use an oven thermometer for this recipe, since proper oven temperature can impact the finished product.
2. Combine the buttermilk and rum in a two-cup liquid measuring cup.
3. In a medium bowl, combine the flour, baking soda and salt (if using kosher salt, omit it from this step).
4. Sift the flour/baking soda mixture into a large bowl. If using kosher salt, add it at this time.
5. Place the room temperature butter in the bowl of your stand mixer. Mix on low speed until smooth. (30 seconds)
6. Slowly add the granulated sugar and brown sugar and mix on medium speed until the mixture is light and fluffy. (7-10 minutes)
7. Add eggs, one at a time, mixing for at least 45 seconds after each addition. Scrape the bowl as needed (I usually scrape the bowl after the third and fifth egg). This step is extremely important because eggs help with cake rise! (6 minutes)
8. Add vanilla extract and rum extract (if using) and mix until thoroughly combined. (1 minute)
9. Add half of the flour mixture and mix on low speed until combined. (30-45 seconds)
10. Add all of the buttermilk/rum mixture and mix on low speed until well combined. (~1 minute)
11. Add the second half of the flour mixture and mix on low speed until almost combined. Stop mixing just before the mixture is fully together. (1-2 minutes)
12. Using a rubber spatula, fully scrape the sides and bottom of the mixing bowl. Keep mixing until the batter is smooth and consistent. Make sure to get the entire bottom of the bowl!
13. Grease a 10-12 cup bundt pan with butter and flour and place the batter in the pan.



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BETTING THE FARM

Everyone who knows the name Springfield Armory knows the M1A. Hailing from an era of manufacturing when rifles were constructed of wood and steel and based upon the revered U.S. Military M14 rifle with a lineage connected to the iconic M1 Garand rifle, the M1A represents a fascinating intersection of modern performance and classic design. Its journey, beginning just over 50 years ago, would be shepherded by a man named Dennis Reese.

A NEW FOUNDATION

Mr. Reese, CEO and owner of Springfield Armory, has a deep connection with the M1A design. I recently had an opportunity to sit down with him and learn more about the story behind the M1A rifle.

Early into the conversation, I learned that firearms have long been a passion for the Reese family.

“My father, Bob Reese, would buy demilitarized surplus firearms as scrap iron from the Rock Island Arsenal that had been torch cut,” Dennis Reese explained to me. “Those demilitarized guns still had valuable parts that could be removed and sold to surplus dealers and manufacturers. There were BARs, M1 and M2 Carbines, M1 Garands, Thompson submachine guns, 1911 pistols, 1903 Springfields, and more,” he continued.

Reese explained to me that he and his two younger brothers, Dave and Tom, helped their father on these projects. Their work proved to be very successful, with a great deal of demand for these firearms parts. In fact, it grew to the point where their father opened Reese Surplus, Inc., a surplus store in Geneseo, Illinois. As the business grew, he

developed connections with dealers and firearms manufacturers around the country — one of which would prove to be extremely fortuitous for fans of the M1A.

DIVERGING PATH

How did selling gun parts lead to producing a civilian-legal, semi-automatic variant of the M14 rifle?

“When I was 19 years old, I had put in two years of college working toward a degree as an electronics engineer. I had decided it was just not for me,” he told me. “I came home and asked myself, ‘Where am I going to go from here?’”

Reese, having grown up around firearms, was fascinated with them. He loved shooting and hunting. So, he spoke with his father about it and decided he wanted to make working with firearms his living.

His father mentioned that there was a company down in Texas that he had done some business with, and they owed him some money. He was going to go down and see about settling up with them and asked Dennis if he wanted to go with him.

Dennis and his father traveled to San Antonio, Texas, to negotiate a trade of product to settle the debt. What they discovered was, in addition to a lot of general surplus parts, a great deal of M14 inventory. The negotiating moved beyond the debt discussion to them seriously considering making an offer to buy all of it.

The story of the Springfield Armory M1A rifle

Mike Humphries

“I remember my father calling my mother and telling her that he thought the business had some potential. ‘Are you comfortable with us going bigger into this?’ I heard him ask her. Soon, my father and I were discussing what it would take to purchase the company itself,” Dennis Reese explained to me.

So, a trip that started as a simple effort to settle a debt turned into a life-changing opportunity for Dennis. In fact, the opportunity was so great that, in order to fund the purchase, Reese’s parents chose to mortgage the family farm.

“My parents risked everything on their 19-year-old son and his younger brothers in this new venture,” Reese said to me.

Once the purchase was done, Reese and his father filled up two semi-truck trailers with inventory, office and machining equipment, etc. and took it all back home. They set up shop in downtown Geneseo at 218 South State St. in what was formerly the “Sunshine Snack Bar,” a little diner that had closed. Reese set up shop and began building M1A rifles from the surplus M14 parts they had acquired in the purchase.

“Dad would come in and work part of the day in addition to his farm duties, and I was there all day working,” Reese told me. “My brothers were in high school at the time but would come in and work after school. This was truly a family business and a family effort. My family had literally bet the farm on this effort.”

MOVING FORWARD

If the story ended here with Dennis Reese and the Reese family building classic M1A rifles — cottage industry-style — in that diner, it would make for a fascinating example of the benefits of hard work and the realization of the American Dream. But the story did not end there, and is one that continues on through to today.

Let’s be frank — the M1A has a naturally “retro” appeal to it. As noted, it’s a design from an era when rifles were made of wood and steel. While its manufacturing may have begun with an equally old-fashioned approach, the Springfield Armory M1A of today represents a totally new and modern method of manufacturing and design.

Today, the M1A — along with numerous other and varied Springfield firearms — is manufactured in Springfield Armory’s state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Geneseo, Illinois. The result is a product that offers the appeal of the classic 20th century design, but with levels of precision and quality that represent 21st century capabilities. Basically, it makes the M1A a rifle with one foot in the past, and one in the future.

CONCLUSION

It’s hard to overstate how revered a design the M1A is. With half a century of production behind it and a very bright future ahead of it, the M1A was clearly worth the Reese family “betting the farm” on it. I know I’m thankful they did, and I am sure all the M1A enthusiasts out there agree. Here’s to the next 50 years of the design!

To learn more, visit Springfield-Armory.com
Article courtesy of TheArmoryLife.com.

A MESSAGE FOR *Moms*

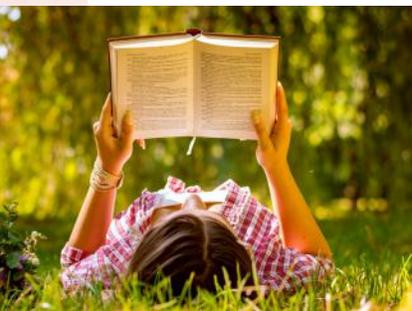
To all the incredible moms out there:

You are the heart and soul of your family, and every day you are doing something extraordinary, even when it feels like you're just getting through the routine. The love, care, and energy you put into everything you do are seen in ways that go beyond words. Whether you're waking up early, staying up late, managing the chaos, or creating moments of magic, your strength is unmatched.

Some days may be tough, and you might feel like you're juggling a thousand things at once, but remember—you're not alone in this. You are making a difference in the lives of your children, and even when the hard days feel endless, the impact you're making will last a lifetime. The patience you show, the sacrifices you make, and the love you give are shaping the future.

Take a moment this Mother's Day to breathe, to smile at how far you've come, and to remind yourself that you are enough. You are doing an amazing job, even when you don't hear it enough. Your efforts are valued, even when they go unnoticed by the world around you. Keep going, because those little moments you're building today will be the big memories tomorrow. You've got this, mama. You are everything they need and more.





SUMMER LEARNING: HOW TO KEEP KIDS ENGAGED DURING BREAK

As the school year ends and summer break begins, parents often face the challenge of keeping kids engaged in learning. While summer is a time to relax, it's also an opportunity to prevent the "summer slide," the loss of academic skills during the break. Fortunately, there are fun and educational activities that can keep kids' minds sharp without feeling like schoolwork. Here are some ideas:

1. Summer Reading Challenge

Encourage reading with a summer reading challenge. Set a goal—whether it's a certain number of books or pages—and reward kids with small prizes or extra screen time when they reach milestones. Choose books based on their interests or explore new releases. Many local libraries offer summer reading programs with incentives and activities, so be sure to check out what's available in your community.

2. Local Museum Visits

Take advantage of local museums, historical sites, and science centers for hands-on learning. Many offer summer programs and exhibits for children, making it a fun family outing. Whether it's an art museum or a science center, these trips can spark curiosity and provide an enriching experience outside the classroom.

3. STEM Activities and Experiments

Engage your child's imagination with simple science experiments or STEM activities at home. From creating a baking soda volcano to building a simple circuit, there are plenty of fun experiments to try. Websites and apps offer step-by-step instructions for DIY experiments, tailored to different age groups and interests.

4. Educational Apps and Games

There are numerous educational apps that make learning feel like a game. Apps focused on math, reading, and problem-solving can keep kids engaged for short periods. While screen time should be limited, these apps can be an effective tool for reinforcing lessons from the school year.

5. Outdoor Learning Adventures

Summer offers the perfect chance for outdoor exploration. Turn family hikes or nature walks into learning adventures by encouraging kids to observe plants, animals, and insects. Discuss ecosystems, and bring along a nature journal for sketching or writing about what they see. These outdoor activities help develop critical thinking and observation skills.

6. Create a Summer Learning Schedule

Set aside a small block of time each day for educational activities, like reading, trivia games, or creative writing. Keep it light and enjoyable, ensuring that learning doesn't feel like a chore. Consistency is key to maintaining engagement over the summer months.

With a little planning, summer break can become a fun and educational time that keeps your child's mind sharp and prepares them for the next school year.



Buyer's Guide: The Best Zero-Turn Mower for Large Yards

Owning a large yard is a dream until it comes time to mow it. You could spend hours pushing a traditional mower, or you could make the smart choice and invest in a zero-turn mower. For those who want the best performance, TORO zero-turn mowers are the top choice, and B&B Lawn Equipment is the best place to buy one. B&B is a full-service dealer stocking all TORO-branded zero-turns, ensuring you get the best selection, service, and support.

Why Choose a Zero-Turn Mower?

Zero-turn mowers use dual-hydrostatic transmissions for unmatched maneuverability. Instead of a steering wheel, these machines are controlled by two levers, allowing for near-instant 360° turns and Power-Steering. Their agility makes them ideal for navigating around trees, landscaping, and other obstacles, reducing the need for additional trimming and cutting down mowing time by up to 45% compared to traditional riding mowers.

What to Look for in a Zero-Turn Mower

When investing in a zero-turn mower, it's important to consider durability, performance, and comfort. Here's what sets TORO mowers apart:

Durability and Construction

TORO zero-turn mowers are built to last. Their heavy-gauge steel frames provide excellent durability, ensuring your mower withstands years of use. The IronForged deck, available on the TORO TimeCutter and TITAN models, is fabricated from welded steel for superior strength, making it ideal for rough terrain.

Powerful Engine Options

TORO zero-turn mowers feature powerful engine options, including twin-cylinder engines that deliver increased power and reduced vibration. This ensures a smoother ride and consistent performance, even on challenging landscapes.

Adjustable Cutting Height

TORO mowers offer quick and easy deck height adjustments, allowing you to tackle different grass

lengths and terrain variations with ease. Many models include a foot-operated deck lift, so you can make on-the-go height adjustments without leaving your seat.

Wide Wheels for Stability

With wide, high-quality wheels, TORO mowers distribute weight more effectively, improving traction and minimizing lawn damage. Many models also feature 4-ply rated tires for enhanced durability and performance.

Unmatched Comfort with MyRIDE Suspension

Mowing for extended periods can be uncomfortable, but TORO solves that with its MyRIDE suspension system. This feature absorbs bumps and vibrations, keeping you comfortable even on uneven terrain.

Versatile Accessories TORO zero-turn mowers can do more than just cut grass. Available attachments include baggers, mulching kits, snow plows, dethatchers, and more, allowing you to get the most out of your investment year-round.

Why Buy from B&B Lawn Equipment?

If you're looking for the best place to buy a TORO zero-turn mower, B&B Lawn Equipment is the answer. As a full-service dealer, they stock all TORO-branded zero-turns and provide expert guidance, maintenance, and support to ensure you get the right mower for your needs. Their knowledgeable team will help you select the perfect model, and their commitment to service means you'll always have professional assistance when you need it.

Invest in the Best

A zero-turn mower is a valuable investment for anyone with a large yard, and choosing TORO ensures you get top-tier performance, durability, and comfort. To find the perfect TORO zero-turn mower, visit B&B Lawn Equipment in GENESEO IL, where quality and customer service go hand in hand. Stop wasting time with inefficient mowing methods—upgrade to a TORO today! bblawneq.com 309-944-2660

A MESSAGE FOR

Dads

To all the dads out there:

Happy Father's Day, you magnificent, multitasking, dad-joke-cracking legends! Today's the day you finally get the recognition you totally deserve for all those years of "I'm not tired, I'm fine" while silently running on coffee and sheer willpower. Let's not forget the countless hours of "Dad, can you fix this?"—which, let's be real, you totally can, even if your "fix" involves duct tape and a prayer.

But here's the thing: you're more than just the man who grills like a champ and somehow remembers everyone's soccer practice schedule. You're the steady rock, the sounding board, the shoulder to cry on (preferably without getting any snot on your favorite T-shirt). Your ability to be both a superhero and a softie in disguise is something to truly admire.

So, take a moment this Father's Day to kick back, relax, and pretend like you're not secretly thinking about the laundry pile or the undone DIY projects. You've earned it. And let's face it—you're probably going to spend the day pretending to enjoy your one nap a year while secretly checking your phone for work emails. We see you. You're still a legend. Keep doing your thing, Dad.

You've got this. (And we'll definitely let you be the one to fix the sink later.)





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Good News, Geneseo

The 2025 Distinguished Alumni Induction Ceremony was held on March 10 to honor outstanding Geneseo High School graduates for their achievements in education, military service, aviation, and community leadership. This year's inductees included Molly Hamer, Cephas B. Hunt, John Cady Lough, Ted McAvoy, George Pinks, Marv W. Peterson, Larry Schrof, James Floyd Smith, Tim Renihan, and Donald Gene Wright. Their legacies were celebrated during a special event at the Joseph and Marilyn DePauw Theater at Geneseo High School.

Geneseo's Inspire Continuing Care unveiled a new lounge and accessible kitchen, enhancing programs for adults with unique needs.

Supported by local donors and businesses, the expansion was celebrated at a March 11 ribbon-cutting. Since 2021, ICC has grown 400% and continues to expand services.

In just three years, the Geneseo Girls' Wrestling Club has become an official GHS team and had a breakthrough season, sending five athletes to the State Tournament. Lydia King made history with a 4th place finish in the State Finals, while Molly Snyder earned a State-Level match win, marking a major milestone for the program.



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GENESEO KIDS' SCAVENGER HUNT

Welcome, Young Explorers! Can you find all the hidden treasures around Geneseo? Grab a pencil and check off each item as you discover it. Some might be easy, some might be tricky—good luck!

- A building older than 100 years
- An Abe Lincoln statue
- An American flag
- An outside mural
- A fountain or waterfall
- A street named after a plant or tree
- A big metal goldfish
- A tall metal sculpture that looks like butterflies

Once you've completed your Geneseo Scavenger Hunt, bring your checklist to the Geneseo Public Library to claim your official Geneseo Explorer Sticker!

Show off your adventurer spirit and let everyone know you've uncovered some of the coolest hidden treasures in town. Stop by during library hours, share your favorite discovery, and celebrate your explorer status! Happy hunting!



PLANNING YOUR *Staycation*

Here are some great summer staycation ideas for the Iowa/Illinois Quad Cities region, offering a perfect mix of outdoor adventures, local culture, and relaxation.



1. Outdoor Activities & Nature



Mississippi Riverfront: Explore the scenic riverfront in both Iowa and Illinois with walking trails, parks, and river cruises. Spend time at LeClaire Park (Davenport, IA) or Schwiebert Riverfront Park (Rock Island, IL). These areas are perfect for a picnic, strolls, or just relaxing by the water.



Great River Trail: Rent bikes or go for a hike along the 62-mile Great River Trail that follows the river, passing through beautiful nature preserves and charming small towns.

Rock Island Arsenal (Rock Island, IL): Take a tour of the historic Rock Island Arsenal, located on an island in the Mississippi River. The island offers walking tours, picnic areas, and beautiful river views.

Devil's Glen Park (Bettendorf, IA): A great spot for hiking, biking, and outdoor fun in the heart of Bettendorf, IA. In the summer, it's perfect for a picnic or a dip in the creek.

2. Water Fun & Boating



Mississippi River Boat Tour: Take a relaxing riverboat cruise along the Mississippi River to enjoy the picturesque views and learn about the region's history.

Sunset Cruise or Kayaking: Rent kayaks or stand-up paddleboards and enjoy paddling on the Mississippi River. Alternatively, enjoy a sunset cruise to unwind while taking in the views.

Wildwood Park (Moline, IL): Head to Wildwood Park for some relaxing beach time, perfect for a swim or to lay out and sunbathe. It also offers hiking trails and picnic areas.

3. Local Attractions & Culture



Vander Veer Botanical Park (Davenport, IA): Spend time walking through the lush gardens, which offer beautiful landscapes, fountains, and peaceful paths, ideal for a leisurely day out.



Figge Art Museum (Davenport, IA): Enjoy the summer exhibitions at the Figge Art Museum, showcasing a variety of local, national, and international artists.

Putnam Museum (Davenport, IA): Check out the interactive exhibits at this family-friendly museum that covers everything from history to science to nature.

Quad City Botanical Center (Rock Island, IL): Explore this beautiful garden featuring themed outdoor areas and a tropical conservatory, perfect for a leisurely afternoon surrounded by nature.

4. Dining & Local Breweries

Explore Local Breweries: Enjoy locally crafted beers at Geneseo Brewing Company (Geneseo, IL), Bent River Brewing Co. (Moline, IL), Great River Brewery (Davenport, IA), and Front Street Brewery (Davenport, IA). Many offer outdoor seating during the summer, making them perfect spots to relax and enjoy a refreshing brew.

Food Trucks and Summer Events: In the summer, you can enjoy various local food festivals or food truck gatherings. Some parks, like LeClaire Park in Davenport, host regular food truck events.

Outdoor Dining in Geneseo: Enjoy a meal under the open sky at Sweet Pea's or Geneseo Brewing Company, two local favorites offering great food, refreshing drinks, and a welcoming atmosphere. Both locations provide outdoor seating, making them ideal spots to gather with friends, enjoy live music, or simply relax and soak in the small-town charm of Geneseo.

5. Family-Friendly Fun

Celebration River Cruises (Davenport, IA): This riverboat cruise company offers daily tours, special events, and live music cruises during the summer months. It's a great way for families to enjoy the river and have fun together.

Family-Friendly Parks: Spend a day at Duck Creek Park (Bettendorf, IA) or Richmond Hill Park (Geneseo, IL), both offering playgrounds, picnic areas, and scenic walking trails. During the summer, both parks are a perfect setting for a day of adventure and relaxation.

6. Relaxation & Wellness

Spa Day: Treat yourself to a day of pampering at the Rhythm City Spa (Davenport, IA) or at one of our local salons. Whether you're looking for a massage, facial, or a full-body treatment, these spots provide the perfect escape for relaxation and self-care.

Tee Off at Local Golf Courses: Enjoy a round of golf at Sugar Maple Golf Course or Countryview Golf Course, both located in Geneseo, IL. These scenic courses offer a great mix of challenging holes and relaxed play, perfect for golfers of all skill levels.

7. Summer Festivals & Events

Geneseo Art Walk & Music Festival: Celebrate local creativity at this vibrant festival featuring live music, talented artists, interactive exhibits, and unique handcrafted goods. Stroll through downtown Geneseo, enjoy performances, and experience the town's artistic and musical culture.

Bix 7 & Quad City Air Show: Watch elite runners take on the legendary Bix 7 road race in Davenport, IA, a thrilling event for both participants and spectators. Then, look to the skies for the Quad City Air Show, featuring jaw-dropping aerial performances, *military aircraft displays*, and *high-flying excitement for the whole family*.

Geneseo Farmers Market & More: Start your weekend at the Geneseo Farmers Market, where you'll find fresh produce, local goods, handmade crafts, and delicious food vendors in a welcoming community atmosphere.

8. Unique Day Trips

The Iowa 80 Trucking Museum (Walcott, IA): This museum showcases the history of trucking in America, with vintage trucks and interactive exhibits. It's a fun and quirky trip if you're looking to explore something different!

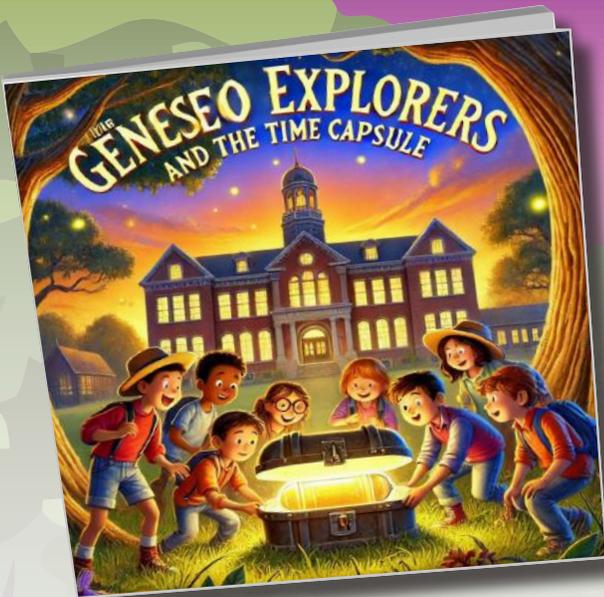
The Iowa Wine Trail: Embark on a wine tour along the Iowa Wine Trail, which is not far from the Quad Cities, offering tastings, vineyards, and scenic countryside views.

By exploring these summer options in Geneseo and the Quad Cities, you can enjoy a relaxing yet exciting staycation filled with outdoor adventures, community events, and cultural experiences. From local festivals and farmers markets to scenic parks and live music, there's no shortage of ways to make the most of the warmer months close to home!



Can AI Write a Story About Geneseo? Let's Find Out!

We decided to put artificial intelligence to the test with a challenge: Write a fun, kid-friendly adventure set right here in Geneseo, Illinois. The result? A mystery involving hidden tunnels, a secret time capsule, and two curious young explorers on the hunt for history.



The Geneseo Explorers and the Hidden Time Capsule

Max and Claire had a talent for finding trouble—or as they called it, adventure. So, when they stumbled upon an old map in the Geneseo Public Library's attic (where they were definitely not supposed to be), they had to investigate.

"This is clearly a treasure map," Max declared.

Claire squinted. "Or a really bad drawing of spaghetti."

Max pointed at the bold 'X' near Richmond Hill Park. "Only one way to find out."

That's how they ended up sneaking into an alley near State Street, poking at a suspicious-looking metal grate.

"You first," Max said.

Claire snorted. "Oh sure, let me go first into the dark, possibly monster-infested tunnel!"

"You're faster. If something grabs you, I can run for help."

Claire shot him a look but climbed down. Max followed, trying to look brave while also calculating his odds of survival.

The tunnel was damp and smelled faintly of forgotten socks. As their flashlights flickered over an old iron door covered in vines, something behind them moved.



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Families who have chosen Mississippi Valley Cremation & Direct Burial consistently praise our exceptional service, affordability, care, and transparency. With over 126 five-star reviews, we have earned a reputation for making the cremation and burial process seamless and stress-free during one of life's most difficult moments.

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We understand that paperwork can be overwhelming, so we simplify the process. Our secure online arranger allows families to complete all forms and authorizations from home—no in-person appointments needed. **Our all-inclusive, upfront pricing means no hidden fees or unexpected costs.** We proudly serve the Quad Cities and surrounding areas within a 60-mile radius, providing a straightforward, all-inclusive pricing model - no hidden costs, no surprises. Our direct cremation and direct burial services are designed to offer **a peaceful, affordable alternative without compromising professionalism or care.**

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Our approach is simple: efficiency, innovation, and a true understanding of family needs. By streamlining processes and eliminating unnecessary overhead, we provide the same level of professional care as traditional funeral homes—at a much lower cost.

Our Commitment to You

At Mississippi Valley Cremation & Direct Burial, our mission is clear:

"To provide a simple, innovative, affordable, transparent, and serene process for a life lived well."

Our purpose is to bring **peace of mind** to families by simplifying the end-of-life process while maintaining the highest standard of service and care. Whether you choose cremation or direct burial, we are here to help you navigate this journey with clarity, compassion, and respect.

For more information, visit www.mvcremation.com or call us today. Let us provide you with a **Simpler Way.**



DR. JIM PARSONS HONORED WITH BRONZE STATUE IN CITY PARK

GENESEO – Dr. Jim Parsons was a beloved figure in Geneseo, known for his dedication to family, medicine, and community. A life-size bronze statue of him, created by artist Sheila Wigant McGee, was unveiled in City Park on Nov. 28. The statue features Dr. Parsons with a child on his knee, reflecting his love for both his profession and family.

Dr. Randy Mullin, who joined Dr. Parsons' medical practice over 30 years ago, spoke at the dedication, acknowledging the legacy of past physicians and Parsons' significant contributions. "Jim brought a commitment to this community that is unparalleled," Mullin said. He recalled how Parsons introduced new surgical techniques, made countless house calls, and was instrumental in local economic and spiritual initiatives.

Geneseo Mayor Pat Eberhardt and Hammond-Henry Hospital Administrator Brad Solberg also spoke, emphasizing Parsons' deep-rooted presence in the community. Jan Parsons Comerford delivered the invocation and officially presented the sculpture to the City. A clarinet solo by Geneseo High School senior Laurel Donaldson added to the ceremony's heartfelt atmosphere.

Julie Parsons Dunbar, one of Dr. Parsons' daughters, described the statue as a "work of love," praising McGee for capturing every detail of her father's likeness. "As a child, I was amazed at how many people knew 'Doc Parsons,'" she said. Jennifer Parsons Huffman echoed this sentiment, calling the dedication a joyous celebration of their father's impact.

During the ceremony, four of Dr. Parsons' children sang "Amazing Grace," later joined by five granddaughters for "Let There Be Peace on Earth."

The inspiration for the statue came to Mrs. Parsons after seeing another family sculpture in City Park. Reflecting on her husband's legacy, she recalled that his grandfather, Dr. Arthur Parsons, practiced medicine in Geneseo for 37 years before passing in 1938. Dr. Jim Parsons followed in his footsteps, moving to Geneseo in 1957 and practicing medicine until his retirement in 1994.

Mrs. Parsons shared a memory of her granddaughter Jenna visiting her grandfather's office. Upon seeing his stethoscope, she asked, "Grandpa, are you a doctor?" The question captured the essence of his lifelong dedication to medicine.

Dr. Parsons passed away in 2002 at the age of 72. Together, he and his grandfather served the community for 72 years, leaving an enduring legacy of care and commitment.





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Congrats, Lindsay!



We are so incredibly proud of you and all of your hard work, dedication, and determination.

Love, Mom, Dad & Brooke



Congratulations

Olivia Seei

We watched you grow from a little girl into an intelligent, driven woman. Congrats graduate! Love you to the moon and back!

Dad, Mom and Addie



Congratulations, Gavin!

Onward and upward, grad! The best is yet to come! We are all so proud of you and can't wait to see what the future holds and what you continue to accomplish!

Love, Your Family



Class of 2025

Congratulations!

We are so proud of you!

Love, Mom and Dad



Congratulations

Elizabeth Caroline Carlin

Congratulations, Elizabeth!

Mom and Dad are SO proud of you and all you've overcome!

We love you!!



Geneseo
CURRENT

CONGRATS
GRADUATES

As you fly to new horizons, remember your hometown is always proud of you.



NATHANIAL GENE STEES

Congrats, grad!

Congratulations on your graduation. Your hard work paid off and we are so proud of you!

Love, Your family



Congratulations

Congratulations, Carter!
We are so proud of you!

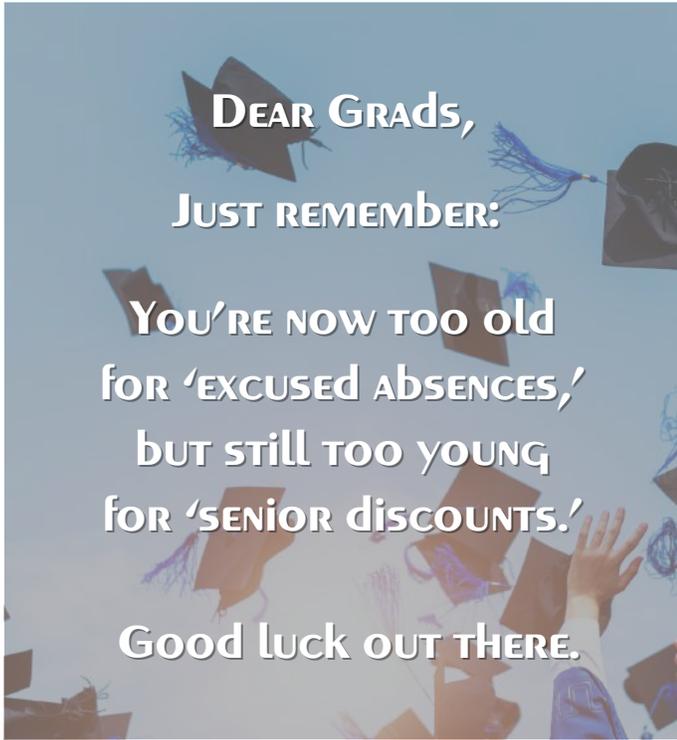
Love, Mom, Dad, and Lilly



Class of 2025

Congratulations!

Congrats, Blake!
Can't wait to see what
the future has in store
for you. Love you!!



DEAR GRADS,

JUST REMEMBER:

**YOU'RE NOW TOO OLD
FOR 'EXCUSED ABSENCES,'
BUT STILL TOO YOUNG
FOR 'SENIOR DISCOUNTS.'**

Good luck OUT THERE.



Congratulations

Mallore Klaire Humphrey

We are so incredibly proud of
you! Believe and you shall
achieve!

Love,
Dad, Mom, Kalli, Tim, Nate, Brooklyn,
Trey, Ashlynn, Keaton, Megan and
Nathan



Congratulations

Kolten Schmoll-Burton

Your next adventure awaits!
We are beyond proud of you!

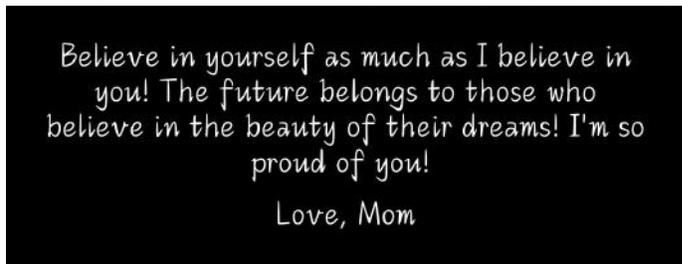
Love, Mom, Dad,
Avery and Rylan

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Believe in yourself as much as I believe in
you! The future belongs to those who
believe in the beauty of their dreams! I'm so
proud of you!

Love, Mom

FREE ACTIVITIES *at Park District*

- Apr 7-28 For the Love of Fitness - Water Fitness
Apr 9 Free Movie for Active Adults/ Seniors - Field of Dreams
Apr 10 Luncheon- Inspire Continuing Care
Apr 13 Monthly Dance
May 3-4 Lifeguard Certification
May 8 Luncheon- Emerick Pest Control
May 10 Nature Adventure Day
May 14 Free Movie for Active Adults/ Seniors- A Beautiful Mind
May 14 Monthly Dance
May 18 Kayaking/ Canoeing
May 6-27 Just the Guys- Water Fitness; Fit Happens- Water Fitness

Plus the ongoing senior events

Cards w/ Friends

Walking Club

Java & Jive

Bingo

Games for Food, Fellowship & Fun

Registration may be required for some events. Visit the website for more information and specific dates/ times.



Springtime Bucket List

Make the most of the season with this fun and easy-to-do springtime bucket list. From outdoor adventures to cozy indoor activities, here's a list of ideas to enjoy the fresh spring air and vibrant blooms:

- ☐ Visit a Local Farmers' Market
- ☐ Go for a Hike/ Nature Walk
- ☐ Have a Picnic in the Park
- ☐ Fly a Kite
- ☐ Take a Bike Ride
- ☐ Make Homemade Lemonade
- ☐ Try Geocaching
- ☐ Make a Bird Feeder
- ☐ Paint Rocks
- ☐ Play with Sidewalk Chalk
- ☐ Make a Fairy Garden
- ☐ Jump in Puddles
- ☐ Make a Nature Collage
- ☐ Read a Book Outside
- ☐ Make Dirt Pudding

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- Water Softeners & Iron Filters
- Backflow Certification & Repair
- Water & Sewer Line Repairs
- Hot Water Boilers
- Sump Pumps & Sewage Pumps

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