

Man alive, look who's 55

Summerfest returns for triple-weekend run celebrating its double-nickel year with 12 stages



Summerfest 2023

June 22-24
June 29-July 1
July 6-8
More info: summerfest.com.

By Eileen Mozinski Schmidt
Special to Conley Media

There's a special enthusiasm ahead of Summerfest this year as Milwaukee's summer music festival prepares to mark its 55th anniversary.

"It's an incredible accomplishment," said Jerrod Woods, senior director of marketing. "We're all very excited to welcome fans to celebrate with us."

Woods said the long-running annual festival is the result of years of community support and partnerships.

"They all help make it the success that it is," he said.

Summerfest returns to the Henry Maier Festival Park at 200 N. Harbor Drive on June 22 to 24, June 29 to July 1 and July 6 to 8.

The three-weekend setup of the event will continue thanks to popular demand.

"We have had a lot of surveys in from fans," said Woods, who said Summerfest attendees surveyed said they liked being able to visit the grounds over the three weekends.

In addition, the extended timeline helps Summerfest book top tier headliners, according to Woods.

He said Eric Church kicks off on Thursday, beginning a strong lineup for the 2023 festival.

"We have great headliners," Woods said.

Others include: Zac Brown Band, James Taylor & His All Star Band with Sheryl Crow, Dave Matthews Band, Odesza, A Boogie Wit Da Hoodie and Trippie Redd and City Girls, Jimmy Buffett & the Coral Reefer Band, Zach Bryan, and Imagine Dragons, according to the Summerfest website.

From hip hop to country to rock and more, there are artists from a variety of genres sure to be of interest to all attendees, Woods said.

"That's the thing that makes Summerfest so unique," he said of a festival offering music appealing to diverse interests across 12 stages.

Woods encouraged Summerfest visitors to look into the variety of artists performing listed on the festival website.

"Check out the full lineup. There might be some bands and artists and nuggets you might not even know about," he said.

Woods noted Buddy Guy will perform at 10 p.m. June 22 at the Uline Warehouse Stage in a final Milwaukee performance as part of his last tour.

"He's a legend," said Woods, of Guy.

A few other items to note include a performance by Yellowcard at 9:30 p.m. July 1 at Uline Warehouse Stage, according



A view of the BMO Pavilion during a past Summerfest. The music festival includes 12 stages across the event grounds.

Photo submitted by Summerfest

"There is a lot of positivity around the festival this year. I think people are ready to get together."

— Jerrod Woods,
Summerfest senior director of marketing



Photo submitted by Summerfest

Music fans at a past Summerfest. This year, headliners include: Eric Church, Zac Brown Band, James Taylor & His All Star Band with Sheryl Crow, Dave Matthews Band, Odesza, A Boogie Wit Da Hoodie and Trippie Redd and City Girls, Jimmy Buffett & the Coral Reefer Band, Zach Bryan, and Imagine Dragons, according to the Summerfest website.

to Woods.

The show is part of a first time tour for the group in two decades and will feature the well-known album "Ocean Avenue," Woods said.

And Hailey Whitters performs at 4:15 p.m. July 8 on the US Cellular Connection Stage. Woods said Rolling Stone named Whitters' recent album the best country / Americana album of the year.

Across social media and the Summerfest website, Woods said organizers feel music fans are looking forward to the event.

"There is a lot of positivity around the festival this year. I think people are ready to get together," he said.



Photo submitted by Summerfest

Attendees enter the gate at a past Summerfest. This year, the festival returns to the Henry Maier Festival Park at 200 N. Harbor Drive on June 22 to 24, June 29 to July 1 and July 6 to 8.

Opening weekend deals

There are 14 ways to gain free or discounted admission to Summerfest this year, according to Jerrod Woods, senior director of marketing for the music festival.

"It's an opportunity to give back," he said, noting that it is a goal of festival organizers to make the event accessible for all.

The 2023 admission promotions schedule features free or discounted admission each day of the festival, according to the Summerfest website.

"Most admission promotions begin at noon and run while ticket supplies last or through mid-afternoon, whichever comes first," the site said.

Promotions for the first weekend of the festival according to the website

include:

■ **Thursday, June 22** — Johnson Controls Stomp Out Hunger Day with Fox 6 Milwaukee. All patrons who arrive between noon and 3 p.m. and donate a minimum of three non-perishable cans of food items receive one free admission ticket, valid for the day and time of the promotion. Food donations accepted at all three gates. Limit one ticket per person. Donations benefit Hunger Task Force.

■ **Friday, June 23** — Shorewest, REALTORS © Children's Fest Day with TMJ4 and 99.1 The Mix. Patrons arriving between noon and 3 p.m. will be admitted for free. Enjoy Children's Fest activities. Select food ven-

dors will offer discounts.

■ **Saturday, June 24** — Briggs & Stratton Mary Lou's Closet Supply Drive, a program that provides hygiene supplies for youth in area public schools. The first 1,500 patrons who arrive between noon and 3 p.m. and donate new deodorant, socks and / or menstrual hygiene products with a total minimum value of \$10, will receive one free admission ticket, valid for the day and time of the promotion. All donations benefit United Way of Great Milwaukee and Waukesha County's community schools.

For more on promotions during Summerfest, visit <https://www.summerfest.com/admission-promotions/>.



Photo submitted by Summerfest

A view from the Summerfest grounds sky tram overlooking the 75-acre Henry Maier Festival Park. Summerfest is celebrating its 55th anniversary when it opens today.

What you get for Summerfest's 55th anniversary

In honor of the 55th anniversary of the festival, there will be several features included in this year's event to help mark the milestone, according to Jerrod Woods, senior director of marketing for the music festival and the festival website:

■ The first 10,000 people through the gates on opening day will receive a commemorative Summerfest 55 hat, courtesy of American Family Insurance.

■ A Summerfest 55 Happy Hour will be held from 4 to 5 p.m. each day of the festival. Select Miller products will be \$5.50 at designated bars throughout festival grounds.

■ Briggs & Stratton and Summerfest will be giving away 55 VIP upgrades to fans this year via radio, social and on-site giveaways. The upgrades include four wristbands to the Briggs & Stratton VIP Deck and four Summerfest general admission tickets.

This year's Summerfest will be a celebration of the past 55 years of "music, food, fun, and unforgettable memories," according to Don Smiley, CEO of Milwaukee World Festival, Inc., in a statement on the Summerfest website.

"Mayor Henry Maier's vision of Summerfest has now grown into one of the largest and most diverse music festivals anywhere. We are proud to continue that legacy and look forward to celebrating with our fans, sponsors, and artists in 2023," Smiley said.



Photo submitted by Fondy Sports Park

A view from the top of water slides at Fondy Aqua Park.

Sliding into the heat of summer

Amusement parks glisten with games, slides, rides and more

By Eileen Mozinski Schmidt
Special to Conley Media

From rides to water slides, area amusement parks offer ways to find entertainment this summer.

At Springs Water Park at The Ingleside Hotel in Pewaukee, there are a variety of features for families to try, according to Kiara Herrea, graphic designer and marketing associate.

The water park is 45,000 square feet, including both water and non-water attractions, according to the park website.

The park includes three large water slides, Herrea said.

The slides are the Cyclone, a 206-foot body slide, Double Trouble, a 317-foot-long tube slide for one or two people, and Triple Dog Dare, a 362-foot boat slide for up to three people, the website said.

In addition, there are smaller slides and a zero-depth entry water park area for smaller children, according to Herrea.

"It's perfect for the little ones," she said, adding that the park includes squirting cannons and a 600-gallon dump bucket that dumps about every 10 minutes.

The larger slides are for individuals 48 inches and taller:

"The older ones love those," said Herrea, who said Springs Water Park is currently open daily for summer hours.

The hotel offers a variety of packages for visitors, including various amenities, like arcade credits, according to Herrea.

During holiday peak periods when traffic is heavier, Herrea recommended booking in advance.

"We do have some special offers," she said.

The hotel and water park draw visitors from a wide range, according to Herrea.

"We see people from all over. Locally from Waukesha and Milwaukee, and also the suburbs of Chicago and Minnesota. We've seen people drive and fly in from lots of places," she said.

"It has something for the whole family," she said of the hotel and water park combination.

"Our outdoor whirlpool is adult only," she said. "There's something for adults, kids, preteens and teenagers."

The water park also offers day passes via its website, according to Herrea.

Fun in Fondy

Those up for a trip can visit two amusement parks in Fond du Lac, the Fondy Sports Park and Fondy Aqua Park.

The former was established in the early 1980s by a group of teachers from Waupun, according to Bob Deuster, one of the current park

Springs Water Park

The park includes three large water slides.

Water attractions, according to the park website, include:

- Whistle Stop Wash — activity pool with a water basketball and lily pad rope wash. Water level is 3 to 4 feet deep.

- Waukesha Waterworks — a children's interactive area with a 600-gallon dump bucket, water cannons, pulling dump buckets and play area. Zero-depth entry, two small water slides and water geysers.

- The Barrel Roll River.
- Night Fall Springs — an indoor/outdoor whirlpool.

Non-water activities include:

- Geyser Games Arcade — more than 50 arcade games.

- Wet Your Whistle Saloon — full-service bar.

- Square Meal Snack Bar — offering sandwich's, pizza, nachos, ice cream and more.

- The Fun House — private party rooms.

One adult is required for every five children under the age of 16, according to the website.

A day pass may be purchased online and is \$25 Mondays to Wednesdays, \$30 on Thursdays, \$40 on Fridays and Sundays, and \$50 on Saturdays, holidays and peak periods. Children 23 months and younger get in free.

More info: theinglesidehotel.com.

Fondy Sports Park

What: The park includes go-karts, mini-golf, bumper boats, an arcade, batting cages, a rock wall and more, according to the website.

How much: Rides and attractions are one ticket per person. Off-road karts are two tickets for drivers and one ticket for passengers. One ticket is \$8, five are \$35, 10 are \$60 and 20 are \$100. Unlimited park passes are \$45 for one hour, \$60 for one and a half hours, \$75 for two hours, \$85 for three hours and \$110 for all day, including Aqua Park. Group rates are also available.

Where: N5820 County Road D, Fond du Lac.

More info: fondysports park.com.

owners.

"We took it over in 1999," said Deuster, who said there are four owner-operators of the two parks, which are run separately.

"All of us had been in the family fun center business," he said, of the current ownership team.

The sports park, about 100 yards from the aqua park, is now in its eighth season, Deuster said.

He said it includes water slides, a zip line, water course, water craft and more.

"We saw something similar to what we're doing in the Wisconsin Dells area," said Deuster, of the origination of the idea for the local



Photo submitted by The Ingleside Hotel

Visitors play at Springs Water Park in Pewaukee. The park is 45,000 square feet, including both water and non-water attractions, according to the website.



Photo submitted by Fondy Sports Park

Go-karts at Fondy Sports Park.

park.

He said the Fond du Lac aqua park "started small."

"We didn't know how well this was going to work in the Fond du Lac area," he said, adding it has grown in the years since.

"Every year we've had it in all eight years we've added to it," Deuster said.

Those 6 years old and younger are restricted to the shallow section; a sand bottom with 3 feet or less of water.

"Life jackets are required for deeper areas," said Deuster, who said jackets are included with admission or visitors may bring their own.

The sports park has also been expanded, including the go-kart track and the addition of a new batting cage system, according to

Deuster.

He said the parks do offer vending machines but visitors are encouraged to plan for a picnic.

"The aqua park is a perfect picnic-type setting. There's two huge oak trees, shade and grassy area," said Deuster, who said several area pizza restaurants do deliver to the parks.

The two parks experienced an expanded radius of interest during the pandemic, according to Deuster.

"We were open and people started driving and the circle of influence became two to three hours. People came from Illinois and places we hadn't seen before," he said, noting social media helped grow the parks.

While the parks are run separately, there is one crossover all-day pass available.

Regional amusement parks

Travel Wisconsin list information about amusement and theme parks statewide.

Those in southeast Wisconsin include:

- Action Territory, Kenosha
- Bounce Milwaukee, Milwaukee
- Discovery World, Milwaukee
- Monkey Joe's, Kenosha
- Prairieville Park, Waukesha
- Swing Time, Germantown
- Veloce Indoor Speedway, Waukesha

For more info and a complete statewide list: travelwisconsin.com.

"You get a wrist band for both and can go back and forth. More and more people are doing that as people are coming from farther away," Deuster said.

The sports park opens earlier and closes later than the aqua park, according to Deuster, who said tickets are sold at the gate.

"We've never had a problem where we sold out," he said.

The sports park season is typically the start of April through mid-October, depending on the weather, according to Deuster.

The aqua park is typically open Memorial Day through Labor Day, he said, noting that two of the four owners are on the property at all times.

Overall, he said the parks are accessible for those in the Milwaukee area.

"It's an easy drive up the (Interstate) 41 corridor," he said.

'2023 brings a full market with over 100 vendors selling plants, produce, herbs, organically grown products, artisan crafts, and prepared foods.'

— West Bend Farmers Market website

Farmers markets keep it fresh, friendly

A chance to shop and socialize locally

By Eileen Mozinski Schmidt
Special to Conley Media

Fresh produce and a sense of community can be found at farmers markets across the region as the summer continues.

The Brookfield market is now in its 33rd season, according to Bobbi Harvey, manager of the market.

She said that since the pandemic, the market has moved to the parking lot of Brookfield Central High School on West Gebhardt Road. The market continues the longstanding tradition of providing diverse merchandise and a wide selection of vendors.

"For this season, we have probably 60 vendors or so," she said, noting the vendors come from as far north as Wausau and as far south as Delavan.

"We try to offer as much variety as possible," said Harvey, noting offerings of produce, meat, bakery, beverages, eggs, and earlier in the season, plants and herbs.

The market draws many shoppers from Brookfield, as well as Milwaukee, Waukesha, New Berlin, Mukwonago and some from Germantown, according to Harvey.

"It's a pretty wide area that we draw from," she said.

While the weather was a bit of a roller-coaster early in the season, with varying temperatures and a lack of rain, Harvey said the market vendors have still been able to include a wide variety.

As of last month, there were radishes, beets, lettuce, kohlrabi, sprouts, beans, carrots, some "beautiful flower bouquets" and more for sale, according to Harvey.

Many of the market's shoppers will come and "make a morning of it" for their visit, Harvey said.

"It's part of their routine," she said, adding that the market's frequent shopper program is popular.



Photo submitted by the West Bend Farmers Market

The West Bend Farmers Market recently. This year the market is downtown a few blocks over on Sixth Avenue, Poplar Street and Fifth Avenue during Main Street road construction, according to the market website. The temporary location makes a horseshoe around the Heritage Towers Historical Museum, the site said.

Shoppers can get punches on a frequent shopper card, which is also available digitally. To obtain a card, Harvey said shoppers should visit the info table and ask for a card or visit the website and scan a QR code.

Also popular among market consumers are avocado toast, along with selections from KT's Wok and 2 Vets BBQ.

"They offer items that are barbecued that people can take to serve for meals in the future or a sandwich," Harvey said.

There are musicians at the market every week and the third Saturday of each month features small business and commercial products, as well as arts and

crafts for sale, according to Harvey.

The Brookfield market runs from 7:30 a.m. to noon Saturdays through Oct. 28.

Harvey noted that the market is dog-friendly.

"It's a popular market. People get to know the vendors," she said, noting that there is available parking on all sides of the market and the area is handicap accessible.

"We are there, rain or shine," she said, adding that the market will only cancel if there is thunder or lightning; a rare occurrence.

"We've only had to cancel once in 33 years," Harvey said.

Oconomowoc market a 'Saturday community tradition'

In Oconomowoc, the market also has a long history.

"The Oconomowoc Summer Farmers' Market was started in 1980 by the Oconomowoc Area Chamber of Commerce," said Cherie Sonsalla, executive director of the chamber.

She said the market was initially named "Farm Produce Days."

"Its mission has always been to provide a venue for local farmers to supply fresh, healthy food to the community and this remains true today, although market offerings

have expanded to include baked and canned goods, hand-made artisan products and more," Sonsalla said.

Located at the Bank Five Nine campus at 155 W. Wisconsin Ave., Sonsalla said the market averages 60 vendors per week.

"We are open from 8 a.m. to noon and the market runs from the first Saturday in June to the last Saturday in October. Of course, we get a lot of local shoppers but we also have people come from surrounding communities," she said.

Each week, the market includes a variety of fresh, locally produced meats, veggies, fresh-cut flowers and more, according to Sonsalla.

"In addition to the fresh meats, eggs and produce, we have vendors selling handmade arts and crafts, baked sweets, infused salts, honey, cheeses, jams, canned goods, maple syrup, breads and more," she said.

The market has a social atmosphere, according to Sonsalla, who said it has become "a Saturday community tradition."

"Often people meet up with their friends and even make new ones, all while supporting local farmers and businesses," she said.

West Bend market moved, for now, due to construction

In West Bend, this year's farmers market is in a new, nearby location due to Main Street road construction, according to the market website.

The location is on Sixth Avenue, Poplar Street and Fifth Avenue, the site said.

The West Bend market earned the top number of votes in Wisconsin in the 2022 American Farmland Trust and The Farmers Market Coalition contest, according to the website.

Votes for this year's best market are ongoing and may be cast online via a link on the West Bend Farmers Market page until Sept. 18.

"2023 brings a full market with over 100 vendors selling plants, produce, herbs, organically grown products, artisan crafts, and prepared foods," the website said.

"During the 22 Saturdays May through October, the products transition from plants and seedlings to fruits, meats, eggs, maple syrup, cheese, bakery items, spices, soaps, herbal products, apples, pumpkins, squash, prepared foods and more," the site said.

A sampler of markets

Here is a sampling of some of the many farmers markets in area communities near or a bit of a drive:

Brookfield Farmers' Market

Open for the season from 7:30 to noon Saturdays at Brookfield Central High School, 16900 W. Gebhardt Road, Brookfield.
For more info: brookfieldfarmersmarket.com.

Oconomowoc Summer Farmers' Market

Open on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon from May 6 through Oct. 28 at the Bank Five Nine campus lot, 155 W. Wisconsin Ave., across from the community center, according to the website.
For more info: oconomowoc.org/events/oacc-signature-events/summer-farmers-market.

Waukesha Farmers' Market

The market will run from 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays from May 6 to Oct. 28, along the Fox River, in the Waukesha State Bank employee parking lot, according to the website.
For more info: waukeshadba.com/farmers-market.

West Bend Farmers Market

The market has temporarily moved to a new



Photo submitted by Cherie Sonsalla

Produce for sale at the Oconomowoc Summer Farmers' Market recently. "Its mission has always been to provide a venue for local farmers to supply fresh, healthy food to the community and this remains true today," said Cherie Sonsalla, executive director of the Oconomowoc Area Chamber of Commerce.

location due to Main Street road construction, according to the market website.
"The market is still downtown just a few blocks

over on 6th Ave., Poplar St. and 5th Ave. The market will make a horseshoe around the Heritage Towers Historical Museum," the site said.



Photo submitted by Bobbi Harvey

The Brookfield Farmers' Market recently. It typically draws shoppers from around the area, including Milwaukee, Waukesha, New Berlin, Mukwonago and Germantown, according to Bobbi Harvey, market manager.

The market is open from 7:30 to 11 a.m. every Saturday from May 20 to Oct. 21.
For more info: westbendfarmersmarket.com.

Family fare 'The Monkey King,' 'Snoopy Presents' stream this week

(AP) — There are family friendly choices when the sweet Marcie, the introverted member of the "Peanuts" gang, gets a special, "Snoopy Presents: One-of-a-Kind Marcie," and animated movie "The Monkey King" from director Stephen Chow airs among the new television, movies and music headed to a device near you.

NEW MOVIES TO STREAM

Parents looking for fresh animated offerings should rejoice that Netflix has a new film from Stephen Chow, the actor and producer known for "Kung Fu Hustle" and "Shaolin Soccer," in "The Monkey King"

streaming Friday. Jimmy O. Yang of "Silicon Valley" and "Crazy Rich Asians" voices said Monkey King, born from a stone with magical powers and a big ego and who is on a quest for immortality. A young human girl (Jolie Hoang-Rappaport) teams up with him to defeat dragons and demons.

"Cocaine Bear" arrived Tuesday on Prime Video. Very loosely based on a true story (and taken to wild heights), the non-stop action comedy from Elizabeth Banks stars Keri Russell, Isaiah Whitlock Jr., Margo Martindale, Kristofer Hivju, O'Shea Jackson Jr., Alden Ehrenreich and the late Ray Liotta.

— AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr

NEW MUSIC TO STREAM

Go back in time and groove to the two-part music docuseries "San Francisco Sounds: A Place in Time," premiering on Sunday from MGM+. The series tracks the history of the San Francisco music scene from 1965 to 1975. The series follows the creative explosion in San Francisco that featured the Grateful Dead, Jefferson Airplane, Sly and the Family Stone, Janis Joplin, Big Brother & the Holding Company, Steve Miller, Santana, Moby Grape and more. The second part drops Aug. 27.

— AP Entertainment Writer Mark Kennedy

NEW SERIES TO STREAM

A new "Peanut's" special on Apple TV+ puts Marcie, the introverted, studious bestie of Peppermint Patty and the gang, in the spotlight with her first special. In "Snoopy Presents: One-of-a-Kind Marcie," the character has lots of ideas to make her friend's lives easier, but when those problem-solving abilities get her elected class president, the attention makes Marcie uncomfortable and she becomes overwhelmed. "One-of-a-Kind Marcie" debuts Friday.

— Alicia Rancilio