



YARN CLUB

Burlington Public Library, 166 E. Jefferson St., 3:30-5 p.m., free. For ages 13 and older with an itch to stitch, crochet or knit; no experience necessary. Beginners should bring one pair of size 15 needles, long or short; two skeins of super bulky yarn; and a crochet hook, size I or J.

TUESDAY

EXHIBIT: DUETS: RAM PAIRS CONTEMPORARY CRAFT ARTISTS

Racine Art Museum, 441 Main St. This exhibit purposefully pairs the work of various contemporary artists. Visually or conceptually-related works will be shown side-by-side to highlight similarities and differences of each piece. Admission costs \$5 for adults and \$3 for youth ages 12-18, full-time students and seniors age 63 and older. There is no charge for ages 11 and younger. Call 262-638-8300 for more information.

inal partners of J.I.Case Co. Robert H Baker was mayor of Racine in 1874. Mrs. Baker only lived there a year before passing away. The house was then acquired by Alexander J. Horlick of Horlick Malted Milk Co. in 1905.



See more photos at journal-times.com/gallery. Photos are by Greg Shaver, gregory.shaver@journaltimes.com



Welcoming newcomers to the neighborhood

Celebrate Our Town brings small business to new homeowners

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RACINE COUNTY — What started as a fun way to welcome new homeowners has blossomed to a major initiative to help grow the local economy.

In 2009 Cindy Nicoletti founded Celebrate Our Town in Kenosha as a way to help struggling small businesses, and has since expanded into Racine County.

“We’re in the business to help small business,” Nicoletti said. “We do not want to work with Walmart ... what we love is businesses with a story in the community.”

Celebrate Our Town gathers gift certificates and other small gifts from area businesses and presents them to new homeowners. Each basket of gifts come with an informational presentation that can last between 30 minutes to an hour. But if the owners aren’t home, they don’t get the basket which is worth roughly \$3,500.

Each business pays \$3 per basket to be included for one year and roughly 60 house visits are made

each weekend between the two counties. Currently around 80 businesses are connected with Celebrate Our Town.

Nicoletti said not every business can be included.

“We hand-pick and interview the businesses that are going to be in the basket,” Nicoletti said. “No matter what, they have to be family-owned.”

Get new customers

The main goal of Celebrate Our Town is not only to welcome new people to the area, but also to recruit customers for businesses after they used the gift certificates.

“Once they get in the door, then

Interested?

For small businesses or non-profits interested in getting involved call Cindy Nicoletti, 262-909-9888 or email celebrateourtown.cindy@aol.com

these family-owned businesses do the (selling), and they’re going to keep coming back,” said Karen Johnson, a volunteer with the organization.

One of the latest businesses to be a part of Celebrate Our Town is O&H Danish Bakery.

Please see **BASKETS**, Page A12

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