

# LIFESTYLE

SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 2024 | [nwi.com](http://nwi.com) | SECTION D

## Day trip to Cedar Lake

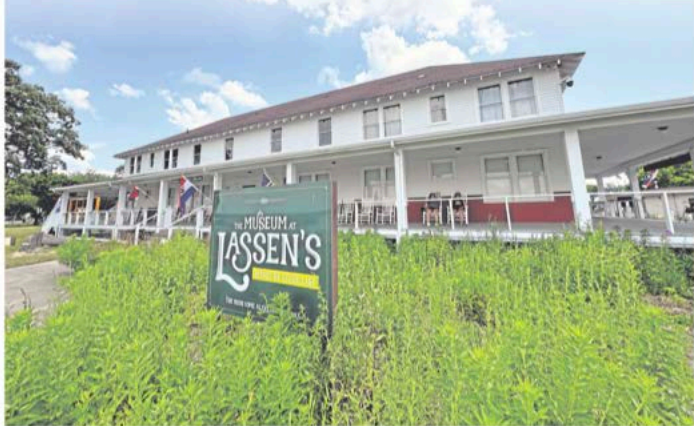


PHOTO BY CARRIE STEINWEG

The Museum at Lassen's Resort in Cedar Lake is pictured.

### Head to the NWI town for a steamboat tour and more

CARRIE STEINWEG  
Times Correspondent

**T**imes are tough and for many families summer travel budgets are strained, but you can still have plenty of summer fun with day trips in and around the Region. We took time for one recently that was absolutely delightful.

I've always loved spending time near water — on a beach or walking along the shoreline, floating along on a slow boat or zipping along on a faster one, staying in hotels, inns or homes overlooking water. It is one of my favorite pastimes and a way to make me instantly relax. I can be just 20 minutes from home, but as soon as I am by a lake, I go into instant vacation mode. So, our trip out to Cedar Lake made me feel like I'd traveled far beyond Lake County and far from the stresses of the regular workday.

When I heard that the Museum at Lassen's Resort was starting weekly steamboat tours on Cedar Lake, I knew I'd have to get out there this summer for a tour. I ended up on the second ride of the season. The Cedar Lake Historical Association is offering 20-minute and 45-minute narrated excursions on the lake



Passengers ride a steamboat on Cedar Lake.

PHOTO BY CARRIE STEINWEG

each Wednesday through Sept. 25. The boat is operated together with volunteers from the Heaston Steam Museum and CLHA.

The museum is housed inside the former Lassen's Resort, which opened in 1896 and operated into the 1940s. In the summer months, visitors from Chicago flocked to Cedar Lake via the

Monon Railroad to stay in resorts and cabins along the shore. The Lassen brothers owned a steamboat line, the Dewey Line, that would ferry visitors from the train depot to the resort. The current steamboat is named Steamboat Dewey in honor of one of the Lassen's early boats.

The Steamboat Dewey has two

excursion options: A 20-minute tour on The Monon Route for \$15, where you journey to the site of the former Monon Railroad Depot from Lassen's Resort while you learn the science of steam power and how Cedar Lake became a resort destination or The 45-minute Premium Route that takes you around the lake while

you hear hotel and restaurant stories from Cedar Lake's resort-era history. Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$30 for children under 13. You can purchase tickets for steamboat rides at [lassenresort.org](http://lassenresort.org).

You may also want to visit on their Steam Through History Day on July 24. It is held annually on the 4th Wednesday of July in celebration of its rebirth of the Dewey Line. It is a day to discover the tremendous power of steam and its impact on humanity in addition to taking a boat ride. Several other steam-powered machines will be on display, and this year will include an opportunity to learn more about the heritage of the Potawatomi at Cedar Lake.

We also had lunch and made a stop for ice cream while we were out there.

There's much more to do in Cedar Lake if you want to make a full day out of it. Here's my suggested itinerary:

Arrive in the morning for an ice cream treat at Dairy Belle and drop a fishing line in the water behind the ice cream stand.

Spend a little time at the public beach near the town grounds.

Enjoy lunch at The Sandbar Grill, where you can sit outside on a picnic bench in the sand.

Head over to the Museum at Lassen's Resort for a steamboat ride.

## Cedar Lake

May 22

After your ride, spend some time perusing the museum, which gives a nice

overview of Cedar Lake and its history.

Sit in a rocking chair on the museum porch (where nostalgic music is piped in) and do nothing for a little while as you look out on

the water.

Take a little walk around the grounds (better yet, plan your visit for the 2nd or 4th Wednesday of the month when the Cedar Lake Farmers Market takes place

from 7-9 p.m. and explore the market on the grounds.)

End the evening with an upscale meal and drinks at The Lighthouse, a steakhouse located right next to the museum.

## 3 GREAT FLEA MARKETS

Open every SAT & SUN 7am-4pm  
Indoor & Outdoor - FREE Parking

### ALSIP

Also WEDNESDAY  
- 7am-2pm  
OUTDOORS ONLY  
4350 W. 129th St.

### MELROSE PARK

FRIDAY - 8am-3pm  
OUTDOORS ONLY  
4600 West Lake Street

### ASHLAND

Also TUESDAY - 7am-2pm  
THURSDAY - 7am-3pm  
OUTDOORS ONLY  
4200 South Ashland - Chicago



Visit our website: [crag-e-rans.com](http://crag-e-rans.com) • 708-344-7300



## Realty Company

OPEN HOUSE  
SUNDAY JUNE 30  
NOON - 2 P.M.

3940 STADIUM STREET  
PORTAGE  
\$269,900

Directions: From Rt 6 &  
Willowcreek Road  
South on Willowcreek  
West on Holmes to Stadium



## Miles Books

Since 1989

Over 85,000 Books In Stock.  
New, Gently Used & Collectible.  
What We Don't Have We Can Order.

Book & Bible Repair.  
Senior Discount.

### DOWNTOWN HIGHLAND

2819 South Ave. 219-638-8708  
Daily 10:00-6, Sat. 10:00-4