

Cotton Patch Owners Sponsor 70th Shawano County Barn Quilt

Gary and Karen Evensen, owners of The Cotton Patch Supper Club at W4890 Lake Drive on the north shore of Shawano Lake, have sponsored Shawano County's 70th barn quilt. The quilt pattern they selected is of a donkey, called "Giddyup." The pattern was selected to represent the many animals and waterfowl on the site, including llamas, miniature donkeys, peacocks, goats, geese and ducks. The quilt can be seen from the dining area in the restaurant.

The original establishment was opened in 1938 as The Frontier Bar. It was renamed The Cotton Patch by new owners in the 1950s. The Evensons purchased the restaurant in 2006 and in 2008 made the decision to expand the nature portion, known as Patch Park. The trail, when finished, will be half a mile of boardwalk through the park.

When the project is completed, it will be a great place for visitors to bring their families for an up-close visit with nature. The Patch Park Foundation was formed exclusively for charitable and educational purposes, with scheduled programs for nature hikes, craft sessions and workshops. All programs are designed to teach stewardship, intelligent management and skills needed to protect the environment.

In addition to the park, the Evensens have also recently added a store called Olive 'n Vinnie's Market, which features 45 extra-virgin olive oils and flavored balsamic vinegars. The oils are brought in from California as well as Italy, Spain, Greece, Australia, Tunisia and Chile. The flavored vinegars include an 18-year-old Balsamic as well as dark chocolate, raspberry, strawberry, peach, fig and blueberry.

The Cotton Patch dining room is open from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Other hours can be scheduled for private parties and events. The Evensens hope The Cotton Patch restaurant and Patch Park will be a destination for both food and fun.

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