

NOTE: Ledgeview Lanes houses the Fond du Lac Bowling Association Hall of Fame display. Check it out on your next visit.

Alhambra Lanes (141-147 S. Macy St.)

It was originally a shoe factory before it was a 4 lane bowling alley on the second floor between 2nd Street and Court Street. The lanes opened in about 1916 or 1917 and was owned by George Ridge. In the 1920's, E. E. Rogge and Arthur A. Weis owned the alleys. In the early 1940's it was expanded to 12 lanes and about 1948 it was expanded again to 16 lanes. It closed after the 1961-62 season. Prior to closing, it was owned / operated by Karl W. Mitzelfeldt, Armin Kantin, Louie Hinn, and Art & Mannette (Minnie) Weis. In its early years, it was known as the Alhambra Recreation Parlor. Through the years, various businesses were located on the first floor below the lanes. Some of them were Pagel Electric, K & S Body Shop, OK Rubber Welders, Reuben Kinkel Auto Service, John E. Smith & Russell C. Plummer Used Cars, Olson's Auto Service, and Automotive Sales & Service & Machine Shop.

Arcade Lanes / Alpine Bowl (65 N. Main St.)

The Arcade Lanes building was a gymnasium prior to the installation of 10 lanes in the 1920's. Arcade was originally owned / operated by Rudolph & Herman Sanders, then by William Belling and later by Oscar Hemmann & Gary Kirchoff before Frank Hilbert who owned it until its closing. In about 1948, 8 lanes were added in the basement of the building. Before becoming proprietor, Tom Hilbert remembers being a pin boy at Arcade when he was 8 years old. In 1976, the lanes were renamed Alpine Lanes. In later years, Alpine Lanes had a large mural on the wall painted by artist Don Kloetzke. Alpine Lanes closed in June, 1992.

West Side Lanes / Morgan's West Side Lanes / Last Stop Lanes & Bar: (350 W. Division)

Originally a pool hall before being converted to a 3 lane center in 1917 called Mike Moses Bowling Alleys. It was originally owned / operated by Mike Moses and his brother who later expanded the business to 4 lanes. The name was changed to West Side Lanes around 1933-34. Frank and Dorothy Eggers later operated the lanes from 1949 to 1982 and expanded it to an 8 lane center in 1956 with Brunswick automatic A2 pinsetters installed in 1957. In 1982, Janice "Itzy" Streeter assumed operation of the lanes. A game room was added on in 1991 and it was the first lanes in Fond du Lac to go hi-tech with "glow-in-the-dark" special effects in 1996. In the summer of 2000, automatic computer scoring was installed. In January, 2005, Carla Morgan assumed ownership and changed the name to Morgan's West Side Lanes. In 2008, Lyle Huss purchased the lanes and changed the name to Last Stop Lanes & Bar. Some remodeling included the bar room being rearranged. A fire destroyed the building completely March 3, 2010. Arson was suspected and proven.

Ledgeview Lanes (170 Prairie Rd.)

Ledgeview Lanes was built in 1976 and was originally a 24 lane center with AMF pinsetters. In 1991 it was enlarged to a 36 lanes. Automatic computer scoring was installed in 1996. In August, 2011 they installed new Qubica / AMF computer scoring & 42 inch flat screen monitors. Ledgeview Lanes was built by the Frank Hilbert Sr. family and is now owned by Gary Hilbert. Gary "Red" Mullenbach rolled the first "300" ever shot at Ledgeview Lanes on January 7, 1977.

Karl Ray Lanes (770 S. Military Rd.)

A 24 lane center with 24 automatic Brunswick lanes and computer scoring. Karl Mitzelfeldt and Ray Mendlesky opened it in 1962 after the Alhambra Alleys closed. Computer scoring was installed in 1988 and updated again in the 2002-03 season. There were several managers over the years. Gary Hilbert in 1974 & 1975. Bill Hauer in 1976 & 1977. Tony Lindgren was there the longest from 1978-2002. Earl Lowe shot the first 300 game there 1971. Karl Ray was sold to Mills Fleet Farm Corp. and closed in May, 2013

Rueping Bowling Lanes (116 N. Doty St.)

Rueping Leather Co. had a three story recreation building for its employees next to the factory. The building included an archery range on the first floor, a kitchen and large rooms for meetings, banquets, movies, etc. on the second floor, and an 8 lane bowling alley on the third floor. The lanes were built in the late 1930's and closed after the 1955 season. Liz Jens was a manager of the lanes. Later the building was remodeled into office space.

Parkway Lanes (509 N. Park Ave.)

Parkway Lanes is a 16 lane AMF center, which originally included a restaurant, built in 1956 and owned by the partnership of Manowski, Andrew, Schaub & Will. In 1977, Parkway Lanes was sold to Don Dengel and Doug Trepanier who owned it until 1985 when it was sold to Mike and Carol Trepanier. Qubica Automatic scoring was installed in 1996. A grill was built in the bar area in 1999. In the summer of 2000, Parkway Lanes was sold to the Hilbert family. In August of 2004, synthetic lanes and approaches, new ball returns, and new machine fronts were installed. In the summer of 2013, newer synthetic approaches were installed.

Schaefer's Bowling Lanes (Oakfield, Corner of Main St. & White St.)

This was a 4 lane center in the basement of the post office building in Oakfield. It was built in about 1937 as a Masonic Lodge. The Schaefer family owned it from 1951 until its closing on April 30, 1975. Semi-automatic pinsetters were installed but never automatics. Only two "700" scores were ever shot there. One each by Jake Collien and Jerry Schaefer.

St. Mary's Bowling Lanes (63 E. Merrill Ave.)

This was a 10 lane center in basement of St. Mary's school on Merrill St. The lanes were built around 1949-50 when the school was built. The lanes remained open until the mid-1960's. Ray Mendlesky was lane manager for some years before he moved to Parkway Lanes and later to Karl Ray Lanes. When St. Mary's closed, some of the lane beds were taken for use at St. Lawrence Seminary in Mt. Calvary.

Elks Club No. 57 Lanes (33 Sheboygan St.)

The Elks was the oldest "active" lanes in the U.S. The club was built in 1906 and the lanes were installed shortly after that. On November 17, 1909 the ABC sanctioned the lanes, thus beginning an important part of bowling history. In a Fond du Lac Reporter news article dated January 29, 1989, sports writer Bill Draves reports that Henry Marian, then manager of the Elks Club, rolled a sanctioned 800 series as long ago as the 1930's. In 1960, automatic pinsetters were installed and then in 1982 the lanes were modernized. In 1983, synthetic lane surfaces were installed. The Elks Club was closed and their charter was suspended in October, 2015 due to financial problems and low membership numbers. Grand Lodge reinstated their charter in March, 2016 but took control of the building and put it up for sale. The local lodge will be allowed to re-open at a new location if an economically feasible location is found. Unfortunately, this never happened.

St. Peter's School Bowling Lanes (2nd St. between Portland & Marr St.)

St. Peter's Lutheran School on 2nd Street in Fond du Lac had 4 lanes in the basement of the school. The lanes were built in 1925 when the school was built and later closed in 1946.

St. Peter Lanes (in the village of St. Peter) :

This was a 6 lane center in the village of St. Peter built about 1957. It was a 2-story building with a banquet hall / restaurant on the second floor. It was owned by the Wirtz family and later by Ray Burgess for many years. In later years, before its closing in 2000, the name was changed to Borny's Country Inn with Larry Bornemann as proprietor.

Zahn's Lanes / Brenner's Bowl / Generations Lanes (N7676 Cty. Hwy. C, Eldorado, WI)

This building was originally a grocery store with a dance hall upstairs built in 1914 by L.A. (Arthur) and Mary Bernier. About 1923 the dance hall was moved downstairs. On the first floor SE corner was an ice cream parlor. In March, 1929 Bernier's sold half interest in the property to Walter O. and Hazel L. Pollack. In February, 1946 Raymond F. and Maryn C. Giebel bought the business from the Bernier's & Pollack's. In June, 1950, another owner, Paul (Arnie) and Ruth Schinker changed the dance hall into a bowling alley and closed the ice cream parlor. They installed 4 bowling lanes in the summer of 1950. In February of 1951, Otto and Florence (Tutti) Zahn bought the lanes and renamed it Zahn's Lanes. During this time Punky Bindert and Orville Meyer briefly rented the lanes. In 1952, Otto Zahn became proprietor and owned them until 1969. Prior to 1969 there was also a barber shop on the main floor. Dave "Herbie" and Sandy Brenner bought the lanes in August, 1969 and installed automatic pinsetters. Then in 1976, they remodeled and the number of lanes was increased from four lanes to six (1 & 2 were added). In 1978 a newly covered porch was added. In 2006, the Brenner's upgraded the exterior. They enclosed the porch area which allowed for more room inside. Chad and Dan Vande Berg did the interior work. In Sept. 2009, the name was changed to Generations Bowl when Dave Brenner's son Jeremy took over the business. Automatic scoring was installed in about 2013.

**Brownsville Community Club / Dan's Village Bowl / Jake's Villiage Bowl
(616 Main St, Brownsville, WI)**

In 1944, the Brownsville Community Club was built. It included an eight lane bowling alley with a small bar and a dance hall on the west side of the building. Some past managers of the Brownsville Community Club were Skip Hintz, Benno Rusch, and Mike Weninger. The club was owned by shareholders until July, 1991 when it was purchased by Dan and Peggy Henke. Brunswick automatic pinsetters were installed in 1962. The bar area, as it is today, was an addition in 1976. Underground ball returns and new seating were installed the summer of 1994. Automatic AMF computer scoring was added in 1996. In the summer of 2003, all new wood lanes replaced the 60 year old land beds. There are also 2 volleyball courts and horseshoe pits behind the building. Dan's Villiage Bowl joined the Fond du Lac bowling association in the 1997-98 season. In the spring of 2023, Dan and Peggy Henke sold the lanes to Jacob Boelk.

Van Dyne Lanes (N9574 High St.)

In 1929, the building was built as a community club. The first owner of the alleys was "Porky" Penzenstadler and at this time the alleys had outdoor plumbing and were heated by a potbellied stove. From 1949 to 1957, "Punk" Bindert owned the lanes. "Punk" built the barroom and installed indoor plumbing. From 1957 to 1983, Carl Giese was owner. Carl purchased automatic pinsetters in 1969 from the state tournament in Madison when the tournament closed. From 1983 until its closing in 1995, the lanes were owned by Dennis "Hickory" Becker. Dennis had the only 300 game ever shot at Van Dyne Lanes.

Heritage Lanes / Sky Lanes / Luedtke's Dine & Bowl / Leprechaun Lanes (113 Kommers St.)

This was an 8 lane center in the village of Mt. Calvary. The lanes were on the second floor with a restaurant (The Canteen) on the first floor. This was originally a 6 lane house. Automatic computer scoring (Brunswick Frameworks) was installed in January, 2001 by owners Tom Hernandez and Bob Hosp. Previous owners include Bob Guellar. The business closed at the end of the 2002-03 season. The restaurant and bowling center re-opened in 2004-05 under the name of Sky Lanes. The business changed owners again late in 2008 (approx.) and was called Luedtke's Dine-n-Bowl. It closed again in 2012. In about January, 2015 the lanes and restaurant re-opened as the Leprechaun Lanes. It closed again a few months later.

Mayville Lanes / Dan's King Pin Family Fun Ctr. / Cardinal Lanes (31 N. Main St, Mayville)

This is an 8 lane house built in 1945 by Wally Pasbrig. In 1949, the lanes were purchased by Sid Silcock Sr. The name of the lanes was "Sport Bowl" and he installed 6 automatic pinsetters. The remaining two lanes were still semi-automatics. The Silcock's owned it for over 20 years and lived in one of the two 2nd floor apartments. Tom Beale then purchased the lanes and after a while he retained ownership but his son managed the lanes. Al Zimmel then leased it for 2 or 3 yrs. Then Mitch Prees leased it for about 4 yrs. In about 2009, the lanes were sold to Dan Henke, Cary Serwe, & Jeremy Schrauth and the lanes were renamed Dan's King Pin Family Fun Center. Also at this time, some remodeling was done and a kitchen was added. In May, 2021 Dan's King Pin FFC was sold to Jason Kierzek and Steve Dettmann and was renamed Cardinal Lanes. Jason and Steve have also recently purchased a bowling center in Columbus, WI but it is not part of the FDL Bowling Assn.

Richie's Up Ur Alley (25 N. Main Street in Mayville)

This is a 4 lane house in Mayville owned by Richie Hafemann. It joined the Fond du Lac Bowling Association in 2019.

Central Bowling Lanes (15 S. Main St.)

From about 1916 through the early 1920's, there was a bowling alley at 15 South Main Street, near where Edith's bridal apparel store is now. There were lanes upstairs and down. At one time, the lanes were owned and managed by William Shirey, father of Fond du Lac Bowling Association Hall of Famer and association secretary Les Shirey.

Zoellner's Bowling Lanes (13 4th St.)

From approximately 1919, through the mid 1940's, there was a bowling alley at 4th St & Main St. It was believed to have 3 lanes upstairs and 3 lanes downstairs. Through the years, the alleys went by several different names such as Imperial Alleys, Barbowl Alleys, Harold Gloede's Alleys, George Brunkhorst's Alleys, and the Moose Lodge.

PLEASE HELP:

There have been other bowling alleys in Fond du Lac & North Fond du Lac in years past. I would like to get information about these lanes. If you have any information, please contact Dave Wightman, Historian Fond du Lac Bowling Association.