

QUEST

A portrait of a young man with dark, wavy hair and black-rimmed glasses. He is looking slightly upwards and to the left. He is wearing a vibrant, multi-colored striped shirt with vertical stripes in red, yellow, green, and blue. The background is plain white.

MAGAZINE

Volume 25, #5

Autumn 2018

**Tarl
Knight**

Presents

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TARLTON
THEATRE**

Photography: www.Zas-Photography.com

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First Look

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Shepherd Express gives Quest Publisher Mark Mariucci recognition for 25 Years of service to the LGBT Community.



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Thanks.

Quest

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www.quest-online.com

Tarl Knight to Open The Tarlton Theatre

Tarl Knight is once again our cover model. **Quest** featured this talented singer-songwriter one year ago when he was busy building the non-profit organization **The Artory**. Tarl is back on our cover because this autumn Tarl, along with his business partner, Za will re-open a 1940's-era Art Deco theatre in Downtown Green Bay rechristened **The Tarlton Theatre**.

Tarl is driven to enhance Green Bay's music and art scene so that it can rival what is readily available in larger cities such as Madison or Milwaukee. He feels the time is right, the location is right, and with his experience producing, writing and performing he is up to the task.

Tarl has been performing since he was 13, and made his debut by organizing open mic events at Green Bay's **Harmony Café**. He later assisted the organization of, and wrote and performed hundreds of original songs for, **Steel Bridge Songfest**, **Dark Songs**, and **Love Songs** in Sturgeon Bay. He most recently organized the **Artour Tour of the Arts**, an art and music festival, now in its second year. With a decade in the industry, he can call on a large roster of uber-talented musicians.

Za is not new to the scene either, having previously owned and run this same location as well as **Za's Videobar** in years past. When building the stage at **Historic West Theatre** it had been a dream to be able to feature a variety of musical acts on the stage when not showing films. Although that happened on occasion, it never became the main focus.

When Tarl and Za met a year ago to discuss the **Quest** cover shoot, it was soon realized both had a dream to acquire and re-open the classic theatre. Tarl had already toured the facility which had been on the market for some time. Soon, both Tarl and Za were back for another look and to find a way to make that dream a reality.

The Tarlton Theatre will feature live bands and singer-songwriters performing original material as well as other artistic acts on the stage every weekend. An open mic night on Wednesdays will shine a spotlight on rising



stars. Movies including everything from modern- to cult-classics will be screened regularly. Along with its large stage and projection screen, **The Tarlton Theatre** offers one of the area's best-sounding rooms enhancing your enjoyment of entertainment you can't find anywhere else in the area.

With seating at booths and tables, patrons can enjoy the menu of classic and Modern American fare. A large variety of non-alcoholic beverages will be served, including espresso and Italian sodas, plus a full variety of alcoholic beverages for patrons over 21.

And now a little history on the building dating to the 1920's:

West Theatre opened in 1941 in a converted car dealership on Green Bay's west side. It operated as a first-run, single-screen theatre through the 1970's. It had been upgraded with a giant screen and other amenities when the advent

of TV threatened movie ticket sales. **West** was advertised in the 1950's as Green Bay's most modern theatre. After multiplexes doomed older single-screen houses, the theatre was transformed into the **West Pitcher Show** showing movies second-run and featuring beer and pizza. In 2001, Za (aka Mark Mariucci, owner of this magazine) upgraded the theatre adding modern bathrooms, a large performing stage, three bars, and a full kitchen. He ran it as an art house movie theatre that featured dancing on weekends. Many

readers will remember dancing at the **Historic West Theatre**. In 2005, Packer player Nick Barnett turned the place into a nightclub called **Five-Six**. Unfortunately, at that time the classic marquee was disabled and today is a shadow of what it once was. **Five-Six** lasted only a few years. The last use of the building was a combination computer repair and retail store called the **Funky Monkey**. The proprietors planned to re-open the theatre room for parties and events, but it never materialized.

An upgrade costing more than \$30,000 to restore

the marquee to its former glory is planned. The much-needed painting of both the exterior and interior are also in the works. Delays are common when rehabilitating an historic building, setting the opening date back a few months, but the opening of the theatre will occur this autumn.

Follow their progress and be the first to know by liking **The Tarlton Theatre** on Facebook and joining the email list at: www.TheTarlton.com.

Follow Tarl Knight on Facebook and on the web at: www.TarlKnight.com.

ENDLESS MIMOSAS SUNDAY

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TITS Expansion... aka, TITS, Too

An interview with George Schneider



When Louise's Restaurant on Milwaukee's Cathedral Square announced its imminent closure in August, rumors swirled about a This is It (TITS) expansion. It seemed like a logical enough expectation that Milwaukee's oldest gay continuously operating bar, recently revitalized under the management of the bar's new partner and now owner George Schneider, should eye the soon-to-be vacated, adjacent retail space. After all, the once low profile venue with no signage or other indication of activity inside had, under its current owner, now become a community-wide destination, replete with rainbow painted façade.

QUEST spoke with Schneider about his grand plan to expand the TITS footprint to a new double-barreled shotgun shape, or, perhaps more appropriately, a "double D" layout.

QUEST: When did you learn about Louise's clo-

sure and how did you approach the building owners with your expansion plan?

George Schneider: Well, we need to back up a bit. Late last year we hired an architect to explore expansion. The impetus was that we knew we were getting to capacity on the weekends and that we were the only bar bringing in bigger name attractions like RuPaul's Drag Race. We'd actually have to turn people away. If knew expansion was the only way to avoid continually having people go to other places because we were full. We knew we couldn't expand west into the alley due to the city's "permanent vacation of an alleyway" ordinance, as it's called, that restricts blocking an alley. We couldn't go up or over the sidewalk so it seemed like we couldn't go anywhere but down into the basement. That would have been a very

expensive project but we got something of a workable plan from the architect. However, the cost was astronomical. It involved bumping out the back of the building and other complications. Plus, an extensive renovation would have meant a complete shut down for an extended period. Contrary to popular belief, the bar business is not a cash cow. It requires a regular and consistent clientele. We shelved the idea but we had the option. Then, about two months later, since we were in communication with the building owner about our renovation plans, he called and let us know that Louise's might want to vacate its back room (the space running parallel to TITS). Of course, we were interested. We started the conversation with Louise's.

Then, as time progressed it became a reality. I was only aware they wanted to close that extra dining

room. Then the news suggesting them leaving completely came from a third party. As it turned out they ultimately decided to leave the entire space.

Joe Brehm and I had often talked about this possibility. He was always hesitant to expand when opportunities presented themselves in the past. But as business increased, the idea of expansion was always on our minds.

QUEST: You let the cat out of bag a few weeks ago while you were still negotiating with the building owner. Where are you now? Signed, sealed and

delivered?

GS: We're on the verge of signing an agreement. It provides unique challenges but it should be a cut and dried deal. I struggle to say it's fully signed and sealed but, at this point, there's nothing to indicate it won't go forward. Because of the challenges of our current space we need to do this.

QUEST: What's the neighborhood buy-in?

GS: Everyone is supportive, even businesses that haven't reached out to us. People have been congratulating me as a

neighborhood partner. I'm excited to see what will move into Louise's place. I have high hopes it will be someone I already know. Coupled with our expansion, it would be nothing but good news for the neighborhood if the new owner's would be able to work with us. With a new restaurant opening on the corner, our 50th anniversary and the push for the Rainbow crosswalk, the idea and the thought is that, as Milwaukee is pushing to host the DNC for 2020, it would be an additional selling point for pitching the city's diversity. We're really excit-

ed about that prospect and future in general.

QUEST: So what's the vision for the new and improved TITS?

GS: We want to mimic the aesthetic of the original space as much as we can. We want to provide a comfortable area for our customers. We also want to be able to have the additional area as an "on demand" space so we can open it as the need arises...for weekends and special events. We'll have a satellite bar that will match the one in the existing space but smaller. We want to have a dance floor that can also be set up as a stage and performance area or accommodate tables. So, it will be a multi-use room.

QUEST: How much will that increase the square footage?

GS: We'll double the floor space from 1,100 to 2,200 square feet. That means the anticipated capacity increase as high as 120 which would be more than double the present capacity of around 100. That will, depending on the final architectural design. And, of course, there will be additional bathrooms. On high volume nights, we would have plenty of bathroom space.

QUEST: What are the other possibilities for the new space?

GS: We've not ruled out opening the space for private parties or other events on non-volume days. Also, because the space is able to be partitioned off from the main bar, and has its own front entrance door and rear exit, we are working on an exciting Wednesday special event which currently isn't being done elsewhere in the city. We're working with the city and MPD to explore this, but that's all I'll say.

QUEST: That's cryptic but certainly should pique community interest. But what about the traditionalists who think of TITS as a sort of Cheers corner bar where everyone knows your name?

GS: We recognize that we need to preserve the bar's original vibe but we also need to grow and remain viable. We can't exist another 50 years without new and progressive programming. Now we can host them in a more appropriate setting. And it allows two separate environments for a high energy event on one side while retaining a mellow traditional setting in the other. The original owners knew the importance of tradition and I'm working within that concept of preserving our half century of history but, at the same time, facing current realities with a mutually compatible business strategy.

We truly take polls, listen to feedback and keep our customers in mind 100%. We can't keep everybody happy but we're doing our damnest to try.

QUEST: When does the renovation begin? And when is the projected grand opening?

GS: Construction would not begin immediately. The building owner would have to demise the space to block it from the remaining restaurant area. That needs to be completed before we move forward. Once it is, we would start ASAP. Depending on city permitting processes, the demise process can take up to 60 days. We could take over in September so that means early December as a start date for renovations. Because we have no set date to begin work, we can't project an opening date but we should be able to make it happen by the new year.



Buy it, stream it, or forget it

The scene between Gregory and James is neither written nor played for laughs but there were chuckles aplenty from the gentlemen of the monthly cinema circle who are certainly familiar with the obvious answer. Nor were many entirely convinced by James' response, that Gregory reminded the older man of himself at Gregory's age.

Yet the gentlemen of the monthly cinema circle were young once, it stands to reason after all, and understand that in such a relationship, the older, wealthier man doesn't always possess all the power and the younger, poorer man isn't the only one with something to lose.

Strong performs throughout, none more so than Petrice Jones in the central role of Gregory. Also excellent are Akil Nicholas as Dev, Gregory's best friend (and more?), Penelope Spencer as Gregory's grandmother and Nickolai Salcedo as Gregory's brother and who is plenty fierce even without the blue body paint.

Thanks to James David Wall's striking cinematography of the lush, tropical paradise of the rural mountain village of Paramin in Trinidad, a real sense of place comes alive, particularly during the Jab, a Carnival dance that turns participants into fierce blue devils. Add in Maria Govan's strong, literate screenplay and this cross between melodrama and a coming-of-age film feels surprisingly original and intriguing.

Just the facts...

Play the Devil is in English and has a running time of 113 minutes. Play the Devil is out on DVD with a SRP of \$24.99. Stereo Dolby Digital. Closed-Captioned, English and French subtitles.



Play the Devil

Among the gentlemen of a certain age who comprise the monthly cinema circle, there are those who have become increasingly frustrated with the choosing of foreign films, films that require the viewer to depend on subtitles.

"I don't want to read a movie."

True, it is more challenging for the gentlemen to prepare cocktails and consume platters of nibbles whilst reading subtitles, something Glenn understands and indeed is in sympathy with.

Only rarely are foreign films chosen by the monthly cinema circle and more often than not during the always fabulous Milwaukee LGBT Film & Video Festival. Sadly, there is no Festival for 2018, just a series of monthly screenings and programs.

You can find out everything about the 33rd year of the Milwaukee LGBT Film & Video Festival @ <https://uwm.edu/lgbt-filmfestival/>.

After a quick preview, Glenn felt Maria Govan's Play the Devil to be a safe choice. Despite its

Caribbean setting, Play the Devil is entirely in English.

Sadly, there is a catch, as so often there is. Although entirely in English, dialogue in Play the Devil is spoken quickly and often with challenging accents. The simple solution, of course, was to open the English subtitle track but not all were placated, for many felt it was back to "reading a movie."

Gregory is a "best little boy in the world." Indeed, it is difficult for Glenn to offer a more perfect cinematic depiction of a "best little boy in the world." Drawn from Andrew Tobias' now classic book, closeted young men would try to hide their homosexuality by being the best student, the best athlete, the best person... indeed, the best little boy in the world.

Although he dreams of becoming a photojournalist, his beloved grandmother wants Gregory to be a doctor and he's determined to do whatever he can to receive a medical school scholarship and make his grandmother's dream come true. Not

only does Gregory work hard on his studies, he takes on household chores like cooking dinner, doing laundry, doing the ironing, wanting to lessen his grandmother's burden.

The stage is quite literally set early in the film as 18-year old Gregory (Petrice Jones) is shown as part of a theatre group recreating a local Trinidad ritual. Hand-some, fit and shirtless, he

catches the eye of glamorously wealthy James Young (Gareth Jenkins), father to one of Gregory's classmates.

Approaching Gregory backstage closing night, James is clearly smitten with Gregory; to convince Gregory to attend the cast party, James promises to drive him home. In return Gregory appears to be a bit smitten with James and

more than a bit oblivious to James' intentions.

As something of an introduction, James offers Gregory the use of his fabulous camera, later James invites Gregory to his stunning ocean-front home sans wife and daughter for... what's the word? Yup, a sleepover, albeit a suitably grownup sleep-over.

The predictable seduction scene ensues, predictably

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enough. Gregory manages to send out mixed messages while James whispers, just as clothing is about to be torn off, that if Gregory wants to stop, he'll stop. Gregory certainly doesn't look like a lad who could stop even if he wanted to.

The next morning is another story as Gregory is suffering from one major case of the "icks."

In fact, Gregory's life, tenuous in the best of time, has

begun to unravel. Gregory's best friend (and more?) Dev (Akil Nickolas) is suddenly out of control and packing a gun, his brother Fayne is arrested, Gregory's ne'er-do-well father's period of good behavior is all-too brief, Gregory fails an important exam and worst of all, James keeps turning up unannounced and unwelcome.

Of course Gregory's grandmother is enchanted

with her grandson's new friend but Gregory has learned there's always a price to pay.

Knowing that his relationship with James is becoming the fodder of gossip with the village's many local loiterers, Gregory tells James to leave him alone. "What do you want from me, James? Seriously. I'm 18, I'm poor, and I have nothing."

What, indeed?



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... cordially yours

Where did our summer go?

I stand in wonderment...

Time goes so fast – washed away like the rain!

I had a very enjoyable – yet fast-paced sultry season in the sun!

I hope you are all viewing "Camp WannaKiKi". Isn't it exciting to be in on the cutting edge with this new show? We will be seeing this concept shoot straight to television! Dear Ruthie and her cousins the Sugarbaker Twins – Apple Brown Betty and Cherry Pi are all presenting us with the potential "Queen of Camp". What a variety pack of dolls we have to choose from. Tune in and turn on.

If you prefer to see this opus on screen – you have the opportunity to go to Chicago on Sunday

and catch it at Hamburger Mary's – Chicago, Here in Milwaukee; Mondays you can view "Camp WannaKiKi" at Hamburger Mary's Milwaukee and one more choice on Tuesdays This Is It airs the program, featuring their very own bartender, Aldo Perez AKA Pagan Holladay. Watching this camp romp is even more fun with friends.

I had a sunny time of it on Hamburger Mary's Milwaukee newly refurbished roof top. If you're looking for a fun spot with a great view – here it is! Tea dances on Sundays will continue until the snow flies!

My alias, Karen Valentine

is having a gay old time with HamBINGO at Hamburger Mary's Milwaukee every other Wednesday – 8:00 – 9:30 pm. Pagan Holladay gets the honor to do the alternate Wednesday and Dear Ruthie is the Bingo Mistress every Thursday. (Karen is on 09/12, 26, 27 and 10/10 and 31). If you are looking for a flawless fundraiser for your pet charity or cause – HamBINGO it is! All you need is 3 – 4 volunteers and 10 prizes, 1 per Bingo round and you have a fundraiser in a box – just add vodka!

I always have a wild time at Woody's! This past summer, dear Jamie Beauchamp-Reid (florist to the stars) had a milestone birthday extravaganza, thrown by his devoted husband, Realtor Andy Reid. Toby & Kurt, Lance, Roman, Josh, Tony, Wes and crew sets the bar for sports viewing and partying!



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Baby Jane Hudson will be hosting his 60th Birthday Party and Show, proceeds going to the Charlotte Fund at The BESTd Clinic.

This Is It commemorated their 50th year in the bar business. A record for any business let alone a Gay business! A full week-end of celebration was planned to acknowledge this accomplishment. Everyone from Mayor Tom Barret to the Brehm family – who opened the lounge back in 1968 took part. All raising glasses to yesterday with June Brehm and her son Joe, to today and

der and Michael Fischer as they go forward – and the expansion. I kept one of the biggest secrets of my career; TITs will be taking over the banquet room of what was once known as Louise's.

The Harbor Room polka-ed their way into their 18th year of business, The Squeezettes got everyone up and dancing. Congratulations Gregg & Eddie and the Men of The H.R.

KRUZ has won and rightly so all the awards possible for their own "Garden of Eden". Their lush patio has been the scene of many

So, exquisite I'm always awaiting Lady Bird Johnson to peek around the corner planting a shrub or bush. My favorite memory of the season here The Beach Party – with Konrad modeling his Speed-os...

LVL has heated up the summer as well. I love the Bistro with Casper Garcia and Alex Laabs are now following the framework of success Packer Chad had imagined and created. Dita Von has the tantalizing Transformation Show on Saturday evenings. And KV was even given a dais to commentate the Pride parade!

PrideFest awarded Our Community with over \$23,000 to help support many important services and agencies.

D.I.X. Milwaukee is where the North and South meet – is more like where Milwaukee meets! Everyone is dancing to the sounds of Chomper, the unique spin on Drag and BJ and Jonathan managing everything in making Walker's Point, the playground of the city.

Bill Wardlow has the fluid flowing at Fluid with his all-star staff: Marcus, Tony, Chris, Roy and Co Love their terrific terrace – always a special time around the fire pit. Bet-Z at the neigh-

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Harbor Room, Fr. 7th, 10-12

Fluid, Mon. 10th, 9:30-11:30

LGBT Center, Tues. 11th, 5:30-8

Woodys, Thurs. 13th, 9-11

LVL, Thurs. 20th, 10-12

Club Icon, Fri. 21st, 9:30-12:30
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D.I.X, Thurs. 27th, 9-12

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boring Walker's Pint always has a party going on – park the car and do the complete “fruit loop”.

Though not a Gay bar – but a very “friendly” pub – Club Charlies has kept Brian Reinkober and Karen Valentine busy with their popular Sunday Fun Day Show Tunes. Due to the Green Bay Packers return to the green, Show Tunes will be on hiatus throughout the autumn. Returning Sunday, October 14 and 21 2:00 – 7:00 pm and sporadically thereafter during football season.

Now through Sunday, November 4 “Songs For Nobodies – Judy Garland, Patsy Cline, Edith Piaf, Billie Holiday, and Maria Callas” all singing their truths. The newly renovated Stackner Cabaret is the locale for this outstanding one-woman tour-de-force! The Milwaukee Rep www.milwaukee.com.

“Pippin” is popping in at The Skylight Music Theatre at The Broadway Theatre Complex in the Historic Third Ward. This whimsical winner is running now through Sunday, October 7.

“Hairspray” will dazzle November 16 – Sunday, December 23 – their Holiday Show, a fabulous way to have fantastic family time together. A warm Welcome Back to Jim Moore who returns to The Skylight after a brief hiatus.

The Florentine Opera

Company sends their season to the masses with Carlisle Floyd's “Prince of Players” at Uihlein Hall of The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts Friday, October 12 and a matinee on Sunday, October 14.

Bravo goes out to Scott S. Stewart, the Associate Conductor and Chorus Master of The Florentine – it has been a most important year for him. Scott sang in year 40 with this cultural jewel and was named the 2018 Artist of The Year, by The Milwaukee Arts Board! I had the rich educational opportunity to sing under Scott with The Fest City Singers and The Wisconsin Cream City Chorus – March, 1985 – September, 1995. Fest City was the first LGBT Chorus in this town – what a magical time that was...

Johnathan Gillard Daly's “The Eagle in Me: An Evening of Carl Sandburg” will be on the boards until Sunday, October 21 InTandem Theatre – Discover Milwaukee's hidden gem.

The Milwaukee Rep's musical of the season “In The Heights” through Sunday, October 28 Quadracci Powerhouse. This sizzling musical is from the pen of Lin-Manuel Miranda, the mastermind of “Hamilton”.

Saturday, October 6 AIDS Walk Wisconsin & 5 K Run at the Milwaukee Lakefront, 2018 Honorary Chair Matt Bomer – Di-

rector and Award-Winning Actor. Register at AIDSWalkWis.Org or call 1-800-348-WALK.

The Marcus Center For The Performing Arts opens their Broadway Season with “Somethings Rotten” Tuesday, October 16 – Sunday, October 21. Broadway's big fat Hit! “Spamalot”+ “The Book of Mormon”, Squared! The world does need a laugh more today than ever ...

Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory (The Domes) hosts “Where The Coleuses Grow” Saturday, September 22 – Sunday, November 4 and then The Holiday Show “Scrooge!” Saturday, November 17 – Sunday, January 6, 2019.

MILESTONES

Rest In Peace Claude James “Claudie” Gagnon, III, we lost you just shy of your 60th birthday. A massage therapist –with healing hands for the world, we were neighbors on “Lavender Hill”, then onto the warm sunset of Fort Lauderdale for his last years.

Walter (Wally/June) Herman – a staple of all the gay, BrewTown's fine establishments has had his last call. I met Walter ions ago at the YP, from there it was The M&M Club, Fluid and in recent years a regular at KRUIZ. Wherever the party was Wally was smacked dab in the middle of it! Cheers!

Ashes to ashes, on that

note, Rona and I scattered her royal highness, Charlotte Lorraine (Chuck Poulson) throughout the city's finest Gay bars past and present – it was fascinating gesture that has comforted me with death and the act of cremation... Food Time-Looking for a French flair bill o faire? Maison Brasserie on the west side is the place to sup.

Located at 5921 West Vliet Street Milwaukee 53208 414-323-5921 Jordan Weink will see to all your needs.

Remember It's the glamour, not the grammar, Happy Autumn, Happy Halloween, as I remain still Cordially Yours.,



BAR GUIDE

Quest's list of Wisconsin's foremost LGBT drinking institutions.

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(608) 361-0000

My Place

3201 South Ave., LaCrosse
(608) 788-9073

Players

300 4th St, La Crosse
(608) 784-4200

Chances

R 417 Jay St., La Crosse
(608) 782-5105

Club 5 Bar/Restaurant

5 Applegate Ct., Madison
(608) 277-9700

Plan B

924 Williamson
St., Madison

Shamrock

117 W Main St., Madison
(608) 255-5029

SOTTO

303 N Henry St., Madison

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1029 N 8th St., Sheboygan
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1303 Harrison St., Oshkosh
(920) 235-6577

Hideout (Gay friendly)

2828 N Ballard Rd.,
Appleton
(920) 830-2137

Napalese

1351 Cedar St., Green Bay
(920) 432-9646

No Limits

500 N. Baird St., Green Bay
(920) 544-4963

Rascals Bar & Grill

702 E. Wisconsin St.,
Appleton (920) 954-9262

Remixx

8386 State Rd 76 Neenah
54956 (920) 725-6483

Round A Bout

1264 Main Green Bay, WI
54302 920-544-9544

XS Niteclub

1106 Main Street,
Green Bay

Triple P's (Gay friendly)

5015 W Greenville Dr
Appleton 920-939-3592

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WI (715) 395-0101

The Lounge

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WI (715) 392-1756

OZ

320 Washington St.,
Wausau www.totheoz.com
(715) 842-3225

Scooters

411 Galloway Eau Claire
(715) 835-9959

MILWAUKEE

Art Bar

722 Burleigh,
(414) 372-7880

DIX

739 S 1st Street

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(LGBTQ friendly) 1307 E
Brady
414-539-6826

Fluid

819 South 2nd
(414) 643-5843

Hamburger Mary's

730-734 South 5th Street
414-488-2555

Harbor Room

117 E Greenfield
(414) 672-7988

KRUZ

354 E. National
(414) 272-KRUZ

LVL (formerly LaCage)

801S 2nd,
(414) 383-8330

Riverwest Public

House (LGBTQ friendly)
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200 E Washington St

This Is It

418 E Wells
(414) 278-9192

Two (mixed)

718 E. Burleigh St.

Walker's Pint

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Woody's

1579 S 2nd
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