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 Matt Baumgartner

**Matt Baumgartner**

Owner, Bombers (Albany, Schenectady), Wolff's Biergarten

Averill Park. Why do I love you so much?

July 20, 2009 at 7:58 pm by Matt Baumgartner

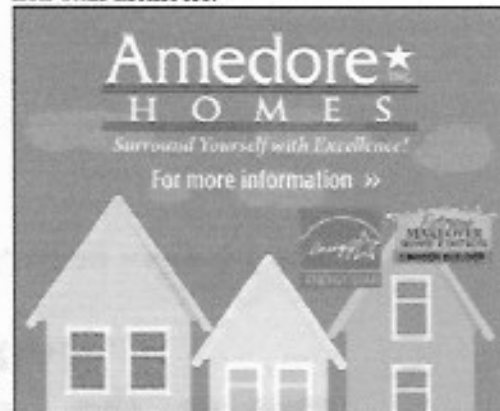
Country roads, take me home. To the place, I belong..... West-Virginia Averill Park.

You know when someone is trying to calm you down (which for me is about three to four times a day), they say to you, "think of your happy place". For me, my happy place is one of two places. A) My grandparent's kitchen and B) my little cabin on Burden Lake.

For the past 9 summers or so I have been renting the same little cabin on Burden Lake #3.... otherwise known as "camp". (a term I have come to realize that when I say "I'm going to 'camp', some people think I'm going to some sort of sleep away camp, which is just weird, so now I often say 'cabin'. "Camp" must be an upstate term.) Anyway, my camp is about the size of shed, and a strong wind could blow the place down, but what it does for my sanity is beyond words. Once I cross over the river, I can just feel my stress levels go down (that is until I reach the traffic at Rte 4, and then it spikes up a little, but it goes back down once I turn onto Best Road).

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Burden Lake is in Averill Park. Averill Park is the greatest town in the world. I don't know what it is about it up here, but it's so beautiful, and the people are the salt of the earth. It's a little bit slower pace (think [Countrytime Lemonade commercial](#)), and it completely calms me down. Alamo (my landlord and one of the few people on my short list of heroes) is one of the nicest guys you will ever meet and the fact that he lets me come back every year is one of the nicest things anyone has ever done for me.

Moving on.... although there are so many amazing things about Averill Park, I am going to choose 4 of my absolute favorite things (yes, I think I'm Oprah). And I recommend taking a road trip some day this summer to check them out.



Kay's Pizza

First and foremost, you HAVE TO GO TO [Kay's Pizza](#). I am almost a little hesitant to even talk about it because it's so crazy packed in the summer, I am only adding to the craziness by writing about it. But, trust me, eating there will make you happy. It will. It will calm you down, make you feel like you're 12 years old again, and will be worth every \$2.89 per gallon you spent on gas to get there.

Oh yeah, and it's on a lake. Burden Lake #2 to be exact.

The pizza is delicious, the atmosphere is priceless, and the scenery will make you want to be reincarnated as a large mouth bass.

Next up, [The Ice Cream Shop](#) in Averill Park (say hi to Bob). It's across from the High School on Rte. 43, has the tastiest little hot dogs, delicious delicious delicious ice cream, and is a really great place to bring kids (there's a bouncy blow up trampoline room.. or whatever you call it.). Plus, if you happen to need a hair cut, there a great little barber shop next door called "Botsy's Barber Shop"... an Averill Park institution.

A little further up the road is probably my favorite place in Averill Park. It's a pharmacy/deli called [Young's Pharmacy & General Store](#). The owner is this really swell guy named Miller, and his store is the CLEANEST, cutest, smartest, country-store-feeling place you will ever step foot into. (But it's like cool and modern at the same time). There's also a deli in the back that has awesome sandwiches (I always want to spell it "sandwiches") and their breakfast sandwiches on croissants are out of this world. Plus, there's a lady named Wenda who works there. If I still used MySpace, she would be in my top 8. She's cool, and smart, and really interesting and I really like her. She always is so nice to me.

Recent Comments

- [Averill Park. Why do I love you so much? \(45\)](#)
 - [SES](#): I went to Averill Park high school and I live on the second lake. I use to walk the back way through the woods...
- [Ruthless. \(170\)](#)
 - [deb](#): Matt, I'm an old broad and love the Biergarten, so don't pay attention to her comment and dont...
 - [Colleen](#): So Matt, what are you thinking... Wednesday around 5:30-6'ish? Do we have to have a secret...
 - [Bill In Salem](#): Just a note: I was there last night, and I thought the potato pancakes (which I specifically ordered)...
- [My 2nd grade class photo... \(19\)](#)
 - [kimberlychica](#): @ lynn b,so did i ☺ - my mom tried to soften the blow by calling it the "Dorothy Hammill..."
 - [K-Wing](#): Matt, look on the brightside, at least the sweatshirt wasn't a hand-me-down with the name of a big...
- [Thank you, Capital Region Living Magazine... \(7\)](#)
 - [Colleen](#): Oh, were assless chaps an option??? If yes, then I vote YES, YES, YES.
 - [edna](#): My daughter just walked in and said "mom, why are you listeneing to Cher?" Wow, go Dan!
- [Friday Puppy! \(7\)](#)
 - [Joan](#): Daisy is the greatest granddaughter ever!!!
 - [Stephanie](#): Matt, you should follow @anamariecox on twitter. She just got a new puppy, and often posts pictures....

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Young's Pharmacy & General Store

Last, but certainly not least, I would recommend going to [The Towne Tavern](#) for a beer. It's a low-key spot, with great food and really nice bartenders. The atmosphere, however, is why I go there. It looks like a pine tree exploded inside. Beautiful planks of pine all over the place. So comfortable, and rustic, and woodsy. It just *feels* right. Plus it's a nice change of pace from the other bars in Albany. We were supposed to have our Bombers holiday party there last year but the night of the party Albany had the winter's worst snow storm and we had to cancel.

So there you have it. Go explore Averill Park.

(And one small plug for Burden Lake, there's Burrito Night on Thursday July 23rd at the Burden Lake Clubhouse (6-9pm). It's a fundraiser to help pay for the costs to keep the lake clean and healthy. Bombers Burrito Bar is donating some quality rice, beans and other choice ingredients for the fundraiser, and I'm gonna be there myself rolling the burritos! If you're interested in attending an event that you will *totes heart*, contact AmyEmily@nycap.rr.com or call (518) 479-7193 for more info.)

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1. I hear that! Kay's is great. Went there as a kid and just went for the first time 2 weeks ago and kayaked all 3 lakes with the wife. If you haven't tried Uncle Marty's Adirondack grill you should. I was wondering about the tavern..now ill have to try it. =)

Comment by tallguyy — July 20th, 2009 @ 8:44 pm

2. nice post. born raised and now living adult life in AP. Thank's for the plug to a great little community.

Comment by Eric — July 20th, 2009 @ 9:09 pm

3. Greatest blog ever

Comment by Scott — July 21st, 2009 @ 12:50 am

4. This post right here is why so many people love this blog so much. It's as simple as that.

- [July 2009](#) (24)
- [June 2009](#) (30)
- [May 2009](#) (16)

• Matt's Favorite Links

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