

our town

Burlington, Wisconsin



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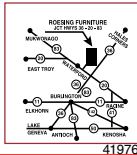


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RAISE A PINT TO **our town**

Brewmaster Bernard Petersen stirs a batch of beer at his downtown Burlington 'nano' brewery.

FILE PHOTO *Our Town*

The Burlington area is valued by residents and visitors alike for a variety of quality-of-life amenities.

To name a few, there are local lakes and rivers, an extensive network of recreation trails, a state park, attractive housing and a state-of-the-art aquatic center.

And if that isn't enough, Burlington's rating on the coolness scale in recent years has rocketed skyward with the arrival of craft breweries.

Microbreweries are having a similar

impact in small communities across the county as discerning beer drinkers are stepping away from generic macro brews and quaffing rich, refreshing and flavorful brews with names such as Buckets, Jam Caddy, Cadillac Ranch and Sim Sour.

Those are just a small sample of the names found on the tap handles at Burlington's Low Daily and The Runaway breweries during a recent stretch. The good news for adventurous drinkers is that the roster of beers is constantly changing.

It's a little bit of hoppy heaven on

earth.

Brewmasters/owners Bernard Petersen at The Runaway and Tim Sullivan at Low Daily started as home brewers and rose to the top of their craft like the fizz in a refreshing farmhouse ale.

Sullivan carries a pedigree that includes a degree in brewing from the University of California-San Diego and an ascension to brewer at Ecliptic Brewing in Portland, Oregon.

Petersen has a successful real estate

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Burlington, Wisconsin

our town

2022-23

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On the cover:

This girl was all smiles when this flying-fish themed ride takes off during the Burlington Jamboree.

CHAD HENSIK PHOTO *Our Town*

career but decided to turn his passion for home brewing into a drinkable resource shared with the community.

While the ever-changing list of beers is reason enough to visit both of the local taprooms – Low Daily is at 700 N. Pine St. and The Runaway is at 109 E. Chestnut St. – the contributions of the two businesses go far beyond the brew kettles, mash tuns and quarter barrels.

Their taprooms and beer gardens have become gathering places where human connections are made, games are played and community is created. Both brewers host regular events that bring people together and make our town a better place to live.

Let's raise a frosty pint to the brewers in Our Town.

– Ed Nadolski,
EDITOR IN CHIEF



Wielding a mash paddle, Low Daily owner and brewmaster Tim Sullivan stands in amid the brew kettles in his Burlington Brewery.

FILE PHOTO *Our Town*



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A day at the fair for Nathan

Sun shines on event to benefit family of cancer fighter

By **Jason Arndt**
STAFF WRITER

The Racine County Fair has been an annual ritual for Nathan Rehberg and his family.

Rehberg, a member of Kan-Do 4-H Club and Burlington High School junior, has spent years showcasing steers while also dedicating his time to help others.

However, when Rehberg became

ill in January and was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia, he was admitted to Children's Wisconsin hospital in Wauwatosa for ongoing treatment.

Nathan, son of Tammy and Rick Rehberg, has since undergone multiple rounds of chemotherapy and is awaiting a bone marrow test to determine when he can receive a transplant.

In the meantime, the Racine County community continues to show support

for the Rehberg family through multiple fundraisers, including April's "A Day at the Fair For Nathan Rehberg" on the Racine County Fairgrounds in Union Grove.

Jeffrey Busch, president of the Racine County Fair Board, did not hesitate when a committee of volunteers approached him about organizing the event since the Rehbergs have shown steadfast support of the Racine County Fair.

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Megan Larose of the 4H Outstanding Team gives it her all in a hay bale throwing competition during the April "A Day at the Fair For Nathan Rehberg" fundraiser at the Racine County Fairgrounds in Union Grove.

CHAD HENSIK Our Town

our government

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NATHAN • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

“For a family that is a part of our fair family, we love doing something like this for them,” said Busch, who acknowledged the Rehbergs exhibit a humble and quiet demeanor. “They are good people and always willing to help out. They don’t want to be the center of attention. For us to give back in their time of need is great.”

As for the event, organizers brought in food trucks, carnival rides/games, a petting zoo, children’s activities, raffles and auction with proceeds benefiting the Rehberg family.

Committee member Jackie Bratz, meanwhile, said the community donated nearly everything to the cause either through time or items.

“Most of what we are doing here today was all donated, there were very few things that we had to pay for, because this community is incredibly generous,” she said during the event.

Overwhelmed with support

Bratz along with fellow committee member Amy Hegemann each admitted they did not have any specific projections for attendance and simply hoped to see about 500 people.

But with pleasant weather, and many

offerings, the fundraising event more than exceeded expectations.

“We were hoping, honestly, for about 500 to 1,000 people,” Hegemann said. “The weather is perfect, which is a blessing.”

“It has turned into an incredible turnout, the parking lot is packed. It is beautiful out, there are lines at every food truck, there are lines to buy raffle tickets,” Bratz added.

Like Nathan, according to Bratz, many of the people who came shared a common joy of the Racine County Fair.

“Nathan loves coming to the fair, his family loves coming to the fair, it is one of their favorite events of the year just like many of the people here,” she said.

A mentor, friend

Nathan, according to Hegemann, has shown steers at the Racine County Fair as member of Kan-Do 4-H Club for years.

Hegemann, whose son Mason also exhibits steers, describes Nathan as a friend and mentor who is always willing to help people in need.

“He would do anything for anybody. He has done so much for others, everyone wanted to become involved and give to his family,” she said. “Nathan has helped

(Mason) get through his beef, helped him with his steers and has just been a mentor.”

“He is just an all-around really good kid. And he has a good family as well,” Hegemann added.

Hegemann said she believes Nathan’s dedication to helping others has played a key role in the fundraiser’s phenomenal turnout.

“He has made an impact on so many people, it is amazing how many people have reached out,” she said. “The fair is also a part of lot of people’s lives, including Nathan.”

‘Very appreciative’

Rick and Tammy have taken a break from work to spend time with Nathan while he receives treatment and continues to undergo testing.

Although Nathan’s parents were not at the event, other family members attended, including Nathan’s grandfather Richard G. Rehberg.

Rehberg, of Waterford, couldn’t quite describe the overwhelming support for his family.

“It is unreal and wonderful,” said Richard, accompanied by his daughter Marilyn Sheahan, of Mondovi. “They are very appreciative of all the help.”

A girl zooms past on a swing ride during the benefit for Nathan Rehberg in April. In addition to carnival rides, the event featured food, drink, raffles, an auction and a petting zoo.

CHAD HENSIK Our Town



Finding her balance

Burlington's Eve Dahl travels road from OI to ParaDancer

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**
STAFF WRITER

When Eve Dahl was 5 years old, she had her first taste of fame – at least of the local variety, her picture on the front page of the local paper for a balloon release she and her family did to raise awareness for osteogenesis imperfecta.

“That, I remember,” said Eve, now 14 and a teenager ready to start high school. “I remember being in the paper, but that’s all I remember.”

Nine years later, Eve has been on quite the journey with OI, also know as brittle bone disease. She has suffered so many breaks of various bones in her body that she and her mom, Deb, really can’t keep track any more, though the situation has improved with surgeries to place rods in all of her long bones – those in her legs and arms.

There are bones that can’t be rodded, though – like her pelvis and hips. Because of the deformities in the bones and poor bone quality, Eve will likely travel by wheelchair for the rest of her life.

“I’m probably not going to walk,” Eve explained. “And I don’t really want to. It’s just too hard.”

That being said, Eve has made her wheelchair her artform. Originally, she started taking dance classes through camps at Riverwood Church’s “Moved by Grace” program.

Those classes evolved when the teacher, Emily Moorefield, opened Midwest Dance Center – a family oriented dance studio for children.



right: Burlington’s Eve Dahl is shown at a dance competition in Milwaukee in May with her partner, Ernesto Olivas. **top:** Dahl performs in March at the United We Dance event at Elkhorn Area High School. Dahl, who has osteogenesis imperfecta – or brittle bone disease – has begun competing in ParaDance competitions.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *Our Town*

Now Eve takes lessons twice a week, using her wheelchair to “ParaDance” – formerly wheelchair dancing. The chair becomes the legs of her dance while she maneuvers the wheels and uses her arms to express the music.

She competed in her first ballroom event, the Milwaukee Classic May 19-21 at the Brookfield Conference Center. She came away with strong scores, but was one of only two ParaDancers at the event – and both were in different classes.

Eve used the event to gain experience for an even bigger competition – a planned trip to the first U.S. ParaDance competition, set for July in Detroit. She is currently raising money to cover the costs of travel and entry fees.

Eve said she has always felt music and dance give her an escape.

“I feel like I stop being a human in society and become a person who is dancing,” she explained. “It’s just something I do. I like the movement and I like the music.”

Eve started taking classes every week when Moorefield moved and started Midwest Dance Center in Burlington five years ago. She took mostly lyrical dance classes, though she’s added hip-hop and ballroom since.

Moorefield said that Eve has a special quality.

“I love Eve’s musicality and expression when she dances,” Moorefield said. “She really pulls you in and makes you feel something. Which is what dance is all about – conveying a story or emotion to the audience.”

As Eve grew, so did the opportunities for wheelchair dancers around the world. As ballroom dancing is popular in Latin



American countries and in Europe, so is ParaDancing.

But the work of Cheryl Angelelli – a para athlete who started as a competitive swimmer before switching to dancing – is starting to bring the sport to the U.S. through a program called Dance Mobility. It’s a wheelchair ballroom dance program at Fred Astaire Dance Studios in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, funded by a grant from the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan Foundation.

Working with the ballroom dance provider, Dance Mobility has given dancers like Eve, all over the country, a chance to try ballroom. The program travels to other FADS studios around the country to teach partnering with ParaDancers.

“ParaDancing is just kind of hitting the U.S. in general,” Deb Dahl said, noting Eve took her first class in May of 2019.

Eve went to the class on the recommendation of a friend, saying, “I don’t think I really expected to like it that much.”

Now she has a partner through FADS, Ernesto Olivas, and the two have started to put together traditional dances like the cha-cha, the rumba and the bolero. But they also debuted their “solo” number at the recent Milwaukee Classic, which will be used again this summer at the July event.

The competitive opportunities have only provided more fuel for Eve, who while still at the beginning of her ParaDance journey, is still one of only seven registered ParaDancers in the U.S.

“It’s kind of more of an opportunity to be kind of a pioneer,” Eve said. “To me, it feels really good. I’m not only at the start of something, but I can kind of improve the dance world for ParaDancers.”

The Milwaukee Classic was a good place to test out her dances, though she was surprised that she didn’t have her usual case of the nerves.

“I was stressed out that I wasn’t stressed,” she said with a smile. “Once I stepped on the floor, it was just me, my partner and the dance. I think it went pretty well.”

Deb Dahl said she was proud of how Eve adapted throughout the event. For the first time, she was on a dance floor with many other couples – able-bodied and ParaDancers alike. There were a lot of people moving around, and Deb said Eve had to change up her dances for the space they had.

“She hasn’t really practiced that,” Deb said. “This first competition was very much a learning experience.”

Moorefield said that Eve’s dancing has grown since she first came to Moorefield as a toddler. Moorefield has choreographed most of Eve’s numbers, including her freestyle solos and duets.

“To see how far she’s come in her dance ability is amazing, and it’s so much fun choreographing for her,” Moorefield said. “I can see her passion and love for dance in her movement, her work ethic and her drive – and it’s pretty awesome.”

That drive is something Eve feels as well, even as she acknowledges both her abilities and disability.

“The breaking bones stuff and the not walking much stuff doesn’t bother me,” said Eve, who went on to explain that OI has given her opportunities she wouldn’t have had otherwise.

On the other hand, she points out, rather painfully, that she’s “super short.”

“It limits my ability to do things, it limits how in shape I am,” she said of OI. And, she added, “it gives me body image issues, like every other teenager.”

But all things being equal, she is a normal teenager with her own special challenges and activities.

“I wouldn’t be the person I am (without OI),” she said.



left: Dahl shows off an award she won at the Milwaukee Classic in May.
top: Dahl dances with partner Olivas at the Milwaukee Classic.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS Our Town

FUN IN THE SUN



Aquatic Center offers a place to cool off

STANDARD PRESS STAFF

The Burlington Community Aquatic Center opened for the 2022 season at the beginning of June.

This is the fifth season of operation for the Aquatic Center and membership rates remain the same as they were in 2018, according to center Director Jeanne Otter.

This year those who purchased memberships prior to May 31 received four free day passes they can use to bring friends and relatives along for the fun.

To purchase a membership online, visit burlingtoncommunitypool.org.

In its five years of existence, the Burlington Community Aquatic Center has become a go-to spot for summer fun for families in the area, according to Otter.

The facility, at 394 Amanda Street,

features a children's play area with a zero-depth-entry tank, water jets and slides; a current channel for "lazy river" floating or aqua exercise; and a separate lap tank featuring three towering waterslides and a diving well with a high and low dive and a climbing wall.

The season is scheduled to run through Aug. 28.

In addition to open swim times and special events, the Aquatic Center offers a regular schedule of other activities. These include swimming lessons, Aqua Zumba fitness classes and a swim club for competitive swimmers.

Memberships for the 2022 season for Burlington residents remain at \$175 for families; \$100 for a singles; and \$90 for seniors (60 and older). Non-residents

may purchase memberships for: \$225 families; \$135 singles; and \$125 seniors. Memberships are good for admission each day during the season and also offer a discount on swimming lessons. Members also have the option of purchasing a caregiver pass for an additional \$25.

Single day passes for city residents cost \$8 (\$7 seniors). The rate drops to \$5 after 4 p.m. Children 2 and younger are admitted without charge. The non-resident daily rate is \$10 (\$9 for seniors) and drops to \$7 after 4 p.m.

Regular pool hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. weekdays and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekends.

More activities

The Aquatic Center is ramping up its special event nights, Otter said. In the



past the facility has hosted movie nights – where patrons can float on inflatables while watching a popular family movie projected on a giant screen – and obstacle course events during which inflatable obstacles are floated on the water offering a special challenge to visitors brave enough to try.

The center also offers facility rentals for parties, birthdays and special events. Full birthday party packages include food, a shade shelter or indoor room and pool admission.

Swimming lessons remain a staple of the Aquatic Center’s programs with multiple sessions offered through the course of the summer. People have the option of choosing morning sessions or evening sessions. Morning sessions run Monday through Thursday for two weeks. Evening sessions run Monday and Wednesday for four weeks. Classes are 30 or 40 minutes long, depending on level. Private lessons are available upon request.

The lesson fees are \$70 for members and \$85 non-members for the first two children or classes per family; and \$60

members and \$75 non-members for the third or any subsequent children or classes. The discount is cumulative for each family during the swim season.

The center will again offer Aqua Zumba aquatic exercise classes. Aqua Zumba blends low-intensity and high-intensity moves with water resistance for an interval-style workout. Classes are 40 minutes long and are held Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon and 7 p.m. and Saturdays at 10 a.m. Participants can purchase single session or multiple session passes. People who are interested may register online at burlingtoncommunitypool.org.

Swim club offered

The Aquatic Center is also offering an expanded swim club. The program will now feature a club for swimmers ages 8 to 12. The youth swim club will emphasize competitive stroke technique and building speed and endurance.

The main club is open to all swimmers ages 13 and older who have participated

in, or are interested in joining a high school swim team. This program is also for adults that are master swimmers looking for an opportunity to work out with other swimmers. Sessions are held early Tuesday and Thursday mornings from through Aug. 4.

For more information on Swim Club, contact Denita Jones at denita.burlingtonpool@gmail.com.

The City of Burlington funded the construction of the Aquatic Center after residents approved a referendum in 2016 authorizing officials to spend up to \$5.4 million on the new facility. It replaced the former pool, which opened in the mid-1960s at the same site.

The Burlington Community Aquatic Center is managed by a board of local volunteers who operate the pool at no cost to local property taxpayers. The facility receives support from local community service organizations – Kiwanis, Lions and Rotary. Operation of the pool is funded by memberships, daily passes, program fees and concessions sales.

opposite: The Burlington Aquatic Center is open through the end of August. The center is offering swim classes, clubs and special events this year.

ED NADOLSKI *Our Town*

above: Membership to the Burlington Community Aquatic Center can be purchased online at burlingtoncommunitypool.org.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *Our Town*

An enchanted evening at CCHS



Catholic Central High School had its Junior Prom April 29 with the theme of “Enchanted Forest”. The Grand March was held in the CCHS main gym, and the dinner, dance and after prom party was at Abbey Springs Resort in Fontana-on-Geneva Lake. The court included (above from left) Christian Pedone, Stephanie Jabrial, Riley Sullivan, Eva Lynch, Prom Queen-Olivia Ricci, Prom King-Ayden Muellenbach, Elsie Kmecak, Danny von Rabenau, AJ Murphy and Gavin Fowler.

O'CONNOR PHOTOGRAPHY Our Town

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City tabs Zmudzinski as police chief

Commission decided to promote from within

By **Jason Arndt**
STAFF WRITER

Lt. Brian Zmudzinski become the City of Burlington's police chief after an internal selection process by the Police and Fire Commission.

Zmudzinski, who has been with the department for 17 years, began his tenure in May and replaced a retiring Mark Anderson.

"I am humbled and honored for the opportunity to serve as the City of Burlington's next Police Chief. I am proud to work alongside the brave men and woman of our department who deserve the most credit and recognition," Zmudzinski said. "I want to congratulate and thank Chief Anderson for his leadership and guidance over the years to our department and community."

Anderson in March submitted his formal notification of intent to retire after serving the police department in multiple capacities for nearly three decades.

The retiring police chief began his tenure in 1994, when he became a police dispatcher, and eventually became a patrol officer seven years later.

Additional roles consisted of detective, field training officer, school resource officer and lieutenant before earning a promotion in 2015 to police chief.

"I will miss the community as I have been fully supported throughout my career by this community, as well as by the Common Council, Police and Fire Commission, and my fellow co-workers," Anderson said. "I have been a part of this community since my parents moved here in the mid-1970s and have always known that Burlington is a great place to live, to work, and to visit."

Anderson said he plans to spend more time with his family while continuing to expand his outdoor recreational activities.

Zmudzinski was one of two internal candidates with Sgt. Jeremy Krusemark as the other internal applicant, according to city officials.



Brian Zmudzinski

Zmudzinski began as a City of Burlington patrol officer in 2005 and has worked his way up the department ranks.

He served in several assignments including a field training officer, Honor Guard member, bike patrol officer, firearms and unified tactics instructor and field training coordinator.

Zmudzinski was then promoted to sergeant in September 2010 and reached the rank of lieutenant in October 2015.

He earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and master's degree in criminal justice administration, city officials said, adding Zmudzinski recently graduated from the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command.

Before joining the city police department, Zmudzinski served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 2001-2005, which included a 2004 deployment as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Internal search process

The Police and Fire Commission began the search process upon receiving Anderson's letter of retirement the first week in March.

"I want to thank you, City

Administrator Carina Walters, and the Police and Fire Commission for the opportunity to serve this great community for the past 27 years. I have cherished my time here and have met many amazing people," Anderson wrote in his letter addressed to Mayor Jeannie Hefty.

"I will do everything possible to wrap my duties and make sure Lt. Brian Zmudzinski is prepared to lead the department until a decision regarding my replacement is made. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to aid in the transition. I wish you, the City of Burlington, and the Police Department continued success."

At a mid-March meeting, the FPC decided to initially create an internal posting.

However, if the internal posting did not yield results, the FPC directed city officials to issue a public notice regarding the eventual vacancy.

In April, during a closed session, the FPC interviewed both internal candidates before deciding on Zmudzinski.

According to the Police and Fire Commission manual, "the commission shall determine whether to engage the services of an executive search firm or other specialists to aid in the selection process for a chief. The commission will also make a determination as to the recruitment strategy it will use to fill the position. The commission may recruit from within the department, or it may recruit candidates on a regional, state or national basis."

When the PFC met in a closed session to interview two candidates, commissioners were still deciding if they would exercise their option to open recruitment to external candidates, city Human Resource Manager Debra Epping said.

"At the conclusion of the interviews, the commission decided that they were satisfied with the internal applicants and that they would not open up the search," said Epping, who said the PFC did not consider both candidates as finalists at the time of interviews.



above: Known as the Hot Pickup, this event is a favorite of watchers and performers. Some of the girls are skiing attached to the boat while another group is picked up from the pier and a third group of skiers join the boat from a barge. This event requires not only the skill of the skiers but also the skill of the boat driver as he winds his way between the pier and the barge with some skiers already connected to the boat.

below: For this Aquaduck ski line it is not all eyes forward as the 14 members of the line are facing alternate directions while skiing on one ski.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE AQUADUCKS Our Town

Aquaducks in action

Area waterski shows celebrate anniversaries

By **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

The Southern Lakes Area comes by its moniker for good reason. The multitude of lakes and rivers provide residents and visitors the chance to enjoy fishing, boating and watersports during the summer months.

For many, sitting along the shore to watch the local, award-winning waterski team exhibitions are a favorite activity. From the Burlington Aquaducks to the Twin Lakes Aquanuts to the Southern Wakes United Water Ski Team in Walworth County, there's no shortage of performances on area lakes.

Waterskiing was invented by Ralph Willard Samuelson of Lake City, Minnesota, in 1922. One-hundred years ago, Samuelson strapped wooden boards to the bottom of his feet, used a clothesline as a towrope attached to a boat, and attempted

to travel across the water on Lake Pepin. He experimented with various sizes of boards and tried many different positions on the "skis" before successfully navigating Lake Pepin's waters and inventing a new sport.

Since then waterskiing has grown from a fledgling activity to a top-line competitive sport with worldwide competitions. Individual waterskiing teams compete in local, state and national levels. Sometimes, as they progress, they even compete in international competitions.

Local teams, including the Aquanuts, Aquaducks and the Southern Wakes United, have been very successful in competition at all levels.

Check the schedule of the team close by, gather family or friends, a folding chair or a blanket and make head out to the waterfront to take in a show. The whole group will enjoy watching the skill and gracefulness of

the skiers.

The local teams present shows at their home venues weekly during the summer for the enjoyment of the community. They do not charge to view their performances but all do accept donations to help them with the cost of producing the performance.

Browns Lake Aquaducks

Forty-six years ago, a group of local waterskiers gathered together on Browns Lake and formed the Aquaducks, a volunteer, family-oriented group that began to ski for fun, but went on to compete in both local and national competitions with great success.

In 2019 they became the Division 2 State Champions. In 2021 they moved up to Division 1 in state competition and finished in seventh place while finishing 14th in nationals that same year.



“We have about 100 members in our skiing club,” said Monica Shultiis, who provides whatever help the team needs. “They range in age from 8 years to 67 years. Our oldest member at 67 continues to barefoot water ski, that is he skis on the water without skis just using his feet.”

The team began on Browns Lake and continues to make Fisher Park their home.

While the team receives a lot of support from the community and local business, they also give back in various ways. One such way is the adaptive-skiing program started by Rick and Denise Legios in honor of their daughter.

The program allows those with disabilities to experience the joy of waterskiing. Using special adaptive equipment and the support of a skier on either side for balance it is possible for people with disabilities to have a waterskiing experience. The Aquaducks host the free program several times a year.

Honoring the 100 years of waterskiing, the Aquaducks began their season with their first ever blessing at Fisher Park on May 21.

The boats, including the water-patrol boat, and the police watercraft were blessed in a non-denominational service led by officiant Tom Ripple.

The May 21 program not only commemorated the 100 years of waterskiing but also honored all branches of the military since it was also Armed Forces weekend. Flags of all branches of the military were seen flying in all the Aquaducks vessels.

A highlight of the day was the introduction of the Aquaducks new mascot. Fittingly it is a big blue duck.

The team offers free shows to the public from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day on Thursday evenings in Fisher Park at 6:30 p.m. weekly. Starting June 23, the team will be joined by a junior show at 5 p.m.

Check the website, www.aquaducks.org, for updated information on shows and special events.

Happy birthday, Aquanuts!

Fifty years ago, in the small town of Twin Lakes, a group of water skiers gathered and formed the Aquanuts. Little did they know that this tightly knit group would band together and become one of the premier waterskiing groups, competing in a variety of competitions and winning more than 100 awards for first-, second- and third-place finishes over the years.

In 2021, the team won the Wisconsin state title for the first time in 35 years and finished second in national competition.

The Aquanuts are known for their daring stunts, ballet lines and innovative show themes. Each year more difficult and daring stunts are added to their routines. The clowns were introduced in



The Aquaducks perform a four-high pyramid to the delight of their fans.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE AQUADUCKS Wonder of Racine County

the early days and have remained a symbol of the Aquaducks, even earning a place on their logo.

While the skiers are the showpiece, they alone are not responsible for the success of the team. The boat drivers, spotters, equipment managers, marketing managers and the local businesses, especially the marinas, which help support them are as necessary as the skiers for success.

The Aquanuts say they are extremely thankful for their partnership with the Village of Twin Lakes, which allows for Lance Park to be their home.

“We are truly a team,” said Heather Buelow, who began attending waterski shows as a spectator in 1994 when she and her husband were dating. “Now our whole family is immersed in the team.”

Two of their daughters will be singing in this year’s show, which is based on Mary Poppins. Buelow’s husband drives a boat and she is involved in marketing.

Practice begins each year before the skiers are ready to hit the water. They work on the exciting three-, four- or even five-high pyramids on dry ground before ever trying to build one on the water.

The Aquanuts have two separate teams – a Junior Team and a Senior Team – but at times they overlap. The younger skiers, who range in age from 8 to 14 years old, are on the Junior Team as they train to learn the more intricate moves and formations. Sometimes a younger skier may advance to the Senior Team if they have particularly

good skills.

“The Senior Team members range from 15 years to in their 50s,” said Mark Gurda, who is the announcer for the team’s shows.

Every two years there is a World Championship Competition where Team USA picks from the best skiers to represent the United States as members of Team USA. This year Aquanuts, Cody Coffey, Kalia Coffey, Kailey Koehler, Bob Koehler and Ethan Shulda have been chosen for Team USA for 2022.

This year, in celebration of 100 years of waterskiing and 50 years of waterskiing for the Aquanuts, there will be multiple celebrations and special programs.

The weekly programs, which are open to the public, are at Lance Park at 6 p.m. Shows are presented Saturdays and Wednesdays each week through Labor Day.

A special Fourth of July weekend celebration will be at Lance Park on July 2 with festivities beginning around 6 p.m. The national anthem, “The Star-Spangled Banner,” will be sung by world-famous anthem singer Jim Cornelison who will open the show. Cornelison is well known for his singing of the anthem at Chicago Blackhawks home games. The Aquanuts will present a special ski show, which will end with the traditional Independence Day fireworks.

As always there is free admission and parking. Food and beer will be available for sale.

“With support from the city, Munson

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

Marine, Dr. Pepper, Mercury Marine and others, the team progressed,” Gurda said. “We were the first team to utilize a background music soundtrack in 1975, which was quickly copied by other teams.”

Each year there is a theme for the show often based on past popular movies, this year it is Mary Poppins.

Along with providing shows for the public, each year the team supports an adaptive skiing program to bring the sport to those with disabilities.

For more information visit www.aquanutswatershows.com.

Southern Wakes United

In the 1950s, the Lauderdale Lakes Aqua Skiers were formed by a group of young skiers who wanted to perform. They produced a single show each year on Regatta Day in front of the Sterlingworth Motor Hotel and were given dinner for their performance. By the 1980s they were competing in the state tournament with some success.

The Whitewater Lake Sports Club named its ski team the Minneiska Water Ski Team. The team organized and presented its first show in July of 1974 for the Lions Club and began competing in tournaments in 1975.

The Southern Wakes United Ski Team is a merger of the Lauderdale Aqua Skiers and the Whitewater Lake Sports Club (Minneiska) team, and are the only waterski team in Walworth County.

The team’s goal is to encourage both young and young at heart to work together to build confidence, while learning new skills. The team also encourages leadership development, water safety and sportsmanship as noted on their website.

Southern Wakes United competed in the 2021 Wisconsin State Tournament and placed third in Division III.

The team encourages skiers and those who want to be skiers to join the team. New members are always welcome. The team is a family-oriented group who work together for the benefit of all.

For those not ready or able to commit to a full membership with the team, they offer a pay-to-play option. Individuals who must be a member of the USA Water Ski org. and love to ski can pay a daily \$5 fee to ski with the team.

The show schedule for Southern Wakes United is a bit more complicated than that for the other teams because they present shows at three different locations – Whitewater Lake at Scenic Ridge Campground, Lauderdale Lakes at Lauderdale Landing in Elkhorn and the Elkhorn Lake show at Babe Mann Park.

Ski show times vary depending on the location. Check the website, www.southernwakesunited.com for the current schedule.



One of the many tricks the advanced skiers can perform on the Aquaducks. This skier turns upside down while attached to a ski board.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AQUANUTS *Our Town*

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For emergencies call 911

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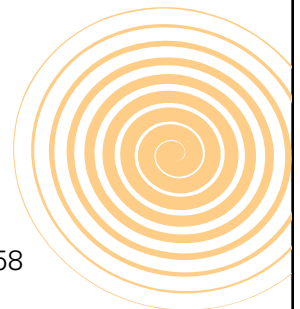
- Police – 342-1100
- Fire and rescue – 763-7842
- City Hall – 342-1161

Town of Burlington:

- Police patrol (Racine County Sheriff) – 763-9558
- Police Chief (administrative) – 763-7539
- Fire – 763-3070, ext. 4
- Marine patrol chief – 763-7539
- Town Hall– 763-3070

Other:

- Aurora Memorial Hospital of Burlington – 767-6000
- Aurora Burlington Clinic – 767-8000
- Walworth County Sheriff –741-4400





Preserved *for* posterity

Seno Conservancy offers natural respite, educational programs

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**
CORRESPONDENT

It is the beauty of nature – the green grasses, multi-colored flowers, the beautiful canopy of trees, and the unique wildlife that brings many outdoors.

Away from the hustle and bustle of developed lands we often seek refuge in the open lands when possible. Who doesn't enjoy a day hiking through forests, breathing in the fresh air and enjoying the beauty of nature and especially the magnificent canopies of the trees towering overhead?

The Seno K/RLT Conservancy, on Highway P south of Burlington, is a non-profit land conservation agency that serves both Kenosha and

Racine counties to protect land in its natural state for the benefit of people and nature. They do this by protecting land in perpetuity from development.

"In addition to protecting the land from development, the Seno K/RLT Conservancy also produces a variety of outreach programs many of them with the Kenosha Parks Alliance and Southport Park," said Stacy Santiago, Executive Director of Seno K/RLT Conservancy.

Before it became the conservancy, Dr. Elvira Seno established a tree farm on her late 1880s farmstead of 127 acres. She wanted the land to be maintained as accessible and used for an education center that focused on

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



top: The Tamarack Marsh at Seno Woodland Management Center.
left: Emmaus Neighborhood Camp students inspect fresh water critters during a Discovering Nature outreach program.

COURTESY OF SENO K/RLT *Our Town*

Sportsman serving the local Community for over 60 years.

The Burlington Conservation Club is located on twenty-eight acres southeast of Burlington, WI with a clubhouse, youth training center, four trap ranges with voice activated Pat Traps, a skeet range and year-round heated five-stand. Our ranges are open to the public and are all lighted for daytime or nighttime shooting.

Our members are dedicated to developing our youth and we have many programs including our annual Kids Fisheree in Echo Park, Youth Pheasant Hunt, Youth Trap Shoot and Learn to Hunt programs. The BCC is home to both the B.H.S. Demons and Waterford Wolverines High School SCTP teams.

Our facility is available for private events both shooting and non-shooting activities. We also offer pheasant hunting memberships.

Present this Ad for a Free Round of Trap or Skeet at the BCC! Good through Dec. 31, 2022



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Sundays 10:00am to 4:00pm

6065 Brever Road, Burlington WI 53105
262-539-2579 www.burlingtonconservationclub.com

420397

CONSERVANCY • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

sustaining forestry. She, along with her brother, planted an additional 50,000 trees.

In her estate plan for the farm, she included a monetary gift to renovate the barn so that it could be used for the educational classes she believed were important to educate people on the need to protect the land. Thus, the Seno Center was created.

Meanwhile Dr. Shirley Peterson who owned a vacation property about three miles from the Seno Center was of a like mind. She wanted to preserve her woodlands and wetlands, which she named Drumlen Farm, and encourage environmental education. She too donated her 83-acre farm to the foundation along with generous funds that were turned into an endowment to support environmental programming.

Protecting 1,200 acres

In 2014 the Seno Foundation and the Kenosha

Racine Land Trust merged and today as Seno K/RLT Conservancy the group protect more than 1,200 acres of land within Racine and Kenosha Counties.

"Some of the land is owned by the conservancy and other parcels are protected by conservation easements. The conservation easements protect the land in perpetuity from development while ownership is maintained by the individual," Santiago said. "The conservancy offers the owners advice on care with guidance to protect the land."

The Seno K/RLT Conservancy offers a variety of educational programs for both children and adults. Some of these programs are offered as community outreach programs with the Kenosha Parks Alliance. Many are held in Southport Park or other Kenosha and Racine parks, allowing local children to learn about nature while remaining in their own

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neighborhoods.

Many schools attend field trips held at Seno K/RLT Conservancy and the children sparkle in the natural learning environment. Their eyes widen as they discover bugs and “critters” up close. They enjoy the wonder of butterflies and nature at its best. Programs teach them many things about nature that those who spend their time in the cities never learn.

“One of our programs focuses on the five senses and is geared to children from 4 to 6 years of age. Science based programs, such as our Land of Ice and Fire program, for ages 11 to 14 years, looks at geology and glacial formation,” said Santiago. “Art in Nature for children 4 to 12 years can be a community outreach or as a field trip. The children focus on observation skills as they create an outdoor art project.”

Maple sugaring season

Last year the Seno K/RLT Conservancy hosted a new program on maple sugaring. It was open to children and adults to teach the traditions of the annual spring ritual. Many children, and some adults are not aware that true maple syrup actually comes from the sap of the maple tree.

This year the same program was presented in early March and was open to children and adults. The program focused on the traditional process of making maple syrup, a process that has been a part of Wisconsin’s history for centuries. The process itself goes back to the history of the Native Americans who lived in this area long before the European immigrants arrived.

Participants learned how to identify a maple tree, the first step in learning to tap a tree and when it’s time to tap the tree.

“It is the time when there are still freezing nights and warmer days to allow the sap to flow when tapped,” Santiago said.

In addition to learning to tap the tree, they were taught the process of sap to syrup and the traditional sugaring techniques. The event ended with gathering around a fire and enjoying some storytelling.

Outdoor events

If you are looking for a unique setting for a private

event, consider renting the buildings of Seno. The buildings and grounds are available for events such as showers, weddings, birthdays and anniversaries.

For weddings, the facility best accommodates 100 to 150 guests. Food must be catered as there is only a limited small kitchen, best for keeping items warm not for cooking. A tent can be setup on Memorial Field if there is a need to accommodate more guests. Parking becomes limited as the guest numbers increase. Riding together is always encouraged.

Contact Seno K/RLT for more information about holding an event on the grounds.

Seno K/RLT is a non-profit corporation and as such is dependent on donations by both corporations and individuals to cover the costs of maintaining the conservancy and presenting the many programs that teach others about nature.

Memberships also help support Seno K/RLT. Members a newsletter that is published twice a year to keep up to date on all that is going on at Seno K/RLT.

Under the direction of new board President Mark Lesko, who has been both a long-term board member and Seno volunteer, the group is working together to provide more learning experiences for both while working to protect the natural spaces from development in perpetuity.

“To do this work we are always in need of volunteers,” said Santiago. “Volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks. They do everything from actual work on the property to see that it continues to prosper, to suggesting tree and plant ideas. They may also work with the field trips and provide educational materials.”

Volunteers are always welcome and needed.

As weather warms, take the time to visit Seno K/RLT and enjoy the beauty of the area. It trails are open dawn to dusk. There is no fee but donations are gratefully accepted.

Seno K/RLT is at 3606 Dyer Lake Road (Highway P), Burlington. Additional information is available by calling 262-539-3222, or online at www.senokrlt.com.



top: Students from the Boys and Girls Club work together to create a nature’s mandala as part of an Art in Nature Program. A mandala is a geometric configuration of symbols. **above:** Board President, Mark Lesko, shares information with members of the Sierra Club, Southeast Gateway group, during a guided tour of Seno Woodland Management Center Property.

COURTESY OF SENO K/RLT Our Town



Members of the U.S. History class at Catholic Central High School gather for a photo at the Eternal Light Peace Memorial in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, in mid April. The class has made the trip to the Civil War battlefield for 17 consecutive years.

SBUMITTED PHOTO Our Town

CCHS history students 'never forget'

Trip to Gettysburg has become school tradition

April 12 to 15 marked the 17th consecutive U.S. History class from Catholic Central High School to tour the Hallowed Ground at Gettysburg National Military Park.

Started in 2005-2006 by Dr. Richard Gardiner, the trip has evolved through the years, but the general purpose has stayed the same,

which is to give the students at Catholic Central a learning experience that is exclusive to the history curriculum at CCHS, according to school officials.

The 2022 trip marked the 13th year that current U.S. History teacher at CCHS, Dan Meddaugh, has taken

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

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Seven Waters Bike Trail

Trail head is at the east end of Congress Street, near Riverside Park, extends north through Rochester, Waterford, Wind Lake and Muskego.

White River State Trail Trailhead is on west side of city near Spring Valley Road. Extends west to Elkhorn. Trail fee required. Another section has been added to the White River Trail (formerly known as the Burlington-Kansasville Trail). Eastern portion access is at the south end of McCanna Parkway near Gateway Technical College. Extends east along former railway to Kansasville.

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www.burlingtonchamber.org

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TRIP • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

the class. With an extensive knowledge base through years of studying of the battlefield, Meddaugh plans and executes a two-day trip where students immerse themselves in the largest battle of the Western Hemisphere at the actual location.

The students tour the many sites that names hold a special place in the minds of American citizens, including The Peach

Orchard, McPherson's Ridge, Culp's Hill, and Little Round Top to name a few.

The trip concludes at the National Cemetery and a reading of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Students on the trip forever remember the words that Lincoln instructed us: "The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here."

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