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Lauderdale Lakes **BREEZE**

SUMMER 2023 • Second Edition

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FREE



New bridge

The Deakin Island Bridge, connecting Lauderdale Drive to Deakin Island, has served Lauderdale Lakes since 1915. In fall of 2022, the bridge was replaced for the first time in over 100 years.

JACK CRUGER JR. *The Breeze*

Flag Island now Nick's Island

By **Deborah Cruger**
CORRESPONDENT

Previously known as Flag Island, the land mass near the channel between Middle Lake and Mill Lake is being renamed.

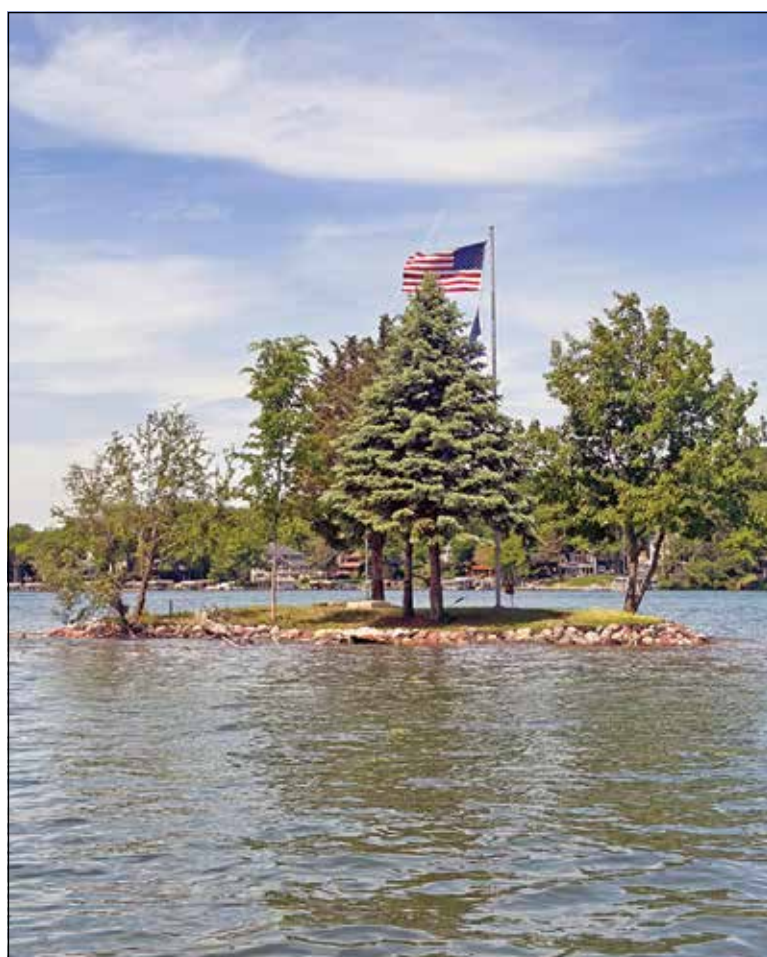
JoAnn and Dominic Sergi are naming it after their late son, Nicholas Sergi, who died in a tragic accident in October 2018.

After the death of Nick, the Nicholas D. Sergi Foundation was created. According to their

website, the foundation raises funds to support many different organizations. In January of 2019, the Foundation donated 1,200 pounds of beef to the Elkhorn Food Pantry.

JoAnn and Dominic choose to live on Nick's legacy of "Giving Makes you Smile."

The Sergi family improved the island and added another flag in order to make it "Nick's Island."



Formerly Flag Island, the Sergis have renamed the island in honor of their deceased son, Nick.

JACK CRUGER JR. *The Breeze*

Holiday fireworks to be spectacular show

Lauderdale Lakes is gearing up to deliver an awe-inspiring fireworks display, one that should surpass all expectations on Saturday, July 1 at sunset.

Residents and visitors alike can anticipate a breathtaking show that promises to be better than ever before. The dedicated team of Andy Brown and Jeff Angst have been working tirelessly throughout the winter to perfect every detail, ensuring an unforgettable experience for all attendees.

With the goal of creating an unparalleled display of pyrotechnic brilliance, the organizing committee has spared no effort in raising the bar for this year's festivities.

Months of meticulous planning and rigorous rehearsals have gone into refining the choreography and synchronization of the fireworks, aiming to leave spectators in utter awe.

From the brilliant colors and mesmerizing patterns to the

thunderous booms reverberating across the night sky, Lauderdale Lakes is determined to set a new standard for Independence Day celebrations.

As the 4th of July approaches, anticipation is building among the residents of Lauderdale Lakes and neighboring communities. The meticulous preparations, combined with the passion and dedication of the organizers, promise an unforgettable evening filled with the magic and wonder of fireworks.

Whether you're a long-time resident or a first-time visitor, mark your calendars for a night of awe-inspiring beauty July 1 and join Lauderdale Lakes in celebrating America's birthday in truly extraordinary fashion.

The fireworks display over Lauderdale Lakes July 1 is expected to reach new levels of beauty.

FILE PHOTO *The Breeze*



Lauderdale Lakes
BREEZE

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NEW PRICE

N7729 Laura Ln, Elkhorn - Lakefront estate on 142' of sand frontage on Lauderdale "Gold Coast" situated on manicured 1.28 wooded acres completely fenced and gated. That's just the start to this lakefront dream. The lake greets you as you walk into the 4BD, 4.5 bath main house with open foyer to eat-in Ktch and lakeside dining room, LR with fireplace and slider to screened porch with vaulted ceiling. Master en-suite lakeside with private deck. Family room walk-out to cement patio. Brick fireplace and wet-bar plus 4th BD and Bath. Rare wet boat house with 2 Bd, 1 bath guest cottage above with full ktch, living room and screened porch all vaulted. This gets even better with a 36 x 30 storage garage with 4 finished rooms all vaulted heated and cooled. Plus, another 3.5 heated detached garage **\$3,799,700**



JUST LISTED

N8115 Pleasant Lake Rd, East Troy - Spectacular Lakefront home on Pleasant Lake offering sand beach leading out to crystal clear swimming & endless sunsets is just the start. This private 5 BR, 4.5 BA home boast of 6,300 sq ft of luxury living. Vaulted ceilings throughout the main level & wood flooring, Master ensuite with vaulted ceiling & private office, Eat-in Kitchen with large island/bar & access to brick patio with fountain, soaring living room with water views & fireplace, LL family room walk out to patio with water view & wate fall. You'll also find 4 fireplaces throughout, private guest suite with kitchen, full bath & 2 BRS, 3 distinct patios & 3 car attached garage. Endless entertainment possibilities & work from home convenience. Pleasant Lake is a pleasant slow-no wake lake minutes to Kettle Moraine Trails **\$1,795,700**



JUST LISTED

W5141 Plantation Rd, Elkhorn - Start your morning off with a cup of coffee on your private balcony off the master bedroom & end your day on the back patio. This home checks all the boxes, no need for updating here! Stunning New Construction 3 BR, 2.5 BA Lauderdale Lake Access, 2-Story Home w/ partial water views. Open concept, main floor w/ Birch flooring featuring large eat-in ktch with large island/bar, granite tops, SS appliance & pantry. Ample living area that leads to dining room overlooking the back yard with slider to paver stone patio. Laundry room w/large closet and 1/2 bath complete the main level. Upstairs offers a loft, Master-suite w/double vanity, glass shower and sliding glass door that leads to private deck and walk-in closet safe room. 2nd&3rd BR with jack & jill bath. 28x33 heated 3 car garage **\$899,900**



COMMERCIAL

15 N Lincoln St, Elkhorn - Dreaming of opening a business? This is your chance! Large commercial building in the heart of Elkhorn. Walking distance to the Square, restaurants, coffee shops & retail. Great visibility & ample parking. Easy access to I-43 & Hwy 12/67. The building has 7 offices, 2.5 BA, kitchen & electronic rear entry for staff. Generous storage space & fire-proof closet and external insulated storage area. New membrane roof installed 1.5 years ago. 3 phase, 400 Amp **\$449,900**



VACANT LOT

Lt 1 Crane Dr, Elkhorn - Lauderdale Lakes 1.77 acre wooded corner lot with slope ideal for exposed lower level located on quiet Cane Dr. Ideal country/lake location with easy access to boat launch on Bubbling Springs and short ride to Kettle Moraine trails offering world class mountain biking trails, Hiking and Nordic. **\$99,700**



UNDER CONTRACT

40411 97th St, Genoa City - Tranquility can be found overlooking peaceful Lake Benedict in this estate like setting on Nippersink Golf Course. The best of both worlds. This home features 7 Bdrm, 5 baths, LR with vaulted ceilings, fireplace, wood floors and extended lake views. Eat in kitchen with sliding glass door to cement patio overlooking 17th Green and 18th Tee, plus dinette area and formal dining room. Two Master en-suit Bdrms with one featuring a fireplace. 20x20 lakeside deck off entrance. Finished lower-level walk-out featuring Family Room, Rec-Room, 2 bdrms, 2 full baths and den. 3.5 detached garage plus storage shed. Property has 3 separate tax bills makes it divisible. **\$997,700**



JUST SOLD

W5134 Plantation Rd, Elkhorn - Situated on 108' frontage partially wooded with golf course view and slight slope down to large level lakefront yard you'll find this 4 BR, 2 BA ranch with walk-out lower level. The lake greets you as you enter walking into the eat-in kitchen with tile floor, hickory cabinets, breakfast bar and dinette with access to deck **\$1,350,000**



JUST SOLD

N7688 Westshore Drive, Elkhorn - Paradise found on 2 acres and 700' of level frontage on Green Lake with rare private island with bridge is just the start. This property offers 2 homes, Main house is a stone 2 story with 6BR, 3BA, large eat-in ktch featuring island, tile floors and lakeside dinette which leads to LR offering majestic lake views, maple floors and stone fireplace. **\$1,850,000**

Search ends in vain

Body found in Elkhorn retention pond

By Jennifer Eisenbart

EDITOR

After four days of intense searching involving several law enforcement and civic groups in southeast Wisconsin and northern Illinois, the body of 27-year-old Dexter Johnson was recovered May 25.

City of Elkhorn Police Chief Joel Christensen said that police received a phone call shortly before 11 a.m. May 25 for a body found in the retention pond between Love's Travel Stop and Holiday Inn Express and Suites.

The body was thought to be Johnson's, which was confirmed by the family over the Memorial Day weekend.

Johnson, an Elkhorn resident, had left his home Sunday for a walk. His family said that Johnson would often walk for hours and miles at a time in efforts to deal with anxiety and autism, and the area where he was found was not unfamiliar to him.

Christensen said that there were no signs of foul play, and his family said over the weekend that the medical examiner told them accidental drowning would be put on the death certificate.

A man of many talents

Linda (Bocanegra) Johnson, Dexter's mother, said that her son may have had autism, but the word "suffered" didn't apply.

"Dexter was a brilliant-minded person," she explained, adding that her son worked to try to find answers for autism – including searching for a cure.

"He was always an advocate for himself and other people," Linda said. "He said, 'I'm going to find the key medication for autism.'"

Dexter's sister, Sarah Baca, tried to sum up the best way to describe how her brother worked through the autism and the related symptoms.

"It was almost like he was affected by it, but wanted to master it," she said. He was diagnosed while still at Wilmot Union High School, with Asperger's Syndrome, which is on the autism spectrum.

Linda said that her son had been pursuing an associate's degree in sustainable energy from Gateway Technical College, but was still a few credits short. She added that the family was hopeful that Dexter would find a way to finish the degree, but also saw the work he had started in the field, with designs for energy projects found among his drawings in his room.

Dexter had other interests beside his own illness and helping the environment. Baca said that both she and her brother were body-building enthusiasts, while his father, David, said that Dexter enjoyed working on his 1997 Lincoln Continental Congressional Town Sedan.

"It was a hot rod," David said, adding that by the time Dexter had finished working on the vehicle, the car could accelerate to more than 70 mph in four seconds.

"It was the engine from an Alpha Romero. He did a lot of research," David said.

The wide variety of interests – as well as the study that Dexter would put into his projects – was something that Linda said was typical for her son.

"He was such a broad thinker," she said. "Everything he did, he mastered immediately."

Trying to understand what happened

Dexter Johnson lived on West Market Street in Elkhorn, and as his family explained, would often take long walks.

While the body was discovered about 2-1/2 miles from where he lived, there were sightings of Dexter during the first few days of the search. As Linda reported on Facebook, various people said they had spoken with her son, and she added that Dexter had eaten at a restaurant that he considered a safe place, Calabria Family Restaurant.

As Linda explained, the search hit a "dead end" May 23. Still, with the help of many, the search continued.

Christensen said drones, law enforcement personnel and other equipment came in from numerous agencies, including Walworth County Sheriff's Office, City of Lake Geneva Police Department, Town of Linn Police Department, City of Delavan Police Department, Twin Lakes Police Department, Town of Delavan Police Department, Wisconsin State Patrol, Southern Waukesha County Canine Search and Rescue, and



Dexter Johnson



Annie's Burger Town is down but not out

By Jennifer Eisenbart

EDITOR

In the wake of a fire on the evening of May 18, the owners of Annie's Burger Town in Elkhorn may not know what happened, but they certainly know how the community has responded.

Elkhorn Fire Chief Rod Smith said the fire likely started in the grill area and took down the popular drive-in restaurant at 645 N. Lincoln St. in Elkhorn.

Co-owner Maria Halpin said staff had just finished closing up the business for the evening when, less than a half hour later, she and her husband and co-owner, Jeff, received a phone call that the business was on fire.

Since then, in the midst of talking to insurance agents, engaging fire cleanup

services and still trying to meet a weekend catering order, the Halpins became overwhelmed by the support.

That included, as of this weekend, a GoFundMe page started by employee Abby Partington and T-shirts being sold as a fundraiser by Hansen Screen Printing.

Both of owner Nate Hansen's daughters work at Annie's, Taylor and Haylie.

"I just thought, well, that sucks," Nate said. "If it happened to anybody, what could we do? If it happened to me, it would be devastating."

The fire

According to Smith, the fire department was paged at 9:09 p.m., about an hour after the business closed for the evening.

Maria Halpin said May 21 that her husband, Jeff, stayed after the business closed to perform normal closing jobs.

"He did everything he normally does, we think, that he's done for 30 years," Maria explained.

Jeff had been home for maybe 20 minutes, she explained, when the couple received a phone call that the business was on fire.

Smith said a passerby called in the fire, and the department was on scene quickly.

Because of auto aid agreements, both the City and Town of Delavan also responded. One sent a squad and the other an engine, but the fire was put out quickly.

"The fire damage was contained to the kitchen

level," Smith said. "We had the fire knocked down in maybe 10 minutes."

The next day, the work began. Maria said that fire investigators, insurance people and fire clean-up professionals were all on hand as the Halpins worked to not only clear up the building, but prepare for a catering event on May 20.

Maria said that Annie's is currently using its concession wagon – normally used for the Walworth County Fair and other events – for work, and has received several offers from other businesses to use their commercial kitchens.

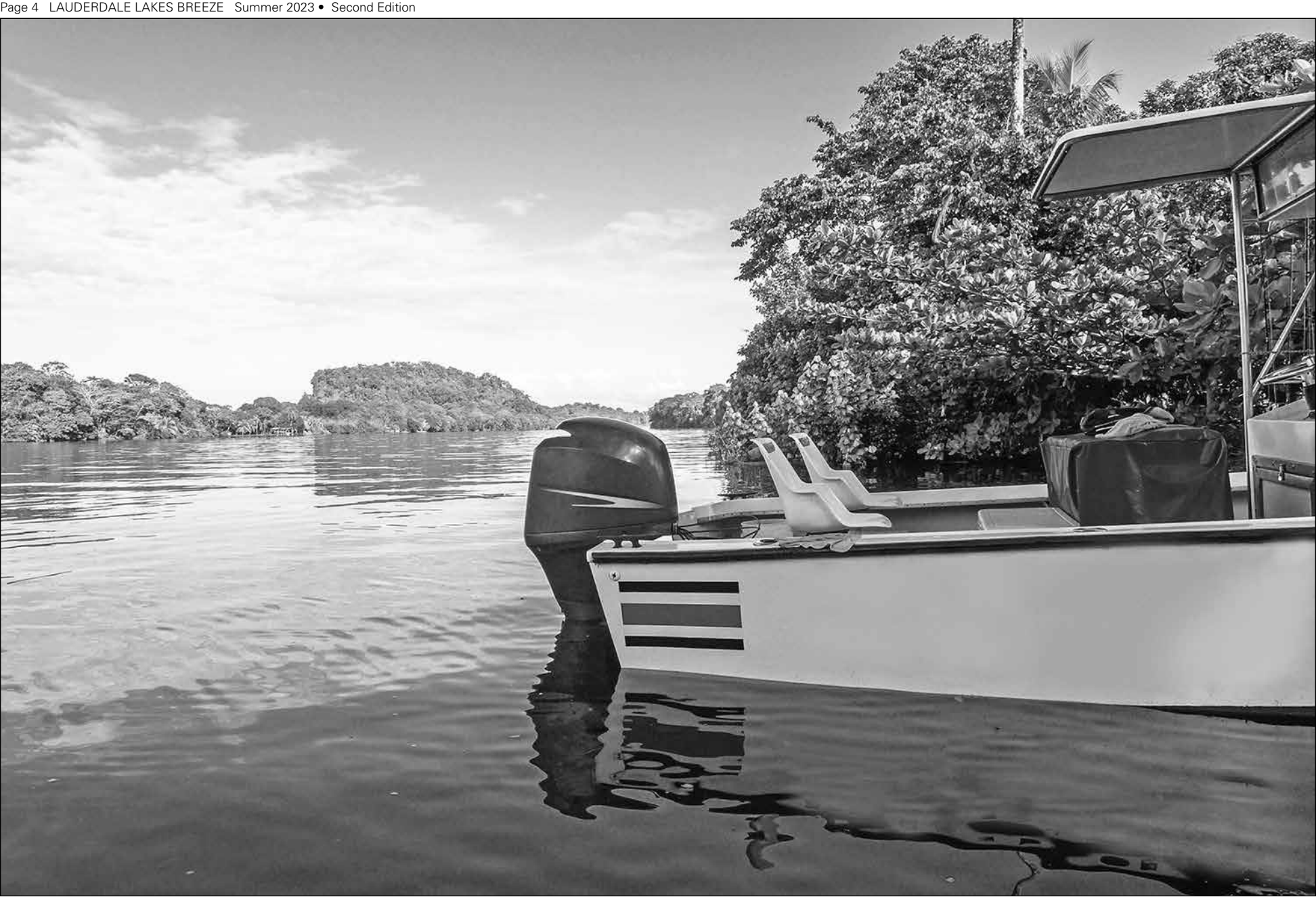
"We'll be exploring options as the time comes," Maria explained. "We have

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



top: A fire after closing on May 18 has forced a temporary closing of Annie's Burger Town, a popular drive-in restaurant in Elkhorn. Boarded windows of the restaurant show where the heat from the fire blew out glass. **above:** A sign in front of Annie's expresses thanks for the Elkhorn Fire Department.

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



METRO CREATIVE The Breeze

● CALENDAR

Lauderdale Lakes Yacht Club

Fourth of July Celebration, Saturday, July 1 (fireworks at nightfall) and a full day celebration July 4.

The Lauderdale Lakes Yacht Club was established in 1953. The club has provided a variety of educational and entertaining activities throughout the years, with more than 200 current members from the area. Annual events include the Cocktails With the Commodore, Taste of the Lakes, House Walk, Pig Roast and more. For more information, visit llyclub.com.

Lauderdale Lakes Improvement Association

Fireworks – July 1 at 9:30 p.m. See story on page 1.
Kids Fishing Jamboree 2023 – The annual children’s fishing jamboree is scheduled for Saturday, July 15 from 7 a.m. to noon. Registration begins in person at Lauderdale Landing at 7 a.m., with fishing from 8 a.m. to 11

a.m. Cory’s School of Fish will run from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., as well as programming from area organizations at 10 a.m.

Fishing ends at 11 a.m. with lunch and contest prizes to be awarded.

The objective of the LLIA is to encourage and assist in the general work of protecting, improving and adorning the Lauderdale Lakes, as well as the bank and shores of the lakes. Rich Stok is the current president of the organization. For more information, go to llia.org.

Southern Wakes United Ski Team

Show dates this year are on Whitewater Lake at the Scenic Ridge Campground, and at Lauderdale Landing on Lauderdale Lakes.

Whitewater Lake

Scenic Ridge Campground All shows 7 p.m., unless otherwise noted.
 • Saturday, July 8

- Saturday, July 29
- Saturday, Aug. 19, 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Sept. 2, 6 p.m.

Lauderdale Lakes

Lauderdale Landing, Elkhorn

All shows at 6 p.m.

- Friday, June 30
- Friday, July 14
- Friday, Aug. 4
- Friday, Aug. 11
- Friday, Aug. 25

Turtle Lake

Turtle Lake Tap & Grill

• Friday, Aug. 18
 6 p.m.

Elkhorn Lake

Babe Mann Park, Elkhorn

All shows at 6 p.m.

- Thursday, July 13
- Thursday, Aug. 10

The Southern Wakes United Water Ski show team is Walworth County’s only water ski show team. SWU is a merger of the Lauderdale Aqua Skiers and the Whitewater

Lake Sports Club (Minneiska). The group is a non-profit whose purpose is to give all a chance to build confidence in their abilities, learn new skills and promote leadership, water safety education and sportsmanship.

For more information, go to southernwakesunited.com.

OTHER EVENTS

Star-Spangled Celebration – Friday, June 30, Sunset Park, 451 Devendorf St., Elkhorn. From 5 to 9 p.m., enjoy music at the bandshell, food for sale and fireworks at dusk.

Kids From Wisconsin – The summer performance troop with performers from around the state will perform Monday, July 3, at Elkhorn Area High School.

Tickets are \$15 for adults 18 and older, \$10 for children ages 4-17 and children 3 and under are free.

For information on where to get tickets, go to eahsfab.brownpapertickets.com.

Elkhorn Antique Flea Market at the Walworth County Fairgrounds, 411 E. Court St., Highway 11, Elkhorn, Sunday,

June 25 – Gates open at 7 a.m., with admission \$5 per person. Free parking is available on site, with food and drink for sale. Pets are not allowed at the event.

Elkhorn’s RibFest – July 12-16, see story on page 13.

Saturdays on the Square – A combination of farmers market and artisan fair, the event takes place at downtown Veterans Park in Elkhorn from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday through Labor Day.

Professional Championship Bullriders – This event takes place at the Walworth County Fairgrounds Friday, June 30, and Saturday, July 1.

For more information, go to walworthcountyfairgrounds.com.

Monster Trucks – Saturday, July 8, at noon at the Walworth County Fairgrounds. Again, for more information, go to the fairgrounds website.

Turtle Lake Tap and Grill – The restaurant will host a wide variety of summer bands in its concert series.

For a full list of the concerts, go to turtlelaketapandgrill.com/concert-series.

ANNIE’S • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

every intention of honoring our commitments.”

However, it isn’t just the fire damage that needs to be addressed. Maria explained that when the fire took out the electricity, she and her husband were left with bulk food supplies ranging from chicken to French fries.

Right now, Maria explained the couple is just trying to get questions answered and figure out how to move forward.

“I’m assuming the inside is a total loss,” Maria said, adding that the couple does have insurance and they intend to rebuild. “The outside is structurally sound. It’s a question of what to

do in the meantime.

“It’s our identity, it’s our life,” Maria said of the restaurant.

Support is clear

The outpouring of support the Halpins have received was so overwhelming, Maria Halpin explained May 19 that her cell phone kept dying because of all the messages coming in.

The couple issued a statement early May 21 on the business’s Facebook page:

“As most of you know we had a devastating fire Thursday evening. I have delayed writing this post because it is so hard to even

put our feelings in to words right now. The calls, texts, messages, donations, etc. have been overwhelming and so appreciated. The feeling of being part of a community is what we love so much about Elkhorn.

“In the coming days we will navigate thru the process of what needs to be done and the steps involved to get us back open as soon as possible. We will keep you all posted on our progress. This would be our 31st summer at Annie’s so we really don’t know what to do with ourselves if we are not cooking. “There is really something special about that

building, our staff past and present, and our customers. It is family and it is our home.

“Many thanks and much love to you all, Jeff and Maria.”

The couple will likely have ample financial support from the community in its rebuilding efforts. Among the projects started just a day after the fire was the printing of T-shirts by Hansen Screen Printing as a fundraiser.

T-shirts are on sale for \$25, and owner Matt Hanson said that he would deduct only the cost of materials before donating the rest. His daughter, Taylor, has

been working at the store as part of Elkhorn’s Youth Apprenticeship program and will handle the printing of the shirts.

“All the profit is going back to Jeff and Maria,” Matt Hansen said. “Jeff and Maria have hearts of gold.” Taylor and the other carhops at Annie’s will help with the distribution of the t-shirts.

Taylor called the fire “devastating,” and was eager to give back to her employers.

“I know everything about their family and what they do for our community,” Taylor explained. “I just want to give back.

“They’re a super sweet family, and I want to try to do everything I can to build them back,” she added.

T-shirts can be ordered by going to hansenprinting.com and going to the online store. The fundraising T-shirts are available on that page, in youth and adult sizes.

In addition, the GoFundMe page – available by going to GoFundMe.com and searching for Annie’s Burger Town – has already surpassed its initial goal of raising \$6,000.

The GoFundMe page remains open for any donations.

Take trip back in time

Black Point Estate offers a glimpse into a bygone era

By **Sandra Landen Machaj**
CORRESPONDENT

Visitors to Black Point, the summer cottage of Chicago beer baron Conrad Seipp and his second wife, Catharina, and their children, arrive just as visitors to Black Point did back in the 1800s and 1900s – by boat. They then climb the more than 100 stairs to the house.

While visitors back then arrived by the Sepp's private launch, to enjoy time at the cottage, today visitors arrive on a Gage Boat Lines boat, usually the Geneva, after having toured a large portion of Geneva Lake.

On the cruise, they enjoy the stories of the wealthy Chicagoans who built lavish summer cottages along the shores of Geneva Lake to escape from the hot, dirty air of the city. These cottages can be more correctly described as mansions, since many were as large, or larger, than their mansions in Chicago.

When Black Point comes into view, a large, three-story Victorian mansion in the Queen Anne style with a large turret set high on the shore, visitors are often overwhelmed by its beauty. Built in 1888, Conrad was only able to enjoy this summer cottage for two years as he passed away in 1890. His family would continue to enjoy and care for this property until 2005.

Catharina continued to bring the family up each summer. They would spend the entire summer at Black Point enjoying the fresh outdoor air, the lake and the home.

While it was a summer home, a place to relax and enjoy, Catharina kept the children busy. They had a tutor brought in who gave them lessons each day in subjects such as Latin, German and the sciences according to the book "The Black Point Legacy," published by the Black Point Historic Preserve, Inc. Everyone had chores to complete before being allowed to swim, boat, and play with siblings and friends.

Who was Conrad Seipp?

Who was Conrad Seipp and how was the Seipp family able to afford to build and maintain this summer home?

"Conrad Seipp was one of the largest beer barons in Chicago," Black Point Estate Site Coordinator Dave Desimone said. "He came to America as an immigrant from Germany and worked hard to build his dream. He became among the most successful brewers, fifth in the United States."

The Seipp brewery survived the Chicago fire, in part because they had earlier had a fire and rebuilt the brewery out of brick and in part because he was far enough south to avoid the fire. The brewery continued to grow until prohibition, when, like many breweries, it was shut down.

"This year, Lauren Mack, a great-, great-, great-granddaughter of Conrad Seipp has started making beer under the Seipp label," Desimone said. "We have the Seipp's beer on site for sale in the gift shop only to be consumed on site."

After a visit to Kaye's Park, a popular upscale resort on Geneva Lake, Seipp knew he had found the place to build his summer home. He purchased a bluff on the south shore of the lake known as Warwick Park and there he built his summer home.

Construction on the lake

To build the house, all materials had to be shipped to Williams Bay, transported by boat to the building site and hoisted to the top of the bluff. Building the 17-room house was a massive job.

The first floor contained the public rooms. A dining room which could



top: The Black Point Estate features balconies and a tower. Custom stained glass windows along the tower to let in some light as visitors climb to the top. **above:** The formal dining room is set ready for dinner. Family dinners were served here nightly.

WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY/BLACK POINT ESTATE *The Breeze*

seat up to 40 at a time was usually full at meal times as the Seipp family enjoyed sharing their summer home with family and friends. Meals were served in formal style and visitors dressed for dinner. Interesting since the home was built without a kitchen. The kitchen was a separate building where the staff cooked the elaborate meals served here.

The other rooms on the main floor were a formal living or greeting room, a pool room, and the music room. Music was part of the daily evening activity and several of the Seipp children were accomplished musicians. After dinner the entire Sepp's family would retreat to the music room and participate in playing and singing.

The second and third floor contained the bedrooms – 13 of them. Some had two beds so more guests could be accommodated. There was one bathroom, located on the second floor that it was believed was used primarily by the older women. Chamber pots were used in these early days.

The home was truly meant to be a summer cottage and did not have a full-house heating system. There were fireplaces throughout the home to help take out the chill on cool fall

days. A coal stove was occasionally used to heat the second floor. The home was used through mid-October then shut down for the winter and the family returned to Chicago.

The most impressive part of the home, both from the outside and the inside, is the turret. It was impressive when viewed from across the lake and even more so up close. From the turret there was an unobstructed view of the entire lake from above the tree line. At the top of the turret the American Flag would fly from the time the family arrived until they left in October to return to Chicago.

Visiting the estate

The majority of visitors to Black Point arrive by boat. Partnering with the Gage Boat Lines, visitors board the Geneva in downtown Lake Geneva, and enjoy a 45 minute tour of Geneva Lake while they learn of the history of the lake and the summer cottages that were built by the wealthy Chicagoans who made Lake Geneva their summer destinations.

After arriving at Black Point just as the Seipp family did, they climb the more than 100 stairs from the pier up to the house. Here they are greeted on the wraparound porch with its

view of the lake and are met by a docent who shares the history of the Seipp family and of the beautiful home.

Visitors are then taken on a tour of the first two floors of the home. The first floor consists of the public rooms, the billiard room, the music room, the formal living room, and the formal dining room. On the second floor they will view some of the family and guest bedrooms.

Outside the beautifully landscaped gardens will be enjoyed. The lintel from the old brewery is on display on the garden. It has recently been reset to better enjoy, with new plantings surrounding it.

Upon completion of the tour, the boat will return you back to the Lake Geneva docks. The entire tour takes about 3.5 hours and is recommended for those older than 12 years of age.

Order tickets at www.cruise.lakegeneva.com. Cruises are held throughout the summer at 10:30 a.m. daily with an additional cruise on weekends at 12:30 p.m. Price is \$49 for adults.

Special programs

"Our goal is to continue to encourage people to come and enjoy Black Point, not just for one visit

but to return and learn more about it. Each time one visits, they discover things they didn't notice before," Desimone said. "To encourage people to visit more we also offer a number of special events held on site. These include two separate beer programs."

Summer on the Veranda programs include two separate beer programs. The Spectrum of Beer studies the variety of beers from light to dark, or from Pilsners to Stout. Only 20 people are included in each program. It is held three times each summer. This year's dates are June 22, July 20 and Aug. 17. Tickets may be purchased on the Black Point website.

The other beer program is a boat program, Beer Barons of Lake Geneva, which must be booked through www.cruiselakegeneva.com.

There are three dates this year, June 17, July 15 and Aug. 12. They will share the history of the beer barons from the area

Summer on the Veranda will also include a visit by renowned author, Agatha Christie, as portrayed by local actress and historian, Chris Brookes. Tickets may be purchased on the Black Point website.

Are you interested in Paranormal Parlor Games? This event will be another event of the Summer on the Veranda events. Joe Diamond will share paranormal adventures and Victorian Spiritualism. Tickets can be purchased on the Black Point website.

Open to the public

While taking a boat tour around the lake, the beauty of all the beautiful summer homes is impressive. Unfortunately, they can only be viewed from the boat, except for Black Point.

For four generations, the descendants of Conrad and Catharina Seipp owned, maintained, and enjoyed the property and way of life.

In 2005 that all changed when William O. Petersen, great-grandson of Conrad Seipp turned over the title to the house, all of its furnishings, along with 8 acres of land and 620 feet of lake frontage to the state tourism secretary with the understanding that the home would be used as a museum. There is a limited conditional use permit which only allows 50 guests at a time.

The home provides a unique look into life at Black Point not just in the late 1800s but throughout the years the Seipp family and their descendants made this their summer home, the only summer cottage of the era that is open to the public to tour.

"Our goal is to increase the number of people who are able to visit and learn more about Black Point," Desimone said. "The house was turned over to the Wisconsin State Historical Society in 2013 and we have increased the number of visitors from 3,000 a year to the current 10,000 yearly by becoming more involved in local community partnerships. We are sponsoring not only tours here at Black Point but partnering with local hosts for programs."

These partnerships include a movie series with the Lake Geneva Library which Desimone attends, tours of the local cemetery, the downtown Lake Geneva Historic District, known as Maple Park, and a winter book club which are held offsite.

This May, in conjunction with the Geneva Lake Museum, there will be a display of some of the clothing owned and worn by members of the Seipp family and on loan to the museum.

Fundraiser set

A special fundraiser was held the second week of June at the Geneva Lake Museum, 255 Mill St. Lake Geneva. "The Gilded Age

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The ins and outs of Lauderdale Lakes

Lauderdale Lakes consists of Green Lake, Middle Lake and Mill Lake and is located in La Grange Township a few miles north of the City of Elkhorn, west of highways 12 and 67. For more information contact the Lauderdale Lakes Marina at (262) 495-8200 or www.lauderdalelakesmarina.com.

Size

- Green Lake is 311 acres
- Middle Lake is 259 acres
- Mill Lake is 271 acres

Maximum depth

- Green Lake: 55 feet
- Middle Lake: 42 feet
- Mill Lake: 44 feet

Fish species

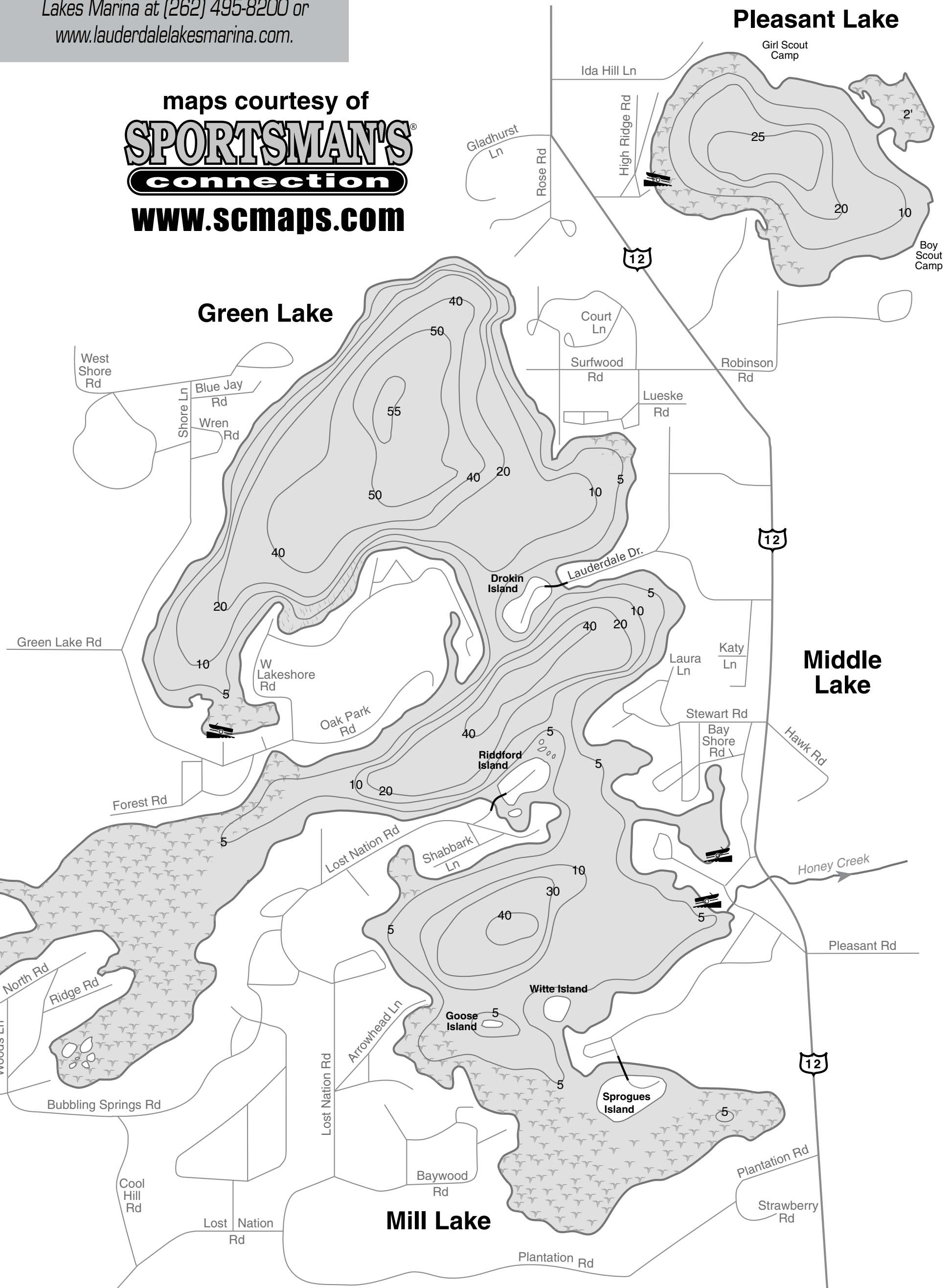
Lauderdale Lakes offers a wide array of fish with the predominant species being:

- Largemouth bass
- Smallmouth bass
- Northern pike
- Walleye
- Panfish

Access

Lauderdale Lakes is accessible via a paved ramp on Sterlingworth Road off of Highways 12/67. Additionally, unimproved landings are located off of Bubbling Springs Road and Westshore Drive.

maps courtesy of
SPORTSMAN'S
connection
www.scmaps.com

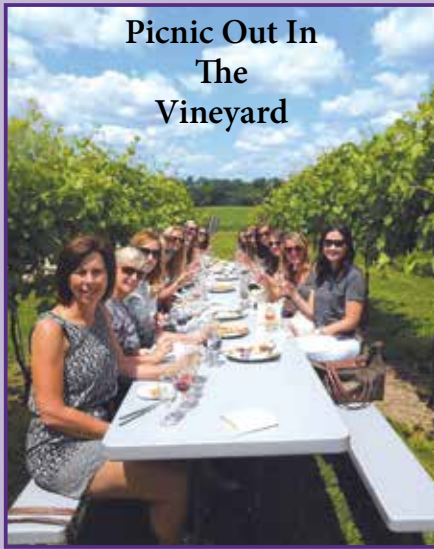


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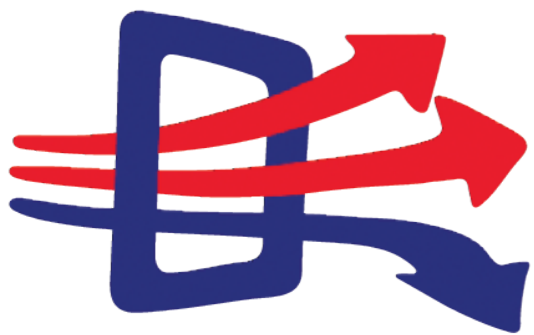
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Gage Marine touts experience, inventory

Boaters have multiple options at area dealer

By Jason Arndt
STAFF WRITER

Regardless of how big a family is or a person's age, Gage Marine offers a variety of boating options to suit the needs of those looking to explore both large and small waterways.

Gage Marine, which celebrates its 150th year in 2023, has locations in Lake Geneva, Williams Bay and Delavan with staff members dedicated to help customers find the ideal boat.

FJ Frazier, chief operating officer of Gage Marine, said staff members work diligently for their customers.

"It's a significant investment and we want to make sure they are satisfied with their boat and their boating experience," Frazier said.

For boaters starting out, sales staff begin with basic questions, such as what customers are planning to do on the water, including what types of activities, as well as which lakes they look to explore.

"You want to make sure you have the right boat for the right lake," Frazier said.

Diverse inventory

Gage Marine offers five of the best brands in the boating industry, Frazier said, explaining that the company

acknowledges the diverse clientele in the southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois region.

Brands include Bennington – a pontoon-style boat, Mastercraft – in the wake and surf category, the rare Chris-Craft, the Monterey, and the Boston Whaler.

"We have inventory available in all of our brands," Frazier said. "We'd like to have more inventory, but do have availability in all of our brands for consumers."

Frazier said manufacturers have started to send additional inventory to boat dealers as the season picks up steam.

Types of boats

As for the type of boat brand, each of them carries some distinct qualities, he said.

Frazier, who called a pontoon boat a "floating living room," found most people reaching retirement age have sought the Bennington in recent years.

"Pontoon sales have been very strong over the last couple of years. The typical boater getting into a pontoon is an older boater that is moving out of a day boat and has more time on their hands," he said.

Additionally, some groups looking to spend extended time on the water have also



MasterCraft boats can be an ideal choice for boaters looking to ski and wakeboard.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *The Breeze*

gravitated to the Bennington at Gage Marine.

"It's a fun boat to have to spend the day on the water," Frazier said of pontoons.

As for MasterCraft, which specializes in wakesurfing and ski boat models, Frazier noted that brand has been most popular among families looking to enjoy activities on area lakes.

"MasterCraft is an industry leader in the wake and surf boat category," Frazier said. "That is predominantly a family-oriented boat with kids and adults who want to go out on the water and surf and wakeboard."

Additionally, the Monterey is a more traditional family-oriented boat, Frazier said.

The Chris-Craft, he explained, is the most rare brand manufactured worldwide and some inventory is on-hand at Gage Marine.

"It is one of the oldest boats in the United States. That boat is a beautiful hand-crafted boat. They only make about 325 Chris-Crafts in the world (annually), so it's a very unique boat and very limited."

While each brand carries differing assets, the Boston

Whaler is also an attractive option, Frazier said.

"They are typically for fishing and people enjoy them for their versatility and how easy they are to maintain," he said of the Boston Whaler.

While Gage Marine offers multiple brands, the business does not have a top seller, Frazier reported.

"We kind of sell about an equal amount (of each) because the area is so diverse in the Southern Lakes region, there are all different lakes, and all different types of boating needs, so we don't have a No. 1 seller," Frazier said.

Depending on size and brand, price ranges at Gage Marine run from \$65,000 to \$650,000, Frazier said.

Booming business

In the last three years, primarily during the COVID-19 pandemic, boating sales skyrocketed with dealers seeing increased demand as more people looked for outdoor activities.

Frazier called the sales unprecedented at the pandemic's peak.

"The sales were quite robust in the COVID years, which was never seen before

in the industry and you couldn't get any product, or there was hardly any inventory for the consumer," Frazier said.

At the time, manufacturers faced supply-chain challenges, which resulted in dealers selling most of their used inventory.

"We sold every boat we could get and lot of people got into boating, which is great for the industry," Frazier said, adding customers have decided to retain their boat as the pandemic subsided.

"People are staying with boating, which is a good sign," he said.

Since then, inventory has returned to pre-pandemic levels, Frazier added.

Gage programs

Gage Marine offers two convenient programs for customers including a boat club and in/out valet.

The boat club is for customers looking to see if they would like to pursue boating, including a potential purchase, Frazier said.

For a fee, customers can select among a handful of options at Gage Marine, simply by picking a time and date.

"If they join our boat club, they will have access to one of eight boats that we have here," Frazier said.

"We have a user fee for that, but have no ownership responsibilities, no insurance, no maintenance, no storage. It is really pushing the easy button for people wanting to get into boating."

The in/out valet program allows boat owners paying an annual fee to have access to their watercraft, with assistance from Gage Marine officials, Frazier said.

Valet customers can make request using an app, allowing Gage Marine staff members to remove their boats from storage and setting it up, before placing on Geneva Lake.

Customers can simply load their own vehicle and travel to the Williams Bay location, Frazier said.

"It is very nice because the boat is not in the water all the time. It is not banging around at the pier getting scratched up," Frazier said. "It is a convenience thing."

Safety first

Before exploring

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



Gage Marine offers a variety of boating options, including the Bennington brand, which are pontoons.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *The Breeze*

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Campgrounds in the Southern Lakes area

From glamping to primitive, area campgrounds offer a little bit of something for everyone – sometimes even in the same place. The following are local area campgrounds available to the public:

Walworth County

Elkhorn Campgrounds

411 E. Court St., Elkhorn
262-723-7131
Located on the Walworth County Fairgrounds, both fair time and public camping are available.

The location boasts that “we aren’t fancy, we’re affordable,” whether you want to camp in tents or in a camper.

There are electric and water hook-up access sites, with dump stations on the grounds. Make sure to bring extra-long cords to ensure access to water and electric. Camper adapters are needed as well.

Located near downtown Elkhorn, with shopping, dining and entertainment within walking distance, the grounds are also just an hour from Milwaukee, Madison, Kenosha and Rockford, Illinois. For more information, go to elkhorncampgrounds.com.

Snug Harbor Campground

W 7785 Wisconsin Parkway
Delavan • 608-883-6999

Snug Harbor boasts sites that are either on the water or have views of Turtle Lake.

Each RV site has full hook-up with 30 and 50 amp electric service, a fire ring and a picnic table. RV rentals are available, as are tent sites.

The bath house is available 24/7 with free hot showers, and a laundromat, ice and firewood are available on site. Visitors can also rent rowboats or canoes, or join in games of volleyball and horseshoes.

There is a playground for children and fishing as well as a private sandy beach. In addition to the campsites, Snug Lake Harbor Pub and Restaurant is located at W7772 Wisconsin Parkway, so campers can dine-in or carryout to take back to the campsite.

For more information, go to snuglakeharbor.com.



Snug Harbor Campground, in Delavan, offers views of Turtle Lake, a private sandy beach and plenty of activities.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *The Breeze*



Elkhorn Campgrounds, at the Walworth County Fairgrounds, boasts an economical choice for campers, especially during the fair.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *The Breeze*

Scenic Ridge Campground

W7991 R and W Townline Road
Whitewater • 608-883-2920
Located on the 640-acre Whitewater Lake, Scenic Ridge has plenty to offer families and individuals.

A well-stocked general store offers everything from food to firewood, clothing, grocery items and more, plus the Snack Shack has a full menu with a Friday Night Fish Fry, hamburgers, chicken, appetizers and more.

There is a boat launch as well as a sandy swimming beach with inflatable water toys. Fishing, water skiing, boating, horseshoes, sand volleyball and planned weekend events are just some of the entertainment available.

There are sites for both RVs and tents, as well as cottages and on-site RV rentals. Laundry facilities and a dump station are available on site as well.

Rentals include pontoon boats, kayaks, paddle boards and golf carts, and free wifi is available at the Camp Store.

For more information, go to scenicridgecampground.com.

Whitewater Lake Campground

N8095 Hi Lo Road, Whitewater
262-473-7501

Described as a primitive

campground, this campground is low on amenities but is located in the Kettle Moraine State Forest.

There are 63 campsites available, with pit toilets but no showers.

Hickory Woods Campground

N8320 Hi Lo Road
Whitewater • 262-594-6200
Hickory Woods has six sites that can accommodate up to 20 people per site, and two sites that accommodate up to 40 people per site. Reservations are required from mid-May through mid-October.

Pit toilets and pump water are available. Dogs are welcome as long as they are leashed. Campers must have a state park sticker for each vehicle in addition to the camping fees. Reservations are required.

Country View Campground

S110 W26400 Craig Ave.
Mukwonago • 262-662-3654
Located 25 miles southwest of Milwaukee, Country View offers a quiet setting for sunsets, fires and families.

All sites at the campground include 30-amp electric and water, as well as some with sewer hookup. The campground does not offer tent camping.

The grounds include a heated swimming pool, Saturday night

hayrides, a playground, picnic pavilion, a sand volleyball court, an open field play area and a petting zoo. Restrooms, showers, a dump station and laundry facilities are also located on site.

Ice and firewood are available for sale. Area attractions include Alpine Valley Music Theater, the Elegant Farmer, Trolley Museum rides, Old World Wisconsin and more.

For more information, go to countryviewcampground.wordpress.com.

Circle K Campground

W1316 Island Road, Palmyra
262-495-2896
Located eight miles east of Whitewater, Circle K offers a number of different options with 24/7 security.

Large, grassy RV sites are available, as are overnight tent sites for large groups.

Water and metered electric are available, with laundry facilities, indoor restrooms and hot showers available.

There is also a general store with RV supplies, a private pond for fishing and swimming, a playground area and a bounce house and nature trails.

For a fee, a heated swimming pool, Honey Wagon service, wifi and wood are available. Indoor

games include air hockey, pinball and video poker, and outdoor games like horseshoes, volleyball and badminton are available for a fee.

For more information, go to circlecamp.net.

Camp Kettlewood

W3524 Highway 20, East Troy
info@campkettlewood.com
With the slogan of “Camping in Comfort,” Kettlewood offers a private, boutique campground set on 80 acres of old-growth forest, with the mission of taking the hassle out of camping.

Vintage trailers, platform tents and antique scout cabins are all available for rent, with numerous sites available in each style.

Guests can have as much or as little of home as possible, with the vintage trailers offering beds, electricity, coffee makers and propane grills, while the platform tent and cabin sites offer authentic Scout tents and cabins. Campsites are set up for guests, with no setup or teardown. Indoor and full plumbing are available.

There are numerous attractions nearby, including swimming, paddle boarding, boating and fishing at nearby lakes, with day trips to a wide variety of places within reach.

For more information, go to campkettlewood.com.

Hitting the grill with the right meats

Wilson Farm Meats aims to provide quality grilling choices

If grilling has become more varied as specialized grills hit the mark, so has the meat being placed on those grills.

While local grocery stores and “big box” stores can provide plenty of bang for your bucks, there are also specialty stores where grillers can find everything from locally ground chuck to flavored sausages – all designed to provide a tasty experience for the palate.

Wilson Farm Meats, which has existed in its current form since 2004 in Elkhorn, offers just that kind of experience. Justin Corman, the general manager, said the priority is “high quality and selection, as well as the knowledge and experience.”

By experience, both shops offer a staff that knows how to blend sausage and chuck, as well as other cuts of meat. But they also offer custom processing of animals – which can range from in-season deer processing to private individuals processing a farm animal – and thoughts on how to best prepare what you purchase.

“The stuff you’re going to get from our store and from our restaurant here is going to be all about quality, and all in-house,”

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**
EDITOR

Corman said.

Located a short jog from downtown Elkhorn, Wilson Farm Meats not only offers custom flavors, on-site processing and experience, but a restaurant across the street from the store that serves lunch Wednesday through Saturday.

“Basically, if it’s meats, we have it,” Corman explained.

Wilson Farm Meats has length at its current location, albeit it under the name of Elkhorn Locker. Scott Wilson, a fifth-generation pig farmer, purchased the store in 2004, and everything has been done in house under his ownership.

Said Mark Tamblin, who runs the retail store, “we can have an animal come in our building and be out on the counter within a week. Some days, it’s days.”

Custom processing accounts for about 30-40% of the sales, with most of the rest coming from the store sales. The retail business offers a wide variety of meats, everything from custom sausages ground beef. There are 21 different flavors of brats, including a “Brat of the Month,” which is southwest fajita with pepperjack cheese for June.

Wilson Farm Meats recently won Grand Champion at the Wisconsin Association of Meat Producers for



its Philly Cheesesteak brat as well. Tamblin said the focus remains on “freshness, quality, consistency.” The four butchers at the store have 150 years of experience between

them, and handle everything from sausage to chicken to pork to ground beef.

The restaurant also gives the site a bit of an added boost as a



If you are going to grill this summer, you need not only the right equipment, but quality meat to put on the grill. **left:** Wilson Farm Meats store manager Mark Tamblin shows off what’s available at Wilson’s. **above:** The sign outside Wilson Farm Meats shares a message about how fresh its offerings are.

JENNIFER EISENBART *The Breeze*

destination place.

“We take pride in what we do,” Tamblin said. “That’s the only way to build business in this day and age.”

Remodeler sees high demand

Homeowners are still renovating despite increased costs

With inflation at a 40-year high and interest rates going up, it wouldn't be surprising to see the home building and remodeling market slowing down. For one area remodeler, that isn't happening.

By **Tracy Ouellette**
EDITOR
IN CHIEF

Chris Stebnitz, of Stebnitz Builders in Elkhorn, said business is booming. "COVID isn't over and people are spending a lot of time at home still," he said. "There hasn't been a lot of big-ticket purchases for travel in the last couple of years, so people are still buying things for their home. Right now, three-season rooms are big along with kitchen and baths that are always popular."

Because of the high demand for remodeling, Stebnitz said people need to be aware that there will be delays in getting projects done and prices have increased.

"Across the board we have seen increases in costs," he said. "Everything is up. Just look at everyday life. Everything it up from material cost to labor, all the things have increased. A lot of it has to do with supply and demand. Raw goods costing more contribute to an increase to produce the products."

He added that the main struggle they are facing now is the availability of materials.

"There are certain products that can take up to a year to get," Stebnitz said. "That's where the design process comes in, so we schedule things accordingly. Does it make sense to start now or wait, so we can seamlessly go into the project without putting the homeowner in discomfort?"

"The last thing you want is a surprised homeowner, our goal is every client having knowledge of what's going on and what they need to do."

Rising rates

Stebnitz said that while inflation is high and 30-year mortgage rates are about twice as high as a year ago, it hasn't translated into a decreased demand for housing or remodeling.

"Sure, interest rates on a 30-year



The Stebnitz family has provided 51 years of service in the community with Stebnitz Builders, Inc. The home remodeling company is headquartered in Elkhorn and ready to assist in your next home-improvement project. Founded by Stan Stebnitz in 1972, original projects were limited to general carpentry work and the occasional addition. With the help of Stan's three sons, Dave, Gary and Dan, the company grew and was recognized for its quality and integrity. In 1985, the brothers approached their father about purchasing the business. The tradition of family ownership and involvement continued when Dave's son, Chris Stebnitz, purchased the business in 2005 and became the company's third-generation owner.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *The Breeze*

mortgage are about 5% to 5.5% not, about double last year, but that's not crazy at all," he said. "Houses aren't as affordable as before, but interest rates are still low."

Be patient

With housing often difficult to find, Stebnitz said many are choosing to remodel and stay where they are.

"One of the safest places to invest your money is your home," he said. "The value rarely drops and any money you put into your home adds value on top of being able to enjoy it while you're living in it. It adds resale value to the

property."

However, because so many people are remodeling their homes, either to stay put or when they buy a new home and want some changes, Stebnitz said people need to be patient and understand there will probably be some delays.

"Most of us are really busy," he

said of the remodeling industry.

"We have about 17 to 18 guys in the field and we can handle upward to about 12 to 15 projects at a time as a company. Compare that to a consultant who has his own businesses and is managing all his projects, it might mean you can't get ahold of them during the day

because they return their calls at night when they're off the job."

Stebnitz said they are telling prospective clients that most projects won't start for about six months.

"We lay this out for the client," he said. "We have our first consultation with the client within six weeks and once we're engaged in the project it takes about eight weeks to get it designed and a contract together. Once that's signed, it's two to three months minimum before we have an opening and once you add all that up, it's about six months."

Stebnitz added that most people coming to them for their services understand the issues facing builders right now.

"It's just going to take some time," he added. "Be patient, work with a company that has a plan for how you're going to get from here to there. I mean a plan of action not just a building plan."

"Find out who's in charge of what and what each company you're looking at provided. There's a huge difference in working with a larger company that has a business model with that planning in place than for a contractor that doesn't. You may not be able to contact them during the day if they're working in the field."

Stebnitz also cautioned homeowners to be realistic about the costs of a project.

"Understand when you have that first conversation with a builder, you need a clear idea of the budget, timing and what will fit in the space. After that budget conversation, get into the details. Having these conversations with the contractor is important."

Stebnitz Builders sit at 204 Commerce Court, Suite 3, in Elkhorn. For more information, call and visit www.stebnitzbuilders.com.

BODY FOUND • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Wisconsin K9 SOS Search and Rescue.

Sarah Baca said her husband's VFW post in Lake Villa also added 10 men to the search party, and Linda pointed out that numerous community members contributed to the search. Elkhorn Fire and Rescue was also involved.

"It was amazing how everyone came together," Linda said.

"We're just so grateful."

Linda also singled out her employer, Isotropic Networks, that contributed a private plane to help with the aerial search.

"I was just so amazed they were willing to drop everything to look for our son," she said.

Others the family thanked included Abe Taylor and Scott Wells, Mike Phelps at Color Quick Print for donating the search flyers

and the "hundreds" who took the time to help, even if all their names could not be listed.

Christensen added his thanks to that of the family.

"We obviously want to thank everyone who was out looking for Dexter," the police chief said. "Everyone seemed to be aware and keeping their eyes open. We're obviously saddened, as well as the family is, by this tragedy."



BY THE NUMBERS

Waterfront Home for Sale in Lauderdale Lakes

W5437 Walworth Dr.....	\$305,000
N7413 Mariner Hills Cir	\$314,900
W5423 Elkhorn Dr	\$320,000
N7461 Woods Ln	\$329,900
W5317 Tippecanoe Trl	\$374,000
W5159 Strawberry Hill Rd	\$449,500
W5239 Lakewood Cir	\$450,000
W6081 Mariner Hills Trl	\$484,000
W6071 Mariner Hills Trl	\$549,900
N7012 Lakeshore Ave	\$599,000
W6725 Lakeshore Cir	\$599,900
W6160 Kettle Moraine Dr	\$679,900
W5052 Clearwater Ln	\$840,000
N7084 McCabe Rd	\$848,000
W5141 Plantation Rd	\$899,900
N7947 Surfwood Dr	\$1,349,000
W5505 Rocky Rd	\$1,549,900
N8115 Pleasant Lake Rd	\$1,795,700
W5672 Ridge Rd	\$1,869,000
N7729 Laura Ln	\$3,799,700



THE GOING RATE

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N6880 Chesapeake Dr	\$96,000	W4920 Mallard Dr	\$438,900
W6530 County Road A	\$124,000	W5015 Hawk Rd	\$450,000
W5486 Park Dr.....	\$175,000	W5003 Hawk Rd	\$480,000
W5310 Wandawega Dr	\$185,000	W4980 Pleasant Lake Rd	\$525,000
W5419 Wandawega Dr	\$205,000	N8217 Pleasant Hill Ln	\$535,000
N7494 Oak Ln	\$256,500	N7544 Cool Hill Ct	\$555,000
W6707 Lakeshore Cir	\$220,000	N7188 Country Side Ln	\$835,000
W6894 Quinney Rd	\$290,000	W5504 Parker Trce	\$800,000
W6442 Territorial Rd	\$330,000	W5134 Plantation Rd	\$1,350,000
N6756 Tippecanoe Trl	\$295,000	N7630 Pleasant Point Cir	\$1,650,000
N6686 Club House Cir	\$295,000	N7688 Westshore Dr	\$1,850,000
W5558 Briarwood Rd	\$300,000	W5355 Lost Nation Rd	\$2,300,700
W5072 Aldona Ct	\$312,500	W6736 N Lakeshore Cir	\$210,000
W5969 Mariner Hills Trl	\$330,000	W5440 Elkhorn Dr	\$314,000
W5891 Mariner Hills Ct	\$348,000	W5987 Sugar Creek Rd	\$365,000
W5380 Tippecanoe Trl	\$360,000		

Lovin' that taste of barbecue

For those who love ribs, there's no better place to be than Elkhorn next week.

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**
EDITOR

If you go...

WHAT: Elkhorn Ribfest
WHERE: Walworth County Fairgrounds, 411 East Court St., Elkhorn
WHEN: July 12 to 16
INFO: wisconsinribfest.com

The annual Elkhorn Ribfest event will run from July 12 to 16 at the Walworth County Fairgrounds, 411 East Court St., Elkhorn.

The event features world-renowned barbecue vendors, as well as entertainment, an artisan village and carnival rides. The event routinely draws more than 100,000 people.

"The food's fantastic. These are some of the best barbecue companies in the world that come," Walworth County Fairgrounds General Manager Larry Gaffey said. "I think the second reason is the music.

"These are high-quality bands that come in."

Profits from the event stay local, going to the Walworth County Fairgrounds, Elkhorn Area Chamber of Commerce, Elkhorn Rotary Club and Wisconsin Farm Bureau.

Admission and parking are free, and the event has even more vendors available this year.

That and the atmosphere, Gaffey said, is what brings people – and keeps people coming back.

"Everyone is chilled out," Gaffey said. "Everybody's in a good mood. That's why it grows every year."

Taste testing

With a name like Ribfest, it's no wonder people come for the food.

Ribfest will have more than 30 different barbecuers attending, but 14 professionals will be selling to

the public. Past winners include last year's People's Choice winner, Just North of Memphis BBQ – now a back-to-back-to-back winner of the People's Choice award, plus last year's Pro Division Grand Champion, MM&E BBQ.

Ribfest has two judged divisions – the pro division, which sells to the public, and the community division, which does not. The community division will be contest between 25 area "backyard" BBQ entries.

Then there are the professional competitors, who will be judged by two different panels and in a People's Choice competition.

One of the sets of judges that come in are certified by the Kansas City Barbeque Society, and are master judges. The second will be a local panel, which will be trained by the KCBS judges.

Judging takes place Sunday, with prizes to the winners and a grand champion crowned.

If people are just coming for the food, Gaffey said Saturday is the busiest day of the festival and he



above: A hungry crowd gathers at Ribfest in Elkhorn each July. The event has continued to grow each year and now runs four days, drawing competitors from a wide area along with people of all ages for live music, an artisan village and of course, plenty of food and drink options.

FILE PHOTO *The Breeze*

recommended coming on one of the other four days.

"Every day is great," Gaffey added.

A few other pro tips from Gaffey:

- Many of the vendors, including beer, wine and soda are cash only. There is an ATM on site, but they can be unreliable at busy times.
- If people want a guaranteed place

to sit, bring a lawn chair. Seating is limited and large crowds are expected.

Other activities

It's not just the food at the festival. There is an artisan vendor alley, carnival rides for all ages, and the Ribfest Bike Show Thursday, July 13.

There will also be flat-truck racing

the same day, starting at 5:30 p.m.

Musical acts include 7th Heaven headlining on Wednesday, July 12, Bella Cain on Thursday, July 13, Snake Oil Friday, July 14 and The Hype Saturday, July 15.

Other musical acts are listed throughout the day. Check the festival's website for the full listing.

Cycling Without Age ready to expand

A popular senior activity in Walworth County will be expanding this spring and summer.

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**
EDITOR

Cycling Without Age will add two new tri-shaw bicycles this spring and already has 14 new pilots, which gives the organization the chance to expand from the 45 events a year ago to more than 110 this year.

"It is really phenomenal, as far as I'm concerned, that we've gotten this far this quickly," said Eric Russow, who co-founded the Walworth branch of CWA along with his wife, Bernadette.

"We are really excited about how fast this program is growing," Eric added.

Cycling Without Age was founded in Copenhagen Denmark in 2012 as a way to provide older adults and adults with differing

abilities free bicycle rides in a trishaw.

A trishaw is similar to a rickshaw/tricycle hybrid, and is pedaled by a volunteer pilot trained in safety, storytelling and listening.

CWA makes appearances throughout Walworth County, stopping at community festivals and senior care facilities to provide the rides to seniors. The tri-shaw rides appear to help with memory and health for senior citizens.

The entire seven-month listing of events is available at cyclingwithoutage.com/walworth-county.

Ironically, with the additional tri-shaw added to the inventory, CWA is looking now to add an additional vehicle to pull the second trailer. In fact, the vehicle the group has to pull its current trailer may not be available after April.

Eric Russow said the group needs a smaller pick-up truck to pull the 1,300-pound trailer with an 400-pound load, at most.

If interested in loaning the vehicle, contact Eric and Bernadette.

"We only need them for seven months," Bernadette said. "Where do we go when we're not using them?"

"We weren't expecting this big of a growth, this fast," she added.

CWA is still looking for volunteers to pilot the trishaw bikes used with the program. Training is available online and in person, and details can be found at cyclingwithoutage.walworth.org.

Registration for training is required. If interested, call Eric at 262-320-7325.

For more information about CWA, go to www.cwawalworth.org.



Bill and Judy Pengra get ready to go for a ride on a tri-shaw during the Cycling Without Age program in 2021, when the program first got started in Walworth County. Now entering its third year, the group is ready to provide tri-shaw rides at more than 100 events this spring and summer.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *The Breeze*

GAGE MARINE • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

area lakes, Frazier said safety is imperative, and encouraged customers to take a class.

"I would highly recommend anyone getting into boating to take a boater safety class, it is very important to understand the rules and regulation of the waterways," he

said. "Safety is the most important aspect of boating and a lot of people get into boating and don't really know the rules."

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources offers an online safety class, Frazier said.

Additionally, Frazier encouraged

boaters to know how a boat operates and where to find the emergency functions before hitting the water, and to carry necessary items such as lifejackets.

For more information on Gage Marine, visit gagemarine.com or call 262-245-5501.

BLACK POINT • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Clothes and the Stories They Tell" were hosted by the Geneva Lake Museum, Black Point Estates and Gardens and the Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra.

Caring for a property as large and varied as Black Point requires much maintenance and expense. According to Dave Desimone, they have a long-term plan in place to keep the building and grounds in excellent shape.

"We will never be done taking care of the property. Currently we are continuing to restore and

improve the gardens including expanding these gardens. Fortunately, there is an endowment for the landscape. We continue to improve them with an eye to easier maintenance," DeSimone said. "And we appreciate the volunteers who help keep the gardens in shape."

He went on to share that both interior and exterior maintenance are ongoing concerns.

"We will need to restore rotted wood, probably next year. The goal will be to restore the home

while keeping to the original look as much as possible," Desimone added.

The third stage will be a longer-term project, the restoration of the interior. Because of the historic status of the house and its age, they will probably start with a comprehensive Historic Structure Report.

This will determine what needs to be repaired or replaced. Then of course funding will have to be obtained. Cost will determine where they will begin and how much can

be accomplished at one time.

Black Point is a unique look into history. Unlike many museums that focus on one time period, Black Point is a story of the life of the home. It does not focus on one period of time but moves through the time and changes of the home through the years of the family's tenure.

It was a wonderful gift from the Seipp Family to not only donate the home to the Historical Society but to donate it intact giving future generations a look at life at Black

Point through the years.

Visit Black Point this summer and enjoy all it has to offer. Visit www.cruiselakegeneva.com for tours and prices or visit www.wisconsinhistory.org for more information about the museum and its outreach programs.

Black Point Estate and Gardens also has its own webpage at blackpointestate.wisconsinhistory.org. The page offers a link to a number of different events, as well as admission information and tickets for sale.



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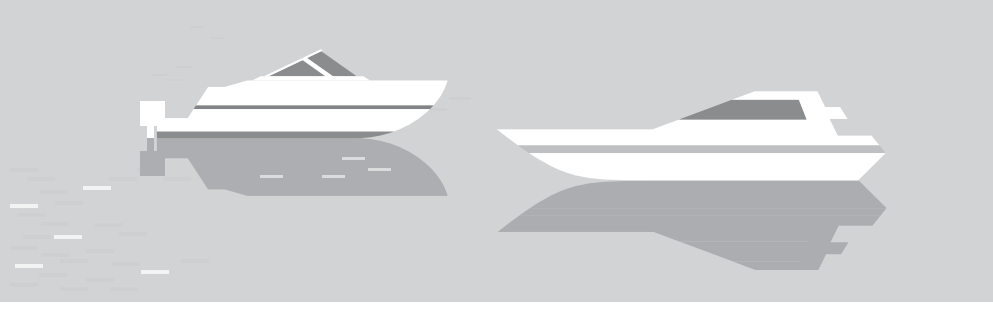
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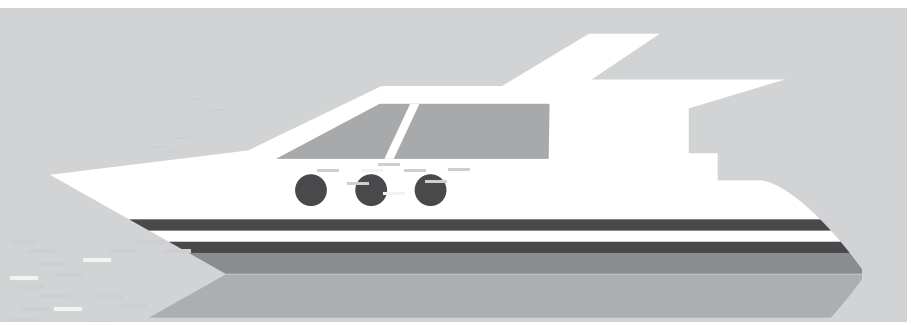
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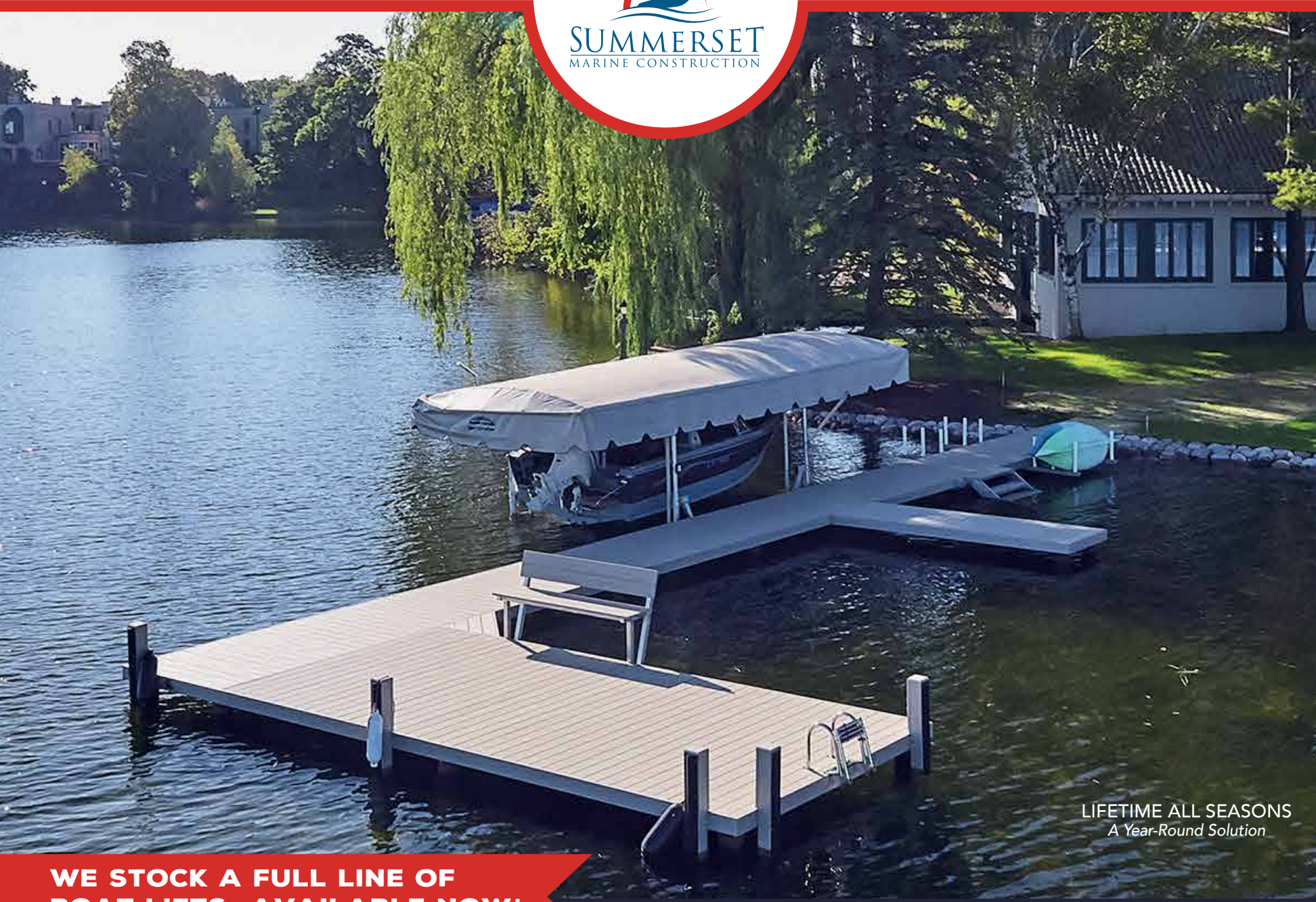
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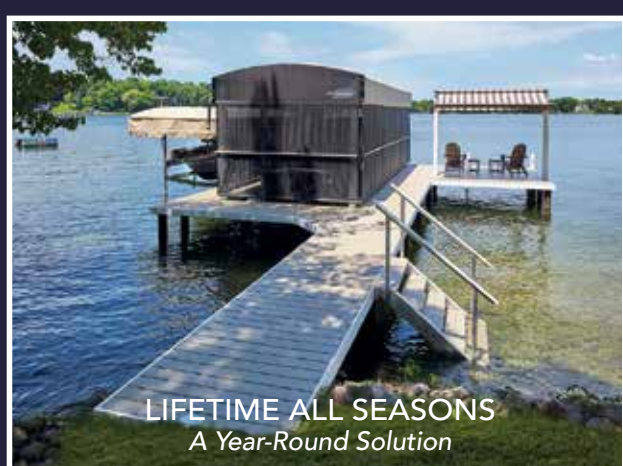


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