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Making waves on Lauderdale Lakes



Adaptive Adventures, a program that provides outdoor sports opportunities to children, adults and veterans with disabilities, can be found making waves on Lauderdale Lakes several times each summer.

PHOTOS COURTESY BILL SCHULTE Lauderdale Lakes Breeze

Program helps people with disabilities hit the water

By **Heather Ruenz**
STAFF WRITER

Several years ago, Julie Davis of Lauderdale Lakes and a volunteer with Adaptive Adventures, offered her lake house to start an adaptive waterski program in the area.

Adaptive Adventures aims to “provide progressive outdoor sports opportunities to improve quality of life for children, adults and veterans with disabilities and their families,” according to its website.

It features programs, clinics and camps throughout the country in cycling, climbing, dragon boat racing and a variety of watersports.

Not long after the program started being offered locally, Davis and Greg Zbrzezny, the Chicago program director for Adaptive Adventures who had teamed up with Davis when it began, spent time brainstorming about how they could expand it.

As a result, a group now gathers on Lauderdale Lakes several times each summer,

initially at Lutherdale Conference Center and currently, at Lauderdale Landing.

The next opportunity with the program is July 26, running from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The program relies heavily on volunteers. “Our volunteers are a big part of what we do,” Zbrzezny said in a previous interview.

Zbrzezny said in addition to Lauderdale Lakes area residents, the program also boasts volunteers who travel up to two hours from Illinois to be part of the program.

Each program features participants from various groups, hospitals and organizations.

“We work with individuals with physical disabilities and primarily disabled veterans,” Zbrzezny said.

In addition to veterans – usually from Chicago and Milwaukee – other groups that have taken part in Adaptive Adventures on Lauderdale Lakes include Shriner’s Children’s Hospital, Synergy Adaptive

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

A beautiful sunset

A pink haze in the sky ends a summer day out on Lauderdale Lakes in Elkhorn.

DEBORAH CRUGER
Lauderdale Lakes Breeze



Lauderdale Lakes BREEZE

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Karen Ostermeier

Lauderdale Lakes Resident & Specialist



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Restaurant rebuild delayed

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**
EDITOR

When a fire shortly after closing gutted Annie's Burger Town May 18, there was plenty to be grateful for.

"No one was in the building, no one got hurt," said co-owner Maria Halpin, who owns the long-time drive-in restaurant with her husband, Jeff.

That said, Maria is ready to get moving with the rebuilding of the business. The Halpins are still working through paperwork with insurance and contractors, and the re-opening of the restaurant will likely be sometime this fall.

"The original estimate was end of September, but nothing's even going on yet," Halpin said of construction. "I'm going to assume it's going to be even longer than that."

The entire inside of the restaurant needs to be rebuilt.

"All the equipment, the entire electrical, flooring, things like that," Maria explained. "We're just doing the paperwork to get this thing going as fast as we can."

The fire and fundraising

The Elkhorn Fire Department was paged out to Annie's at 9:09 p.m. on May 18, about an hour after the business had closed for the evening.

Jeff Halpin had been home for perhaps 20 minutes when the couple received a phone call saying the business was on fire.

A passerby had called in the fire, and the fire department was on scene quickly enough to keep the fire contained to the kitchen. However, the kitchen inside was a total loss.

While the Halpins have continued to honor their catering contracts, the business' seasonal employee staff has mostly found other employment for the summer.

One employee, Abby Partington, started a GoFundMe.com page, which has, to date, raised \$10,974.

Hansen's Screen Printing in Elkhorn, meanwhile, decided to sell Annie's Burger Town T-shirts as a fundraiser, selling more than 500 shirts.

Many of the shirts still need to be picked up, Maria Halpin explained.

Where things stand

The Halpins said that much of Annie's summer



While the inside of the kitchen area has been cleared to allow for reconstruction, the owners of Annie's Burger Town in Elkhorn say it will likely be fall before they reopen.

JENNIFER EISENBART *Lauderdale Lakes Breeze*



A large army truck and picnic table block the drive-in area of Annie's Burger Town as a reminder that the restaurant is closed.

JENNIFER EISENBART *Lauderdale Lakes Breeze*

catering work is now done with the conclusion of graduation parties.

The couple is still handling a few weddings, but has decided not to take any new events for now.

She said that one question remains common.

"Everybody's just asking, 'You are rebuilding, right?'" Maria said. "Yes, we are."

"Everyone's got the same questions," she added. "We just don't necessarily have the answers right now."

Maria explained that they

are waiting on bids to figure out where to spend money, although the kitchen area has been cleaned and is ready for reconstruction. Local contractors will be used if at all possible.

"It feels strange, to have so much support," she said. "Not that we don't think the community supports us, but the reaction was more than we anticipated or expected."

With the summer season likely lost, Maria said that the drive-in may actually be open for the winter.

"If we open in October, we're not going to want to close in November," she explained, adding that the restaurant would possibly close for the holidays and reopen after them to provide a short break.

She's also hoping the restaurant can reopen in time to enjoy the last of the fall weather and offer a party for those looking to celebrate the re-opening.

"We have a lot to be grateful for," Maria said.

Former sheriff's deputy sentenced

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**
EDITOR

Former Walworth County Sheriff's Deputy Gerardo Baca, who pleaded guilty last month to four counts of assault, attempted assault and taking a nude photograph of one of the women, was sentenced June 30.

Baca's guilty plea was for only four of the initial 20 counts. The rest were read in as part of the plea agreement.



Gerardo Baca

Judge Arthur Melvin sentenced Baca to 22 years of initial confinement, with all counts served consecutive. Baca received 10 years for both counts of second-degree sexual assault of an intoxicated victim, plus a year for attempted third-degree sexual assault and a year for capture of a nude image.

Baca also received a total of 33 years extended supervision, and will be required to register as a lifetime sex offender.

Other conditions of the extended supervision included paying costs, absolute sobriety with random testing, no use or possession of alcohol or controlled substances without a valid prescription, treatment if recommended, no contact with the victims or their families, providing a DNA sample, no possession of pornographic or sexually explicit materials and AODA assessment.

Baca will not be eligible for any early-release programs, but received credit for 485 days already served.

The judge also ordered victim impact statements from three different victims sealed.

The sentencing recommendations from Baca's attorney Jessica Nicholson and Waukesha County District Attorney Susan Opper – the county that initially handled the investigation and court case – differed wildly. Opper recommended 20 to 25 years of initial confinement and length extended supervision, as well as the lifetime sex offender registration.

Nicholson, meanwhile, asked the court for 3 to 5 years initial confinement and withheld sentences with probation to run consecutive with the prison sentences on the lower level offenses.

She did concur with the lifetime register.

Original complaint

According to the criminal complaints filed in March of 2022, the investigation of Baca began Feb. 1, 2022, with Victim B, who said she was assaulted by Baca in May 2020. Victim B said that after a night of heavy drinking, Baca offered her a chance to "sober up" at his house, located in the city of Delavan.

The victim said she told Baca that she would not sleep with him, but later woke up with her pants removed and Baca reportedly having intercourse with her. She added that Baca has cameras "all over his house," which he reportedly uses to watch his dogs. She told law enforcement she did not believe Baca when he told her he shuts them off when he is home, and that Baca had assaulted her two other times.

A Feb. 3 interview with Victim A revealed she was raped as well, the complaint contends. She alleged that Baca had invited her over after an incident at her workplace and proceeded to rape her in spite of her telling him no several times, the complaint states.

The woman said Baca later told her that he told others it was consensual, and she told him that was wrong, according to the complaint. She then told the investigator that Baca told others she was lying, and threatened both her and her boyfriend with criminal investigations – and that he had video, audio and pictures.

Baca allegedly continued contacting her through text messages and other forms of social media. According to the complaint, Victim A told police Baca then threatened her with saved social media posts that would exonerate him and "you would be called out as a liar."

Baca spoke with detectives and said that the sexual encounter was consensual, though he allegedly admitted she originally said she was not interested in sex.

On Feb. 24, investigators interviewed Victim C, who also detailed a sexual assault, this one in 2012. During the course of the investigation, other victims were identified, Victims D and E. Both detailed additional sexual assaults, Victim E on several different occasions.

According to the complaint, a review of Baca's electronic devices found a pair of videos of him and Victim E having sex. In the videos, it appears the woman is intoxicated, and Baca denied several times that he was recording when asked.

Victim E admitted during the investigation that she was a severe alcoholic between 2012 and 2021, to the point she would suffer blackouts. The report indicated evidence of her inviting him to join her for a drink, but she said she was intoxicated, did not give consent for either sex or recording it and later woke up in Baca's spare bedroom without knowing how she got there.

Additional investigation uncovered a Victim F, who admitted to a consensual relationship with Baca. However, police found recording of their relationship, and the woman said she knew there were times she was being recorded but "was too afraid to say no to him."

Victim D was younger than the age of 18 when the alleged sexual assault took place.

Commission casts key votes on Aldi proposal

By **Dave Fidlin**
CORRESPONDENT

A German-based discount grocer's plans for Whitewater moved one step closer to reality this week after a pivotal pair of votes from a panel tasked with reviewing land and architectural use and development proposals within the city.

At its monthly meeting June 12, the Whitewater Plan and Architectural Review Commission cast two votes – one advisory, the other affirmative and with a stipulation – for the 20,000-square-foot Aldi grocery store proposed on the city's west side.

In April, contractors on behalf of Aldi submitted

plans for a new-build store at the current site of Hawk Bowl, 1380 W. Main St., and Hawk Apartments, 1398 W. Main St. Both aging structures would be razed as part of the plans.

The project gained attention since it put to rest the oft-discussed desire within the community for a dedicated grocer, which has been lacking within Whitewater's business footprint for the balance of the past decade.

Commissioners at the June 12 meeting advanced to the Common Council a favorable recommendation for a certified-survey map that includes a number of technical details related to the

reconfigured properties.

Additionally, the panel approved a site plan for the proposal, with the caveat the city's appointed Urban Forestry Commission reviews and approves the various tree species and other plantings envisioned as part of the landscaping plan for the property.

A number of other details related to the project still need to go before officials. But the site plan lays the groundwork for the project, outlining such details as lighting, building height, parking accommodations and lot and yard configurations.

Chris Bennett, director of neighborhood services, reviewed the assorted site

plan details at the meeting.

"The building is to be constructed with quality materials in earth tones," Bennett wrote. "The building will blend well with its surroundings, be aesthetically pleasing and carry design cues from other Aldi locations."

Discussion of Aldi's tentative timeline for the Whitewater store project arose during deliberations at the recent meeting.

Rob Merkel, construction manager with Aldi USA, said the company has yet to assemble concrete plans for building construction, but did share preliminary thoughts

Elkhorn man dies after standoff with law enforcement

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**
EDITOR

A 24-year-old Elkhorn man died June 22 after a standoff with police.

The situation was handled by law enforcement as a suicidal subject, and the name of deceased the will not be printed.

According to a news release from the City of Elkhorn Police Department, the Walworth County Sheriff's Department was dispatched shortly before 9:30 a.m. to help the police with reports of a suicidal subject at an apartment complex on North West Street.

The 24-year-old male was in an apartment, reportedly threatening to harm himself with a handgun. His two children were in the apartment with him.

The Walworth County SWAT team, along with drone teams from the sheriff's office, Linn Township, Lake Geneva and Delavan police departments also responded.

Police established a perimeter and sent out emergency messages to neighbors in the direct vicinity, as well as warned people to stay away from the area.

Elkhorn Police Chief Joel Christensen said police were on scene for more than three hours.

"The cooperation, as always, has always been good," Christensen said, adding that the SWAT team is multi-jurisdictional. "Everyone has a better understanding.

"With the advent of the drone technology ... it allows us to use that technology so we don't have to put officers in harm's way," he added. "Until recently, we didn't have that tool."

The news release said the SWAT team was able to rescue the two children from the apartment, but the man did not communicate during the incident in spite of continuous attempts to contact him.

The SWAT team entered the residence out of concern for the man, and conducted a search of the apartment. He was found unresponsive in a locked bathroom, with medics checking him and declaring him dead.

The man's name has been put up on social media, as family and friends have begun fundraising efforts for his wife and children on GoFundMe.com.

According to the page set up, the man served in the U.S. Army and remained active in the Army Reserve. The poster said the man struggled with mental health. According to statistics from the American Psychological Association, veterans are one and a half times more likely to die by suicide than non-veterans.

Resources are available, including the Veterans 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. Call 988 and press 1, or text 838255.

Walworth County-specific crisis intervention services are available by calling 911 or by calling 262-741-3200.

"We encourage those who are in need of help to reach out," Christensen said. "We want everyone to take advantage of those opportunities."

The incident remains under investigation by the Elkhorn police and the Walworth County Medical Examiner's Office.



● CALENDAR

Lauderdale Lakes Yacht Club

Venetian Night Festival of Lights Parade of Boats, Saturday, Aug. 5, 8 p.m. – Join the illuminated parade of boats around the lake or decorate your shoreline for all to enjoy. Let's light up the lake like we used too!

Just show up at dusk (around 8 p.m.) in front of Sterlingworth Condos on Mill Lake. This is a free event sponsored by the LLYC.

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

LLIA Directors Meeting, Saturday, Aug. 19, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

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 Siok 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 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, 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

• Thursday, Aug. 10
6 p.m.

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

IBRA Barrel Racing Horse Show, July 27-30, Walworth County Fairgrounds – Held at the horse arena.

Das Fest, Friday, Aug. 4 through Sunday, Aug. 6 – The Walworth County Fairgrounds play host to the annual German celebration, which features a large variety of music, dancing, corgi races, Stein hoisting and more.

For more information, go to dasfestusa.com. Admission is free.

Saturdays on the Square, Veterans Park, Elkhorn – The vendor, farmers and craft market is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Truck and Shuck, Saturday, Saturday, July 29, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. – A fleet of food trucks, live music and a park full of craft and commercial vendors, as well as a movie in the park at dusk!

For more information, go to www.elkhornchamber.com.

PROGRAM • CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Athletics and Lincolnway Special Recreation Association.

The adaptive waterski program is one of the only ones not funded through grants so it's difficult to sustain, according to Zbrzezny.

To further support Adaptive Adventures,

individual donations as well as corporate sponsorships are encouraged and accepted and there is an ongoing need for volunteers – details can be found on the website.

For more information visit adaptiveadventures.org or send an email to jason.stubbeman@adaptiveadventures.org.

ALDI • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

with panelists via conference call.

Merkel said the company has a number of processes to still work through, including ongoing discussions with current property owner DLK Farm Service.

Whitewater's last dedicated grocery store was under the Sentry nameplate and was operated by local businessman Terry Daniels. It

shuttered in late 2015.

While Walmart has offered a limited grocery assortment within its big box department store, and newcomer Kwik Trip has its own assortment of food within its pair of convenience stores, the lack of a dedicated retailer specifically in the grocery space had been a quandary for Whitewater officials in recent years.



Satisfying the Sweet Tooth

Pastries by Chad offers numerous different sweet treats for a variety of events

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**

EDITOR

A chance play date at the park gave Chad Visger a unique opportunity in 2020.

As Jeff Hufford began the work to start up Turtle Lake Tap and Grill, Visger met him when their children were playing together at Phoenix Park in Delavan.

As chef at a resort in Lake Geneva, the two talked – and then didn't talk again until 2021.

By then, Hufford was looking for a general manager for Turtle Lake Tap and Grill and Visger was looking for a commercial kitchen for his pastry business.

It was a match made in heaven. While Visger consults with Turtle Lake Tap and Grill, he runs Pastries by Chad with his wife Sam. It's an upscale pastry business specializing in French pastries that supplies sweets to a variety of resorts, coffee shops and restaurants in the area.

He also takes special orders for everything from birthdays to holidays.

"Anniversaries, weddings are a big thing," said Sam, now co-owner along with Chad of Turtle Lake Tap and Grill since the two purchased equity in the business and are now partners.

Chad said business is "very busy." So is the family, as the couple has a 5-year-old son – who is already interested in his own cookie company – and another child on the way.

"We've grown a lot from year one to year two – we picked up a lot of wholesale accounts," he said. "I love being a part of other businesses, in terms of providing them a premium product they can't find elsewhere."

"I'm able to meet with the chefs and owners of a restaurant to come up with something that really speaks to their brand," Sam added, "But also meshes with and compliments their brand."

"It lets him be creative," Sam said, to which Chad agreed.

Sam and Chad have been together for 13 years, "and it was always our dream to start our own business," Sam said. She has a degree in hospitality from Roosevelt University, while Chad graduated from Johnson and Wales University in Denver.

The two are self-described "dreamers" and came up with their first catering company in 2013 after college in Colorado. While

not originally involved with one another, they met on a mutual job and first became friends – then romantically involved.

"We would kind of sit out on our balcony," Chad began, finished by Sam, who said, "daydreaming about what our future could bring."

The two work well as a pair. Sam handles the logistics and the business side while Chad does the cooking. Everything from fancy French pastries to cool cakes to cupcakes and cookies are available.

"We do change it seasonally," Chad said, adding that the cakes and cupcakes stay throughout the year but the French-style pastries change with the season.

Some examples of the deluxe pastries include:

- Gluten-free tiramisu – made with a mascarpone mousse, coffee cremeux and a chocolate flourless cake; it's topped with espresso macaron and edible 24-karat gold;

- Key lime tart – pate sucre filled with key lime filling, topped with toasted meringue; and

- Blue prosecco tiramisu – blueberry genoise with a layer of prosecco blueberry, pate de fruit, topped with white chocolate mousse and then the final touches of blueberry pepin and gold dust.

While those are full-size pastries, the item both Sam and Chad feel are the most popular are their petit fours – small, one- or two-bite versions of those items (and others).

"It's this little, tiny one-to-two-bite piece that can have five to seven different layers in one bite that has this crazy depth to it," Chad said. "You get so many different flavors in one to two bites. Not only are they very pretty, but they taste better than they look."

That, Chad said, is the thought process – a unique taste that looks as good as it tastes (but not better).

"Really, I feel like anyone can make anything look pretty," Chad said. "If it tastes better than it looks pretty, that's really difficult."

Sam said the petit fours give the business a chance to share multiple flavors and combinations, giving the customer something new to try.

"You get to do a crème brulee bite, you get to do a chocolate tart," Sam said. "You get the variety."

Chad said that variety allows people to try something different and not commit to a whole



Sam and Chad Visger, long-time friends who are now married, recently started Pastries by Chad, which operates out of Turtle Lake Bar and Grill. The two focus on pastries that offer not just a beautiful look, but a layered taste. Shown here are, from left, Chad Visger's versions of tiramisu, a Key Lime tart and a blueberry prosecco tiramisu.

JENNIFER EISENBART *Lauderdale Lakes Breeze*

dessert.

The couple said they are grateful for the support of the community. They both come from big cities – Chad grew up in the Bay area in California while Sam grew up in McHenry County in Illinois but spent a large amount of time in Chicago and Denver.

"We have met people along the way, which 90% of them have been small business owners,"

Chad said, with Sam adding, "giving us advice ... opened doors."

Chad added, "Just very good people in the Delavan community."

Some of the other local businesses they work with include The Treasury in downtown Delavan, Boxed and Burlap, area wedding coordinators as well as chefs at resorts.

"Without all of those people, we wouldn't have figured it out. Maybe we would have but we wouldn't have figured it out so quickly," Sam said. "The people of Walworth County are just incredible."

Added Chad, "We're one big community. We're peers."

To reach the Visgers and Pastries by Chad, call 815-919-2307.



Mayor Bruce Lechner (right) presents Frank and Stephanie Lueptow, long-time owners of Frank's Piggly Wiggly, with a certificate honoring their 42 years of service to the Elkhorn Community. The Lueptows recently retired, turning over their stores in both Elkhorn and East Troy to IGA Hansen's.

KELLEN OLSHEFSKI *Lauderdale Lakes Breeze*

42 years of service

Mayor recognizes Lueptows for their service to the community

By **Kellen Olshefski**

CORRESPONDENT

At a recent City of Elkhorn Common Council, Mayor Bruce Lechner took a moment to thank Frank and Stephanie Lueptow for their long-time service to the City and its residents.

Lechner noted that Lueptows had been running their grocery store, Frank's Piggly Wiggly, for the past 42 years.

The long-time grocers recently retired, handing over the reins to their stores in both Elkhorn and East Troy to IGA Hansen's. Frank Lueptow had been in the grocery business for more than 60 years, while Stephanie Lueptow had been in the business for more than 50.

Lechner presented the couple with a certificate honoring their long-time service above and beyond just providing Elkhorn residents a

place to shop.

"I wish them the best of luck on their retirement, and I appreciate everything you guys did in the community, all of your efforts to help out the community and everything in the City of Elkhorn," Lechner said. "I want to thank you for your service."

After being presented with the certificate, Stephanie Lueptow spoke about how special the experience has been for the couple.

"Elkhorn has been our home and will always be, and everyone in the community is very special to us," she said.

"We've really, really enjoyed serving the community through our grocery store."

City Administrator Adam Swann also expressed his appreciation, noting that the Lueptows have certainly set the bar high for their

successors.

The Lueptows were also honored by Ribfest last summer as the first Hall of Fame entrant for the festival.

This year, the family continued its sponsorship of Ribfest, but personally versus through the business.

"The only way that Ribfest got going was because of the help from Frank and Stephanie Lueptow," Larry Gaffey said. "Ribfest would not have happened without their support."

The Lueptows were the first Hall of Fame recipients last year. The two decided to remain title sponsors this year personally, after the sale of their store.

"They're just great people. Elkhorn Ribfest and the fairgrounds will forever be in their debt," Gaffey said.

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

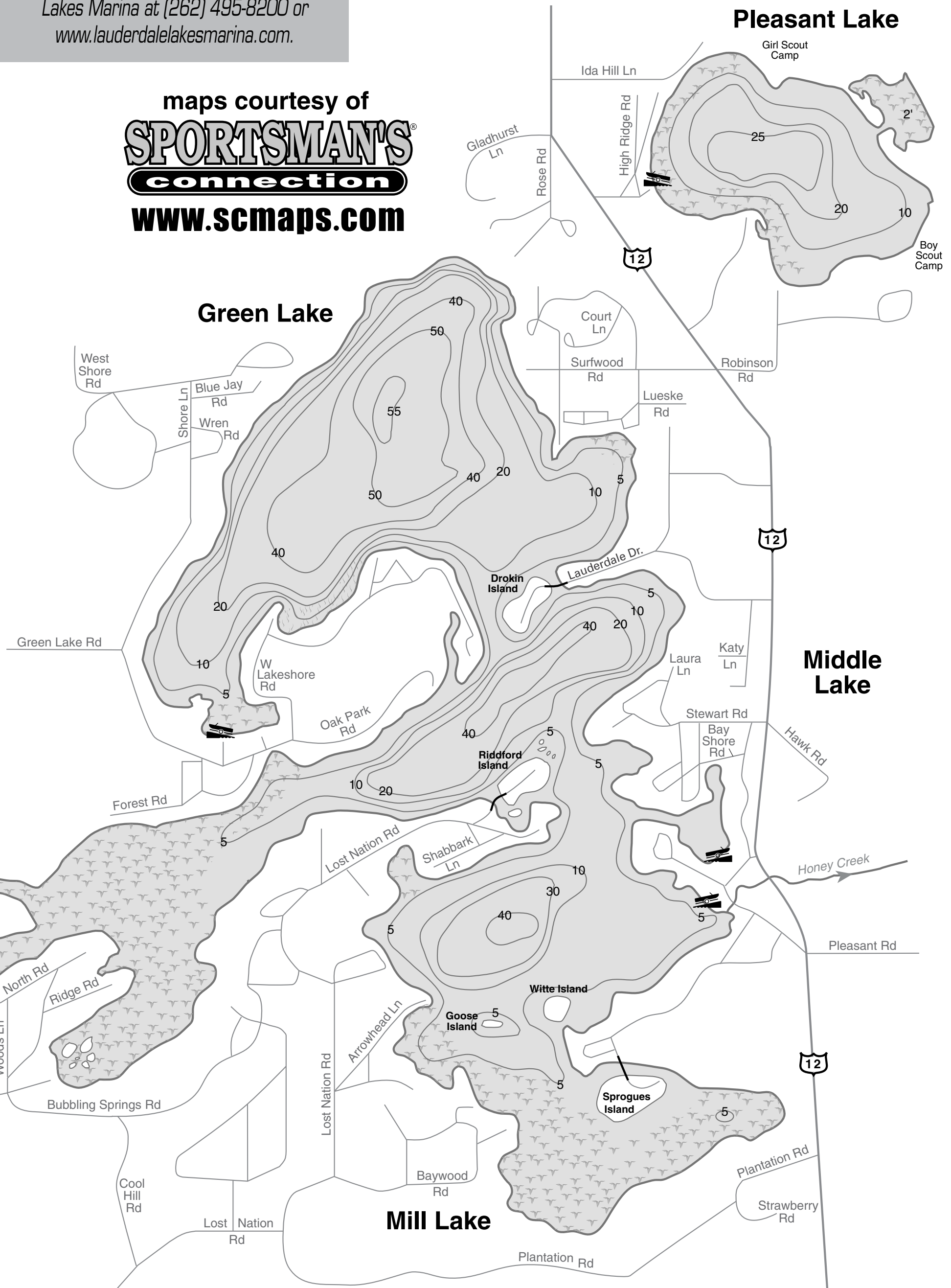
Lauderdale Lakes offers a wide array of fish with the predominant species being:

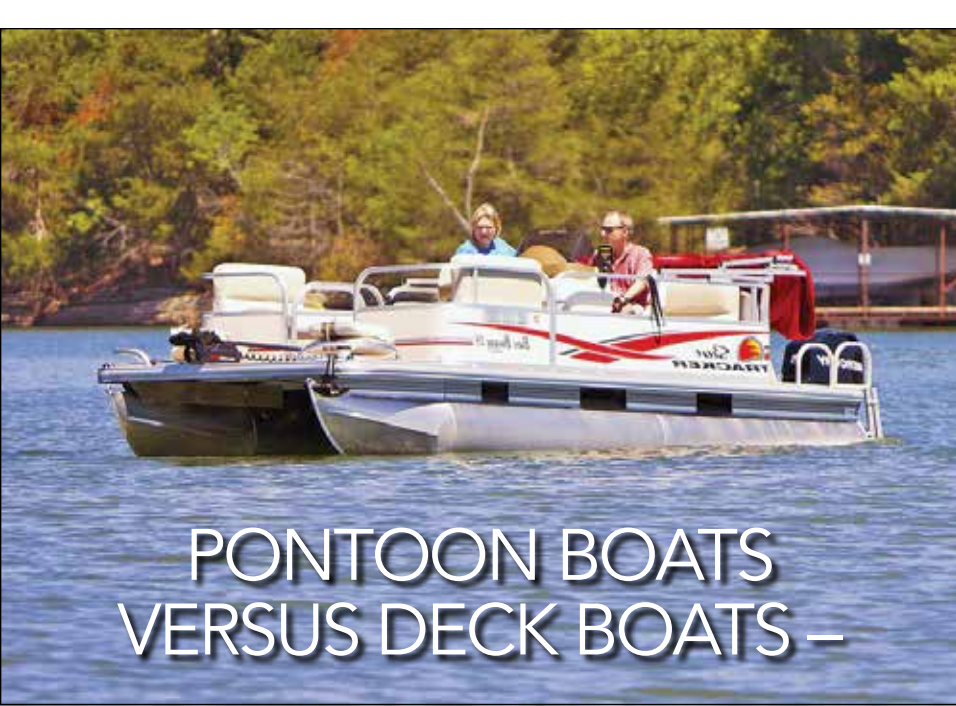
- Largemouth bass
- Smallmouth bass
- Northern pike
- Walleye
- Panfish

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
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www.scmaps.com





PONTOON BOATS VERSUS DECK BOATS –

Which is right for you?

Pontoon boats are incredibly popular all across the nation, as are deck boats. In fact, these two boat types share many of the same features and advantages, and if you're in the market for a new boat it can be incredibly hard to choose between the two.

So, which will be best for you and your family? Will you pick a pontoon boat, or do you think a deck boat would be delightful? Truth be told, in many regards you can't go wrong either way – both types of boats are loads of fun. But as you try to determine which would be ideal for you and yours, Discover Boating encourages you to consider the following:

VERSATILITY AND CUSTOMIZATION

One of the great things about pontoon boats is that they're available in virtually countless different deck layouts, shapes, and sizes. In many cases you can pick and choose between where you want a lounge, versus a sofa, versus a pair of fishing chairs. You can also choose to add activity-specific features, like a tow pylon for watersports or integrated cooler compartments for day cruising. So, you can make a pontoon boat just as versatile – or specialized – as you'd like.

Deck boats, on the other hand, are generally fiberglass boats with rigid hulls and decks. As a result, many of the features are molded in and the floorplans usually aren't as customizable. This may seem to put deck boats at a bit of a disadvantage, but there's also an upside. With the fiberglass construction the builder can mold in things like steering consoles, ski lockers, and seat bases. That can give the boat a very clean look and a solid feel.

PERFORMANCE AND SEAKEEPING ABILITIES

There was a time when deck boats would have been the hands-down winner in this category. Generally

speaking, a single fiberglass hull can accept more horsepower and ride through the waves better than a pair of aluminum "logs" can. These days, however, triple-log pontoon boats, often called "tri-toons" are quite common. And having that third log makes a huge difference in a pontoon boat's performance and sea keeping abilities. Today, it's not unusual to see tri-toons with huge outboards or even twin outboard engines, which go fast enough to whip the hat right off of your head. And they do quite well in choppy waters, as compared to the pontoons of yesteryear.

That said, all other factors (like size and weight) being equal, most people would still say that the monohull deck boats have a bit of an advantage when it comes to handling rough seas. Most also benefit from having less windage, so they may be easier to dock or load on a trailer in a stiff breeze.

COST OF THE BOATS

No matter what your boating budget may be, cost is a consideration most people will take into account when comparing pontoons and deck boats.

In smaller, less expensive size ranges, pontoons usually win out in this regard. There are plenty of relatively small pontoons with low-power outboards, which are very inexpensive. There are some small and inexpensive deck boats, too, but there are far fewer on the market and foot for foot, the pontoons generally cost less.

When it comes to larger model boats, however, this advantage usually evaporates. Many of today's pontoon boats are exceptionally well equipped with luxury features, accessories, and powerful engines, and they can get every bit as expensive as a comparable deck boat – sometimes even more so.

THE BOTTOM LINE

So, what's the bottom

line? That will depend on how you prioritize the above factors, personally. In some cases the pontoon boat will prove to be the better pick, while in others a deck boat will be the right move. And this is a call that only you can make. We do know one thing for sure, though – choosing either will be a major lifestyle upgrade. Make your final call and then get ready for endless fun out on the water.

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When considering between a pontoon boat and deck boat consider the available versatility and customization options, performance and sea-keeping abilities and the cost before making a purchase.

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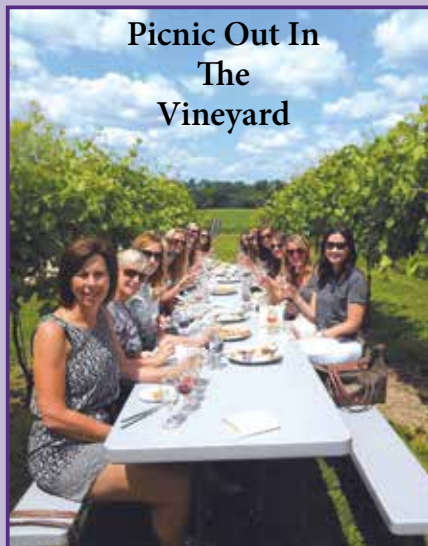
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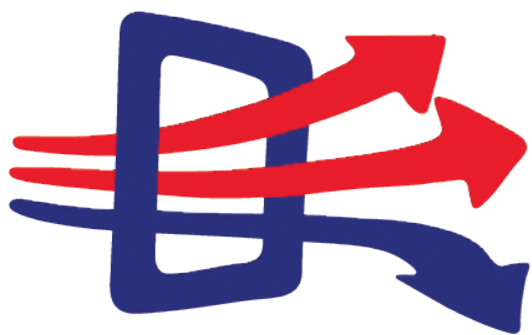
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TAKE A lakeside hike

Traveling the Geneva Lake Shore Path

By **Sandra Landen Machaj**
CORRESPONDENT

After several days in the area enjoying a variety of sights and activities, visitors may feel they have experienced all that the area has to offer. They might have enjoyed a boat trip on Geneva Lake, spent a day at the Riviera Beach taking in the sun and water, indulged at one or more of the unique restaurants, shopped until they were ready to drop at boutique and specialty stores, and maybe even taken a bike ride, hot air balloon ride, or gone zip lining.

In spite of participating in all these activities, they may have missed one special feature – the Geneva Lake Shore Path.

The popular walking trail borders the entire lake, and the trail itself is roughly 26 miles long.

The history of the path goes back to the days of the Indigenous people of several Native American tribes who made their home in this area, including the Potawatomi led by Chief Big Foot.

A plaque placed Lake Geneva's Library Park, which is behind the beach and along the shore, gives a short history of this trail that began many centuries ago.

"The 26-mile lakeside trail along the shore of Geneva Lake was used by several Indian cultures from 2500 BC and continuing to 1836 A.D. Chief Big Foot's Potawatomi tribe walked the trail between their villages at present Fontana, Williams Bay, and one at Lake Geneva located in this park. Later, the trail became the workmen's path from Lake Geneva to the summer estates of wealthy Chicago families," the plaque reads.

These wealthy Chicagoans made their way to the shores of Geneva Lake after the Chicago Fire of 1871, the one that was said to be started by Mrs. O'Leary's cow. At that time the citizens of Chicago looked for an escape for their families, away from the smoke and polluted air of the city as it was rebuilt.

It was to Geneva Lake that they traveled, where they found the perfect setting to build summer cottages. But unlike the summer cottages most would envision, many were actually mansions, large and elegant, much as their homes in Chicago.

Wives and children would come to the lake for the summer, with the families' servants, while the husbands would commute on the weekends as they continued to work during the week.

Many of these lavish homes can still be found on the shores of Geneva Lake, and they can be seen from a boat on the lake or while walking the Shore Path. Over the years, some of those lavish homes have been torn down and the properties divided into smaller parcels with new buildings. While some may be less impressive than the originals, they are still a sight from the lake or shoreline.

Public domain

It was the early settlers who deemed that the "20 feet leading to the shoreline be preserved as public domain."

The plan was to keep this historical path for future use in memory of the past and to assure the



top: This section of the Geneva Lake Shore Path is attractively decorated with greenery. The Shore Path, which is about 26 miles long, is often walked in sections. **middle:** Walking along the path there is always a variety of scenery from different fences to a variety of walking surfaces as each owner is responsible for providing a walking surface. **above:** Each section of the path is maintained by the family bordering the property.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF VISIT LAKE GENEVA *Lauderdale Lakes Breeze*

lakefront would remain accessible for all to enjoy. Each property owner, then and now, is required to maintain the walking path through their property, which has resulted in many sections of the path being unique. Just as each estate has a different look, each owner has provided their own manner of maintaining – and sometimes being creative with – their portion of the path.

As one can imagine, not all property owners were pleased to have strangers wandering through their property and some would

even try to discourage visitors from traveling across their yard by making their section of the trail narrow, overgrown or not appealing in other ways.

In 1970, the then owners of Stone Manor were sued by the City of Lake Geneva for constructing a fence that blocked the shore path. The city won, the fence came down, the path remained intact.

While walking the entire path in one day is possible if one is in good health and walks regularly, it is said to take eight to 10 hours to complete.

By dividing the walk into sections, it can be easier to navigate the length. There are public access points where walkers can join or leave the path however, cutting through owner's lawns from other areas is not acceptable. Path walkers also are not allowed to sit on the piers, chairs or benches on the property of homeowners as only the actual path is open to the public.

For those who wish to tackle the shore path in shorter stretches, access points to enter and leave the path are available in Lake Geneva,

Fontana, Williams Bay, Linn and Big Foot Beach areas. Each one of these sections will provide a comfortable walk without being overwhelming or taking an entire day.

The Daniel Johnson family of suburban Chicago was seen doing just that recently,

"We come up several times a year and try to do a section each visit. Someday we hope to be able to walk the entire path in one day," Dan Johnson said with a smile.

"But I think that will have to wait until these kids are a bit older," he added while pointing to his 7- and 9-year-old children.

If a group only wishes to walk a section of the path and has access to two cars, it's suggested they park one vehicle at each end to avoid having to walk back to the car.

Parking is available at each access point.

The walk from Lake Geneva to Williams Bay is about 7 miles, while a shorter walk from Williams Bay to Fontana covers about 3-1/2 miles.

Tips for comfort, safety

The shore path is a walking path and not made for bikes, scooters, strollers or wagons. With surfaces that include cement, bricks, wood planks, gravel, stepping stones and narrowing in areas, it's not practical for use by anyone other than walkers. Wearing comfortable walking shoes with non-skid treads is essential for safety especially when the path might be wet and slippery.

Safety is important as some areas of the path are very close to the water and may not have a fence separating walkers from an unexpected swim.

It's recommended that beginning in Library Park and heading either direction on the path is perhaps the easiest portions of it, especially for those who have young children or anyone with mobility issues.

On the other hand, for those who are going to try to walk the entire path in one day, experienced walkers suggest starting at the south end of the lake as that section is known to be more difficult and therefore, best attempted when starting the long walk.

Walking the path is a year-round option but many wonder when it's best enjoyed.

Spring – when the trees are beginning to bud and flowers and greenery are beginning to show? Maybe summer is the time to enjoy the shore path, when everything is in full bloom? Then there is autumn, with its myriad of colors as the trees turn shades of red, orange, yellow and brown, and the sites of fall can be found all around the lake.

While those three seasons offer a unique view of the path and lakes, winter also gives a breathtaking view of the lake and shoreline. That may not be the best time to try to walk the path as it's not shoveled and can be icy and slippery in many areas. Also, in the off season some of the piers may be stored in a manner, blocking the path, possibly making passage challenging if not impossible.

So, when is the best time to walk the path? Any season, really. In fact, a walk during each one of them will offer a very different take of the lake and homes and landscaping in the area.

While preparing for a walk – as mentioned before – sturdy, comfortable walking shoes are important, but that's not all.

On sunny days, note that a portion of the walk will be in the sun as the entire path is not shaded and there are no public shelters. Remember to wear sunscreen and a hat to protect from sunburn.

There are also no restrooms or food stands on the path. Restrooms are available in areas such as near the public library in Lake Geneva as well as the villages of Williams Bay and Fontana. Carry water or other liquids with to avoid dehydration.

Dogs must remain on a leash and under control the entire time while on the path. Walkers must clean up after the dog and remove the waste from the area. There are no public access garbage bins so whatever you bring in must leave with you.



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LOOKING BACK

Shattered dreams OF Rainbow Springs

By **Pete Kesselhon**
CONTRIBUTOR

John O'Brien, native of Troy and former employee, reflects on Rainbow Springs.

It all began in 1958; Rainbow Springs was to be a magnanimous resort, the "Convention Resort Hotel of America" as proclaimed by its then owner Francis Schroedel.

For those who don't know or have never heard of Rainbow Springs, it is an area of pristine landscape situated on 945 acres in the townships of Mukwonago and East Troy, known to many as the place where a man's grandiose dream never came true. It was to be a sportsman's paradise to the nth degree. "From the Bush to the Plush" was the slogan coined by Schroedel.

Schroedel was born in 1909 and grew up in Milwaukee on Second and North streets. He dropped out of school in his teens and began working at his uncle's billiards parlor. Inspired to be in the construction business, and despite the Depression, he soon started his own business.

By 1940 he was married with two children. He was small in stature, only 4'9" tall, but a savvy businessman. He was a "mover and a shaker" with a brash attitude; he knew how to get things done. And, he knew how to make money.

After mastering the building trade, known as "Schroedel Construction," he became a land developer. Francis often pushed the envelope with municipalities to get what he wanted; litigation was part of the deal.

At the ripe age of 36 in 1945, post World War II, he recognized the need for veteran housing. Buying up plats of land, he built affordable small homes for veterans coined "Schroedel's Cradles." Concurrently, he was building apartment complexes and other housing developments in and around the Milwaukee metropolitan area.

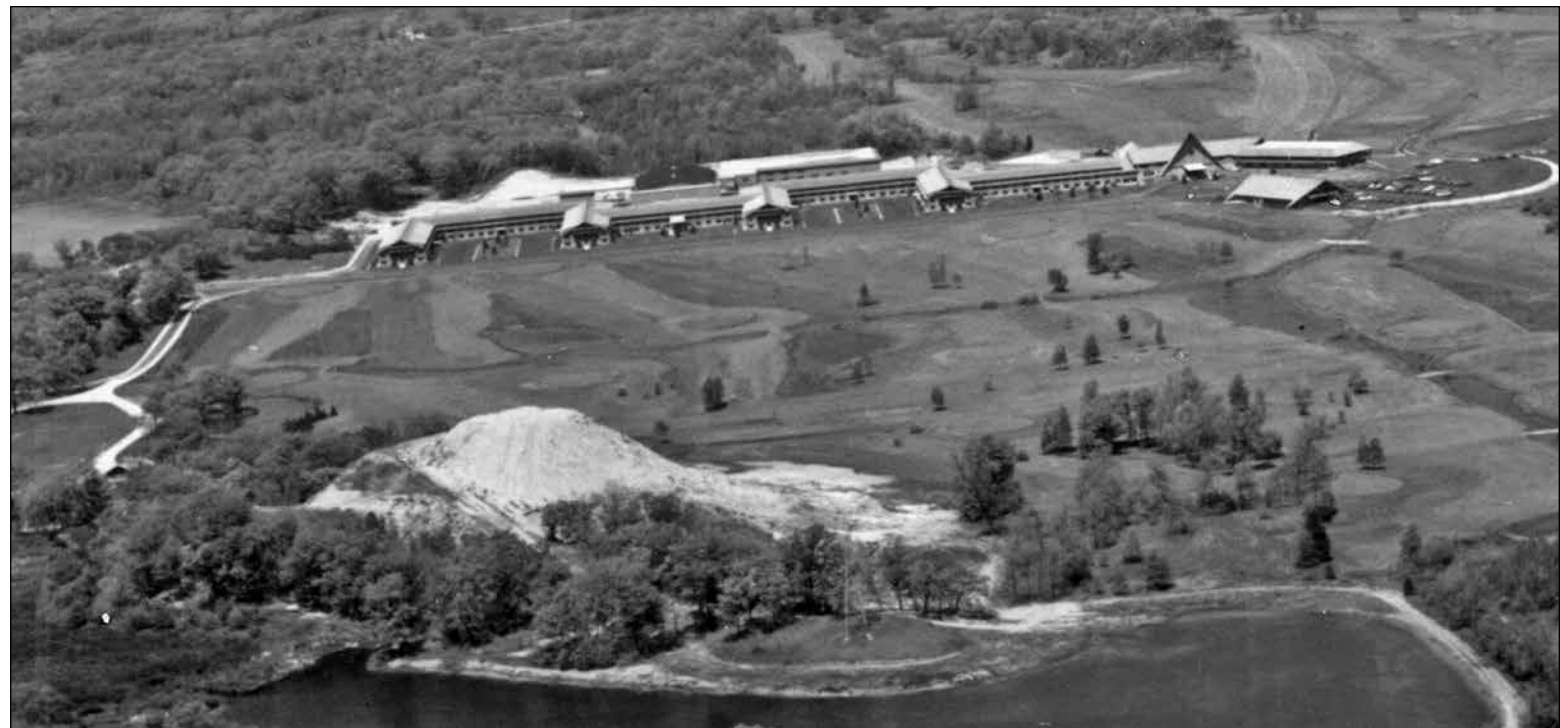
Schroedel was a self-made man, an opportunist, and a man of many ideas. He was always on the make for new development, and became very wealthy in the process doing so. He was a multimillionaire by age 50 when he purchased Rainbow Springs.

Rainbow Springs was going to define Francis Schroedel the man; it was going to capture his genius, his essence; to become his masterpiece and leave a legacy for all posterity.

By 1967 much of Rainbow was in operation. Operating was a 42-room lodge on Rainbow Springs Lake with a restaurant and swimming pool; a newly designed and engineered "championship" level golf course named Big Moraine (Big Mo) along with an "executive" level course named Little Moraine (Little Mo) with a clubhouse and pro shop.

There were trap and skeet houses, and shooting ranges for gun enthusiasts, along with organized duck and pheasant hunts; a groomed hill for tobogganing, sledding and skiing; an ice-skating rink with a warming house; fishing and more.

But the "Crème de la Crème" of Rainbow Springs was a three-story quarter-mile long 756-room hotel with restaurants, a swimming pool, a 90,000-square-foot convention center, and a 180-foot long mall named "Carnival Street" to replicate Bourbon Street of New Orleans, all of which was interconnected under one roof. The hotel was more than 90%



This photo is of the hotel, Little Mo golf course and ski hill at Rainbow Springs after it was constructed. Today the area is overgrown with trees and can't be easily seen, but it still has a metal staircase that runs from the top on the west side of the hill. This image was taken from a Schroedel helicopter/airplane looking north.

PHOTO COURTESY OF RAINBOW SPRINGS COUNTRY CLUB *Lauderdale Lakes Breeze*

complete, only lacking some interior furnishings. This is where the rubber was to meet the road for Schroedel. He was running out of money and furthering himself in debt.

During Schroedel's 15-year ownership, John O'Brien experienced the effects of Schroedel's trials and tribulations. Unfortunate as it was, John's dream was dissipating along with Schroedel's, for John loved working at Rainbow.

John O'Brien, now 82, grew up in the Town of Troy on the property known today as Camp Timber-lee. A farm of 240 acres situated on the west side of Scout Road, it was the family farm for three generations, stemming back to his great grandfather Peter O'Brien (which Peters Lake is named after). The O'Briens were Irish immigrants who came to America via Canada settling in Troy in the late 1800s.

John O'Brien is more remembered by locals as working at Wisconsin Oven in maintenance, or at Alpine Valley in the rental department. In his early days when he was 20 years old John married Jean Lippert with a child soon to be so the need for job security was imperative. It was in late September of 1960 when he began working at Rainbow Springs under the helm of Larry Mitten.

Early on, John O'Brien helped Mitten operate the game farm which harbored ducks and pheasants for hunt club members.

Ducks were kept in cages on the flat top of a hill of which was to be the future ski hill. When there was a scheduled hunt, the ducks were set free in the morning and they flew to the ponds. After the day's end, any remaining ducks would fly back to the coops as if they understood their destiny, i.e., a trained sacrifice.

Later, in 1963, John O'Brien was appointed as caretaker of the golf courses. He kept the grasses cut and manicured to "championship" specifications. Continuous watering was necessary to keep the fairways and greens plush. "Big Mo" utilized two gas powered pumps equaling 700HP. They could pump a million gallons in an hour. "Little Mo" utilized a state-of-the-art electrical pump system.



The Rainbow Springs resort was built in the 1960s and featured a 756-room hotel with restaurants and swimming pool, a 90,000-square-foot convention center, and a 180-foot long mall named "Carnival Street."

SUBMITTED PHOTO *Lauderdale Lakes Breeze*

During the golf season watering and mowing was a daily activity. In late fall, the courses were prepped for spring to ensure a healthy start for the following year. From aerating to disease control, fertilizing and adding new soil, the greens and fairways were assured to be ready for the upcoming year.

All-in-all, John O'Brien worked at Rainbow for 25 years, 13 years under Schroedel's ownership and 12 years under M&I Bank's ownership. During 22 years of his tenure, he was awarded the privilege to hire locals. Names like: Mark Adsit, Phil Adsit, Chuck Dominski, Phil Chapman, Rick Gale, Ansen Heagle, Duane Wilde and Carl Polacek. Do any of those names ring a bell?

In the late 1960s, word was getting out about Schroedel's financial woes. Concern was in the air, but everyone believed Schroedel would pull a rabbit out of his hat, for he was the magic man. Investors offered to partner-up and help, but Schroedel wanted to go it alone. It was his dream and nobody else's!

Schroedel's dream never came to fruition; it ended as a nightmare in 1973 when M&I bank foreclosed on his property. In 1976, he was formally escorted off the premises by the Sheriff's Department. During his time

of removal, he exclaimed, "No one will ever open Rainbow."

Schroedel would die that same year at the age of 67.

After the M&I bank take-over in 1973, all employees were let go and only a skeleton crew of four employees were kept to oversee the premises: Jim McGinley, John O'Brien, Rick Clee and Mitten.

This was an emotional time, for all those employees that were let go depended on and enjoyed their job. A kinship had developed among many employees. Everyone hoped and believed Rainbow would open, they just didn't know when, but time was ticking away.

M&I Bank had no interest in being a landlord to a resort, all they wanted was to sell Rainbow, but they knew they had to maintain it in the interim to keep it marketable. So they decided to keep the Big Mo golf course operating along with the Lodge on Rainbow Springs Lake.

Many suitors came to visit with varying ideas and promises generating a sense of hope, but none would pull the trigger far enough to purchase Rainbow and open it to its full glory. This was unnerving for those who were unemployed for they were put in a state of limbo hoping to get their job back. It was a roller

coaster ride of emotions.

Since Schroedel's demise, no private enterprise could muster the initiative to fully open Rainbow. The "Convention Resort Hotel of America" has sat idle ever since.

It may be said that if Schroedel's dream came true, Mukwonago and East Troy would not be as they are today, probably a megalopolis, maybe even twin cities.

Whatever the speculation may be, the million dollar question is: Why didn't it open? Or, could it have opened? Schroedel was so close, and yet so far. He was only inches away from opening.

Everything Schroedel did was engineered, detailed and first class. So ... was it money? Was it personality? Was it the economy? Or, all of the above?

Rainbow is now owned by the State of Wisconsin and classified as a State Forest. All but one structure remains; it is as if a nuclear holocaust occurred. There is little if any evidence that Schroedel's "Convention Resort Hotel of America" ever existed. Back to nature it goes. Dust to dust.

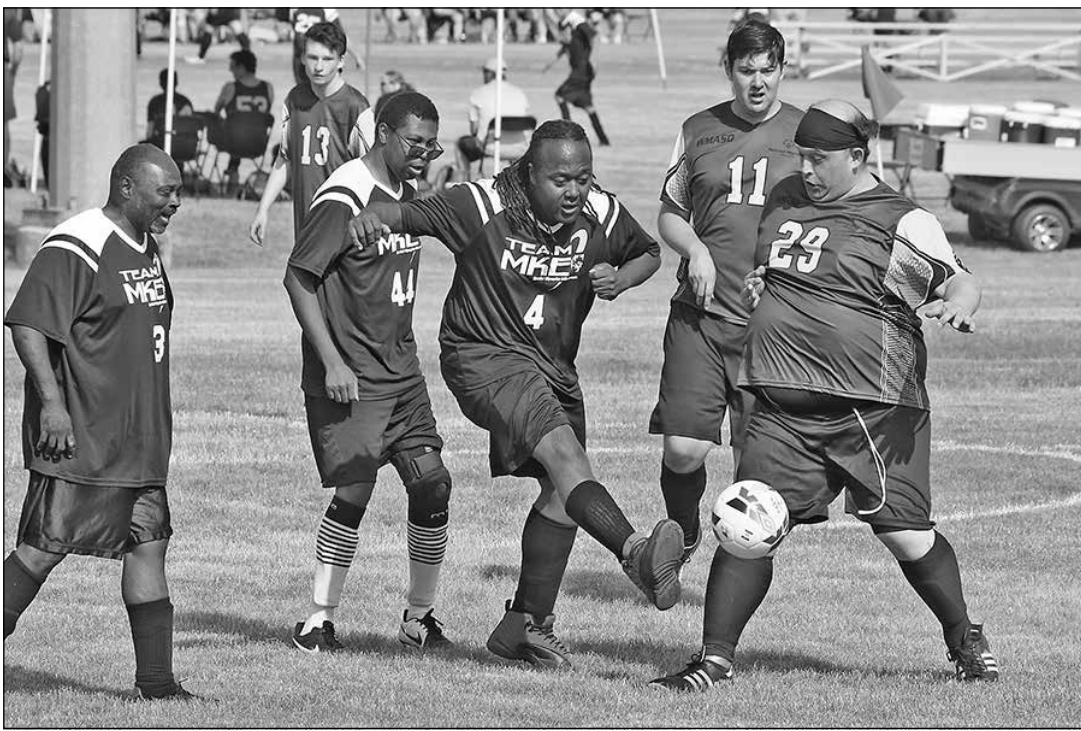
Pete Kesselhon is a longtime resident of East Troy who enjoys delving into the area's history.

A special welcome



The City of Whitewater and the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater played host the Wisconsin Special Olympics Summer Games recently. Athletes are given a warm welcome as they enter Perkins stadium during opening ceremonies. Once the games begin, soccer was one of the many sports athletes could take part in. After events had concluded, athletes received medals. Special Olympics provides competitive opportunities for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, offering the chance to foster acceptance and inclusion of all people, according to the organization's mission.

BOB MISCHKA
Lauderdale Lakes Breeze



Old World Foundation issues fundraising challenge

Money to enhance livestock conservation efforts

About 70 animals call Old World Wisconsin home. Most of these animals are heritage livestock breeds which are traditional breeds that were raised by our forefathers. These historic breeds retain essential attributes for survival and self-sufficiency and many are now in danger of extinction.

The chairperson of the OWF Board of Trustees has issued a challenge to raise \$40,000 by Aug. 4, to fund the animal program at Old World Wisconsin.

Although these animals bring 19th century history to life, they receive the very best, 21st century care. In addition to feed, veterinary care, and hoof care, which is costly on a continual basis, the animal program needs additional funds at this time. The funds raised may be used to make needed repairs to the animal care facility and fencing enclosures, acquire new animals to meet the goals of Old World Wisconsin's conservation efforts, or increase the seasonal staff to both expand the quality care the animals receive as well as allow for more educational opportunities about heritage livestock conservation.

In fact, Old World Wisconsin

is currently partnering with the Livestock Conservancy to address national and international livestock conservation priorities.

Those who donate \$250 or more to help us reach our goal will be invited to attend the Sunset Soiree – an enchanted evening celebrating the conservation of heritage breeds at Old World Wisconsin. Thanks to two of Old World Foundation's donors, all gifts up to \$12,500 will be matched 100%.

Guests to Sunset Soiree will be treated to an exclusive evening at Old World Wisconsin on Aug. 19, complete with a tram ride, cocktails, mocktails, delicious food offerings from four food trucks, a meet and greet with the animals, live music, a photo booth, and an exciting raffle. Those who donate \$500 or more will also receive an invitation for two people to enjoy a cocktail hour before the evening festivities begin.

Old World Foundation is the independent and local non-profit organization that has been supporting projects and programs at Old World Wisconsin since 1984.

For more information on Sunset Soiree or how Old World Foundation supports Old World Wisconsin, oldworldfoundation.org or call 262-594-2922.

For information on the 2023 season at Old World Wisconsin, visit oldworldwisconsin.org.



above: Guests at last year's Sunset Soiree fundraiser at Old World Wisconsin raise a glass to the outdoor historical museum. This year's event will be Saturday, Aug. 19. The Old World Wisconsin Foundation has issued a \$40,000 fundraising challenge for this summer. **at left:** Costwold lambs are one of the heritage breeds at Old World Wisconsin. The summer fundraiser at OWW will benefit livestock conservation efforts at the museum.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS *Lauderdale Lakes Breeze*

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Loaded FOR business

Gun Barrel's large selection and expert advice power store's success

By **Sandra Landen Machaj**
CORRESPONDENT

If you are looking for all things firearms, a visit to Elkhorn Gun Barrel, on Highway 12, in Elkhorn is the place to begin and end your search.

According to owner Dominic Debock, you are sure to find what you are looking for and if you are not sure exactly what firearm is best for you, his knowledgeable staff is there to help you in your quest.

"We opened in this location just one year ago and we have the largest inventory of all things firearms in the area," said Debock. "In addition, we are known for our friendliness and knowledge. We work with you to find the best equipment for your needs."

Visitors to Elkhorn Gun Barrel can't help but be impressed with its open, spacious look while still containing an immense amount of merchandise.

Display shelves of various types of ammunition are found placed around the showroom floor, with plenty of room for customers to browse. Both handguns and long guns are displayed throughout the space.

On one side of the room are racks of long guns, used for hunting. They are placed in large racks so they can be viewed by the customers and picked up to see how their size and grip fit the customer. Not all the long guns are the traditional black or brown. Some of those on display have a camouflage pattern.

To purchase a hunting rifle, the purchaser must be at 18 years of age; while to purchase a handgun they must be 21 years of age.

Ready for hunting

At this time of year hunters are eagerly looking forward to the beginning of hunting season and so may be found at Elkhorn Gun Barrel, checking out what is new in hunting guns or stocking up on their ammunition for that first hunting trip of the season.

"In Wisconsin, hunting is a popular sport," said Mark Spesard, manager of Elkhorn Gun Barrel. "There are a variety of types of hunting and the seasons for each one varies. They each have their own sets of rules and time periods when and where hunters are allowed to hunt."

According to Spesard, each type of hunting requires its own equipment, its own clothing, its own season.

"When hunting waterfowl, you not only need a shotgun and ammunition but you also need camo clothing, boots, waders, a custom caller, and decoys to attract the water fowl. You may also need a boat, a hunting dog, or a blind to work out of," he added.

"We carry all the quality shotguns and ammunition needed, including the Benelli which is considered one of the best. They may run as high as \$1,700 for a semi-automatic model or a pump model is available for as low as \$500. Other top sellers include the Winchester, Remington, Mossberg, and Browning lines. These range from \$375 to \$750 dollars."

"That first goose may cost you hundreds of dollars, if you have to purchase all the necessary equipment," said Spesard smiling. "But the goose you hunt has a much better taste than the one from the grocery store. Once you have all the necessary equipment you are set for

some time."

Spesard shared that there is much you can do with the meat from the goose besides just roasting it. "I have ground the meat and made goose burgers. I once made goose pastrami. It can also be cooked as a stew. All were delicious."

The big season

Deer hunting is perhaps the most popular of the hunting season experiences and draws not only local hunters but also out-of-state hunters looking to bag their deer.

Just as it is for waterfowl there is a specific season when deer can be hunted. Check www.dnr.wi.gov for the dates for the season in the locale that the hunting is planned.

For the deer hunter, there is also specific equipment need for a successful hunt. A correctly sized gun for you and to handle the deer is the first requirement.

Elkhorn Gun Barrel has a large display of the appropriate guns and will work with you to find the one best for you. Some of their long guns are covered in a camouflage pattern that make the gun less likely to be noticed by the prey.

"Special optics including sights and scopes, are available and we will help you find the one that works best with your gun and is best suited for your needs," said Spesard.

Deer hunters must be 50% covered in blaze orange when hunting. That is, they must wear a hat and vest in that color so that they are seen by other hunters. Blaze pink is also acceptable and is usually worn by women hunters.

While the majority of deer hunters are male there are also some female



The knowledgeable staff (from left) Tom Rodden, Mark Spesard and Jenny Talbert are eager to help customers with all their needs.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Lauderdale Lakes Breeze*

hunters, such as Jenny Talbert, one of the employees at Elkhorn Gun Barrel. "I have four children," said Talbert. "A deer yields a lot of meat to feed my family."

Aside from hunting, employees have also noted that more women are now taking the course necessary for a concealed carry permit and following through with getting their license for self-protection.

"I recently sold a first gun to a woman who was 79 years old," shared Spesard.

Help with handguns

The store carries a full supply of quality guns from makers including Savage, Winchester, Browning, Ruger, Remington, and Tikka. Each of these are good quality but the most popular are the Savage and the Ruger

according to Spesard.

Elkhorn Gun Barrel offers a large selection of both new and used guns. If a new model is not on site at the store, they will gladly order it for the customer.

Used firearms can be viewed online, but the customer needs to come into the store to purchase them. New firearms can actually be purchased online but they will be delivered to the retail store. From there the customer must come into the store to complete the purchase and take his purchase home.

Elkhorn Gun Barrel is at N7019 Highway 12, Elkhorn. Call 262-724-0407 for information. They are open 7 days a week from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. They offer in-store shopping and in-store pickup for all items. Visit them online at elkhorgunbarrel.com.



Easily found on Highway 12 is Elkhorn Gun Barrel. The large building with ample parking and a deer head over the door welcomes customers.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Lauderdale Lakes Breeze*

Rodeo woes: City addresses noise complaints, approves beer license for rodeos

By **Kellen Olshefski**
CORRESPONDENT

The City of Elkhorn Common Council voted in favor of approving Temporary Class B Beer licenses for a pair of rodeos scheduled for 1 to 9 p.m. on July 23 and Oct. 8 at the Walworth County Fairgrounds during its June 19 meeting.

In an unusual case, the City Administrator had included the license approvals under new business, as he said the city and police department have received several complaints about noise levels at the events.

Walworth County Fairgrounds General Manager Larry Gaffey, in attendance at that meeting, said he had been made aware of the complaints, when officers came out on Memorial Day and asked the event to turn the noise levels down. Gaffey said the event did turn the noise levels down.

"I thought the event was actually very well managed, it was managed within the parameters of the temporary beer permit that was granted by the city, it ended on time, and as a facility, we were pleased with the way it was managed and

pleased with the way all their personnel managed themselves," he said.

However, Gaffey said that relative to other events at the fairgrounds, this event was not as loud by quite a bit.

"The event last Memorial Day, on a decibel meter, was way less than other events, like monster trucks or tractor pulls, and much, much less than flat track motorcycle racing – about 30 decibels less," he said.

"We want to be good neighbors, but we are fairgrounds."

Gaffey noted events like this are vital toward the Walworth County Agricultural Society's mission to maintain facilities for agricultural education and to also entertain Elkhorn and the greater Walworth County area.

"It's important that we are able to earn this income," he said. "It's important that we are able to hold these events at the fairgrounds so we can pay our bills, pay for repairs and pay for construction so that we can do the things that we do for free. And we do a lot of things that are free for the community, and we

spend a lot of money that we get no reimbursement for, for the greater community."

For instance, Gaffey noted projects like birdhouse building competitions and pinewood derbies, awarding upwards of \$5,000 to children with an aim to get children working on projects with mentors and improving their path toward being good citizens in these communities.

Speaking to the council, Elkhorn resident Ray Muth said that while the decibel levels might be down, the length of the events have increased.

"Everybody in our subdivision could hear it like they were standing there," he said.

Muth said he's not against the fair and respects the fairgrounds have these events, but the 8 to 9 hours of constant noise is troublesome.

"Yeah, they got loud for about 30 seconds and they were gone," Muth said of the recent tractor pulls. "That's not the problem."

Muth said he knows the fair does a lot of good things, but the 8 to 9 hours of constant music and yelling

is the problem.

Gaffey did note some circumstances can make sound move a different way, noting on that particular night, the prevailing winds were not typical for what they are in Elkhorn.

"The prevailing winds for Elkhorn in the summertime are from the south, southwest, and that particular evening, they were coming from the southeast, heading directly toward that subdivision," he said. "That rarely happens, but it did, and so it can change who hears it and who doesn't."

Gaffey again noted they haven't received complaints for events like the tractor pulls, which ran until 10:30 p.m., monster trucks or flat track racing, events that were louder than the rodeo.

Alderman Gary Lee Payson Jr. made a motion to approve the temporary beer license, suggesting that the fairgrounds and neighborhoods work together toward the better good of the city.

"If there's an issue, let's work it out versus getting the police involved and going back and forth, as we're having here," he said.

"Let's work together toward serving the community."

Following a second by Alderwoman Karel Young, Alderman Scott McClory asked if there was a way to diffuse the speakers, even minimally, so that they're not projecting sound toward the city.

Gaffey said it's something he thinks the fairgrounds could work with the sound companies on to ensure the speakers hit more of the center of the grandstand to see if that might help with the noise concerns a bit.

Additionally, Elkhorn Water Superintendent Tim Boss said he could attest to what Gaffey was saying about the way noise travels, noting that he lives on Lincoln Street and while the noise levels were loud in his backyard, when he got in his car and drove to the water tower, he couldn't hear the event.

"It just depends on that East wind," he said. "It's that much. I was really surprised."

The motion to approve the licenses was passed 5-0 by the council.



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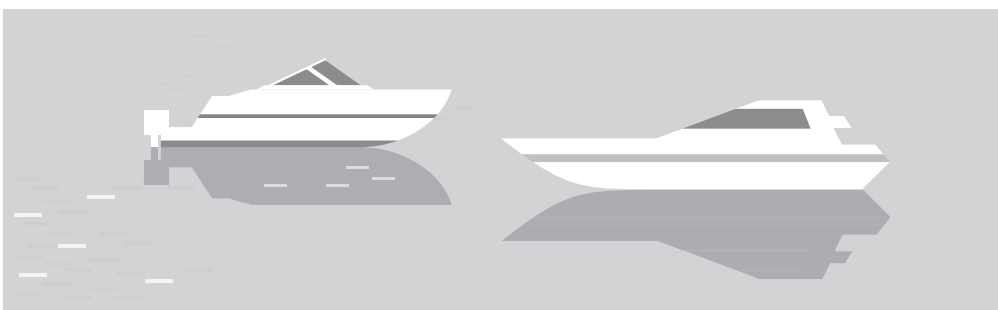
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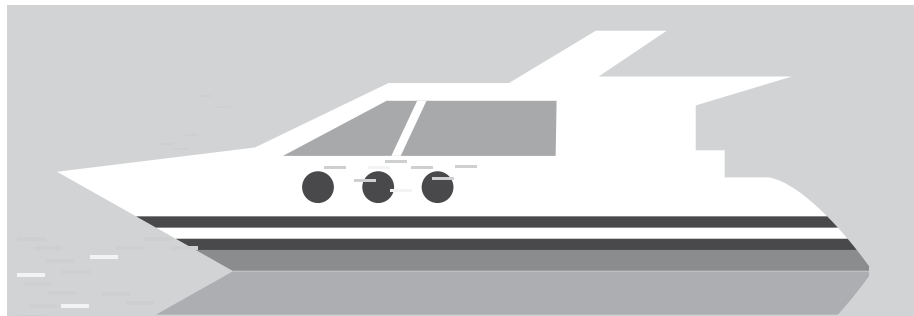
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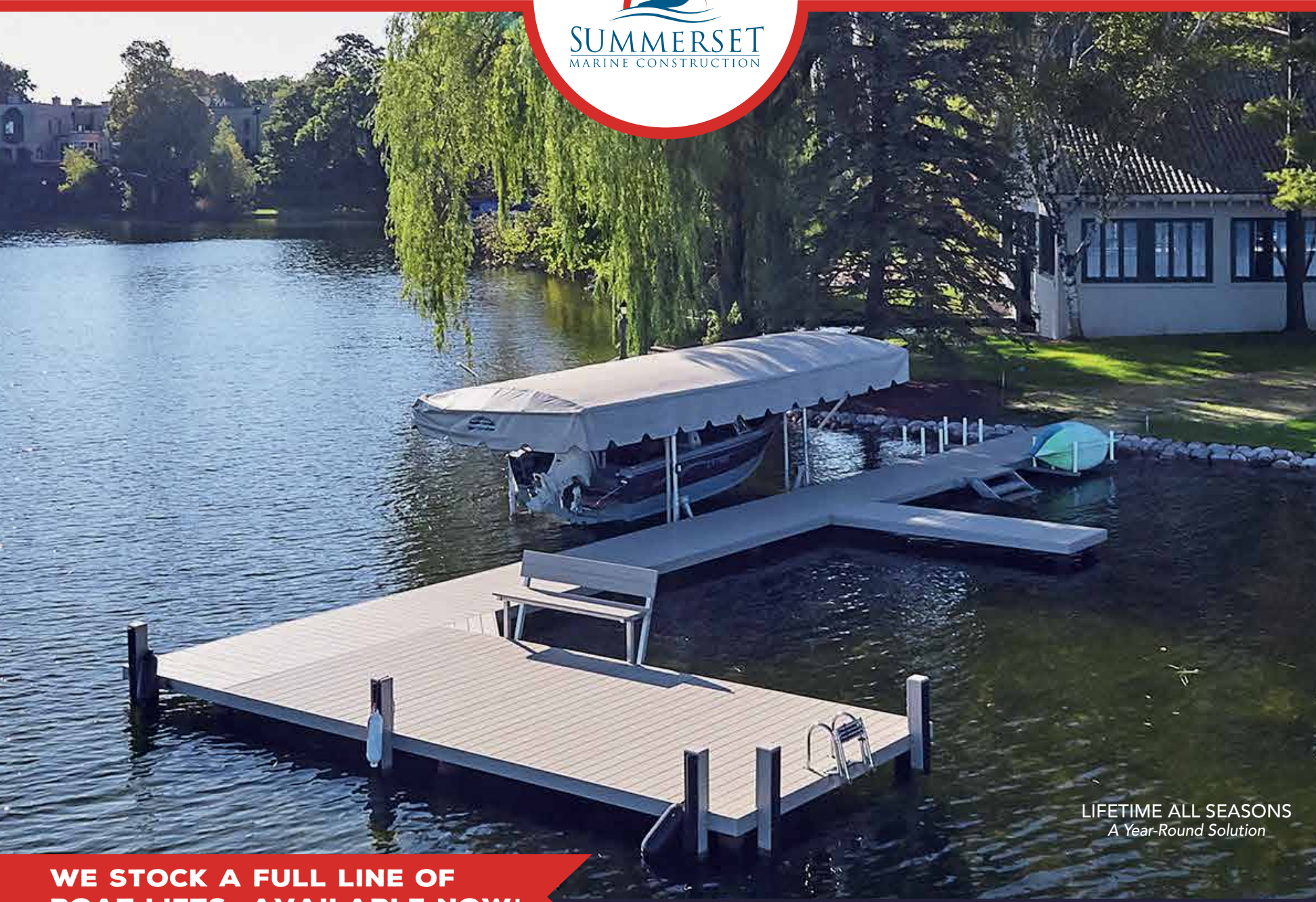
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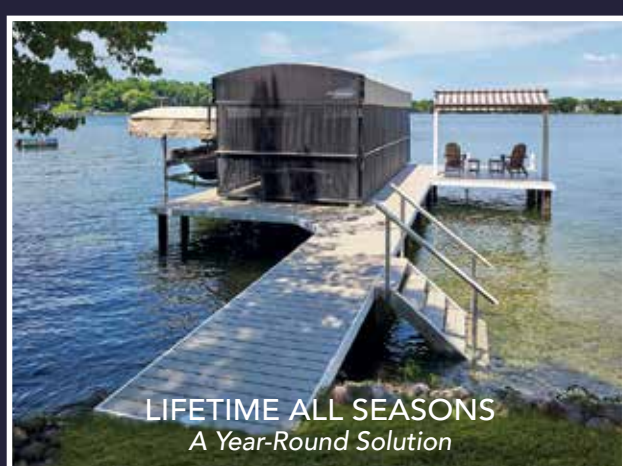


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N8115 Pleasant Lake Rd, East Troy - Spectacular Lakefront home on Pleasant Lake offering sand beach leading out to crystal clear swimming & endless sunsets is just the start. This private 5 BR, 4.5 BA home boast of 6,300 sq ft of luxury living. Vaulted ceilings throughout the main level & wood flooring, Master ensuite with 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 & waterfall. **\$1,695,700**



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 kitchen 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. **\$899,900**



W5824 North Dr, Elkhorn - Welcome to a up north feeling on 93' of level wooded Middle Lake frontage. Built in 1999 you'll find pride in ownership throughout this 3BR, 2.5BA, half log sided Ranch with finished walk-out lower level. Featuring main floor with vaulted ceiling, wall of windows lakeside, soaring stone fireplace, LR with slider to covered lanai deck, kitchen with breakfast bar, dinette and Master ensuite with access to screened porch. **\$785,900**



Lt0 West Shore Dr, Elkhorn - Green Lake vacant lakefront lot with 75' of level Sunset filled frontage on 0.65 acre lot on Lauderdale Lakes. Lot features slight wooded slope from road which leads you to level frontage and private pier. You'll appreciate the additional 50 x 100 lot across the street offering additional parking and storage. Walking distance to Lauderdale Landing and minutes to boat launch. Kettle Moraine trails 3 miles away. Build the home you've been dreaming of. **\$549,900**



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