

The **Breeze**

Serving the Delavan Lakes area

• **Phoenix Park Bandshell**

• **Shores of Delavan**

• **Local Farmer's Markets**



Phoenix Park Bandshell hosts free entertainment

There is a series of free entertainment offered each year from May to September at Phoenix Park Bandshell in Delavan.

“Kick off your shoes and dance to your favorites, or just sit back and listen,” the website states. “Bring your chairs or blankets and enjoy the music.”

Food and beverages are available for purchase during events.

Below are the remaining events scheduled for 2024.

JULY

July 18 – Praise in the Park, The Dawley’s Music Ministry, 7-9 p.m.

July 20 – Foreigner 4 Ever, Foreigner Tribute, 7-9 p.m.

July 21 – Lake Geneva

Symphony Orchestra, 4-6 p.m.

July 25 – Praise in the Park, Solid Ground, 7-9 p.m.

July 27 – Made in America, a tribute to Toby Keith, 7-9 p.m.

AUGUST

Aug. 1 – Praise in the Park, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 7-9 p.m.

Aug. 2 – Jack Farina Swing Band, 7-9 p.m.

Aug. 3 – Dancing Queen, Abba tribute, 7-9 p.m.

Aug. 8 – Praise in the Park, Harvestpoint Worship Team, 7-9 p.m.

Aug. 10 – 7th Heaven, 7-9 p.m.

Aug. 15 – Praise in the Park, First Baptist Church, 7-9 p.m.

Aug. 16 – Movies in the Park, The Little Mermaid, 8-10 p.m.

Aug. 17 – The Chicago Experience, 7-9 p.m.

Aug. 22 – Praise in the Park, United Methodist Church, 7-9 p.m.

Aug. 24 – Hypnotized Fleetwood Mac tribute, 7-9 p.m.

Aug. 29 – Praise in the Park, Sacred Agent, 7-9 p.m.

Aug. 31 – Gabriel Sanchez, The Prince Experience, 7-9 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 14 – Radio Gaga, Lady Gaga & Queen tribute, 7-9 p.m.

For more information including updates on shows in the event of questionable weather, visit phoenixparkbandshell.com or visit the Facebook page.

Phoenix Park Bandshell is at 111 E. Wisconsin St., Delavan.



DAVE DRESLOW The Breeze



The Phoenix Park Bandshell in Delavan hosts free entertainment from May to September each year, including a variety of concerts featuring tribute bands, praise nights, and local music groups. Attendees are reminded to bring their own chairs and blankets to sit on. Food and drinks are available for purchase.

Old theater in downtown Delavan hoping for new lease on life

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**
STAFF WRITER

A local businessman in Delavan has a dream – you could say, to wish upon a star.

Delavan's Jim Beall purchased the former downtown theater in 2020, hoping to restore it to its former glory.

Now, four years later, the theater has a new name – The Wishing Star Theater – and Beall and a few dedicated staff members are working to turn the building not only into a theater but a community space.

"Jim's intent on purchasing it is to restore it back to what it was, bring back the memories he has and the rest of the community shares," said Hayden Ingersoll, the theater's general manager.

Added Alyssa Bencs, production manager, "We are working toward getting grants and funding to be able to begin construction. But we need a little bit more money. And by a little bit, I mean \$2.5 million."

The plans for the theater include traveling Broadway productions and name acts, but also to provide community programming for after school, elders, and Hispanic and Latino groups.

A former stage theater, movie theater and then church, the building on the 400 Block of Walworth Avenue in Delavan has had many lives.

In 1928, the owner of Pastime Theater wanted a larger facility and decided on the site. The building was dedicated in 1929, though the name was eventually changed to Delavan Theater.

It was built with the era of silent film ending and talking movies becoming all the rage.

The theater then sat quiet for a number of years until the late 1970s, when the audience area was split in two for a two-plex cinema.

A local church later purchased the building, renovating it for its purposes.

The theater originally had an orchestra pit and a full stage, complete with wings and curtains. Bencs said that Beall grew up going to the theater, and wanted to restore it to its former glory.

"To him, it was a gathering place for the community," she explained.

The plan is to have the main theater space terraced, a flat front area that will be flat seating in the old orchestra pit area, and the stage itself as a proscenium stage, with the

tradition arch to frame the stage.

The theater space is expected to hold about 350 people, with that space decreasing if there is table and chair seating. As stated earlier, the group would like to bring in larger acts to fund the community space side of the theater.

There is educational space on the second floor of theater. Ingersoll said that he has already met with city leaders, and discovered a need for more senior and Hispanic programming.

Ingersoll and Bencs certainly have the backgrounds to help. Ingersoll was formerly involved in the reopening of The Belfry, managing that space for seven years. He has knowledge of not only management, but theater experience in AV work, equipment purchasing and installment.

Bencs, meanwhile, went to school for theater and minored in graphic design and advertising.

Between the two, they are hoping to generate interest in the project. As of early June, the theater had just under \$1 million of the \$2.5 needed, primarily through Beall's investment.

A fundraiser is planned for later in the year, and Ingersoll said they hope to have a presence at the Phoenix Bandshell concerts this summer. Bencs added that while the audiences for both will be similar, the two will not be in competition with each other, as they have different ideas about acts coming in and what to do with the space.

The group has applied for grant money as well, but won't hear on that until later this year.

"Our primary focus this summer is to get some large donors involved, get the community involved," Ingersoll said.

If interested in helping with the project, send an email to fundraising@wishingstartheater.com.

Library expansion project receives \$115,000 grant

The City of Delavan has received a \$115,000 grant from the Otto Bremer Trust to support the City's project to expand and update Aram Public Library. Plans call for adding a modern 23,000 square foot, single-level addition to the existing 12,000 -square-foot building.

"This is such wonderful news. After three years of intensive work in planning and fundraising, we are close to starting construction," Michelle Carter, Aram Library Director, said. "The design is completed and only a few final details of the financing need to be worked out. This award helps that tremendously."

Carter says the building project's cost is budgeted at \$11.2 million. The city estimates at least \$3.0 million needs to be raised from grants and public donations.

The public fundraising campaign, being coordinated by the Delavan Aram Public Library Foundation, has secured almost \$1.25 million in donations and pledges to which the OTB grant can be added.

The Otto Bremer Trust is a private charitable organization based in St. Paul, Minnesota. Created in 1944 by business and community leader Otto Bremer, the

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Special honor



The Delavan-Darien School Board honored staff and administration at a recent meeting. Among those who were recognized was Karen Logterman, who retired after serving the district for 27 years as assistant to the superintendent.

MIKE HOEY *The Breeze*

The Breeze

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Editor in Chief: Heather Ruenz
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Serving the Delavan Lake area
A publication of Southern
Lakes Newspapers LLC

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Advertising Director:
Vicki Vanderwerff
Page Designer: Jen DeGroot

on the cover: The season of spending time out on the lake is here, from an early morning fishing excursion or relaxing afternoon on a pontoon to waterskiing and wakeboarding.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *Delavan Breeze*

Shores of Delavan Lake breaks ground

By **Michael S. Hoey**
CORRESPONDENT

The official groundbreaking for the Shores of Delavan Lake by Shodeen in the Town of Delavan took place on June 6.

Several town and Shodeen representatives were present along with representatives of the Delavan Lake Sanitary District.

The development is at the intersection of Mound Road and County Highway F on the west side of the inlet. It will be a “conservation” development, meaning it will prioritize the protection of natural resources, open spaces, and agricultural land. Conservation developments typically preserve a large amount of open space or natural space in the development.

One of the benefits of the project will be an expected reduction in flooding in the Inlet Oaks subdivision to its south that will result from its construction. Storm water

runoff from the fields that currently occupy the property have led to flooding in Inlet Oaks for years.

“We look forward to growth at the Town of Delavan and the need for housing in this area is well recognized,” Town Board Chairman Mary Knipper said in a press release.

“The Shores of Delavan Lake is a welcome development by Shodeen Group that both parties began working on close to 20 years ago,” Administrator John Olson said. “Other than providing needed residential housing, the development provides benefits to the Town of Delavan in helping to reduce stormwater runoff into the Inlet Oaks Subdivision along with positive impacts to the watershed helping to improve Delavan Lake water quality.”

Concepts for the project were first presented to the town in 2005. At that time, development was planned for both sides

of the inlet. Shodeen still owns land on the east side of the inlet and some of that land is zoned for development and has been identified in the town’s and county’s Comprehensive Plans for development.

President David Patzelt said that through years of working with the town, it was decided the development would focus on the west side of the inlet and there are no current plans to develop the land on the east side.

“Shodeen has been committed to working with the Town of Delavan and the Delavan Lake Sanitary District and we are excited about the opportunity The Shores of Delavan Lake will provide to the community,” Patzelt said.

Phase One will include 114 single-family lots in a range of sizes that will allow for a variety of home sizes. In total, there will be 387 single-family homes, 64 duplex homes, and 160 multi-family homes located around a vast amount of passive

and active recreational land, according to the news release. Recreational trails will connect the homes with open spaces and existing woodlands and the development will have access to the Delavan Inlet.

Patzelt said the initial work that needs to be completed includes mass excavation, and the installation of roads, sewers, and underground electric and natural gas lines. That is expected to be completed during the current construction season. Model homes will be built within 60-90 days of the completion of that work with sales beginning by the end of 2024 or early in 2025.

Completion of future phases of the development after that will be dependent on market absorption and sales.

Patzelt said there are at least five phases planned. Some of those phases may be split into additional phases depending on home sales and product availability.

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Local students propose outdoor classroom

By **Michael S. Hoey**

CORRESPONDENT

Students at Delavan-Darien High School recently proposed the creation of a new outdoor classroom at the school.

The students presented a thorough plan to the School Board June 10 and the proposal was well received.

Ethan Kraayeveld, Joshua Brown and Ruby Hernandez-Torres made the presentation. They were all part of Christina Alonzo's AP Stats class.

According to the students, an outdoor learning environment is vital at any school because it can increase scientific knowledge and connection to nature, it improves dietary habits and overall health, and it strengthens social ties and a sense of belonging. Outdoor classrooms can reduce stress levels and improve mental well-being, create engagement with nature, and increase physical activity.

Curriculum could include engagement in hands-on activities with plant biology and ecology, application of math concepts like measurements and geometry, and developing communication skills through writing journal entries or researching and presenting information about a topic. It could also enhance history, art, and woods curriculum by exploring the historical significance of agriculture and its impact on civilization, expressing creativity in various ways, and applying woodworking skills to construct raised beds, benches, and other garden structures.

Tangible benefits the students listed included better test scores, a place for unstructured play that promotes creativity and problem-solving skills, higher grade point averages, decreased behavioral problems, and fewer symptoms of ADHD.

The students proposed several uses for the outdoor classroom. The school's highest attending advisory class could be allowed to meet there, teachers could motivate students with the promise of outdoor classes, students could expand their knowledge with greenhouse or landscape design classes.

The students identified a couple courtyards at the high school that could be converted to an outdoor classroom and they presented design options for each space. They also acknowledged that activity in an outdoor classroom could be distracting to classes inside the building and proposed some potential solutions to mitigate that possibility.

In addition, the students had a plan for maintaining the space and provided a resource/cost list for what would be needed to make it a reality. All of the information presented was backed up with source material.

Board member Kevin Hermann had a few questions but did say he thought it was a great idea. President Dave Henriott said he loved the idea. He said schools are always wondering how to get students more involved and this idea could get several classes involved.

"It opens the door to many uses," he said.

Henriott also said there were several local businesses that might be willing to step up and donate things to get it going.

Chief Operating Officer Anthony Klein said it is great any time students volunteer to help beautify a school and he commended the students for successfully presenting their plan to a large group. Klein said staff would put something together for the board to discuss and potentially vote on in July or August.



Tips for safe boat anchoring

Following basic guidelines can help ensure safety

It's no surprise that the busiest time of the year for America's recreational boat owners is, hands down, the month of July, though it generally takes place throughout the summer whenever the weather cooperates.

It also may be the time many boaters will spend the day on the water at anchor, enjoying fishing holes, raft-ups and time with family and friends.

The BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water has the following tips to help boaters spend time on the water safely at anchor.

BE ANCHOR SMART

Before heading out, make sure your anchoring gear is up to snuff including that the bitter end is secured. You may not have used it yet this boating season, so be sure all is good to go for whatever anchoring arrangement – a picnic hook, extra fenders for a raft-up, or shoreside tie-up requiring a second line.

When arriving to your gathering spot and setting anchor, ensure you let out enough scope for the depth, and predicted weather conditions.

Show some courtesy if things get crowded. On the other hand, don't be that guy who runs into an anchorage throwing a wake or who is completely oblivious to

those around him.

DON'T STRESS IT

Anchoring tends to be a long day on the water. Be careful with stressors including noise, vibration, sun, wind, waves, and other motion.

U.S. Coast Guard research shows that four hours of exposure to these can produce a kind of fatigue, or "boater's hypnosis," which slows reaction time almost as much as if you were legally drunk. Adding alcohol makes it worse.

For your boat, don't stress your battery playing music all day. TowBoatUS reports calls to its 24-hour dispatch for battery jump services surge – as if on cue – at the end of the day when boaters want to head home.

GET HOME SAFELY

Before departing an anchorage, wait to turn on the engine until everyone is back aboard and ladder is up. If in a crowded area, proceed with utmost caution.

It's always better to wait a few minutes for everyone to clear out and give a chance for wakes to subside before departing. Be patient and, again, give as much courtesy as you can.

Everyone aboard should be acting as a lookout. Never take a

shortcut home after dark.

AVOID CO POISONING

Generators give boaters the creature comforts they want. However, don't run the generator if you've got swimmers in the water at the back of the boat – a common place for guests to congregate on floats and pool toys. This is where exhaust ports often located, spewing dangerous, odorless carbon monoxide.

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water is a national leader promoting safe, clean and responsible boating.

Funded primarily by donations from the nearly 800,000 members of Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS), the nonprofit provides innovative educational outreach directly to boaters and anglers with the aim of reducing accidents and fatalities, increasing stewardship of America's waterways and keeping boating safe for all.

A range of safe and clean boating courses – including the nation's largest free online boating safety course – can be found on the foundation's website.

For more information, visit boatus.org.

The July 4 holiday kicked off what is generally the busiest time of year for recreational boat owners including many who spend time at anchor. The BoatUS Foundation offers several tips to help boaters safely anchor while out on the water.

Settlement reached for high school tennis courts

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**

STAFF WRITER

The Delavan-Darien School District recently announced it has reached a resolution with Scherrer Construction regarding cracks that have developed on the renovated tennis courts.

The school district had been looking at possible litigation with Scherrer to reach an agreement over who should pay for what in resolving the situation with the tennis courts.

The tennis courts at the high school were constructed as part of the referendum-approved rehabilitation of Borg Stadium.

Cracks developed very quickly and the district and Scherrer have been negotiating a solution to the problem. Scherrer had offered to repair the courts themselves with a mesh patch, and that was accepted by the board.

An additional problem, though, involved

the spectator area, where asphalt had not held up against chairs placed by fans watching the matches.

In the last few months, the district, Scherrer, and Point of Beginning had been working together to find a solution. A May 31 news release from the district said an agreement was reached to resolve the issues at no additional cost to district taxpayers.

"We are extremely fortunate to have partners like Scherrer Construction and Point of Beginning who stand behind their work and are committed to resolving issues promptly and effectively," said Anthony Klein, Chief Operating Officer of the Delavan-Darien School District.

"Their willingness to address the problem ensures that our facilities remain safe and in excellent condition for our students and community," he added.

David Henriott, School Board President, said the resolution, "is a testament to the strong collaboration between the

District, Scherrer Construction, and Point of Beginning. We appreciate their commitment to quality and their proactive approach in addressing the issue. Our students and community deserve the best facilities, and this agreement helps us achieve that."

In a detailed letter to the school district dated May 21, Scherrer proposed the following labor and materials to fix the issues, at no cost to the district:

- Replace the center viewing area asphalt with concrete
- Clean the pavement by pressure washing to remove all embedded dirt and debris
- Mark low spots and level as necessary with Laykold Deep Patch, as well as fill structural cracks and all joints in asphalt with the same material
- Scrape and machine sand deep path areas after drying as needed to eliminate high spots

- Install a fiberglass membrane over the courts
 - Seal the entire pavement with one coat of black Laykold acrylic resurfacer
 - Seal pavement with a second coat of resurfacer
 - Seal playing area pavement with two coats of Laykold Colorflex
 - Seal out of bounds pavement inside the fence with two coats of Colorflex
 - Mask, prime and paint 2 inch white lines for eight 36 feet by 78 feet tennis courts
 - Mask, prime and paint 1.5 inch light blue lines for four 20 feet by 44 feet pickleball courts, striped over the tennis court lines but that will stop short and not cross primary tennis court lines.
- The district will remove and rehang nets and other objects from the court area.
- Repairs are scheduled to begin soon, and a detailed timeline is expected in the near future.



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Guide to buying a pontoon

By **Valerie Streif**
CONTRIBUTOR

Do you dream about getting on the water every weekend during the summer months? Looking for a new way to bring your family together while enjoying the outdoors? Have you always wanted to own a pontoon to be able to provide a fun space on the water for your favorite people?

If the answer is yes, and buying a pontoon is on your radar, we've got all your questions and concerns covered.

Pontoons are one of the most popular choices of pleasure craft, thanks to their comfort and versatility. You can enjoy almost any activity on a pontoon — sunbathing, fishing, and water sports like tubing, and there's plenty of space onboard for all passengers to be comfortable. They are also great for exploring, since you can easily beach a pontoon on a sandbar or remote beach for a camping trip.

Need to stop for a swim? A pontoon's swim ladder will be easy to climb back on the boat, and many pontoons have ample storage space for putting your floating mats and inflatables once you're back to cruising.

THE PROS AND CONS

Purchasing a boat is a huge decision, and there are plenty of considerations to take before you hand over the money. Of course, you've got to take your own personal circumstances, budget, logistics, and more into consideration, and we can't make a firm recommendation one way or another — but if you're weighing your options, here are some of the reasons on either side that we've found to be true.

THE PROS

- Smooth cruising — often considered the SUV of the water, a pontoon offers a stable and smooth ride. That's because the boat's weight distribution across the toons provides extra stability when cruising on rough water, and as a result, pontoons rarely capsize.

- Their wide turn radius, while an objective limitation, actually results in a smoother overall ride when you're not trying to turn on a dime, which is perfect for cruising with small children or elderly folks. They also often have features like nosecones and wave tamers that act like shock absorbers, so you won't feel the impact as you cruise over small waves and chop.

- Family friendly — a pontoon for families of any size will provide the best atmosphere for most everyone. Pontoons have high railings to keep small children contained, plenty of space for teenagers to bring their friends on board, and the ability to tow kids for fun water sports.

It's a great multi-generational boat, too,



There are many factors to consider when looking to purchase a pontoon boat, from how family friendly and versatile different styles are to maintenance and other expected costs. BoatUS offers guidelines that can help with the decision-making process.

GODFREY PONTOON BOATS PHOTO
The Breeze

because it's very easy to board for older family members, and grandma and grandpa will appreciate the smooth ride.

- Versatility — while pontoons don't necessarily excel at any one specific type of water, the benefit is that it's a great all-around pick for just about anything you'd want to do out on a casual boat day: water sports, fishing, lounging, picnics, or exploring remote areas.

- Because of their open design and spacious seating, they're also great for hosting an event on the water and getting together with your favorite people.

- Easy to maintain — because pontoons are powered by outboard engines, they are easier to service and require much less maintenance than inboard motors and other styles of boats. As long as you properly winterize your pontoon, you shouldn't need to do too much maintenance or upkeep to have it running smoothly.

- It's very easy to clean — you can hose off most surfaces and easily wipe away any mess that is made while having fun on the water.

THE CONS

- Water sport limitations — while you can have some fun on tubes or water skis with a pontoon, you can't do everything as well as a standard power boat, due both to

a combination of speed limitations and the type of engine. The max speed on pontoons is typically around 40 mph, with most boats operating between 28–35 mph.

- The wake is also wider, which is less ideal for wakeboarding. But most importantly, wake surfing should never be done behind a pontoon — since they have outboard engines, riders would need to be unsafely close to the motor to wake surf.

- Bad weather limitations — storms with high winds and large waves are dangerous for any boat, but especially a pontoon. Without a V-shaped hull, they can't cut through high waves effectively, so in a bad storm, pontoons are easily swamped in these conditions.

- Don't go out on your pontoon if there is a storm risk, and of course, always be vigilant about changing weather patterns when out on the water.

- Wide turn radius — due to their wide turning radius, pontoons might be tricky to handle for new boaters, so it's a good idea to practice in safe conditions and always be very cautious when docking or navigating in a tight space.

- Depreciation — if you plan to own a boat for only a few years and then resell it, a pontoon might not be the best choice for you. While a boat loses its value after the initial purchase, regardless of style,

pontoons lose their value faster than a lot of other types of boats: about 25% of the resale value after just a couple of years of ownership.

This depreciation is because there is less demand for older pontoon models in the used boat market, and because pontoons are often used more frequently than other types, it's assumed there is more wear-and-tear on them than other styles.

This isn't a problem if you plan on having a pontoon boat for life, but it is something to consider if you're not sure how long owning a boat will be a part of your lifestyle.

COSTS TO KEEP IN MIND

Pontoons can range dramatically from simple, budget-friendly models to luxurious vessels with state-of-the-art features and high-performance engines, so of course, there's a huge range in prices. Though on average, a mid-market pontoon will generally cost somewhere between \$18,000 and \$60,000.

If you want to spend as little as possible, you can often find used options from a boat dealer for as little as \$15,000. However, with cheaper and older models, it's a good idea to have a professional boat mechanic

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

PONTOON • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

inspect it before you commit to buying.

On the more expensive side, luxury pontoons from a top manufacturer will cost well over \$100,000, some even closer to \$200,000, when they're customized with special amenities like waterslides, grills, and luxurious features.

If you plan on owning your pontoon boat for a long time, buying a new one might be a better decision since you can enjoy the manufacturer's warranty and be assured that you do the proper upkeep and maintenance. With a used boat, you run the risk of issues caused by the previous owner that could be costly down the road.

OTHER EXPENSES

In addition to the purchase price of a pontoon, plan on spending between \$2,000-\$5,000 extra annually for repairs, storage, and other expenses, like:

- Insurance – while boat insurance is not always a mandated requirement or a state law, insuring your boat is highly, highly

recommended to cover yourself in case of damages to your boat or injuries to others when out on the water.

The annual cost for boat insurance ranges between \$150-\$400 annually, but this can be higher depending on the level of coverage and the condition and year of your pontoon. Check out our partner at Boat Charter Insurance for their great rates and offerings for insurance.

- Taxes, Title, and registration fees – these expenses will vary from state to state and country to country. You'll want to see what you'll need by visiting your state's DNR website and seeing the fees for your pontoon registration.

- Marina and docking fees – if you don't own waterfront property with a dock where you plan to store your boat and don't want to deal with the hassle of trailering your boat every time you use it, you'll need to explore options for docking at a marina. Marinas can cost anywhere from \$2,000 to over \$15,000 annually for a docking slip,

depending on the local area's demand and exclusivity.

- Maintenance – despite the efforts of even the most cautious boat owners who take great care of their vessels, pontoons that are frequently used, hauled around, and enjoyed will experience wear and tear. Annual maintenance costs for a pontoon owner will vary depending on many factors, but you should expect to spend a minimum of \$1,000 annually on basic maintenance.

- Fuel – the frequency with that you use your pontoon will determine your fuel costs, but overall the cost to fill up a pontoon with gas ranges between \$150-300 depending on the size of the pontoon's tank. This cost can fluctuate since local fuel dock prices can change without warning, so it's best to set aside some extra cash in your pontoon fuel account.

- Accessories – other costs that you'll need to expect when you first buy a pontoon are the essential accessories like a trailer and safety gear for onboard like a first aid

kit, lifejackets, other floatation devices, an anchor, ropes and lines, and a boat cooler for keeping your drinks and food cold when out on the water. While these are all much smaller expenses than the cost of the boat, they do add up to a significant price when you're first starting out.

MAINTENANCE TIPS

Now that you've got your beautiful pontoon, you've got to take proper care of the thing. Routine maintenance and upkeep will help prevent mechanical issues and ensure you get as much quality time on the water with your pontoon during every boating season.

CHECKLIST:

- Always cover your pontoon when it's not in use. Whether that involves a shaded dock slip or pulling a fitted cover over the boat, keeping your pontoon's interior

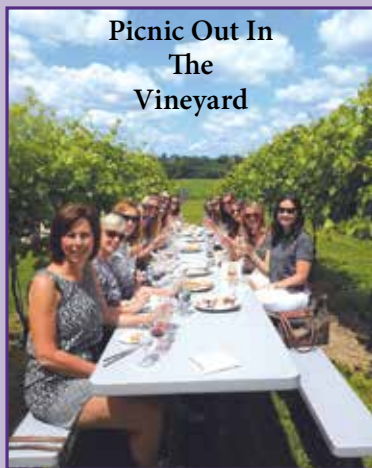
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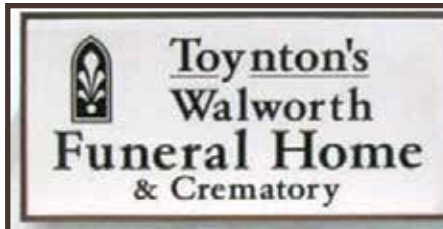
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Wischer leads the way in Day Services

By Thom Aiello
VIP DAY SERVICES

Every successful organization needs strong leadership. At VIP Service's Day Service program, that leadership derives from Megan Wischer, the Team Lead.

Wischer began at VIP in late August of 2022 and became the first VIP team lead under Ryan Schaefer, Day Services manager, in June of 2023. She had her CNA certification and was pursuing different avenues with that degree when she was offered the position.

"She was organized and very detailed in what she does," said Schaefer of selecting Wischer for the position. "She truly enjoys what this is, what it becomes. Also, she is a good mentor for people; she understands this philosophy. Much like myself, she looks to the future...She likes the challenge.

"Her duties are always going to expand because essentially, she's the leader of day-to-day activities. She is the point of contact other staff may have – trips and scheduling. As things evolve, she will be more involved in caseload, things like that."

How has her role changed since accepting the position?

"I think, obviously, there



Megan Wischer

is more paperwork. There is more in-depth understanding of the finance department," said Wischer, who also supervises a full-time and part-time staff of eight in Day Services. "Everyone knows the schedules and everyone's schedule is similar."

She trains new staff and utilizes a more hands-on approach with leading it.

Wischer said VIP is not as selective or limited with "what people think we are capable of," citing activities such as helping with Meals on Wheels, cleaning parks and even helping cut down trees, among other things. Current staff initiatives involve people being out in communities five days a week.

"Being friends trickles outside of work," said Wischer. "It's hard to be a leader and then to be friends as it's supposed to be a staff member you oversee. I try to be a mentor; that's the way I see it more. Outside of work, [I'm] very supportive."

Wischer lives in Delavan with her partner of 4.5 years, Joe, a biological son (Jacob) and two stepdaughters (Ella and Maddie). Because of how she protects them, she said the children call her Mama Bear.

Her background includes 14

years of working at Homes for Independent Living in Waukesha, the post office for three years in Waukesha, in-home elderly care for a short time and then VIP because "I wanted to get back to working with adults with disabilities. My passion is mental illness and I looked up VIP. The rest is history."

She attended Gateway Technical College to gain her CNA degree and was going to pursue it all the way to being an RN.

"I have a lot of medical experience, but not the degree to back it up," she said.

"I think society is afraid of people with disabilities," she added. "We all bleed red. My main goal, my passion, is for society to accept people who are different because of disability."

Wischer said she is not sure if she will go back to school, but she wants to keep advancing in her career.

"I always want to grow," she said.

Keep an eye on VIP's Facebook page and YouTube channel for videos that document Day Services adventures.

For more information, including those interested in becoming part of the Day Services program, contact VIP at 262-723-4043 or vip@vipservices-inc.org.



The Adopt A Highway program at VIP was the idea of, and implemented by, Megan Wischer. She contacted Walworth County officials about starting the voluntary program. The area the group covers is on Highway H. She also organized having VIP involved with delivering Meals on Wheels on a regular basis.

SUBMITTED PHOTO The Breeze

Officials issue safety reminders for fair season

The fair season has begun in Wisconsin and the state Department of Health Services issued some safety reminders for people visiting animals at various fairs.

The state health department, which noted animals can carry diseases that can make people sick, said visitors should follow a few simple recommendations.

"Fairs and petting zoos are very

popular and if you're visiting one this summer, take precautions to protect yourself and your family," said DHS State Public Health Veterinarian Angie Maxted. "The best tool we have to prevent disease is the simplest: washing your hands after any contact with animals or after being in areas where animals are present. And if any animals appear sick, do not touch them at all."

For people attending fairs or petting zoos, the DHS recommend visitors wash their hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based sanitizer after touching animals or leaving areas with animals.

Additional recommendations include staying away from animals, including cattle, pigs, or other domesticated animals that appear sick, as well as barns or areas where sick animals are held.

Once people return home, the DHS

suggests changing clothes to mitigate the spread of potential diseases.

"Fair and exhibition season is always an exciting time here in America's Dairyland," said Secretary Randy Romanski, of the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

"DATCP and DHS are working together to provide clear and consistent communication to industry about highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) (H5N1), including what is happening in other states and biosecurity measures to reduce risk of infection for humans and animals."

"Direct or indirect contact with infected animals has been linked to human infections caused by influenza A viruses," said DHS Respiratory Disease Epidemiologist Tom Haupt. "It's an important reminder to take precautions when touching animals during fair

season, at petting zoos, or whenever you're around animals. Talk to your health care provider if you have any respiratory symptoms or feel sick after coming into contact with animals."

This year's fair season takes place as DHS and DATCP continue to monitor cases of the highly pathogenic avian flu in dairy herds, wild birds, and domestic poultry flocks.

The recent infections in dairy herds have led to three human cases in dairy workers who were in direct contact with infected animals, according to state officials.

Currently, Wisconsin has had no confirmed cases of avian flu in dairy cattle, poultry, or humans.

The DHS and DATCP continue to support Wisconsin's agricultural industry in taking action to test animals, protect workers, and keep the public informed.



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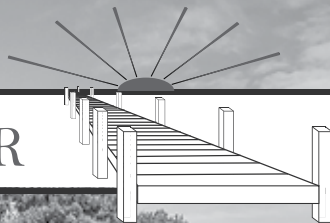
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LIBRARY EXPANSION

• CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

trust is committed to supporting an enhanced quality of life for residents of Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, and Wisconsin. Since its founding, it has invested more than one billion dollars in its region's people, places, and opportunities.

This month the trust announced awards of 170 grants totaling \$14.7 million. Forty-three grants were made to Wisconsin organizations in an amount of \$2,635,000. Of these, the Aram Public Library grant was the third largest.

The final architectural plans for Delavan's new library, which was prepared by FEH Design of Dubuque, Iowa, were approved by the Library's Board of Trustees in May. The floor plan and a "fly-through" video can be seen at aramlibrary.org under Donate. The plan can also be viewed at Aram Public Library.

Donations in support of the project can be made through the web site or mailed to: Delavan Aram Public Library Foundation, 404 W. Walworth, Delavan.

For more information, contact Wayne Osborn, president of the Delavan Aram Public Library Foundation Board of Directors at 262-725-6183.

PONTOON • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

covered when it is docked is crucial to prevent fading of the interior cushions. You'll also want to keep rain and bugs out, so a fitted cover is ideal, even if your dock slip is covered.

– Winterize your pontoon properly and, ideally, store it indoors. Climate-controlled storage will help preserve your pontoon and prevent damage caused by freezing and expanding liquids.

– If you're boating in salt water, be sure to flush the engine after every time you're on the water. Prevent corrosion and salt build-up by periodically cleaning the bottom of your pontoon.

– Regularly check for any leaks or dents in your boat. Finding a leak early can help prevent costly damage. Thankfully, pontoons are less susceptible to damage on the hull due to their ability to cruise in shallow waters, but you can still end up bumping into obstacles in the water, which would be cause for concern.

For information on the maintenance of your boat, check out our guides on how to fix a drowned outboard engine, how to avoid stainless steel corrosion, and guide to care for boat surfaces.

TEST DRIVE

Is buying a pontoon worth it? It depends on the individual user, obviously, but doing your research, calculating all the expenses, and comparing them to your budget is essential. And we think the best way to research pontoons is to experience them firsthand — by renting them out and testing different makes and models.

Just like test driving a car, you'll want to test drive a boat before you buy it, and it's even better when you can make a whole boat day out of your test drive!

On Getmyboat, you can find pontoon rentals that you can drive yourself to get the full feel and experience. The perfect pontoon for you will depend on the type of boating experience you desire.

For more information, visit getmyboat.com.

Valerie Streif, marketing manager for Getmyboat, is a communications specialist for the world of boating.



Helping honor the past

A fundraiser for the City of Delavan's Civil War Muster Tree was recently held at Phoenix Park, with music and other entertainment. Money raised went to the Delavan Historical Society. From the top: members of Delavan's Dance Factory performed; The First Brigade Band played at the event; City of Delavan Mayor Ryan Schroeder got a pie in the face as part of the fundraising efforts.

DAVE DRESHOW *The Breeze*

Keep it fresh at **local farmers markets**

Markets throughout the area vary as far as the number of vendors on any given week as well as the items available.

But they seem to share a common goal – featuring products from a variety of locals, including farms, growers, artisans, and others.

Here are a few farmers markets in the area.

DELANAN Market at Tower Park

Home-grown & hand-crafted items, fresh produce, eggs, baked goods, plants, and more. Join community organizations, vendors and neighbors 3 to 6 p.m., Thursdays.

The market is at Tower Park, between Walworth Avenue and Park Place in historic downtown Delavan.

For more information, call 262-728-5095 or email info@delavanwi.org.

ELKHORN Saturdays on the Square

This farmers market is on Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. It features a variety of fresh produce, crafts, commercial products and more. Vendors set-up on a first come first serve basis with plenty of room for all. Find food trucks and a morning workout on the square!

Held at Veterans Park, 100 W. Walworth St., Elkhorn. For more information, email info@elkhornchamber.com.

LAKE GENEVA Farmers Market

Held 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursdays in Lake Geneva. Farmers, artisans, craftsmen and vendors offer up some of the area's very best. Held rain or shine.

Horticultural Hall is at 330 Broad St., Lake Geneva. For more information, visit horticulturalhall.com.

Geneva Outdoor Market

Lake Geneva House of Music presents the Geneva Outdoor Market, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sundays. Celebrating local farmers, producers, food and beverage vendors, and artisans.

Held on the Lake Geneva House of Music festival grounds, N3241 County Trunk H, Lake Geneva. For more information, email chris@LGHOM.com.

WHITEWATER City Market

The City Market is held Tuesdays, 4 to 7 p.m. near the Depot, 301 Whitewater St.

It brings area farmers, artisans, food carts, and the community together to create a celebration of what is local and includes music as well as kids' activities.

For more information, follow Whitewater City Market on Facebook or email whitewatercitymarket@gmail.com.

Farmers Market

The Whitewater Farmers Market is open Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon in the Depot parking lot, 301 W. Whitewater St.

This producer only market features a variety of locally grown produce, eggs, baked goods, flowers, artisan crafts and more.

For more information, follow Whitewater Farmers Market on Facebook or visit whitewaterfarmersmarket.com.

WILLIAMS BAY Farmers Market

The market is held 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fridays in Edgewater Park on E. Geneva St. Each week features new activities or vendors, such as kid activities, dog days, and special events. No farmers market on Aug. 9 due to Corn & Brat Festival.

For more information, email williamsbayfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

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