

The **Breeze**

Serving the Geneva Lakes area



Walk the Shore Path

Area Happenings

Places to go Fishing

Highway 12 under major construction this summer

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation will be resurfacing Highway 12 from the interchange in Elkhorn to Highway 20, replacing the bridge over Sugar Creek and reconstructing the intersection of Highways 12 and ES to replace the stop signs with

signals – making for a busy construction season.

According to a news release from WisDOT, the roadway surface needs replacement to restore a smooth driving surface and limit future maintenance, while the bridge over Sugar Creek is at its intended service life.

The intersection of Highway 12 and ES, meanwhile, has been identified as a spot location for safety improvements. The new intersection will be signalized, and ES will be realigned to provide more suitable roadway approaches for the signal.

The bridge replacement is expected to take about three and a half months to complete and requires Highway 12 to be closed with a posted detour along I-43 and Highway 20.

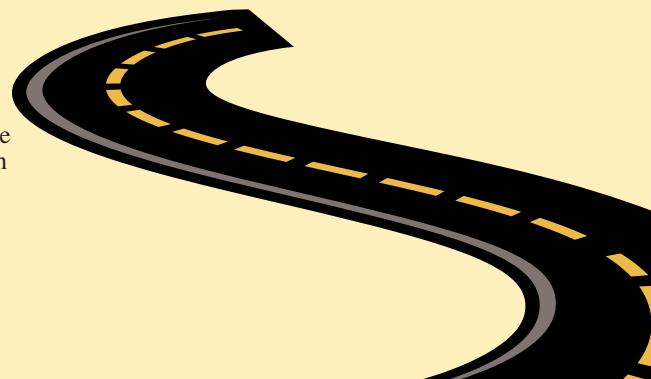
Local traffic with a destination within the work zone – between Elkhorn and Highway 20 – can still use Highway 12 either north or south of the bridge to reach their destination.

Roadway resurfacing will be accomplished with traffic flagging around work operations, which may cause some delays. Both the resurfacing and reconstruction of Highway 12 and ES will be completed while the road closure is set for the bridge

replacement.

A separate WisDOT project – on Highway 11 northeast of Elkhorn to replace a large box culvert – will require Highway 11 to be closed between I-43 and Highway 67 for about eight weeks. A detour route has been posted.

WisDOT will be sending an informational mailer to residents within a half mile of the projects prior to the start of construction, which will include specific information on construction dates.



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Premium wedding bakery takes the cake

Illinois native relocates to Walworth for wedding cake opportunity

By **Jim McClure**
CORRESPONDENT

Every small entrepreneur has a dream, but Julie Michelle Lopez's came with a horse stall, a heartache, a husband and a hope fulfilled beyond belief.

One of the Southern Lakes wedding trade's high-end makers of baked marital marvels, Julie Michelle Cakes began not in a kitchen but in a hopeless situation. Recognized recently by Wisconsin Bride's Editor's Choice Best Cake, Lopez's triumph in reaching the top of the wedding dessert pyramid began in the humblest of places just south of the Wisconsin border.

Her train of thought from the end of the line for most people's ambitions took her to the end of the Chicago commuter railroad line in Harvard, Illinois, just south of Walworth County's Sharon and Walworth on Highway 14.

"In 2009, my entire world turned upside down when my family and I lost our home in foreclosure, displacing us and leaving us nearly homeless," Lopez said, whose unstoppable dreams were both balm and motivator.

"At my early morning job cleaning 30 horse stalls, I was treated like the very manure I shoveled," she added. "It was during those hot days when I spent hours in the paddocks, that I thought about what I was going to do about my future, and where life would lead me next."

And so, the then-21 year old took the



ride of a lifetime.

"I could still get to Chicago, and I wanted to go to Culinary School," she explained. "I traveled by train four hours a day, two hours each way," said Lopez with a bittersweet smile borne of pain and a happy ending when her business was founded in 2013.

Her journey by train and pure moxie would take her from school and small restaurant jobs from serving cocktails to aching hands in kitchen work to finally find herself in her arena of the future – cooking cakes.

The climb continued up a hard-fought ladder that finally found her where she is today. A maker of the best of confections charging twice the average at Chicago rates and doing land office business that has captured the attention of brides and top bakers from Lake Geneva to New York.

Heartache to hope

It was in the Big Apple that Lopez foresaw her ultimate dream.

"I was standing in line at an

establishment that had a long line down the sidewalk," Lopez reflected with a different smile of wanting fulfilled.

"My heart ached," she added. "I wanted to have a line like that for my own store one day."

Now in a newly opened location in Walworth, Lopez has the best of everything a baker could want, as she designs and crafts with her top-quality baker husband, Jaime, a Mexican immigrant success story extraordinaire in his own right.

She introduced her new location with a sampling event – inviting residents and passersby to come to Julie Michelle Cakes just east of the intersection of Wisconsin 67 and Highway 14.

Wouldn't you know it? They were lined up far down the sidewalk.

Julie was invited to speak to graduates at her pasty school alma mater. As she closed her address, she told the hopeful where she once was:

"The road ahead of you may be long but will be worth it. Every struggle you endure will make you stronger," she said.

The Breeze

Serving the Geneva Lakes Area
A publication of Southern Lakes Newspapers LLC

1102 Ann Street, Delavan, WI 53115

(262) 728-3411

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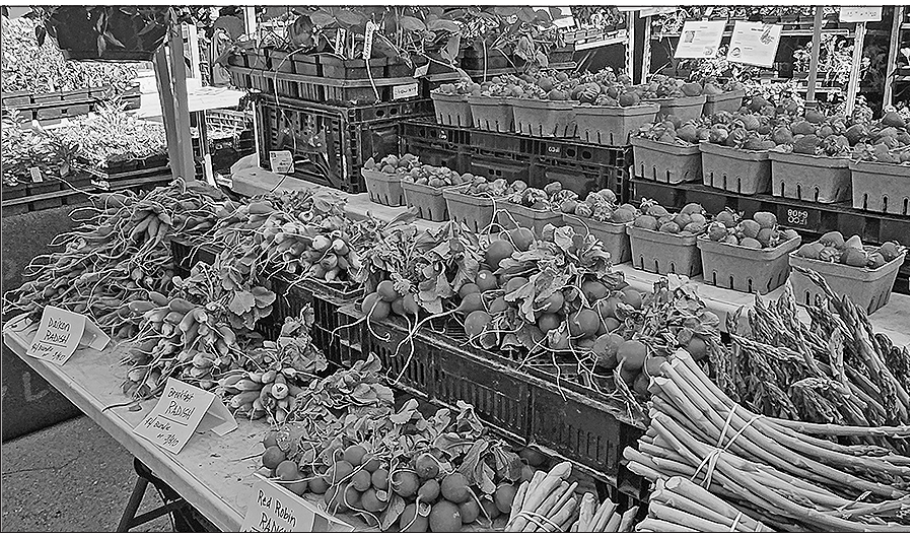
on the cover: Summer along the Geneva Lake Shore Path features the colorful blooms of flowers and bustling activity on the lake. The path is open to public access and travels around the entire lake.

HEIDI SCHULZ *The Breeze*

above: Julie Michelle Lopez and her husband, Jaime, are now running Julie Michelle Cakes in Walworth.

KRISTINA LORRAINE PHOTOGRAPHY *The Breeze*

• AREA HAPPENINGS



At the market in early June, radishes, asparagus and strawberries were among the produce available.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ The Breeze

July 26: Thrill of the Grill at Lake Geneva School of Cooking

From appetizer to dessert, get fired up about grilling. Enjoy a sparkling wine reception with Parmigiano Popovers as Chef introduces himself and goes over some of his favorite grilling recipes and demonstrates some basic cuts and important safety techniques before getting broken up into teams.

Then let the “hands-on” cooking begin while learning professional techniques for charring and searing as well as how to keep meats, seafood, fruits and vegetables tender, juicy, and flavorful.

After all the cooking is done, everyone will sit down for a fine dining experience with a gourmet meal.

Classes are 6 to 10 p.m. at Lake Geneva School of Cooking, 727 Geneva St. For more information, email info@lakegenevaschoolofcooking.com.

Lake Geneva Concerts in the Park

Soak up the sounds of summer! Gather your lawn chairs, picnic blankets and dancing shoes and visit the breathtaking shore of Geneva Lake as Concerts in the Park returns to the Brunk Family Pavilion in Flat Iron Park, 201 Wrigley Dr., Lake Geneva.

The concerts are free and fun for all ages. Here's the lineup for this summer:

- July 11 – Big Dog Mercer Band, sponsored by Kunes Chevrolet Buick GMC of Lake Geneva
- July 18 – Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra, sponsored by Maxwell Mansion
- July 25 – Zydeco Voodoo Band, sponsored by Visit Lake Geneva
- Aug. 1 – Haulin' Brass, sponsored by Habush, Habush & Rottier
- Aug. 8 – Natty Nation, sponsored by Lake Geneva Balloon Company

Daily, through Aug. 30: 'We Like to Dive Right In'

A Wisconsin History Makers Tour that's available daily on the Lake Geneva Public Library grounds, 918 W. Main St.

Did you know there are more than 700 shipwrecks in Wisconsin waters? They are a key resource for learning about maritime history. Though written documents provide much information about the past, they cannot tell the full story. Dive in and see the outdoor display to explore how underwater archaeologists uncover, document, and preserve this lost history.

The History Makers Tour is presented by

Culver's and is made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Fontana Music in the Park

In conjunction with Fontana's 100th Anniversary Celebration, concerts will be held, 3 to 5 p.m. on the following Sundays:

July 7 – Claire Kelly; July 21 – Brothers Quinn; Aug. 11 – South for Winter; Aug. 25 – Great Sax Band; Sept. 1 – Tae.

The concerts will be held at the Reid Park gazebo. Guests should bring their own chairs; no alcohol is permitted on site. Reid Park is off Fontana Boulevard and Third Avenue.

Local Farmers Markets

Lake Geneva Farmer's Market

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

Horticultural Hall is at 330 Broad St., Lake Geneva. For more information, visit horticulturalhall.com (and read the story featured in this issue.)

Williams Bay Farmers Market

Williams Bay Farmers Market is a boutique Friday market, held 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., with a variety of farmers, makers and bakers with home-grown, hand-made, and home-made foods and goods. All local produce, fresh cooked dishes, baked goods, sweet treats, fresh flowers, hand-made jewelry, hand-designed art and décor, soaps, and gifts.

Edgewater Park is on Geneva Street, Williams Bay. For more information, email williamsbayfarmersmarket@gmail.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 beverages 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.

The calendar of events is compiled from a variety of sources including area chambers of commerce and visitor bureaus and contains events available as of press time.

Dates and times may change, and events may be canceled. Please verify details and locations prior to making plans.

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A summer walk along the lake

THE GENEVA LAKE SHORE PATH OFFERS PLENTY OF SIGHTS

By **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

Residents and visitors alike can spend time this summer in an activity unique to this area – a walk along the Geneva Lake Shore Path. The popular walking trail travels around the entire lake, roughly 26 miles in all. But there are several areas to enter the path, which offers flexibility in the length of a hike.

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 in Library Park on the shore in Lake Geneva 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,” it reads.

These wealthy Chicagoans made their way to the shores of Geneva Lake after the Chicago Fire of 1871, remember 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, theirs were actually mansions, large and elegant, much as their homes in Chicago.

Wives and children would come to the lake for the summer, with their servants, while the husbands would commute up on 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 a view of them can be enjoyed while in a boat on the lake or walking the shore path.

Over the years many of these 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 depending on who you ask, they are generally still a gorgeous sight from the shore.

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 that the lakefront would remain available for all to enjoy. Each property owner is still required to maintain the path through their property, which has made each section of the path unique.

Just as each estate itself has a different look, the shore path offers many different looks as walkers move from one property to the next.

Not all property owners were pleased to have strangers walking through their property and some tried to discourage visitors from traveling across by making the section of trail on their property

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

above: Regardless of what time of day is spent out on the path, there are beautiful views to be enjoyed. **at right:** A colorful row of chairs line a pier on Geneva Lake as seen from the shore path, which travels around the entire lake.

HEIDI SCHULZ *The Breeze*



YMCA continues to explore expansion

The Geneva Lakes Family YMCA announced the sale of land it had owned at N2085 Highway H initially planned for the group's future location.

"The purchase of this land in 2019 was the best location in Lake Geneva at that time," said CEO Mike Kramp, of Geneva Lakes Family YMCA. "Since that purchase, we have run into several barriers allowing us to move forward."

He said within six months of purchasing the land, they were faced with a world wide pandemic.

"As a result, this had an extensive impact on this project, as initial interest and financial support were redirected. Once we got back on track years later, our needs and design changed, no longer requiring such a large footprint," Kramp said.

According to a news release, the YMCA continues to explore other location options including the Hillmoor property.

Hillmoor is one opportunity that has been discussed with the City of Lake Geneva. While it seems to be

a centrally located site, and the community survey conducted by Visionary Philanthropic Consulting in 2023 showed significant community support for the move, there is still much discussion regarding an integrated approach for the use of the property.

"Alderman Shari Straube, who is the City of Lake Geneva Liaison for the YMCA and myself have met with the YMCA Board of Directors," said Todd Krause, new Mayor of Lake Geneva,

"I understand the growing needs of the YMCA and the value this organization brings to the community; however, this is not just the decision of the City Council, it is up to the residents of the City of Lake Geneva. Once all options are considered for the Hillmoor Property and discussed, a referendum would be presented to the City of Lake Geneva residents for their voice."

The YMCA is also considering other options within the City of Lake Geneva, which include doing a complete renovation/rebuild of their current facility located at 203 S. Wells St. or continuing to pursue other locations within

Lake Geneva.

While the Geneva Lakes Family YMCA is and always will have a location in Lake Geneva, the growth in programming, the overall rise in health and wellness activity, and the increase in local population have presented the opportunity for the YMCA to expand by opening a second branch in Delavan.

"In our pursuit to increase space and programming for over 10,000 members and community residents we serve, the opportunity to open a branch of the Geneva Lakes Family YMCA had presented itself," Kramp said.

He said they are currently exploring this option, which would provide members and the community a second location for programming and health and wellness options.

"This will give our members more flexibility and additional choices that will all be included in the same membership. This will also allow the YMCA to continue its mission to serve other communities throughout Walworth County," Kramp said.



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Flight of opportunity



New aviation program offered to local high school students

By **Jason Arndt**
STAFF WRITER

Badger High School students will have an opportunity to explore careers in aviation with a new program set to take flight at the Burlington Municipal Airport.

Eagles Nest Projects Wisconsin, a nonprofit organization, has been instrumental in guiding Westosha Central High School students to high paying jobs including pilots, aircraft mechanics, and general engineering positions.

Westosha Central's STEM Aviation Program, launched a decade ago on school grounds, has built planes and had 18 students become pilots.

The new program extends to students attending Badger, Burlington, Catholic Central and Wilmot Union high schools at the future STEM Aviation Center on the Burlington-based airport.

The STEM Aviation Center, which recently broke ground, will feature spaces for educational programs, workshops, and interaction with professionals, highlighted by the Career Pathways Program.

Director Jim Senft, of the Westosha Central program, said the curriculum

focuses on aviation maintenance.

"This effort is designed to supply local maintenance shops, schools, and commercial flight operators with trained technicians," Senft said. "Our goal is to nurture a workforce of skilled technicians for the aviation industry."

Although students will not build planes at the airport, like the program at Westosha Central does, the initiative looks to help them garner hands-on knowledge of aircraft maintenance and set them on a path for successful careers once they graduate from high school.

"We are going to teach them about aircraft mechanics. It won't certify them as an aircraft mechanic. What it will do is it will get their hands into it," Senft said. "They will start to learn what it takes to work on an aircraft."

Senft said several businesses at the airport – including Spring City Aviation, and Burlington Air Center, Inc. – have signed on to assist students in the innovative program.

The STEM Aviation Center also fosters inclusivity, since the Westosha Central program is only available to its own students, and not other area educational institutions.

"Many students have contacted me, sometimes weekly, asking if they could participate in the Westosha Central High



top: Westosha Central High School students have built planes, which are stored at the Burlington Municipal Airport, as part of the school's STEM Aviation Program. The program will expand to include students from Badger High School and others with a focus on aviation maintenance at the airport. **above:** Barbara Bakshis, of Greenwoods State Bank, shakes the hand of Westosha Central STEM Aviation Program Director Jim Senft's during the groundbreaking. Greenwoods State Bank is financing the future STEM center.

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Tactile telescope set to be learning tool at GLAS

GLAS Education's tactile telescope cannot be used to gather light. But as a teaching tool, it is quite enlightening.

With the side of the telescope tube cut out, students don't look through it, they look into it – or feel inside it.

The ingeniously viewable scope came out of a project called Innovators Developing Accessible Tools for Astronomy, which was funded through a National Science Foundation grant. One of the goals of IDATA was to make astronomical data accessible to blind or visually limited students.

Youngsters are particularly intrigued by the workings of a telescope, said GLAS Education Director Kate Meredith. And in their desire to learn, they want to touch and feel the devices.

"Typically, our volunteers and staff don't like it when people touch their telescopes, especially the lenses and the mirrors,"

Meredith said. "So, we needed a telescope that we could touch."

And now, the instructions for building a tactile telescope are available to the public and teachers everywhere at no charge. The instructions in PDF form can be found here: glaseducation.org/able/

The length of the telescope can vary from two feet to six inches long, with a diameter of four inches. The tactile telescope is patterned after a Newtonian reflector telescope, which uses a mirror rather than a lens to capture star light.

The late Kevin McCarron, a retired science teacher from Oak Park and River Forest High School in Illinois, was a talented craftsman with a workshop at Yerkes Observatory. In 2017, for the sum of about \$30, McCarron created the touchable telescope, using pieces of PVC plastic pipes, scrap wood (properly fashioned) and springs and screws from a hardware store.

In a video made prior to his passing in 2020, McCarron pointed out that his telescope is not real, but a model. As a teaching tool, the tactile telescope makes every feature of the telescope available for exploration.

Ed Sadler is also a retired science teacher who taught at high schools in Williams Bay and Elkhorn. Also talented at building stuff, he took on the task of creating a simpler version of McCarron's design and then writing some concise instructions for its construction.

Sadler said McCarron's model is a work of art, but it would be difficult to recreate. McCarron's prototype, still a GLAS treasured possession, used some real components, like lenses, mirrors and a telescope focuser.

"It became apparent that some of the pieces would be hard to come by," Sadler said. "We decided that perhaps we should

make it more accessible for people to put together."

Many of the telescope parts can be made from items available at hardware stores, like PVC tubing, standard screws, and wooden doweling, Sadler said. And some of the telescope parts are created by 3D printing. 3D printing is more common now and most educators and model makers can either do themselves or know someone who can, he said.

Sadler took the hardware and printed pieces and built a new prototype tactile telescope, about 16 inches long. That became GLAS's traveling telescope, carried by Meredith and GLAS staffers to American Astronomical Society conferences and accessible education workshops around the country. With more examples of the tactile telescope being produced, GLAS staff can take copies to workshops around the country where the curious can lay their hands on it.

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AVIATION PROGRAM • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

School program. Unfortunately, that program is locked down to Westosha Central, but this program opens that door and allows those other students to come in and participate."

Officials impressed

Greenwoods State Bank, of Burlington, is financing construction of the STEM Aviation Center through a loan.

Barbara Bakshis, senior vice president of business banking at Greenwoods, said the bank proudly approved financing after learning about Westosha Central's success.

"(The achievements) were pretty impressive in a 10-year time frame, so Greenwoods is very excited to help them," Bakshis said. "We have done other projects out here at the airport. But this one is very unique in that it's for students to help educate them and get them into good paying jobs after high school."

Bakshis, who has deep involvement in the community, said she believes students will see benefits.

"I do anticipate other school districts will be involved in this program," she said.

Burlington Municipal Airport Manager Paul Aydt supports the STEM Aviation Center because of the new opportunities it presented to students.

"They have stored their airplanes in a couple of hangars that they rented, so I know they have trained pilots in the past," Aydt said. "Now, they are adding the maintenance side of it, which is very exciting."

Breaking barriers

The STEM Aviation Center looks

to help students overcome obstacles, primarily education costs, while drawing increased interest from local youth in aviation.

"It's often highlighted that aviation faces challenges due to limited interest among youth and the high costs associated with entering the field," Senft said at the groundbreaking. "However, Eagles Nest Project Wisconsin has proven, through perseverance and commitment, that we can overcome these barriers and open new doors for students in aviation."

Senft said the program has created other opportunities as well.

"We have gotten 18 pilots, about 50% female to male, and we have three pilots that are flying commercially for different airlines," Senft said. "We have had many go into engineering from our program."

Nicole Murphy, then known as Nicole Jackson, graduated from Westosha Central in 2016 and became one of the first students to earn a pilot's license through the program.

She said the program changed her life, as it allowed her opportunities to network with industry professionals, including one event at a Women in Aviation Conference in Orlando when she was a student.

Murphy urges students at the other schools eligible to participate in the future program.

"I think we are so lucky to have this close to our backdoor. I think they have a huge opportunity that has been presented to them," she said.

Murphy, who went on to earn a bachelor's degree, has been working as an electrical engineering team leader at Milwaukee Tool.



Places to take kids fishing

There are numerous places throughout the area suitable for fishing with children. Adults are required to have a license and children should be accompanied.

Below is a partial list for Walworth County, including the location and general directions. Notes related to fishing at each body of water are included.

It's suggested to contact parks in advance to confirm hours and possible fees.

CEYLON POND PARK

In Big Foot Beach State Park. From downtown Lake Geneva, take State Highway 120 south about 1.5 miles to the park. This is an urban fishing water with the shoreline accessible to public. There is a fee for admission.

COMUS LAKE

In Paul Lange Arboretum, on Terrace Street in Delavan. Offers shoreline fishing opportunities.

CONDON PARK POND

At the junction of Interstate 43 and State Highway 50 in Delavan. An urban fishing water with an accessible shoreline. A walking trail travels around the perimeter

of the park.

GENEVA LAKE

Two locations offer shoreline fishing: Village Park in Williams Bay, and Library Park in Lake Geneva.

MILLPOND PARK

Millpond Park is on the south side of the Village of East Troy. It's an urban fishing water and the shoreline is accessible to the public. There is also a fishing pier.

TRIPP LAKE

In a Whitewater city park. From Highway 12 (East Milwaukee Street) in Whitewater take South Wisconsin Street to Coburn Lane, then east to the lake. Offers shoreline fishing opportunities.

WHITewater & RICE LAKES

In the Southern Unit of Kettle Moraine State Forest, 2 miles southeast of Whitewater in the Whitewater Lake Recreation Area. Can be accessed off of Highway P. Offers shoreline fishing opportunities. There is a fee for admission.



There are many places throughout the area that can be considered when taking kids fishing, from lakes and parks to ponds. The DNR provides an in-depth list, which includes locations and directions.



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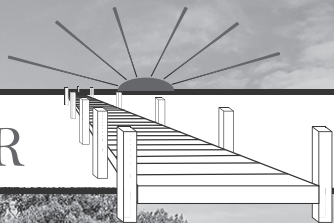
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SHORE PATH • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

challenging, from a narrow path to one overgrown.

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

Rules to be followed

While walking the entire path in one day is possible for those in good health who walk regularly, it takes eight to 10 hours to complete. For those not ready to tackle the entire trek around the lake, dividing it into sections will make it easier to navigate yet still offer a variety of things to see along the way.

Public access points – where walkers can join or leave the path – must be used. Cutting through owners' lawns is not acceptable, nor is sitting on the piers or chairs or benches on the individual properties. Only the actual path is open to walkers.

For those who wish to tackle the shore path in shorter stretches, access points are in Lake Geneva, Fontana, Williams Bay, Linn and Big Foot Beach. Each one of the sections – whether walking along the path and turning around to return to the access point used as the entrance or walking to the next public access point – are a good hike with incredible views. Those wishing to walk from one access point to the next should team up with a friend so one vehicle can be left at the area where the walkers will exit the path and the other vehicle is used to drive to where the path will be

entered.

The path is family friendly, but those with younger children should start by taking a shorter walk along the path – familiarizing themselves and children with the challenges of hiking before tackling a lengthier stretch.

The walk from Lake Geneva to Williams Bay is about 7 miles, while a shorter walk from Williams Bay to Fontana covers about 3.5 miles.

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 anything brought along must leave with those using the path.

Tips for comfort, safety

The shore path is a walking path and not made for bikes, scooters, strollers, or wagons. With surfaces that vary but include cement, bricks, wood planks, gravel, steppingstones and narrowing in areas, it's not practical for much more than peoples' feet to be on the path. Wearing comfortable walking shoes with non-skid treads is recommended for safety especially when the path is 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 dip in the lake. For those with young children, it's recommended they walk from Library Park in Lake Geneva – in either direction.

On the other hand, for those who plan



above: While some areas of the path are out in the open, others are in shaded areas, a welcome reprieve for walkers on a hot summer day. **at left:** A variety of boats can be seen while walking the shore path, from those out on the water to ones that are docked.

HEIDI SCHULZ *The Breeze*



to walk the entire path in one day, it's suggested they start at the south end of the lake as that section is more difficult and is best attempted when you aren't tired.

Walking the path is a memorable experience but what time of year its best enjoyed is a matter of preference.

Some prefer spring with its sense of new life as flowers and greenery begin to show their colors. Summer generally features nearly everything along the path in full bloom. Then there is autumn, with its myriad of colors as the leaves show off their shades of red, orange, yellow, and brown, as well as fall flowers on display around the lake.

Regular shore path walkers will head out during all three seasons as each offers a different view of the path and sights along it but also of the lake.

The path is accessible during the winter but only experienced walkers with proper shoes and equipment should consider it that

time of the year, considering the path is not shoveled and is often icy and slippery.

Also in the winter months, some of the piers may be stored in a manner blocking the path, possibly making passage impossible.

For safety – as mentioned before – good sturdy walking shoes are important, and on sunny days, portions of the path are out in full sun so remember to wear sunscreen and a hat to protect against sunburn.

There are no restrooms or food stands on the path. Restrooms are available in public areas such as near the library in Lake Geneva, Williams Bay and Fontana. Carry water or other liquids with you 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.

Badger students earn industry credential

Badger High School recently completed their unit of instruction on customer service in Phil Huff's Advanced Marketing and Business Strategies course.

As part of the unit, students took the National Retail Federation industry credential in Customer of Service and Sales, with all earning certification after passing a battery of tests.

Throughout the 14-hour training, students mastered customer service and sales skills, including understanding the customer life cycle, developing effective

strategies to engage customers, assessing customer needs, and closing sales.

They also gained crucial workplace skills, including problem-solving, working in teams, reading customer body language, and increasing customer satisfaction and retention.

Students received a printable completion certificate, digital badge, and a credential they can list on their resume. In the end, these students are ready for jobs that are in high demand right now. The industry certification is valid for three years.

Badger High School students recently earned an industrial credential after a passing a series of tests including: Autumn Kellermeier, Ally Weber, Madeline Chaggaris, Ellie White, Will Payne, Ella Coltman, Aubrey Marks, Teagan Hale, and Trip Hirn.

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