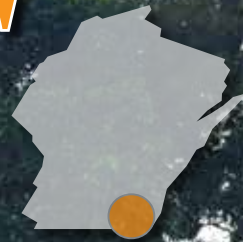




# *SPIRIT* *of Geneva Lakes*



Vol. 37 No. 7

COMPLIMENTARY COPY • Since 1989

JULY 2025

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### ON THE COVER

Inside we share what two local golf courses – Hawk's View and Evergreen – have to offer for those ready to tee off or improve their game, along with a list of other golfing venues in the area.

STOCK PHOTO  
*Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

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# IT'S COMIN' UP

## JULY EVENTS

### Concerts in the Park

Soak up the sounds of summer at Concerts in the Park in the Brunk Family Pavilion in Flat Iron Park, 201 Wrigley Dr., Lake Geneva. Gather your lawn chairs, picnic blankets and dancing shoes and enjoy the music along the breathtaking shore of Geneva Lake. Free and fun for all ages, featuring music genres for all tastes.

Concerts are from 6 to 8 p.m.: July 3 – The Britins; July 10 – Frank Martin Bush & The Names; July 17 – Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra; July 24 – Wapatui; July 31 – EZFM; Aug. 7 – Ludy and his Lady.

### 4th of July Fireworks

The July 4 fireworks in Fontana, which begin at dusk on the west end of Geneva Lake, is a partnership of the Geneva Lake West Chamber of Commerce, the community and the village.

Please consider a donation in any amount starting at \$5, as this event is 100% funded through private donations. To donate, visit the website, genevalakewest.com.

### Tee it up for Tim

The Tim Brellenthin Memorial Golf Outing will benefit Lakeland Animal Shelter. It will be held Monday, July 7 at Hawk's View Golf Club, 7377 Krueger Rd., Lake Geneva. The fee includes 18 holes with cart, cookout lunch and a buffet dinner.

Registration, 10:30 a.m.; lunch 11 a.m.; shotgun start, noon; 19th hole reception, 5 p.m.; dinner: 5:30 p.m. Fees: individual, \$125; foursome, \$100; dinner only, \$40. For more information, including sponsorship opportunities, or to register, visit lakelandanimalshelter.org under the events tab.

### Train rides

On the weekends, take a 14-mile train ride on the only remaining electric interurban tracks in Wisconsin. Historic museum and carefully maintained rail cars from 90 to 100 years ago. Stops at the Elegant Farmer in Mukwonago.

Located 15 miles north of Lake Geneva on Highway 120. Several trains depart each day on weekends from the East Troy Depot at 2002 Church Street in East Troy.

For more information, call 262-642-3263 or visit easttroyrr.org.

### Lake Geneva Farmers Market

The annual market, which runs through Oct. 30 is held at Horticultural Hall, 330 Broad St., Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain or shine. For more information, email market@horticulturalhall.com.

### Sunday Coffee Rides

The riding season has started and Avant Cycle, 912 S. Wells St., Lake Geneva, hosts group rides at a casual pace (12-15 mph). This is a no-drop, fun ride. Stopping for breakfast before heading back to the shop. Start your Sunday with us!

Rides weather dependent. Routes subject to change, helmets required. All rides, unless noted, leave from Avant's back entrance. Destinations subject to change. Weather patterns will cancel any rides that would be hazardous.

Start time/destinations: July 6, 7:30 a.m. – Hebron (4th of July weekend); July 13, 7:30 a.m. – Walworth; July 20, 7:30 a.m. – Elkhorn; July 27, 7:30 a.m. – Twin Lakes; Aug. 3, 7:30 a.m. – Springfield; Aug. 10, 7:30 a.m. – Richmond; Aug. 17, 7:30 a.m. – Burlington; Aug. 24, 7:30 a.m. – Hebron; Aug. 31, 7:30 a.m. – Walworth (Labor Day weekend); Sept. 7, 8 a.m. – Elkhorn; Sept. 14, 8 a.m. – Twin Lakes.

Other rides are also in the works. For more information, visit avant-cycles.com.

### Williams Bay Farmers Market

Held Fridays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Edgewater Park, Geneva Street in Williams Bay, this is a unique boutique Friday market 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.

For more information, follow Williams Bay Farmers Market on Facebook.

### Saturdays on the Square

The Farmers Market in Elkhorn hosts fresh market, local artisans, bakers, crafters, commercial and nonprofit vendors. It's held Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend.

Vendors set-up on a first come first serve basis with plenty of room for all who attend. Find food trucks and a morning workout on the square and get your weekends started off right!

The market is held at Veterans Park, 100 W. Walworth St., Elkhorn.

For more information, email info@elkhornchamber.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.*

## THE SPIRIT

IS A PUBLICATION OF



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## THE SPIRIT

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# Art in the park

Foundation  
celebrates 45 years,  
has its passion  
for art on display  
throughout the year

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

When wandering around Gallery 223 in Lake Geneva, visitors are likely impressed by the collection of artistic works on display, and it begs the question: Is it the beauty of the Geneva Lakes area that attracts so many artistic people? Or maybe it's the beauty of the area that brings out the creativity of those who live here.

It's more likely a combination of the two as there are artists who are long term residents, those who have recently moved here and longtime residents who have recently discovered they have a passion for art – all who contribute to the talented pieces at the gallery.

Art in the Park is sponsored and organized by the Geneva Lake Arts Foundation, and this year will be the event's 45th. This large, juried art show is held the second weekend in August. It takes place in Flat Iron Park, which overlooks Geneva Lake. The hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 9 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 10.

"We have over 90 artists participating in the show this year. While many are local, there are also artists from various other parts of the country including as far away as Florida and Texas," said Jeff Russart,

**from top:** Visitors enjoy making their way through the park enjoying the artwork on display; Many who visit the art show enjoy speaking with the artists about their creations;

Art in the Park is known to draw a steady crowd, especially later in the day.

ART IN THE PARK PHOTOS *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*







director of Art in the Park. “This is the largest number of artists we have ever had display at Art in the Park. The display will again be a diverse show with many types of art of the highest quality.”

Attendees can begin their day by heading to the gazebo where two of the day’s special events are taking place. First there is the silent auction booth where attendees can put in a bid on a work of art that has been donated by a vendor who is displaying at Art in the Park.

Each day a different item is up for auction. Around 2 p.m. the auction will close, the winner will be notified and will have about 2 1/2 hours to pick up the artwork they have successfully bid on.

“There is also a Just for Kids event at the Gazebo. Here there will be fun artistic programs for the children to enjoy and create a make-and-take project,” Sarah McConnell, president of the Geneva Lake Arts Foundation explained. “Even though it is listed as a kids’ event, it’s in reality a family event as parents, grandparents, or other adults accompanying them may also participate.”

## See the art, meet the artists

Outside of those special happenings, guests can wander through Flat Iron Park enjoying the various displays of art and

meeting the artists. While it’s always exciting to find a newly created piece of art perfect for a home, office or to purchase as a gift, having an opportunity to meet the artists takes it to a more personal level. Having a conversation with the artist about the art being purchased and learning about the process and thought behind it being created will make it that much more special.

While walking through Art in the Park, attendees are encouraged to take a break and stop on Wrigley Drive, which is being closed to traffic. Instead of vehicles making their way down the street, there will be a variety of food and beverages for purchase there. Having the food venues on Wrigley opens more space in the park for the exhibitors. And because there is ample room on the street, it allows for more food venues. So be sure to enjoy a treat and a rest before enjoying more of the art on display.

## Shuttles will be available

There is no need to worry about finding parking in downtown Lake Geneva near Flat Iron Park for the event. While attendees are welcome to park wherever they can find a spot downtown, there will also be a free shuttle available.

The shuttle will run every 20 minutes

from the parking lot of Home Depot on Edwards Boulevard on the east side of Lake Geneva, taking guests to and from Art in the Park.

While many people think of an art fair as a collection of paintings, Art in the Park is far more than that. Granted, there will be a variety of paintings by talented artists, but that’s only one facet of what attendees will see. There will also be a number of other artistic pieces – from sculptures to jewelry – ensuring there will be something of interest for all types of art enthusiasts.

The process for applying to be an artist at Art in the Park begins in January. All material shown must be original and a variety of art is welcome including mixed media, painting, photography, sculpture, wood, digital media, glass, graphics and jewelry.

The applications are judged by a jury to determine which artists are accepted for the show. All applicants must have their application in by March 31, the artists are chosen in April and notified by the middle of May. Those showing are a mixture of artists who have been in attendance before and ones that are new to the show.

At the end of the event, the Best of Show piece will be announced as chosen by the jury. Last year’s winner was Benjamin Calvert for a painting.

**from left:** The sizes and types of art available vary greatly, offering shoppers an opportunity to find a piece ideal for their space; There is a seemingly endless variety of art to view at Art in the Park, which will be celebrating its 45th year this August.

ART IN THE PARK PHOTOS *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



## An active foundation

The Geneva Lake Arts Foundation sponsors the Art in the Park event and it's the group's biggest fundraiser. As such, its members are actively involved in helping to set up the area for the event and providing breakfast for the vendors. Although the vendors are required to set up their own booths and displays, it's common to see members of the foundation helping them unload their materials and providing relief at their booths so they can take a lunch break.

That's not all the members provide for the event.

"We also ask them to man the silent auction tent and oversee the members' display and sale. And, many are needed as instructors in the gazebo to work with the children's events," said Nicholette Marsicano, who served as president of the organization for 10 years.

Art in the Park will take place Aug. 9-10 (10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday) at Flat Iron Park, 200 Wrigley Dr., Lake Geneva. Admission is free.

## How it has grown

"The Geneva Lake Arts Foundation started as a social club back in the 1940s," McConnell said. "They first met in individual homes, then as interest grew, they moved their meetings to City Hall to accommodate the larger numbers. Eventually, we obtained a small space in the mall next to Starbucks."

The group continued to grow and changed from a small club to an incorporated group and after much work became a not-for-profit corporation.

"Last year we celebrated our 10 years as a foundation," Marsicano said.

Marsicano became president the same year the foundation moved its gallery to its present location. They named it Gallery



Gallery 223 is the home gallery of the Geneva Lake Arts Foundation. There are rotating displays of the varied works of its members.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Information  
is subject to  
change. Please  
contact individual  
restaurant for  
more information.

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**Key**

B: Breakfast L: Lunch D: Dinner NC: No credit cards accepted \$: Mostly under \$10 \$\$: Mostly under \$20 GF: Gluten free \$\$\$: Mostly under \$30 FF: Fish Fry ☹: Reservations requested ☹: Alcohol served ☹: Kids menu SR: Senior menu

473135



223 because the address is 223 Broad St. in Lake Geneva. Open five days a week, the gallery contains a display of artistic work by its members which changes every six weeks.

While Art in the Park is the largest event held by the foundation each year, it's by no means the only event it sponsors. The group also provides a variety of art classes for children and adults, an annual high school student art award show, and a variety of free art demonstrations that are open to the public.

"There are also a variety of programs that are held out of the gallery," shared Marsicano. "One such program will be held Sept. 14 at the library. It will be presented by pastel artist Brian Sauerland at 6:30 p.m."

The work of members can also be seen on display in some businesses in downtown Lake Geneva such as at O2 Lounge on Broad Street, the Bottle Shop on Main Street, and in the Lake Geneva Library.

And new things are in the works.

"We are going to be starting studio nights for members. On these evenings members only will be able to come into the studio and work on their projects," Marsicano explained.

Visit Geneva Lake Arts Foundation at the Gallery 223 on Broad St. Thursday to Monday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (or by appointment on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.)

For more information, call 773-456-9237 or visit [genevalakeartsfoundation.org](http://genevalakeartsfoundation.org). The website includes a list of upcoming public programs.



**clockwise from top:** The walls of Gallery 223 are filled with a variety of art created by members, with the display changing periodically to feature different pieces of art; Other products created by artists include felted soaps and hand crafted jewelry; Geneva Lake is a theme often used in the artwork of both local and visiting artists; Stained glass is versatile and used in a variety of ways such as this elegant side table by Karen Whalen.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*





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# Summer ideal to spend time on course

Enjoy the beauty of the sunset on the Barn Hollow Course at Hawk's View.



HAWK'S VIEW GOLF CLUB PHOTO *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Golf venues offer options for those who enjoy the sport

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

Summer is a time to take advantage of time outdoors, enjoying warm, sunny days and the beauty of nature.

While there are numerous choices of activities, one of the favorites is a round of golf, especially in the southeast Wisconsin area with its plethora of courses to explore.

The game of golf was said to have originated in Scotland, perhaps as early as the 1500s but the game as it is currently played is attributed to having been developed in the 1700s. The Old Course at St. Andrews in Scotland is considered the course that created the 18-hole course standard and set the rules for today's game.

St. Andrews is still being played today and is widely considered the course every golfer wants to play or at least visit.

While the majority of golfers who head for the greens in the Midwest may never make it to St. Andrews, courses found in the Lake Geneva Area can provide a challenge to residents of the area and visitors alike.

## Hawk's View

Hawk's View is a unique golf course that includes the Championship Course Como Crossings and another 18-hole course, a par-3 course named Barn Hollow.

"Como Crossings has been voted the Best of Courses in the Geneva Lakes Area for the past five years," said Keith Felt, Marketing Director for Hawk's View Golf Club. "Much of the reason is the unique terrain and quality of the course, making it a challenge to golfers of all abilities."

The terrain was created by a glacier that covered the area hundreds of years ago. It includes hills and various streams, including Como Creek, which empties into Lake Como farther to the west.

"The terrain on the course includes going uphill for four holes then downhill," Felt said. "The real signature hole is No. 17, where you hit the ball 100 feet downhill to

the hole."

That hole, according to Jake Bandi, Head Pro at Hawk's View, was the original ski hill on the property.

Back in the 1960s, what is now this beautiful golf course was Mt. Fuji Ski Hill, which remained active for about 10 years. The land has had other uses – including being the home of a dairy farm – but in 1997, the property was purchased by Dan and Sue Daniels. They began the conversion of the property into a quality golf course. The couple continues to own the property, and over the years, they have continued to improve the quality of the course. The golf course opened in 2001.

Entering Hawk's View, visitors meander down the entry road, normally through a covered bridge, and travel along with the golf course on either side of the road until arriving at the beautiful clubhouse with an intricate floral display planted in front.

"This year, the covered bridge is being replaced, so it is not in place at this time," Felt said. "And other work continues to be done to assure that the course retains both its beauty and its quality as a golf course."

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Among the new additions to the aesthetics of the course is a waterfall.”

Because of the rugged terrain, a cart is required on the Como Crossings course and is included in the green’s fees. The par-3 course, Barn Hollow, can be played either using a cart or walking the course.

While Como Crossings is a Par-72 course, Hawk’s View’s other course is an 18-hole, par-3 course, Barn Hollow. It is considered an easier course, and can be enjoyed by players of all levels, including families. Children are welcome to play with their parents.

Golf outings, whether corporate, charity fundraiser, or just a group of golf buddies, are easily arranged to include all the special touches that are desired. They can even include transportation from your hotel or residence to the hotel. Contact Hawk’s View and speak to one of the personal PGA staff members to arrange an outing. Outings from 16 to 200 participants can be comfortably accommodated on the courses.

Hawk’s View has a full-time, PGA-certified head golf professional in Bandi, who was recognized as the Calloway Midwest Fitter of the Year. He is available to work with visitors to help perfect a swing and, if needed, to fit the perfect clubs for a player.

The majority of those who go through proper fitting see an immediate improvement in their swing, according to Bandi.

“You don’t necessarily need the most expensive clubs, but you do need the one that is fitted for you for the best improvement in your swing,” he said. “Sign up for a complimentary fitting session and see what improvement can be made.”

Bandi does not recommend any particular golf shoes.

“Whatever your preference that feels good on your feet and shows your personality,” said Bandi. “We have a great variety of shoes in our golf shop, along with quality clothing and there are sure to be items that fit your style and budget.”

When the outdoor season of golfing is done due to weather, spend your time from November to March working on your short game using the indoor simulator.

In addition to the golf leagues and outings, Hawk’s View is available for weddings and other important events such as bridal showers, family reunions and business meetings. They are also known for their quality Friday fish fries and other fine food in their restaurant.

Hawk’s View Golf Club is at 7377 Krueger Road, Lake Geneva. Call

The golf course can provide the perfect background for a wedding ceremony or memorable wedding photo.

EVERGREEN GOLF CLUB PHOTO *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

The Como Crossings course at Hawk’s View has some unique hills and valleys. Because of the steep terrain, all golfers must use a cart.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



262-348-9900, or visit the website, [hawkviewgolfclub.com](http://hawkviewgolfclub.com), for information on other services, or to make a reservation.

The courses are open from dawn to dark and offer a variety of greens fees based on day of the week, time of year and time of day of your reservation.

## Evergreen

Evergreen Golf Club is another of the favorite courses enjoyed by both residents and visitors to the area. This unique course is listed as a four-star Golf Digest course and is a favorite of many residents. It has a soft, rolling terrain with manicured, tree-lined fairways, includes large greens and water is present on more than half the holes.

The first 18 holes were designed by Ken Killian and Dick Nugent and built by Mann Brothers of Chicago on 150 acres of land that had been a dairy farm. It opened in 1973. Twenty years later, the third 9-hole course was added, incorporating another 110 acres into the club.

“Visitors can opt to play a 9-hole course or an 18-hole course. We combine two of the 9-hole courses to create the 18 hole course,” said Bill Rogers, long-term manager of Evergreen Golf Club. “There are several combinations of courses, so each time it may feel like playing a new course.”

Nehang Anand purchased the golf course in March of 2022. He maintained the staff in place and worked on creating a more modern computer system for ease in reserving times on the course. He has continued making updated improvements in the clubhouse, including the restaurant and bar areas, and the wedding venue spaces, while still maintaining the quality of the course itself.

“Our availability is weather driven,” Rogers said. “We open as early in the season as the course is clear and remain open until weather forces us to close. During the season, we open when it is light enough and remain open until dusk.”

According to Rogers, golf remains a popular activity, growing each year. Leagues

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especially have grown both in the number of leagues and the number of members in each league. Women's leagues have also increased in numbers as more women find interest in golf.

The women's league meets every two weeks. It started in 2001, with 30 members playing and last year increased to 60. This year, according to Rogers, there are 90 members.

"Weather does not seem to affect the league players," Rogers said. "They are committed and not easily deterred from their friendly league play. Every league fills up quickly, whether it is a morning, afternoon or early evening league."

Because it is a smooth, walkable course, carts are not required but are available for those who prefer to use one. Since it is not required to rent a cart, the cost is more reasonable and brings in a large number of local residents who make this their favorite golf course.

While they have a small golf shop that carries quality golf apparel and bags, they do not at this time carry golf equipment.

"Golf equipment is too specialized these days, with most being custom made. They are custom fitted on a computer, then made to order. Senior level clubs are a lighter weight with more spring in the shaft," shared Rogers. "We do not have a golf pro on staff, nor do we have a driving range, so it's hard to give lessons. We do offer rental clubs."

They encourage family participation in golf, offering a Saturday and Sunday afternoon program after 4 p.m. allowing a child to play for free with a paid adult. Additional children can participate for a minimal cost of \$10. They play 9 holes.

Evergreen Golf Club can host a variety of events from weddings and corporate outings to charitable events. They also host a number of charitable golf scrambles, some on a monthly basis. Check the website for information about the scrambles as well as the charities they support.

In September, Evergreen will host the Scramble for a Cure Golf Outing, held in memory of Cindy Tabor-Rogers to fund breast cancer research at the Carbone Comprehensive Center at UW Hospital. They have raised over \$295,000 for breast cancer research since the beginning of this event.

Those interested in getting involved are encouraged to consider gathering a group and signing up for this event or any of the other charity scrambles listed on the website.

The Bunker Bar and Grill is open daily from 11 a.m. On Saturday and Sunday mornings, it opens at 8 a.m. and serves breakfast until 11 a.m. Evergreen is also known for its Friday fish fry served after 4:30 p.m.

Evergreen Golf Course is at N6246 Highway 12/67, Elkhorn. Reach them by phone at 262-741-6200. Visit [evergreengolf.com](http://evergreengolf.com) for more information and to reserve a tee time or sign up for other events.



**from left:** Head golf pro at Hawk's View is Jake Bandi, shown in the pro shop with marketing director Keith Felt; Bill Rogers is the longtime manager at Evergreen Golf Club in Elkhorn.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



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# These kids will *jump* for a job

## Mail delivery on Geneva Lake courtesy of a talented crew

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**  
CORRESPONDENT

On a sunny but cool recent morning, the Walworth II, also known as the mailboat, was readied to make a trip out on Geneva Lake. The Walworth makes the run daily in the summer to deliver the mail and newspapers to lake residents who choose to have the items delivered via boat.

This was not the usual run, however. It was the day a group of hopeful applicants would show off their skills in an effort to be chosen as part of the crew of mailboat jumpers for the 2025 season.

Delivering mail from boats in the summertime on Geneva Lake goes back to 1916 when the first Walworth

boat was commissioned as the official mailboat. Mail was delivered by boat at that time because it was more efficient than trying to do so by automobile on the poor roads around the lake.

Most of the homes in the early days were summer cottages that were closed in the winter. As a result, mail delivery was only needed in the summer when they were in residence.

In 1958, the mailboat and its route were purchased by the Gage Marine, and today the Walworth II continues the unique but important task of operating as the mailboat.

On the day of this year's tryouts, the applicants, all young women – in navy blue shorts, athletic shoes with good grip, and red, golf styled shirts



**from above:** Ready for tryouts is this group of girls, shown standing on the 12-inch ledge that they jump from and return to while the boat is in motion; Making it around this large u-shaped pier and back to the boat before it passes through is a difficult task.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



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with the Gage insignia – were ready to go.

Becoming a mail jumper is one of the most sought out jobs in the Geneva Lake area and there are restrictions for who is eligible apply for it. Those who are allowed in the tryouts sometimes have to do so for several years before making the cut.

“You have to have worked for Gage for at least a year,” shared Annie McEneaney, who has served as an alternate jumper in both 2022 and 2023. “To be considered for the tryouts, a profile of your activities and your experience working on the boats is taken into consideration.”

## Taking a leap

There is no formal training for the position. The candidates appear to learn what to do by watching current members of the jumping crew.

All the girls trying out for the positions are in good physical shape and athletic, with many of them participating in sports such as hockey, tennis, track and skiing at the college or university they attend or will be attending.

The girls begin to loosen up with some stretching exercises. Once they board the Walworth II – with Captain Ray Ames at the wheel – begins to move along the shore. He stops at one pier and all six get off the boat and take a short run along the Shore Path to finish loosening up.

They are picked up by the boat at a pier further along the shore and then it's time for the tryouts to officially begin.

Having a competent captain running the ship is important for the mail jumpers to be successful and to keep all involved safe.

“When we pull up to a pier, it's important to leave adequate space between the pier and the boat, not too much or too little, to allow the jumper to make the jump successfully and to be certain that the boat does not hit the pier,” Ames explained. “Hitting the pier may cause extensive and expensive damage.”

## Speed, timing vital

As the boat lines up with the pier, whichever jumper is up in the lineup grabs the mail to be delivered, exits the boat from the front side window, stands on the 12-inch ledge on the side of the boat and when close enough, makes the leap onto the pier.

Once on the pier, the jumper has to locate the mailbox – they vary greatly in location including the distance they are from the lakeside part of the pier. Some mailboxes are very close to the water side

**from top:** Prior to jumping whether in the tryouts or to deliver the mail, the jumpers warm up; As far as deliveries go, this one is easier than many – into the goose shaped mailbox located at the front of the pier; This jumper made it to the mailbox to deliver but making it back to the boat in time could be a challenge.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*







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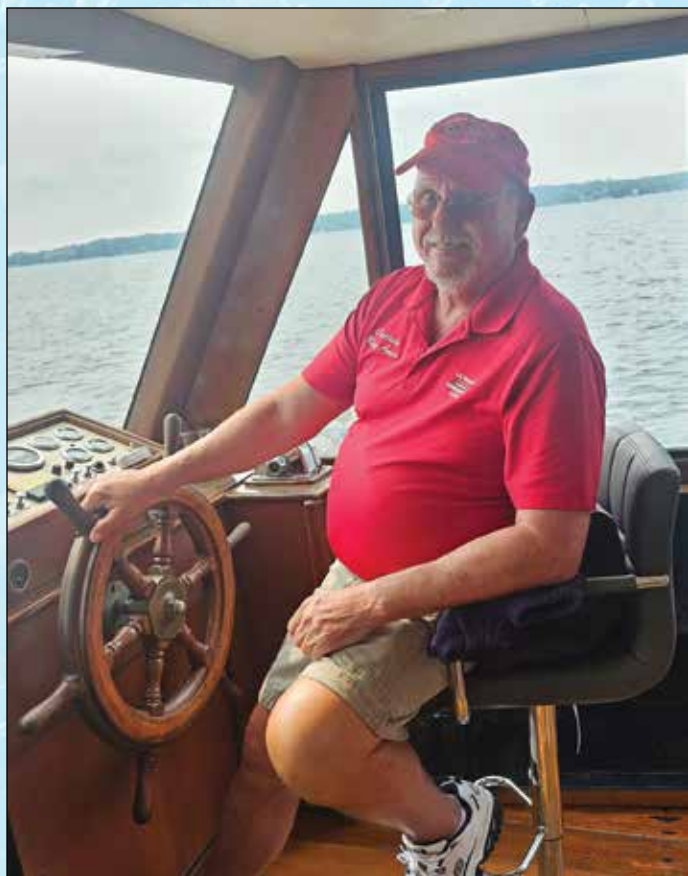


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**from top left:** Captain Ray Ames makes certain that the boat is in the correct place to allow the jumper to safely jump off the boat and get back on. Among his duties as captain is to keep the jumpers, the boat and the piers safe; The jumpers leave the boat by climbing out the front side window to the ledge and from there jump to the pier; In addition to actually delivering mail, the jumper must be proficient in the history of the area and as such needs to read a portion of the tour's script.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

while others are much closer to shore.

The mailboat jumper runs to the mailbox, removes any outgoing mail and leaves the new mail in the box and then heads back to the boat. A leap back onto the 12-inch ledge but now near the rear of the boat, followed by a walk along the ledge to the front and then a climb back into the window.

Timing is important. The boat does not stop and wait for the jumper – it continues to glide along, forcing them to complete their tasks and jump back on the boat before it's too far away. Once in a while, the timing is off ever so slightly and the attempt to return to the boat results in a jumper landing in the water. On a hot day, a dip in the lake is likely refreshing but on a cool day, not so much.

## off boat duties

The job of the mailboat jumper includes more than “just” jumping from and back onto the boat delivering the mail. The jumpers begin their shift with a trip to the post office between 7 and 8 a.m. to pick up the day's mail along with a stop to pickup the newspapers that need to be delivered.

Once back at the pier, the mail is then sorted into individual packets to be delivered to lake residents on the route.

“We deliver five major newspapers so they must be rolled to fit in the mailbox,” Marie Nickolette explained.

She was a mailboat jumper in 2023 and 2024 and tried out again this year.

Part of the tryout process is for applicants to read a descriptive history about the Geneva Lake area including some of the huge homes on the shore. Reading the script for the mailboat tour to passengers is also part of the duties of the jumpers.

When it was time to begin the tryouts, the camaraderie was as inspiring to observe as the actual jumping and deliver of mail. They cheered for each other, wanting whoever's turn it was to be successful in their attempt.

Considering many of them have worked together for Gage – some for years – it's not surprising as the summer employees of the cruise line are a team and have developed friendships with each other. But it was still a joy to witness.

## Times have changed

For this year's competition the six competitors were all women. Last year there were three young men in the tryouts although none of them were selected.

In the early days, all the mailboat jumpers were men. That is until 1974, when Elaine Kanelos who lived on Geneva Lake decided she wanted a summer job and the job she wanted was that of mailboat jumper, even though there had never been a female one.

Kanelos once shared that as a spunky 18-year-old, she wrote a letter to Bill Gage Sr. who was head of the company and told him that she wanted to be the mail jumper.



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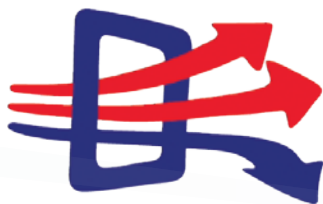
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**from top left:** Mia Fiscelli dries off after a jump that landed her in the water. This dip was done on purpose but occasionally, the jumpers do take a spill; Leaving the boat for a quick run before the tryouts begin; The judges, Ellen Burling, Jeff Clapp, and Kyle Foulke gather to discuss thoughts of the prospective jumpers.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

To her surprise, he hired her without a tryout.

According to her book, “Mail Jumper! The Story of the First Mail Girl,” her first jumps were taken and photographed on her family’s pier, where she had watched the mail being delivered during her childhood and developed her desire to be a mail jumper.

Back to the 2025 tryouts, the judges who would make the final decision watched the performances of this year’s competitors. The judges – Ellen Burling, Captain Jeff Clapp, and Captain Kyle Faulke – are well qualified to choose the next crew.

Burling is the General Manager of Gage’s Lake Geneva Cruise Line. She has a long history with the company, having worked there since 1983 in a variety of jobs including having been a former mailboat jumper herself.

“One of the problems that occur each year, is that most of the jumpers are college students and they leave the area to return to school around the middle of August,” Burling explained.

“Unfortunately, our season goes into the fall so we have to find some substitutes. Fortunately, there are employees who have been mail jumpers in the past and are willing to be a temporary mail jumper,” she added.

Kyle Faulke is also a longtime employee and former mailboat jumper.

He said he has occasionally been pulled back into the role in the fall to help cover the duties once the summer crew is off to college.



## This year's jumpers

The judges watched and graded each jumper during the tryouts and came to agreement about who has been selected for 2025.

“The two chosen to be the main jumpers were Marie Nickolette and Michela Fletcher,” Burling said. “There will also be three new jumpers – Mia Fiscelli, Ryann Grunow and Annie McEneaney.”

All who attended the tryouts deserve kudos for their efforts as this is not a job

many would attempt to do.

To see the jumpers in person, go on a Lake Geneva Cruise Line mailboat cruise this summer. The Walworth II (the mailboat) leaves from the Riviera Docks in downtown Lake Geneva daily at 10 a.m. with boarding beginning at 9:30 a.m. The tour wraps up when the boat returns to the docks by 12:30 p.m.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [cruiselakegeneva.com](http://cruiselakegeneva.com) or stop by the ticket office at Riviera Docks.



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# Old World Wisconsin honoring beer history

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**  
CORRESPONDENT

Old World Wisconsin, located near Eagle, is an immersive experience that takes visitors back to the days of the early settlers and some of the first farms built by immigrants in the state.

The farms found in this large, open-air museum have been transported from their original sites throughout the state.

“Old World Wisconsin is the largest outdoor museum at approximately 600 acres,” said Christian Overland, Director and CEO of the Wisconsin Historical Society. “With our latest additions, we are sharing the rich history of Wisconsin’s beer brewing culture.”

Many of Wisconsin’s early settlers arrived from Germany, and they brought beer recipes and beer brewing skills with them.

In 2021, Wittnebel’s Tavern – which had been located in Old Ashippun, Wisconsin – was transported 27 miles to the grounds of Old World Wisconsin. To do so, the building had to be separated into three separate pieces, transported by truck to Old World, and then reassembled at the new site. It also would require a great deal of work to restore its exterior and interior back to its 1930s look.

The addition of this building to Old World Wisconsin represents a change. It is the first 20th Century building ever brought to the site. The earlier buildings moved to Old World were all built prior to 1900 and represented the early immigrants to Wisconsin.

Wittnebel’s Tavern was originally founded in 1906 and was operated by the Wittnebel family through 1987. According to a member of the Wittnebel family, they closed at that time because they no longer had a liquor license. During the time it was in operation, two generations of the family



**from top:** The beautiful bar looks as it did in the 1930s and the distinct checkerboard floor draws visitors into the tavern; The walls are decorated with family photos, notices of upcoming events and of course a deer head; Christian Overland, President and CEO of the Wisconsin Historical Society, welcomes guests and shares history of this latest addition to Old World Wisconsin.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ  
*Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



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ran the tavern.

Wisconsin tavern culture was not the same as taverns are today. The tavern wasn't just a bar, but also a place where people gathered to share news, hold dances and even discuss school sports competitions.

## 'Bringing history to life in new, engaging ways'

In 2022, a new working brewhouse opened at Old World, adjacent to where Wittnebel's Tavern had been placed on the Old World grounds. This is where Rob Novak, brewer and beer historian, prepares batches of beer just as they were created in the early days, and visitors receive samples (for those of legal drinking age) of those brews.

"The addition of Wittnebel's Tavern and the expansion of Old World Wisconsin's beer and brewing experience is about bringing history to life in new and engaging ways," said Angela Titus, Wisconsin Historical Society's assistant deputy director and chief program officer.

"This immersive experience invites guests to journey through Wisconsin's rich beer brewing heritage, across a variety of cultures and traditions," she added.

Visitors can see the creation of a traditional farmhouse ale from the 1800s being produced in the brewhouse, then take a sample out to the newly constructed 1900s style Milwaukee Biergarten, overlooking the rolling hills formed by the Kettle Moraine glacier that once covered this land.

From there they will move into the 1900s, after the repeal of prohibition as they enter Wittnebel's Tavern and enjoy the tavern culture of that time.

Over the past four years, Wittnebel's Tavern has been restored to its 1930s look, with the reuniting of the three sections of the house itself after it arrived at its new location.



Moving the tavern to Old World Wisconsin required dividing the building into three pieces and moving it by truck to the new location where it would have to be reassembled.

OLD WORLD WISCONSIN PHOTO *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

## Family among renovated tavern guests

A few days before its official opening, a select group was invited to Wittnebel's for a first look at the restored tavern. Among the guests were members of the Wittnebel family, who had not seen the tavern since it left their property.

Overland was also present and shared information of this newest addition to Old World Wisconsin and what it means to the future direction of the museum.

The tavern's original features – including the back bar and oak paneled cooler – are

still in place and beautifully restored. Moving to the bar and having a beer drawn by the bartender in period dress takes visitors into the post-prohibition period.

While the beer of choice is not the original beer of that time in history, the new Kettle Brau created exclusively for Wittnebel's Tavern by Novak with a local brewery is very similar to what would have been served in the 1930s.

The distinctive checkerboard floor in bright blue, brown and beige stands out as customers come in, and in the corner is an old-time telephone – the kind of phone that

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"The phone will periodically ring, and we will ask a visitor to answer it. There are three recorded messages and one of them will be played, often to the surprise of the person answering the phone," Novak explained.

Current members of the Wittnebel family responded on how realistic the tavern now looked, just as it had in the days when their family was operating it.

"The tavern was attached to our house and during the day, grandma watched me, but when the bell from the tavern rang, she had to run out and serve the customer," Wittnebel family members Barb Lund shared. "The beer man would also come to deliver beer and soda in his beer truck."

The beer of the day was often Lithia, from West Bend, which is no longer made.

Kettle Brau, made for today's Wittnebel's Tavern, is representative of a post-prohibition lager. Post-prohibition lagers, with corn added to the recipe, created this golden-hued brew born in the 1930s. This type of beer came to be associated with American style beer.

Pictures of the Wittnebel family graces the walls, 1930s big band music echoes in the background, and bartenders dressed in period attire serve beer – it's truly a step back in time to the era.

On one day this spring, visitors were also offered a special Wittnebel charcuterie cup that included bite-sized tastes of some of



**from top:** The bartender in 1930s clothing pours a mug of Kettle Brau, the lager beer created for Wittnebel's; Two glasses of freshly drawn beer are served at the tavern in special bar glasses; Empty cases that held Lithia beer, a popular brew in the 1930s made in West Bend, are left on the porch at Wittnebel's, waiting to be replaced with full ones.

OLD WORLD WISCONSIN PHOTOS *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

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Wisconsin's culinary staples – cheese, dried cranberries and sausage. It also included popular 1930s items, a pickled egg and a pickle, which were found on the bar in taverns of the day. Paired with the new Kettle Brau beer, it was the perfect snack for guests to enjoy outdoors in the adjacent biergarten. For those who passed on having a beer, bottled root beer was also available.

## Taking a historic walk

The walk from the Brew House – where visitors can observe the making of the original beers from recipes brought with the immigrants – is more than just a walk, it's a trip into the living history of beer in Wisconsin.

"Wittnebel's Tavern provides a window into a pivotal era in our nation's history and is part of our efforts to create deeper, more engaging connections between visitors and the past," shared Novak.

"The growing beer and brewing experience embody the spirit of 'gemütlichkeit,' which is the feeling of welcome, warmth and good cheer brought here by the German immigrants who greatly influenced Wisconsin's brewing industry," she added.

Novak said given the great emphasis on beer making in early Wisconsin, it's not surprising that the state "was active in removing prohibition or that it was the second state to ratify the 21st amendment to the constitution, which would end national prohibition."

Old World Wisconsin opened June 30, 1976, in time for the United States

Bicentennial Celebration. As the outdoor museum approaches its 50th anniversary next year, Old World Wisconsin has continued to grow.

The latest proof of that is the opening of the Wittnebel's Tavern, biergarten and its connection to both the brewing practices of the earlier days and the historic farms which make their homes – all while adding a new dimension to Old World Wisconsin.

"Our next improvement will be a new entrance and a new pathway into the separate villages located at Old World," Overland said.

Restrooms, ticket and program areas, as well as gathering places for families and school groups, will also be created in the new entrance area.

Additionally, a new tram spot and a picnic pavilion are in the plans, as is the remodeling of the round Clausung Barn, which is used as a cafeteria and for special programs.

"Importantly, it is going to give people a sense of 'I have arrived' when they enter," Overland said.

Old World Wisconsin is one of the Wisconsin Historical Society's 12 historic sites and museums. It's rated as one of the top attractions for children, as it features a variety of interactive environments and immersive stories of the 19th and 20th century Midwestern immigrant farm and rural life.

Old World Wisconsin is at W372 S9727 Highway 67, Eagle. For more information, call 262-594-6301 or visit [oldworldwisconsin.wisconsinhistory.org](http://oldworldwisconsin.wisconsinhistory.org). The website contains a list of current activities and the ability to purchase tickets for events.

The new biergarten is seen toward the rear of the tavern where visitors can enjoy the outdoors while sipping a beer. Note the 'Happy Days' sign on the side of the tavern cheering the end of prohibition.

OLD WORLD WISCONSIN PHOTO *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

# Celebrating 50 Years!



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NEW PRICE

**N7729 Laura Lane, Elkhorn** - Luxurious lakefront estate on Lauderdale Lakes' exclusive "Gold Coast" with 142' of pristine sand frontage and 1.28 acres of gated, wooded privacy, all on a private road for additional exclusivity. The 4BD, 4.5BA main home is designed for elevated lake living, with panoramic views, lakeside dining, a vaulted screened porch, and a lakeside primary suite with private deck. Entertain with ease in the walkout lower level featuring a family room, wet bar, brick fireplace & patio with fire pit. A rare wet boathouse includes a stunning 2BD/1BA guest cottage above with vaulted ceilings, full kitchen, living room, and screened porch. Premium amenities include a 36x30 heated/cooled garage with 4 vaulted rooms including workout room & dog run, plus an additional heated 3.5-car detached garage. **\$2,999,700**



NEW PRICE

**W5712 North Dr, Elkhorn** - Exquisitely remodeled in 2020, this stunning 3-bed, 2-bath ranch offers 92 feet of Middle Lake frontage with breathtaking, expansive views. The main level features soaring vaulted ceilings, a wall of sliding glass doors opening to a spacious wraparound deck, and a chef's kitchen with elegant Quartz countertops, designer backsplash, KitchenAid SS appliances, and a striking waterfall island with bar seating. A luxurious bedroom and spa-like bath with heated floors and a glass shower complete the main floor. The walk-out lower level boasts a chic beverage center, 2 additional bedrooms, a modern bath with glass shower, and laundry. Two 9x12 sheds, including one lakeside, lead to the pier and manicured yard. **\$1,049,700**



LAKEFRONT CONDO

**W5135 Sterlingworth Ct, Elkhorn** - Located in a prime spot at Sterlingworth Condominiums in the atrium, this 2-bedroom, 2-bath unit is just steps from the beach with its own boat slip. Enjoy stunning lake views through a wall of sliding glass doors leading to a spacious deck. The eat-in kitchen features a breakfast bar and dinette, while the living room offers a cozy gas fireplace. The master suite boasts an updated bath with a walk-in multi-head tile shower and double vanity. Wood flooring throughout. Direct access to the indoor pool, tennis and pickleball courts, and the finest sand beach on the lake. Just a short walk to Lauderdale Golf Course & minutes to Kettle Moraine trailhead. Turn-key for effortless lakefront living! **\$697,700**



AS SEEN ON TMJ4

**W5357 Lauderdale Dr, Elkhorn** - The Iconic Lauderdale Lakes home, "The Boathouse" on Deakin Isle is situated on 192' of premier shoreline. Rebuilt in 2015 to its original 1915 Jazz Age glory, this 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath home is bursting with historical details and architectural styles. Ballroom features 1,200 sq ft with original hard rock maple floors, unique hanging Meiji era Japanese lanterns, with the original Opium Den prepped for a future hidden wine cellar. All 3 Lauderdale Lakes are visible from numerous vantage points throughout the four levels. Kitchen features custom marble countertops, farm sink, Wolf & Sub-Zero appliances. Master BR ensuite with luxury freestanding tub, full steam room, and private deck with fireplace. A finished swim basin provides access to the marquee wet boathouse w/ underwater lighting. **\$4,499,700**



BLUE SPRING LAKE

**W1260 South Shore, Palmyra** - Your lakefront search stops here! Move-in ready two-story with walk-out lower level and 65' of frontage on Blue Spring Lake. Low-voltage lighting runs to the floating pier and boat ShoreStations which stay in year-round. Lakeside kitchen with large breakfast bar and dining area offer extended lake views and access to multi-level decking which leads to lake access. Lakeside level lawn and shed. Cozy living room with wood-burning fireplace. In-floor heating system upgraded in 2021 with backup furnace and new A/C system installed in 2025. Main floor laundry room and Master Suite with lakeside sitting room. Upstairs offers four bedrooms and a full bath. Lower-level rec room with sliding glass door for lake access. Blue Spring Lake is an all-sports lake with crystal clear water. **\$789,700**



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