



# ***THE SPIRIT*** *of Geneva Lakes*



Vol. 28 No. 8

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AUGUST 2016

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runs deep

A refreshed  
Geneva Inn

Green,  
as in golf

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**#1483919 - WILLIAMS BAY:** The Donovan offers a 2,748 S.F. of Living Space w/ 5 BR, 3.5 Baths & a 3 Car Garage. Photo is a previously completed similar home not home under construction. Call today to discuss options & upgrades. **Harry Mohr 262-745-2953**



**#1483681 - WILLIAMS BAY:** This 4 BR, 2.5 BA, 2,296 Sq Ft. Contemporary w/ 3 car garage may be the home you've been dreaming of. Photo is a previously completed similar home not home under construction. **Connie Poggensee 262-215-7644**



**#1482688 - WILLIAMS BAY:** New 3 BR, 2 BA, 2,061 Sq Ft. Ranch w/ an Open Floor Plan is currently Under Construction. Photo is a previously completed similar home not home under construction.

**Mary Beth Bromfield 262-374-0772**



**#1482820 - WILLIAMS BAY:** This 4 BR, 2.5 bath, 2,670 Sq Ft. contemporary farmhouse w/ 3 car garage features an open floor plan. Photo is a previously completed similar home not home under construction.

**Shari Rauland Mohr 262-746-2956**



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**#1477518 - ELKHORN:** Beautiful home inside and out. 4 BR, 2.5 BA, 2 story home sitting on 7.74 acres of land & two ponds. Close enough to town yet far enough away.

**\$545,000 Connie Poggensee 262-215-7644**



**New Listing**

**#1483707 - DELAVAN:** Turn of the Century 5 Bedroom Victorian Cottage located in the Historical Rockford Colony on Delavan Lake. The Lake Views are Excellent!

**\$329,900 Harry Mohr 262-745-2953**



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**#1440387 - WALWORTH:** Great country setting on 17.4 acres - 3 BR, 2.5 BA farmhouse w/ many upgrades - new appliances in kitchen, 3 season room, finished LL & several outbuildings.

**\$499,900 Becky Merwin 262-215-4000**



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## Lake living

You don't have to live on the lake to experience all lakefront living has to offer, as this cover photo attests. This month's edition features a story on the many services local marinas offer to those who want to spend a few hours or a whole season on the lake. It also includes a story on the metamorphosis of the Geneva Inn from its traditional country inn look to a modern hospitality venue that makes the most of its spectacular lake views.

PHOTO BY ED NADOLSKI *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*





# IT'S COMIN' UP

## AUGUST EVENTS

**1-7 The World of Little House** – 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Old World Wisconsin, S103 W37890 Highway 67, Eagle. Daily activities that let visitors live like Laura Ingalls Wilder and the Ingalls family and friends. Dress as a character from one of the Little House on the Prairie books and receive a discount on admission. (262) 594-6300 or [www.oldworldwisconsin.wisconsinhistory.org](http://www.oldworldwisconsin.wisconsinhistory.org)

**4, 11, 18, 25** – **Horticultural Hall Farmers Market**, Lake Geneva, Thursdays, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**4 Wake Nights** - Williams Bay, 4:30 to 8 p.m. Gage Marine offers the opportunity to hone your wake boarding and surfing skills. Just \$10 per person to participate – cash only. All ages are welcome. Organizers ask that you come with some level of experience as this is not a lesson. Each rider gets 10 minutes in water or 3 falls.

**5, 12, 19, 26 East Troy Farmers Market**, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on the East Troy Village Square. Vendors selling homegrown and local produce, specialty items, meats, baked goods, crafts, live music and activities. (262) 642-3770

**5, 6 Corn and Brat Days** – formerly the Elkhorn Rotary Club's Festival of Summer, the event begins at 10 a.m. and features crafters and a corn and brat roast all at Veterans Park on the Downtown Square.

**6 Vintage Base Ball: Eagle Diamonds** – 10 a.m.-5 p.m. with game at 1:30 p.m. Celebrate America's favorite pastime and enjoy an old-fashioned game at Old World Wisconsin, S103 W37890 Highway 67, Eagle. (262) 594-6300

**6, 7 Madison Classic Car Show and Swap** – spectators and vendors welcome. Event is from 6 a.m.-4 p.m., 6 a.m.-3 p.m. on Aug. 3, at the Walworth County Fairgrounds, Highway 11. (608) 244-8416 or [www.madisonclassics.com](http://www.madisonclassics.com)

**7 Music by the Lake concert series** offers a 4 p.m. family show featuring Imagination Movers. Adults \$20; children 4-10 \$10; Children 3 and under free. Imagination Movers, one of the country's most popular touring act for families, is bringing its high-energy, interactive stage show to the Ferro Pavilion for the first time. On the campus of George William College of Aurora University in Williams Bay.

**6, 13, 20, 27 Walworth County farmers market** – Veterans Park on the

downtown square, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. (262) 723-7733

**1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Lauderdale Aqua Skiers performance** – Future team at 5:30 p.m., main team at 6 p.m. on Don Jean Bay. [www.aquaskiers.com](http://www.aquaskiers.com)

**13 Lutherdale Fest and Quilt Auction** – from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., hand-made quilts and other items will be auctioned off to support summer camp, lunch at 11 a.m. at Lutherdale, N7891 Highway 12. Event will also include children's programming and a men's lounge. (262) 742-2352

**8, 9 Art in the Park** – the Geneva Lake Art Association is hosting the 35th annual art exhibition featuring artists from all over the Midwest, and further, at Flat Iron Park on Center Street in Lake Geneva. Admission is free and the show will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. (262) 249-7988 or [www.genevalakeart.org](http://www.genevalakeart.org)

**14 Antique Flea Market** – 7 a.m. at the Walworth County Fairgrounds, Highway 11, Cost is \$5. (414) 525-0820 [www.nlpromotionsllc.com](http://www.nlpromotionsllc.com)

**17-21 Venetian Fest** hosted by the Lake Geneva Jaycees at the city's downtown lakefront area. Features a boat parade, fireworks, live music, food and an arts and crafts fair. See page 15.

**19, 20 Big Hat Pro Rodeo** at the Walworth County Fairground, 411 E. Court St., Elkhorn. (262) 723-3228

**20 Dinner in the Gardens**, 6 p.m., at Michael Fields Agricultural Institute, W2493 Highway ES, East Troy. Chef Zach Combs of Rushing Waters in Palmyra will prepare a meal of organic vegetables from the Gardens and fish from Rushing Waters Fishery. Staller Estate Winery of Delavan will be pairing wines for each course. Wine pairings, garden tours, silent auction, music and more. Tickets are \$85. To reserve a seat, go to [michaelfields.org](http://michaelfields.org)

**31-SEPT. 5 167th Walworth County Fair** – Special discounts offered throughout. (262) 723-3228. [www.walworthcountyfair.com](http://www.walworthcountyfair.com)

*Although we strive to provide accurate information regarding area events, dates and times may change or events may be cancelled. We suggest you verify before you finalize your travel plans.*

## THE SPIRIT

IS A PUBLICATION OF



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## THE SPIRIT

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NEWSPAPERS  
1102 Ann Street  
Delavan, WI 53115



**SpiritofGenevaLakes.com**  
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• cover  
story

# Boatloads *of* fun



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Along the pier at Lake Lawn Resort in Delavan, these boats are ready for a leisurely ride on the lake. Visitors may use their own boats or take a ride on one of the Delavan Lake boat tours. The recreational options vary by lake in the area.

Area marinas  
are gateways  
to the wet  
and wild

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**  
CORRESPONDENT

**a**s the summer days continue to heat up, and this summer seems to be giving us more than our share of extra hot days, the pull of the lakes brings many of us to the water as often as we can arrange to be there.

Each of us has a different relationship with the lakes that are so plentiful in the area. The desire to be in the lake swimming is the driving force for some, especially children. For others there is just a need to sit by the water and relax while we take in its calming view or perhaps spend some time sitting at the lakeside and

reading. Maybe playing in the sand with your children and building sand castles with an occasional dip into the water to cool off and rinse some sand away is your way to enjoy the lake.

For others, the wish is to be on the lake. For these people the thrill comes from the boats that travel the lake's surface. Even among the boat lovers there is a great diversity in the types of watercraft that are enjoyed.

The boat rental marinas answer those desires. Customers wait excitedly for the arrival of their boat anticipating the fun of an hour or several hours on the





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# A SUMMER FULL OF FUN

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### Sommeliers Wine Dinner Taste Off

August 19 | 6:30 pm | \$60

Join us for a special taste off where two sommeliers face off. See who has created the best pairing with a specially gourmet four course menu, created by our own award winning Chef David Ross. Space is limited and reservations are required. Each participant in the Wine Dinner receives a \$5 discount to the Wine Fest on Aug. 20.

*For more information call 262-728-7950*



### Venetian Night

August 20 | 5:00 - 9:00 pm

Join Lake Lawn Resort for our 4th Annual Venetian Night. Celebrate with a classic summer cookout, live music by Un-hich'd, and games for all ages. At 8 PM the Circus themed Boat Parade will begin. If you have a yacht, boat or dingy and a string of lights, you can be part of this year's parade. First place will be awarded.

*Call 262-728-7950 for more information*



### Wine Fest

August 20 | Noon - 4:00 pm | \$20

In the shade under the trees in the picturesque Inner Circle at Lake Lawn, sommeliers will serve a variety of wine samples and answer wine related questions.

Complimenting the wine tasting will be a variety of food samples. Proceeds will benefit the Boys & Girls Club.

*Call 262-728-7950 for more information*

2400 E. Geneva St. | Delavan, WI | 800.338.5253 | [LakeLawnResort.com](http://LakeLawnResort.com)



250857





We have rented boats in many places in the country, but this is our favorite spot. The boats are always very clean and mechanically perfect. And the lake, too, is perfect."

water. Employees, mostly of college age, carefully prepare each boat for its delivery to the customer. They diligently explain the workings of the boat and give safety instructions. Finally they pilot the boats out to the more open areas of the lake and are picked up by a co-worker on a wave runner for the return to the pier.

Kevin McEwen and his family were piling into a pontoon boat with towels, a massive picnic lunch, sunscreen, and a variety of other items for their day on the lake. The family members, from St. Louis, are frequent boaters.

"We have rented boats in many places in the country, but this is our favorite spot," Kevin said. "The boats are always very clean and mechanically perfect. And the lake, too, is perfect."

Watching the activity on the lake reveals a variety of boats and other watercraft to draw people out on the water – from those propelled by muscle power to those using

motors and jets. Here are a few of the popular rental choices in the area.

Kayaking is a favorite summer activity that appeals to young children, teenagers and their parents. A kayak is a self-propelled boat similar to a canoe. It differs from the canoe in that the paddler sits into the boat with legs extended forward and instead of the type of oar used in a canoe, a two bladed paddle is used. Newer forms of kayaks include models where one sits on top instead of into the kayak. Inflatable kayaks are also becoming popular and easily transported as they can be deflated for the ride home. Kayaking is easily learned and an enjoyable way to spend time on the water.

Stand up paddle boarding, known as SUP, is a relatively new way to enjoy the water. Popular with the millennials, stand up paddle boarding requires a paddleboard and a long handled oar. One stands on the paddleboard and paddles across the

lake. Core strength is needed to maintain balance, perhaps that is why it is more popular with those from teen years through their 30s who tend to be in good physical shape.

Moving on to powered boats, a popular choice is the waverunner. Envision the waverunner as the motorcycle of boating. It is small, easily maneuverable, and can move quickly through the water. The waverunner holds one or two persons. It is recommended by some of the marinas as an ideal craft for first-time riders or for those who enjoy a less strenuous riding experience. Wave runners can reach speeds of 40 mph or more depending on the engine.

Interested in spending a leisurely day on the lake? Relaxing on a pontoon boat with a group of friends while you circle the lake is a favorite way to see the lake and the shore. Bring a picnic lunch aboard and spend the day. Tubing can be done off the



Opting for a two-person kayak, this couple relies on muscle power rather than engine power to travel the lake. Kayaks are among the various watercraft available for rent on area lakes.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAL, Spirit of Geneva Lakes



The popular pontoon boats allow families or groups of friends to enjoy a day on the water in a leisurely way. This family from St. Louis, experienced pontoon boaters, arrived with a picnic lunch, swimsuits and sunscreen for their day on the lake.



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAL Spirit of Geneva Lakes

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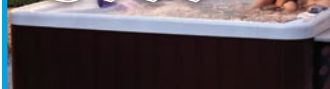
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back of many pontoon boats. Pontoons are favorites for families, and small groups. Most pontoons can hold 10 to 12 persons.

Speedboats offer a chance to skim across the water with the wind blowing across your face. Capable of pulling a tube or water skier, a speedboat will provide an exciting day on the lake.

Once you decide which lake in the Geneva Lakes area you would like to explore, take a ride out and rent a boat for an hour, half day or a full day.

When your day is finished on the lake, visit one of the popular restaurants and enjoy dinner, a drink or a visit with other boaters while you plan the next day's events.

A listing of some of the marinas in the area that offer a variety of boats for rent follows:

## Lake Geneva

In Lake Geneva, the hub of activity is in the area of the Riviera. There are several boat rental options that offer a wide variety of vessels. These include everything from the simple standup paddleboards, high-

speed motorboats and rental boats large enough for a wedding, family reunion, or business meeting. Being in the heart of downtown Lake Geneva means that when you are finished with your lake adventure there are many places to enjoy a meal, a drink, and a time of socialization.

### Clearwater Outdoor 744 West Main Street Lake Geneva (262) 348-2422

Located downtown within walking distance of Geneva Lake, Clearwater is the place for those interested in renting non-motorized watercraft. They offer paddleboards and kayaks for sale and rent. Renters may carry them to the lakefront themselves or have them delivered for an extra charge.

Join them Wednesdays at 6 p.m. through September for a social paddle.

The SUP Masters race will be held at Riviera Beach from Sept. 9 through 11.

The store is open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and

Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit online at [www.clearwateroutdoor.com](http://www.clearwateroutdoor.com) for more information

### Elmer's Lake Geneva Boat Line 195 Wrigley Drive Lake Geneva (262) 248-9952

Located on the Riviera docks, Elmer's offers speedboats, deck boats, pontoon boats, and wave runners. If you are looking for a really relaxing experience, sailboat rides are offered on a 30-foot catamaran.

Visit [www.lakegenevaboatline.com](http://www.lakegenevaboatline.com) for more information or reservations.

### Lips Rentals 151 Wrigley Drive Lake Geneva (262) 246-4142

Located near the Riviera docks across from the Chamber of Commerce office, Lips Rental advertises the newest and largest fleet on the lake. A wide variety of speedboats, deck boats, wave runners and pontoons are available. They encourage everyone to try tubing for the ultimate in

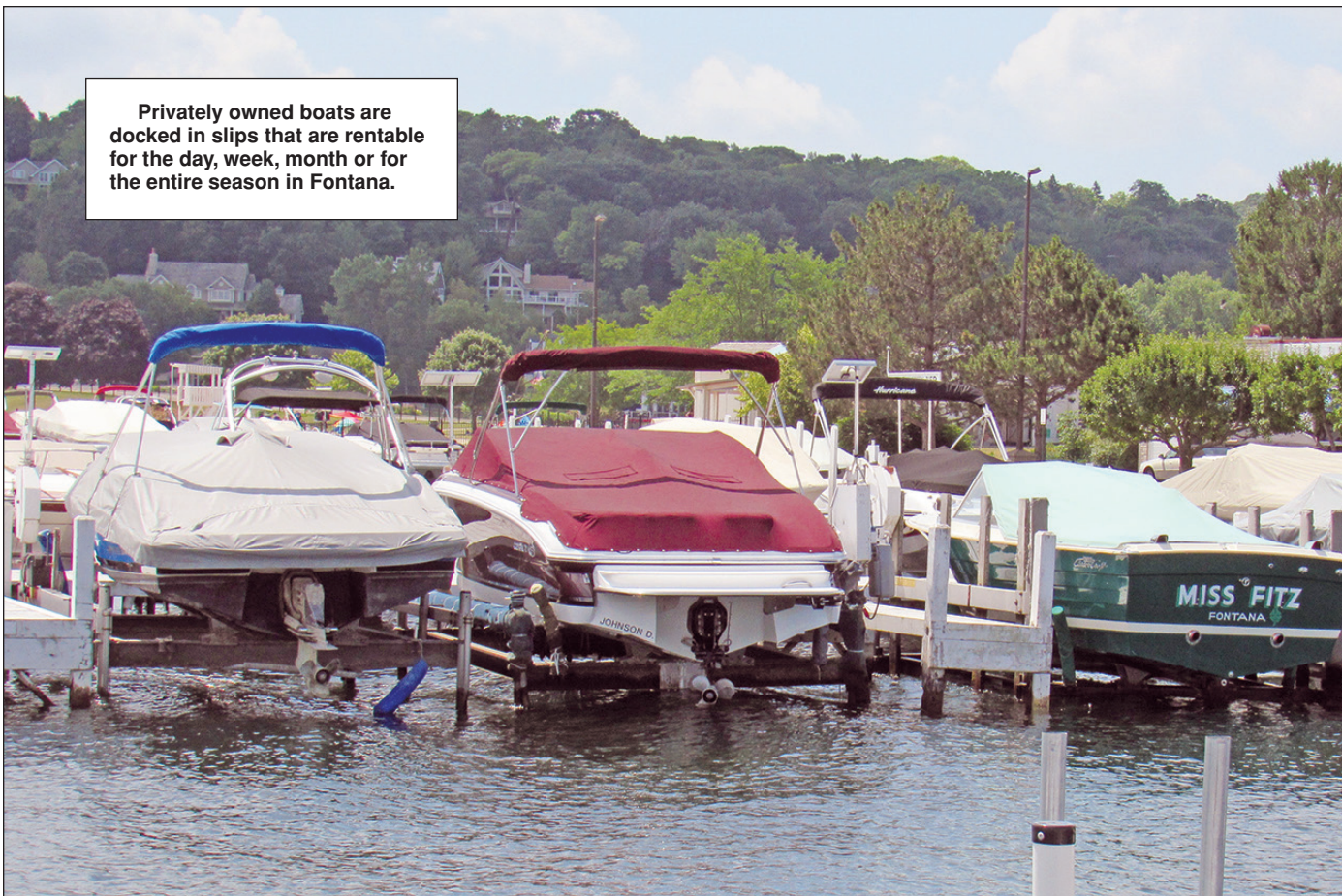


SANDRA LANDEN MACHAL Spirit of Geneva Lakes

For a fun afternoon how about tubing on the lake? Lips Rentals in Lake Geneva offers brightly colored tubes and the speedboats to tow them.



Privately owned boats are docked in slips that are rentable for the day, week, month or for the entire season in Fontana.



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

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**Water Craft Rentals of Lake Geneva**  
**N2063 South Lakeshore Dr.**  
**Lake Geneva**  
**(262) 249-9647**

Want to rent watercraft for use on Geneva Lake yet be away from the hustle and bustle of downtown Lake Geneva? Located just one mile south of downtown Lake Geneva next to Big Foot Beach State Park, Ed Faber has operated Water Craft Rental on this spot for 20 years and is known for well-maintained boats. Rent a wave runner, pontoon, or race boat for a day on the lake. Make reservations on line [www.LakeGenevaBoatRentals.com](http://www.LakeGenevaBoatRentals.com)

**Lake Geneva Cruise Line**  
**812 Wrigley Drive**  
**Lake Geneva**  
**(262) 248-6206**

While many people are aware that the Lake Geneva Cruise Line offers a variety of sightseeing trips on Geneva Lake, many do not realize that four of the Gage Fleet are available to rent for private parties. Able to handle from 48 to 225 people, the boats are appropriate for showers, weddings, family reunions and business gatherings.

Visit [www.cruiselakegeneva.com](http://www.cruiselakegeneva.com)

## Fontana

The waterfront on Fontana is alive with many lakefront activities. The public beach

attracts swimmers while boaters cruise along the lake.

**Fontana Paddle Company**  
**454 Lake Street**  
**Fontana**  
**(262) 275-5708**

Fontana Paddle Company is adjacent to the public beach and offers a variety of paddleboards, and kayaks for sale and for rental. Rentals include a life jacket, paddle and instructions. Single standup paddleboards rent for \$40 for two hours. Contact them for prices of other boards. Must have one person over the age of 18 years with minors.

Hours are Saturday and Sunday 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. Tuesday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Rentals are weather dependent and no rentals are made when wind is over 12 miles per hour. Reservations not accepted.

Special conditioning classes and individual lessons are offered. Check the website [www.fontanapaddleco.com](http://www.fontanapaddleco.com) for more information. The store also has a new location in Delavan.

**Gordy's Boats**  
**320 Lake Street**  
**Fontana**  
**(262) 275-2163**

Ready for a day on the water? Gordy's Boats in Fontana offers a variety of equipment for rent. Cobalt boats are available, which are perfect for tubing, skiing, wakeboarding or just relaxing and

enjoying the lake views. Rates start at \$139 hour for a 20-foot boat that holds six. A 22-foot boat will hold eight.

Ski, wakeboarding and surfing lessons offered for those who would like to learn how or to improve their abilities.

Stand up paddleboards are also available. Visit [www.GordysBoats.com](http://www.GordysBoats.com)


**Jerry's Majestic Marine**  
**352 Lake Street**  
**Fontana**  
**(262) 275-5222**

Ready for a bird's eye view of the lake? Take an unforgettable parasail ride. The takeoffs and landings are smooth and dry from the deck of a specially designed 12-foot Ocean Pro boat. Single or tandem rides are offered starting at \$75 for a single and \$130 for a tandem. For \$25 people can come along as an observer.

Waverunners, singles or doubles, can be rented by the half hour or hour. Pontoons for holding up to 12 begin at \$130 plus gas for one hour or can be rented for a half or full day. Visit their website for complete information on all their services including boat sales and storage at [www.jerrysmajestic.com](http://www.jerrysmajestic.com)

## Twin Lakes

The twin lakes of Lake Mary and Lake Elizabeth lie along the Illinois border with part of Lake Elizabeth dipping into Illinois. A much quieter lakeshore than Geneva Lake, it is a favorite of boaters, fishermen



Stand up paddleboards, also known as a SUPs, are becoming a popular way to travel on the water. Paddleboards require balance and muscle.



and swimmers. Small beaches can be found around the shore. Boat launching sites are available at Musial Beach on Lake Elizabeth and at Lance Park Beach on Lake Mary for a nominal fee.

**Twin Lakes Boat Rental**  
**503 Wilmot**  
**Twin Lakes**  
**(262) 745-5805**

Twin Lakes Boat rental offers a choice of kayaks, pontoons, paddleboards, and speedboats. They will deliver to your pier on the Twin Lakes or to Powers, Silver, Camp or Browns Lake.

**Delavan Lake**

**Lake Lawn Water Sports and Boat Rentals**  
**2400 East Geneva Street**  
**Delavan**  
**(262) 725-9203**

Located on the grounds of Lake Lawn Resort, the water sports rental area carries the water equipment that will make your day on the lake one to remember. From powered-by-you paddleboards, single and double kayaks, paddleboats and paddle bikes. Paddleboards are available in sizes for both children and adults. If you are looking for more excitement, a powerboat allowing you to whip over

the lake at 40 miles per hour might be what you are looking for. Pull a tube or a skier and give someone an extra thrill ride.

Pontoons and even a double-deck pontoon are perfect for a more relaxing ride. Available for groups from eight to 20.

Guided tours of Delavan Lake highlighting its history are offered daily. Visit [www.LakeLawnResort.com](http://www.LakeLawnResort.com)

**Boat Wranglers**  
**(262) 745-6820**

Ready to go fishing? Rent a Lund fishing boat from Boat Wranglers. Top of the line boats with fish locators will hold three or four people. Pontoons are also available for rent. Boats are available in Delavan, Williams Bay, and Lake Como. The boats will be delivered to the boat launch.

**Lauderdale Lakes**

Lauderdale lakes are three fresh water lakes – Green Lake, Middle Lake and Mill Lake – where all lake activities can be enjoyed. Located near Elkhorn.

**Boat House of Lauderdale Lakes**  
**(262) 742-3898**

Offers daylong rentals of deck boats and pontoon boats. Open 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 10 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Sunday.



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ Spirit of Geneva Lakes

A waverunner makes its way out to the open lake weaving between the docked boats at the pier in Fontana.

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# It'll be a **blast!**

**T**he 54th annual Venetian Festival will take place in Flat Iron, Library and Seminary parks in Lake Geneva from Aug. 17 to 21.

Turn the page for the full rundown on this year's festival.



# 54TH VENETIAN FEST IS SET FOR AUG. 17 THROUGH 21

The Venetian Festival, organized annually by the Lake Geneva Jaycees features food, live music, an arts fair, carnival, fireworks and lighted boat parade.

Here's a look at the scheduled events:

## Carnival

The carnival, operated by Mr. Ed's Magical Midways, will be open from 5 to 10:30 p.m. Aug. 17 and 18, 5 to 11:30 p.m. Aug. 19, noon to 11:30 p.m. Aug. 20 and noon to 10:30 p.m. Aug. 21. Wristbands for carnival rides will be sold for \$20 from 5 to 10 p.m. Aug. 17 and 18 and noon to 5 p.m. Aug. 20.

## Arts and crafts

The 22nd annual arts and crafts fair during Venetian Fest will take place in Library Park from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 20 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 21. Admission is free. The event will feature 110 artists and

crafts people. The Lake Geneva Jaycees will provide food and beverages at the Brat Stand in the park.

## Music and beer

The Jaycees Entertainment Pavilion in Flat Iron Park will serve adult beverages including Budweiser products and New Glarus beers to patrons 21 years old and older from 5 p.m. to midnight Aug. 17 to 19 and noon to midnight Aug. 20 and 21.

The musical line-up in the pavilion is:

- Bella Cain – 8 p.m. to midnight Aug. 17;
- Christopher's Project – 8 p.m. to midnight Aug. 18;
- The Toys Band – 8 p.m. to midnight Aug. 19;
- The Acoustic Generation – noon to 3 p.m. Aug. 20;
- Max Allen Band – 3 to 6 p.m. Aug. 20;
- Too White Crew – 8 p.m. to midnight

Aug. 20;

• Lake Geneva House of Music – noon to 6 p.m. Aug. 21; and

• Fresh Hops Band – 8 p.m. to midnight Aug. 21.

## Water ski show

A water ski show will begin at 6 p.m. Aug. 21 on Geneva Lake in front of Library Park.

## Fireworks

Fireworks will be shot off in Geneva Bay at dusk Aug. 21 and can be viewed from Library Park, the lakefront, Riviera Beach and Flat Iron Park.

## Boat parade

A lighted boat parade will begin at dusk before the fireworks Aug. 21 in front of Library Park and the Riviera. The theme this year is Olympics.



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## MUSIC at the FEST

Here's the lineup of live music scheduled for the Jaycees Entertainment Pavilion at Flat Iron Park during this year's Venetian Fest:

- Bella Cain – 8 p.m. to midnight Aug. 17;
- Christopher's Project – 8 p.m. to midnight Aug. 18;
- The Toys Band – 8 p.m. to midnight Aug. 19;
- The Acoustic Generation – noon to 3 p.m. Aug. 20;
- Max Allen Band – 3 to 6 p.m. Aug. 20;
- Too White Crew – 8 p.m. to midnight Aug. 20;
- Lake Geneva House of Music – noon to 6 p.m. Aug. 21; and
- Fresh Hops Band – 8 p.m. to midnight Aug. 21.



At right:  
A member of  
Christopher's  
Project  
plays in the  
Jaycee's  
Entertainment  
Pavilion on  
the final night  
of the 2015  
Venetian  
Festival in  
Lake Geneva.  
The 2016  
festival is set  
for Aug. 17  
through 21.  
Below: The  
Ferris wheel  
lights up a  
dusky blue  
sky during  
a recent  
Venetian  
Fest in Lake  
Geneva.  
Carnival  
rides and  
live music  
will again  
headline the  
events in  
2016.



FILE PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

MICHAEL HALL Spirit of Geneva Lakes



# Celebrity jumper

When Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo got a chance to commemorate the 100th season of mail boat service on Geneva Lake in June by becoming a guest jumper, he didn't pass up the chance. Romo, a Burlington High School graduate who was in the area to conduct his annual football camp, got to jump from the moving boat to a pier and back again as the regular mail jumpers do on a daily basis.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

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# Metamorphosis

GENEVA INN'S  
NEW STYLE  
INTENDED TO  
UPDATE ITS  
APPEAL

by **Christopher Bennett**  
CORRESPONDENT

**M**ies van der Rohe trumped Laura Ingalls Wilder in a recent round of remodeling at The Geneva Inn, and the inn, located on Geneva Lake at N2009 Lake Shore Drive in the Town of Linn, is in the process of getting accustomed to the results.

"The only thing that's left is the view," said Becky Rogers, director

of operations with IDM Hospitality Management. The Madison-based company manages the Geneva Inn under contract. "Everything else, we walked away from it – a fresh start."

It falls short to call what IDM did at the Geneva Inn a remodeling. Removing wallpaper and replacing carpet changes the look on the surface, but the Geneva Inn did not just change. It evolved.

The Ricketts Family, upon taking



A member of the staff at Geneva Inn retrieves wine from the restaurant's extensive selection.

COURTESY OF GENEVA INN *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*





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Renovations to the dining room at Geneva Inn are designed to emphasize the panoramic views of Geneva Lake.





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They wanted something to really make a stamp. You don't do that by making a few changes. If you're going to make a mark in the area, you're going to go all the way.'

The former country inn look at the Geneva Inn has been replaced with a clean modern look designed to extend the appeal of the inn and restaurant to another generation of customers, according to Becky Rogers, director of operations with IDM Hospitality Management.

COURTESY OF GENEVA INN *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*





ownership of the Chicago Cubs, set about softening the public to the idea of altering and remodeling Wrigley Field. The family often repeated the maxim that they run a baseball team, not a museum, and need to be able to stay in the black.

Hints of those sentiments – maintaining an icon while being profitable – pervade the changes at the Geneva Inn. The restaurant is new, as is the entry way and adjacent common areas. The corridors on the guest room floors – floors 1, 2 and 3 – received new carpet and wall coverings, and freshly painted doors.

“Upon our arrival, when we took this contract, ownership was very open with us,” Rogers said, “They said, ‘Tell me what I need to do here. Do I list it on the market? Do I put some money into it? Will this generate some money?’”

### A bit of history

An inn of some kind has graced the property on Buttons Bay near Big Foot

**An updated menu and wine list greets diners at the renovated Geneva Inn.**

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Beach State Park since the 1880s, and the Geneva Inn celebrates all that is good about summers in the area. The inn is a retreat for Chicagoans looking for a summer reprieve from the heat of their concrete jungle.

Clarence and Marilyn Schawk purchased the property in 1989, razed the building and built anew. Rebirth and evolution is in the history of hospitality on the site.

Clarence died in September 2014. He earned a considerable fortune in the printing, graphics and brand development business. He served as CEO of Schawk Inc., based in Des Plaines, from 1953 to 1994.

Clarence quit Roosevelt High School on Chicago's Northwest Side before graduating, joined the Marines and served as a military policeman during the U.S. occupation of Japan after World War II.

Schawk also worked to fund Lutheran schools in Chicago, and worked closely

with the nonprofit Chicagoland Lutheran Educational Foundation, according to his feature obituary in the Oct. 20, 2014, edition of the Chicago Tribune.

In July of 2014, Pittsburgh-based Matthews International acquired Schawk Inc. in a transaction valued at \$577 million. The obituary also makes mention, in a brief sentence at the end, of the family's ownership of the Geneva Inn.

According to the history section of the Geneva Inn's website the Schawks opened their new gem on June 15, 1990. The inn is still family owned.

## A rebirth

On Jan. 21 of this year, IDM distributed a press release announcing the renovation, remodeling and eventual rebirth of the Geneva Lake icon. Madison-based Tri-North handled construction, and Architectural Design Consultants, Inc. of Lake Delton handled design.

The inn previously wore the burgundy and green, country-inspired color palette so popular in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Blond woodwork combined with Kelly green carpeting, and the décor felt like something out of a craft fair.

The new look is more urban than rural, more Kanye West than Dolly Parton, and feels like it is right off of Chicago's Michigan Avenue. Rogers said the old look served the inn well, but a change was needed, and no one seemed to understand that more than the family.

"The family really encouraged that," Rogers said. "I think they were ready for that change. They wanted something to really make a stamp.

"You don't do that by making a few changes. If you're going to make a mark in the area, you're going to go all the way."

A bronze plaque pays tribute to Clarence and Marilyn in the Geneva Inn's lobby. The remodeled look is heavy



The dining room has enough space to accommodate large groups for special celebrations.

COURTESY OF GENEVA INN *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



on black, slate, gray and white, and the colors work together to project a warm and inviting file while also looking stately and relevant.

The lake view is maximized. The windows are framed in black and, in turn, frame the lake – Rogers said it looks as if one is viewing Geneva Lake like a filmstrip or movie.

Seating in the restaurant and bar, which expanded considerably, is also maximized for the view. Seating is tiered, allowing the broad expanse of windows a chance to do what they do best – show the world. An outdoor patio with a menu seemingly inspired by a high-end, drive-in restaurant is also available.

## A mixed reaction

The Geneva Inn threw open its doors earlier this summer, and Rogers said reaction to the changes is mixed.

“We had some shock and awe,” Rogers said. “We’ve had others who are embracing it full-on. We’re seeing what we expected. We knew we would lose some and we knew we would gain some.”

“We’re hoping we’re gaining more than we’re losing. It’s been an interesting reaction.”

The pros at IDM, who specialize in managing boutique hotels and destination restaurants throughout the Midwest, did not enter the process wearing candy-coated blinders, and know acceptance takes time.

The dramatic changes in décor are accompanied by dramatic changes in the restaurant’s menu. A menu that previously knew no unifying theme is now anchored by steak and seafood, and is meant to appeal to a sophisticated palate.

Rogers said she watched diners in the first weeks the Inn debuted its new

offerings, and noticed salt and pepper often went unused. The new flavors of the menu are being recognized and, hopefully, accepted.

The restaurant and décor changes are meant to appeal to a clientele that is savvy and educated – or thinks it is – after watching hours of cable TV cooking shows, drooling over food photos on Pinterest and sharing recipes via social media.

“We also needed to find the next generation of diners,” Rogers said. “That was important. So many of our diners have been loyal from day one, and that market is aging.”

“It was important for us to say ‘How do we satisfy them, and introduce the next generation?’”

Rogers freely admits remodeling begets remodeling, and additional projects might be in the works.



# Dining Directory

**HERNANDEZ EL SARAPE - RESTAURANT & CATERING** • 212 S. 7th St., Delavan. 262-728-6443. [www.hernandez-restaurant.com](http://www.hernandez-restaurant.com). L, D, \$ ¥

**THE GRIST MILL** • 2645 Main St., East Troy. 262-684-5138. [www.easttroygristmill.com](http://www.easttroygristmill.com). Start your day with breakfast or wind down in the evening with a glass of wine on the patio. B, L, D \$-\$\$ FF ¥

**SPRECHER'S RESTAURANT & PUB** • 111 Center St., Lake Geneva. 262-248-7047. [www.sprecherspub.com](http://www.sprecherspub.com) Online ordering now available. Happy hour specials Sun.-Fri. Craft beers and gourmet sodas. America's favorite family brew pub. L, D, FF \$-\$\$ ¥ ☺

**PRINCESS CAFE** • 2695 Main St., East Troy. 262-642-5905. B, L, D, FF \$ ¥ ☺

**DADDY MAXWELL'S** • 150 Elkhorn Rd., Hwy. 67, Williams Bay. 262-245-5757. [www.daddymaxwells.com](http://www.daddymaxwells.com). B, L, D (Fri.), FF NC \$ ¥ ☺

**GINO'S EAST OF CHICAGO** • 300 Wrigley Dr., Lake Geneva. 262-248-2525. [www.ginoseastlakegeneva.com](http://www.ginoseastlakegeneva.com). Chicago's original deep dish pizza, Italian sandwiches, salads and entrees. L, D, \$-\$\$ ¥

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

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“

Some people  
love it, and  
some people  
just want it to be  
green again.”

The bold stroke of the recent remodeling will be accompanied by baby steps of acceptance from the public and aficionados of the Geneva Inn. People need time to get used to change.

Wrigley Field once featured neither lights nor a Jumbotron, and both are now as common to the Cubs' gameday experience as "Take Me Out To The Ballgame." The Geneva Inn will certainly sock more home runs than pop-ups, in time.

"Some people love it, and some people just want it to be green again," Rogers said.



**From top left:**  
The renovated bar  
area; hand-crafted  
cocktails are a  
specialty of the bar;  
a seafood appetizer  
featuring crab,  
shrimp and oysters  
on the half shell.

COURTESY OF GENEVA INN  
*Spirit of Geneva Lakes*





Kiddieland at the Walworth County Fair has attractions and rides just for the little ones. The fair, which doesn't serve alcohol, runs Aug. 31 through Labor Day, Sept. 5. The fairgrounds are at 411 E. Court St. in Elkhorn.



SHARON SOCH *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



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# It's County Fair time

## The Walworth County Fair set for Aug. 31 to Sept. 5

The Walworth County Fair was established in 1849 and is celebrating its 167th year with the 2016 run Aug. 31 through Sept. 5.

The fair opens at 7 a.m. daily and runs to midnight, except Labor Day, when it closes at 8 p.m. The fairgrounds are at 411 E. Court St. in Elkhorn.

Every year, the fair attracts more than 140,000 residents and visitors for the food, fun and entertainment. The family friendly festival has no alcohol on the fairgrounds.

The fair offers plenty to see and do, with free activities and entertain throughout its run.

Free activities include the Walworth County Truck and Tractor Pulls (not Badger State), Park Stage entertainment, touring the barns and buildings, Marvelous Mutts, harness racing, Discovery Barn, Farmers Market and Old World Artisan Village, draft horse hitch class, horse pulls, classic car and tractor parade, Kid Pedal Tractor Pulls, and, of course, the animal judging.

Also free of charge are the eating contests, educational classes at the Learning Coop, Butterfly Barn, Barnyard Stage Entertainment and the Nick Kids Show.

Also returning to the fair for 2016 is the Fairest of the Fair, Outstanding Senior, Grandparents of the Year, the Idol Vocal, All American Trashion Fashion Show, Centennial Farms, Mercy's Healthy Babies and the Farmers Olympics competitions.

The Olympics are an expansion of the bale-throwing contest that is traditionally held the Monday of the fair. Along with tossing a straw or hay bale, participants also competed in a bucket brigade, a round-bale rolling contest and a bouncy horse race.

The 2017 Fairest of the Fair will be crowned on Sept. 4. The contestants had not been announced as of press time.

### On the midway

There is a cost to ride carnival rides in

the midway, which is presented by North American Midway Entertainment. Ride tickets are \$1.25 each and rides take two to four tickets. Tickets can be purchased in sheets to save money at 22 tickets for \$25 or 55 tickets for \$60. Wristbands for \$27 are also available from noon to 11 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 31, and Friday, Sept. 2. On Labor Day, \$25 wristbands are available from noon to 8 p.m.

Discounted wristbands are also sold in advance at the fair's website, [www.walworthcountyfair.com](http://www.walworthcountyfair.com).

### New this year

Every year, the fair introduces new activities, contests, souvenirs and food.

The new horse barn will be up and running this year on the north end of the fairground and the picnic pavilion in the campgrounds is also new.

The fair has announced two new competitions for 2016 – the Monster Arm

Wrestling Tournament and the “You Bacon Me Crazy Recipe Challenge.”

The arm wrestling tournament invites men, women and children of all ages to test their strength. There will be right- and left-arm wrestling and contestants will be divided into weight classes to compete.

Weigh-ins for the tournament begin at 11 a.m. on Sept. 3 with wrestling at noon. There is a \$10 entry fee.

The “You Bacon Me Crazy Recipe Challenge” will be at 11:30 a.m. on Sept. 3 in the Farmers Market and Old World Artisan Village.

The culinary contest will have three categories:

- Smokin' Starters – appetizers;
- Bring Home the Bacon – main/side dish; and
- Hog Heaven Delights – desserts.

Chefs may be of any age and the food must be prepared offsite. Visit the fair's webpage for more information.



One of the Marvelous Mutts performs for the crowd during the 2015 Walworth County Fair.

SHARON SOCH Spirit of Geneva Lakes



New foods to look for this year at the fair include: Gator on a Stick, Gator Bites, Blooming Onions, Walking Tacos, oven-roasted red potatoes, muffins, vegetarian chorizo, vegan tamales, vegan tacos, chicken and waffle sandwich, grilled cheese and OctoberFeast Brats.

## For the kids

Walworth County Fair's Kiddieland is the place to be if you have little ones.

Kids can enjoy pony rides, Butterfly Barn, kiddie carnival, contests and the Barnyard Adventure Tent. Performers entertain nonstop with acts all week long including Nick's Kid Show and the Marvelous Mutts.

Kiddieland also gives kids a chance to participate in potato sack racing, hula dancing, a pigtail/ponytail/braid contest and pickle-eating and freckles contests.

## Performing live

American Idol winner and

platinum recording star Scotty McCreery will perform Sept. 4 during the 167th annual Walworth County Fair in Elkhorn.

"People have been calling wondering when we were going to announce our main stage entertainers this year and because of this contract, we couldn't announce until today but it's really exciting news to share," fair office manager Peggy Frazier said April 25.

McCreery came onto the national music scene in 2011 when he was 17 years old and established himself as one of country music's hottest new stars. By 21 years old, the singer and songwriter has sold nearly 2.5 million albums, received platinum and gold album certifications, debuted three consecutive albums at No. 1 on Billboard chart.

The grandstand line-up for 2016 includes:

- **Aug. 31** – bull riding and barrel racing, The National Federation of Professional Bull Riders Shock and Awe Tour presented by Rice

Rodeo. This year will feature championship bulls and nationally ranked bull riders;

- **Sept. 1** – truck and tractor pulls in the afternoon and in the evening Badger State Tractor Pullers;

- **Sept. 2** – monster trucks along with pro ATV races;

- **Sept. 3** – harness racing in the afternoon and a concert by Grammy-nominated Christian rock band Skillet, on the grandstand stage, at 7 p.m. The group is touring behind its platinum-certified album, "Awake;"

- **Sept. 4** – antique tractor parade and a concert with Scotty McCreery and special guest Chasin' Mason who will be filming a music video for an upcoming album release;

- **Sept. 5** – horse pulls in the morning and demo derby in the afternoon and evening. International Demo Derby will perform three demo derbies.

For more information, visit the fair's website or find it on Facebook.

## If you go

**WHAT:** The 167th Walworth County Fair

**WHERE:** County Fairgrounds, 411 E. Court St., Elkhorn

**WHEN:** Aug. 31 to Sept. 5

**TICKETS:** \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday), \$5 for kids age 5 to 12, kids younger than 5 are admitted free.

For more information, visit [www.walworthcountyfair.com](http://www.walworthcountyfair.com)

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Participants in the Kenosha County Junior Fair Dairy Show line up with their cows at the fairgrounds in Wilmot during the 2015 Kenosha County Fair. The 2016 fair runs Aug. 17 through 21.

# a Star Spangled SUMMER

Kenosha County Fair celebrates the season Aug. 17 to 21

The Kenosha County Fair returns for another run Aug. 17 to 21 on the county fairgrounds, 30820 111th St. in Wilmot. The fairgrounds will open 8 a.m. and close midnight Wednesday through Saturday, and from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday.

The five-day fair features live entertainment, animals, demolition derby, hay bale throwing contest, garden tractor pull and much more. Along with all the fair foods everybody loves.

One of the highlights of the fair is the Bumper to Bumper IRA Outlaw Sprint Series and the WingLESS Sprints, Street Stocks and Bandits at the Grandstand. Gates open at 5 p.m. on Friday and

Saturday with racing beginning at 6:45 p.m. There is an additional \$5 fee to attend the races.

And don't forget the live music, which is free throughout the fair's run at the Creekside Stage. This year the fair is hosting In the Stix, 4 Grand, Georgia Overdrive, The Now Band, Kids that Rock, Rachel Lee, the Amazing Farm Boys, Bella Cain and Class of '62.

Visit [www.kenoshacofair.com](http://www.kenoshacofair.com) for details.

Don't forget to stop by the Antique Farm Machinery Exhibit, which is celebrating its 44th year. Located just inside the main gate, the tribute to days gone by, is a taste of yesteryear. See the old tractors, engines,

## If you go...

**WHAT:** The Kenosha County Fair

**WHERE:** 111th St., Wilmot

**WHEN:** Aug. 17 to 21

**COST:** \$9 for adults, \$5 for kids age 8 to 11, kids 7 and younger admitted free

**INFO:** [www.kenoshacofair.com](http://www.kenoshacofair.com)



and machinery from a time gone by.

Other returning favorites include the crowning of the Fairest of the Fair Wednesday night at 9 p.m. in the Show and Sale Arena

The talent contest begins at 5:30 p.m. on the Creekside Stage. There are two divisions – Youth, ages 2 to 12; and Teen, ages 13 to 18.

The first-place winners in each division will be eligible for the Wisconsin State Fair Junior Amateur Talent Competition during the 2017 State Fair.

## NEW THIS YEAR

New to the fair this year is Digger Doug's ATV/UTV Showdown. Races start at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 17.

Digger Doug, a local 20-year pro ATV/UTV rider will present a high-flying, mogel jumping experience with both four wheelers and utility terrain vehicles.

For more information, visit [www.diggerscompound.com](http://www.diggerscompound.com).

Also new is a fireworks display Wednesday night to kick off the fair. With

the best viewing from the Grandstand, the display is set to begin at about 9:20 p.m.

There will be a new horse pull at the fair this year, as well. The Wisconsin Horse Pullers Association is hosting the pull of weighted sleds in team competition.

For more information, visit [www.horsepull.com/wisconsin-horse-puller-s-association.html](http://www.horsepull.com/wisconsin-horse-puller-s-association.html).

## FOR THE KIDS

The county fair and kids go hand in hand and there are plenty of fun, kid friendly activities to keep families busy throughout the entire run.

The annual Children's Parade steps off at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 19, at the southeast end of the fairgrounds, near the fair office.

Entrance to the fair is free for kids dressed in costume until 10:30 a.m. Prizes are given out immediately after the parade and there are more than two-dozen categories.

Onsite registration begins at 9:30 a.m.

The Children's Scavenger Hunt is also



EARLENE FREDERICK Spirit Of Geneva Lakes

**Justin Kirchner, 6, of Brighton, bears down as he strives to go the longest distance during the pedal-power tractor pull at the 2015 Kenosha County Fair.**

returning this year. Kids age 3 to 12 are invited to have fun searching for the items on the list beginning at 10 a.m. The clue sheets are available at the ticket gates.

Kids follow the clues and get their sheet stamped at each building/barn, and at the end, at 2:30 p.m., receive a "goodie bag."

The Kiddie Pedal Tractor Pull is Thursday and Friday with multiple age categories and prizes.

## ADMISSION

The fair has an all pay policy. Everyone who enters the fairgrounds must pay the daily admission price. Tickets cost \$9 for adults ages 12 and up, \$5 for children ages 8 to 11 and free for children 7 and younger. Season passes are also available for \$30 for adults and \$10 for children.

Wednesday, Aug. 17 is "Senior Day" – anyone aged 62 and older will be admitted for \$6.

Admission is non-refundable, regardless of any cancellations in entertainment.

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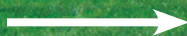
EARLENE FREDERICK Spirit Of Geneva Lakes

**Landon Hipper, 8, gets his boot adjusted by his dad, Josh, before participating in the kiddie parade.**



# A beer baron's 'summer cottage'

BLACK POINT ESTATE  
OFFERS A LOOK AT THE  
LIFESTYLES OF THE WEALTHY







SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

Welcome to Black Point, the summer home of Conrad Seipp built in 1888.



round the shore of Geneva Lake there are many large and beautiful mansions. They are a source of wonder to many of us who view them from the outside and think

about what life was like inside these beautiful houses in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

For most of us the ability to actually visit these homes is not a reality. That is it was not a reality until 2007 when the beautiful estate that was built by Conrad Seipp, opened as a Wisconsin Historical Society museum.

For four generations, the descendants of Conrad Seipp owned, maintained and enjoyed this great property and way of life. In 2005 that changed when William O. Petersen, great grandson of Conrad Seipp turned over the title to the house with eight acres of land and 620 feet of lake frontage to the State of Wisconsin for use as a museum.

This included all of the house's contents including, furniture, linens, and personal items left on site. This

event culminated after years of negotiation between the family and the state and a legal battle with neighbors who did not want to see the property become a public museum. They feared the traffic it would generate would interfere with their quiet lake life.

## The beer baron

Conrad Seipp was a German immigrant who came to the United States and worked at a variety of jobs until he successfully opened a brewery in Chicago. The brewery was so successful that it grew to be the fifth largest in the nation. Like other successful Chicago businessmen of the late 1800s, Seipp decided to build a summer home for his family to avoid the heat and fetid air of the city in summer.

The Seipp family had spent some time at Kaye's Park, a popular upscale resort on Geneva Lake and, as did many other wealthy Chicagoans, fell in love with the lake. So when it was time to look for property to build a summer cottage, the south shore of Geneva Lake was his choice.

A bluff known as Warwick Park was available for sale and was eagerly chosen for the Seipp's summer cottage.

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**  
CORRESPONDENT

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“ Like other successful Chicago businessmen of the late 1800s, Seipp decided to build a summer home for his family to avoid the heat and fetid air of the city in summer. ”

In 1888, he built a 17-room Queen Anne-style home as a summer home for his family.

The house is three-stories tall, allowing for balconies on each floor to better accommodate magnificent views of the lake. The home includes a turret which rises above the roofline, and can be seen from across the lake. From the turret there is an unobstructed view of the entire lake from above the tree line.

Upon the family's arrival right around Memorial Day until they left in the fall, the American flag could be seen high above the turret. The house itself contained 13 bedrooms and one bathroom, and was built at a cost of \$20,000.

To furnish the house, elegant, high-end, although slightly out of fashion Victorian furniture was relocated to the lake from his Chicago mansion. The Chicago mansion would receive new furniture more in fashion, but the frugal Conrad Seipp was not going to just throw away perfectly fine furniture.

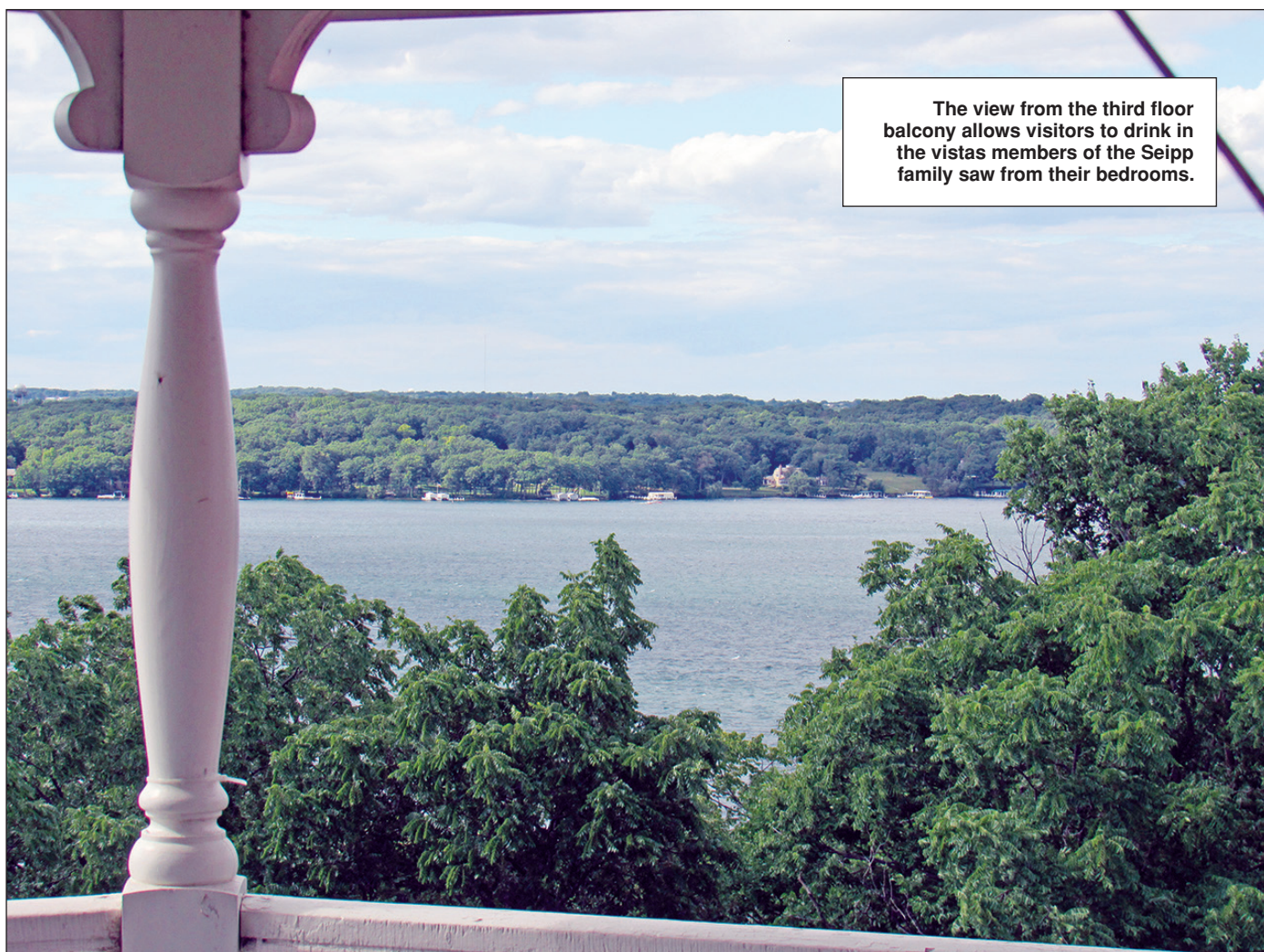
### A yearly ritual

The home was built without any heating system for the winter for this elegant home was to be simply a summer cottage. There were fireplaces to provide warmth on cool fall days and a coal stove helped to heat the second floor allowing use of the

home through mid October before the cold Wisconsin air and snow settled in for the winter.

The house was opened by the servants on Memorial Day weekend each year. Once school was out the entire family, with all necessary house staff would take the Chicago and Northwestern train line from Chicago, a two-hour trip, to Williams Bay. The family would travel in their best clothes and carry enough personal and household goods for the summer.

In Williams Bay, the family would be met by their personal steam yacht, The Lorelei, for the journey across the lake to the house on the bluff. Travel was always by boat as there were no connecting roads



The view from the third floor balcony allows visitors to drink in the vistas members of the Seipp family saw from their bedrooms.

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SANDRA LANDEN MACHAL Spirit of Geneva Lakes

**This side entrance to Black Point was used as the formal entrance to the house for visitors. The carriage drive allowed visitors to pull up, alight from the carriages and enter the house. Inset: This early photograph of Black Point taken around 1900 includes the house in its grandeur and a horse-drawn wagon in the driveway.**



COURTESY OF BLACK POINT ESTATE Spirit of Geneva Lakes

around the lake in the late 1800s. Upon arrival at the family dock, the family was faced with a climb of more than 100 steps to reach the mansion.

Once the family arrived at the summer home, the members remained for the summer. Catharina, Seipp's second wife, and the children would spend the summer at the lake while Conrad would go to the city for work and return to the lake on weekends.

## A formal affair

Family and friends were always welcomed and the house was always full. Serving meals for 40 persons per day was the norm. Dinners were formal affairs with

everyone dressing for dinner. Dinner was served in the formal dining room with linen tablecloths, china, crystal, and silver being used. The meals featured multiple courses just as they would have been in the city.

For the children, being at the lake did not absolve them from lessons. A language tutor was usually in residence to provide lessons in German, Latin, and science daily. Chores were also expected of the children before they could enjoy the summer activities of the lake. The chores were assigned based on age and abilities.

Music was an important part of their lives and after dinner they would retreat to the Music Room where all members of the family would play instruments and sing. The younger children knew that when the

Civil War Song "Floyd's Retreat From Fort Donelson," composed by Skedaddles, was played on the piano, it signaled them to skedaddle up to bed.

Conrad Seipp had three children with his first wife Maria. Maria died after 18 years of marriage. He and his second wife had five more children. Conrad was only able to enjoy his beautiful summer estate for two years before he also died.

After Conrad's death, Catharina maintained the estate and added to its holdings. She first increased the land from approximately 27 acres to 52 acres. She also purchased the nearby farm where vegetables were raised for use at the house. The farm was also known for its prize-winning fowl. Once the farm was



purchased, each child was required to raise a goat.

In spite of the very formal way of life there was still time to enjoy the pleasures of the lake. Days were filled with swimming, sailing, riding, tennis, gardening, and golf, activities more often associated with a summer at the lake than Latin and German classes.

## Our link to history

Today visitors have the opportunity to step into the life of the Seipp family through four generations. A visit to Black Point is not just a walk through a house built in 1888, but rather a walk through four generations of a family's existence. The home is displayed not as an 1888 house, but as a home that has been lived in through the years with changes made over generations. While

**Docent Jim Beloian explains the use of a gas compactor that provided the gas to light all the lamps in the house. It was used until 1920.**



SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

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over the years some rooms have been redecorated and new wallpaper replaced the old, in a third-floor bedroom original 1888 wallpaper is still in place.

Tours of the house begin in much the same manner the Seipp family made their way to Black Point, with a trip by boat. Although for the Seipp family the trip was from Williams Bay in their private yacht, today's visitors leave the dock at the Riviera in one of the Lake Geneva Cruise Line boats and proceed to Black Point.

Visitors today must climb the steps to reach the bluff just as the family did over the years. There are benches and landings that allowing visitors to stop and take a breath or just to enjoy the view on the way up.

Groups meet on the porch and the docents begin the story of life in the big house. Relaxing in the chairs of the porch one is easily swept back in time to 1888 or 1900. Each docent shares his or her knowledge of the house and family in their own manner.

## Docents offer details

Jim Beloian, who has been a docent

since the house's opening in 2007 and prior to that served as a captain on the Gage boats adds his special touch to the history. He asks the group if anyone plays the piano and can play a one-minute audition piece on the piano in the music room. "It is something special to those who are allowed to play the Seipp family's 1909 Checkering Grand Piano," Beloian said.

And the sound of the piano brings the house to life not only for his group but others throughout the house.

Beloian and Emily Larson, curator of the museum, shared their thoughts about the museum. They both said they did not want visitors to think of the museum just as an old house that people come visit once and then cross it off their list. Visitors will experience something new each visit, she said.

Toward this end they have worked to create some new tours. One such tour that has been implemented this year is the "Nooks and Crannies Tour." This tour is held each Friday at 10:30 a.m. and is lead by Beloian. "It is a great tour especially for those who have been to the house before and for those who are interested in the mechanical works used

“ Family and friends were always welcomed and the house was always full. Serving meals for 40 persons per day was the norm. Dinners were formal affairs with everyone dressing for dinner. ”




The large formal dining room at Black Point Estate was used daily. It was here that family and visitors gathered to enjoy formal meals and share the events of the day. There were often as many as 40 people in residence.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



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in the house.”

Jim begins the tour in the basement and describes the heating methods from coal to oil to gas. The gas compression machine which provided the gas for the house lights is also in the basement and was used until 1920.

From the basement the group is taken outside and over to the underground root cellar where foods were preserved much as we would use a refrigerator but here no electricity was needed as the cellar remained about 49 degrees in all weather. The cellar was 32 feet long, 11 feet high and 8 feet wide, and capable of holding a large supply of vegetables.

From the depth of the root cellar visitors ascend to the height of the third floor, which is not normally seen on tours. The third floor is a floor of bedrooms but at this point are used mainly for storage while the staff works its way through cataloguing the house's contents. It is on the third floor that the room with the original 1888 wallpaper is still intact.

Then the group will work its way down to the second and finally the main floor of the house.

“This tour provides a new insight into the house and family,” Beloian said.

According to Larson, the staff is working to encourage knowledge of the house and family not only through the house tours but by other programs that they provide. They have a monthly beer tasting cruise. Another program focuses on Remarkable Women of Geneva Lake. Representatives from Black Point can be found at the Lake Geneva Farmer's Market sharing information about the city walking tour.

One of the other popular programs is the funeral program, “When Angels Carried Them Away,” presented by Steve Person. This boat trip culminates in the parlor where the wake is being held. The return to the boat includes gas lanterns to light the way. The program is held in October and often sells out.

Visit [www.cruiselakegeneva.com](http://www.cruiselakegeneva.com) for a list of tours and prices. Visit [www.wisconsinhistory.org](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org) for more information about the museum and its outreach programs.

**Clockwise from right: Black Point's Curator, Emily Larson, raises the entry door to the turret, the highest point in the home; A collection of Seipp Beer bottles is displayed in the window of the gift shop at Black Point Estate. The bottles are often found in the lake; These stained glass windows line the walls of the curved stairway up to the turret; To reach the waterfront, family and visitors had to follow this path of more than 100 steps to reach the boat dock.**

*Photos by SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ  
Spirit of Geneva Lakes*





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Golf course superintendents and the workers in their charge do more to ensure a satisfying and rewarding golf experience than many realize. Those individuals – the ones who cut cups, mow greens, groom sand traps and more – are the constant in a pastime otherwise ruled by variables.

Swings fall in and out and in and out – and in and out – of sync. Clouds sometime pass, or they stall and unleash a torrent. Mowing greens an eighth of an inch each morning, or grooming a sand trap and placing the rakes parallel to the lip, will likely never change.

## The state of golf

Opportunities for golf are abundant in Wisconsin. The state boasts a robust national profile as a premier golf destination. Milwaukee played host to a PGA Tour event from 1968 to 2009 with the Greater Milwaukee Open, later known as the U.S. Bank Open.

Blackwolf Run, in Kohler, hosted the U.S.

Women's Open in 1998 and 2012. Whistling Straits in Sheboygan hosted the PGA Championship in 2004, 2010 and 2015, and is the site of the 2020 Ryder Cup. Erin Hills, which is near Hartford, is the site of the 2017 U.S. Open.

The web site [www.golfwisconsin.com](http://www.golfwisconsin.com) is an excellent resource for locating golf courses five minutes or four hours from your backdoor in Wisconsin.

Hawk's View Golf Course, 7377 Krueger Road in Lake Geneva, is listed on the site. General Manager Dave Hills started building the courses in 1999, and Hawk's View opened in 2001.

Hawk's View features two courses. Como Crossings is 18 holes of scenic vistas, plays out at par 72 and is 7,074 yards in length. Barn Hollow is an 18-hole, 2,708-yard par-3 course that is maintained to the same standard as Como Crossings.

Rivermoor Golf Club, at 30802 Waterford Drive in Waterford, is a pleasant 30 minutes

from downtown Lake Geneva. The par-70, 6,256-yard track opened in 1929 as Waterford Woods Golf Course.

## Tender care for turf

Rivermoor's Superintendent, Jeffrey Smith, said turf maintenance is the lifeblood of any golf course. The maxim of driving for show and putting for dough carries from the golf bag to the greens mower.

"It's basically your whole welfare," Smith said. "You live and die by your greens. If your greens are good, the people will come in and golf."

There is a set list of duties performed daily on every golf course. Days begin early – most golf course maintenance personnel are on a machine or in a golf cart shortly after first light, scurrying about in a blur.

Cups are cut every day at Hawks's View and every other day at Rivermoor. Cutting new cups changes the pin position, which changes traffic on the green.

**Frequent and proper mowing of greens is emphasized by the maintenance crew at Hawk's View Golf Course.**



CHRISTOPHER BENNETT *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



“ The individual who cuts cups each morning at a golf course holds in their hands the mighty power to shape that day’s golf experience for the multitude.”

Greens are fickle, and must be babied. If the pin position and cup never moved a wear pattern would likely soon form.

Those same greens are also mowed every day. Both Hawks View and Rivermoor use models from Toro’s Greensmaster line, which is considered the industry standard for riding greens mowers.

Sand traps are also groomed every morning. Tee markers are moved to avoid wear and tear on tees – if golfers hit from the same spot every day, especially on a par three, the grass doesn’t heal. Mowing is seemingly never done. Fairways, roughs – first cut and second cut – tees, the approach and collar around the green, and more. Some is

mowed every day and some is mowed in a rotation.

There is always weed eating to be done and projects to complete, along with the repair of divots and ball marks. Hills said Hawk’s View produced a video shown in the pro shop that demonstrates how golfers should repair ball marks and divots.

But every day, Hills sends one of his guys out with a tub of green-colored sand mixed with grass seed and a trowel. The mix is dumped in the offending spot and smoothed over.

Divot and ball mark repair highlights the need for vigilance in turf maintenance. Less would be necessary if those who used the course most complied and cooperated.

“Leaving course maintenance to the golfer does not work, at any level,” Hills said. “You can encourage, and



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## Work never ends

Both Hills and Smith said they spray and use fertilizers. Smith does every other week, and Hills said he contracts the work to an outside party for everything but greens and tees.

There is also aerating, on occasion, and special projects that come up. The weather can deal everyone a blow – a bad storm might litter a course with debris from tip to tail.

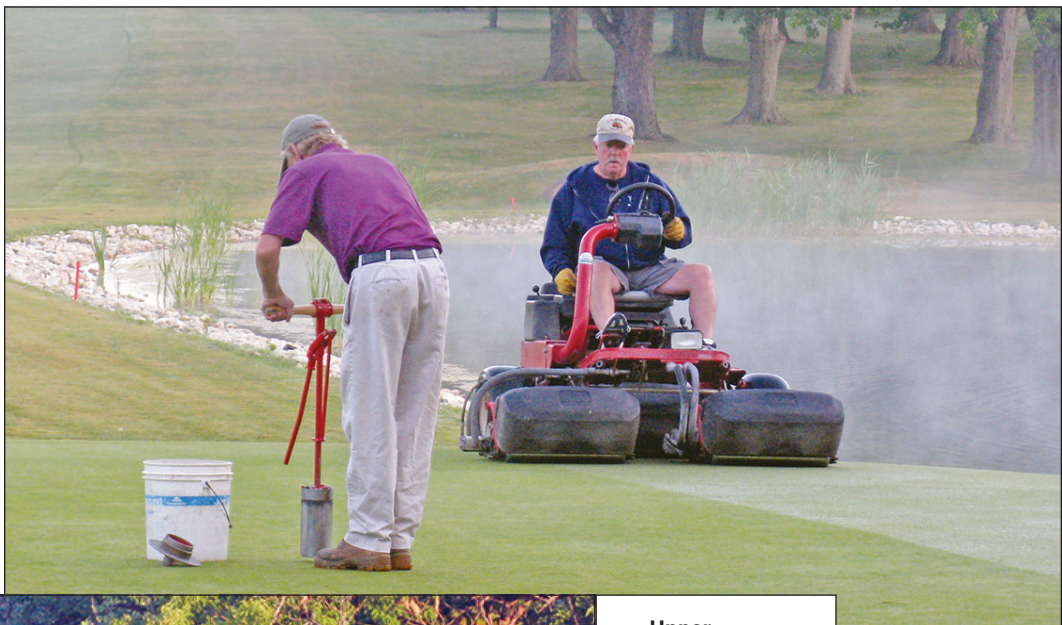
There are also conditions specific to each course that can consume a superintendent's attention. Rivermoor is heavy with trees. Smith said thousands were planted during construction, and some obscure the sun.

"This time of year, it's basically about watering," Smith said. "June, July and August are your three worse months. I kind of call this place the Waterford Triangle, like the Bermuda Triangle. The clouds just split and either go north or south of us, and we never get rain."

Hills said six ponds are on the property at Hawk's View, and there are countless flowerbeds to tend. The courses and complex at Hawk's View is pieced together from six separate tracts of land, and the topography varies from farmland to woods to prairie, which also offers its share of challenges.

Golfers want an experience as close to flawless as possible during their time on the course, and Hills and Smith and their staffs work tirelessly to ensure the grounds exceed expectations. Little will ruin a round quicker than a ball skipping through a bump on a green and a score of par jumping to a bogey.

"It's rewarding to me when everyone enjoyed their day," Hills said. "We put a lot of work into it, and we do it for the customers. I think that's why we've been successful."



Upper photo: Regular watering leads to lush greens at Rivermoor Golf Club in Waterford. Above: Maintenance crews join forces in the early morning mist to prepare Rivermoor for play on a recent Saturday. At left: Frequent trimming and attention to detail keep the courses at Hawk's View in top condition.



Photos by  
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# Love shall overcome

Festival organizers release the doves during the 2015 Labor of Love Music Festival held in Wheatland. The event, coordinated by Just Live, Inc., aims to raise awareness of suicide and depression.

## LABOR OF LOVE MUSIC FESTIVAL SEEKS TO PREVENT SUICIDE

by **Jason Arndt**  
STAFF WRITER

When someone suffers from depression and anxiety, one of the most difficult tasks for them is to ask for help.

Since 2009, the number of people enduring the pain that have succumbed to suicide or attempted suicide is on the rise, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

The CDC reports 41,000 suicide deaths occurred in 2013, up from 38,000 in a similar study in 2010.

Suicide affects all ages, ethnic backgrounds, both men and women, and does not discriminate, regardless of how a person presents themselves in public.



EARLENE FREDERICK Spirit of Geneva Lakes





EARLENE FREDERICK *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*  
Wheatland Town Chairman William Glembocki pitches in at the grill during a previous Labor of Music Festival, organized by Just Live, Inc.

The Wilson family of Wheatland refuses to be just a statistic since the 2009 suicide of 21-year-old Jamie Wilson, daughter of Kelly.

Since the death of Jamie, the family has been the driving force behind Just Live, Inc. an organization that consists of several unpaid volunteers who have been affected by suicide or depression. According to board member Janet Geller-Lesko, it alleviates the pain through unity.

"It is not that easy, and many of the people involved with the organization have had members of their family commit suicide or have had a mental illness," Geller-Lesko explained.

As part of the organization's mission, the volunteers host the annual, and free, Labor of Love Music Festival (this year on Sept. 4) to bolster awareness and emphasize solutions.

Inspired by Jamie Wilson's love of bluegrass music, the seventh annual event features live bands, with proceeds going to organizations with a mission to help those who need it and reduce the stigma associated with mental illness.

"She was a big fan of bluegrass, so that's why we made it a bluegrass festival," Geller-Lesko said.

Bands expected to take the stage are Pert Near Sandstone, Horseshoes and Hand Grenades, Whiskey Shivers and Sparrow Tree.

Geller-Lesko, who never met Jamie Wilson, often looks at photos of her, and realizes the hidden illness that depression is.

Jamie Wilson had a beaming smile and golden-blond hair.

"I would look at her, and would think to myself, how can somebody look so beautiful and looks like they

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got it all together be in so much pain?" Geller-Lesko said. "Mental illness does not discriminate. She was a very family-oriented person. She was very kind-hearted and very close to her family."

Instead of sitting idly, the Wilson family along with the Wheatland community, opted to find a solution for depression and anxiety, forming the nonprofit organization in 2010.

That same year, the Labor of Love Music Festival was born, and has grown since, courtesy of the support of people throughout the area, Geller-Lesko reported.

"As the years have gone by, we have become more organized," she said. "In the beginning, there was just a few people doing a lot of things, now we have broken it down by committee."

The Labor of Love Festival is the organization's chief fundraiser of the year, and would not have been possible without the support of the community.

Community support included the Town of Wheatland Fire Department, which handled food services at the festival.

"We used to do all of the food ourselves and it was a lot of work," she said. "Now we coordinate that with the fire department so they do all of the food now."

"The community is incredibly supportive and as each year has gone by, we increased the number of people who attend. We have been able to tap into the community for

donations."

Donations include raffle prizes consisting of a four-day rental of a recreational vehicle, multiple restaurants pitching in with a "Dining Out" basket and camping equipment – another passion Jamie had.

This year, Geller-Lesko is donating a kayak or canoe.

Other high-end packages include a getaway to Lake Geneva, a "Man Cave" package and a basket of electronics.

While guests vie for raffle prizes, enjoy bluegrass music and savor food hot off the grill, there are activities for children.

Activities include face painting, magic displays, crafts they can take home, and games.

Staying true to the organization and festival's mission, however, several exhibits and educational materials related to suicide prevention will be on display with social workers standing by to help those in need.

The most pivotal moment of the festival is the presentation of colors by the Great Lakes Honor Guard, along with a singing of "May the Circle Be Unbroken" by the Jon Dowley family as attendees come together on a united front.

Another poignant moment occurs when organizers release Doves into the air, with the number 13 chosen because a suicide occurs every 13 seconds.

Organizers hope with education and

## If you go...

**What:** Labor of Love Music Festival

**When:** Sunday, Sept. 4, noon to 7 p.m.

**Where:** New Munster Ball Field, 34315 Geneva Rd., New Munster.

**The lowdown:** Food, games, raffles and live blue grass music to celebrate the short life of Jamie Wilson and raise funds for suicide awareness. Admission is free.

more awareness, the rising number of suicides will begin to decline, and give those suffering from depression a new outlook on life.

"Unfortunately a lot of people who have a mental illness, particularly depression, they feel helpless and hopeless," Geller-Lesko said. "Suicide is not the answer, it's a permanent answer to a temporary problem and that there is help out there. There are resources out there."

Resources include a fairly new initiative called Hopeline, one of the festival's beneficiaries, that gives those suffering

Bluegrass music rings out from the stage at the Labor of Love Music Festival. Just Live, Inc., hopes to raise awareness of suicide and save lives, by hosting the annual Labor Day weekend festival.



EARLENE FREDERICK Spirit of Geneva Lakes



from depression and suicidal thoughts a chance to seek help via text message.

Geller-Lesko said Hopeline is a 24-hour-a-day text service with live help.

"It is called Hopeline in Wisconsin and it is called other things in other states," she said. "It is a basically a text program where (if) you are suddenly feeling anxious or depressed, confused or scared they can text on their phone and it goes to a live person to help."

Hopeline is an outlet presented by The Center for Suicide Awareness that is aimed toward teens and adults, who often have difficulty expressing themselves verbally, with hopes of encouraging more to come forward and ask for help.

The text service, a first in Wisconsin, allows people to receive help via any electronic device, including a computer, laptop, tablet, cellular phone and an IPAD.

Other supportive outlets include Question, Persuade and Refer, or QPR.

QPR is a free suicide prevention program for people who hope to save the life of someone who attempted suicide or has suicidal thoughts.

Part of the program includes the recognition of warning signs, how to approach someone, and persuade them to seek help.

Along with QPR, Just Live has continued to train officials at multiple levels, including law enforcement,

emergency personnel and school officials.

Like the festival, the QPR program is free for anyone who wants to help reduce the risks.

Kelly Wilson stated the benefits of the festival are two-fold.

"It's a wonderful time, people enjoy themselves and they walk away learning something new," she said.

In addition to therapeutic support, Just Live, Inc. has started to explore other avenues to reduce the number of suicides. The group has been meeting with officials from Marquette University to discuss the clinical aspect of the disease.

Geller-Lesko and other board members hope the potential partnership leads to more thorough research and discoveries within the brain.

"One of the big things that we are doing this year is we are considering donating money to Marquette University," she said. "Instead of just donating money to organizations started because of people who committed suicide."

Geller-Lesko should know, based on her experience as a hospital administrator on a Naval base, where she helped veterans returning home, most recently from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Through her tenure as hospital administrator, it reaffirmed the statistics, and made it clear mental illness is nondiscriminatory.

## Who to call

If you, or someone you love is in crisis, help is available by calling the following resources:

- National Suicide Hotline (800) 273-8258
  - Kenosha County Crisis Center (800) 236-7188
  - Racine County Crisis Services (262) 638-6741
  - Walworth County Crisis Services (800) 365-1587
  - Hopeline
- Text "Hopeline" to 741741

"In regards to the veterans, the Vietnam vets are being treated for PTSD," she explained. "We were seeing the service members that were coming from Iraq and Afghanistan, there were some very high suicide rates among them."

While the organization hopes to carry Jamie Wilson's memory at festival, Just Live has made multiple appearances in other community events, most recently in the July 4 Lily Lake Parade and July 16 Poker Run.

The free music festival opens its doors at noon and runs until 7 p.m.

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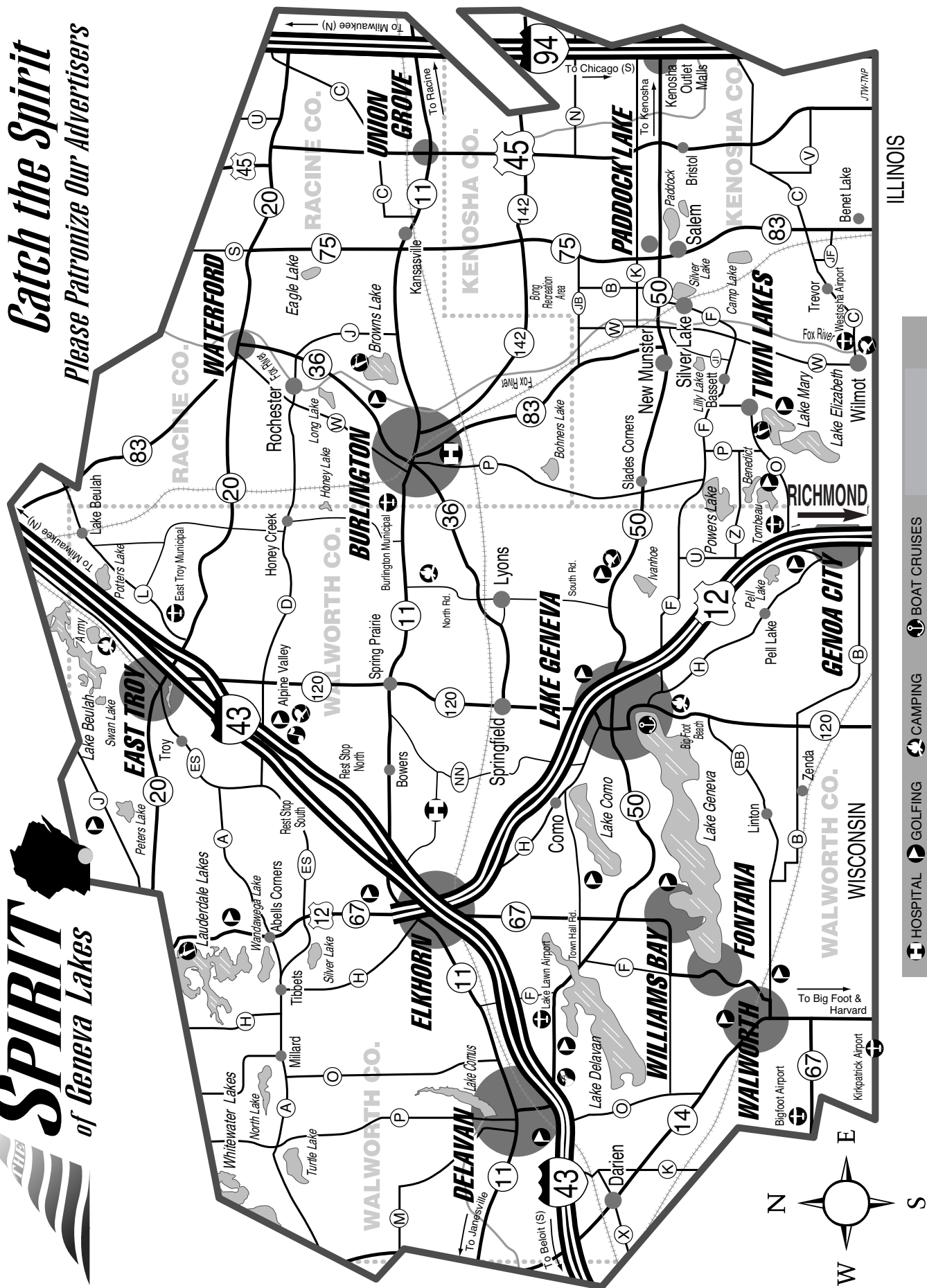




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