

# Lauderdale Lakes BREEZE

SUMMER 2024 • Third Edition

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## Wake-enhanced boats a timely topic

*They're said to be causing shoreline, other issues on smaller lakes*

BY **Jennifer Eisenbart** • EDITOR

A new trend in boating has created a need for new rules on area lakes. Wake-enhanced boats – also known as wake surf boats – are boats that use ballast tanks, water sacks, or fins to cause a boat to operate in a bow-high manner. That, in turn, increases the wake behind a boat to increase the amount of water for tubers, water skiers, or wake boarders being pulled behind a boat.

However, numerous different authorities throughout the state have begun to see the impact these boats have on lakeshores – mainly shoreline erosion and the destruction of fish habitats and damage to lake bottoms.

Wake-enhanced boats also create hazards for other boaters, kayakers, swimmers, paddle boarders, and pleasure boaters.

Because of the use of ballast tanks, which cannot completely be drained, there is also the concern of invasive species being transferred from one lake to another.

According to Lakes at Stake Wisconsin, restrictions have been suggested for small and medium lakes for the following reasons:

- Large lakes are better resourced to monitor for invasive species.
- Most Wisconsin glacial lakes are irregularly shaped, with bays, kettles,

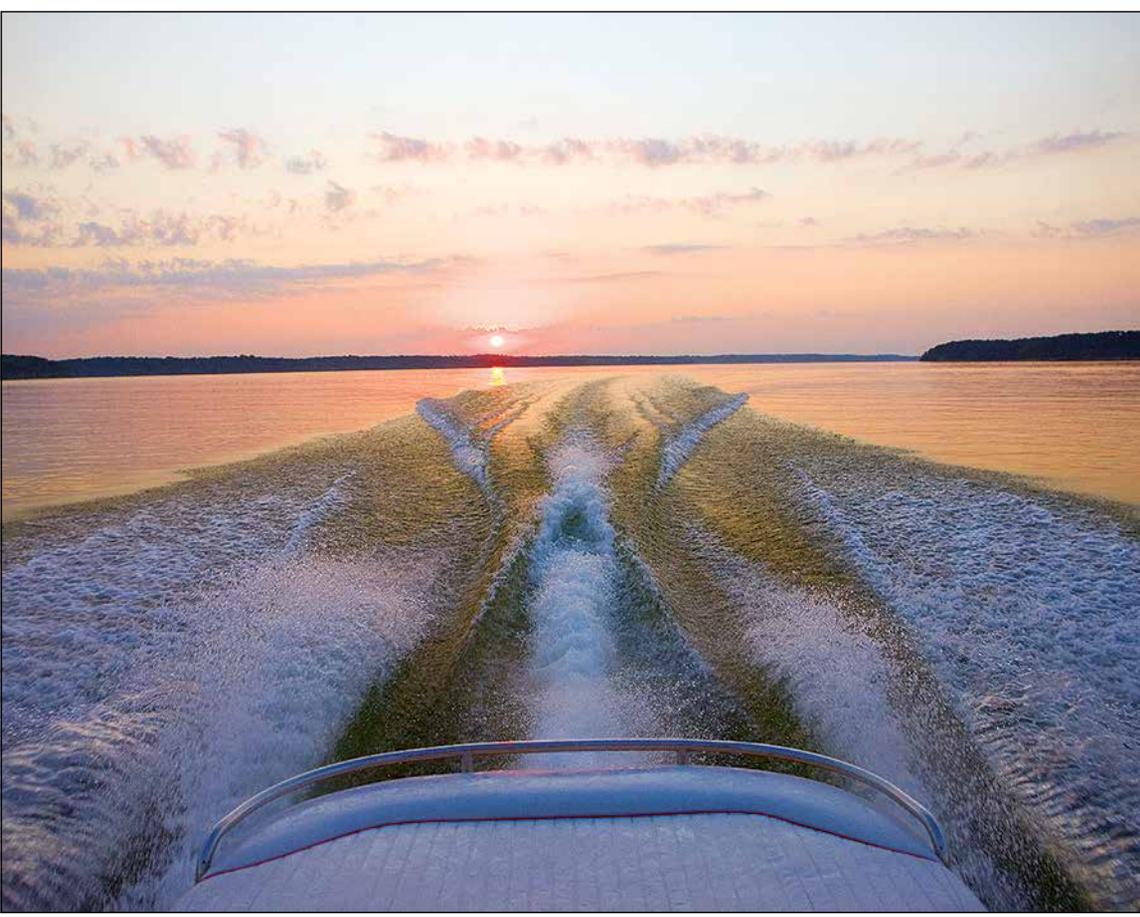
and critical habitat areas needing protection.

- The solution to pollution is dilution, which means that small and medium sized lakes are exponentially impacted by resuspension of bottom silt.
- Many lakes have sunken islands, bars and reefs that come up to shallow depths, which in turn make them prime areas for fish habitats. They are also harder to navigate around with smaller and irregularly shaped lakes.
- The wake sports industry recommends that these boats limit repetitive passes against a single shoreline, which is more difficult with small and medium sized lakes.

Lakes at Stake has been working in the last year to put regulations in place for such boating activities. According to an article on WisBusiness.com, the group is led by Paul Gardetto, a 29-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force who owns lakefront property in Waukesha County.

In the article, Gardetto stressed that the group doesn't want to ban the boats, but instead limit the activity to larger lakes.

Numerous municipalities, lake authorities and organizations – both in the state and outside of it – have begun taking a stance against wake-



Wake boats, or wake-enhanced boats, create larger waves behind boats for wake surfing or tubing. The boats, however, have the potential to damage smaller lakes if the lakes aren't deep enough.

METRO CREATIVE The Breeze

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Man killed in local home explosion

BY **Jennifer Eisenbart** • EDITOR

The lone occupant of a home that exploded in the Town of Lafayette was injured and later died July 2. The explosion is still under investigation by the Wisconsin State Fire Marshall and the Walworth County Sheriff's office. The man who died was later identified as Leland R. Holden, 68. The Walworth County Communications Center received

numerous calls around 2:20 p.m. on July 2, with reports of a structure fire and an explosion on Kulow Road.

When emergency personnel arrived, the house was essentially leveled. According to reports from area residents, the explosion was powerful enough to disperse the home's insulation around the immediate area like snow.

"No, I've never seen anything

like this in person," Elkhorn Fire Chief Trent Eichmann said on July 8. "I've seen it on TV. Hopefully it's my last."

Eichmann confirmed that when his department arrived, there was a small fire in the basement, but the house was "gone."

"I mean scattered," Eichmann explained. "It was eerily quiet when we rolled in there."

Initially, Eichmann said they

were told to look for a black pickup truck, and if it wasn't there, it was likely no one was home. However, the truck ended up being covered in the rubble.

Eichmann said he directed his personnel and other arriving emergency crews to search. After a few minutes, he said he was advised on the radio that firefighters heard a man calling to them from the basement area.

Eichmann said it took about 30 to 45 minutes to extract Holden from the basement. By that time, Flight For Life had been requested and arrived.

Holden was flown to a local trauma center. There was no immediate information on the extent of his injuries or when he died.

Eichmann offered a statement to the family of Holden.

"I just want to reach out and tell the family they have our deepest condolences," he said.

He also thanked all the partner agencies that pitched in at the scene. That group ended up being extended. Eichmann said his department went to two MABUS alarms for additional manpower.

That included requesting technical crews from Racine and Kenosha counties to aide in the rescue.

In addition to Flight for Life, the Walworth County Sheriff's Department and Elkhorn Fire, agencies involved included: the Lake Geneva Police Department, the Lake Geneva Fire Department, the Lyons Township Fire and Rescue Department, the LaGrange Fire Department, the East Troy Fire Department, the Town of Delavan Fire Department, the City of Delavan Fire Department, the Troy Center Fire Department, the Paris Fire Department, the Kansasville Fire Department, the City of Burlington Fire Department, the South Shore Fire Department, the Somers Fire Department, the Bristol Fire Department, the Vernon Fire Department, the Racine Fire Department, the Racine Fire Bells, and the Walworth County Medical Examiner's Office.

Eichmann said the week after the incident the investigation could end up taking longer, as it is not believed to be a criminal situation.

A celebration of life for Holden will be held at Boxed and Burlap on Aug. 1.



Police tape and no trespassing signs were all that were visible on Kulow Road the week following a home explosion July 2. The explosion, the cause of which has not been confirmed, leveled a home and trapped its lone occupant, who was rescued but later died.

JENNIFER EISENBART The Breeze

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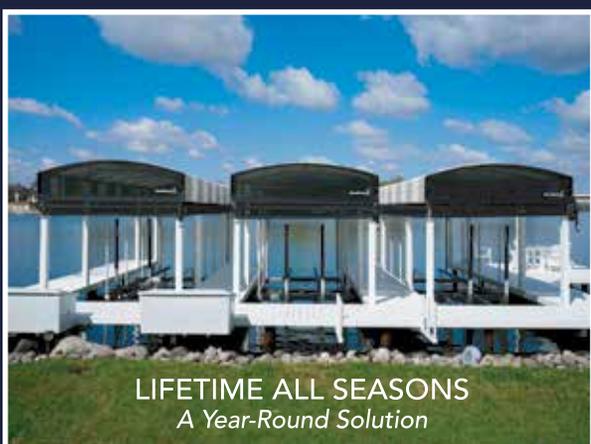
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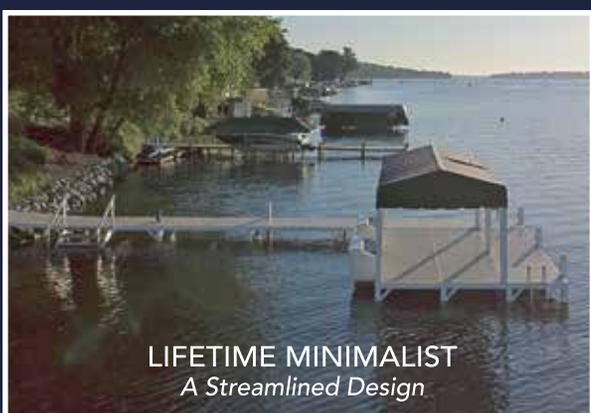
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## ● UPCOMING HAPPENINGS

# Venetian Night happening Aug. 3

Lauderdale Lake's third annual Venetian Night will take place Saturday, Aug. 3. The event will run from 7 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. and will feature a parade of boats as well as numerous pier and

home lighted decorations. Celebrations on and off the water will also take place. For more information or to register, call John Summers at 262-903-1134 or Bill Harris at 224-355-9060.

# Quilt Fest coming up at Lutherdale

The Lutherdale annual Quilt Fest will take place Saturday, Aug. 10, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the camp, N7891 Highway 12, Elkhorn. A preview luncheon will be held Thursday, Aug. 8, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with people welcome to see the quilts that are part of the auction. In addition, there will be a fish fry on Friday, Aug. 9, from 4 to 7 p.m., where people can view the quilts and place bids.

The quilts are currently available online for viewing, and online bidding is available starting Aug. 1. Bidding will close Friday, Aug. 9, at 10 p.m. Viewer's Choice awards will recognize auction pieces that are crowd favorites. The winners will be announced prior to the start of the auction. Proceeds will go to benefit the camp. To view the quilts, go to [www.lutherdale.org/quilt-auction](http://www.lutherdale.org/quilt-auction).



The new owners at Stillwater Coffee (now Stillwater Café) in Elkhorn are Manuel (left) and Katy Saucedo, shown here in front of the café with their daughter, Sonia.

JENNIFER EISENBART *The Breeze*

# Stillwater Coffee Company becomes Stillwater Café

BY **Jennifer Eisenbart**  
EDITOR

For now, Elkhorn's Stillwater Coffee Company will retain at least the Stillwater part of its name. But with the recent sale of the business from owner Karen Sieger to Manuel and Katy Saucedo, changes will be coming to the café.

While an official name change probably won't happen until September, Stillwater will become Madrez Café under the Saucedos, growing into what they hope will be a breakfast and brunch restaurant and gathering place featuring homemade, fresh foods.

"It's a café with a Mexican flare," said Katy. "It's not going to be a full-fledged Mexican breakfast menu."

Sieger said she was excited to be handing the restaurant off to the Saucedos. There had been rumors of Stillwater being sold in the past several months, but Sieger waited until she had the right offer.

"Deciding to sell my shop was not an easy decision for me, but the support of my family and friends was incredible," Sieger said. "In life, we often go through a shift — times when we need to adjust our sails. I found myself at a shift — the need to focus more on self-care and family care. I am looking forward to a bit of a 'pre-retirement' and slowing down a whole lot. I think slowing down will take some getting used to, but I am up for the challenge."

Sieger said she was very excited for what Manuel and Katy have planned for the space with Madrez Café. "I know they will bring something great to this community," she said.

Sieger stressed — and the Saucedos confirmed — that the current staff at Stillwater will be maintained, giving the community and other regular customers familiar



Stillwater Coffee, north of downtown Elkhorn, recently sold. The new owners have retained the staff and are still selling coffee drinks. They are adding menu items and have future plans to expand it to a restaurant serving breakfast and brunch.

STILLWATER COFFEE PHOTO *The Breeze*

faces. In fact, one employee — Sarah Hillman — has been promoted to supervisor.

Manuel Saucedo, meanwhile, brings restaurant management experience to Stillwater. He and Katy met at his first restaurant — in Playa Del Carmen, Mexico — and he later opened a second restaurant in Flagstaff, Arizona.

However, with Katy's career as a pharmacist with Aurora, the couple recently relocated to Wisconsin. Now residing in Sugar Creek, Manuel began looking for a third possibility of a restaurant.

The plan with Stillwater is to eventually build a full kitchen, and make use of

the talents both Manuel and Katy bring to the table — no pun intended.

Manuel will make homemade flour tortillas, which will be used in burritos and gorditas, as well as breakfast bagels. Katy will offer up homemade waffles, which can be topped by a variety of seasonal fresh fruit, Nutella or caramel.

They are also offering a "tangy" waffle, with fried egg, spinach and Chipotle cream.

The Saucedos plan to continue to offer coffee, working with Stone Creek Coffee out of the Milwaukee area. Coffee and coffee drinks — cappuccinos, espresso, and so on — will

remain on the menu.

Fresh foods, particularly fruit, feature heavily into Manuel's plans. For example, he offers homemade lemonade — frozen or blended with fresh fruit like strawberries, blueberries, or mango. Those lemonades have little in the way of added sugar, featuring instead the taste of the fruit and tart lemon.

There are plans to bring in Katy's brother-in-law, David Duncan, as a partner when the full kitchen comes in.

There will also be cookouts in the outdoor space, a dining room area and a lounge area for visitors, according to the new owners.

# City votes to upgrade new ambulance

## Concept plan for new Highway 12 park gets thumbs up from council

BY **Kellen Olshefski** • CORRESPONDENT

The City of Elkhorn Common Council voted 4-0 in favor of increasing the 2024 budget for a new ambulance by \$51,000 from \$302,899 to \$353,899.

In a memo to the council, Elkhorn Area Fire Department Chief Trent Eichmann said he reached out to the city's vendor, Foster Coach, about switching to a pickup-style chassis for an ambulance order approved by the council.

Eichmann said he was told the ambulance is not scheduled to be built until next year, and it would be toward the end of 2025 for delivery of the ambulance.

According to Eichmann, the switch to a pickup chassis over a van chassis would have an initial price increase of \$51,000; however, the long-term savings and benefits would outweigh the negatives.

For instance, he said that initial cost could be recouped on the back end as the city would be able to remount the ambulance box onto a new chassis in 12 years, saving the city \$60,000 to \$100,000 and giving the city a longer life cycle on the most expensive part of the ambulance — the box itself.

According to Eichmann, the pickup truck chassis would also provide Elkhorn crews with the availability of 4-wheel drive during the winter months, something he said is "much safer for not only our crews, but our patients as well."

Eichmann said the city had ambulances get stuck twice last winter, even though it was a mild winter, requiring either a tow or that the crews shovel themselves out, which increased time in getting a patient to the care they need.

He additionally noted the newer box would be slightly larger than what's used on van-type chassis, allowing for more space for tools and air packs for personnel who are assigned to the ambulance for the day but are tasked with firefighter duties once on scene at a fire or accident.

Eichmann also said the pickup truck chassis would still hold value when being sold, unlike the cutaway van chassis, which would be worth what the city might get for the driveline and scrap prices for what remains, and he also noted a pickup chassis allows better access to the motor, meaning easier service.

Following a motion to approve, Alderman Scott McClory asked if the vendor had assured that the cost would not go up before the ambulance was delivered.

Eichmann said that is correct and that it could actually even end up being less, noting once again that the main reason he's pursuing this is that they can re-

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

# CALENDAR

## Lauderdale Lakes Yacht Club

**LLYC Golf Tournament,** Saturday, Aug. 24, 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. – Join in at the Lauderdale Lakes Country Club for the group’s annual golf outing and fish boil. The 9-hole shotgun scramble will start at 2 p.m., with the fish (and chicken) boil to follow. Golf and dinner is \$70 per person, and dinner only \$30. For more information, go to LLYCclub.com.

*The Lauderdale Lakes Yacht Club was established in 1953. The club has provided a variety of educational and entertaining activities throughout the years, with more than 200 current members from the area.*

*Annual events include the Cocktails With the Commodore, Taste of the Lakes, House Walk, Pig Roast, and more.*

*For more information, visit llyclub.com.*

## Lauderdale Lakes Improvement Association

### Directors Meeting,

Saturday, Aug. 24, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. – Directors will meet to discuss improvements on the lake.

*The objective of the LLIA is to encourage and assist in the general work of protecting, improving and adorning the Lauderdale Lakes, as well as the bank and shores of the lakes. Rich Siok is the current president of the organization.*

*For more information, go to llia.org.*

## Southern Wakes United Ski Team

Show dates this summer are at a variety of lakes around the area, including Lauderdale Lakes.

## Whitewater Lake

### Scenic Ridge Campground

*All shows 7 p.m., unless otherwise noted.*

- Friday, Aug. 16

## Lauderdale Lakes

### Lauderdale Landing, Elkhorn

*All shows at 6 p.m.*

- Friday, Aug. 23

## Elkhorn Lake

### Babe Mann Park, Elkhorn

*All shows at 6 p.m.*

- Sunday, Aug. 18 (Alumni Show)
- Saturday, Aug. 31

*The Southern Wakes United Water Ski show team is Walworth County’s only water ski show team. SWU is a merger of the Lauderdale Aqua Skiers and the Whitewater Lake Sports Club (Minneiska). The group is a non-profit whose purpose is to give all a chance to build confidence in their abilities, learn new skills and promote leadership, water safety education and sportsmanship.*

*For more information, go to southernwakesunited.com.*

## OTHER EVENTS

### Saturdays on the Square, Saturdays through Aug. 31, Veterans Park, Elkhorn –

Join in the weekly market at the park, which features a large variety of produce, flowers, commercial and craft vendors, and more. The market opens at 9 a.m. and closed at 1 p.m. Vendor spots are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

### Elkhorn Truck and Shuck, Saturday, July 27

– A fleet of food trucks, live music, and a park full of craft and commercial vendors will be in Veterans Park from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. A movie to be determined will be shown at dusk.

### Elkhorn Antique Flea Market at the Walworth County Fairgrounds, 411 E. Court St. (Highway 11), Elkhorn, Sunday, Aug. 11

– Gates open at 7 a.m., with admission \$5 per person. Free parking is available on site, with food and drink for sale. Pets are not allowed at the event.

### Live Music Duesterbeck’s Brewing Company, N5543 Highway O, Elkhorn

– Duesterbeck’s has live music most weekends at its location, as well as weekday events. For more information, call 262-729-9771 or go to dbcbrewery.com.

### The Vinery, 218 Elkhorn Rd., Whitewater

– Classes are available throughout the summer at varying times, to teach fused glass techniques. Register at The Vinery by calling 262-458-2209.

## WAKE-ENHANCED BOATS

• CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

enhanced boats. Rick Siok, president of the Lauderdale Lakes Improvement Association, said the item was on the agenda at the June 8 LLIA meeting, but not to take action because the LLIA cannot set policy.

“We don’t have that power on the lakes,” Siok said. “It was more an educational meet, and it kind of turned into more than an educational meet.”

Steve Kessler from the Last Wilderness Alliance came to speak at the meeting, using a PowerPoint demonstration to show what the wake-enhanced boats can do to lakes.

“He thought it would be a great topic to bring up,” Siok said. “We were trying to do some education.”

“If we can get a few people to recognize what they do to the shore and get them to use them in deeper water ... there was no heated information,” Siok said, adding that some in

attendance didn’t necessarily “believe” the information.

“They felt (the information) was one-sided from his group,” Siok explained.

Siok said the concerns are not about stopping these boats from using these lakes.

“But part of this group is to protect the beauty of these lakes,” he added.

He confirmed there are a number of these boats using the lake, but he also understands the boats are popular.

And he isn’t sure how to come to a compromise.

The maximum depth of Lauderdale Lakes is about 54 feet, and most of the lakes in the chain are narrow – a total of 825 acres for all the lakes.

However, wake-enhanced boats also represent a significant portion of new boat sales in recent years.

The Boathouse, located on Lauderdale Lakes, could not be reached for comment.



## Come to the flea market

Elkhorn’s Antique Flea Market was held for the second time in 2024 on June 30, at the Walworth County Fairgrounds. Around 500 vendors come to each of the four events, featuring a large variety of antique items for sale. The next flea market is scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 11 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

DAVE DRESHOW *The Breeze*

## COURT NEWS

# Madison man camps out inside car with baggies of meth

A preliminary hearing is scheduled June 24 in Walworth County Circuit Court for a Madison man with a known drug history, found living inside a vehicle with another drug user at a private campground.

Ronald R. Cross, 48, is charged with possession with intent to deliver methamphetamine, between 10 and 50 grams, and possession of drug paraphernalia – both with subsequent and second offense enhancers.



Ronald Cross

According to the criminal complaint, Walworth County Sheriff’s deputies were called to Scenic Ridge Campground in the Town of Richmond on June 3 for a welfare check on a car that had several sheets and blankets covering the windows.

## AMBULANCE • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

chassis the ambulance with the truck chassis and make it last longer.

The motion passed 4-0, with aldermen Ken Meinel and Kurt Harkness absent from Monday’s meeting.

### Highway 12 park

In other business, the

council also voted in favor of both a concept plan for a new city park on Highway 12 across from Evergreen Golf Club and authorizing city staff to begin negotiations on a proposed memorandum of understanding with a potential donor for the park. Proposed access would

The deputy knocked on the front driver’s door and heard commotion from inside. Cross, who had an arrest warrant, exited the vehicle on the driver’s side. Trisha Larson, 45, exited from the passenger side. A search of the vehicle was completed, including Larson’s purse. Inside her purse, deputies found a butane lighter, a handheld Taser, a baggie containing suspected methamphetamine, and two drug pipes.

On April 30, Larson was

convicted in Dane County of manufacturing/delivering cocaine.

Deputies also searched a backpack containing a red, capsule-like container with nine baggies of methamphetamine, totaling 18.1 grams. Larson stated that the backpack belonged to Cross.

Cross’s cash bond is set at \$5,000. He remains in Walworth County Jail, according to online court records.

be off of North Fairway Lane, with the proposed park set to feature a number of amenities, including walking trails with pedestrian bridges and boardwalks where needed, an open air pavilion, a shaded picnic area, and an open lawn play area, for example.

The park project will be broken down into three tentatively scheduled phases, with first phase set to be completed in 2025 at a cost of \$528,500 to \$673,500 and including the northwest portion of the walking trail, park access parking lots, and bathrooms.



# A morning on the farm

The Walworth County Dairy Breakfast was held on the Davis Family Farm in Sharon June 15. The event produced a huge turnout. Long lines for food and ice cream were the norm, though, as families came out for a breakfast of deluxe scrambled eggs, sausage, pancakes, juice, milk, coffee and ice cream.

**At right:** State Assembly member Ellen Schutt serves sausages at the breakfast. **Far right:** State Assembly Speaker Robin Vos dishes out pancakes. **Above:** Children got a chance to enjoy a number of different activities, including these cart rides. **Top right:** Volunteers cook pancakes at the breakfast. **Below:** Tours of the farm were available, with these children checking out the cows in a barn.

JENNIFER EISENBART  
*The Breeze*



# The ins and outs of Lauderdale Lakes

Lauderdale Lakes consists of Green Lake, Middle Lake and Mill Lake and is located in La Grange Township a few miles north of the City of Elkhorn, west of highways 12 and 67. For more information contact the Lauderdale Lakes Marina at (262) 495-8200 or [www.lauderdalelakesmarina.com](http://www.lauderdalelakesmarina.com).

### Size

- Green Lake is 311 acres
- Middle Lake is 259 acres
- Mill Lake is 271 acres

### Maximum depth

- Green Lake: 55 feet
- Middle Lake: 42 feet
- Mill Lake: 44 feet

### Fish species

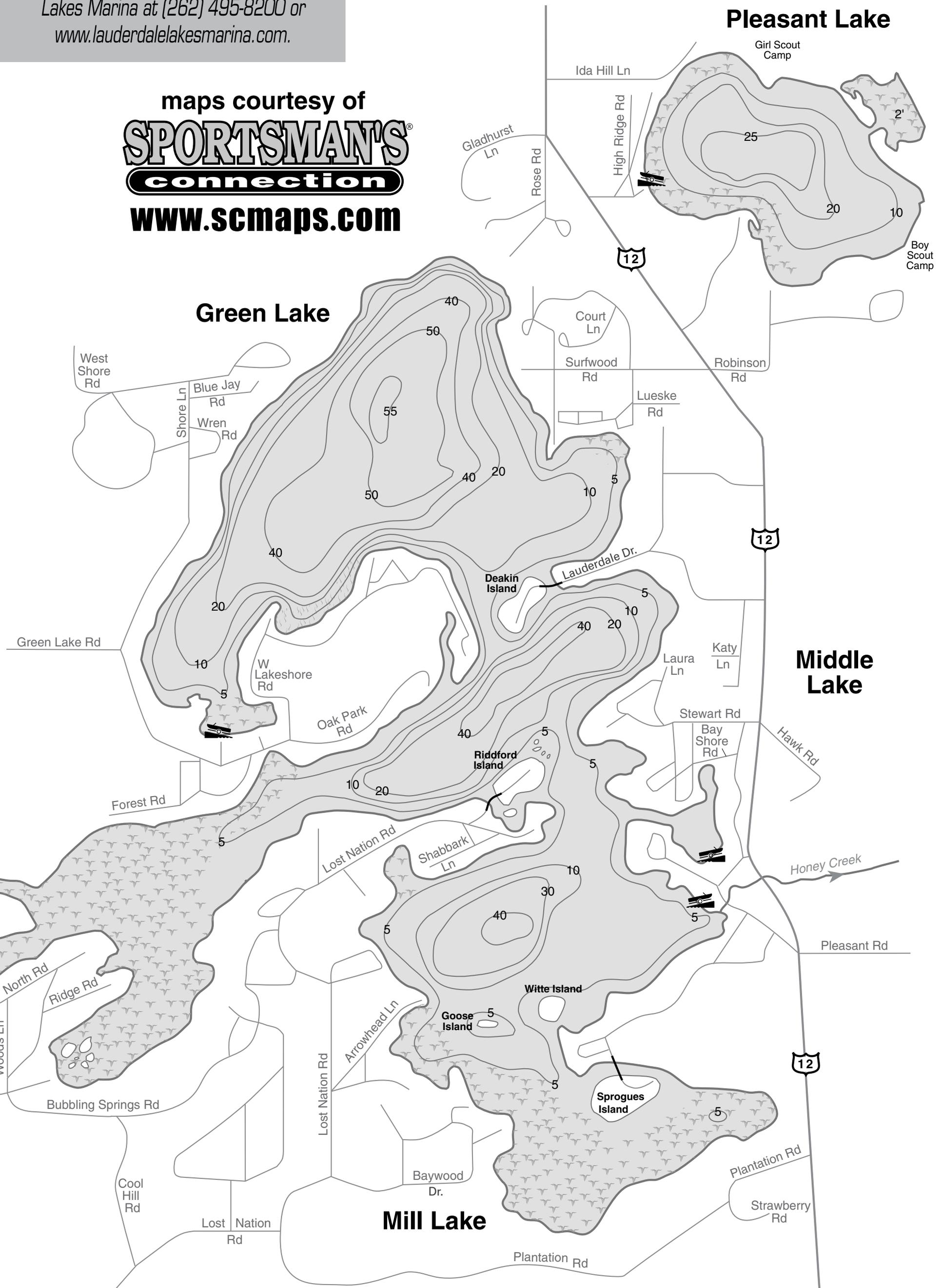
Lauderdale Lakes offers a wide array of fish with the predominant species being:

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

### Access

Lauderdale Lakes is accessible via a paved ramp on Sterlingworth Road off of Highways 12/67. Additionally, unimproved landings are located off of Bubbling Springs Road and Westshore Drive.

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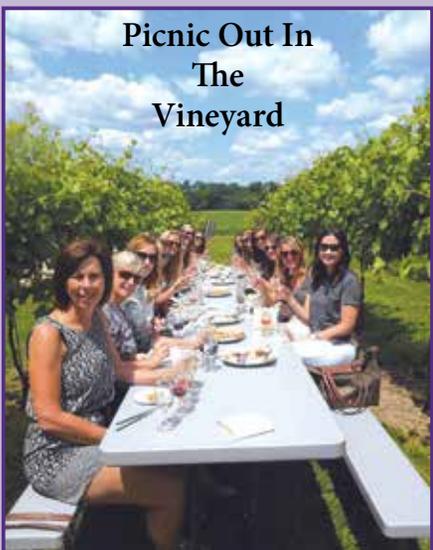
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# A dark and windy night

## Tornadoes drop on southeast Wisconsin during recent storms

By **Jennifer Eisenbart**  
EDITOR

When June 22 bloomed hot and humid, Wisconsinites were warned about the possibility of severe weather.

What transpired that evening, though, quickly turned into a dangerous situation for the southeast third of the state.

According to the National Weather Service out of Milwaukee/Sullivan, six different tornadoes have so far been confirmed in the state – two in Walworth County.

The largest was an EF-2 that touched down close to Janesville, while four EF-1 tornadoes and one EF-0 were registered as of Monday.

In addition to the two EF-1s in Walworth County, the storm line along I-94 spawned two others – one touched down near Marshall and the other west of Watertown. There was confirmation of an EF-0 in Grant County.

“It was a busy day,” said Andrew Quigley, a meteorologist out of the Milwaukee/Sullivan office.

The most local damage was done by the what is being called the Williams Bay tornado. There are multiple reports of extensive damage to homes and property in the village, though no weather-related injuries or deaths.

### Williams Bay

According to Quigley, two tornadoes touched down close to one another in Walworth County – including the Williams Bay tornado – around 8:22 p.m. Saturday night.

That EF-1 tornado started on the far east side of Delavan and tracked down to the north shore of Geneva Lake.

It had estimated peak winds of about 105 miles per hour, and traveled about six miles on the ground.

“Really, it was a lot of tree damage along that path,” Quigley explained. “Some minor property damage.”

A drone film taken by the Chicago and Midwest Stormchasers showed heavy damage to some homes in the Bailey Estates



While there was no tornado in Delavan, damage from the storm was evident. This house near the historic downtown area of the city had both a tree and an old antenna tower fall on it.

JENNIFER EISENBART *The Breeze*



This photo of the approaching storm was captured June 2 on the east end of Geneva Lake. Two EF-1 tornadoes touched down in Walworth County.

PHOTO COURTESY EMILIE GLOGOWSKI *The Breeze*

subdivisions, including missing roofs, siding peeled away, and a variety of what could best be termed “holes” in homes.

The Williams Bay Police Department continued to update the community and area through its Facebook page, announcing its final update June 25 with the posting that final utility reconnections were happening.

### Lake Geneva

The other Walworth County tornado touched down south of Geneva Lake, then tracked northeast across it, Quigley explained, traveling southwest to northeast.

He said the tornado then “shot out” the other side of the lake, went across Highway 50 in Lake Geneva and traveled all the way to the south shore

of Lake Como, where it then lifted.

The path of that tornado was about 5.3 miles, with peak winds of about 100 miles an hour. Again, the area saw a lot of downed trees and tree damage.

Quigley did say however, that a dock on Geneva Lake suffered “severe damage.” Wooden planks from that dock traveled about 500 yards to the northeast, and the canopy on the dock was also damaged.

### The other tornadoes

The strongest tornado of the night caused a great deal of damage in Janesville, where Quigley said it traveled about five and a half to six and a half miles on the ground.

The EF-2 touched down on the southwest side of Janesville, went across US-51, and then lifted on the

southeast side of town.

In spite of initial concerns on the evening of June 22, there were no confirmed tornadoes in Racine or Kenosha County.

And while social media was later flooded with pictures of the storm system – and videos that likely captured the tornadoes on the ground – Quigley stressed that safety is paramount.

“We always want to message that safety,” the meteorologist explained. “The pictures can look really cool, but nothing is worth your life.”

Quigley said, much like the situation on Geneva Lake, the biggest danger is from flying debris.

If there is a tornado warning, he stressed, take cover. Go to basement or an interior room with no windows, and take cover.

# County workforce needs, wants housing

## Lack of workforce housing, the role it plays in economy a concern, WCEDA says

By **Jennifer Eisenbart** • EDITOR

As the cost of rent and housing continues to rise around the area – and the country – Walworth County has been trying to address the issue.

The Walworth County Housing Initiative was started by the Walworth County Economic Development Alliance last year, and has already held a housing summit – in September of last year.

WCEDA acknowledges that workforce housing is a serious concern, as well as an important part of any economic development.

A webpage was developed to ask questions and hopefully provide answers as well as solutions.

According to the webpage, which is on the WCEDA website, walworthbusiness.com/housing, affordable rent or home ownership prices fall into four categories:

- With an income of \$35,000, rent should be no more than \$875 a month, and the price of a home no more than \$88,072;
- With an income of \$50,000, rent should be no more than \$1,250 a month, and the price of a home \$131,873 or less;
- A household income of \$75,000 should be able to afford up to \$1,875 in monthly rent, or \$204,874 maximum for a home price;

- With an income of \$105,000, the rent should be \$2,625 or less while the price of an affordable home would be no more than \$289,000.

Generally, affordable housing is considered to be 30% of household income, which includes mortgage or rent, utilities and property tax.

The webpage goes on to say that housing costs have risen, which has negatively impacted the production of housing.

Single-family housing costs rose 37% from January of 2020 to September of 2023, while multiple-family construction costs rose 38% over that period of time.

During that same period, the growth in households was 4,918, but the number of housing units developed was underproduced by 4,179 units.

“The movement in workforce housing is to bring together the necessary parties to address this housing shortage and get our workforce into homes,” the webpage states. “This shortage of housing directly affects the workforce seeking housing. It also directly affects our community’s growth and stability.”

Examples provided on the webpage include when the new teacher “cannot find affordable housing close to the school, they may choose to go to another school out of the county. When the young family can



not find affordable housing in the school district, they will move possibly out of the county, or out of state.

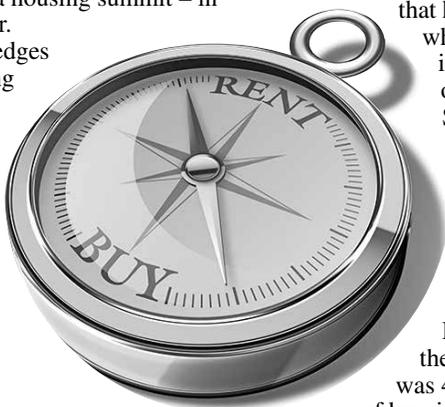
WCEDA representatives involved with the issue said companies, schools, and medical community continue to share the impact of the housing shortage on their workforce and ultimately the operations of their business.

“The result of providing additional workforce housing in Walworth County will positively impact the residents, the schools, the medical and business communities

alike,” the webpage states. “WCEDA wants to help move this forward to help build the communities in the county to be where people want to live.”

The website included a pair of whitepaper briefings from March and April. The March paper said a recent study indicated that Wisconsin will need to build more than 200,000 housing unit by 2030 to meet demand.

It included a checklist for communities to try and address the housing needs of the municipality.





# Take in a summer ski show

*Local water ski team making waves again*

By **Sandra Landen Machaj**  
CORRESPONDENT

Summer is the time to get out on the water for many. Whether heading out for a day in a canoe or kayak, jumping into a boat for a ride around the lake, or relaxing while lounging on the beach with an occasional dip in the water to stay cool, summer is a season when people flock to area waterways.

While most of us look forward to summer, particularly excited for the warm weather and time out on the lakes are area waterski teams that know how to have fun on the water and entertain residents and visitors with regular shows.

But that's not all as they also take their talent to competitions and have been very successful, winning

titles at the state and even the national level for some.

The teams are comprised of volunteer skiers who put in countless hours to perfect their craft and often more than one family member is involved with a team, adding to the fun while mixing in some quality family time.

Among the competitive teams in the area is Southern Wakes United.

For Southern Wakes, 2023 was a special year as they won the Wisconsin State Championship in their division. Southern Wakes is a medium sized team and as such competes in Division III.

"This was the first time we won the state title in our division since 1990, so it was an important event for us," shared Laura Lohrmann, Southern Wakes United Show Director. "Because we won the division, we will move up to Division II this year, where we will compete with larger teams."

In addition to the team winning the Division III State Championship, it also received first place in several other categories including highest scoring production, drive team, traditional ballet line, most original or unique act, dock and equipment, and

best comedy act. They were also nominated for Medium Team of the Year.

Southern Wakes United was formed when two teams joined forces – the Lauderdale Lakes Aqua Skiers and the Minneiska Water Ski Team.

Today they have approximately 50 members who come from a wide area including Elkhorn, Whitewater, Janesville, and Twin Lakes in Wisconsin as well as Illinois. Members range in age from 7 to 56, and while not all are actual skiers, each plays an important role in helping the team perform.

Lohrmann and Michael Maas are serving as the show directors this year and worked hard for months in advance developing the theme for this year's team. It's a 40th reunion costume party theme and will feature them bringing back the 1980s with a twist.

"Our team is so excited to be participating for the first time in Division II. We've worked hard all winter long on a theme that can be put on at the variety of different show courses we use. And, we have tried upping our skill set to be competitive with the bigger teams that are well known in the division," shared Leslie Gostowski, vice president of the Southern Wakes United Ski Team.

"We feel we will be very successful if we are able to place third during our first year in this higher division," she added.

The team is going to be highlighting the younger skiers this year to encourage more participation from them while also giving them an opportunity to grow throughout the season.

"This year we have had a lot of younger members get involved in the development of this show. We love seeing the younger generation stepping up because they are the future of this sport," Gostowski said.

"They have been working hard on creating a fun, inclusive theme that can be performed at our multiple, unconventional sites," she added.

Southern Wakes is unique



**above:** Members of the Southern Wakes United team show off patriotic outfits during a performance. **top:** The 2023 Southern Wakes United Water Ski Show Team won the state title for Division III.

PHOTOS COURTESY SOUTHERN WAKES UNITED *The Breeze*



Southern Wakes United team members get into position for the 3-high pyramid that begins with two portions of the large group of skiers on the dock.

PHOTO COURTESY SOUTHERN WAKES UNITED *The Breeze*

because they do not perform at one home venue as the other local teams do. Instead, they put on shows at several including Lauderdale Lakes Elkhorn Lake and Whitewater Lake.

Each site has different days and times for shows and all performances are free. For a complete schedule, see the sidebar.

## Showtimes

### Southern Wakes

The Southern Wakes United team performs at a variety of venues.

- Elkhorn Lake – Parking is available at Precision Plus, 840 Koopman Lane, Elkhorn. Shows at Elkhorn Lake are at 6 p.m., Saturdays and noon, Sundays. Shows will be at Elkhorn Lake Sunday, Aug. 18 (Alumni Show); and Saturday, Aug. 31.

- Lauderdale Lakes – held on the lake at Lauderdale Landing, Elkhorn. All shows are on Fridays and start at 6 p.m. Shows will be presented at Lauderdale Aug. 9; and Aug. 23.

- Whitewater Lake – Two shows will be held at N7660 State Park Dr. on Whitewater Lake this summer and are best viewed by boat as it will be difficult to see from the shore. The remaining shows in Whitewater for this summer will be on Saturday July 27 and Friday, Aug. 16.

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

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W5742 North Dr .....	<b>\$1,687,500</b>
W5672 Ridge Rd .....	<b>\$1,750,000</b>
W5369 Baywood Dr .....	<b>\$2,099,700</b>
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W5599 Oak Park Rd	<b>\$3,245,000</b>

# Ready to clean up or clear things out

*Double K Tree Service offers numerous solutions for tree issues*

By **Jennifer Eisenbart** • EDITOR

For area resident Kyle Krueger, working with trees has been a lifetime obsession.

Having worked to trim, remove, and doctor trees, as well as grinding stumps since 1991, Krueger is currently running Double K Tree Service, 326 Center St., Lake Geneva.

The business boasts a 4.3 out of 5 stars on Google reviews, with numerous five-star reviews that praised Krueger and his team's work and pricing.

"We do trees, year round, 24 hours a day," Krueger explained. "When someone calls me in the middle of the night, I throw on my boots and go peel trees off houses."

There can be many different reasons to need a tree service. Sometimes trees need to be trimmed or cut back in order to either stimulate growth or make a tree fit its surroundings.

Other times, nature does the trimming for an owner – via storms and high winds, snow, or ice.

There are also times when whole trees need to be removed, and then the stumps of the trees ground.

## Keeping it clean

Krueger has two separate crews with five full-time employees, plus his branch manager (wife, Jolene) and his father. Those two crews, he said, serve about 1,500 clients each year.

"We pride ourselves getting to people as fast as we can," Krueger said. "Either to getting the bid or getting the work done."

"Being clean. No swearing, no smoking," he added. "We try to be the most professional tree service in the world, every single day."

When working on storm damage, Krueger said he has staff that will analyze the tree to try and determine how much life the tree has left in it and whether it is diseased or not.

"We see if we can save it," he said. "That's our number one goal."

He said he will work to get a quote out as soon as possible to customers.

Along with the two crews, Krueger said the business has numerous pieces of equipment.

There is a spider lift, which allows for an aerial work platform, as well as two service bucket trucks – one used for craning branches off homes when needed to prevent further damage.

Double K also has two rollout dump trucks, one used for chipping and the other for hauling logs. Krueger said his crews lay out plywood mats to avoid damaging lawns before they work, including handling the trees and moving out the debris.

Once work is done on a tree, Double K will prune spray, to prevent bugs from getting between the bark and the wood of a tree.

## Beyond tree work

However, it's not all just about the trees.

Krueger explained that he's helped clear lots for new homes and horse farmers, as well as set paths for UTVs and ATVs and dirt bike trails.

Krueger said one of his most memorable jobs was clearing 160 acres of oak trees that died due to oak wilt. The company logged out all of the trees in semis, chipped what was left, and then removed the chip piles.

He's also had to plow snow to get to a damaged tree, an indication of never having an off season.

"We might get a month," he said.

Krueger said he and his staff take pride in their work, and he refers to Double K as "the greatest tree company in the world. That's all I know."

The majority of reviewers on Google tend to agree.

One called Krueger "very knowledgeable and thorough," while another reviewer simply called him "Amazing," adding that she got a quote on a Monday and the crews were there by Wednesday to complete the job.

For more information on Double K, call 262-949-3916, email Krueger at kyle@doublektrees.com, visit doublektrees.com or the Double K Tree Service page on Facebook.



Double K Tree Service owner Kyle Krueger has been in the business of tree trimming and removal since 1991.

SUBMITTED PHOTO The Breeze



Matthew Steinke, an employee at Double K Tree Service, does some trimming work during a recent job.

SUBMITTED PHOTO The Breeze



This spider lift is one of the many pieces of equipment that Double K uses in its work.

SUBMITTED PHOTO The Breeze

# Solid home sales growth continues

*Despite the increase, affordability drops to all-time low due to high rates*

The Wisconsin REALTORS Association released its May 2024 Wisconsin Real Estate Report recently. It's the first report from the traditional peak season for home sales.

According to the report, May 2024 home sales rose 11% compared to May 2023, and the median price rose to \$315,500, which is a 6.9% increase over the past 12 months.

Despite the increase in sales, the numbers reveal, the average 30-year fixed-rate mortgage rose 63 basis points over the past 12 months, hitting 7.06% in May, causing affordability to drop to an all-time low.

Mary Jo Bowe, 2024 Chair of the Board of Directors of the Association, noted home sales continue to grow.

"While there are certainly some headwinds in this market with average mortgage rates topping 7% in May, it is good to see ongoing sales growth as we enter the peak season for home sales," she said.

Tom Larson, President & CEO of the WRA, weighed in on the current challenges of housing affordability.

"This is a tough environment for buyers given the high mortgage rates and limited supply of available homes on the market. We have tracked Wisconsin's affordability level since 2009, and unfortunately affordability hit its all-time low point in May," Larson said.

However, according to Larson, there is some good news to share.

"Supply has been improving since late last year, which has moderated the rate of price appreciation. Hopefully, mortgage rates also will moderate and help improve our affordability during the summer sales period," he explained.

David Clark, Professor Emeritus of Economics and a consultant for the WRA, said he hopes that progress on inflation increases the likelihood of at least one rate cut in 2024.

"The Fed focuses on core inflation when deciding whether to cut short-term rates to stimulate the economy. Core inflation omits the food and energy sectors since they are somewhat volatile and less reflective of long-term inflation expectations," Clark said.

He went on to explain that core CPI inflation was at 5.3% a year ago and it stood at 3.9% in January. Most recently, he said, it fell to 3.4% in May.

"Although inflation remains above the Fed's target rate of 2%, May core inflation came in lower than economists had expected. In their most recent meeting, Fed policymakers signaled they were not prepared to lower rates in June," Clark explained. "Hopefully, continued progress on core inflation increases the likelihood of at least one rate cut in 2024."

## Report highlights

- May marks the beginning of the traditional peak season for home sales, with approximately 43% of annual closings taking place between May and August in a typical year.

- In May of this year, home sales rose 11% compared to May 2023, and the median price rose to \$315,500, which is a 6.9% increase over the past 12 months.

- On a year-to-date basis, home sales were 12.1% higher than the first five months of 2023, and the median price rose 7.3% to \$295,000 over that same period.

- Improving inventories helped boost sales statewide, with new listings up 4.7% compared to May 2023, and total listings up 5.4% over that same period.

- Regionally, home sales rose by double-digit margins in all but one area. The strongest growth was seen in the West region, which increased 25.4% compared to May 2023. The Central, North, and South Central regions grew between 14.5% and 16%, and the Northeast region saw an increase of 10% over the last 12 months. In contrast, sales in the Southeast region grew 4.4%, but that region had the lowest months of available supply at just 2.9 months in May. All other regions had between 3.4-4.4 months of supply.

- The average 30-year fixed-rate mortgage rose 63 basis points over the past 12 months, hitting 7.06% in May, causing affordability to drop to an all-time low. The Wisconsin Housing Affordability Index measures the share of the median-priced home that a buyer with median family income qualifies to buy, assuming 20% down and the remaining balance financed with a 30-year fixed mortgage at current rates. The index fell 11.3% from 133 in May 2023 to just 118 in May 2024.

For more information about the Wisconsin REALTORS Association including detailed numbers in the home sales report, visit [wra.org](http://wra.org).



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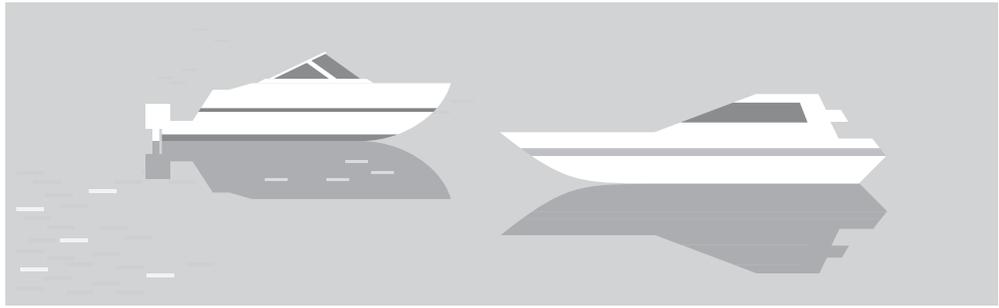
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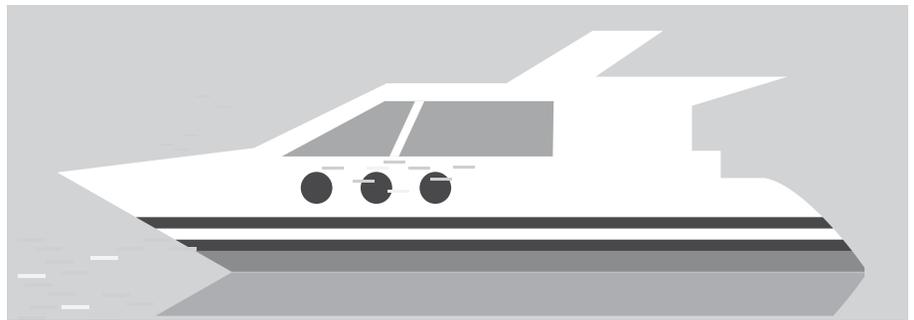
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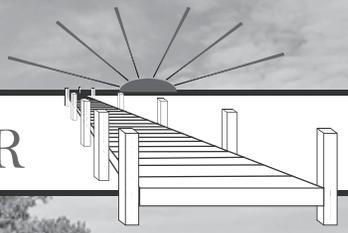
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**W5369 Baywood Dr Elkhorn, Wisconsin 53121** - Welcome to your home that's surrounded by lake views, a large yard for family fun as well as plenty of parking for everyone. Enjoy amazing 4th of July fireworks with the best seats in the house. Situated on 103' of level frontage on 0.81 of an acre, you'll find an updated, move in ready, 4BR, 3BA, two story home with upper end finishes. The large vaulted ceiling kitchen has an adjacent dining area & bonus playroom/den. The family room, also with vaulted ceilings, features a wall of windows that welcomes the lake inside. The living room with a natural fireplace and sliders leads to a spacious brick patio. This home offers the privacy of a main floor primary bedroom and the upper level has 3 generous sized bedrooms and 2 full baths. Accommodates 19 guests. **\$2,099,700**



**UNDER CONTRACT**

**N8161 Rose Terrace, Elkhorn** - Look no further, Lauderdale Lake Access in fabulous Gladhurst Subdivision featuring this 5 plus BD, 3.5 Bath, Contemporary, two story on private 1.67 acres featuring towering pine trees. Main level features kitchen and dining area with slider to patio, family room with fireplace, LR with vaulted ceilings, master bdrm with ensuite and walk-in closet, laundry and powder room. Upstairs has 3 Bdrms and full bath with double vanity. Finished lower level with huge Rec-Room with wet-bar, 4th BD and Bunk room plus full bath. Short walk to one of the finest lakefront assoc. parks with sand beach and sunsets. Fire pit in the backyard and 4 car attached garage completes the home. **\$689,700**



**JUST SOLD**

**W5191 Ida Hall Ln, Elkhorn** - Rare opportunity, situated on 50' of prime Pleasant lake frontage you'll find this 4 bedroom, 2 bath, two story, featuring extended lake views. Open concept, main level with kitchen with breakfast bar and dining room with sliding glass door that leads you out to a huge cement patio, ideal for entertaining. Living room with wood fireplace overlooking the lake. Upstairs offers 4 bedrooms, game room and full bath. Lakeside has deck walkway over shoreline, pier and swim raft. Also, there's a one car detached garage and car port with shed. Pleasant lake is a 145 acre lake with a max depth of 29' offering crystal clear water and is a slow-no wake lake boats with motors are allowed. Minutes to Kettle Moraine Forest trail head offering hiking and mountain biking. **\$570,000**



**SOLD**

**W6757 Lake Shore Circ, Elkhorn** - Welcome to your 1.7 acre lakeside paradise, nestled on the peaceful shores of North Lake! This charming cedar shake home boasts 578' of frontage on both sides of the island, and is surrounded by mature trees, lush perennial gardens, and an orchard. Enjoy your private beach, dock, and 2023 seven-person hot tub. Several outbuildings are included. Inside, you'll find a gorgeous stone fireplace, hardwood floors, and restored trim & hardware. Peaceful North Lake is known for kayaking, paddle boarding, fishing, & bird watching. Minutes to Kettle Moraine & Alpine Valley. Less than 1 hr from Madison, Milwaukee and Rockford. This house is a must see!. **\$530,000**



**PRICE REDUCED**

**300 W Main St, Palmyra** - Located downtown Palmyra you'll find this Turnkey established Restaurant/Bar and separate 4 lane bowling alley waiting for an energetic entrepreneur to bring their vision to life. Restaurant/Bar has a seating capacity of 173 with an updated kitchen in 2019. Charming bar area overlooking main street and soaring ceilings in the dining area. Potential outdoor space for a beer garden and additional space to expand the bar area or rental opportunity. Income producing apartments on the second floor which consist of a 3 Bd, 2 Bd and 1Bd currently rented. Liquor license included. Palmyra is in the heart of the Southern unit of Kettle Moraine Forest offering hiking, mountain biking and equestrian trails. Minutes from Blue Spring Lake and steps to Lower Spring Lake. **\$695,000**