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Surprised**

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Kerkman delivers State of the County address

Kenosha County Executive Samantha Kerkman presented her annual State of the County address to the County Board in May, highlighting recent successes while unveiling a new county logo.

“The State of Kenosha County is strong, and it’s looking better all the time,” Kerkman said, referencing a rebranding process more than a year in the making.

The new logo, Kenosha County’s first since 1982, moves the county’s brand into the 21st century, Kerkman said.

“The new logo was designed to embody the essence of Kenosha County — a mix of new and old, honoring our past while looking toward the future,” she said.

Prominent in the logo are images of the 1866 Southport Lighthouse near the Lake Michigan shore, as well as the recently developed Veterans Honor Plaza at the Kenosha County Veterans Memorial Park on the far-west end of the county. A ribbon of green in the logo represents the county’s parks and rural areas, while a pair of blue ribbons signifies Lake Michigan and the county’s inland lakes.

The logo design was completed by a team of county staff and County Board members, including Supervisors Laura Belsky and Erin Decker and former Supervisors Zach Rodriguez and Zach Stock.

“The team that developed this logo sees it as a perfect reflection of our identity as a county — a symbol that residents can be proud of, and that visitors can identify with,” Kerkman explained. “As we continue to grow and evolve as a county, this logo will serve as a constant reminder of our unique character and unwavering spirit.”

The rollout of the logo begins immediately and will be a driving factor in a refresh of the county website that will occur in the coming months, Kerkman said.

In addition to the logo announcement, Kerkman’s speech included recognition of the nine new members of the County Board who were elected this year, along with the



corresponding supervisors who departed the board.

In particular, Kerkman acknowledged former supervisors Terry Rose and John O’Day, who departed with a combined 66 years of experience.

Kerkman noted she and new County Board Chairman Monica M. Yuhas are the first all-female executive and board leadership team in Kenosha County’s history.

Citing a watershed change in leadership in the community over the last two years, Kerkman said she looks forward to working with newly elected Kenosha Mayor David Bogdala to further strengthen the relationship between the city and county, seeking out opportunities to work together to benefit the entire community.

“As I’ve often said, Kenosha County is one community,” Kerkman said. “When the east end prospers, the west end benefits, and



above: County Executive Samantha Kerkman, former County Board Supervisor Robert W. Pitts, and Pitts’ grandson, Alec Schires, stand beside the new Kenosha County flag that was unveiled in May.
at left: Kerkman delivers her 2024 State of the County address to the Kenosha County Board.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS *The Breeze*

vice versa.”

Kerkman said she also looks forward to working with the County Board to produce a high-quality budget in 2025, while continuing the county’s top-tier AAA bond rating.

She said Kenosha County will find itself in the center of the national spotlight this summer, when Milwaukee hosts the Republican National Convention, and the Democratic National Convention being in Chicago.

“As the Gateway to Wisconsin, Kenosha County will see an impact from these conventions,” Kerkman said. “Delegates and other visitors will fill our hotels, and we’ll likely see some extra traffic on our roads. The nation will be watching us, and we will shine.”

Other highlights in Kerkman’s address included:

- An update on the ongoing Human

Services Building project, a legacy project that will stand the test of time.

- Kenosha County Public Health Department’s launch of the Kenosha Overdose Response Initiative, a collaborative effort with the Kenosha Fire Department and Oakwood Clinical Associates to bring Narcan and other resource information to overdose survivors.

- The county’s partnership with Lake Behavioral Hospital in Waukegan, Ill., which Kerkman said is projected to save the county \$400,000 in Chapter 51 mental health detention costs this year, while providing more convenient care for families.

- The continuing work of the Broadband Advisory Committee, which Kerkman convened in 2023 and will soon come forth with a recommendation to use American Rescue Plan Act funding to bring high-speed internet service to residents in unserved or underserved areas.

Officials issue safety reminders for fair season

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

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

“Fairs and petting zoos are very popular, and if you’re visiting one this summer, take precautions to protect yourself and your family,” said DHS State Public Health Veterinarian Angie Maxted. “The best tool we have to prevent disease is the simplest:

washing your hands after any contact with animals or after being in areas where animals are present. And if any animals appear sick, do not touch them at all.”

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

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

where sick animals are held.

Once people return home, the DHS suggests changing clothes to mitigate the spread of potential diseases.

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

“DATCP and DHS are working together to provide clear and consistent communication to industry about highly pathogenic avian influenza.”

“Direct or indirect contact with

infected animals has been linked to human infections caused by influenza A viruses,” said DHS Respiratory Disease Epidemiologist Tom Haupt. “It’s an important reminder to take precautions when touching animals during fair season, at petting zoos, or whenever you’re around animals. Talk to your health care provider if you have any respiratory symptoms or feel sick after coming into contact with animals.”

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



Hope Lutheran Church officials met with a family from Ukraine at Chicago O'Hare International Airport in June. The church is sponsoring the family, which was affected by the Russian-invasion of Ukraine (from the left) Viktoriia Burtnyk, 6, Iryna and Vasyl Burtnyk, Arsen, 10, and the Rev. Tim Oswald and his wife, Dawn.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *The Breeze*

Twin Lakes parish sponsors Ukraine family

Hope Lutheran Church welcomes the Burtnyks

Hope Lutheran Church, of Twin Lakes, decided to step up and sponsor a family from war-torn Ukraine.

Ukrainians, who have been battered by a Russian invasion for more than two years, have sought refuge and created a crisis.

According to Hope Lutheran Church, the crisis created a "United for Ukraine" program, which allows the United States to accept as many as 100,000 Ukrainians for a two-year period.

The program allows Ukrainians, known as "parolees," to live and work in the United States before returning home, hopefully to a post-war Ukraine.

Rev. Tim Oswald, of Hope Lutheran Church, learned about the program after seeing a parish in Iowa participate.

"Hope had a vacant parsonage where a family could live, and it seemed like God must have provided for this reason," Oswald said. "I proposed the idea to the church that we have a family come for two years. People are so good-hearted. They enthusiastically wanted to do it."

Oswald then created a profile on Welcome.US, a partnership between government, corporate, and non-governmental organizations, which helps train and connect potential sponsors with people looking for refuge in the United States.

"Once my profile was posted as someone willing to be a sponsor, Ukrainian families began to reach out to me," he said. "So many of their stories are heartbreaking; but if we cannot help everybody, we can still help somebody."

Hope Lutheran Church selected the Burtnyk family, consisting of father, Vasyl, a diesel mechanic, mother, Iryna, and their children, Arsen, 9, and Viktoriia, 6.

The family arrived in June at Chicago O'Hare International Airport, where the Oswalds met with each member before bringing them to Twin Lakes.

Oswald said the Burtnyks, who were not directly displaced by the war, experienced long power blackouts while waiting in a cold and dark basement.

The family, he said, felt persuaded to flee Ukraine based on the living conditions.

Although Oswald admitted he endured daunting paperwork, he received some assistance from the office of Rep. Bryan Steil, and donations from Hope Lutheran Church parishioners to make the connection possible.

Oswald also said Hope Lutheran Church received a generous grant from The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.

Hope Lutheran Church plans to support the Burtnyks for the first few months until the family becomes self-supporting.

Oswald noted the family is eager to assimilate to American life, including learning more about the country, and mastering the English language.

"We just hope someday that we will be able to show our gratitude," said Vasyl. "To be in this country right now is a gift."

A very special gift

Central graduate surprised by Navy dad

By **Jason Arndt**
STAFF WRITER

Jada Lynn Hockman didn't plan on seeing her father attend her graduation ceremony at Westosha Central High School on June 8 because he had been deployed overseas serving the U.S. Navy.

But as hundreds of students received the call to receive their diplomas, her father, Daniel, sat patiently waiting until school officials announced his daughter's name.

When she finished shaking District Administrator John Gendron's hand, multiple people began pointing at a man wearing a military uniform, but she didn't immediately react.

However, once she realized it was her father, she couldn't help but jump into his arms before embracing him tightly as her classmates and hundreds of people in attendance stood up in applause.

Hickman, who spent several seconds hugging him, said it took time to absorb his presence.

"At first I didn't see him," she said. "I just kept walking, and they were pointing to him, and I looked and all I saw was a military uniform."

"There was no other thought in my mind than to just jump on him and give him a hug," she added.

Daniel Hockman admitted he had rattled nerves as he sat away from the crowd while waiting for his daughter's name to be called.

"I was super anxious. I am still shaking a little bit from it," he said.

Thousands of miles traveled

Daniel, who last saw Jada around Christmas, had been deployed in the Middle East when he learned he was able to attend the ceremony.

The U.S. Navy flew him to Abu Dhabi, where he then took a personal flight to the



Jada Hockman embraces her father, Daniel, who made a surprise visit during Westosha Central's June 8 graduation ceremony after he had been deployed overseas by the U.S. Navy.

JASON ARNDT *The Breeze*

United States, before arriving at Westosha Central.

"I traveled about 8,000 miles in three days to make it out here," he said.

However, none of his travels were known to Jada, who still believed he was aboard a U.S. Navy ship.

Shortly before the graduation ceremony, Jada attempted to FaceTime her father, but he declined because the background would have uncovered his secret.

"She FaceTimed me; I had denied the call because I was in a recognizable place," he said. "I texted her back and said the WiFi was down on the ship."

Despite the secret, Jada had some inkling suspicions about the attempted contact before she graduated.

"He had told me that he was not going to be here," she said. "When I FaceTimed him earlier in the day, I had some sort of suspicion, but I didn't think it was going to happen."

Jada, who plans on moving to Virginia to live with her father and stepmother, looks to attend college and eventually become a member of law enforcement.

The
Breeze

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on the cover: It's officially the season of spending time out on the lake, from an early morning fishing excursion or an afternoon on a pontoon to waterskiing and wakeboarding. Those not fond of being on the water can take advantage by sitting on a pier or along the shoreline while taking in the lake breeze.

STOCK PHOTO *The Breeze*

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above: Veterans and other guests line up for a free lunch from MISSION BBQ at the Veterans Appreciation Summer Picnic, held May 31 at the Kenosha County Veterans Memorial Park.
right: Army Corps of Engineers veteran Peter Sieber, of Kenosha, discovers a brick bearing his name that his wife, Carol, surprised him with at the event.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS *The Breeze*



Kenosha County honors local veterans with annual picnic

Event unveiled a new Army memorial shelter

Peter Sieber was taking in the sights of the new Army memorial shelter at the Kenosha County Veterans Memorial Park at the end of May when he came upon something he didn't expect.

It was a brick bearing his name and the years of his service to the Army Corps of Engineers, 1959-61.

"Did you put that there?" a surprised

Sieber asked his wife, Carol. "I didn't physically put it there, but I got it put there," she said, as he cracked a smile.

Sieber was one of many veterans who came to the park for County Executive Samantha Kerkman's second annual Veterans Appreciation Summer Picnic.

More than 200 people were in attendance.

Along with a free lunch provided by MISSION BBQ, resource tables with

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

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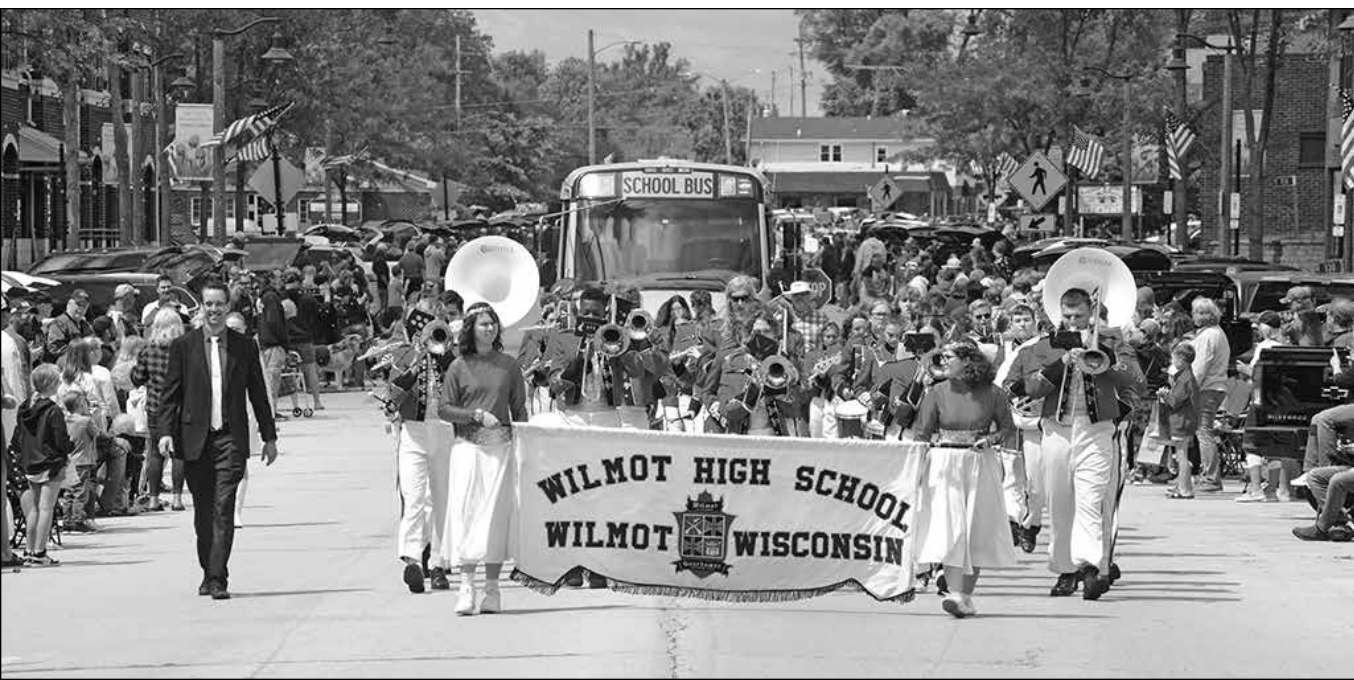


Remembering the fallen

The Village of Twin Lakes was among many communities that honored fallen military service members on Memorial Day. From the top: Representatives from local veterans group display the flags while drawing applause from people lining the street for the parade.

The Kenosha County Sheriff's Department Honor Guard was among the featured participants. The Wilmot Union High School band performs patriotic songs while marching along the parade route.

JASON ARNDT PHOTOS *The Breeze*



Veteran Raymond Acerbi, of Kenosha, is served cookies from Wilmot High School football players. (from left) Jaxon Madsen, Jack Dzierzanowski and Reggie Brent during the picnic.

SUBMITTED PHOTO *The Breeze*

VETERANS

• CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

information about county and VA services, this year's picnic included an additional feature: a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the park's new Army memorial shelter, the first of a series of planned structures that will honor veterans of all branches of the service.

Kerkman noted that the park, a former gravel pit and construction company yard that the county has developed into a park in recent years, is now a place for veterans and others to come and reflect, and to enjoy nature in a serene setting.

"Now we have opened this up to the community and to people who have served," Kerkman said. "This is the Army shelter and it is beautiful, and I couldn't be more proud of that."

Kerkman thanked Snap-on Incorporated for its support of the shelter, the company having donated \$150,000 toward the project.




U.S. Rep. Bryan Steil, who said it was "a spectacular day in a spectacular park in Kenosha County," also joined in the celebration.

"The freedom and liberties that we enjoy are because of what you have done in service to our country," Steil said, addressing the veterans in the audience. "And so today, we say thank you for what you have done."

The 335-acre Kenosha County Veterans Memorial Park is located west of Highway KD (352nd Avenue) and north of Highway F (Bassett Road) in the towns of Randall and Wheatland.

There are two entrances to the park: one is off Highway F that leads to the Veterans Honor Plaza and the new Army shelter, the other is off Highway KD and provides access to the 39-acre Freedom Lake, which is open to non-motorized water activities. The park also includes more than five miles of walking trails.





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Help stop the spread of invasive species

DNR ISSUES REMINDERS TO BOATERS, ANGLERS WHO USE STATE'S LAKES AND RIVERS



Steph Boismenu works to clean a boat in an effort to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. The DNR recently issued a series of tips and reminders for boaters to stop the spread.

JEANNE SCHERER/DNR PHOTO *The Breeze*

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources issued a series of reminders for boaters to stop the spread of invasive plants and animals.

The Great Lakes Landing Blitz is a collaboration of the Great Lakes states and provinces that aims to educate boaters that simple clean-up steps and draining water from the boat and live wells can help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

"We can all make a difference whether we are enjoying the water with a fishing or recreational boat, jet ski, or paddle craft," the DNR wrote in a news release.

The collaboration's annual event was held earlier this month and featured many Wisconsin boaters being greeted at landings and access points.

Inspectors gave out a boat trailer sticker with a graphic showing where plants, tiny animals and potentially contaminated water can hide on a boat and trailer.

"It only takes a minute to remove plants, animals, mud, or debris from boats, trailers, and equipment and to drain all water from bilges, livewells, and bait buckets," said Erin McFarlane, the Statewide Clean Boats Clean Waters Educator with Extension Lakes.

"These simple steps help keep invasive species from hitching a ride from one lake or river to another," McFarlane added.

Every boater and angler has a role to play in protecting Wisconsin's lakes and rivers, officials said. All who take to the water are reminded to follow these prevention steps:

- Inspect boats, trailers, and equipment

before and after use.

- Remove all mud and attached aquatic plants and animals.
- Drain all water from boats, vehicles, and equipment, including livewells and fish buckets.
- Never move plants or live fish away from a waterbody.
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.
- Buy minnows from a Wisconsin bait dealer.

Additionally, only use leftover minnows when fishing with them on the same body of water. They can be used on other waters only if no lake or river water or other fish have been added to their container.

For more information about invasive species, visit dnr.wi.gov.



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Tips for safe boat anchoring

FOLLOWING BASIC GUIDELINES CAN HELP ENSURE SAFETY

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

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

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

BE ANCHOR SMART

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

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

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

AVOID CO POISONING

Generators give boaters the creature comforts they want. However, don't run the generator if you've got swimmers in the water at the back of the boat – a common place for guests to congregate on floats



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

BOATUS FOUNDATION PHOTO *The Breeze*

and pool toys. This is where exhaust ports often located, spewing dangerous, odorless carbon monoxide.

DON'T STRESS IT

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

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

For your boat, don't stress your battery playing music all day.

According to TowBoatUS, calls to its

24-hour dispatch for battery jump services surge – as if on cue – at the end of the day when boaters are ready to head home after a day of anchoring.

GET HOME SAFELY

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

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

Everyone aboard should be acting as a lookout. Never take a shortcut home after dark.

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

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

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

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

For more information, visit boatus.org.

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America's birthday

The Twin Lakes Area Chamber and Business Association presented the annual Libertyfest parade and related activities on July 6, including a water ski show. **Clockwise from above:** Maddie Orth and Hailey Harpster shower attendees with candy while aboard the Harpster Lawn Maintenance float; Kenosha County Fairest of the Fair Katrina Cain tosses a popsicle to spectators; members of the Aquanut Water Shows have fun riding in a boat in the parade; a fleet of local fire and rescue vehicles make their way along the route; Uncle Sam rides on a tractor pulling the Beca's Beauty Bar float.

JASON ARNDT PHOTOS *The Breeze*





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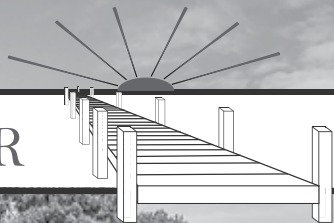
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Guide for those considering a pontoon

By **Valerie Streif**
CONTRIBUTOR

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

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

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

THE PROS AND CONS

Purchasing a boat is a huge decision, and there are plenty of considerations. If you're weighing your options, here are some of the reasons on either side that we've found to be true.

THE PROS

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

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

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

- It's a great multi-generational boat, too, because it's very easy to board for older family members, and grandma and grandpa will appreciate the smooth ride.

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

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



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

GODFREY PONTOON BOATS PHOTO *The Breeze*

- Easy to maintain — because pontoons are powered by outboard engines, they are easier to service and require much less maintenance than inboard motors and other styles of boats.

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

THE CONS

- Water sport limitations — while you can have some fun on tubes or water skis with a pontoon, you can't do everything as well as a standard power boat, due both to a combination of speed limitations and the type of engine. The max speed on pontoons is typically around 40 mph, with most boats operating between 28–35 mph.

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

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

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

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

tight space.

- Depreciation — if you plan to own a boat for only a few years and then resell it, a pontoon might not be the best choice for you. While a boat loses its value after the initial purchase, regardless of style, pontoons lose their value faster than a lot of other types of boats: about 25% of the resale value after just a couple of years of ownership.

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

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

COSTS TO KEEP IN MIND

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

If you want to spend as little as possible, you can often find used options from a boat dealer for as little as \$15,000 but it's a good idea to have a mechanic inspect it first.

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

OTHER EXPENSES

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

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

The annual cost for boat insurance ranges between \$150–\$400 annually, but this can be higher depending on the level of coverage and the condition and year of your pontoon.

- Taxes, Title, and registration fees — these expenses will vary from state to state and country to country.

- Marina and docking fees — if you don't own waterfront property with a dock and don't want to deal with the hassle of trailering your boat, you'll need to explore options for docking at a marina. Marinas can cost anywhere from \$2,000 to over \$15,000 annually for a docking slip, depending on the local area's demand and exclusivity.

- Maintenance — despite the efforts of even the most cautious owners, boats will experience wear and tear. Annual maintenance costs will vary but you should expect to spend a minimum of \$1,000.

- Fuel — the frequency with that you use your pontoon will determine your fuel costs, but overall, the cost to fill up a pontoon with gas ranges between \$150–300 depending on the size of the pontoon's tank.

- Accessories — other costs that you'll need to expect when you first buy a pontoon are the essential accessories like a trailer and safety gear for onboard like a first aid kit, lifejackets, other floatation devices, an anchor, ropes and lines, and a boat cooler for keeping drinks and food cold when out on the water.

MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

Now that you've got your beautiful pontoon, you've got to take proper care of it.

- Always cover your pontoon when it's not in use. Whether that involves a shaded dock slip or pulling a fitted cover over the boat, keeping the interior covered when it is docked is crucial to prevent fading of the cushions.

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

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

- Regularly check for any leaks or dents in your boat. Finding a leak early can help prevent costly damage. Thankfully, pontoons are less susceptible to damage on the hull due to their ability to cruise in shallow waters.

For more information, visit getmyboat.com.

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



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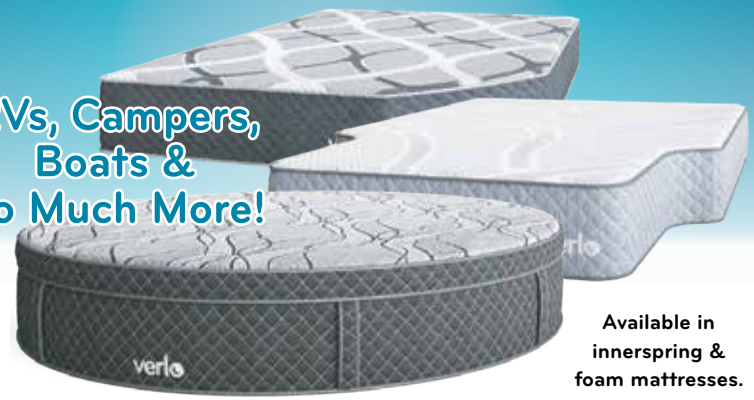


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