



UPDATED SPACES: Mike Kramp, CEO/executive director, and Ann Fulmer, senior director of marketing and development, are shown in the new rec room at the Geneva Lakes YMCA. It's one of two areas that recently underwent renovations. —Section 2

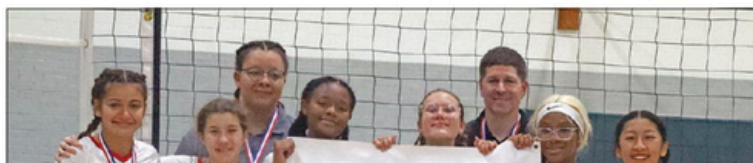


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School Board approves resolution

Renovated spaces open at Geneva Lakes YMCA

Planning continues to move forward for new Delavan location

By Jennifer Eisenhart
STAFF WRITER

Two newly renovated spaces are giving the Geneva Lakes Family YMCA an opportunity to better serve the public.

While the YMCA's new rec room opened in June, the facility's new wellness floor has only been open since early September.

In addition to new flooring, an expanded space and fresh paint, the wellness floor also boasts additional fitness equipment.

"We've had so much going on," said Geneva Lakes YMCA CEO Mike Kramp. "We have our Delavan project, we've got this renovation. It's a lot, running it all."

The new wellness area involved closing off the space it was moving into for the last two weeks of August. A new E-Core Professional Wellness floor was placed, and new equipment was moved in, including weight-training machines and cardio equipment like treadmills, stair climbers and exercise bikes.

But, Kramp said, the highlight is the six-station power rack, where people can do everything from bench presses to pull-ups to squat exercises, all in a dedicated space. Previously, there was only one station for such work.

"That was really highly recommended and asked for by our members," Kramp said of the power rack area. "We really wanted to expand and give our members more functional space."

He said the space will also give people more room to socialize and work on fitness goals together.

"It's more than just strength training and cardio for our members and guests," he explained. "It's a place for people to connect."

Rec room is flexible

The renovated rec room is designed for families with younger children, but also is a space for middle schoolers to handle homework including study areas.

"Really anyone who wants to just hang out and relax," said



This summer, the Geneva Lakes Family YMCA finished renovations to two key areas. Mike Kramp, CEO/executive director, and Ann Fulmer, senior director of marketing and development, are shown in the new rec room; the second area revamped was the wellness floor (shown below).

Kramp, adding that while the space is designed to be device-free there are areas for people who need to use them.

The area for the younger children features two low tables with chairs, as well as interactive toys and a Lego wall.

There are also numerous board games, classics like Connect 4, Perfection and Yahtzee — among others, as well as puzzles.

"What we're really striving for is a social space for young children and families to hang out — and stay off devices," Kramp explained. "Really trying to promote some screen-free time."

See YMCA, Back Page





Delavan location is a go

Kramp gave a brief update on the planned facility in Delavan, which will be located in a development behind the Kohl's/Walmart facility. It will feature childcare, a pool and an indoor walking track.

He said the YMCA recently completed its capital feasibility

Interactive, hands-on toys in the YMCA's rec room are designed for young children's skills.

JENNIFER EISENBART
Southern Lakes Newspapers

study, meeting with 43 individuals in the area to talk about the vision and the project overall.

He said they walked away feeling that the fundraising goals for the facility are reachable, and said the next year will be dedicated to securing major gift asks for the project.

From there, Kramp said he hopes public donations will fill the remainder of the cost.

"At that time, we'll have more information about the expected timing for the public phase of the campaign

and the announcement of the groundbreaking and construction phase," he added.

If everything goes to plan, the groundbreaking would likely take place in early 2029.

Kramp said the YMCA is "honored" to have the opportunity to expand into Delavan.

"To reach the people who need our services so desperately," he added.

For more information about the Geneva Lakes YMCA, visit the website, genevalakesymca.org or call 262-248-6211.