

12U Softball teams raise \$2,600 for Kate Schmidt legacy fund

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Two Geneva Lakes Family YMCA girls 12U softball teams came together on July 20 to sell lemonade and baked goods to raise money for the legacy fund being created in honor of 10-year-old Kate Schmidt.

On July 3, a severe storm tore through Walworth County and Schmidt was one of three children who drown when the boat they were on capsized on Geneva Lake.

While Schmidt was from Illinois, the YMCA softball teams came together to support the fund and raised \$2,634.72 in her honor.

“We’re trying to instill a love of softball, love of community, love of, you know, helping other people in the girls,” said Brigitte Kutschman, one of the teams’ coaches. “So, we’re trying to help one family’s heartbreak, we’re trying to give them some hope. That’s what our mission is here today.”

Kutschma said that the girls on the team were immediately excited for the opportunity to help, whether that be baking, making signs or bringing something to be able to help because sports unite everyone.

“We’ve had a couple real hot days, and our mission has been, like, OK, you know, there’s one little girl who isn’t able to play it today, so let’s go out there, and then their frowns just turn upside down when you put it in your perspective,” Kutschma said. “So, it’s taught them, I think hopefully, it’s taught them a lot about giving back, and how grateful we are for this opportunity to play sports.”

The teams have put community first for most of the summer by volunteering to play against the Dream Teams, showing that teams can become more united, and using what they are learning to propel their softball skills, Kutschma said.

“Sports is not just about the



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Two Geneva Lakes 12U softball teams worked together to create a lemonade stand and bake sale to raise money for the Kate Schmidt Memorial fund.

wins and the losses, but it’s each other,” Kutschma said. “Our motto is someone’s down, help about this kind of stuff, helping

them up. Someone’s got to give them a high five, and that’s what each and every of these other girls has been doing this year.”

Kutschma said it was really special to meet Schmidt’s grandmother, who attended the event, gave them a plaque featuring Kate to display on their table and hopes that the family can feel a little bit of hope and love from the community during this difficult time.

“After something like this happens, it’s like everybody’s heart’s breaking,” Kutschma said. “It’s like, what can you do? You can do nothing. You literally cannot do anything. But then we started thinking of how can we, if even a minuscule amount, how can we help? And then that’s what this kind of arose out of.”

The family of Schmidt set up the fund on GoFundMe to help other children who might not be able to afford sports and allow Schmidt’s legacy to continue on for others.

Project

From A1

A pavement resurfacing project from Highway 120/Edwards Boulevard to Grand Geneva Way also will be conducted in 2028.

Other work is set to include curb ramp reconstruction, drainage improvements, pavement marking replacement and rapid flashing beacon light installation, as well as installing new traffic signal equipment at the intersections of Main and Cook streets, Main and Wells streets, Main and Broad streets, Main Street and Edwards Boulevard, Main and Center streets and Main Street and the Highway 12 interchange.

A detour route will include areas of Forest Street, Dodge Street and Broad Street.

City Administrator Dave De Angelis said residents still will have access to their homes and downtown business owners still will have access to their establishments.

“On the section of Main Street that is going to be closed, there’s going to be times when you’re not going to be able to get exactly where you need to go,” De Angelis said. “But for the most part, you’re still going to be able to get to your house if you live in that section.”

Some of the paving work will be conducted during the nighttime hours.

“They prefer to do it at night because there’s less people

running around and there’s less hassle and they can get the work done a lot quicker and it’s less disruptive to everybody who lives in the neighborhoods,” De Angelis said.

Communication is key

The city and G. Moxie Communications of Elm Grove will provide updated information during the project through websites, social media sites, newsletters and email messages.

“We will be coordinating and meeting with the contractor to understand what the schedule is, and we will be preparing updates for your neighborhood or your specific business,” Laura Goranson, president of G. Moxie Communications, said. “The construction is going to be inconvenient, but it’s going to be great when it’s done and it’s needed.”

What is next

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation will begin accepting bids for the project in October and award a contract in December. The project could begin in February 2027.

Additional informational meetings are scheduled for 6 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 16 and Dec. 9 at City Hall, 626 Geneva St.

More information about the project is available at www.city-oflakegeneva.gov.

Disaster Assistance Center now operating remotely

Volunteers for storm clean-up efforts still needed

LAKE GENEVA REGIONAL NEWS STAFF

The Disaster Response Team is operating its Geneva Area Disaster Assistance Center remotely.

As part of the transition, the Geneva Area Disaster Assistance Center will no longer operate out of Immanuel Lutheran Church, 700 N. Bloomfield

Road in Lake Geneva.

Clean-up and recovery efforts from a storm that hit the area on July 3 will continue.

Response team members are still seeking volunteers to help remove debris from roadways, operate chainsaws, operate heavy equipment and perform general maintenance work.

Volunteers primarily will work Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays during the upcoming weeks.

Volunteer registration will now take place at designated work locations, with a centralized

meeting location being announced during each workday where volunteers will check in, receive assignments, complete registration if needed and attend a safety briefing before traveling to their worksites.

The Disaster Response Team also is accepting donations of clean-up supplies and equipment.

Residents who are interested in volunteering or who are still need of storm clean-up assistance can call 262-308-1105 or email response@widrt.org.

Storm

From A1

Storm cleanup work also has begun at Oak Hill Cemetery.

Debris in the parks

Downed branches and trees have been reported in several city parks, which could take several weeks to clear.

Samuel Donian Wetland Nature Preserve, located near Main Street and Lake Shore Drive, has been closed to the public.

“We have it taped off. Nobody should be in there, but we all know how that works,” De Angelis said. “We were out clearing branches and there was a group of people sitting on their blankets not 30 feet away, and that’s when we asked the

police to come and help clear the park.”

De Angelis said that because crews have been busy clearing storm debris, they have not been able to work on other projects such as grass mowing.

“There’s a lot of that stuff that we’re going to have to jump back at and start going to right after we finish the first round of brush collection,” De Angelis said.

Volunteers needed

Residents also can contact the Disaster Response Team if they are in need of assistance or are interested in volunteering.

“As this goes on, people are going to start to realize that they don’t have either the physical wherewithal or the monetary wherewithal to be able to do some

of this work,” De Angelis said. “So if you hear of that, please get them in touch with the folks from DRT!”

Disaster Response Team members also are accepting monetary donations, and donations of equipment such as ropes, rakes, brooms, trash bags, bug spray, tools, wheelbarrows, work gloves, safety gear and sunscreen.

For more information, call 262-308-1105 or email response@widrt.org.

Mayor Todd Krause said it could take several weeks before the storm damage is completely cleared.

“We just ask for your patience,” he said. “We’re looking at probably another three to four weeks to get the city back to normal.”

For updated information about the storm, visit www.cityoflake-geneva.gov.

Permit

From A1

about 300 people and feature a restaurant, bar and banquet rooms. The supper club would employ 50-80 workers.

Hoiland said he is concerned that a proposed access point from Interchange North across Sage Street would increase traffic issues in that area and asked if Scotney considered acquiring other nearby properties for access to and from

the supper club.

“Interchange North is a corridor and it’s only going to get busier,” Hoiland said.

Scotney said he met with several engineers who determined that the area near Sage Street is the best location for an access point.

Attorney Nicholas Egert, representing Scotney, said Walworth County officials have approved that area as an access point for the supper club.

“That access has been grated by the county,” Egert said. “Their

engineers have quite literally signed off on it.”

City Attorney Dan Draper said Lake Geneva officials cannot require a property owner to purchase other parcels of property.

“It’s almost 90% irrelevant whether or not he sought other properties for access to the property,” Draper said. “He’s got a right to have access to his property off his frontage.”

Fesenmaier said she would like more information about the project before voting on the

conditional use permit.

“I don’t think we’ve answered all the questions,” Fesenmaier said.

A general development plan and precise implementation plan has to be approved by the City Council members before the supper club may be constructed.

In other business, the council:

- Approved a massage establishment renewal application filed by Element Massage Studio.
- Approved a temporary “Class B” beer and “Class B” wine license

application filed by St. Francis de Sales Parish for the Fall Festival Celebrating Family on Sept. 27.

- Approved a conditional use permit filed by Chris and Lisa Cardwell to construct an addition to a single-family home at 816 Pinetree Lane.
- Approved a 2026 traffic signal preventive maintenance contract with Traffic and Parking Control Company, LLC.
- Approved Mayor Todd Krause’s appointment of Beth Kreoning as weed commissioner.

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