

# COMMUNITY

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2021 | lakegenevanews.net | SECTION D

## TIME IS NOW

### I am seeking help for my neighbor

**Dear W.C.,**  
I am seeking assistance for my neighbor. I have been very concerned about her well-being and her ability to care for herself and her disabled son properly. Four months ago my neighbor was in a car accident that resulted in a brain injury. She has been through therapy and it seems she will be left with some lingering cognitive and physical difficulties.

I have helped as much as I can, but I have my own family members to care for. When she was in the hospital, I took in her son to stay with us until she was released. He is 22 years old and is autistic.

I have noticed a steady decline in their apartment and in my neighbor's ability to care for her son. She can no longer drive. If I could find them help it would be a relief to not have to worry about them day and night. No one I have spoken to seems to have a solution.

**Dear Readers,**  
Sometimes people seem to fall through the cracks and are left with no one to care for them. The helpful neighbor had done all she could but understandably she had her own responsibilities caring for her own family members. She had done all she could for a long time, and it was time to find another solution for this mother and son.

I called the caring neighbor who had written the letter requesting our assistance. She was noticeably relieved to hear it was The Time is Now to Help calling. She answered many of my questions about the woman and son and the situation they were in. The neighbor had helped the woman go through her bills a few days prior and had noticed an overdue notice for her rent. She did not have the financial means to help any more than the meals she supplied a few times a week. Even this was stretching her budget far beyond her comfort level.

We talked about the car accident and the woman's long recovery. She told me how she had been before the accident and she had always kept her son fed, clean and her apartment neat. She said now it was obvious she was not able to keep up with these tasks. The neighbor said, "It breaks my heart to see how they are living now. I can only stop by every few days and when ever I do I do a little housekeeping, but it is not enough. She is not able to remember things or how to do certain tasks. Meals are a continuous problem." The woman told me how she checked on them, but it was obviously time to find another alternative.

The neighbor stated the woman would be able to communicate on the phone, but she would probably not remember most of our conversation. She agreed to go next door to finish the conversation with the woman present. She said she would take notes and write things down for her. As this seemed to be a good solution, I told her I would call back in a few minutes when she was next door.

I called back in ten minutes and waited while the neighbor told the woman who I was and put her on the phone. I introduced myself and after she asked several times, "Who is this?" I patiently explained that I was there to help. The woman knew she needed help, but she just did not know how to go about it. She did not remember much about the accident and obviously struggled to comprehend and remember things I told her. I finally asked her,

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## EDITORIAL

# A doggone bad idea

### LAKE GENEVA REGIONAL NEWS EDITORIAL BOARD

**W**alking around downtown Lake Geneva, more than likely you'll see a dozen dogs or more on a normal day. Lake Geneva's always been known as a dog-friendly city, a place where you can vacation and bring along your four-legged friend too.

But one proposal that came up last month is the opposite of dog friendly and is a doggone bad idea – the idea to require tourists who come with dogs to be able to produce their dog's veterinary inspection certificate upon demand.

"Owners found not in compliance will be subject to a forfeiture of \$100 plus court costs for violation and animal will be

impounded until a CVI is obtained at owner's cost," states the proposed ordinance change.

Wow. That is a bit heavy handed.

The proposal was approved by the city's finance, licensing and regulation committee but still needs to be reviewed by the city attorney and approved by the full City Council before it goes into effect.

Alderwoman Mary Jo Fesenmaier said she proposed the municipal code amendment because of recent reports of dog bites occurring in the city's dog park – located near Sage Street and east of Eastview Elementary School – and in other areas of the community from animals that have been brought in from outside of Lake Geneva.

Fesenmaier said the provision would allow police officers to better enforce incidents of dog bites.

There has to be a better way. If the dog park is the issue, then this proposal should be limited to the dog park.

Then, a prominent sign could be posted on the gates of the dog park. That would be possible for the dog park, but not logistical for the entire city.

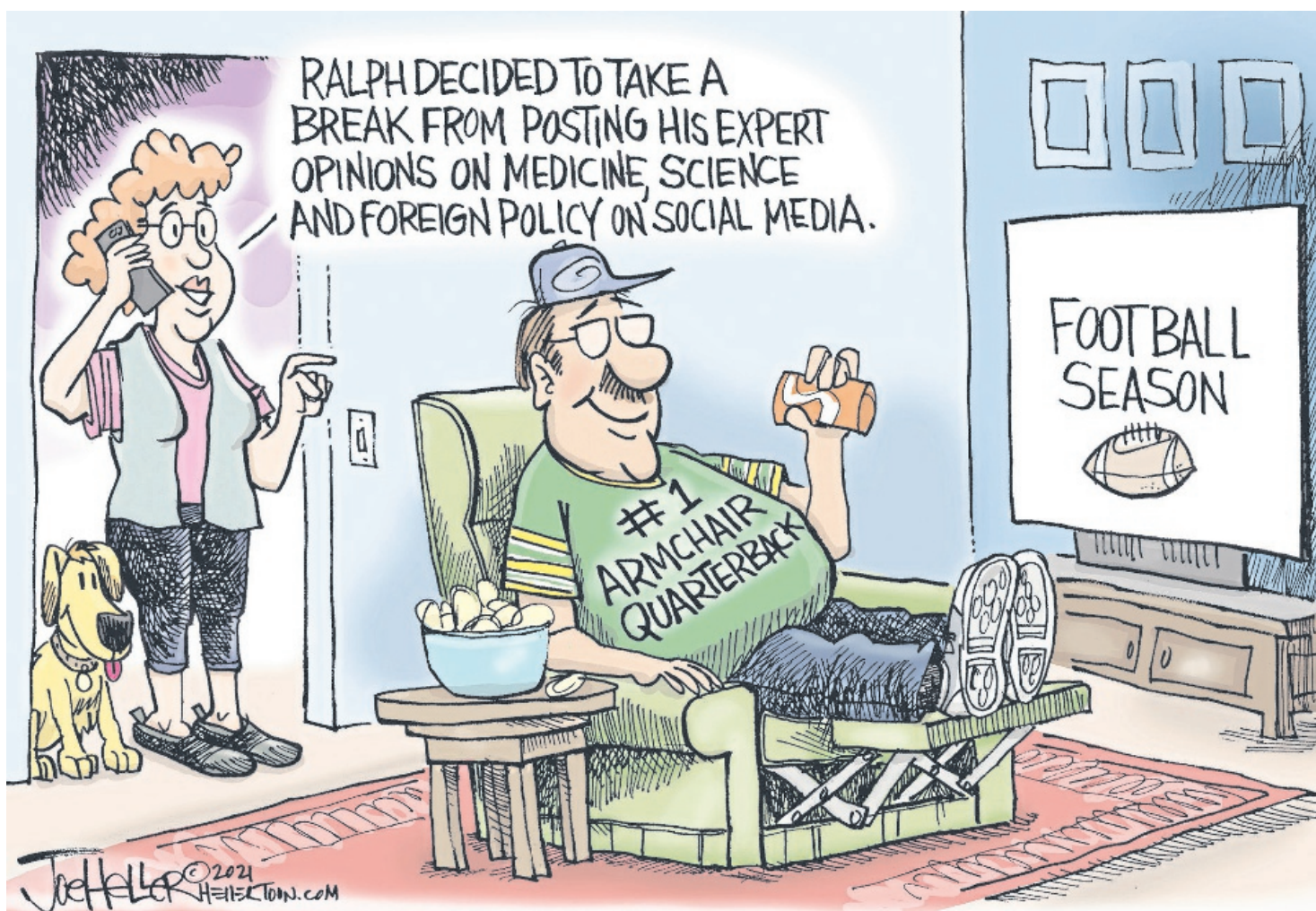
Some aldermen said visitors should know to look up ordinances for cities they visit. But it's hard to find the ordinances for every municipality you visit and on top of that, oftentimes visitors don't really know what municipality they are in at a given time. They don't know the lines between Lake Geneva and

the Town of Geneva or Town of Linn. So that adds difficulty for them looking up the rules.

All that aside, animals should be up-to-date on their shots and pet owners would be smart to download their pets' records onto their phones so it can be easily accessible at any time. But forcing all tourists to have their pet records immediately accessible while on vacation here is not the answer.

It spreads the wrong message to those wanting to come visit Lake Geneva.

The Regional News editorial board consists of General Manager Robert Ireland, Editor Stephanie Jones, Advertising Assistant Steve Romani and community members Patrick Quinn and Elizabeth Lupo DiVito.



## LETTERS TO EDITOR

### Biden's popularity is down

I was so happy to hear the news that President Joe Biden's popularity numbers have plummeted to forty one percent.

I was then stunned to realize that so many Americans would still vote for Biden again.

When a kindergartner, I was so proud to learn and repeat the Pledge of Allegiance at the start of class each day.

As a young high school football and basketball player, it was so exciting to experience the patriotism holding my hand over my heart and singing our national anthem. Our beautiful star spangled banner!

As a young kindergartner I was so inspired to see the writing "In God we trust" on my dollar bill being carefully placed in the collection plate.

I certainly did not understand at first how very fortunate we are to be American citizens and to be idolized by all other countries throughout the world!

Joe Biden seems like a real nice person. I would actually consider him of "best friend" stature – but president of our nation?

How many disastrous missteps can he and his administration make without sinking our former great nation?

Every one of the creative and working solutions by the past administration has been effectively torpedoed!

My prayers are now that my fellow American citizens return our nation to the world leader it once held. Proudly and the most respected nation in the world of ours.

**Tom Kincaid  
Town of Linn**

### We Energies proposal will result in hotter summers

Has this last summer been far too hot and steamy for you, as it is for me and my family? Did you have to use your air conditioner more than any past year? The latest international report on climate change has found that this is the hottest summer on record and warns that it's going to get a lot hotter unless we reduce fossil fuel use.

So why is We Energies proposing several natural gas storage facilities in our area? Make no mistake, natural gas is a fossil fuel and this proposal assumes increasing use fossil fuels. And it will cost customers more than \$460 million dollars!

There are better alternatives, including funding an energy efficiency program for older homes and encouraging big users to reduce or stop use on really cold days. In addition, we need to produce more clean energy – solar, wind, etc.

The PSC should deny We Energies' permission to build the storage facilities. Instead, We Energies should fund an energy efficiency program.

**Mariette Nowak,  
East Troy**

### Habitat's new house project a poignant reminder of 9/11

9/11 is a somber reminder of tragedy, loss and honor paid to heroes. This past 9/11/21 was also a day of joy and building in Pell Lake WI. Habitat for Humanity in

### Send letters

Letters to the editor can be sent to [newsroom@lakegenevanews.net](mailto:newsroom@lakegenevanews.net) or mailed to The Lake Geneva Regional News, 315 Broad St., Lake Geneva, WI, 53147. Include your name, municipality and contact number in case someone needs to contact you. The number is not published.

Walworth County is working on a house for Tracey, a former National Guard member and mother of a wonderful 10-year-old son.

Members of both the Lake Geneva Fire and Police departments arrived at 8 a.m. to put roof trusses and decking on Tracey and Adan's new home. These men are hardworking, determined, generous with their time and provided many laughs for the group.

I don't believe I was the only one touched by our first responders' willingness to help another person on what would have been their day off. Habitat is grateful to all its volunteers. The poignancy of watching a home go up on the day when, 20 years ago, so many lives and buildings were destroyed and damaged was especially touching. We're so grateful for our first responders.

**Judy Nolan,  
Lake Geneva**

### How older adults can prevent falling

September is Falls Prevention Awareness Month in Wisconsin. Unfortunately, Wisconsin has the highest death rate due

to falls for older adults of any state in the country. Every 11 seconds an older adult in the U.S. is admitted to an Emergency Department for a fall. One in four older adults has a fall each year costing over \$1 billion annually in Wisconsin.

The good news is that falls are not a normal part of aging. They can be prevented. The Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging and Aurora Health Care encourage older adults to prevent falls with these six steps:

1. Talk to a physical therapist to learn about balance and strength exercises that are proven to reduce falls.

2. Ask your health care provider for a falls risk assessment and share your history of recent falls.

3. Review the medications you are taking with your pharmacist and doctors regularly to explore whether side effects are increasing your risk of falling.

4. Get your vision and hearing checked annually and update your eyeglasses; people with untreated vision or hearing losses are more likely to fall.

5. Keep your home safe by removing tripping hazards, increasing lighting, making stairs safe and installing secure grab bars in key areas.

6. Talk to your family members and enlist their support in taking simple steps to stay safe.

Take steps to avoid a painful and costly fall. Discuss with your health care provider today!

**Sally Gerson, RN,  
Community Educator  
Aurora Health Care**

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