

WEST END

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2021 | lakegenevanews.net | SECTION B

ATV route proposed in Sharon

Community listening session scheduled for Oct. 27

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A local official is spearheading discussions about establishing all-terrain vehicle (ATV) and utility terrain vehicle (UTV) routes within Sharon village limits.

Eric Gallagher, director of public works in the village of Sharon, is proposing a route system that offers access to local businesses and other attractions. A public

forum has been scheduled for 7 p.m. at the village community center on Wednesday, Oct. 27.

"There's been a lot of support," Gallagher said.

The village of Sharon is one of a growing number of area municipalities looking into opening up ATV and UTV travel.

Earlier this month, Bloomfield township approved the formation of a joint ad-hoc committee to look into legalizing ATV, UTV and golf cart use on town and village roads.

Similar discussions are underway in Union Grove in Racine County, and a Whitewater council

member recently asked for consideration of an ordinance that would allow ATVs and UTVs in rural areas within city limits.

Sharon township has had ATV routes for several years, along with Darien and the town of Walworth.

Gallagher said many of these existing trail systems lack access to important services.

"There's no access to gas or food," he said. "So I'm proposing a specific route to get to each and every establishment."

Gallagher said he has worked to create a plan that minimizes disturbance to residential areas and

maximizes access to local businesses. The proposal is largely concerned with the north side of Sharon, he said.

The proposal limits ATV and UTV travel to roadways, observing existing speed limits. Exact rules and regulations require further discussion, Gallagher said. His plan does not include golf carts.

Gallagher said ATV and UTV use has been brought to the board in years past, but obtaining the correct permits for travel on Highway 67 has presented a consistent hurdle.

He described Highway 67 as the

main artery of the village.

"If you don't have 67, you don't really have a means in or out," he said.

Gallagher said he is in ongoing conversations with state officials regarding ATV and UTV travel on Highway 67.

While the proposal's timeline is unclear at this point, Gallagher said recent feedback from residents and board members has been positive.

Community members can be part of the conversation at the ATV listening session on Oct. 27 at 7 p.m., hosted at the village community center at 125 Plain St.

Big Foot Fine Arts returns for fifth season

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If the ghosts of presidents past could talk, what would they say? How would Ulysses S. Grant tell the story of his own life?

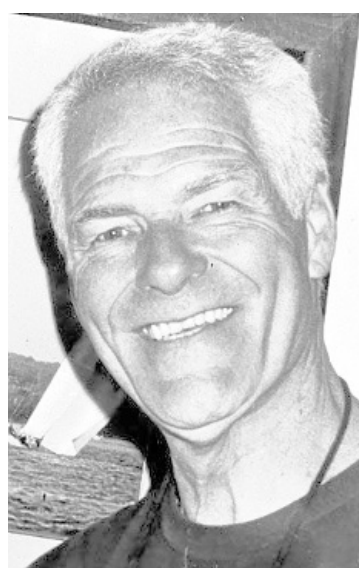
Lucky for history enthusiasts around Geneva Lake, the Big Foot Community Fine Arts Foundation (BFCFAF) will host actor Wayne Issleb portraying the military leader and eighteenth president on Friday, Oct. 29. Issleb's interactive performance will mark the beginning of the foundation's fifth season bringing arts and education to the Big Foot community and beyond.

The October event will include a tribute to the late Bruce Thompson, renowned photographer and founding member of the Fine Arts Foundation. Thompson's photography will be on display, presented by his two children, both Big Foot High School alums like their father.

After last year's programs were cancelled to reduce the spread of COVID-19, BFCFAF President Becky Merwin is excited to resume the foundation's mission.

"We're proud to give folks from all the communities around Geneva Lake to see artists perform that they wouldn't otherwise get to see," Merwin said.

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Bruce Thompson (1947-2020) is pictured smiling. The renowned artist photographer was a founding member of the Big Foot Fine Arts Foundation.



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WILLIAMS BAY HOMECOMING 2021

Williams Bay Upperclassmen cheer on the freshman as they compete in a tug of war game during the homecoming pep rally outside Williams Bay High School on Friday, Oct. 15. To see more photos from homecoming go to B6 and for coverage from the homecoming game see C1.

New subdivision discussed

Development proposed at Geneva Street and Highway 50

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WILLIAMS BAY — Developers have long had their eye on the vacant land at the southwest corner of East Geneva Street and Highway 50.

After several scrapped plans for the property, Land & Lakes Development Company has returned with a new proposal: a subdivision of 42 single-family lots to be known as Willabay Meadows, named for its proximity to the Willabay Woods subdivision.

As the 30 acres of interest lie across three jurisdictions — 16 acres in Williams Bay, nine in the town of Geneva and five in the town of Linn — the current plan calls for the annexation of the two non-village parcels.

Martin Hanley, president of Land & Lakes Development Company, presented the concept



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Martin Hanley, president of Land and Lakes Development Company, addresses Williams Bay commissioners on Tuesday, Oct. 12.

plan at a well-attended meeting of the Williams Bay Plan Commission on Tuesday evening, Oct. 12. Trustee Don Parker chaired the meeting in Bill Duncan's absence.

Hanley was accompanied by the project engineer, Warren Hansen, of Farris, Hansen & As-

sociation, Inc.

Plans for Willabay Meadows began again in late April of this year, Hanley said. Original plans only proposed development on the 16 acres of village land, using the existing water, sewer and roadway systems.

"But after discussion with the

village, the better plan is to annex the two pieces that are not in the village now," Hanley said.

Annexation

Should development be limited to the original 16 acres, the only traffic outlets would be through Willabay Woods' existing cul-de-sacs, Hanley said. Annexation of Linn's five acres would allow for a roadway connection to Geneva Street.

"It gives more circulation," Hansen said.

Commissioner Jane Pegel, a longtime resident of Willabay Woods, expressed concern about increased traffic through the existing subdivision.

Regardless of the extra access point, Pegel worried that an influx of new residents would threaten a delicate balance.

"I'm concerned that the new subdivision will produce more traffic and make it more hazardous for the children and old folks like me," she said.

Commissioner Maggie Gage

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