

City moves to halt spending on controversial trail

South Shore trail would have been 10-foot wide in front yards

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Lake Geneva officials seem to have put the brakes on a proposed trail extension project that has caused concern among several residents and local officials.

The proposed project includes extending the South Street bicycle trail, which runs near Badger High School and Lake Geneva Middle School by about 1.5 miles.

The extended trail would lead to the future site of a new Geneva Lakes Family YMCA campus, located near the intersection of Highway H and Highway 120. The trail also is set to be extended west along South Street and end at Lake Shore Drive, leading to Big Foot Beach State Park.

Lake Geneva has received a \$835,316 transportation alter-

natives program grant from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to help fund the project, with the city paying about 20% of the cost.

Several residents who live near South Street have expressed concerns related to the project including tree removal, potential water runoff, possible traffic concerns and the width of the trail, which is set to be about 10 feet.

City aldermen may have alleviated those concerns for now.

Members of the city council's public works committee unanimously approved, Aug. 22, to halt any outside spending related to the project.

"So the firms that we're using that would charge extra money at this point — halt that spending," Alderwoman Mary Jo Fesenmaier said.

The proposal to stop outside spending on the project still has to be approved by the full city council. The council meets next on Monday, Sept. 12.

Fesenmaier said any work that needs to be done as far as following up on the project could be done by city staff.

"When we keep asking people to make phone calls to the state, then are charged for that time when our administration could of done that, that money is charged against the grant or comes somewhere out of our budget," Fesenmaier said. "So right now, we need to use the staff that we are already paying, so that we will not be incurring any more bills."

During the public works committee meeting, several residents and local officials asked the aldermen to put a halt on the project.

Kelly Nickel of Lake Geneva said the path would encroach on people's driveways and on other property in the South Street area.

"This is ridiculous. It's short-sighted," Nickel said. "I don't know if it was a pet project or not, but you have to put the brakes on this. This project needs to be

stopped now before we get any deeper."

Karen Yancey, executive director for the Geneva Lake Conservancy, said she is concerned about the trees that would be removed as a result of the project and potential water runoff into Geneva Lake.

"This is going to add more impervious surface, more runoff and pollution into the lake," Yancey said. "From our perspective, the conservation costs are very large and outweigh the benefits this grant originally was suppose to provide."

Marcie Hollmann, president of the Lake Geneva Joint No. 1 School Board, said, during previous meetings, it has been reported that the school districts support the project. However, she said the school districts were never made aware of the project.

"We've never seen this plan," Hollmann said. "We've never seen this plan before, and we never approved it."

Barb Dinan, vice president of the Lake Geneva Joint No. 1 School Board, said she also is not in favor of the proposed trail extension.

"We represent this wonderful school district, and we care very much for our children. This does not help in any way shape or form with the current form it's in," Dinan said. "So please think about it."

A resident asked a representative from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation if the city would have to repay the grant money if city officials decide to abandon the project.

Michael Baird of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation said the city would have to repay the money that already has been spent on the project but not the entire grant amount.

"If the money hasn't been spent yet, the city is not on the hook for that," Baird said. "They're only on the hook for what has been spent."

CRIMINAL COMPLAINTS FROM AUG. 23-29

Here are the Walworth County's weekly criminal complaints from Aug. 23 -Aug. 29. The cases still need to make their way through the Walworth County Court System. All information is from criminal complaints filed in Walworth County Circuit Court. To follow the cases, go to wccawicourts.gov.

Charges after underage photos sent to jail inmate

Tyshawn M. Baker, 18, of 5164 United Way, Madison has been charged with eight counts of felony bail jumping and eight counts of soliciting intimate representation from a child. On May 26 from the Walworth County Jail, the inmate (Taylor) received several photos from his supposed girlfriend, who was underage. The jail sergeant advised that they noticed a message from his girlfriend that indicated she was under the age of 16. Through a program at the jail, people can

send messages and pictures on a tablet. The defendant requested pictures from his girlfriend. The messages sent spanned 18 different days. The girlfriend admitted to sending the explicit photos to the defendant while he was in jail.

Woman charged with domestic abuse

Dena D. Clark, 54, of 71 Valley St., Williams Bay, has been charged with simple battery as a felony, domestic abuse assessments, domestic abuse repeater and disorderly conduct as a felony. On Aug. 9, a Williams Bay police officer was dispatched to a residence on Olive Street in Williams Bay for a man bleeding from his arm. The defendant asked the man to make her macaroni and cheese and then stared at him. Clark then began hitting him over the head with the television remote as he raised his arms to protect himself. Later that evening, an officer made

contact with the defendant refused to answer questions. She had a blood alcohol level of .267 at the time of her arrest.

Stolen credit card reportedly used

Sonya R. Shosie, 34, of 29333 Plant Rd., Burlington, has been charged with two counts of identity theft - financial gain, repeater and felony bail jumping. The defendant used stolen credit cards at Walmart in Lake Geneva. She spent a total of \$212.81 at Walmart. Shosie was identified through video surveillance and still photos. She previously was convicted of a felony offense in 2020.

Man on bond caught drinking at Venetian Fest

Joseph A. Pierce, 37, of 1175 Lake Geneva Blvd., Lake Geneva, has been charged with felony bail jumping (violation of no alcohol provision of bond). A sergeant

from the Lake Geneva Police Department was working at the Venetian Festival located at Flat Iron Park on Aug. 18, when he was approached by people who said Joe Pierce was inside the beer tent drinking alcohol and believed to be on bond. Dispatch looked up the defendant, which showed he was out on felony bond and was not to possess or consume any alcohol. The sergeant witnessed Pierce take a drink from an open Bud Light beer can. Pierce knew he was not supposed to drink alcohol. He then was escorted from the beer tent, searched and handcuffed.

Another Venetian Festival drinking charge

Isaiah A. Conley, 24, of 245 Lewis Street., Burlington, has been charged with one count of felony bail jumping and five counts of misdemeanor bail jumping. Conley was caught holding a beer can at the Venetian Fest grounds in Lake Geneva.

When the defendant saw the officer, he immediately began to put the beer can down and proceed to leave the area. The officer smelled alcohol on Conley's breath. The defendant admitted to carrying the beer can, but that it was not his. Conley then provided a PBT test, with a result of 0.106.

Man charged after stumbling out of Whitewater bar

John P. Peters, 40, of 507 S Clark Street., Burlington, has been charged with three counts of felony bail jumping and possession of THC (tetrahydrocannabinols) — second and subsequent offense. A Whitewater officer saw a man, later identified as Peters, walk out of Pumpers and Mitchell's Bar and head toward his car. The officer noticed the man clumsy, and unable to balance. The defendant gave a preliminary breath test sample with results of 0.111. He also had 25.24 grams of marijuana in his car.

BRIEF

Four injured in weekend shooting in Clinton

Four people were injured as a result of a shooting that occurred Aug. 28 in the Town of Clinton, just outside Walworth County in

neighboring Rock County. About 12:35 a.m., Aug. 28 officers from several area departments responded to the 9200 block of Little Lane in the Town of Clinton for a complaint of shots being fired.

While responding to the scene, representatives from Rock County

Communications advised police that there were numerous reported gunshot victims.

Three victims were transported to area hospitals before police arrived, and another victim was found at the scene and transported to Mercy Hospital in Janesville by ambulance.

Police said the four victims sustained non-life-threatening injuries, and the incident is still under investigation. The names of the people involved in the incident were not released and no arrest has yet been reported.

According to police, there is no current threat to the community

regarding the incident.

Representatives from the Village of Clinton Police Department, City of Beloit Police Department, City of Janesville Police Department, Wisconsin State Patrol, Walworth County Sheriff's Office and Rock County Sheriff's Office responded to the scene.

Arrest after Downtown assault

A 17 year old man has been charged with several offenses including battery, two counts of possession of a dangerous weapon and carrying a concealed weapon after he allegedly punched another man in the face, stemming from a verbal argument that took place at a crosswalk in Downtown Lake Geneva on Aug. 17.

Police said a handgun with two magazines was later found to be in his backpack.

Miguel Angel Bolanos,

17, of the 300 block of South St., Lake Geneva, was also charged with possession with intent to deliver THC (tetrahydrocannabinols), resisting an officer and misdemeanor bail jumping, police said.

On Aug. 17, an officer from the Lake Geneva Police Department responded to a report of the assault. Upon arrival, he made contact with a person who was bleeding from his nose and mouth. He said Bolanos punched him in the face and two of

the defendant's friends joined in and punched him in the head. The victim advised the officer that the three attackers then fled on foot.

When the officer approached the defendant and his two friends, he announced himself as police and told the three individuals to sit on the curb. According to police, the defendant didn't comply and began to walk faster.

When the officer grabbed his arm, the defendant allegedly pulled

away from the officer's grip and ran into the park. Bolanos was later taken into custody near the Cove Hotel. Police said the defendant had brass knuckles, a large amount of cash and a vape pen containing THC oil in his possession. In his backpack, the defendant was also found to have four THC cartridges along with a black scale with green residue and a glass jar with trace amounts of marijuana, according to police.



LAKE GENEVA POLICE DEPARTMENT FACEBOOK

After an incident on Aug. 17 in Downtown Lake Geneva police confiscated a gun, brass knuckles, and drugs, among other items. The Lake Geneva Police Department posted the photo on Facebook after the arrest.

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