New lifeguard records a double rescue

By Scott Williams
swilliams@lakegenevanews.net

Riviera Beach was crowded on a steamy hot Fourth of July when the festive atmosphere was pierced by a young girl's shrieking cries for help out in the water.

Without hesitation, lifeguard Sofija Djurdjulov jumped into the lake and raced over to help the struggling 12-year-old girl.

But then Djurdjulov found more: The girl's mother was submerged, too, after the mother tried to help her daughter, and the two of them had gotten tangled together.

Taking control of the chaotic situation, Djurdjulov was able to save both the mother and daughter, holding one under each arm as she pulled them both safely to shore.

The first-year lifeguard with the Geneva Lake Water Safety Patrol had been on the job only a couple of months when she recorded the unusual double-rescue around 4:30 p.m. July 4.

"She's a hero," Water Safety Patrol director Ted Pankau said. "There's no other way to put it — she saved those lives."

The mother and daughter, who were visiting from

Sofija Djurdjulov, 20, a lifeguard with the Geneva Lake Water Safety Patrol, is credited with saving a mother and daughter at Riviera Beach. (Photo by Scott Williams/Regional News)