

# BRIDGES

CONNECTING OUR CITY OF SOUTH MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY

**Business Spotlight:  
BAKEHOUSE 23**

**4K Programs:  
A Jumpstart for  
Students and a  
Bargain for Parents**

**South Milwaukee Becoming  
AN ART-LOVERS  
DESTINATION!**

**WELCOME NEW TEACHERS  
In South Milwaukee  
School District**

**MATC ESL  
STUDENT  
Publishes  
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**SM High School  
Keeps Its  
WOW Factor**



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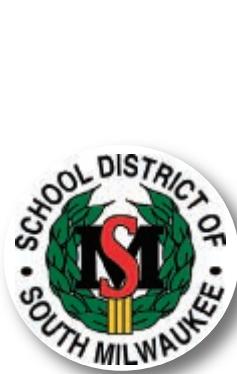
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### ON THE COVER

South Milwaukee has embarked on an exciting new art initiative with new, original murals created to enhance the downtown corridor. Here we see talented artist Mika Revell as she paints her mural on the outside of the Human Concerns building on Milwaukee Ave. Read more on page 6 about Mika and other artists who are transforming the downtown landscape with their vibrant, colorful designs – and a new arts group that is spearheading this local arts movement!

# BRIDGES

CONNECTING OUR CITY OF SOUTH MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY



*Bridges* is the official magazine of the City of South Milwaukee and the School District of South Milwaukee. *Bridges* provides news and feature stories about the people, businesses, places and events that make our community a very special place to live, work, visit and invest in.

Funded by the City and School District, the magazine receives additional financial support from MATC and local advertisers.

We welcome story ideas, content suggestions and advertising inquiries, but reserve the right to reject or edit content to assure compatibility with our editorial mission, advertisement criteria and other publication standards. Please email all inquiries and suggestions to [info@smbridgesmagazine.com](mailto:info@smbridgesmagazine.com).

This publication is guided by a professional advisory committee comprised of representatives from the City of South Milwaukee and the School District of South Milwaukee.

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:** Patrick Brever and Katie Crosby (City of South Milwaukee), Dan Bader (South Milwaukee School District), Mark Feldmann (MATC) and Barb Caprile (Caprile Marketing/Design).

## CITY OF SOUTH MILWAUKEE

**Jim Shelenske, Mayor**

**Tamara Mayzik, City Administrator**

**Patrick Brever, Assistant City Administrator**

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**Bridges magazine design/production:** Caprile Marketing/Design

## PLEASE NOTE:

The School District of South Milwaukee is committed to providing equal educational opportunities for all District students and to providing a learning and working environment free of discrimination based on a protected class. Read our whole nondiscrimination statement at [sdsm.k12.wi.us.notice-of-non-discrimination](http://sdsm.k12.wi.us.notice-of-non-discrimination).



## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

### Celebrating Our Vibrant City!

I hope you had a great summer and you have enjoyed our many South Milwaukee events, including Afternoon at the Commons, the South Milwaukee Downtown Market, Crusherfest, Heritage Days, Movie Night at the Commons, Community Night Out and the 25th anniversary of Cheaterama.



We have had quite a year celebrating numerous business anniversaries. It's a great testament to our City when businesses choose South Milwaukee as their home, and then keep investing in the community year after year. How spectacular that so many have succeeded here – 5, 10, 15, 25, 40, 50 – even 130 years! (See the full list of business anniversaries on pg. 8.)

Additionally, we have a number of new businesses that have chosen to do business in South Milwaukee (see pg. 8). Please join me in welcoming them to the City, as we extend our good wishes for much success here. When small businesses succeed, so do the communities that they are a part of. We are fortunate to have a number of excellent locally owned small businesses that are making a difference for their customers AND our City.

Currently, I am working with WE Energies on why we are losing power so often. They have identified equipment that needs to be replaced, along with trees that need trimming. "This will eliminate most of these complaints," says a representative of WE Energies – Local Affairs.

A future project in the works that I am excited about includes the replacement of our streetlights with LEDs.

The gorgeous fall season has arrived, and we look forward to Spooktacular at the Commons on Oct. 21 and Citywide Trick-or-Treat on Saturday, Oct. 28, from 5 to 7 p.m. Veterans Day is also around the corner on Nov. 11. Then, looking ahead, we anticipate the arrival of the Old-Fashioned Christmas event, Christmas at the Commons (where vehicles can be decorated for the season), the annual tree lighting, and even Santa's arrival in our town (see pg. 9).

Happy autumn and holidays from the Shelenske family to yours. May 2024 be our best year yet!

Sincerely,

Jim Shelenske-Mayor  
City of South Milwaukee

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## ► South Milwaukee Is Becoming an ART-LOVERS DESTINATION!

The transformation of downtown South Milwaukee is moving ahead at a rapid pace. Aside from the Bucyrus Commons gathering space, including band shell and pavilion (across the street from the "Da Crusher" statue), beautiful murals and banners are being added to the streets of downtown.

Most recently, a gorgeous mural was painted on the west wall of the Human Concerns building. In addition, contemporary street banners have been hung on the lamp poles downtown. Plus, as you read this issue of *Bridges*, another outdoor mural is underway at the Sorce Martial Arts building at 926 Milwaukee Ave.

It is an exciting time for the City as South Milwaukee is exploding with new art projects! These artistic additions are part of an urban renewal that is transforming the downtown area. Murals have the ability to attract new businesses, help bring increased visitors to the area, and boost the economy of the region by peaking the interest of an increased customer base. Read on for more information about these efforts to foster pride in South Milwaukee and make a brighter, more vibrant City!

### NEW MURAL ADDED TO EXTERIOR OF HUMAN CONCERN'S BUILDING

Have you recently driven by the Human Concerns building at 1029 Milwaukee Ave.? A brightly colored and creative image is now adorning the exterior of the building that immediately captures the attention of all those who pass by.

Earlier this year, the City of South Milwaukee put out a call for artists to paint a mural on the west wall of the Human Concerns building at 1029 Milwaukee Ave.

A seven-person mural design committee reviewed the 116 mural designs that were submitted, and international muralist Mika Revell was chosen by the committee to execute the mural. It was completed in September, and the entirety of the project was funded by the Bucyrus Foundation and other donations.

The mural's vibrant design showcases native plant life, including Purple Coneflowers, New England Aster, Native Milkweed, Wild Bergamot and Marsh Magnolias. Against the backdrop of South Milwaukee's waterfront, the mural represents the City's natural beauty and its commitment to diversity and growth.

The project's mission was to unite the community and attract visitors, as the City continues to invest in, revitalize and reimagine its historic downtown. The mural embodies the spirit of "new beginnings" while celebrating the City's prominent lakefront and its connection and proud partnership with the prospering region.

"Our mural artist, Mika, was a joy to work with," says Ericka Lang, the City's economic development project manager. And this was clearly evident as well to passersby, as she intermittently stopped her weeklong



**Mika signs her completed mural.**

*Left: Key people who worked on the mural project at the Human Concerns building pose with the artist, Mika Revell, in front of her finished painting. From left to right: Darlene Piszcek-mural committee, Leah Minue-mural committee, George Becker-Human Concerns Board and Plan Commissioner, Brett Briesemeister-Alderman/Plan Commissioner, Craig Maass-Alderman, Mika Revell-artist, Patrick Brever-assistant City administrator, Ericka Lang-mural committee/economic development project manager, David Bartosevich-Council President/Plan Commissioner, Tami Mayzik-City administrator, and Debra DeBoer-mural committee/executive director of Human Concerns.*

*Right: On her last day in South Milwaukee, a request was made by Better Together Cafe, on North Chicago Ave., to paint something on its own building as well. With just hours left before her flight, Mika quickly drove over to the cafe and painted this lovely floral design on the side of the building.*



painting schedule to chat with residents, and explain her processes.

Mika is an accomplished Asian-American artist boasting a rich portfolio, including clients like the Architecture and Design Museum of Downtown Los Angeles, Angels Stadium, and the SoFi Stadium. She delights in traveling internationally for her career, and was quick to point out her next stop was going to be Seattle, and then a trip to Europe!

"I have traveled all over the world, and from coast to coast in the U.S., including New York and California, and I must say that the people of South Milwaukee have been some of the warmest and friendliest I have ever met," she shares. "This trip, and this mural project, were particularly fun for me, and I will remember all the wonderful people I got to meet and talk to."



## NEW LOGO BANNERS INSTALLED IN DOWNTOWN SOUTH MILWAUKEE

New logo banners funded by the Bucyrus Foundation and designed by local artist Lauren Marvell have been added downtown to further the City's investment in public art. Marvell, a Cudahy native who now lives in South Milwaukee, is a

talented illustrator who has worked with some well-known clients including Central Waters Brewing Company, Culvers, the Milwaukee Art Museum and South Milwaukee's own Moran's Pub. She recently created the illustrations decorating the exterior of a storage trailer used by the City of Oak Creek at their Farmers Markets and other special events.

Marvell enjoys working with small communities and focuses on the special reasons they have found success. "I enjoy being in a small place, exploring, eating at their favorite local diners." She says she gets a kick seeing her artwork out in the world and loves when friends and family reach out to her when they spot her art on display!!

## ANOTHER MURAL TO BE PAINTED ON THE SORCE MARTIAL ARTS BUILDING

Antonio "Tone" Gomez, the talented artist who is responsible for the painting of the bigger-than-life representation (54 x



56 ft. or three stories tall!) of Milwaukee's beloved Bucks' player, Giannis Antetokounmpo, on the 600 East Building (600 East Wisconsin Ave.) has now been chosen to design and paint a mural on the Sorce Martial Arts building at 926 Milwaukee Ave. Gomez, who painted the Giannis mural along with friend Mauricio Ramirez, is from Chicago, and has produced murals throughout the Windy City and across the country, now including Milwaukee (where he has family members living).

To kick off the project, a mural painting party was held on Sun., Oct. 8, where attendees got to meet the artist and could partake in sidewalk chalk painting, face painting, live music, and refreshments – all part of creating an event that involved the City in deeper community engagement.

## "ART WORKS" INITIATIVE BRINGING MURALS AND MORE TO CITY

"Art Works" is a 501(c)(3) organization operated by local volunteers to bring art to downtown South Milwaukee that will positively benefit the Milwaukee Ave. revitalization efforts and continue boosting energy within the downtown business district. Watch for more information about this innovative group and their future plans in a future issue of *Bridges*.

# SOUTH MILWAUKEE MILESTONE CELEBRATIONS!

Our "MILESTONES" column features celebratory dates, anniversaries and special occasions for our South Milwaukee businesses and non-profit groups. If your business is celebrating a "milestone" or receiving an award, please contact us!

## WELCOMING NEW SOUTH MILWAUKEE BUSINESSES

Please support the following businesses and welcome them to South Milwaukee:

- Alternative Family Services, 1333 College Ave., Suite H3
- Barre Collective, 1633 Rawson Ave.
- Centerline Design and Fabrication, 1123C E. Rawson Ave.
- The Chi Shed, 916 Milwaukee Ave., Suite C
- ChowChow Treats, 907 Milwaukee Ave., A
- Caramics Detailing, 300 N. Chicago Ave.
- Rosenquist Fine Art Gallery, 1805 10th Ave.
- Wendy's, 240 N. Chicago Ave.



**Human Concerns celebrated its 50-year anniversary with the community on September 16 at the Bucyrus Commons Pavilion.**

## SOUTH MILWAUKEE BUSINESSES CELEBRATING MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

These South Milwaukee businesses and organizations are celebrating "milestone" anniversaries this year. We appreciate their commitment to the South Milwaukee community and congratulate them on their successful years in business.

- Bucyrus/Caterpillar, 130 years
- Molthen Bell Funeral Home, 105 years
- Barbiere's Italian Inn, 60 years
- South Milwaukee Historical Society, 50 years
- South Milwaukee Human Concerns, 50 years
- South Milwaukee Knights of Columbus Clubhouse, 50 years

- American Acrylics, 50 years
- Tony The Candyman, 40 years
- South Milwaukee Car Care Center, 25 years
- South Milwaukee Downtown Market, 15 Years
- The Tap Room, 15 years
- Mears Online Auctions, 15 years
- Bright Smiles Family Dentistry, 10 years
- Brew Town Pub & Grill, 10 years
- Powers On 10th, 10 years
- Pier Light Media, 10 years
- Tony G's Grant Park Garage, 10 years
- Gecko Leather Works, 5 years
- My Storage Home, 5 years
- Neutral Ground, 5 years
- South Milwaukee Family Dental, 5 years

## HEALTH CARE HERO AWARD

Congratulations to Health Administrator, Jackie Ove, who was recently presented with the 2023 First District Health Care Hero Award by Congressman Bryan Steil. Jackie was nominated by current and former staff for her dedication to improving the health of our communities.

## SOUTH MILWAUKEE LEADERSHIP CHANGE:

**Patrick Brever Appointed City Administrator as Tami Mayzik Takes New Role in Mount Pleasant**

Tami Mayzik is leaving her role as city administrator to accept a new role in the Village of Mount Pleasant. Tami has been at the helm in South Milwaukee for more than 20 years, and we are overwhelmed with gratitude for her many years of dedicated service to the City. According to Mayor Jim Shelenske, "We were privileged to have Mayzik serve as our city administrator since 2003, and we wish her well in her next role. She did a lot to move South Milwaukee forward."

Replacing Mayzik as city administrator, when she takes on her new position in January, will be Patrick Brever, currently the assistant city administrator. Brever has been working side by side with Mayzik for the past few years, and says he is "grateful for her mentorship and guidance." He adds, "I look forward to continuing to work with our dedicated staff and elected officials to enhance and highlight what makes South Milwaukee special."

Watch for more about Brever's new role in the spring issue of *Bridges*.

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## Christmas at the Commons

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  - Food • Music • Holiday Activities
  - Santa Visit • Lots of Family Fun!
- Lighting of the City’s Christmas tree at 6 p.m.

Want to enter your business or group in the “parade?”  
Visit the City website for more information!

[smwi.org](http://smwi.org)





*Katie Crosby (left) was recently appointed South Milwaukee's City Clerk/Communications Director and Emily Szolwinski is the City's new Deputy Clerk.*

## ► City Staff Spotlight

### New Clerk and Deputy Clerk Appointed

**T**he City of South Milwaukee is pleased to congratulate two staff at City Hall on their promotions. Both of these dedicated and talented ladies are passionate about their work and are ready to serve the residents of South Milwaukee!

#### **City Clerk/Communications Director**

#### **Katie Crosby**

Katie Crosby started a new role as the City Clerk/Communications Director in May 2023. Growing up "next door" in Oak Creek, she's a 2001 Oak Creek High School graduate. She also has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and forensic psychology. Before taking on the City Clerk/Communications Director role, Crosby has held various roles since 2005 with the City of South Milwaukee, in the Police Department, Treasurer's Office, and Clerk's Office.

Crosby enjoys spending time with her husband, Steve, and two boys, Owen (11) and Logan (9), and attending their various sports activities. She also enjoys logging in running miles, traveling to new places and picking up a good book.

#### **What was your first job?**

McDonald's in Oak Creek. You could find me either in the drive-thru or at the counter taking customers' orders, and maybe on weekends facilitating a birthday party.

#### **What is your favorite thing about working in local government?**

This is such a unique opportunity to make a meaningful impact within the community. It provides a chance to address local issues, improve public services and contribute to the overall well-being of the community.

#### **What do you love most about South Milwaukee?**

Lake Michigan, Grant Park trails, and the City's small-town feel.

#### **Describe South Milwaukee in three words.**

Proud, family-oriented and welcoming.

#### **If you were to check out one book from the South Milwaukee Public Library, what would it be?**

"28 Summers" by Erin Hilderbrand.

#### **Deputy Clerk Emily Szolwinski**

Emily Szolwinski was born in West Allis and has moved several times over the years. After being a military spouse, she chose South Milwaukee as where she wanted to settle down and raise her family. She has two children that attend South Milwaukee schools; Ashlynn (12) and Harry (6). Szolwinski has an associate's degree in human resources, and is a year away from earning her bachelor's degree in psychology. Her family loves how tight-knit the community is and enjoys supporting local businesses all over South Milwaukee.

Emily is new to local government – she started in the Inspections Department at the beginning of this year and quickly realized the importance that local government has in developing a well-rounded community. Working with the members of the community has been rewarding for her, and she looks forward to many years of service to the City of South Milwaukee as the Deputy Clerk.

**What was your first job?**

McDonalds in Wauwatosa. I was usually at the drive-thru window.

**What is your favorite thing about working in local government?** I really enjoy working with the citizens. Being able to offer positive outcomes when a citizen comes to me with a question or an issue is key for me.

**What do you love most about South Milwaukee?**

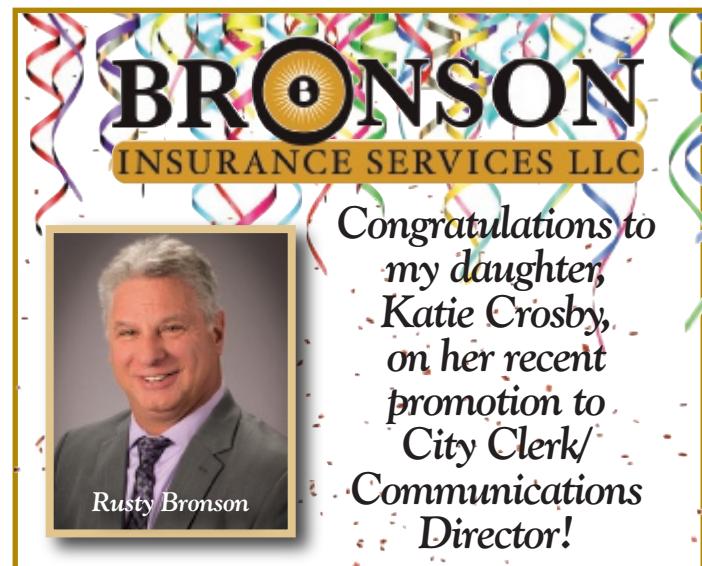
I really love the accessibility to the naturally beautiful Grant Park area and the bike trails.

**Describe South Milwaukee in three words.**

Lively, tight-knit and family-oriented.

**If you were to check out one book from the South Milwaukee Public Library, what would it be?**

“The People We Keep” by Allison Larkin.



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**Congratulations to my daughter, Katie Crosby, on her recent promotion to City Clerk/Communications Director!**

**Rusty Bronson**

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# ► South Milwaukee Public Library: Fall and Winter Programming

## ALL AGES

### All Knotted Up: Fiber Arts with Friends

**First and Third Monday of the Month from 5-6:45 p.m.**  
**Oct. 16, Nov. 6, Dec. 4, Dec. 18, Jan. 15, Feb. 5, Feb. 19, Mar. 4, Mar. 18**

All experience levels welcome to this volunteer-led community for people wanting to work on their fiber arts with other enthusiasts. Feel free to drop by any time throughout the program to work on your projects with other crafters. Ages 10+ welcome. If under 12, please bring a parent or guardian.

### Free Blood Pressure Screenings

**First Friday of the Month from 10-11 a.m.**

**Nov. 3, Dec. 1, Jan. 5, Feb. 2, Mar. 1, Apr. 5**

Stop in to receive a free blood pressure screening from the South Milwaukee/St. Francis Health Department. No sign up required.

### Black History Month Celebration

**Sat., Feb. 10 from 12-2 p.m.**

Join us for our second annual Black History Month Celebration. Enjoy music by local Black musicians and more! All are welcome.

## ADULTS

### Craft Supply Swap

**Thurs., Nov. 9 from 5-7 p.m.**

Bring in your new or gently used art and craft supplies and swap them for some that are new to you! Craft supplies will be accepted for donation from Monday, October 30 to Wednesday, November 8, or on the day of the event.

### Blood Drive with Versiti Wisconsin

**Wed., Dec. 6 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.**

Sign up to donate blood!

### An Evening of Hygge

**Mon., Dec. 11 at 5:30 p.m.**

Join us for an evening of hygge, the Danish art of coziness and comfort! We will enjoy music, snacks and cozy activities. Come in your (appropriate) pajamas or comfy clothes – sweatpants, slippers, and fuzzy socks encouraged.

### Healthy Eating for the New Year

**Mon., Jan. 8 at 5:30 p.m.**

Join us for this informational session about how to make sustainable New Year's goals and intentions for healthy

eating. Integrative nutrition health coach, chef and yoga teacher Annie Wegner LeFort will share her ideas and experience in setting yourself up for success as you look toward the new year.

## TEEN

### Teen Halloween Craft

**Thurs., Oct. 26 at 4 p.m.**

Stop in to make a spooky craft. More info to be announced!

### Teen Anime Evenings

**Nov. 16, Jan. 25, Feb. 22, from 4-6 p.m.**

Enjoy anime and snacks at the Library!

### Teen Henna Art

**Thurs., Dec. 7 at 4 p.m.**

Are you curious about henna? Learn the history of henna, where it began, what it means, how it's made and how to begin the art form. All participants will receive one henna tattoo. Please note that the henna will be made with tea tree and lavender – do not use if you are allergic or sensitive. Registration required. Sign up starting Thursday, November 30.

## KIDS

### Craft Kits

**Mondays at 11 a.m.**

Craft kits will be available every Monday in the youth room while supplies last.

### Storytime & Crafts

**Tuesdays at 10 a.m.**

Join us for stories, music, activities and a simple craft. For kids 6 and under and their caregivers.

### Music & Movement

**Wednesdays at 10 a.m.**

Join us for music, dancing, flannel board activities and a story. For kids ages 0-3 and their caregivers.

### LEGO Club

**Thursdays: Oct. 19, Nov. 16, Dec. 21 from 4-5 p.m.**

For ages 5-12.

### Halloween Party

**Thurs., Oct. 30 from 5-6:30 p.m.**

For families and kids of all ages. No registration required.

## Gingerbread Houses

Thurs., Dec. 7 at 4 p.m. and 4:45 p.m.

For kids ages 0-12 and their families. Registration required and space is limited.

## Holiday Party

Thurs., Dec. 14 from 5-6:30 p.m.

For families and kids of all ages. No registration required.

## SUPPORT THE LIBRARY

### Family Bowling Fundraiser

Sun., Oct. 22 at 1 p.m. at Classic Lanes in Oak Creek

Join us for family bowling and your participation will support the South Milwaukee Public Library. Tickets cost \$25 per bowler and will include three games of bowling, shoe rental, pizza and soda. Cash bar available. Proceeds will fund children's library materials. Purchase tickets at the Library or on EventBrite here at [bit.ly/smpl-family-bowling](http://bit.ly/smpl-family-bowling)

## Book & Bake Sale

Sat., Nov. 4 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Stop in for our semiannual book and bake sale and stock up on great books and yummy treats! Tons to choose from and affordable prices! All proceeds directly benefit the Library.

*Participants work on their craft projects at the South Milwaukee Public Library – join in the action with this fun group!*

## Donation Night at Cousins Subs

Mon., Nov. 6 from 4-7 p.m.

Grab dinner at Cousins Subs in South Milwaukee and 20% of sales will be donated to this vital fundraising group to support Library programming.

## Friends of the Library Member Meetings

Next Meeting Thursday, Dec. 14, at 6 p.m.

Members of the Friends of the Library have regular meetings to discuss fundraising, events, volunteer organization, promotion, officer appointment and other agenda items. For more information on the Friends or how to get involved, please visit [smlibrary.org/friends/](http://smlibrary.org/friends/) or contact the Friends at [friendsfsmkepl@gmail.com](mailto:friendsfsmkepl@gmail.com).



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*A Black History Blues event at the South Milwaukee Public Library featured live Blues performances.*



*Friends President Sue Hebner*

## ► Friends of the South Milwaukee Public Library: Making a Difference in Our Community

If you have participated in a craft project or the Summer Reading Program at the South Milwaukee Public Library (SMPL), watched a performer in the children's area, or attended an adult learning program in the last three years, these activities have been paid for by the Friends of the South Milwaukee Public Library.

The Friends' group is a volunteer organization that raises \$4,000 annually through two biannual book sales, fundraisers with Cousin's Subs, bake sales, T-shirt sales, and other opportunities. SMPL would not be able to offer its many diverse programs without its team of dedicated volunteers like those in the Friends' group. Last year, the Library was able to offer 306 different programs with more than 9,654 attendees.

With more funding challenges during the last year, the way volunteers help with programming at the Library has started to evolve. Volunteers are now offering innovative ideas or offering to share their own talents and skills. For example, volunteer Jim Feeney has helped the Library by creating interesting and dynamic displays for Black History Month and Native American Heritage Month. He got so much feedback on the Native American Heritage display that he donated the books he had on display to the Library so community members could check them out. Beyond the displays, Jim also partnered with Atwood Hwy BBQ to sponsor a Black History Month Blues event at the Library. Participants were treated to live performances that educated audiences about the different types of Blues and the history of this engaging type of music.

Another example is Library Board member and volunteer Linda Marquardt, who is hosting an upcoming

family-based cake-decorating class offered by her business, Mitzi's Cake Kitchen, LLC. Linda also donated a collection of over 80 cake pans to the Library. So even if you can't make it to the cake-decorating class, you will be able to browse the pans and take them home to try for yourself.

The Friends of SMPL have also helped with events like the South Milwaukee Downtown Market family craft nights, poetry reading events and more. Friends President Sue Hebner works with Friends' members to ensure that there are plenty of volunteers to assist with events, and is also helping with the Library's grant writing.

The Library hopes to soon offer patrons the ability to check out items with their smartphones at the Library, thanks to volunteer Clinton Verley. You may see him if we offer informational "how to" sessions in the future. Clinton has also supported the Library by helping to inventory items, along with improving the Library's outdoor landscaping by spreading mulch.

The Library has a marvelous group of creative volunteers, not just the ones listed here, and it's important to say thank you to all of them. Their talents and interests are so diverse and interesting that the Library has been able to tap into these talents and offer them the opportunity to share their special gifts with the Library, as well as the community as a whole.

If you have any ideas or interests in what programs you would like to see at the Library, or have a special talent or skill to share, please feel free to reach out, by stopping in the Library in person. Library staff would love to talk with you!

*Right: The proper use of a fire extinguisher was demonstrated by Chief Litchford at a Fire Safety for Seniors event at Marquette Manor this summer.*

*Bottom: Captain Egner and Angie, one of the residents at Marquette Manor, are all smiles at the event.*



## ► South Milwaukee Fire Department Launches "Fire Safety for Seniors" Program

**E**arlier this year, the South Milwaukee Fire Department (SMFD) identified an opportunity to provide senior citizens with a free, lighter-weight fire extinguisher to increase their ability to handle and deploy the extinguisher in the event of an emergency. The Fire Safety for Seniors program was created following a fire call in which a South Milwaukee resident was unable to lift and deploy a typically sized fire extinguisher during her kitchen fire.

"The fire service has a long history of identifying community concerns and needs, and we then work toward finding a solution," says Fire Chief John Litchford. "In this instance, the community of South Milwaukee reached out to us, their Fire Department – and we, in return, worked with business and community leaders to identify a solution."

A Fire Safety for Seniors event was held at Marquette Manor on June 29 to launch the program and distribute 75 fire extinguishers to that senior-living community. Sponsors of the Fire Safety for Seniors program include Paul Davis Restoration, the Bucyrus Foundation, Precision Electrical and Warm Up South Milwaukee.

Senior citizens (age 65 and over) can submit a request for a free, lighter-weight fire extinguisher on the Fire Department's website at [smfdwi.org](http://smfdwi.org) or by calling 414.768.8191. These fire extinguishers are similar to the

ones sold in stores for about \$30 each, but the SMFD is not selling them to residents.

The SMFD would also like to remind residents to test and change the batteries in their smoke alarm(s) this fall. Free smoke detectors and installation are available for residents who currently do not have any smoke detectors in their home and cannot afford them at this time. To learn more about this program, call the Fire Department at 414.768.8191.

Please help the SMFD in their fire education and prevention efforts!





## Business Spotlight: Bakehouse 23

### Treat Your Taste Buds to Sweet Treats From This Unique, Small Batch, Scratch Bakery



**Sara Mironczuk and her husband Kirk Skorlinski are the proprietors of Bakehouse 23.**

**A**s South Milwaukee continues to attract more and more new and unique businesses to its fold, the business district is evolving into a lively destination for shopping, dining and so much more. One such new business is Bakehouse 23, located in the heart of downtown at 1309 Milwaukee Ave. Owned by pastry chef extraordinaire Sarah Mironczuk and her chef husband, Kirk Skorlinski, Bakehouse 23 has been bringing its special take on creative and delectable bakery items to the City since it officially opened its doors in February 2023.

Sarah and Kirk are the perfect couple to operate Bakehouse 23, each with her/his own special skills. Sarah has an extensive background in the kitchen, and is a graduate of Le Cordon Bleu in California. She has been the executive pastry chef at multiple locations in the Milwaukee area, including Grease & Honey Restaurant Group in Kenosha, and Hospitality Democracy (now the Benson Group). And she was even once the winner on Food Network's "Sweet Genius" program. Kirk, on the other hand, has been a chef working in various local restaurants, including The Chop House, Locavore (in the Potawatomi Hotel), Simple Cafe, Onesto and Blue Bat Tequileria. They met in a kitchen, of course, and together these two talented chefs have combined their skills to create a marvelous new addition to the City's culinary scene.

If you are craving a sweet treat reminiscent of your childhood, Bakehouse 23 is sure to have something to satisfy your palate. The bakery makes almost 100% of their items from scratch – jams, fillings and doughs. While the

bakery is small, so are their batches of many items that may sell out sooner in the day. But do not worry – a rotating menu offers plenty of creative choices to experience innovative flavor combinations and interesting treats. And there are always the staples you have grown to love every day, like the giant sea salt chocolate chip cookie, the gluten-friendly cinnamon swirl coffee cake and the vegan GF lemon poppy seed loaf.

Sarah is quick to point out that her secrets for success are very simple. "We make the food and treats we love and want to eat personally," she explains, "and make everything with integrity and high-quality ingredients. We never put out products that we are not proud of. . . . We are also very transparent. We are honest about our practices so much that you can stand in the bakery and watch me bake as you are deciding on your purchase."

At Bakehouse 23, avoiding food waste is key to the business philosophy. And to that end, Sarah has mastered the art of using



***The mixer inside the open-concept bakery can be seen working non-stop throughout the day.***

ingredients and products in as many ways as possible to avoid food waste while having the ability to create fun and inventive flavor combinations. Bakehouse 23 does not make bread or donuts (no room for a fryer). Offerings often change and they like to keep things light-hearted and delicious. If you want to know more about their bakery items, just stop and chat! They are always happy to answer questions.

Exciting new food offering are on the horizon for the fall. Since Kirk is a culinary chef, watch for homemade soups this season, along with sandwiches in the near future. The ultimate goal for the bakery is to make its own bread, so it can serve breakfast sandwiches with lunch sandwiches along with Kirk's soup.

Aside from its regular menu of bakery staple and daily specials, Bakehouse 23 keeps busy with wedding orders and special events. The bakery also has a consistent client list of wholesale accounts. In just a short time, Bakehouse 23 has made a name for itself both in, and outside, South Milwaukee. It is evident that they know how to do things right. Right now they are leasing the space, but hope to one day own the building.

Before choosing the City for their business, Sarah and Kirk purchased a home in South Milwaukee in 2020. They live close to both sets of their parents (who live in South Milwaukee and Oak Creek), with their blended family of four children. And according to Sarah, they definitely made the right decision when they chose South Milwaukee, both personally and for business.

"The community here in South Milwaukee has been so welcoming and so much fun," exclaims Sarah. "We wanted to contribute to the community where we live, and where our kids go to school. We have watched Milwaukee Ave. grow and become somewhat of a destination, and we very much want to be a part of that."

Kirk agrees. "We enjoy working with all the other small business owners," he says. "The community has been so welcoming!" And Sarah notes how their cross-promotions with other South Milwaukee businesses have been so successful. "We love doing cross promotions with South Milwaukee Sausage and Meats, Immortal Toys, and now have partnered with Moran's Pub for hot ham and rolls at the bar on the weekends. We are even making some of the treats for the Bucyrus Club, and they are all truly so kind."

"We hope to be here for many more years to come!" Sarah states. And we certainly could not agree more!

Recently, Bakehouse 23 was chosen as a finalist in three categories (best bakery, best cupcake and best new retail store opened in 2023) of the Shepherd Express Best of 2023 Awards. Stop by soon and experience Bakehouse 23 sweet treats yourself!

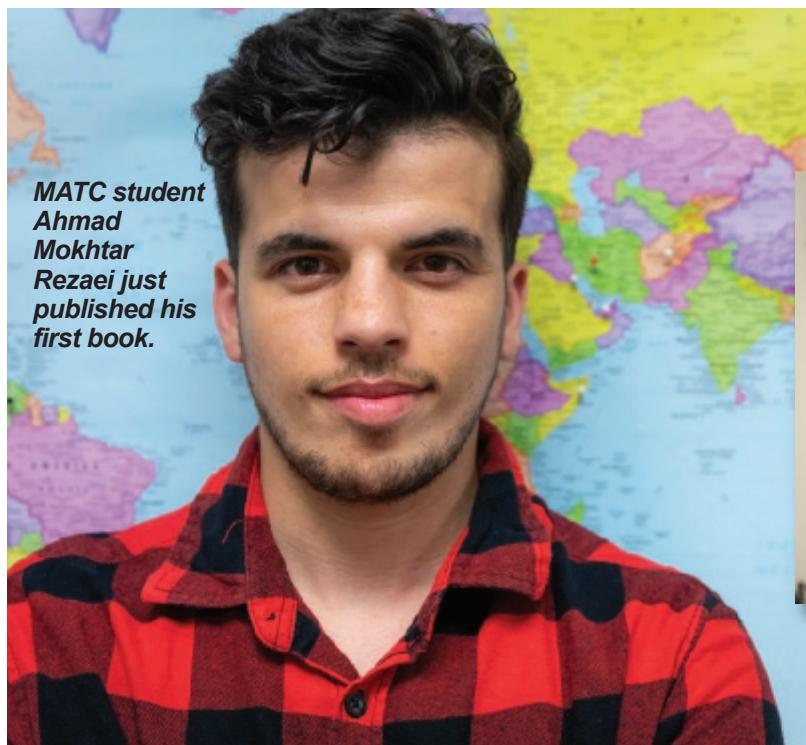


***Watch for the cute storefront of Bakehouse 23 on the south side of the street, at 1309 Milwaukee Ave.***



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Photos by Timothy Evans.



*Tamara Grobschmidt was one of Rezaei's ESL instructors at MATC.*

## THE WRITE STUFF

### MATC ESL Student Publishes Book

### Afghanistan Native Shares His Journey, Urges Readers To Achieve Dreams and Find Happiness

By Mark Feldmann

Ahmad Mokhtar Rezaei always yearned to be an author. And nothing was going to keep him from his goal – not fleeing his native Afghanistan, not resettling in America all alone, not even having only rudimentary English writing skills. “Writing this book was not easy, but no difficulties or problems could stop me,” Rezaei says. “I wanted to complete this work.”

After a year of writing, re-writing and editing, Rezaei, who takes English as a Second Language (ESL) classes at Milwaukee Area Technical College’s Oak Creek Campus, did that. His finished work, “How To Turn Failure Into Success: Today is the Day to Start Believing in Yourself,” was released April 15 on Amazon.

In the 61-page volume, which is part adventure story, part memoir, part self-help manual, Rezaei imparts his optimistic philosophy of life and shares his own journey as an example to eliminate obstacles, achieve dreams and find happiness.

“It’s not a big book, but it’s packed with content of things close to his heart,” says Mari Anderson, a Sturgeon Bay-

based consultant who helped Rezaei publish his book. “I was so impressed with how he can turn the mirror around to share the tenets and concepts he deeply believes in. He was very authentic about what he wanted to say. With everything he has been through, he could easily have been resentful and bitter.”

Rezaei was born in Afghanistan’s Panjshir province, in the northeast part of the country, and grew up in Kabul, the nation’s capital. He played sports, excelling in martial arts and kickboxing. He earned a journalism degree from the Afghanistan University of Higher Education.

“I wanted to be the voice of truth through journalism,” he explains.

But telling the truth in Afghanistan became dangerous after the Taliban returned to power in 2021. Rezaei decided to leave his family, friends and career and come to the United States. He left August 25, 2021.

“I never thought I would be away from my family and close friends so soon,” he remembers. “I thought that the

Taliban was a big obstacle for me to achieve my dreams and that they always wanted to force their ideas on people. This is against humanity. Every person has the right to choose the nature of his life, which he can live freely. My trip to America was like leaving a horrible nightmare and trying to get to the light."

Eventually his trip took him to Wisconsin and Milwaukee. Resettlement officials knew he wanted to learn English and take college classes, and they recommended MATC. He enrolled in ESL (English as a Second Language) courses at the Oak Creek Campus, going to class during the day, while writing and working at an Amazon fulfillment center at night.

"Mokhtar was a very dedicated student," says Connie Rockey, Rezaei's first ESL instructor at MATC. "He was on time and he participated, took his turns reading, and often chimed in with questions."

A chance meeting and ensuing conversation at the beach got Rezaei connected with Anderson, who helps authors, poets and writers self-publish their work.

He sent her his manuscript, which he had written in Dari Persian. The sprawling story was professionally translated, then the two worked together for nearly a year, shaping the narrative, honing the language and streamlining the story.

Rezaei's limited English proficiency made this project unique for Anderson. "That added layers of complexity," she reports. "It was a delicate operation all the way around. But I wanted this young man to hold his book in his hand. It's really a delight to see an author open a box of his/her very first books."

The books were shipped to where Rezaei lives. When he told his parents about the finished work, his mother cried, he says. "This was a big achievement for me," he states with a smile.

"I was bursting with pride for him," MATC's Rockey says.

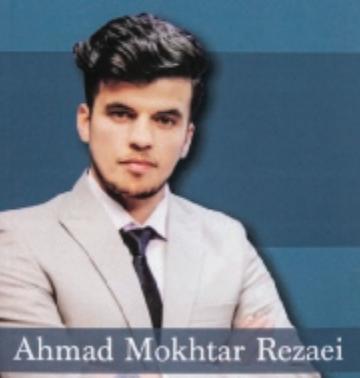
"I was just doing my regular job as a teacher. The book is something he pursued himself. I was so happy and so proud for him. It just warms your heart."

Rezaei continues to take ESL classes. His vocabulary is getting larger and his skills sharper, says Stephen Kis, his current ESL instructor. "He's made so much progress. He's becoming more capable and the conversations he has are becoming much more natural."

At some point, when his English proficiency improves, Rezaei hopes to take IT cyber security

## HOW TO TURN FAILURE INTO SUCCESS

*Today is the Day to Start Believing in Yourself*



Ahmad Mokhtar Rezaei

**Cover of the book written by MATC student Ahmad Mokhtar Rezaei. The 61-page volume is available on Amazon.**



**MATC offers English as a Second Language courses at all four campuses: Downtown Milwaukee, Mequon, Oak Creek, West Allis – and the MATC Education Center at Walker's Square.**

classes at MATC. He also wants to compete in local kickboxing matches and is looking for a sponsor. He's always considering new possibilities and new achievements. And always thinking positively about the future.

"It's a good thing for me to learn more," he says. "In this country, I have a lot of opportunity."

### ESL Courses Offered at MATC

Milwaukee Area Technical College offers English as a Second Language courses at all four campuses – Downtown Milwaukee, Mequon, Oak Creek, West Allis – and at the MATC Education Center at Walker's Square.

MATC's ESL Department provides English language instruction to a linguistically and culturally diverse population: Students in the program speak more than 30 languages and come from more than 50 countries. ESL classes at MATC help these students:

- Function more effectively at work, at home and in the community.
- Improve pronunciation, grammar and digital literacy.
- Develop communication skills.
- Prepare for postsecondary courses and programs.
- Prepare for citizenship.

MATC's Oak Creek Campus offers ESL classes at levels 1 (basic) through 6 (advanced). Fall classes begin August 21 and go through December 15.

Day classes are four days a week, Monday through Thursday, from 9-11:25 a.m. Evening classes are held from 5-7 p.m.

For more information about ESL courses at MATC's Oak Creek Campus, or to register, contact the ELL/ESL Dept., Oak Creek Campus, 6600 S. Howell Ave., Rooms A106 or A248. Call 414.571.4503 or visit [esloakcreek@matc.edu](mailto:esloakcreek@matc.edu).

**Visit [matc.edu](http://matc.edu)**



## ► School District's 4K Program: A Jumpstart for Students and a Bargain for Parents

It could be a scene from any store. The customer had a mop and was trying to get the clerk to take it back. What you've probably never seen is a customer lifting the mop over the counter and trying to shove it behind the clerk, who was having none of it. This viral moment wasn't at Home Depot or Fleet Farm, however, it was in the dramatic play section of Anna Torres' 4K classroom at E.W. Luther Elementary School.

"It's all about learning through play," Torres says with a smile. "They don't even realize sometimes how much they're learning when they're playing in these centers." The lesson here isn't that mops can't be returned to tot-sized fruit stands, it's communicating and bargaining and learning to share.

Full-time 4-year-old Kindergarten has been a standard offering in South Milwaukee since the 2018 referendum passed. This year, South Milwaukee has 141 students in 4K classrooms in each of the four elementary schools. The District does have some half-day classrooms serving 31 students whose parents elected for that program or applied after the all-day seats were filled.

Four-year-olds come to us needing to learn the basics of school," Torres explains. "Rules, regulations, expectations. Some of them just need to learn basic things, sit on the carpet, listen for an extended period of time and learn the ABCs."

But it's more than that. Half the classroom is organized as play centers where students develop social skills like learning to get along, but they will also start learning numbers and the alphabet, as well as develop their small motor coordination.

"In the beginning of the year we have them draw a self-portrait," Torres reports. "You'd be amazed at what it looks like in December, and then at the end of the school year in June."

By then, she says, they'll know their letters and numbers and will be ready to start the journey of becoming readers in 5K and beyond.

"They come very far by the end of the year," Torres says. The benefits of early childhood education have been studied since the 1960s and 70s. The Learning Policy Institute says the benefits are unmistakable: "Students who attend preschool programs are more prepared for school and are less likely to be identified as having special needs or to be held back in elementary school than children who did not attend preschool. Studies also show clear positive effects on children's early literacy and mathematics skills."

South Milwaukee's 4K program has become a draw for the District. Currently, 141 students are enrolled. Of those 141 students enrolled, 16 are from outside the District. That draw is significant as South Milwaukee has declining enrollment as fewer families live in the City than in previous years and parents have fewer children.

**Still, for those families who do have 4-year-olds and take advantage of the program, it's a bargain.** Online childcare finder Tootris estimates that Wisconsin families pay an average of \$10,197 per year or \$850 per month to send their four-year-old to daycare. The School District 4K program is basically free – parents pay only a small \$35 registration fee. Students have access to a high-quality curriculum, teachers with advanced degrees in early childhood education, and facilities like the District's school playgrounds.

*Left: Students play in one of the activity centers in the Luther 4K classroom.*

**4K:** A student plays with large blocks during a free time in E.W. Luther Elementary's 4K classroom.

"We know how important early learning is to children. Younger brains naturally absorb language and concepts, and waiting until 5K misses some crucial opportunities to start students on the journey to their high school degree and beyond," Lakeview principal and 4K Enrollment Coordinator Chris Sepersky says. "Expanding from half-day 4K to full-day 4K has allowed our teachers to go deeper into content and add more learning experiences that felt a little more 'rushed' in the traditional half-day program. Students will learn the same things in either program – it is just that full-day students can take more time."

Registration for the 4K program starts in January of each year for residents of South Milwaukee and between February and April becomes available to families outside of the District through the Open Enrollment process. To make sure as many families get to take advantage of the program as possible, open seats are not limited to the school zone people live in.

"You may not go to 4K at your neighborhood school," Sepersky explains. "Due to space and a variety of factors, some students go to one of our schools for 4K and then return to their neighborhood school for 5K-5th grades. We encourage families to reach out to us with questions at any time because we know this is the first school experience for many and we are here to welcome not just the student, but also the entire family, into an educational journey that lasts about 15 years and impacts a lifetime."

**Families of future 4K students are encouraged to arrange a tour to see the program in action. Contact the District Office at 414.766.5000 to arrange a visit to one of our schools.**



**4K Teacher Anna Torres reads in one of the several play centers in the back of her room during a free-activity time. These centers are designed for students to explore by themselves and learn how to share and compromise.**



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An advertisement for Tony G's Grant Park Garage. The top part features the store's name in a stylized, colorful font with a yellow and red gradient. Below the name is the tagline "WHERE RAWSON AVENUE ENDS AND SERVICE BEGINS". The middle section has a yellow sign with the words "TIRES", "BRAKES", and "OIL CHANGES". The bottom section is a large white box with a red border. It features the name "Tony G. TURARD OWNER" in a script font, followed by "COMPLETE AUTOMOTIVE & TRUCK REPAIR". A large red phone number "414 762-9120" is prominently displayed. Below the phone number, it says "CALL YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE just like the good old days". The bottom of the ad includes various service categories like "TUNE-UPS", "EXHAUST", "ALIGNMENTS", "WE FIX", "MECHANICS", and "AUTO PARTS", each with a small icon. At the very bottom, it says "ON THE WEB: [TONYGSGRANTPARKGARAGE.COM](http://TONYGSGRANTPARKGARAGE.COM)" and "1523 N. CHICAGO RVE. • SOUTH MILWAUKEE".

# ► WELCOME TO MY CLASS: New Teachers in the South Milwaukee School District



**E**Emily Duelge is a brand new, first-grade teacher at Rawson Elementary School – but she's no stranger to the school. Duelge (pronounced DULL-GEE) is a South Milwaukee alum, attended Rawson Elementary School, and is teaching in the classroom next door to where she sat when she was a first grader.

“Being a student here and now coming in as a staff member ... has been eye-opening – something I never expected I would be doing,” Duelge says. She’s a little relieved that she’s not in the exact same room she was a student in.

“Even now, when I walk into that classroom, I can still picture where my first-grade teacher had the posters. Where I sat. Where our rug was,” Duelge remembers.

“With the new technology and stuff that is in the classroom today, it’s not exactly how it looked, but I am thankful that I can still be in that first-grade group where I grew up. I may not be in the same room that I grew up in, but it still feels like home.”

Duelge is one of the teachers hired over the summer to replace retirees and fill positions needed this year.

“We have a really interesting group of new teachers

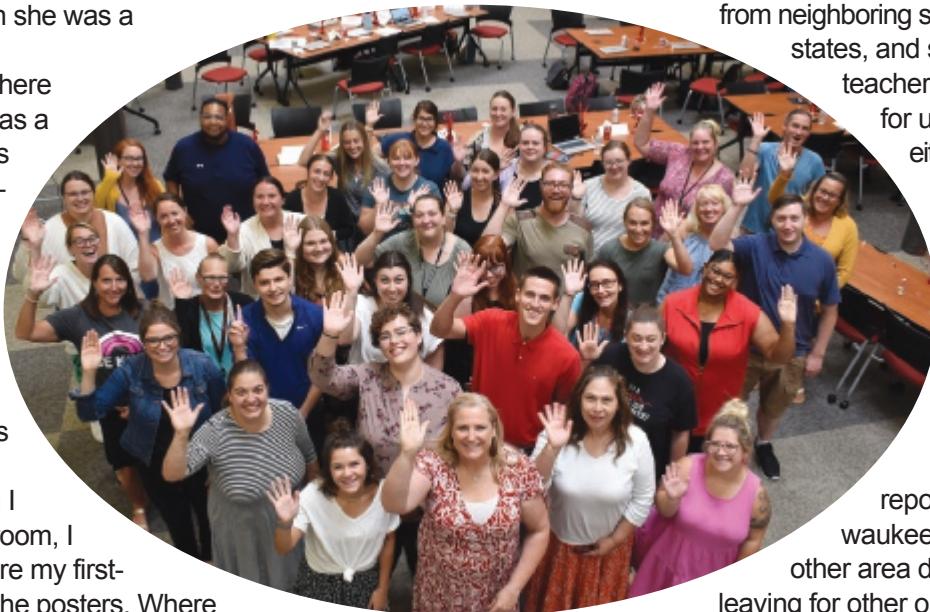
this year,” says Jennifer Sielaff, director of personnel, administrative & legal service. “We have teachers whose first job will be with us here in South Milwaukee and teachers who have been in the profession for more than a decade. We have teachers moving back to Wisconsin from neighboring states and from southern states, and some of our new

teachers have actually worked for us for many years as either a paraprofessional or as a substitute teacher. One teacher even spent last semester student teaching in Alaska and chose South Milwaukee as her new District.”

One thing that Sielaff reports is that South Milwaukee is in the same boat as other area districts. Teachers are leaving for other opportunities or retiring, and it’s been harder lately to find and attract teachers to the District. According to the non-partisan Wisconsin Policy Institute, turnover between 2009 and 2023 averaged 11.5 percent in Wisconsin. In 2022-23 that figure jumped to 15.8 percent.

“All across the state it’s been harder to hire teachers the last several years,” Sielaff says. That has meant changing tactics or recruiting in different ways.

“We advertise, we go to job fairs, we rely on word-of-



*Superintendent Deidre Roemer and the District’s newest teachers and staff during orientation in August 2023. South Milwaukee has had to streamline and recruit differently to attract talented staff to the District.*

**Left: Emily Duelge, a first-year teacher, is working in the room right next door to where she was once a first grader. We see Emily today and as a 6-year-old in first grade.**

mouth, we get references from others in the District and out of the District to find just the right candidates for us here in South Milwaukee."

Indeed, South Milwaukee's new superintendent, Deidre Roemer, wasn't looking for a new job until she said she was encouraged to apply by former South Milwaukee employees who knew she'd be a great fit.

Duelge said she thought it was a sign that after all her interviews at various districts, South Milwaukee called first to offer her the job.

"We really need to be efficient and quick on our feet with the shortage in educational staff members," Sielaff shares. "And we need to start as soon as we can and get our information out there. That's a big part of the hiring process."

For Justine Lesperance, a veteran teacher who relocated to Wisconsin from Florida, South Milwaukee's commitment to serving all students and removing barriers to their education was a draw. Also, her husband's grandparents lived here and he had great memories of the City. It was just the right fit. She's starting the 14th year of her teaching career as Blakewood Elementary's newest second-grade teacher.

"We had our first child in May, and (my husband and I) had been waiting to get out of Florida for a while. Having our first child brought us back home because we wanted her to meet and know her family," Lesperance says. She's excited to be back in Wisconsin and to start in South Milwaukee.

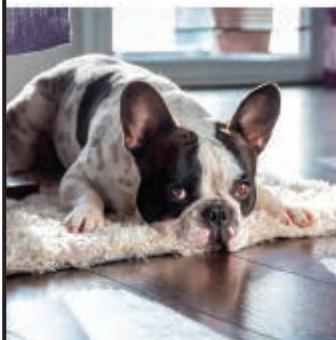
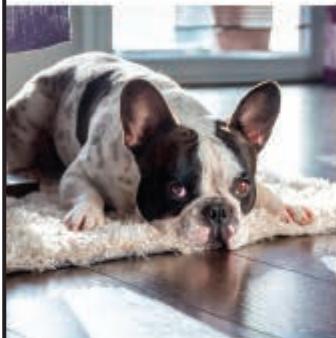
"[In the classroom] you're meeting all the kids where they're at and what they need. I like watching my students learn and persevere through those struggles and holding them to high expectations," Lesperance shares. "When that light bulb goes on for somebody who's been struggling with a concept, that's really rewarding. I can't wait to see that this year!"

**Second-grade teacher Justine Lesperance is in her 14th year as a teacher. She and her husband relocated back to Wisconsin from Florida.**



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## ► School District Celebrates New Field Project

**S**eptember 8 was an important day in the history of South Milwaukee Schools – it was the first day the newly renovated Spaltholz Field at Bucyrus Stadium hosted an official sporting event. Fittingly, it was the varsity home opener against rival Cudahy.

“It was a really special night,” Superintendent Deidre Roemer says. “We recognized our community members who gave to the Launching a Legacy effort, and our marching band, cheer squad, and Poms dance team all got to use the new field. We’re looking forward to a lot of ‘firsts’ coming up: first soccer game, first track meet, first baseball and softball games on their new fields. We have so much to celebrate.”

The road to that first game, however, started on a cold and drizzly Monday in April when demolition began on the grass field, the track surrounding it, and the surface beneath it. That first shovel of soil launched a \$3.8 million Field Surface Improvement Program that’s still ongoing.

The football field was first. Contractors rebuilt and improved the drainage of the field and added the subsurface and artificial turf. Included in the renovations are new pavement and surface for the track, field goals for the football field, a new sound system, and a new scoreboard.

Outside of Bucyrus Stadium, the softball and baseball fields are being renovated, too. Both fields have new artificial turf for baseball and softball infields, along with new fencing and improved outfield grass.

The project will be officially completed in the fall of 2024 with the installation of a recognition of the donors to the effort – and they played a big part.

The entire project started with a \$1 million donation from the Bucyrus Foundation specifically earmarked for synthetic turf for the football field. The School Board committed in the spring to ensuring the project’s completion while the Launching a Legacy Committee, a group of community members, committed to raising \$1.4 million of the entire price tag.

“We now have some amazing facilities for our students,” Athletics and Activities Director Ante Udovicic reports. “It hasn’t been that way for some time.”

Indeed, the student body, let alone the community, rarely got to use the old football field. Football practice was regularly held elsewhere out of fear that the grass surface might be too damaged to use for games. That meant it was unavailable for the marching band, cheer, or dance to practice, or soccer teams to use for games.

Unfortunately, due to weather conditions around the country, the track surface company was forced to delay the finishing of the track. As a result, the number of football home games using the field was limited; however, the surface was completed in October.

“We had students on the field as soon as construction was completed and we were waiting for the track surface to be applied,” says Udovicic. “Our teams had pretty much a whole summer practicing on the new field. We’re enjoying the soccer games and looking forward to track, baseball and softball starting in the spring.”



*The High School campus opened in 2004 after the community passed a referendum.*

## ► It's Like a College Campus: High School Keeps Its WOW Factor!

**R**ecently, a family stopped by the South Milwaukee High School to register for classes. As the student stepped into the hall and looked down Heritage Hall, his eyes lit up. "My old schools' got nothing like this," he said. Bill King, the District's manager of buildings and grounds, knows that feeling.

"The high school looks like a college campus," King says. "The first time you walk through the building you're blown away. You're like: 'Wow, kids get to come here every day.' This District has a wow factor that is unique to South Milwaukee."

That feeling is due in large part to architecture, but it's also due to the care and upkeep that the building gets from King and his staff of 30 full and part-time staff gives to each of the District's six buildings. Those 30 people are responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of approximately 727,000 sq. ft.

While necessary, it's not trivial. A 2016 report by the 21st Century School Fund and the U.S. Green Building Council cited research showing high-quality facilities help improve student achievement, reduce truancy and suspensions, improve staff satisfaction and retention, and raise property values.

King's team of 30? It used to be 50. "We've restructured," says King. "Our budget hasn't really changed, but we have more full-time staff and are trying to just work smarter. We're actually doing more cleaning in each room that way which in turn keeps our rooms cleaner than they'd been in previous years."

### Improvements at the High School

The 2023-24 school year saw some major improvements – some by choice, some not – at the High School. The building, that was built as part of a referendum, was built in 2004. The 20-year bond that financed the construction was paid off early in 2022, but like any investment, it needed its wear-and-tear components replaced.

In April, construction kicked off on the \$3.8 million Field Surface Improvement Project. By July, Spaltholz Field – long plagued by flooding and poor soil conditions was completed, its grass surface replaced by eye-catching black-and-red synthetic turf and a new drainage system. The track around the stadium was replaced in September and finished in early October while the softball and baseball fields also saw drainage work and were substantially completed to be ready for this spring. That investment was paid for by a \$1 million grant from the Bucyrus Foundation, \$1.4 million from fundraising by the Launching a Legacy Committee, and by grants and investment by the School Board (see pg. 24).

The Sullivan Field House gymnasium floor was also replaced over the summer and finished in September. A clogged roof drain sent thousands of gallons of rainwater onto the hardwood floors and elevated track in June 2022. Insurance covered all of the damage – including drying it out so students could finish the year on the old surface – and restored the floors back better than before.

*(continued on page 26)*

# It's Like a College Campus (continued from page 25)

## Working with Nature

Managing rain is something built into the campus's bones. If you drive by the Middle or High School, you'll notice pockets of prairie grass and wildflowers growing around the buildings. While their summer blooms are amazing, the restored prairie has a purpose that's important to buildings in a floodplain.

"It's doing what it's supposed to do – stormwater management," explains Bill King, the District's manager of buildings and grounds. "Our prairie retains and uses water, and the soil filters it before it goes into the groundwater."

## Controlling Costs

King and his staff keep an eye on the cost of supplies like salt for walkways in the winter, and toilet paper and paper towels to keep stock in the bathrooms and make changes

when needed. For example, hand dryers were installed in some of the Middle and High School campus bathrooms to keep the floors cleaner and keep unflushable paper towels out of the toilets – reducing maintenance costs and increasing cleanliness.

To keep more than 700,000 sq. ft. warm in the winter and cool in the summer, and to provide lighting to that area is a big expense. One step the District is taking is converting all its lights to LED bulbs.

Another far more fun step is competing for the "Energy Cup." The building team that has the greatest savings on its electricity usage each month compared to the year before, gets to have the Cup – and the bragging rights.

"The staff enjoys the competition and they look forward to the results each month," King reports.



Photos by J&J DoubleTake



*Above: South Milwaukee volleyball teams were the first to use the new flooring during their games.*

*Left: Work was done this summer replacing the gymnasium floor after a drain became plugged and rainwater damaged the original floor. That, along with the new synthetic turf football field, means students will have brand new sports and physical education spaces to use this year.*

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# OUT AND ABOUT IN THE CITY OF SOUTH MILWAUKEE

## REMEMBERING OUR SUMMER EVENTS ... AND GETTING READY FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

The days are shorter and the nights are longer as we enjoy this beautiful fall season. Check out what's been happening in South Milwaukee, as we get ready for the bustling holidays that are right around the corner!

**1.** Artist Mika Revell puts the finishing touches on the mural she painted in September on the Human Concerns building (read more on pgs. 6-7). **2.** Following a successful community fundraising event earlier this year, the South Milwaukee Police Department has established a K9 unit. Rocket, a Dutch Shepherd, has been training for his new role and will be officially joining the force this fall. Donations are still being accepted by the Police Department for Rocket's ongoing expenses.

**3.** South Milwaukee Boys Volleyball were the first to use the new Sullivan Fieldhouse Floor this fall (photo Julie Swanson, J&J Doubletake). **4.** The Downtown Market had a great season this year, its first at the new Bucyrus Commons. Along with an open-air pavilion, the space features a restroom/concession building and an event stage. To rent the Bucyrus Commons, contact Ericka Lang at City Hall: elang@smwi.org.



**5.** Human Concerns celebrated its 50th anniversary this year, and received a \$3,000 donation from the South Milwaukee Lions Club.

**6.** Officer Knaak (center) was sworn in as a South Milwaukee Police Officer on August 1. Congressman Steil (far right) was on hand for the ceremony. **7.** Muralist Mika Revell stands before her completed mural – a breathtaking illustration of South Milwaukee's native plants along the Lake Michigan coast with a nod to the City's natural beauty.



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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Special events and activities are subject to change.  
Please call ahead or visit digital platforms to confirm dates and times.



## OCTOBER

- Sat., Oct. 21: Family Spooktacular at the Commons
- Sun., Oct. 22: SM Public Library Family Bowling Fundraiser
- Sat., Oct. 28: Trick or Treat, 5-7 p.m.



## NOVEMBER

- Wed., Nov. 1: Winter Parking Pass Sales Begin
- Wed., Nov. 1: SMHS and SMMS Symphonic Orchestra Concert at So. Milwaukee PAC
- Thur., Nov. 2: ACG presents Bruce Cockburn at So. Milwaukee PAC
- Fri., Nov. 3: Launching a Legacy Diamonds Are Forever Fundraising Gala at Bucyrus Center (tickets required)
- Fri., Nov. 3: ACG presents "Gregorian Pure Chants" at So. Milwaukee PAC
- Mon., Nov. 6: Fall Sports Awards ceremony
- Wed., Nov. 15: Fall Leaf Collection Ends
- Fri.-Sun., Nov. 17-19: So. Milwaukee HS Theatre Co. presents "CLUE" at So. Milwaukee PAC, a Legacy Fundraiser
- Thur., Nov. 23: All City Offices and School District Closed for Thanksgiving
- Fri., Nov. 24: All City Offices and School District Closed
- Sat., Nov. 25: Small Business Saturday Throughout Downtown So. Milwaukee, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Thur., Nov. 30 Middle School Orchestra Concert at So. Milwaukee PAC
- Thur., Nov. 30: So. Milwaukee PAC presents "I Got Yule, Babe" at Bucyrus Club & Event Center

## DECEMBER

- Fri., Dec. 1: Winter Parking Restrictions Begin
- Sat., Dec. 2: Christmas at the Commons
- Dec. 5: So. Milwaukee Middle School Orchestra Concert at So. Milwaukee PAC
- Thur., Dec. 7: So. Milwaukee PAC presents Mariachi Herencia in "A Mariachi Christmas"
- Sat., Dec. 9: Studio K Presents "The Flamenco Nutcracker" at So. Milwaukee PAC
- Tue., Dec. 12: So. Milwaukee Middle School Choir Concert at So. Milwaukee PAC
- Wed., Dec. 13: SMHS Bands, Chorale and Symphonic Orchestra Concert at So. Milwaukee PAC
- Fri., Dec. 15: So. Milwaukee Municipal Band performance 7 p.m., at So. Milwaukee PAC
- Tue., Dec. 19: So. Milwaukee Middle School Band Concert at So. Milwaukee PAC

- Wed., Dec. 20: "Joyful Symphony" School Day Show at So. Milwaukee PAC
- Mon., Dec. 25-Mon., Jan. 1: NO SCHOOL – So. Milwaukee School District Winter Break

## JANUARY

- Thur., Jan. 4: Freshman Preview Night for 8th grade parents/students at So. Milwaukee PAC
- Mon., Jan. 8: DARE Graduation at So. Milwaukee PAC
- Tue.-Fri., Jan. 9-12: SMYT Winterim Classes at So. Milwaukee PAC
- Fri., Jan. 19: Ryan & Ryan "Going Gershwin" at So. Milwaukee PAC
- Mon., Jan. 29 Drug Addiction Resource Fair at So. Milwaukee PAC
- Tue., Jan. 30: National Honor Society Recognition at So. Milwaukee PAC

## FEBRUARY

- Thur., Feb. 1: STEAM Night 5-7:30 p.m. at So. Milwaukee H.S.
- Fri., Feb. 2: Catapult: Magic Shadows Family Show at So. Milwaukee PAC
- Sun., Feb. 4: Knightwind Ensemble Concert at So. Milwaukee PAC
- Fri.-Sun., Feb. 16-18: CYT presents "Tarzan the Musical" at So. Milwaukee PAC
- Wed.-Thur., Feb. 21-22: Parent Teacher Conferences (HS)
- Wed., Feb. 28: So. Milwaukee School District Band and Orchestra Concert at So. Milwaukee PAC
- Thur., Feb. 29: So. Milwaukee School District Grades 6-12 Choir Showcase at So. Milwaukee PAC

## MARCH

- Sun., Mar. 3: So. Milwaukee Band and Orchestra Showcase in the School District Middle School Gym
- Sun., Mar. 3: "The Doo Wop Project" presented by the So. Milwaukee PAC
- Fri.-Sun., Mar. 15-17: South Milwaukee High School Theatre Co. presents "Legally Blonde" at So. Milwaukee PAC
- Mon., Mar. 18: EW Luther Elementary Concert at So. Milwaukee PAC
- Mon.-Fri., Mar. 25-29: Spring Break for So. Milwaukee School District
- Tue., Mar. 19: Lakeview Elementary Concert at So. Milwaukee PAC
- Wed., Mar. 20: Blakewood Elementary Concert at So. Milwaukee PAC
- Thur., Mar. 21: Rawson Elementary Concerts #1 and #2 at So. Milwaukee PAC

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**5-7 P.M.**



# ► 2023-2024 Holiday Garbage and Recycling Schedule

**Garbage Pickup Weekly: So. Milwaukee Street Dept. 414.768.8075**  
**Recycling Pickup Bi-Weekly: GFL Environmental 262.679.0860**

## Garbage and Recycling Pick-Up Dates for 2023-2024 Holidays

Holiday	Regular Pick-up	Rescheduled Garbage Pick-Up	Rescheduled Recycling Pick-Up
Thanksgiving Day	Thur., Nov. 23, 2023	Sat., Nov. 25, 2023	Sat., Nov. 25, 2023/Orange Week
<i>Note: Regular garbage will be picked up on Saturday; recycling will be on Friday.</i>			
Christmas Eve	Sun., Dec. 24, 2023	No schedule change	Yellow Week
Christmas Day	Mon., Dec. 25, 2023	Fridays, Dec. 22 & 29	Yellow Week
New Year's Eve	Sat., Dec. 31, 2023	No schedule change	Orange Week
New Year's Day	Mon., Jan. 1, 2024	Fri., Dec. 29 & Fri., Jan. 5	Orange Week
Martin Luther King Day	Mon., Jan. 15, 2024	No schedule change	Fri., Jan. 19, 2023/Orange Week
<i>Note: Regular garbage will be picked up on Monday; recycling will be on Friday.</i>			
Memorial Day	Mon., May 27, 2024	Fridays, May 24 & May 31, 2023	Fri., May 31, 2024/Yellow Week
4th of July	Thur., July 4, 2024	Fridays, June 30 & July 7, 2023	Fri., July 7, 2024/Orange Week
Labor Day	Mon., Sept. 4, 2024	Fridays, Sept. 1 & Sept. 8, 2023	Fri., Sept. 8, 2024/Yellow Week
Thanksgiving Day	Thur., Nov. 23, 2024	Sat., Nov. 25, 2023	Sat., Nov. 25, 2024/Yellow Week
<i>Note: Regular garbage will be picked up on Saturday; recycling will be on Friday.</i>			
Christmas Eve	Tue., Dec. 24, 2024	Fri., Dec. 27, 2024	Yellow Week
Christmas Day	Wed., Dec. 25, 2024	Sat., Dec. 28, 2024	Yellow Week
New Year's Eve	Tue., Dec. 31, 2024	Fri., Jan. 3, 2025	Orange Week
New Year's Day	Wed., Jan. 1, 2025	Sat., Jan. 4, 2025	Orange Week

## 2024 RECYCLING SCHEDULE

To identify the recycling week where you live, check the recycling collection map on the City's website or call the Street Department.

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	8	9	10	11	12	13	8	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	15	16	17	18	19	20	15	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	22	23	24	25	26	27	22	
29	30	31					25	26	27	28	29	30	31	25	26	27	28	29	30	25	26	27	28	29	30	25	
MAY							JUNE							JULY							AUGUST						
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29	30	31					23	24	25	26	27	28	29	23	24	25	26	27	28	23	24	25	26	27	28	23	
SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER						
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FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL							MAY						
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JULY							AUGUST							SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER						
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29	30	31					20	21	22	23	24	25	26	20	21	22	23	24	25	20	21	22	23	24	25	20	
NOVEMBER							DECEMBER							JANUARY							FEBRUARY						
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