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Youth Apprenticeship Program Making Big Impact



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ON THE COVER

South Milwaukee High School's Youth Apprenticeship Program is growing and making a big impact in the City. Read about how today's youth apprentices are getting real-world experience as they prepare for high-need positions in the area on pg. 6.

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.

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MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

Welcome to the Spring Edition of Bridges ...

This magazine is a partnership between the City and the School District that highlights the vibrant community we are all a part of.

It is an honor to serve as the Superintendent of the School District of South Milwaukee. We get to serve such an amazing population of students, staff, families and community members. We are also really proud of our accomplishments. While we always know there is room to improve, we have made some great progress this year toward the goals of our strategic plan. Our board approved a five-year strategic plan in March 2024 that is intended to improve student outcomes and the overall student experience, increase staff retention, engage the community more frequently, and plan for long-term fiscal stability. Read our full plan on our website to learn more.

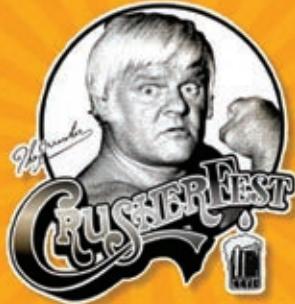
This year, we adopted a new elementary literacy resource that our staff is using to engage our students in in-depth discussions and writing projects. We added a science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) course to our elementary specials, and an additional STEM course to our middle school. We also increased the number of students getting certified by the state as youth apprentices. In addition, we developed a staff wellness committee, along with changing to a new health insurance plan to mitigate future cost increases for our District and employees. In addition, we developed a committee to investigate a potential stand-alone community recreation center.

Our students achieved some amazing things this year. We have a student team from our middle school participating in the NASA Tech Rise challenge. Students who presented their greenhouse designs at the NARI (National Association of the Remodeling Industry) show, and had a student-led visit from our Governor at Rawson Elementary. Our students are learning each day about the careers they want to pursue, how to take ownership of their own learning, and how to be great members of our learning community each day. We are grateful to our staff, families and caregivers, and our students for all they do to ensure our learners have the best experiences possible.

In this issue, we're excited to highlight our expanding Youth Apprenticeship Program with stories from students who are working in fields they are interested in and gaining real-world experiences (see pg. 6). While we hope they love the field they're working in, it's an equally



(continued on page 8)



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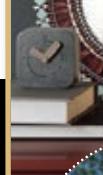
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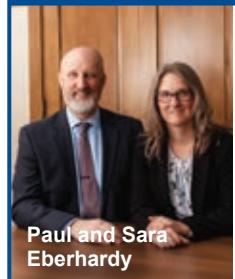
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► South Milwaukee High School's Youth Apprenticeship Program Is Growing ... And Making a Big Impact

Program Is Aimed at Filling Needed Positions in the Milwaukee Area

Breanna Wade: Gaining Experience in a Chosen Profession

Breanna Wade had a concerned eye on the five-year-old. After-school programs allow children to socialize, play games, exercise and have a snack until their parents come and get them. But this little boy didn't have friends yet. And when things didn't go his way, he would have an outburst, throw toys, or even kick.

In her job at the aftercare program at Milwaukee Yard, it would have been easy to focus on other children who were getting along and let one of the more experienced staff tackle his problems. But Wade, 18, has always known she wants to be a teacher, and focused on connecting with the boy.

"I've worked with him for three months now, and I've seen such a big change," Wade says. "It was as simple as sitting down and getting to know him."

Wade's job at Milwaukee Yard isn't your typical after school, pocket-money-type job for a high schooler. She's a South Milwaukee High School youth apprentice who was placed there to gain experience and learn on her path to becoming a certified teacher.

The program is a great example of collaboration where everyone benefits. Wade benefits by earning credits toward graduation, earning a paycheck, and gaining experience in her chosen career field. Milwaukee Yard's aftercare program benefits because they get a hard-to-find motivated employee interested in growing their skills with children. It benefits the students, like that little boy Wade connected with and his family, and it benefits South Milwaukee's Career and Technical Education Program, whose mission is to prepare students for high-need positions in the

Milwaukee area (including teachers of any kind) and in Wisconsin.

Youth Apprenticeship Program Growing

"We have had a great year, our best one in a long time," says Chris Daniels, the work-based learning coordinator for the School District of South Milwaukee and youth apprenticeship coordinator for a group of schools called the South Shore Suburban Consortium.

"We have 25 Youth Apprentices right now just at South Milwaukee High School. That's more than 10% of our student senior class population, which is awesome." The Youth Apprentice Program started in 1991 in Wisconsin and has been growing – particularly in recent years, throughout the state.

"The Department of Workforce Development looked at industries that are important to Wisconsin for growing our economy, and they created work programs for students," Daniels explains. "So it's not limited to what people typically think of as apprenticeship trades such as plumbing and electrical, though those are part of the program, too." There are, in fact, 16 different career clusters, from banking and business to HVAC and construction, and South Milwaukee has programs for all of them.

Julian Jurney: Turning a Hobby Into a Career

Julian Jurney, 18, has been playing with computers since middle school. It started with gaming, but then progressed into upgrading the computers themselves with faster processors, graphics cards, and everything else inside the machines. Since July 2024, he's been getting paid to do it with the School District's Information Technology Department.



Left: Caden Krueger, age 18, received vital experience when he started his youth apprenticeship program at Grunau, a local mechanical systems engineering and contracting company.

engineering and contracting company with a location in Oak Creek.

“A big part of it was definitely my teachers,” Krueger says. It was his teachers that encouraged him to try a youth apprenticeship. Krueger started in the summer between his sophomore and junior years. It wasn’t glamorous – he swept a lot of floors and other lower-skilled work, but he was in a career field and was being paid more than he made working at Culver’s.

During his junior year, he’d get up at 5 a.m. to be at Grunau by 6 a.m. and work a couple of hours before heading to school for a 9 a.m. class. In the second semester of his junior year, he took classes in the morning and then worked in the afternoon. He repeated that schedule this year, his senior year, and graduated early in December. After some paperwork at the union hall and a physical exam, he was hired full-time as a pre-apprentice.

“They taught me a ton of stuff. That got me excited for work, finally. It made me feel like I was doing something important,” Krueger notes. Now, he’s cutting and fabricating ductwork for the company’s heating, ventilation, and cooling (HVAC) operations. Union apprentices, he said, get equal time in the shop and out in the field. He’ll still be in a classroom at Milwaukee Area Technical College, but it will be to earn certifications for work. In the field, Krueger is excited to see projects as they’re finished.

With more skill and time comes a different title and increased pay. His salary, he reports, is generous. “I know people who are a few years older than me who make less,” Krueger says. “It’s very much a livable wage. It’s a financially smart way to start your life.”



Jurney has a desk in the IT office in the Middle School, piled with laptops that need different software installed on them, as well as desktop computers that need to be set up for other staff.

“It’s been great. I’ve been able to learn a lot of stuff I enjoy in my field,” Jurney says enthusiastically. “The best part is you get to experience the side of technology you don’t get at home, like switches and ports and V-LAN (virtual local area networks). I’m very thankful for that because, at the end of the day, if I want to do this as a career, I have that experience.”

Jurney, who builds and sells gaming computers in his free time, thinks he’ll be ready to start a business when he graduates. He has his sights on starting a marketing company that uses Artificial Intelligence for clients. “I want to help businesses in the new AI world manage their leads and keep up with the competition,” Jurney notes. Daniels said that students typically apply to the Youth Apprenticeship Program at the end of their junior year and start working in the summer.

“Students apply as part of their academic-and-career-planning process. During this process, they identify what kind of careers they want to do and if they’ve done well in the classroom and passed all of their classes, they usually have some flexibility in their senior year. Then, they share their interest in the program with me, their teachers and their school counselors, and we all work together to help students find jobs that qualify for the program,” Daniels explains.

Caden Krueger: Graduating Early and Starting a Career

Caden Krueger, 18, is not a typical youth apprentice candidate – he was ready to start his apprenticeship his junior year. Krueger applied for, and was hired as a youth apprentice at Grunau, a local mechanical systems



Breanna Wade works with a young student during the aftercare program at Milwaukee Yard.



Elementary students showed off their talents and new instruments during the spring concerts in March.



► New Instruments Sound Sweet Notes At Elementary Schools' Concerts

B lakewood fourth grader Brielle knows her notes. She lists them off: "A-G E-G-F E-G-F." Her instrument of choice? A shiny new glockenspiel. That glockenspiel and a cacophony of new instruments purchased this year for each elementary school were on stage at the spring concerts in March.

"We actually did a rotation in the beginning to see which one we liked the best. I chose this one," Brielle explains. She likes how the notes ring out.

"We know the benefits of music education to our students doesn't stay in the music room. It helps with math, writing and so much more," Superintendent Deidre Roemer explains. "We were happy that we could provide new instruments this year, because we know we have teachers who know how to make the most of them. I try and go to every concert – you could hear all the great work our students did. They sounded marvelous!"

The concerts are the culmination of months of work by the students in all grades and their teachers. Katie Franecki, the E. W. Luther and Blakewood Elementary Schools' music teacher, says the instruments are ideal for teaching students in the Orff method. "The Orff Way is a way that we teach

music that engages the mind and the body through a lot of movement and percussion instruments like these. The children are learning a lot about rhythm, melody, harmony, great listening skills, and the satisfaction of putting all their parts together to create one beautiful thing."

Franecki says the instruments are used by students at all grade levels in the school – and in the concerts. "Our youngest students use the xylophones to explore high and low and practice keeping a steady beat. Older students progress to playing ostinati (repeating patterns) and simple melodies. Third graders performed a West African tune called 'Fanga Alafia' and fourth graders performed a Puerto Rican folk song called 'Mi Cuerpo.'"

This year, her fifth graders accompanied a concert piece – Ed Sheeran's "What Do I Know?" – using the new xylophones, drums and ukuleles. Isabel, another Blakewood fourth grader, chose to play the xylophone.

"I picked it because I like the melody and like how it sounds," she says. "It sounds really good – and very smooth when everything is played all together."



(Superintendent's Message Continued From Pg. 3)

important lesson to learn that maybe a potential career in that field just isn't for you.

We are also excited to share how new musical instruments, as part of a curriculum adoption this year, are supercharging music education, which was on full display at our spring concerts in March (see above story). Plus, our middle school health teacher is taking what she has learned through special professional development opportunities and is helping write a

curriculum tool that will spread her experience throughout the state (see pg. 10). Speaking of Middle School, a student-of-the-month program has gone a long way to highlight the work we're doing to cultivate a sense of belonging in our middle school (see pg. 12).

It has been a great year at SDSM – and we are looking forward to even more growth in the years to come!

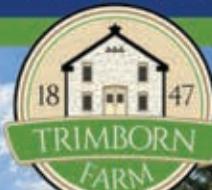
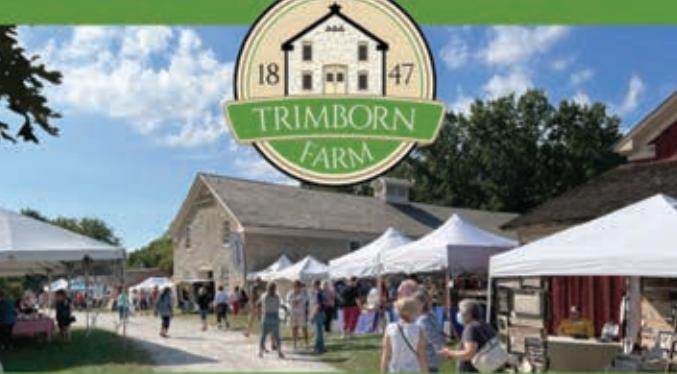


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Health Teacher Kimberly Jaeger works with a student using her “brain health curriculum” to learn how to keep your brain healthy.



ALZHEIMER'S

► Staff Spotlight: Kimberly Jaeger Health Teacher Uses Project-Based Learning For Brain Health

Middle School Health Teacher Adapting Her Practice for Use Statewide

This year, eighth graders are learning about “brain health” – how to keep your brain physically healthy to help avoid diseases like dementia and Alzheimer’s later in life. It’s just one topic, along with things like substance abuse and good choices, that get squeezed into a nine-week health class. Middle School Health Teacher Kimberly Jaeger is piloting a way to get the most learning out of the “brain health curriculum” and will share it as an option with teachers statewide.

Jaeger has been incorporating project-based learning into her classroom – meaning that the students have to take part in what they’re learning and turn it into a project. She tested the waters in the fall with another set of students for “Red Ribbon Week,” which is a week to focus on the dangers of drug use. You might have noticed the red ribbons tied around trees and signs around the outside of the school. Students also did a podcast (check out the episode on the SMWay Podcast). That went so well that Jaeger decided to use it for the new Brain Health curriculum.

This spring, Addison, Ben and Mia (three of her students) chose to write a children’s book on brain health. The project involved skills that students need no matter the subject: research, creativity and teamwork.

“We had a bunch of pictures of cartoon brains doing activities. We thought it’d be easier for kids to stay focused if they saw the brains doing the activity,” Addison explains. One example is exercise, says Mia, for maintaining brain health throughout life.

“I’ve learned how hard it is to have to make a story with the information itself,” adds Ben. “Making a kid’s book was harder because you just can’t write an essay about it. You

have to try to make it more attainable to the younger audience.” Jaeger agrees. “... I took the curriculum as it is on paper, and I had to make it come alive for my students, for engagement, for myself,” she says.

Jaeger gave her students four different options for a project they could do, and one day a week during the nine-week health class, the teams met to work on them. “I created a choice board and the students got to see a visual with a description, one being a podcast, the second one was a TikTok-style video, and then the third choice was a children’s book. I did leave it a little open-ended as a fourth choice,” Jaeger continues.

“I didn’t want to limit their creativity. So if they really had something else that they’d like to try or do, they could. Then, based on the topic they selected, they had to figure out how best they wanted to advocate for the importance of brain health from the research they did with their topic.”

Jaeger said she thinks that creating a project for another audience puts some distance between the sometimes heavy topic (most of the students knew someone with dementia or Alzheimer’s Disease), but also understand the topic better and the habits to maintain brain health.

“The lessons kind of help tie it back to their own mental health. So I think it’s easier for my students to attach to the topic.”

Jaeger is going to take what she has learned from using these project-based learning experiences in her classroom and design a way teachers across Wisconsin could teach brain health using project-based learning.

“I get excited about things. It’s kind of me, my personality,” she explains. “I’m always trying new things that excite me. Because if it excites me – hopefully, you want your kids to be excited to learn and build those skills, too.”



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Above: These “Rockets of the Month” for last October had their photos showcased on the middle school wall and were included in the school’s Facebook page. Right: Amina was particularly proud to be chosen as a “Rocket of the Month.”



ROCKET OF THE MONTH PROGRAM: Soaring in its Second Year To Create Sense of Belonging

Amina, a South Milwaukee middle school student, was struggling with a project in her English Language Arts class in the fall, but she refused to give up. Michelle Christianson, an instructional coach, noticed how, despite being frustrated, Amina was persevering. “When tackling a difficult topic or problem, she doesn’t give up,” Christianson wrote when she nominated the 7th grader to be a Rocket of the Month. “I noticed how she had a deep determination to do well independently. Her perseverance shined as well as her smile!”

The Rocket of the Month feature is in its second year at the middle school. Students have their names and photos hung on the wall, and they get a shout-out during the announcements in the morning. A collection of the photos is also posted to the District’s Facebook and Instagram pages. In fact, the November Rockets of the Month Facebook post was the most-seen post of 2024, garnering close to 6,000 views.

While calling out student work is always great, Rockets of the Month has a bigger goal. “Increasing our student sense of belonging has always been a benchmark for our school improvement plan,” says Associate Principal Kevin Kempen, who started the program.

“We understand that if students feel like they belong at their school and feel valued, they can be much more successful behaviorally, socially and academically. We wanted to recognize our students demonstrating the five SMWay traits (respect, kindness, responsibility, honesty, and perseverance) because these are successful skills for school and life outside school.”

Staff members throughout the building (not just teachers) are given an opportunity to nominate students.

“We have received a bunch of positive feedback from students and teachers regarding the recognition program. We utilize a diagnostic called Panorama, that allows us to survey our students on topics such as their sense of belonging,” Kempen adds.

Kempen goes on to report, “Looking at our results, we are steadily improving, and this is due to the commitment of our staff to the Rocket of the Month recognition program and other strategies we are currently implementing.”

Amina said she was surprised and proud that her work was recognized. “It felt good,” she exclaims, cracking a shy smile. It made her feel like a role model.

“That’s why it’s important to me, and that’s why I try to do my best.”

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ITEMS**

Valid at retail and drop-off/pick-up locations. Coupon must be presented with serviceable items. Not valid for home or residential drop-off/pick-up service, wedding gowns, alterations, leather/suede, shoe cobbler service and area rugs. Limit one coupon per order. Exp. 12/31/25.



SOUTH MILWAUKEE LIONSFEST

16th Avenue & Rawson Avenue • www.SMLions.org/Lionsfest



2025

JULY
25-27

Fish Dinner • Rib Dinner • Chicken Dinner • Roasted Corn • Hamburgers • Brats • Games/Rides



SouthMilwaukeeLionsClub



@SMLionsClub



southmilwaukee lions

FRIDAY, JULY 25

FISH FRY DINNER

4:00 pm UNTIL SOLD OUT
CARRY OUT AVAILABLE

CRUISE & CAR SHOW

4 pm to 10 pm

THE NOW

4 pm to 7 pm

CHASIN' MASON

7 pm to 11 pm

Lions
World Famous
Meat Raffle Team
All 3 Days

NO
CARRY INS
ALLOWED



SUNDAY, JULY 27

CHICKEN DINNER

12:00 pm UNTIL SOLD OUT • DRIVE UP/CARRY OUT AVAILABLE

KARMA SHOTGUN 12 pm to 2 pm

THE WHISKEY BELLES 2 pm to 5 pm

Lions Raffle Drawing & Carnival Bike Drawings 5 pm

DISCOUNT RIDE TICKETS AVAILABLE AT WWW.SMLIONS.ORG/LIONSFEST

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SM Street Dept.
SM Waste & Water Dept.
Spirits of Norway Vineyard
Stan's Automotive

DOWNTOWN MARKET MUSICAL SCHEDULE 2025

All Thursday Afternoons 5-7p.m. Unless Otherwise Noted

- **May 29** American Graffiti ('50s & '60s)
- **June 5** Bluegrass Allstars (Bluegrass)
- **June 12** Radiation (Irish Rock)
- **June 19** Ivy Ford (Soul)
- **June 26** Special Event: Val Sigal (Polka)
- **July 3** Checkerster ('50s & '60s Variety)
- **July 10** Sonic Boomers ('60s & '70s)
- **July 17** Youth PAC: Rev. Jerry K (Country)
- **July 24** Special Event (3 hours): The Whiskey Belles (Country & Folk)
- **July 31** Youth PAC: Tango & Fuego (Country, Pop & Reggae)
- **August 7** Kal Bergendahl Project (Jazz Funk)
- **August 14** Larry Lynne & Decades (Rock)
- **August 21** Sensations (Classic Rock)
- **August 28** Special Event: Sawdust Symphony (American New Grass)
- **September 4** Northliners (Americana)
- **September 11** Tim Castle (Country Legends)
- **September 18** Bourbon Jockeys (Blues R & B)
- **September 25** Special Event: Sweet Sheiks (Bluegrass)
- **October 2** Mike Bishop & All The Kings Men (Elvis)



South Milwaukee's Downtown Market is held every Thursday afternoon from May 29 to October 2 at the Bucyrus Commons in Downtown South Milwaukee. This handsome, partially covered outdoor space includes display areas for Market vendors, a stage for musical entertainment, a spacious green area and public bathrooms. Market attendees are encouraged to bring a lawn chair or blanket, and spend the afternoon enjoying the live music.

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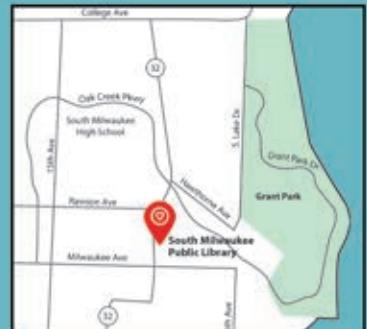


South Milwaukee Public Library

- Free notary service for South Milwaukee residents.
- Remote printing: send from anywhere, pick up your prints at the library.
- Fun community programming for all ages.

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www.smlibrary.org

Take a virtual tour
of the library!



► Paying Tribute to Former Mayor Chester W. Grobschmidt

CHESTER GROBSCHMIDT 1920-2025

At the remarkable age of 104, South Milwaukee's longest serving mayor, Chester W. Grobschmidt, passed away on February 1, 2025. Mayor Chet led the City with dedication and vision, leaving a lasting impact on our community.

During his tenure as mayor from 1966 to 1994, Mayor Chet provided strong leadership for the City. Under his guidance, City Hall moved to its current location in 1982, and the new Fire Station opened in 1981. He was instrumental in bringing the Med-10 Unit to the Fire Department, which began service in 1988. Mayor Chet also started the City's recycling program and ensured local control over the

South Milwaukee Sewerage Treatment Plant. Additionally, he led the initiative to open a Senior Center in South Milwaukee.

Beyond his service to the City of South Milwaukee, Mayor Chet was a World War II Navy veteran and a 40-year employee of Bucyrus-Erie.

To honor his public service, the Common Council and Mayor Shelenske have decided to name the half-circle driveway in front of City Hall "Mayor Chet's Circle."

Rest in peace, Mayor Chet. You will be remembered for your many contributions to South Milwaukee – and your legacy lives on.



► South Milwaukee Economic Development Update



Former Bucyrus Campus

Much of the manufacturing space at the former Bucyrus Campus has been occupied since its sale in 2018. The site now houses multiple entities, including Steele

Solutions, Styled Aesthetic, Dawn Equipment, and Centerline Design & Fabrication, with a combined total of 250 employees.

In November 2024 and March 2025, the Common Council and Mayor Shelenske approved a developer's plans to convert the former office buildings into more than 130 apartments, an elementary school (expanding the Guidance Academy into two South Milwaukee locations), and 22,500 sq. ft. of commercial space. The project has an estimated construction budget of \$43 million and is expected to be completed by fall 2026.

100 15th Avenue

A \$3.2 million redevelopment project for 100 15th Avenue was approved by the Common Council and Mayor Shelenske in March 2025. The project will include converting a building that has been vacant since 2018 into 20 apartments, with construction expected to be completed by spring 2026.

2001 7th Avenue

In October 2023, the City agreed to sell 2001 7th Avenue for residential development. The 2.3-acre site is being transformed into eight single-family homes, with completion expected by the end of the year.



2318 10th Avenue

In July 2024, the Common Council and Mayor Shelenske approved an \$18 million mixed-use redevelopment project for 2318 10th Avenue (at the northwest corner of 10th and Marquette Avenues). The project includes 63 apartments and 5,000 sq. ft. of commercial space. Construction is anticipated to begin this fall, with completion projected by December 31, 2026.

Former Everbrite Campus

The former Everbrite Campus has been for sale since 2020. In June 2023, the Common Council and Mayor Shelenske approved an amendment to South Milwaukee's Comprehensive Plan, identifying the campus as an opportunity area. The City continues to engage with developers to activate the site.

Although the City has approved these projects, unforeseen circumstances may prevent their completion. If this happens, the City will seek new projects for these sites.



CHIP FOR THE ARTS
SEPT. 19

GRANT PARK GOLF COURSE
100 Hawthorne Ave,
South Milwaukee

9AM Shotgun Start
FOUR PERSON SCRAMBLE

\$110 per person* Registration includes: 18 Holes with cart, 2 drink tickets and the Luncheon & Awards at the Bucyrus Club & Event Center, 1919 12th Ave, South Milwaukee

REGISTER by 6/1/25 & save \$20!
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MIH Lieutenant Mike Landgraf received specialized training to manage long-term medical needs that may not be best served in an ER visit or hospital stay.

► Opioid Settlement Aids South Milwaukee Fire Department Health Program

In the fall semester of 2024, the South Milwaukee Fire Department (SMFD) received grant funding to enroll in specialized training at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee aimed at further developing the skills of a paramedic to manage long-term medical needs – rather than emergency needs.

Veteran SMFD firefighter and paramedic Mike Landgraf attended this course in Community Paramedicine and received focused training in paths to address addiction, chronic falls, mental health crises, and other situations that cause disruption to people's lives and well-being, but may not be best served with an emergency room visit or hospital stay. This course also prepared him to provide assistance and aid to those who require follow-up after a hospital visit or rehabilitation program. After completion of this course, Landgraf received the Community Paramedic endorsement from the State of Wisconsin and was promoted to administrative lieutenant of Mobile Integrated Health.

Mobile Integrated Health (MIH), apart from the abilities outlined above, is about partnerships. The City of South Milwaukee has partnered with the Milwaukee County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to arrange a funding source derived solely from opioid settlement awards that will fund Lt. Landgraf's 40-hour position for the foreseeable future without drawing from the tax levy. We have partnered with neighboring Fire Departments – Oak Creek and

Franklin – that are also standing up MIH teams so that no client will go unserved if Lt. Landgraf is unavailable.

We are engaged in discussions with local hospitals so that we may establish partnerships that allow our MIH program to identify and serve patients in need of additional care after hospital discharge. We have met with, and will partner with, area addiction resources to establish lines of communication by which we can assist them offer help in ways that their facilities are unable. We are also excited to partner with the South Milwaukee Police Department and South Milwaukee/St. Francis Health Department to join their long-standing team of officers, public health professionals, social service providers and addiction specialists. This team visits community members who have recently experienced an overdose to provide resource awareness.

Though the program is in its early stages, SMFD is already working hard to expand its MIH resource into a 24/7 model through additional grant funding. The goal for this team is to be able to serve those in need, IN their time of need, regardless of when that occurs. Providing care, resources and hope for those with substance use disorder when they are ready to accept a change, hope for those with chronic illness that they may continue to lead a life in their own home, and hope for the entire community to know that whatever your medical need, South Milwaukee has someone to show up on your doorstep.



Welcome New South Milwaukee Businesses

The word is OUT! South Milwaukee is the place to be if you are looking for a super location for your business!

We are pleased to welcome a variety of new businesses, representing a diverse sampling of industries, to the City in the past year. Stop in and say "Hi!" and introduce yourself. Show them how proud we are to have them call South Milwaukee their new home!

• 3PL Prep Center & Warehouse

Package pickup/drop off, warehouse for small and large shipments • (414) 885-9504

• Card God Shop

1227 Milwaukee Ave. • (414) 304-5021

Trading cards and game play, downtown

• Devour Gluten Free

1302 Milwaukee • (414) 301-4403

Food processing company specializing in small-batch, gluten-free treats, downtown

• Drop the Mic Media • 213 N. Chicago Ave.

(414) 238-1008 • Milwaukee's premier studio for podcasting, commercial production and interviews.

• GG's Grooming Salon • 1633 Rawson Ave.

(414) 324-1768 • Full-service dog grooming salon

• MPK Catering & Pig Roasting

925 Madison • (414) 499-3113

The name says it all!

• Motorplex 1601 N. Chicago • (414) 877-5963

Full-service automotive sales, service and storage solutions

• Nellie's Dream Cache

924 Milwaukee • (414) 899-3852

Antiques, collectibles, resale, downtown

• Premier Pickleball Club & Complex

305 N. Chicago Ave. • (414) 215-7123

A 40,000-sq.-ft. facility with 12 state-of-the-art courts for players of all levels.

• SMKE Express Mart • 1231 Milwaukee Ave.

(414) 301-4550 • Smoke shop, convenience store, downtown

• South Milwaukee Tattoo

1218 Milwaukee Ave., downtown • (414) 301-5133
Personalized tattoos from several well-known artists

• Wellness Studio

2315 10th, Suite 103 • (414) 418-8187

Holistic services/programs designed to promote physical, mental and emotional well-being, including acupuncture and microneedling.



EMBRACE YOUR POWER!

A Community Event Focused on Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health



KEY NOTE SPEAKER: TOM FARLEY

Tom Farley, a Madison, WI native, will join us for a conversation focused on his lived experience with addiction and recovery. His talk will cover topics from family life, including the impact of his late brother's addiction, actor and comedian Chris Farley, as well as his own journey and the important role that social connection made through it all. Tom has done a lot of advocacy work for recovery and treatment. His most recent achievement includes his role as Community Outreach Director with Recovery.com, which helps people find recovery and treatment resources that fit their individual needs. He is the former President of The Chris Farley Foundation, co-author of the New York Times bestselling biography of his late brother "The Chris Farley Show", and motivational speaker delivering messages about reducing stigma, promoting recovery and supporting mental wellness.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE:

- Visit vendor tables with resources on mental health, substance use disorder, and more
- View the coloring/poster contest submissions made by the youth in South Milwaukee
- Narcan (naloxone) training + a box to take home
- Learn hands only CPR

GIVEAWAYS!
Be entered to win a variety of gift cards, sports tickets, and other prizes.

FREE CHILD CARE
National Honor Society
Students from SM High School will be available to supervise children.

SCAN QR CODE
FOR EVENT DETAILS/REGISTRATION
OR CALL 414-768-8055

REGISTRATION INCLUDES LIGHT APPETIZERS & A MOCKTAIL
*Additional N/A beverages available for purchase

Wednesday, June 4, 2025
5:00-8:00 PM
Bucyrus Club & Event Center
1919 12th Ave. South Milwaukee, WI 53172





South Milwaukee Goes Green for Earth Day!

The City of South Milwaukee used Earth Day 2025 to highlight some of the City's recent green initiatives.

These efforts have included:

- Eliminating the electronics collection fee at the Self-Deposit Station to encourage recycling.
- Replacing streetlights with LED bulbs.
- Installing recycling bins along Milwaukee Avenue and at the Bucyrus Commons.
- Approving a resolution supporting the expansion of Milwaukee County bus routes.
- Implementing an anti-idling policy for non-emergency City vehicles.



► SPRING SHOWERS AND CLEAN WATER: How YOU Can Help Reduce Stormwater Runoff

By Genevieve Stollenwerk, P.E.-City of South Milwaukee Engineering Department

As the snow melts and spring rains return, so does an invisible challenge in South Milwaukee: stormwater runoff. Every time it rains, water runs off roofs, driveways and streets – carrying salt, oil, fertilizers, and debris directly into Oak Creek and Lake Michigan.

This water doesn't go to a treatment plant. It flows untreated through storm sewers and outfalls, impacting water quality, aquatic habitats and even increasing flooding.

But spring is also the best time to take action – and there are simple things South Milwaukee residents can do right now to protect our community's water.

Spring Stormwater Tips For Homeowners

• Clean Up Yard Waste

Leaves and grass clippings can block storm drains and contribute nutrients to local waterways, fueling algae growth. Rake early, compost or bag yard waste properly – never dump it in the street.

• Start a Rain Garden

Spring is planting season, and rain gardens are both beautiful and functional. These shallow gardens use native plants to soak up water from rooftops and driveways, reducing the amount of runoff reaching our storm system.

• Set Up a Rain Barrel

Spring showers = free water! Connect a rain barrel to your downspout to collect rainwater for use in your garden later in the season. This reduces runoff and saves money on your water bill.

• Watch Where You Wash

As you get your car ready for spring road trips, wash it on

your lawn or use a commercial car wash. This prevents soap, grease and grime from flowing into the storm drain.

Why It Matters

Every storm drain in South Milwaukee leads directly to our local waterways. What goes down the drain ends up in Lake Michigan – without being filtered.

By doing your part this spring, you help reduce flooding, protect wildlife, and keep our lakes and streams clean for everyone.

Resources and Further Reading

- Wisconsin DNR Stormwater Program:
dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/stormwater/learn_more
- Rain Gardens: A Guide for Homeowners and Landscapers
dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/stormwater/RainGardenManualPrint.pdf

Wisconsin Salt Wise wisaltwise.com

It only takes 1 teaspoon of salt to pollute 5 gallons of water to a level that is toxic for freshwater ecosystems. We can all work together to promote best practices.



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SPRING INTO ACTION

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and let your landscaping stand above all the rest!

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Our vision is to encourage the sustainability
and growth of businesses in the
South Shore community.

**Offering Valuable Opportunities
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- Monthly membership luncheon meetings, including guest speakers, to stay informed on commerce-related activities in our area.
- Additional morning coffee meetings, plus after-hours networking events.
- Promotional opportunities for your business.
- Network with like-minded business owners and/or business representatives.
- Be a part of our collective voices that are heard by City government.

**GROW YOUR BUSINESS –
AND LEARN MORE WITH THE
SOUTH SHORE CHAMBER!**

South Shore Chamber of Commerce
(414) 748-2243 • info@ssccwi@gmail.com



► South Milwaukee Public Library: SPRING AND SUMMER PROGRAMMING smlibrary.org

ALL AGES

Apples to Apples

Saturday, June 28 • 12 p.m.

Come and play “Apples to Apples” as we get the ball rolling for this year’s Summer Reading program. Never played? Not a problem, as this is a quick game to learn. No registration is required, but we will start promptly at noon.

Rainbow Rocks

Saturday, July 19 • 12 p.m.

Continue the celebration of “Summer Readings: Color Our World” with decorating and hiding painted rocks in our community and throughout the Library. Don’t want to give up your art? No worries! These make great plant decorations, paper weights, or even pets! No registration is required.

Nerf War

Monday, August 11 • 7-9 p.m.

Wrap up “Summer Reading” by jumping into a tornado of foam! SMPL has teamed up with Milwaukee Area Nerf Outings (M.A.N.O.) to bring Nerf combat to the Library. Turn in your summer reading log, grab a blaster (or bring your own), and do battle amongst the stacks. Registration is required.

ADULTS

Ear Acupuncture Clinic

Saturday, May 10 • 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Experience the 5 needle protocol (5NP), a series of 5 acupuncture points in the outer ear that regulate and calm

the nervous system. A licensed acupuncturist from Milwaukee Community Acupuncture will explain the protocol and place the thin, sterile, single-use stainless steel needles. Once placed, people typically rest quietly with the needles for 15-45 minutes. People often experience a calming sensation that can last beyond the treatment.

Ear seeds, or tiny seeds on a piece of bandage, will be available for those not comfortable with needles. The seeds apply pressure to the acupuncture points, and can be pressed for further stimulation. Registration is required – please sign up on the Library’s website under “Adult Events” or stop in at the Library.

Blood Drives with Versiti Wisconsin

June 13 and August 1 • 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Choose from these two blood drives with Versiti Wisconsin this summer. Walk-ins welcome/registration encouraged.

Barreless Barre Beginners

Tuesdays • 9:30 a.m.

An adult fitness class using chairs, resistance bands, pilates balls and weights (optional) to aid in movement that is based in pilates, yoga and dance exercises. No registration is required.

All Knotted Up: Fiber Arts with Friends

First and Third Monday of the Month • 5-6:45 p.m.

All experience levels are welcome at our Fiber Arts Club! Needles and hooks are available for check out.

Left: The summer is a great time to take part in some of the Library's fun and creative programs to keep families and kids engaged all season long. The South Milwaukee Public Library offers all kinds of fascinating activities including a magic show, a visit from the Wehr Nature Center, fiber arts, LEGOS and a whole lot more!

KIDS

Tatiana's Tiny Zoo

Tuesday, June 17 • 10 a.m.

Join us at the Library as we welcome Tatiana's Tiny Zoo ... bringing some animals and teaching us about them. For families with kids of all ages.

Fox & Branch

Tuesday, June 24 • 10 a.m.

Don't miss this fun, interactive musical show with popular musicians Fox & Branch. Suitable for families with kids of all ages.

Fourth of July Storytime and Crafts

Tuesday, July 1 • 10 a.m.

Fourth of July-themed stories, activities and crafts abound to celebrate Independence Day! For families with kids ages 0-10.

Magic Morgan and Lilliana

Tuesday, July 8 • 10 a.m.

A fun magic show with Magic Morgan and Lilliana will delight the entire family, especially those with younger children ages 0-10.

Brass Bell Instrument "Petting Zoo"

Tuesday, July 18 • 10 a.m.

Join us to welcome Brass Bell Instruments! They will bring along instruments for kids to try out. For families with kids of all ages.

Bucyrus Storytime at Bucyrus Museum

Tuesday, July 22 • 10 a.m.

History comes alive at the Bucyrus Museum, a marvelous location for a storytime. Stay afterwards to check out the fascinating artifacts at the Museum. For families with kids of all ages.

Wehr Nature Center

Tuesday, July 29 • 10 a.m.

A visit from the Wehr Nature Center is always one of our most popular programs. For families with kids of all ages.

These passionate readers have made sure to find a spot to enjoy a good book!



Ice Cream Party!

Tuesday, August 5 • 10 a.m.

Cool off at the Library for a storytime, crafts and an ice cream party! For families with kids of all ages.

Music & Movement

Wednesdays from June 18-August 6 • 10 a.m.

Join us for a lively music and movement program! Recommended for kids ages 0-3. Older siblings are always welcome.

LEGO Club

Thursdays, June 19 and July 17 • 4 p.m.

For ages 5-12.

Projector Playtime

Fridays, June 20-August 8, from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Drop in to play with the interactive projector!

Barre & Babies

Fridays, June 13, July 11, August 8 • 10:30 a.m.

Join us for a fun workout program with instructor Sandy Moen. Recommended for parents with young kids.

SUPPORT THE LIBRARY!

Friends of the Library Member Meetings

Members of the Friends of the Library have regular meetings to discuss fundraising, events, volunteer organization, promotion, officer appointment and other agenda items. Check the Library website for the next meeting date.

For more information on the Friends or how to get involved, please email friendsofsmkepl@gmail.com.





Left: The Virtue Coffee & Valor Wine building showcases a gorgeous two-story mural painted by Darius Dennis.

Below: The Backes family is ready to welcome you to their unique coffee and wine shop when it opens May 23.



► Business Spotlight: Virtue Coffee & Valor Wine New Coffee and Wine Shop Celebrates Community and Supports the Growth and Vitality of South Milwaukee

When asked what prompted them to locate their new business in South Milwaukee, William and Alexandria ("Alex") Backes quickly replied, "the sense of community, beautiful parks and lakefront, historic architecture, and the hard-working spirit of its people." Those who already live in South Milwaukee can relate to these attractive attributes of the City, and this husband-and-wife team immediately saw the full potential here. And so the new Virtue Coffee & Valor Wine shop becomes a reality!

With a shared a passion for bringing people together over great coffee, wine and food, William and Alex saw an opportunity in South Milwaukee to create a welcoming, elevated space that celebrates community and quality. Plus, their extensive backgrounds in real estate, business development and hospitality make them the perfect owners of Virtue Coffee & Valor Wine, set to officially open as this edition of *Bridges* is being mailed to the community in late May.

The Virtue & Valor name directly relates to the spirit behind the business. According to William, "VIRTUE represents doing things the right way, from our sourcing to our service – while VALOR reflects the boldness and heart it takes to build something meaningful." The couple believe the name also speaks to the character and intention of the business that is supported by a solid team of vendors, suppliers and staff. "Together, we bring a mix of entrepreneurial spirit, operational knowledge and a shared passion for food, beverage and design," adds William.

Virtue & Valor will have a uniqueness all its own. This is

definitely not your average dart-in-and-out coffee shop. You will find a rare combination of high-end coffee along with a carefully curated wine list, served in a stylish, approachable setting. Virtue & Valor will also offer a rotating menu of shareable plates, like artisanal cheeses and charcuterie, seasonal flatbreads, marinated olives, dips with fresh bread, and light fare that pairs well with coffee and wine.

In addition, a very impressive part of the two-story business, at 1234 Milwaukee Ave., will be its rooftop patio, a one-of-a-kind gathering space in South Milwaukee (one of more than 20 publicly available, high-in-the-sky rooftop patios in Milwaukee County).

The first floor of the building will house the main coffee and wine bar areas, while the upstairs/rooftop will feature additional seating within its patio space. Technically speaking, the first-floor commercial space is approximately 2,000 sq. ft. while the rooftop patio measures about 1,000 sq. ft. Neighbors are already commenting on the easy-to-recognize building with its beautiful artwork handpainted on an exterior wall by Darius Dennis, of Big Wall Sign & Mural. Additional original artwork will be found inside the coffee and wine bar area that has been designed and decorated by Honor Interiors. As of this writing, the final touches are being placed on the space, including the last coats of paint, light fixtures, plumbing fixtures, countertops and trimwork.

Virtue & Valor will not merely be a place to grab a coffee or a glass of wine. "We want our guests to consider us a place to gather, connect and create memories," explains Alex. "We hope to host events, tastings and collaborations



Sip your favorite coffee beverage from one of these handsome coffee cups at Virtue Coffee & Valor Wine.

with other local businesses to strengthen the fabric of the South Milwaukee community." Rotating wineries will be featured with a focus on promoting Wisconsin, Midwest and National establishments.

Quality, hospitality and community are the founding principles of Virtue & Valor. "We believe in doing the small things right, treating everyone who walks through our doors like family, and supporting the growth and vitality of the city we serve," Alex proudly exclaims.

As new transplants to the City of South Milwaukee, this entrepreneurial duo is excited to officially plant deeper roots with Virtue & Valor and invest in the future of the city. "We're actively engaged with several businesses on Milwaukee Ave. and we're eager to meet more of our neighbors," William says.

South Milwaukee feels real and grounded to both William and Alex, qualities they admire deeply. "We love the opportunity South Milwaukee represents," offers William. "It's a City full of pride and potential, and we're excited to be part of its next chapter. We see South Milwaukee as the go-to downtown community of the near future!"

A soft opening is planned for May 21-22, with the grand opening scheduled on May 23. Be sure to mark your calendars, and stop in and meet William and Alex and the entire Virtue & Valor crew. They will be ready to show off their dazzling new space, another marvelous addition to downtown South Milwaukee. WOW, this is really the place to be!



Virtue Coffee & Valor Wine • Opening May 23
1234 Milwaukee Ave., South Milwaukee
(414) 803-1758 • virtueandvalormke.com

The plain facade of the building has been transformed by a colorful painted design (see above left) by Big Wall Sign & Mural.



South Milwaukee Unveils Public Health Vending Machine To Enhance Equity and Access



In a groundbreaking move to improve public health access for all, the City of South Milwaukee has introduced a public health vending machine outside the City Administration Building (City Hall) at 2424 15th Avenue. This initiative aims to ensure that essential health supplies are available to the community around the clock, with a focus on increasing access and reducing barriers to vital resources.

The vending machine, which is stocked with no-cost public health items, was made possible by a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. It offers life-saving items including nasal Narcan (Naloxone), fentanyl test strips, Deterra medication disposal bags, gun locks, and condom kits – all available for free to anyone in need. This initiative marks a significant step forward in making health supplies more accessible, particularly for those who may face challenges accessing these resources during traditional office hours.

The decision to place the vending machine at City Hall was strategically made to foster anonymity and reduce stigma surrounding the use of harm-reduction supplies. It aligns with South Milwaukee's broader efforts to break down barriers to accessing health services and support.

In addition to the self-service vending machine, the South Milwaukee-St. Francis Health Department staff will continue to provide hands-on support to community members, offering guidance and education to help individuals navigate specific health needs.

The vending machine is officially open for use, and the community is encouraged to take advantage of the free items it offers. This new initiative reinforces South Milwaukee's commitment to public health and wellness, ensuring that residents have the resources they need to stay safe and healthy, regardless of the time or place.

For more information about the South Milwaukee-St. Francis Health Department's services and the public health vending machine, visit the Health Department's website or stop by City Hall.



► City Welcomes New Staff



The City of South Milwaukee is pleased to welcome these two dedicated public servants who are committed to the community and appreciate all that our City has to offer.

Welcome aboard, Ryan Lower and Tyler Linski.



Meet Ryan Lower, Street Department Manager for the City of South Milwaukee

Ryan joined the City in December 2024, bringing with him 12 years of experience working for Milwaukee County Parks. During his time there, he served in various roles, most notably as an assistant superintendent.

Ryan takes pride in improving and working in the community he grew up in. "Growing up in South Milwaukee has made my transition to the City smoother," he says. "Knowing the area so well helps me better navigate the tasks of the Street Department."

Ryan attended Milwaukee Area Technical College, where he earned an associate degree in landscape horticulture and landscape construction. Outside of work, Ryan enjoys spending time outdoors hiking with his wife and two dogs, exploring Wisconsin, and spending summer weekends out on their boat.

Ryan's deep connection to the community, along with his experience and passion for improving his city, make him a valuable member of our team.

1. What was your first job?

I first worked for Milwaukee County Parks as a seasonal for their Golf and Parkside division that maintained all the grass mowing, trash collection, rental halls and playgrounds.

2. What is your favorite thing about working in local government? My favorite thing about working in local government is having a chance to directly impact my community. It allows me to work closely with residents by being able to address their concerns and making changes they can see and affect them in their everyday lives. Being able to improve services and advocate for my local City feels very rewarding.

3. What do you love most about South Milwaukee?

I love that South Milwaukee has a great sense of community. This strong sense of community is shown

through various local events such as Heritage Week, Crusherfest and the weekly summer Farmers Market.

4. Describe South Milwaukee in three words:

Welcoming, historic and scenic

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

It would be "Shipwrecks of the Great Lakes: Tragedies and Legacies from the Inland Seas" by Anna Lardinois.

Meet Tyler Linski, Distribution and Collections Manager for the Water/Wastewater Utility

A dedicated Wisconsin native, Tyler lives in New Berlin. He has worked in sewer/water and heavy construction, as well as carpentry, concrete work and logging. After graduating from Greenfield High School, Tyler built a diverse career and takes great pride in his work. "I strive for excellence," he says.

Tyler is also a father to two teenagers, ages 14 and 16, and enjoys hunting, fishing and riding his Harley. He cuts and splits wood to heat his home in the winter, a task he finds especially rewarding.

Outside of work, Tyler serves as vice commodore of the South Milwaukee Yacht Club, reflecting his dedication to his community. He admits his biggest weakness is caring too much, saying, "I always want things to be just right."

Tyler's hard work, care for his family and commitment to his community make him a standout member of our team.

1. What was your first job?

I started working in carpentry at the age of 13.

2. What is your favorite thing about working in local government?

The relationships.

3. What do you love most about South Milwaukee?

The lake. Seeing the lake everyday brings my spirits up.

4. Describe South Milwaukee in three words.

Small, Town, Wisconsin.

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

JAWS.



HALF.
PRICE.
FLOWERS.
SATURDAYS

9-2



To Go | WRAPPED FLOWERS | SOME DATES EXCLUDED



Save the Date

Saturday September 27th, 2025



The South Milwaukee-St. Francis Health Department will be hosting a family scavenger hunt.



Be on the lookout for more details!!!

The EXPLORIUM BREWPUB
EST. 2016 GREENDALE, WI

OPEN
SEVEN
DAYS A
WEEK!



LOCATED IN
Southridge Mall
5300 S 76TH STREET

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FINE
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SPIRITS

The Explorium Brewpub offers 24 house-made beers on tap with a full cocktail menu, scratch-made food, a spacious outdoor bar & patio, and the absolute best staff ever! See you on the patio!

An Explorium Hospitality Group Restaurant



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LOCATIONS IN THE
MILWAUKEE AREA



GREENDALE
THIRD WARD
DEER DISTRICT
EAST SIDE
WAUWATOSA

The Explorium Hospitality Group
PRIVATE EVENTS

The Explorium Hospitality Group offers unique venues to make your event unforgettable! From intimate restaurant gatherings to the iconic tunnel in the Historic Third Ward or a private section at our brewpubs, we provide the perfect setting for any occasion. Whether it's a rehearsal dinner, wedding, birthday, or holiday event, we'll bring your vision to life.

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OUT AND ABOUT IN THE

GET READY FOR SUMMER ... SOUTH MILWAUKEE-STYLE!

Our favorite time of the year is here! With the South Milwaukee Downtown Market, Heritage Days, the 4th of July celebration, Lionsfest, Crusherfest, Outdoor Concerts and so much more ... there is plenty to see and do in our active and bustling City! Check out the calendar on page 30 and make note of all the special events you won't want to miss! South Milwaukee has it all – don't you LOVE OUR CITY? Enjoy the season!

1. The lovable South Milwaukee mascot, Sam, makes a surprise appearance at the Downtown Market. **2.** Last November, community leaders and project stakeholders, including developer Scott Crawford, Inc., held a press conference to announce the new development planned for the Bucyrus Campus at 1100 Milwaukee Avenue. **3.** Health Teacher Kimberly Jaeger piloted project-based learning with her 8th-grade students during Red Ribbon Week. Students made anti-drug posters, podcasts, and tied red ribbons around the campus to encourage students to remain drug-free (see pg. 10). **4.** The popular Downtown Market at Bucyrus Commons gets ready to kick off another year of weekly Thursday events on May 29. Take advantage of fresh produce, prepared foods, bakery, live entertainment and so much more at the Market!



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CITY OF SOUTH MILWAUKEE

5. Construction is almost completed at 1234 Milwaukee Ave. as the new Virtue Coffee & Valor Wine shop will be opening May 23 (see pg. 24). Be sure to check it out! **6.** In celebration of Arbor Day, the South Milwaukee Street Department planted a new tree on the grounds of the former Senior Center in memory of the Senior Center Director, Sandy Quinlan. **7.** Be sure to attend Heritage Days (this year on Saturday, July 26) and enjoy a great parade downtown! These kids are having lots of fun as they grab up the candy being thrown from the floats! (see pg. 5). **9.** Breanna Wade enjoys a special moment with an after-care student at Milwaukee Yard, where she is a youth apprentice (see pg. 6). **8.** This group of revelers was celebrating St. Patrick's Day in true South Milwaukee fashion! **10. and 11.** Elementary students practice on their new instruments in preparation for the spring concerts (see pg. 8).



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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.

MAY

- Thur., May 15: Middle School Choir Concert, 7 p.m.
- Sat., May 17: So. Milwaukee High School Choir & Band & Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m. "A Celebration of Art & Community"
- Sun., May 18: So. Milwaukee High School Choir & Band & Orchestra Concert, 2 p.m. "A Celebration of Art & Community"
- Tue., May 20: Lakeview Elementary School "Evening at the Ballpark," 4:30 p.m. High School Baseball Game
- Thur., May 22: E. W. Luther Elementary School "Evening at the Ballpark," 4:30 p.m. High School Baseball Game
- Wed., May 28: So. Milwaukee PAC's Annual Season Preview, 6:30 p.m. At South Milwaukee PAC.
- Mon, May 26: Memorial Day-All City Offices and South Milwaukee School District Closed
- Thursday, May 29: First Day of So. Milwaukee Downtown Market; 3-7 p.m. At Bucyrus Commons.
- Thursday, May 29: Book Discussion "The Chris Farley Show" by Tom Farley, Jr., 5:30 p.m. In this oral history written by Chris Farley's brother, family, friends and colleagues remember Chris who died at the age of 33 after a battle with addiction. Pick up a copy of the book at the first-floor desk three weeks before the meeting. In partnership with the South Milwaukee/St. Francis Health Department (see pg. 19). At Bucyrus Club & Event Center, 1919 12th Ave.
- Fri., May 31-Sat. June 1: Crusherfest At Bucyrus Commons (see pg. 4). Visit crusherfest.org.

JUNE

- Mon., June 2: Powder Puff Football Game, 7 p.m. (all proceeds go toward the Albert Nazifi football scholarship)
- Wed., June 4: South Milwaukee/St. Francis Health Department "Embrace Your Power" Community Event, 5-8 p.m. With guest speaker Tom Farley discussing how addiction affected his celebrity brother Chris (conversation will be based on his book "The Chris Farley Show"). At Bucyrus Club & Event Center., 1919 12th Ave.
- Thur., June 12: Last Day of School (Half Day)
- Fri., June 13: So. Milwaukee PAC presents "Reverend Raven," 5-7 p.m. At Downtown Market.
- Tue., June 24: First Day of Summer School

JULY

- Fri., July 4: Independence Day-City Offices and School District Closed
- Fri., July 4: Independence Day Celebration, Call to Colors at 10 a.m., Fireworks at 9:30 p.m.
- Fri., July 18: So. Milwaukee PAC presents "Larry Lynne & The Decades," 5-7 p.m. At Downtown Market.

- Sat., July 19: SMYT Juniors Present "Finding Nemo, Kids," 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.
- Sun., July 20: Friends of Grant Park Art Fair. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. At Grant Park Area 5A Pavilion
- Mon., July 21: Annual DARE Golf Outing, 8 a.m.
- Tue., July 22: Veterans Appreciation Dinner TBD
- Tue., July 22: South Milwaukee Municipal Band Concert, 7 p.m. At Bucyrus Commons.
- Wed., July 23: So. Milwaukee PAC Sponsors the "Westerlees" at the So. Milwaukee Fire Dept. Brat & Tot Fry, 4-7 p.m. At South Milwaukee Fire Station.
- Wed., July 23: Annual South Milwaukee Fire Department Brats and Tots; 4-8 p.m.
- Fri., July 25: Car Cruise Event TBD
- Fri., July 25-Sun., July 27: South Milwaukee Lionsfest 16th and Rawson (see pg. 14).
- Sat., July 26: Heritage Days Parade (see pg. 11).
- Sat., July 26: So. Milwaukee PAC Sponsors "Cameron Webb & His Soul & Blues Revue," 12-3 p.m. At South Milwaukee Lionsfest.
- Thur., July 31: Last day of Summer School

AUGUST

- Fri.-Sat., Aug. 1-2: SMYT Seniors Present "The Hunchback of Notre Dame, Jr.," 7 p.m.
- Sun., Aug. 3: SMYT Seniors present "The Hunchback of Notre Dame, Jr.," 2 p.m.
- Tue., Aug. 26: MS/HS Open House, 5-7p.m.
- Wed., Aug. 27: Elementary Open House, 5-7p.m.

SEPTEMBER

- Mon., Sept 1: Labor Day-City Offices and School District Closed
- Tue., Sept. 2: First Day of School
- Fri., Sept. 12: Home Football Game, 7 p.m.
- Fri., Sept. 12: So. Milwaukee PAC Presents "The Sensations," 5-7 p.m. At Downtown Market
- Thur., Sept. 18: Homecoming Parade/Pep Rally/ Bonfire, 6 p.m.
- Fri., Sept. 19: "Chip for the Arts" Golf Outing To Benefit So. Milwaukee PAC, 8 a.m. At Grant Park (see pg. 17).
- Fri., Sept. 19: Homecoming Football Game; 7 p.m.
- Thur., Sept. 25: South Milwaukee PAC Presents "Welcome Back My Friends: An Evening with Emerson, Lake & Palmer, 7:30 p.m. At South Milwaukee PAC.
- Sat., Sept. 27: SAMtember Fest TBD

OCTOBER

- Fri., Oct. 17: Home Football Game, 7 p.m.

2024 Annual Consumer Report: Quality of Tap Water

South Milwaukee Water Utility's Drinking Water Meets or Surpasses All Federal and State Drinking Water Standards

► LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

This is the annual report on the quality of water delivered by the South Milwaukee Water Utility. It meets the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirement for "Consumer Confidence Reports" and contains information on the source of our water, its constituents, and the health risks associated with any contaminants. Safe water is vital to our community.

Providing this annual water quality report to our customers is an important part of our ongoing water quality efforts. If you have any questions about the Water Utility or this report, please call the office at (414) 768-8070 or visit our website at: southmilwaukee.gov. Regular monthly meetings of the Water/Wastewater Commission also provide opportunities for public participation and additional information. These meetings are scheduled on the second Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the Water Utility (100 Marshall Avenue.)

Ben Huffman, Superintendent
South Milwaukee Water Utility



Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.

Claim ntawv tshaabzu nuav muaj lug tseemceeb heev nyob rua huv kws has txug cov dlej mej haus. Kuas ib tug paab txhais rua koj, los nrug ib tug kws paub lug thaam.

Water Source

The South Milwaukee Water Utility is supplied by surface water from Lake Michigan.

Treatment Process

The South Milwaukee Water Utility uses an ultra-filtration pressurized membrane system. The membrane technology provides a verifiable barrier against viruses, turbidity, suspended solids and pathogen contamination such as Cryptosporidium of the City's drinking water supply.

Educational Information

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals that can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, stormwater runoff and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.

- Radioactive contaminants that can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which shall provide the same protection for public health.

Health Information

Drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).



2024 Annual Consumer Report: Quality of Tap Water

Definition of Terms

• **AL: Action Level**

The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

• **HA and HAL: Health Advisory and Health Advisory Level**

HA: Health Advisory. An estimate of acceptable drinking water levels for a chemical substance based on health effects information.

HAL: Health Advisory Level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, poses a health risk and may require a system to post a public notice. Health Advisories are determined by US EPA.

• **HI: Hazard Index**

A Hazard Index is used to assess the potential health impacts associated with mixtures of contaminants. Hazard Index guidance for a class of contaminants or mixture of contaminants may be determined by the US EPA or Wisconsin Department of Health Services. If a Health Index is exceeded a system may be required to post a public notice.

• **Level 1 Assessment**

A Level 1 Assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine, if possible, why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

• **Level 2 Assessment**

A Level 2 Assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine, if possible, why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system, or both, on multiple occasions.

• **MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level**

The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

• **MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal**

The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health, MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

• **MFL: million fibers per liter**

• **MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level**

The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

• **MRDL: Maximum residual disinfectant level goal**

The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

• **mrem/year : millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)**

• **NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units**

• **pCi/l: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)**

• **ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)**

• **ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)**

• **ppt: parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter**

• **ppq: parts per quadrillion, or picograms per liter**

• **PHGS: Public Health Groundwater Standards**

Public Health Groundwater Standards are found in NR 140 Groundwater Quality. The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, poses a health risk and may require a system to post a public notice.

• **RPHGS: Recommended Public Health Groundwater Standards**

Groundwater standards proposed by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, poses a health risk and may require a system to post a public notice.

• **SMCL: Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels**

Secondary drinking water standards or Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. The SMCLs do not represent health standards.

• **TCR: Total Coliform Rule**

• **TT: Treatment Technique**

A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Detected Contaminants

Your water was tested for many contaminants last year. We are allowed to monitor for some contaminants less frequently than once a year. The following tables list only those contaminants which were detected in your water. If a contaminant was detected last year, it will appear in the following tables without a sample date. If the contaminant was not monitored last year, but was detected within the last 5 years, it will appear in the tables below along with the sample date.

Synthetic Organic Contaminants including Pesticides and Herbicides

Contaminant (units)	Site	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2024)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
ATRAZINE (ppb)		3	3	0.0	0.0-0.0	4/19/23	No	Runoff from herbicide used on row crops

2024 Annual Consumer Report: Quality of Tap Water

Disinfection Byproducts

Contaminant (units)	Site	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2024)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
HAA5 (ppb)	304	60	60	23	12-32		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM (ppb)	304	80	0	47.6	26.5-9.9		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (ppb)	307	60	60	30	16-37		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM (ppb)	307	80	0	52.3	28.6-58.6		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (ppb)	402	60	60	24	11-34		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM (ppb)	402	80	0	45.9	29.0-53.0		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (ppb)	407	60	60	29	15-40		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM (ppb)	407	80	0	54.0	32.4-62.2		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Radioactive Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Site	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2024)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
GROSS ALPHA, EXCL. R & U (pCi/l)		15	0	1.0	1.0	4/13/20	No	Erosion of natural deposits
COMBINED URANIUM (ug/l)		30	0	0.8	0.8	4/13/20	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant (units)	Site	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2024)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
ARSENIC		10	N/A	0.68	0.68	3/1/21	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff
BARIUM (ppm)		2	2	0.021	0.021		No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
FLUORIDE (ppm)		4	4	0.6	0.6		No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
NICKEL (ppb)		100		0.63	0.63	3/1/21	No	Nickel occurs naturally in soils, ground water and surface waters, and is often used in electroplating, stainless steel, and alloy products.
NITRATE (NO ₃ -N) (ppm)		10	10	0.32	0.32		No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
SODIUM (ppm)		N/A	N/A	13.00	13.00		No	N/A
THALLIUM TOTAL (ppb)		2	0.5	1.2	1.2		No	Leaching from ore-processing sites; Discharge from electronics, glass, and drug factories

Contaminant (units)	Action Level	MCLG	90th Percentile Level Found	Range	# of Results	Sample Date (if prior to 2024)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
COPPER (ppm)	AL=1.3	1.3	0.1800	0.007-0.350	0 of 36	6/12/23	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
LEAD (ppb)	AL=15	0	7.70	0.00-12.00	0 of 36	7/11/23	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

2024 Annual Consumer Report: Quality of Tap Water

PFAS Contaminants with a Recommended Health Advisory Level

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large group of human-made chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products worldwide since the 1950. The following table list PFAS contaminants which were detected in your water and that have a Recommended Public Health Groundwater Standard (RPHGS) or Health Advisory Level (HAL). There are no violations for detections of contaminants that exceed the RPHGS or HAL. The RPHGS are levels at which concentrations of the contaminant present a health risk and are based on guidance provided by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

Note: The recommended health-based levels in the table below were in effect in 2024. These levels were revised by WDHS in 2025. They can be found here: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/water/gws.htm>.

Typical Source of Contaminant: Drinking water is one way that people can be exposed to PFAS. In Wisconsin, two-thirds of people use groundwater as their drinking water source. PFAS can get into groundwater from places that make or use PFAS and release from consumer products in landfills.

Contaminant (units)	Site	RPHGS or HAL (PPT)	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2024)
PFBS (ppt)		450,000	0.46	0.39-0.46	1/17/2023
PFHXS (ppt)		40	1.00	0.87-1.00	1/17/2023
PFOS (ppt)		20	2.30	2.00-2.30	4/19/2023
PFOA (ppt)		20	2.40	1.80-2.40	1/17/2023
PFHXA (ppt)		150,000	1.90	1.40-1.90	1/17/2023
PFOA and PFOS Total (ppt)		20	4.40	4.10-4.40	1/17/2023

Contaminants with a Public Health Groundwater Standard, Health Advisory Level, or a Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level

The following table lists contaminants which were detected in your water and that have either a Public Health Groundwater Standard (PHGS), Health Advisory Level (HAL), or a Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL), or both. There are no violations for detections of contaminants that exceed Health Advisory Levels, Public Health Groundwater Standards or Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels. Secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels are levels that do not present health concerns but may pose aesthetic problems such as objectionable taste, odor, or color. Public Health Groundwater Standards and Health Advisory Levels are levels at which concentrations of contaminant present a health risk.

Contaminant (units)	Site	SMCL (ppm)	PHGS or HAL (ppm)	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2024)	Typical Source of Contaminant
SULFATE (ppm)		250		22.00	22.00		Runoff/leaching from natural deposits, industrial waste

Unregulated Contaminants

Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted. EPA required us to participate in this monitoring.

Contaminant (units)	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2024)
ALDRIN (ppb)	0.1	0-0.1	4/19/2023
METOLACHLOR (DUAL) (ppb)	0.1	0-0.1	4/19/2023
HAA5 (ppb)	19.425	14.963-19.425	2/19/2023
HAA6Br (ppb)	13.924	11.103-13.924	2/19/2023
HAA9 (ppb)	8.503	4.083-8.503	2/19/2019
MANGANESE (ppb)	0.616	0-0.616	2/19/2019

Within the last 12 months we conducted Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring in accordance with US EPA rules. We are required to inform you of this sampling. We are only required to include results showing detections within this report; however, if you would like a copy of all results, please contact us at 414-768-8070. South Milwaukee did not have any detectable levels of these contaminants.

2024 Annual Consumer Report: Quality of Tap Water

Lead

Additional Health Information

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. South Milwaukee Waterworks is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact South Milwaukee Water Utility at 414-768-8070. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Additional Information on Service Line Materials

We are required to develop an initial inventory of service lines connected to our distribution system by October 16, 2024 and to make the inventory publicly accessible. You can access the service line inventory here/by:

<https://smwi.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/13a834a08e8e4fe5a734f2617a27265d>

Other Compliance

Turbidity Monitoring

In accordance with s. NR 810.29, Wisconsin Administrative Code, the treated surface water is monitored for turbidity to confirm that the filtered water is less than 0.1 NTU/0.3NTU. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water. We monitor for it because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of our filtration system. During the year, the highest single entry point turbidity measurement was 0.04 NTU.

OUR COMMUNITY CONNECT PAYMENT PORTAL

The South Milwaukee Water Utility is now offering its customers the ability to setup an account in its new online payment portal.

Visit southmilwaukee.gov and click on "Departments," then "Water Utility" and then "Our Community Connect Payment Portal." Click on "Create Your Account." You will be able to pay bills using a credit or debit card, or bank account (fees apply).

You will also be able to view utility bills and balance due, sign up to receive paperless utility bills, sign up for auto pay, and receive text notices re: your South Milwaukee water utility account.

The mission of the South Milwaukee Water Utility is to provide a continuous supply of safe, potable drinking water for all aspects of life and industry to the City of South Milwaukee – at the lowest possible cost to the consumer. The Utility must meet and/or exceed all local, state and federal laws related to water purification and distribution management.



The City of South Milwaukee
2424 15th Avenue
South Milwaukee, WI 53172



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South Milwaukee
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Arthur Wilinski

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ELP

An Evening with
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THURS., SEPT. 25, 7:30PM

SUN., OCT. 19, 3PM *Rat Pack*

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at the Bucyrus Club & Event Center
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Brass Transit
THE MUSICAL LEGACY OF CHICAGO
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 7:30PM

DINOSAUR DIMENSIONS EXPERIENCE
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FRI. MARCH 27, 7:30PM