

SUMMER 2020

BRIDGES

CONNECTING OUR CITY OF SOUTH MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY

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ISSUE:
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MAGAZINE!

BUCYRUS

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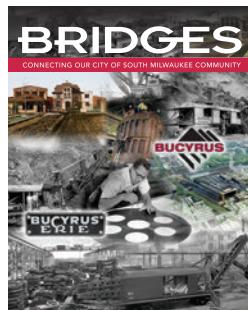
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► Table of Contents

- 3** Message from the Mayor
- 4** Proudly Celebrating Our Manufacturing Heritage: Bucyrus
- 6** More About the Bucyrus Club
- 7** COVID-19 Update from the City of South Milwaukee
- 8** Public Library Helping To Build a Better South Milwaukee
- 10** Upcoming Programming for Public Library
- 11** South Milwaukee Named a Tree City USA
- 12** Business Spotlight: Molthen-Bell Funeral Home
- 14** City Highlights
- 16** Milwaukee Avenue Improvement Project
- 17** City of South Milwaukee Staff Spotlight
- 18** It's Election Time!
- 19** Happy 100th Birthday, Mayor Chet!
- 19** Storm Water Pollution Prevention
- 20** Residential Water User Cross-Connection Hazards
- 22** MATC Moves 1,600 Classes Online
- 26** South Milwaukee School District Addresses COVID-19
- 28** Priority Updates for South Milwaukee School District
- 29** School District Referendum Update
- 29** E.W. Luther Elementary Nominated a Blue Ribbon School
- 30** AVID Program Coming to South Milwaukee High School
- 31** Honoring Retiring School District Faculty
- 33** Out and About in the City of South Milwaukee



ON THE COVER

South Milwaukee has a rich manufacturing history. Read more starting on pg. 4 about how Bucyrus has defined our City for generations, and the Bucyrus Foundation's generous gift to the City of South Milwaukee. (You may spot a younger former mayor Chester W. Grobschmidt in the center of the cover.)

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.

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

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

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS: Mayor Erik Brooks (City of South Milwaukee), Patrick Brever and Katie Crosby (City of South Milwaukee), Dr. Jeff Weiss-Superintendent (School District of South Milwaukee), and Barb Caprile (Caprile Marketing/Design).

CITY OF SOUTH MILWAUKEE

Erik Brooks, Mayor

Tamara Mayzik, City Administrator

Patrick Brever, Assistant City Administrator

2424 15th Avenue • South Milwaukee, WI 53172
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Dr. Jeffrey H. Weiss, Superintendent

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*Congratulations to the
Class of 2020 at
South Milwaukee High School!*



For information about advertising in the Autumn 2020 issue of *Bridges* magazine, call 414.215.7999 or email info@smbridgesmagazine.com.

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR BROOKS

Welcome (Again) to the New Bridges Magazine!

How we tell our story and share information with residents, business owners, visitors and other stakeholders matters, a lot. That is why I am proud to announce the launch of "Bridges," the City's new official news magazine, produced in partnership with the South Milwaukee School District.



Mayor Erik Brooks

As you may recall, this is not our first issue. We had initially planned to launch the magazine this spring – and then the world changed, with the COVID-19 pandemic. So we called an audible and published a special edition promoting local businesses in April.

Twice a year going forward, this publication will combine information from our City departments with news and features from around the community and the South Milwaukee School District. Of note in this issue:

- Information and updates on the COVID-19 pandemic (see pg. 6).
- We're sharing the Bucyrus Club announcement, including the cover story on the history of the company, starting on pg. 4.
- A local business spotlight – this month, it's Molthen-Bell Funeral Home (see pg. 12).

Rich imagery will be found throughout, and the magazine will bring our new brand to life. We will partner with the School District on editorial planning – and together will tell a strong and cohesive story about what makes South Milwaukee, South Milwaukee.

We could not, would not, do this without our School partners, and I thank them. And also thanks to all who have advertised in this first issue. Please support these businesses, organizations and events.

I welcome your feedback, and your opinions and suggestions are very important as we develop future articles and features for our next edition (Autumn 2020).

Improved storytelling is also the goal of the City's effort to relaunch its website as part of the CivicEngage network. You can learn more about that effort on pg. 14. Combined with enhancements to our Facebook page – getting us to what I believe is a best practice page for communities – it shows how we are strengthening our commitment to strong communications in South Milwaukee, together.

And it's more important now than ever. Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Sincerely, Erik Brooks, Mayor
City of South Milwaukee

► THE BUCYRUS STORY



From left to right: Aldermen Craig Maass, Ray Navarro, and David Bartoshevich; Mayor Erik Brooks; Tim Sullivan-President of the Bucyrus Foundation; Bob Jelinek of the South Milwaukee Industrial Museum; and Ernie Wunsch of Skyline Catering met at the event announcing the acquisition of 1919 12th Avenue and plans to develop the property into the Bucyrus Club.

Proudly Celebrating Our Manufacturing Heritage By the South Milwaukee Historical Society and South Milwaukee Industrial Museum

South Milwaukee has a rich manufacturing history – and one company has embodied that heritage more than any other.

Bucyrus defined us for generations. We're proud of that legacy, and we are excited to tell that story in new and exciting ways for generations to come in the months and years ahead. Here is that story, as told by the South Milwaukee Industrial Museum. Look for this story and our complete City history, authored by the South Milwaukee Historical Society, when we launch our new City website later this year.

THE EARLY YEARS

The founders of South Milwaukee envisioned an industrial city, south of Milwaukee on Lake Michigan, with a railroad running through it and plenty of affordable and available land. They sought companies to fit that vision and, in doing so, turned their sights more than 300 miles to the east. The Bucyrus Foundry and Manufacturing Company

of Bucyrus, Ohio, was experiencing growing pains because they could not expand beyond their existing one-and-a-half-acre location. A delegation of the founders visited Bucyrus, and after protracted negotiations, a contract was signed on October 3, 1891: Bucyrus would move from Ohio to Wisconsin.

The South Milwaukee Company would pay Bucyrus \$50,000 in cash and land valued at \$45,000. Eight acres were adjacent to the railroad tracks, five acres of building lots, and two acres of dock space on Lake Michigan. A railroad spur line would also be constructed to connect their plant to the lake. Chicago Road was also rerouted from its crossing of Oak Creek at Hawthorne Avenue, so as not to cut through the Bucyrus property. (It formerly ran on a diagonal from the creek crossing to the current railroad depot.) Bucyrus completed plans for the new factory in July 1892, and the Chicago construction firm of Whitney

and Starings completed the first buildings by January of 1893. Bucyrus realized that transportation costs would be higher and that attracting workers would be difficult with this move. The new factory location initially lacked civic infrastructure, described by some of the Ohio visitors as "inadequate housing, unpaved streets hub-deep in mud, and a lack of community life." Because of that, less than 10 percent of the Ohio workforce came to South Milwaukee to work.

Trains brought workers from Milwaukee, others were recruited, and the men stayed in company-provided barracks until they could find other housing. Among the immigrant groups who found employment and flourished in South Milwaukee were the Polish, Armenians, Germans and Bohemians. Early employment averaged 100 men, about 50 percent more than in Ohio. While the company acquired greatly improved production facilities, the advantage was offset by the loss of

efficiency due to the new and much larger workforce.

The company officially began operations in South Milwaukee in April of 1893, and would incorporate in Wisconsin as the Bucyrus Steam Shovel and Dredge Company on August 16, 1893. It continued to serve as the dominant employer in South Milwaukee for more than 115 years. Early South Milwaukee machine production focused on railroad and dredge equipment. Its railroad cranes, pile drivers and steam shovels helped build the world's infrastructure. Most notably, 77 steam shovels were provided for the construction of the Panama Canal. Between 1902 and 1911, 60% of the company's shipments were steam shovels, with 30% in dredges.

Bucyrus bought land surrounding the plant between 1912 and 1927, and developed the street, water and sewer infrastructure. It sold the lots to employees to build their homes for cost, to encourage a sense of community and loyalty to the company. It also provided an employee bonus program to guarantee second mortgages on homes for up to 20 percent of the building price. In 1919, Bucyrus lent its financial support (approximately \$23,000) to start the "Liberty Home Building Association," which funded construction for many of the surrounding home building projects.

As the new factory expanded, it became self-sufficient, adding foundry and forging processes. During World War I, Bucyrus forged more than 150,000 eight-inch artillery shells and produced 100 recoil slides for field artillery pieces. It also produced numerous railway cranes and equipment for European allies. After the war, markets expanded and mobile shovel models of various sizes became the main production focus. In 1927, the company purchased the Erie Steam Shovel Company and changed the name to Bucyrus Erie. During World War II, Bucyrus produced draglines, shovels, 240-millimeter Howitzer cannon

barrels caissons, dozer-shovels, and other equipment to support the war efforts. In 1942, Bucyrus had 507 of its 2,000 employees volunteer or get drafted into service; women entered the workforce in large numbers to fill the voids.

After WWII, the company expanded north of the old Rawson Avenue plant boundary to cover another 22 acres, and new foundry operations, heat treatment, and casting and weldment storage areas were added. By the 1950s, "BE" machines would be performing work

► **This gift will ensure that future generations will come to know the story of Bucyrus, and the equipment thousands of South Milwaukee residents built, to build the world.** ◀

on every continent, and the company eventually became the world's largest construction and mining machine supplier. For years, the South Milwaukee plant operated three shifts around the clock to support what the machine industry labeled "The Longest Line" of construction, mining, lifting and material-moving equipment in the world.

Bucyrus Erie again changed its name in 1997 to Bucyrus International to reflect the worldwide business reputation that the company enjoyed. Bucyrus eventually purchased three of its largest competitors – Marion Power Shovel, DBT America and Terex – to make South Milwaukee the largest mining machinery supplier city in the world. At one point, Bucyrus employed more than 2,400 people in South Milwaukee. Worldwide, it had 3,700 employees and 17 plants and subsidiary operations.

BUCYRUS FOUNDATION MAKES FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO CITY

On February 20, 2020, the Bucyrus Foundation announced an historic investment in its legacy in the City the company called home for nearly 120 years. The Foundation and other project leaders announced a \$2 million gift to the City of South Milwaukee to enable two projects to help transform the City's downtown: \$1.5 million toward the renovation of the now City-owned property at 1919 12th Ave., and \$500,000 toward the development of a City-owned public space at 11th and Madison Avenues, currently home to the South Milwaukee Downtown Market and other community events.

The building will be named the Bucyrus Club, as it was during eight-plus decades under the company's ownership of the property. It will feature a premier banquet facility operated by Skyline Catering Inc., and the South Milwaukee Industrial Museum LLC. The public space will also pay homage to the Bucyrus name.

"The Bucyrus Foundation is proud to make this contribution honoring South Milwaukee's proud past and promising future, and the legacy and heritage of Bucyrus. We were honored to call South Milwaukee home for more than 100 years. This gift will ensure that future generations will come to know the story of Bucyrus, and the equipment thousands of South Milwaukee residents built, to build the world," says Tim Sullivan, Bucyrus Foundation Chairman.

Read more about on the Bucyrus Club on the following page.

► More About the Bucyrus Club



New Home On The Way for Skyline Catering and South Milwaukee Industrial Museum – Plus New Gathering Space

The new Bucyrus Club, to be born at 1919 12th Avenue in the City of South Milwaukee, is being made possible with a \$2 million gift to the City from the Bucyrus Foundation. The Bucyrus Club will feature a premier banquet facility operated by Skyline Catering Inc., and the South Milwaukee Industrial Museum LLC. A public gathering space will also be included.

“This is a transformational project for our downtown and our City,” says South Milwaukee Mayor Erik Brooks. “It will bring our proud past to life, telling the story of Bucyrus, its workers and their impact on the City and the world in a unique way. We are incredibly proud of our heritage in South Milwaukee, and this project will do that – and more – for generations to come.” He continues, “We could not do this alone. That is why I am so thankful for partners like the Bucyrus Foundation, South Milwaukee Industrial Museum and Skyline Catering. Without them, this project would never become reality.”

About 1919 12th Avenue

One of the City’s most historic properties, 1919 12th Avenue was home to South Milwaukee’s first manufacturer (Schutz Bros. Furniture Company). Parts of the building date back to 1892. After a brief period of ownership by the Racine Fire Engine and Motor Company, Bucyrus purchased the building in 1910 for use as its west machine shop and steam engine assembly shop. All of the steam engines for the iconic Panama Canal shovels and railroad cranes were built by Bucyrus, and were manufactured in this building.

In 1920, Bucyrus reconfigured the building as an employee club, including dining space, a bar, bowling alleys and a second-floor gymnasium, stage and handball court. The Club cafeteria also served several hundred meals a day to employees, and hosted countless company parties, management meetings, civic and awards banquets, and was the home for the BE Quarter Century Club for about 75 years. In 1994, the building became the South Milwaukee Community Center,

operated by the South Milwaukee Lions Club until new ownership changed the use to Papa Luigi’s II in 2006. Following water damage about six years ago, a few other occupants have since used the building.

About Skyline Catering

Skyline Catering, Inc. is a family-owned catering business serving corporate and private clients with an award-winning reputation of knowing and listening to its clients’ needs, customizing all levels of catered events, and providing on-time, impeccable service and cuisine. Skyline Catering is owned by South Milwaukee residents Ernie and Kathy Wunsch, who are very involved with the community, and are passionate about investing in its development. The renovated space will bring a variety of events, ranging from small community groups and wedding receptions, to corporate events of more than 400 to the Bucyrus Club. The Club will eventually be open to the public for Friday fish fries and special events.

About the South Milwaukee Industrial Museum LLC

The South Milwaukee Industrial Museum’s mission as a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational entity that will serve as an educational center that includes engineering archives from Bucyrus’ rich history. The Museum’s mission is to provide the public with access to artifacts, written records, photographic images and publications that explore the history, innovations and technology development of the machines that were designed, manufactured and erected by Bucyrus International, Inc., its predecessor companies, and its merged companies, in South Milwaukee.

The South Milwaukee Industrial Museum has been managed by an all-volunteer board and advisor group since its inception in March of 2017. Now, in its new permanent home, the Museum will celebrate the rich industrial history of South Milwaukee for future generations.

► Bucyrus defined us for generations. We’re proud of that legacy, and we are excited to tell that story in new and exciting ways for generations to come. ◀

► COVID-19 Update: Visiting City Buildings or Accessing City Services? As of July 1, 2020



South Milwaukee municipal buildings, including City Hall, have reopened with normal hours, with changes in how we serve customers due to the ongoing pandemic. These changes are in addition to those already in place as the City delivers other key services.

We encourage you to conduct as much business as possible online at our City website, the SeeClickFix app and via telephone inquiries. If a visit to a City building is necessary, we suggest making appointments with the appropriate department. This ensures you can receive service promptly, as staff are being tasked with different assignments at this time. You may also be able to get your business done without having to visit a city building, limiting in-person contact. The main City Hall phone number is 414.762.2222.

The public is encouraged to wear face coverings when visiting municipal buildings, and masks have been provided to all City employees. Across all City buildings, more vigilant sanitation practices are in effect, including more frequent cleanings throughout the day. Hand sanitizer is being made available throughout all City buildings. If you have been exposed to COVID-19 or are showing signs and symptoms, please do not visit City buildings.

Limited services are being offered at the South Milwaukee Public Library at this time, including curbside pickup and

reference librarian services via phone and email.

The following services are available by appointment:

- Public computer access.
- New library card requests.
- Fax and copy services.
- Tax forms and notary services.

Unfortunately, patrons will not be able to browse for books in person, but online browsing is available. Please visit the Library's website (smlibrary.org) or call the Library at 414.768.8195 for more information.

Visit the City website at smwi.org for more COVID-19 related information.



DONATIONS APPRECIATED

Want to help?
We are accepting donations of the following new and unused items:



- Medical exam gloves
- Simple/dust masks
- N95 Respirator masks
- Disinfecting cleaning supplies (Lysol spray, disinfecting wipes, etc.)
- Containers of unopened hand sanitizer

To kindly donate, please email donations@smwi.org
to arrange a drop off at SMFD

Health Department COVID-19 Update

The South Milwaukee/St. Francis Health Department continues to work on controlling the Coronavirus (COVID-19) global pandemic. Please remember the following to keep you safe at this time:

Signs and Symptoms of COVID-19

- Fever or chills
- Cough and sore throat
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue and muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting and diarrhea

If you develop signs and symptoms, self-isolate by keeping your distance from others and, if you are able, wear a mask. Please contact your healthcare provider for information on where to get a test for COVID-19.

Physical Distancing and Protective Measures

- Maintaining physical distancing of six feet between people.
- Washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer.
- Covering coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hands).
- Regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces.
- Not shaking hands.
- Use of a mask or cloth face covering.

Note: The use of masks or cloth face coverings is strongly recommended but shall not be required due to equity concerns regarding the challenges that either may cause for individuals because of disabilities and/or shortages of PPE.

Gatherings

- The recommendation is to keep mass gatherings at less than 50 people until there is a substantial decrease in the number of people testing positive.
- If attending a small gathering, maintain physical distance and use protective measures.

► Strong, Innovative SM Public Library Helping To Build a Better South Milwaukee



The South Milwaukee Library hosts handsome and comfortable spaces for reading, research, computer use and more.

The South Milwaukee Public Library remains closed except for limited services due to the pandemic. When it reopens, please take advantage of some of these new initiatives.

As the Library Director since summer 2019, Kathy Manning has been busy getting to know patrons and working with staff and volunteers to implement new technologies and important initiatives for Library users. Take advantage of these many initiatives offered by the South Milwaukee Public Library:

Self-Check-Outs Help On-the-Go Patrons

- Self-check-out PCs are located in the Adult (main level) and Children's (second floor) areas. Some days you want to chat about a book or movie and some days you want to get your items and go. We get it! And, you can check out items while the kids are playing or in Storytime. Or, your kids can check out their own items without mixing items with their sibling's pile.
- No staff has lost or will lose their job because of having self-check-out PCs. Many projects are waiting for available staff time and the technology provides time for the needed staff project work.

An Area Created for Young Adults

- The new dedicated Young Adult area provides comfortable bench seating, coloring for relaxation, games, and a white board for doodles and magnetic poetry. Items highlighting a theme are displayed each month and available for check out.
- Space for more Young Adult items (25% more!) was realized when we reduced some of our print magazines, especially those available digitally through the RBdigital App.

Author Visits With a Local Perspective

Wisconsin authors of non-fiction works give author talks several times a year. This includes our own Wisconsin author and South Milwaukee Library staff member, Matt Prigge.

Become a Friend of the South Milwaukee Library

The Friends of the South Milwaukee Library support most of the Children's

and Adult programs throughout the year. Join this dynamic non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that provides valuable library support (membership is only \$5). Other ways to support the Friends: shop on Smile.Amazon.com and select the Friends of the South Milwaukee Library as your charity of choice; frequent the Book Nook in the Library (selections change weekly); shop at the May and November Book Sales; and watch for other Friends events and fundraisers.

Grants To Introduce Young Learners to STEAM Fields

The Library was awarded two grants to help it engage the community's elementary-grade students in science, technology, engineering, math and art. The grants totaling \$2,900 are from Eaton Corporation/Milwaukee Chapter of the Institute of Electronic and Electrical Engineers and a Wisconsin LSTA-Library Service and Technology Act Grant through Sequences & Stories. Both grants will be used in 2020.



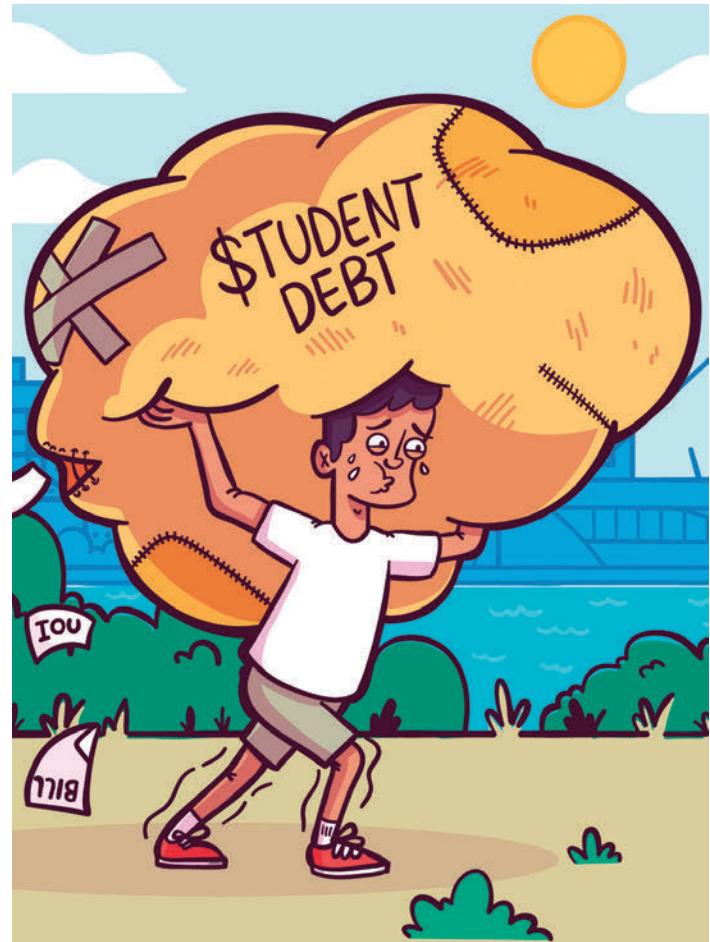
Library and Historical Society Preserve City's Proud Past

The South Milwaukee Historical Society has raised funds to digitize many decades of South Milwaukee newspapers. The Library holds a treasure trove of cataloged newspapers that date to 1893 on old microfilm technology. When converted, the result will be increased access and search ability, including genealogy and local research.

Need a Library Card – or Have Yours Updated?

Library cards need to be updated every two years to remain active. Stop in and we will quickly issue you a new Library card or update your current one. Bring a photo I.D. and a current document with your address. For the latest Library information, visit smlibrary.org.

See the next page for a sampling of upcoming Library programs for adults, teens and children.



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► City of South Milwaukee Public Library Upcoming Programming

Here is a sampling of summer Library programs for children, teens and adults. Please visit smlibrary.org or call 414.768.8195 for more information – dates/events are subject to change.

KIDS SUMMER READING PROGRAMS

Zoom Storytimes

Tuesdays, July 7, July 14, July 28, August 4 • 10 a.m. on Zoom
No registration required – free!

Mystery STEM Bags

Pick up at the Library every Monday-Friday until August 7 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Pick up a STEM (science-themed) paper bag from the Library each week. No registration required – free!

Take-Home Crafts

Pick up at the Library every Monday-Friday through August 7 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Pick up a craft bag at the Library, take it home and put the craft together. No registration required – free!

Photo Scavenger Hunt

Weekly until August 7
Check our website and Facebook page for a weekly photo scavenger hunt. No registration required – free!

Storyteller Coral Conant Gilles

Tuesday, July 21 • 10 a.m.
Listen to storyteller Coral Conant Gilles share some fantastic stories with us at the Library. No registration required – free!

Science/Cooking Demonstrations

Thursdays through August 6 10 a.m.

Online (Platform TBD)
Join us for a science experiment or cooking demonstration online. No registration required – free!

Rhyme Time

Fridays through August 7 • 10 a.m. Online (Platform TBD)
No registration required – free!

Virtual Show and Tell

Wednesday, July 22 • 10 a.m. on Zoom
No registration required – free!

TEEN SUMMER READING PROGRAMS For Ages 12-18

Read for fun and to win gift cards from Amazon, Starbucks and Target! Record your reading on our Beanstack site (smlibrary.beanstack.org), or request paper logs to be included in your curbside pickup orders.

Virtual Trivia Challenge

Started Wednesday, June 24
Submit your completed guesses to receive a raffle ticket for another chance to win gift card prizes.

Virtual Scavenger Hunt

Starts Wednesday, July 8
Follow the clues to complete the Scavenger Hunt. Complete and submit the hunt for an extra raffle ticket to enter our raffle drawing for a gift card.

Weave Your Own Story

Starts Wednesday, July 22
Use your imagination and our supplies to create your own artwork symbolizing part of your life story (or your own fantasy). Sign up to receive your supplies by calling 414.768.8195, while supplies last.

Virtual Harry Potter Trivia

Friday, July 31
Visit smlibrary.org or call 414.768.8195 for more information on this free event for teens and adults. Please register starting July 17.

ADULT SUMMER PROGRAMS

Adult Summer Reading Challenge

June 15-August 15

Record your reading throughout the summer on our online summer reading platform (smlibrary.beanstack.org) and earn raffle tickets for chances to win a \$25 gift card. Visit smlibrary.org or call 414.768.8195 for more information.

South Milwaukee Library Virtual Book Club

Ongoing

Join our virtual book club on Facebook to share your current reading recommendations, ask for reading suggestions, and discuss a chosen book each month that we read together. All books that we choose to read together will be available for digital checkout with your Milwaukee County library card through our digital resource hoopla.

Virtual Trivia Night

Friday, July 31

Test your knowledge of fantasy, science fiction, pop culture, and more! Prizes available for top winners. Please register starting July 17.

Flower Pot DIY

Wednesday, August 12 • 6:30 p.m. @ South Milwaukee Library

YouTube Channel

Request a craft bag to be picked up at the Library and craft with us on YouTube. Call the Library at 414.768.8195 to request a craft bag starting August 5, while supplies last.



► South Milwaukee Named Tree City USA

On Arbor Day, April 24, South Milwaukee was named a 2019 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation, joining more than 3,600 cities across the country and close to 200 in Wisconsin. This designation is a recognition of South Milwaukee's "commitment to effective urban forest management," and the people, processes and programs we have put in place in the last five years that are truly making a difference. Special thanks go to the Street and Engineering Departments for continuing to apply this commitment to urban forestry every day.

This includes stepping up our fight against emerald ash borer, which has unfortunately led to the removal of more than 500 dead or dying ash trees across the City, and hundreds of others due to health, growth conditions and inappropriate size.

But here is the good news, and why we have received this designation: We have committed to planting programs that saw nearly 300 trees planted in the public right of way in the last five years. This is thanks to efforts like our Adopt a Tree program, our school Arbor Day efforts (which we hope to resume in the fall), and other City-sponsored plantings.

We have a lot more ground to make up, and we will, with dozens of more plantings coming with the Milwaukee Avenue improvements project, and beyond. Of course, this honor is also about managing that forest, and we are doing that more effectively than we ever have, now through our Street Department.

"Residents of the City of South Milwaukee should be proud to live in a community that makes the planting and care of trees a priority," Arbor Day Foundation President Dan Lambe wrote in a letter to the City. "If ever there was a time for trees, now is that time. Communities worldwide are facing issues with air quality, water resources, personal health and well-being, and energy use. The City of South Milwaukee is stepping up to do its part. As a result of your commitment to effective urban forest management, you are helping to provide a solution to these challenges."



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STAY UNITED.**

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The staff at Molthen-Bell includes (from left to right): Nick Schilling-Funeral Director, Pam Bierbach-Community Events Coordinator, Colette Maass-Office Manager and John Klein-General Manager.

► Business Spotlight: Molthen-Bell Funeral Home A Passion for Caring and Celebrating One's Life

Quite often, death is a subject we avoid discussing, thinking about and planning for. While we all know that death is inevitable, many are unwilling to think it will ever happen to us. And yet, by facing death and making advance preparations, we not only can become comfortable with it, but also can make things easier for those we leave behind.

Thankfully, Molthen-Bell Funeral Home, one of the most trusted names in bereavement services in South Milwaukee, is here to help. Molthen-Bell has upheld a tradition of compassionate attention and care for four generations over more than 100 years. So whether it's for yourself or a loved one, Molthen-Bell's dedicated staff can guide you through the process of funeral planning, and ease what many consider to be a difficult task during a challenging time. They understand the importance of planning a funeral with authenticity and love, while providing unparalleled care and service. Molthen-Bell's rich history has prepared its team to address clients' concerns as trends of funeral service options have evolved over the years.

THE EARLY YEARS

The Molthen-Bell story is one of family, community and humble roots. Founded by Simon Rosenblatt in 1916, Molthen Funeral Home first opened in a small storefront on the 1000 block of South Milwaukee Avenue. Simon wanted to assure that his daughter Rose's then-suitor, Anthony Molthen, would have good, reputable work. So he hired and trained Anthony, an industrial painter at the time.

By the mid-1920s, the families had built a new funeral home at 700 Milwaukee Avenue, the current site of Molthen-Bell. Simon financed the construction of the new building and Anthony took care of the operations. His son, Anthony Molthen, Jr., joined his father in the family business, and by 1940, was named manager.

When Anthony Sr. passed away in 1952, his wife Rose became owner of the business. Their daughter Antoinette subsequently married Raphael Bell, and his partnership with Anthony Jr. solidified the Molthen-Bell name. In 1990, Anthony G. Molthen and Jeff Bell purchased the business. Later, a fourth-generation member of the family, Cory Stephens, who is

Anthony Jr.'s grandson, also became a part owner and a vital member of the Molthen-Bell team.

Although the business is no longer directly owned by the family today, it is run just as the founders had planned. Bell and other directors at Molthen-Bell carry the original values and beliefs of the founders, that "serving the family of a deceased love one is an honor." Jeff Bell continues to assist families with pre-arrangements and Cory Stephens often attends services.

TODAY'S SERVICES/TRENDS

Over the years, Molthen-Bell has recognized that funeral services should acknowledge and commemorate the life of a loved one. Whereas two generations ago, traditional funerals (visitation, funeral service and service at the cemetery) were common and expected, the needs and expectations of today's families have changed. Now it's also common for families to choose cremation with a memorial service. Another popular funeral service option is a celebration of life event, that can take place wherever and whenever a family chooses.

Molthen-Bell has also seen changing trends in amenities, and has introduced

new options not available as recently as 10 years ago. All are designed to make each funeral more meaningful to the family of the deceased. For example, Molthen-Bell now offers specialty holy cards and memorial folders with the deceased's photo added – or a poem, special prayer or verse. Video presentations, including family photos, are also popular. Plus, there are balloon and butterfly releases and specialty jewelry for family to wear. Luncheons at the funeral home are another option.

In addition, Molthen-Bell provides special funeral amenities for those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Any traditional burial service for a veteran receives a casket discount, and either a free embroidered military panel for the inside of the casket, or a memorial keepsake military medallion emblem on the funeral vehicle during the service. Molthen-Bell takes great pride in recognizing the men and women who have given so much for our freedom.



Pam Bierbach

According to Pam Bierbach, community events coordinator for Molthen-Bell, "Planning a funeral has evolved into planning an event that makes the service more meaningful to the family – whether

the service is religious, secular or a combination of the two," she explains. "However, the real takeaway from our work and the lives of those who have helped Molthen-Bell become what it is

today, is that we are all made stronger with the support of family and friends. Our community binds us in faith, service and common understanding."

Bierbach recalls one story that many still talk about today – the tale of Reggie Lisowski's (Da' Crusher) funeral. It took Molthen-Bell several days to orchestrate the entire ceremony, with an actual wrestling ring delivered to Holy Sepulcher Cemetery where he was buried.

Family, fans and wrestlers all came to say their goodbyes to this legendary man, as he was laid to rest in a very respectful and loving manner.

On the community side, Molthen-Bell takes pride in the City, and is very involved with events like the Heritage Days Parade, the Downtown Market and the Honor Flight Program. Being a business in South Milwaukee for 104+ years has been a blessing for this company, one that most businesses will never experience.

So whether you're seeking a traditional funeral, a cremation memorial, an elaborate tribute or a simple service, Molthen-Bell can help you stage a unique celebration of life for your loved one. Bierbach urges families to plan ahead so their wishes are known. They suggest you make a detailed plan of your funeral or memorial service that will help your survivors more easily acknowledge and celebrate your life, exactly as you want. Reach out and let Molthen-Bell know your preferences and needs. They stand ready to assist.

Molthen-Bell Funeral Home
700 Milwaukee Ave. • 414.762.0154
molthenbell.com



The welcoming lobby at Molthen-Bell features paintings of the original founders along with beautiful contemporary artwork.

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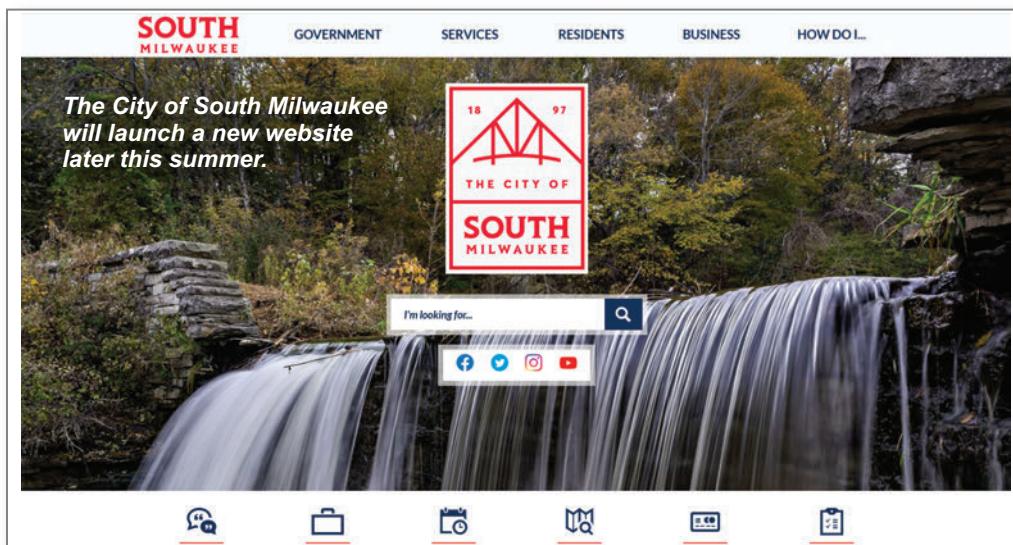
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CITY HIGHLIGHTS



The City of South Milwaukee will launch a new website later this summer.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES RESIDENTS BUSINESS HOW DO I...

THE CITY OF
SOUTH
MILWAUKEE

I'm looking for...

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Instagram](#) [YouTube](#)

City Launching New Website

The City of South Milwaukee is proud to announce the launch of its new City website later this summer. The new website will have a fresh look, new features, and will be easier to navigate, allowing visitors to more quickly get to the information and resources they need. It will also be more mobile-device friendly.

The site also makes it easier to make online payments, submit forms online, and monitor the calendar of city-sponsored events, among other upgrades. Amid the pandemic, this is another step we are taking to limit your need to conduct business in-person and keep you safe. The URL will remain the same: smwi.org.

Check back soon and see the changes for yourself. We welcome your feedback.

Stockbox Program

The Chester W. Grobschmidt Senior Center is a distribution site for the Stock Box Program, managed by Hunger Task Force. A Stockbox is a box of healthy foods that Hunger Task Force delivers to low-income seniors free of charge. Each box contains 16 nutritious items, including rice, cereal, juice, beef stew, pasta and vegetables.

Stock boxes are usually distributed from 10:30-11 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday

of the month in the back parking lot of City Hall. Paperwork can be filled out in the large hall area.

The Stockbox Program has the following eligibility guidelines. Participants need to live in Wisconsin, be at least 60 years of age, and have a **monthly income** that is less than, or equal to, the following:

Household

Size	60 years of age
1 person.....	\$1,354
2 people.....	\$1,832
3 people.....	\$2,311

Each month, nearly 9,000 boxes are delivered to seniors in Southeastern Wisconsin. For more information about this program, please contact Sandy at the Senior Center (quinlan@smwi.org or 414.768.8045), read the brochures available at the Senior Center, or call 211. This institution is an "equal opportunity provider."

Meals for Seniors

Although the Grobschmidt Senior Center remains closed, drive-thru meals are still being served to seniors 60 years and older. To get meals, fill out a Senior Dining Registration form – available on the Milwaukee County Department of Aging website, or at the Senior Center during pickup times. Bring the form to the Center prior to

picking up your first lunch, or email the form to Sandy Quinlan (quinlan@smwi.org). Meals are distributed in the back parking lot from 11 a.m. to noon. Reservations must be made by 11 a.m. the previous day at 414.768.5722. Monday reservations should be called in on Friday.

"Built Tuff" T-Shirts On Sale

Tuff, a 12-year-old English Bulldog, was rescued last winter by members of the South Milwaukee Fire Department after he fell through the ice near the South Milwaukee Yacht Club. In recognition of the heroic act of our firefighters and to commemorate Tuff's fearlessness, the City and the South Milwaukee Fire Department are offering "Built Tuff" t-shirts for sale in youth and adult sizes for \$20 each plus shipping. Proceeds will go toward the purchase of water/ice rescue equipment for the SM Fire Department and a donation to K9s for Warriors, the nation's largest provider of service dogs to disabled veterans. Almost 350 "Built Tuff" t-shirts have been sold. Get yours today at southmilwaukeecares.com. See Tuff's photo on pg. 33.

South Milwaukee Alum Films City Video

Last winter, South Milwaukee alum Kyle Olson returned to the City from his California home to film a Hometown Makeover contest submission for HGTV. Seen in the photo (to the right) is Mayor Erik Brooks (center) surrounded by the crew and City staff who helped film the contest submission, along with an economic development-themed marketing video. Kyle Olson is behind Mayor Brooks to the left. Bottom photo: The HGTV video included personal interviews with residents and business owners.

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**FILMING A HOMETOWN MAKEOVER
VIDEO FOR HGTV** (see text on opposite page).

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*Five Star Regional Senior Living
Community of the Year Award Winner*



Construction work continues along Milwaukee Avenue as this corridor receives new upgrades to create an attractive and functional Main Street.

► Downtown Investment: Milwaukee Avenue Improvement Project Is Well Underway

Phase 1 of the work started in 2019, and Phase 2 began earlier this year. The project's goal is to enhance the look and feel of Milwaukee Avenue between Ninth and 13th Avenues, encouraging private investment along the Avenue and the surrounding area by creating an attractive and functional Main Street for the long term. And you can already see the difference.

The project includes new sidewalks, street lighting, planters, bike racks, trees, traffic signal at 10th, benches, and other decorative features. There will also be the addition of bicycle lanes to create a spur of the Oak Leaf Trail through downtown.

On May 5, the South Milwaukee Common Council approved a contract with locally based EK Construction LLC for Phase 2 of the project. This work will include sidewalk removal and concrete replacement between the back of curb and buildings (except curb ramp areas completed in Phase 1). Terrace area concrete and 16-inch paver bands will be installed at new street tree planters. New trees will be purchased and installed with Phase 2, as well as bike lanes and parking stalls.

Work on Phase 2 will continue through July. Streetscaping amenities like planters, benches, and bike racks will be reviewed after Phase 2 is complete and ordered for spring 2021 installation.

For now, work on Phase 1 is complete, which began with installation of new LED lighting, and has also included:

- Pavement repairs and storm sewer upgrades.
- Modification of traffic signals at the intersection of Milwaukee Avenue and 13th Avenue to remove signal heads from banner poles, removal of banner poles and footings, and installation of new pedestal bases and poles.
- Installation of temporary traffic signals at 10th and Milwaukee, removal of existing traffic signal equipment, installation of a new controller, equipment, conduit and signal.
- Removal and replacement of deteriorated curb and gutter as identified, and curb for new curb ramp.
- Removal and replacement of curb and concrete pavement.
- Installation of new curb ramps and pavement marking for new signals, crosswalks and bike lane.

To stay up to date on the project, visit the Milwaukee Avenue Streetscaping page on the City website, or become a member of the Facebook group.



► City of South Milwaukee Staff Spotlight



Meet Karen Kastenson and Ben Huffman

Karen Kastenson started as the City clerk/comptroller in May 2019. Karen has a bachelor's degree from UW-Parkside, and has held numerous municipal positions prior to her time with the City of South Milwaukee. Most recently, she spent five years as

the deputy comptroller/ payroll coordinator for the City of Oak Creek. She has also worked for the Town of Yorkville, the Town of Raymond, and the Village of Sturtevant.

Karen has been married to Todd for 23 years, and they have four children: Dylan (21), Tanner (20), Kaitlyn (16), and Sawyer (14). Together, the family runs a small hobby farm and raise beef cattle. When Karen is not attending one of her children's many sporting events, she enjoys spending time camping, vacationing (to anywhere warm) or just relaxing. She is also part of a co-ed trap league, and her team of all women took first place last season.

The City Clerk's office is responsible for maintaining all official records of the City, receiving applications for – and issuing licenses and various permits, plus administration of elections and voter registration. The office also engages in financial administration, including payroll, budget preparation, and preparation of purchase requisitions and bill payment. The office also handles employee health insurance, property/liability insurance, building maintenance/security, communications and social media.

• **What was your first job?** *My first job was working at Corn Dog on a Stick.*

• **What is your favorite thing about working in local government?** *Every day there is something new. No two days are ever alike.*

• **What do you love most about South Milwaukee?** *The small-town feel.*

• **Describe South Milwaukee in three words:** Fun-loving, peaceful and quiet.

- **If you were to check out one book from the South Milwaukee Public Library, what would it be?** *If I had time to read, it would have to be something light and entertaining.*

Ben Huffman was appointed as the Wastewater Treatment Facility superintendent this past January. Ben has been a City employee for more than 14 years with the Wastewater and Street Departments. He held the position of assistant superintendent of the Wastewater Facility for three years prior to his promotion to superintendent.



Ben has been married to Wendi for 15 years, and they have two sons, Benny and Danny, who attend South Milwaukee Middle School. The Huffmans are also South Milwaukee residents. Ben's hobbies include fishing, meteorology and traveling.

The Wastewater Department is responsible for protecting public health by cleaning the water that you use to take a shower, do your laundry, and flush your toilet before it goes back into Lake Michigan. The wastewater goes through six processes at the treatment facility: fine screening, grit removal, primary settling, secondary biological treatment, final clarification and disinfection.

• **What was your first job?** *Paper boy for the Milwaukee Journal.*

• **What is your favorite thing about working in local government?** *Having the ability to be involved in the local community.*

• **What do you love the most about South Milwaukee?** *Lake Michigan, Grant Park and the schools.*

• **Describe South Milwaukee in three words:** *Friendly, picturesque and evolving.*

• **If you were to check out one book from the South Milwaukee Public Library, what would it be?** *Any book on natural science.*

Do you have an interest in employment with the City of South Milwaukee?

We are often looking for hard-working individuals that desire a career in public service.

Visit the City website (smwi.org) for open employment opportunities.

Diverse candidates are encouraged to apply!



► IT'S ELECTION TIME! Save the Date: Tuesday, August 11 for the 2020 Partisan Primary

The 2020 Partisan Primary on August 11 is the primary for a number of political offices that will appear on the 2020 General Election ballot in November.

What's on the ballot?

- Representative in Congress, District 4 (Federal Office)
- Representative to the Assembly, District 21 (State Office)
- District Attorney (State Office)
- County Clerk (County Office)
- County Treasurer (County Office)
- Register of Deeds (County Office)

NOTE: Because this is a Partisan Primary, please read the instructions on the ballot carefully to ensure that your vote is counted. If you need to register to vote, request an absentee ballot or locate your polling location, please visit MyVote (myvote.wi.gov).

The April 2020 Spring and Presidential Preference Election brought historic numbers for absentee voting in South Milwaukee, averaging 1,100 ballots per district. A separate group of election inspectors, known as Central Count, are dedicated to tabulating the absentee ballots on election day.

In preparation for future elections and the popularity of absentee voting, the City Clerk's office purchased three additional voting tabulators after the Common Council approval in May. These tabulators will assist in timely processing of the absentee ballots and keeping each voting district separate in processing the absentee ballots on election day. The new machines will be programmed and ready for the August primary. *For more information on elections in South Milwaukee, visit smwi.org/election.*

THE NEXT ELECTION: The 2020 General Election will take place on Tuesday, November 3.

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WOLF'S DRY CLEANERS & LAUNDRY • 3 LOCATIONS

20% OFF all sport coats & blazers

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. 9/18/20.

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All repairs & alterations**

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PACKARD WAY CLEANERS & TAILORS

**20% OFF
All winter coats & jackets
excludes leather & suede**

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. Limit one coupon per order. Exp. 9/18/20.

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► Happy 100th Birthday, Mayor Chet!

On June 8, the City of South Milwaukee celebrated the 100th birthday of former Mayor Chester W. Grobschmidt. Originally, the party would have welcomed all residents to participate. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic interfered. Instead, a parade including City vehicles

stopped by his residence in Oak Creek to celebrate. City staff presented Chet with a picture board expressing birthday wishes, a cheesecake (his favorite dessert), and a proclamation. **Happy birthday Mayor Chet, and thank you for your service to our community!**



South Milwaukee firefighters send birthday wishes to Mayor Chet!

Mayor Erik Brooks with former South Milwaukee Mayor Chet Grobschmidt.



► Storm Water Pollution Prevention

YOU CAN HELP REDUCE STORM WATER POLLUTION.

Residents can help keep waterways clean by picking up pet waste, proper lawn fertilizing, picking up litter, and proper disposal of grass clippings, used motor oil, anti-freeze, pesticides and other materials. Don't wash pollutants into storm sewer inlets. **Remember – every effort helps improve water quality!**

- **Don't be a BUTT HEAD** Cigarette butts and filters are a leading cause of storm water pollution that can be easily prevented. Use receptacles or dispose of properly!
- **Don't Litter** Put litter in a trash can and recycle when possible.
- **Clean Up Pet Waste** Pick it up, double bag it and put it in the garbage.
- **Manage Yard Waste** Do not direct grass clippings from mower into the street. Grass clippings, leaves, garden debris and other yard waste should be reused as mulch or put in a compost pile. These materials can also be taken to the City's Self-Deposit Station (1108 Blake Ave.) for proper management. If you have questions about yard waste, contact the Street Department at (414) 768-8075.
- **Properly Use Fertilizers and Other Lawn Chemicals with Caution** Apply fertilizers and other lawn

chemicals in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations or use a natural alternative. Choose products that do not contain phosphorus or other pesticides.

• Recycle Waste Motor Oil and Used Anti-Freeze

DO NOT dump oil, anti-freeze or other chemicals or material onto the street or into storm drains. Deliver waste motor oil and used antifreeze to the City's Self-Deposit Station for proper recycling.

• Minimize Salt Use During winter months, use salt and other de-icing materials sparingly on sidewalks and driveways.

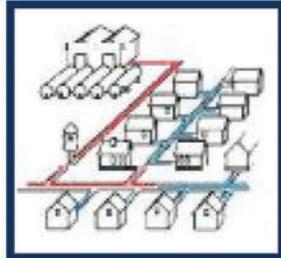
• Keep Car Wash Water and Other Pollutants Out of Storm Sewers Wash your car in a location where the water will soak into grass, and use environmentally friendly products.

• Properly Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste Pesticides, paints, solvents and other chemicals should be taken to Household Hazardous Waste Collection sites.

Remember... Storm drains carry runoff from yards, streets and sidewalks directly into Lake Michigan and Oak Creek. Please, do your part and help protect these vital resources!



Residential Water User Cross-Connection Hazards *Bathrooms & Kitchens*



What is a Cross-Connection?

A cross-connection is an actual or potential connection between the safe drinking water (potable) supply and a source of contamination or pollution. State plumbing codes require approved backflow prevention methods to be installed at every point of potable water connection and use. Cross-Connections must be properly protected or eliminated.

How does contamination occur?

When you turn on your faucet, you expect the water to be as safe as when it left the treatment plant. However, certain hydraulic conditions left unprotected within your plumbing system may allow hazardous substances to contaminate your own drinking water or even the public water supply. Water normally flows in one direction. However, under certain conditions, water can actually flow backwards; this is known as Backflow. There are two situations that can cause water to flow backward: back siphonage and backpressure.

Back Siphonage

May occur due to a loss of pressure in the municipal water system during a fire fighting emergency, a water main break or system repair. This creates a siphon in your plumbing system which can draw water out of a sink or bucket and back into your water or the public water system.

Backpressure

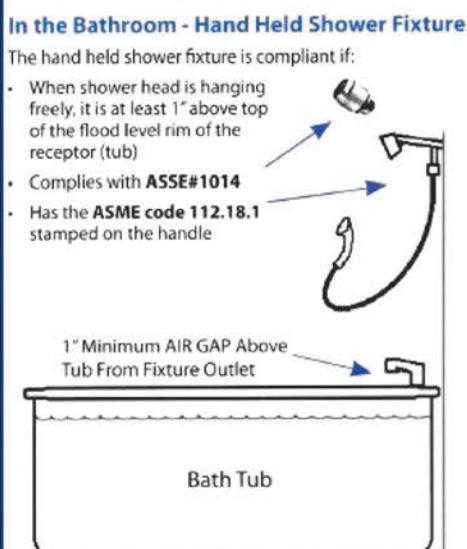
May be created when a source of pressure (such as a boiler) creates a pressure greater than the pressure supplied from the public water system. This may cause contaminated water to be pushed into your plumbing system through an unprotected cross-connection.

Did you know...

Your water can become contaminated if connections to your plumbing system are not properly protected! The purpose of the local Cross-Connection Control Program, as required by State Plumbing Code and Regulations, is to ensure that everyone in the community has safe, clean drinking water.

Public Health & Safety...

To avoid contamination, backflow preventers are required by state plumbing codes wherever there is an actual or potential hazard for a cross-connection. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources requires all public water suppliers to maintain an on-going Cross-Connection Control Program involving public education, onsite inspections and possible corrective actions by building owners if required.

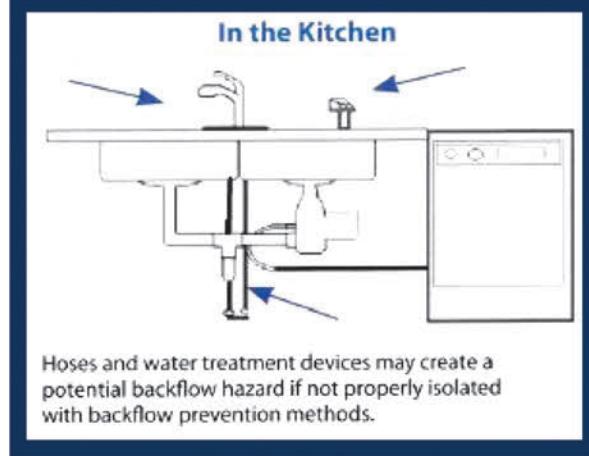
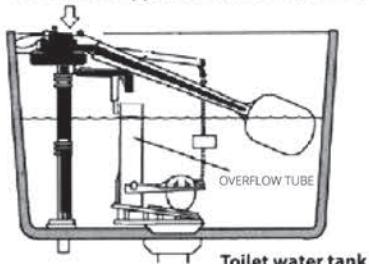


In the Bathroom - Toilet Tanks

There are many unapproved toilet tank fill valve products sold at common retailers which do not meet the state plumbing code requirements for backflow prevention.

- Look for the ASSE #1002 Standard symbol on the device and packaging
- Replace any unapproved devices with an ASSE #1002 approved anti siphon ball-cock assembly. Average cost is typically \$12 to \$22 at home improvement stores
- Verify overflow tube is one inch below critical level (CL) marking on the device

ASSE #1002 Approved Ball Cock Assembly



Protect Your Drinking Water

Do...

- Keep the ends of hoses clear of all possible contaminants.
- Make sure dishwashers are installed with a proper "air gap" device.
- Verify and install a simple hose bibb vacuum breaker on all threaded faucets around your home.
- Make sure water treatment devices such as water softeners have the proper "air gap", which is a minimum of one inch above any drain.

Hose bibb Vacuum Breaker



Don't...

- Submerge hoses in buckets, pools, tubs, sinks or ponds.
- Use spray attachments without a backflow prevention device.
- Connect waste pipes from water softeners or other treatment systems directly to the sewer or submerged drain pipe. Always be sure there is a one inch "air gap" separation.





Left: Dr. Kelly J. Dries, MATC Healthcare Pathway dean, prepares supplies the college donated to hospitals.



► MATC Moves 1,600 Classes Online and Continues High-Quality Instruction

When the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) crisis required colleges to suspend in-person classes, Milwaukee Area Technical College quickly pivoted so its students could continue to pursue their dreams while safely at home. The college increased the number of online courses to 1,600 and provided new resources for the students entering campus through clicks on a keyboard. MATC was able to meet the community's need for expanded at-home learning options because it has been offering quality online courses for 20 years.

MATC's Credits Transfer for Bachelor's Degrees

Over the years, MATC's online offerings of general education courses, which are specifically designed to transfer to four-year colleges and universities, have been popular with bachelor's degree-seeking students who take courses while at home during summer and winter breaks.

MATC is one of only five Wisconsin technical colleges offering liberal arts four-year transfer programs in addition to its technical diploma and certificate programs.

"Now, as students remain in the Milwaukee area this summer and fall due to COVID-19, it's anticipated that more individuals will take MATC's online four-year transfer courses, such as English, mathematics, natural sciences, social sciences and humanities," says Dr. Mark Felsheim, executive director of MATC's Oak Creek Campus.

The college offers smaller class sizes and affordable tuition rates, providing a strong value. To learn more, contact a recruiter at recruitment@matc.edu.

Pre-Majors for Four-Year Degrees

For students interested in starting their bachelor's degree at MATC, the Associate of Arts (A.A.) and Associate of Science (A.S.) degrees in the college's General Education pathway can be completed in two years of full-time study. An online accelerated program offers five accelerated sessions that can be finished in a year.

Completing these associate degree programs provides the opportunity for transfer to a four-year school with junior standing. MATC also offers several pre-major programs. Through them, students get a head start on an area of interest:

- Chemical Technology (A.S.) provides instruction in state-of-the-art labs.
- Economics (A.S.) prepares students to pursue finance, economics and business bachelor's degrees.
- Community Engagement (A.A.) explores contemporary urban issues and social action.
- Global Studies (A.A.) emphasizes foreign language study and exploring multicultural perspectives.
- Teacher Education (A.A.) prepares students to pursue bachelor's degrees in K-12 education.

Call 414.297.6584, email genedpathway@matc.edu or visit matc.edu/course-catalog/general-education to learn more about MATC's liberal arts programs. Students also should consult with the four-year school regarding specific requirements for transferring credits.



MATC graduates fill IT, protective services, healthcare, truck driving and other front-line roles.

“Especially at this time, we see the power of an MATC education in our alumni on the front lines keeping our community healthy and safe.”

— Dr. Mark Felsheim, Campus Executive Director

Supporting Student Success

MATC strives to make sure students learning at home feel connected to the college community. Instructors reaching out to students during the pandemic has proved impactful.

Horticulture instructor Delisa White received this email from student Brian Morrison: “You people are amazing! I can’t express enough kind words to tell you how much of a positive impact you make on so many lives. I, for one, am extremely thankful. Honestly, you are some of today’s unrecognized heroes.”

To assist students during the Spring semester, the college:

- Provided Chromebook laptops to 1,000 students who did not have access to a home computer.
- Set up live chats with MATC’s IT Helpdesk for technology assistance.
- Began Wellness Wednesdays with online yoga and mindfulness exercises.
- Offered online advising, counseling and tutoring resources.
- Met students’ increased need for emergency grants to help with food, housing and other expenses.
- Expanded its partnership with Froedtert Hospital to provide students no-cost telehealth visits and mental health resources.

Proud To Be MATC



MATC’s mission centers on its commitment to serve the community. One example is MATC respiratory therapist instructor Mike Christman, who cared for COVID-19 patients in a New York City hospital and shared experiences with his students online. When New York Governor Andrew Cuomo desperately asked healthcare providers to come help, “that kind of hit home with me,” Christman says. The college has donated personal protective

equipment and other healthcare supplies to several Milwaukee-area hospitals, and food from its culinary programs was given to the nonprofit Hunger Task Force.

“Especially at this time, we see the power of an MATC education in our alumni on the front lines keeping our community healthy and safe,” Dr. Felsheim says. He notes that MATC graduates are working as healthcare providers, EMTs, police officers and firefighters; manufacturing in-demand goods; running IT networks; managing supply chain logistics; driving trucks; and more.

Enrollment is underway for MATC’s Fall semester, which starts August 24. To learn more about the college, see matc.edu/visit or email recruitment@matc.edu.



Dr. Mark Felsheim

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▶ How South Milwaukee Schools Have Addressed the COVID-19 Pandemic

A Message from SM School Superintendent Dr. Jeff Weiss



Thursday, March 12, was a crazy day – one that completely changed the landscape of serving our students and community. We relied on, and continue to rely heavily on our local Health Department officials to keep our school community safe. Our communication to our community has been ongoing and will continue to be so as we evolve through this pandemic.

Our top priority during this pandemic has always been to ensure the safety, to the best of our ability, of our students, staff and community. We have followed the lead of health field experts and will continue to do so. With that said, we have not shied away from our Mission, “We, along with our community, commit to deliberate excellence for all learners by engaging and educating the whole person to succeed in a dynamic society.”

Throughout this past school year, we worked with our school community to engage our students and to continue learning. Our parents have been very good partners in this process, and for that we are forever grateful to them.

We have developed a three-pronged strategy to ensure that we are advancing our Mission during this pandemic.

First, we have made available technologies to our students that will allow for engagement to happen. These technologies include Chromebooks, wireless access points, subscriptions to online resources, and intuitive software that promotes communication between stakeholders.

Second, we continue to provide education and resources to our students. This includes lessons that are delivered via technology. However, it is important to note, the hardest item to address via technology is the social-emotional needs of our students. We feel very vulnerable being physically disconnected from our students for such a long time.

We activated our partnership with Saint A's* to help address the most obvious areas of mental health needs, but we know that in order to be fully effective we need to remove the physical barrier that is COVID-19.

Third, we are committed to strong and consistent communication among

stakeholders. This includes two-way communication between the District, school, staff, parents and students.

We had great success in making sure our youth had access to breakfast and lunch throughout the pandemic. We have served more than 28,000 breakfasts and 28,000 lunches – and have made them available at three different sites. We plan to continue this throughout the summer months and hope to be back to normal operations come September. The School District of South Milwaukee has taken advantage of any time available to prepare our staff and buildings to be ready to bring students back as soon as we are able.

I would like to close with a huge shout out to our staff. They have really come through for our community. When I say staff, I mean EVERYONE has taken the time to rally support for our school community. They have reached out to students, parents and, in some cases, the general community. One such instance happened in each of our neighborhoods with “school parades” where staff took to the streets in their decorated vehicles

Left: Congratulations to the Class of 2020 at South Milwaukee High School. Wishing them much success in their chosen career fields.

and spread the pride of the Bobcats, Wolves, Lions and Leopards. It was very rewarding to see the anticipation of families that lined their front yards and showed their school pride.

In addition, our staff have reached out to hospitals and local first responders in the area, and supplied them with masks, cleaning agents and other items that could help in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please know that you, as a representative of South Milwaukee, have a lot to be proud of here. The School Board, staff and students are very grateful for your representation, and want you to know that our community is committed to moving forward and closing this chapter in our history.

Have a safe and healthy summer!
Respectfully,
Dr. Jeffrey Weiss, Superintendent

* The SaintA organization has served the community for 170 years. Its mission is to facilitate equity, learning, healing and wellness by restoring connections that help children and families thrive. SaintA strives to address the impact of trauma, prevent adversity and promote resilience – empowering people to overcome barriers to well-being, poverty, poor education outcomes, unemployment and discrimination.



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► School District of South Milwaukee: Priority Area Update for 2019-2020

Since joining the South Milwaukee School District as superintendent last July, I have been impressed with all of the support and trust that our community has placed in the School District. I've had the opportunity to meet many people in the community – during football games, the homecoming parade, the holiday parade and other school events. And through my conversations with parents, community members and staff, three areas of focus for the 2019-2020 school year became clear.



Dr. Jeff Weiss

The areas that we are focusing on as a District are: culture, equity and data literacy. All three of these areas work together to help our staff know what our students need and work together to help our students succeed.

Below, I would like to share what the goal of each area of focus is as well as our progress toward each goal. It will take several years to fully achieve each goal. However, it is important that we focus our efforts in these areas.

CULTURE: Our goal is to create a culture of excellence through increased employee engagement. The following items were completed first semester relating to culture:

- Individual meetings with many employees.
- Recognize positive work in District.
- Identify ways to support staff to meet the needs of our students.

Employee Engagement Survey

Based on responses from the survey that were analyzed by each school, department and at the District level:

- Goals were developed to enhance culture at each location.
- Implement a process to highlight positive actions and backgrounds of staff.
- Create ways to enhance our structure to help us retain our teachers and staff.
- Roll out of Culture Goal at each school and department.

EQUITY: The goal of our equity work is to ensure that every student has access to the educational resources and rigor they need at the right moment in their education across race, gender, ethnicity, language, disability, sexual orientation, family background and/or family income.

This year, the focus of our equity work is on the academic needs of our students with disabilities. All students learn better when they are included in the regular classroom as much as possible. We review the needs of each student to make sure that they are in the classroom or environment where they can be the most successful.

The District just received a five-year grant from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to implement Inclusive Learning Communities. This grant will greatly assist us in identifying different ways and strategies to help all of our students learn at high levels.

► **We review the needs of each student to make sure that they are in the classroom or environment where they can be the most successful.** ◀

DATA LITERACY: The goal of data literacy is to know what our students need, and provide time to collaborate with our colleagues to help ensure they get what they need. During the first semester, these tasks were completed:

- Next year's calendar for the 2020-2021 school year was developed to provide 14 sessions for school-based teams to meet and implement PLC protocols around student data.
- The Recreation Department is preparing to provide activities during the eight early dismissal Wednesdays for elementary students in 2020-2021.
- Approval of Infinite Campus Student Information System Teams of teachers and administrators across the District were formed to take a deeper look at student data and identify ways to help improve student learning.

The staff of SDSM is committed to the success of ALL students. We thank you for your support and trust.

Dr. Jeff Weiss, School Superintendent

► School District Referendum Update

The School District of South Milwaukee is very thankful for the financial support of our community. In November 2018, the voters of South Milwaukee approved a five-year, \$3.8-million referendum. The areas targeted in this referendum include:

- **Strengthening the physical safety of schools and addressing the emotional needs of students.**
- **Expanding student learning opportunities and investing in the future.**
- **Maintaining existing programs and facilities.**

This 2019-2020 school year is the first year that funds from the referendum are available. Below is a breakdown of how referendum dollars were spent this school year, and how they will be spent during the 2020-2021 school year.

- Two full-time therapists from SaintA to provide therapy for students and professional development for staff.
- Additional 1.4 FTE for social worker added.
- Social Emotional Learning Specialists added at elementary/middle schools.
- Dean of Students added to the high school.
- Additional special education teacher at an elementary school.
- Increased the choral teacher at the middle school to full time.
- Expansion of online learning program.
- Maintain existing programs for the 2020-2021 school year. Without the referendum, the South Milwaukee School District would be facing a \$550,000 deficit heading into the next school year.

These important safety upgrades, additional student service personnel and continued programming (without cuts) are all possible due to the support of the South Milwaukee community. The South Milwaukee School District thanks you for your support!

► E.W. Luther Elementary School Nominated for Blue Ribbon Honor

Congratulations to E.W. Luther Elementary School for being chosen as one of eight schools in the State of Wisconsin (out of 2,200+ schools) to be nominated as a Blue Ribbon School. This is a tremendous honor for E.W. Luther School. Last year, there were only 362 schools across the nation that received this award.

There are two ways in which a school can be nominated to receive this award. The first way is obtaining exemplary performance on the state exam. The second way is closing the achievement gap for all students. E.W. Luther was nominated for its work in eliminating achievement gaps. This recognition is a testament to the hard work by E.W. Luther students and staff. It is also a testament to the families of E.W. Luther. Congratulations E.W. Luther Elementary!

In September, the Secretary of Education will announce the 2020 National Blue Ribbon Schools winners, and in November, the winning school representatives will be presented with the award in Washington, D.C.

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► AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Coming to South Milwaukee High School

Beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, South Milwaukee High School will adopt the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program. AVID helps close the achievement gap, and offers a safe and open culture, high expectations for teachers and students, and collaborations in all classrooms.

AVID's main goal is to provide skills and opportunities for first-generation college students to succeed in college, as well as become career ready. Students who are in the AVID program are four times more likely to graduate college than the national average (visit avid.org/data).

At a January school board meeting, High School Principal Dr. Jeff Fleig, and a team of 14 teachers presented information and a recommendation to the school board regarding the AVID program. The team visited Waukesha South High School prior to the board meeting to view the AVID program in action. Based on their observations and information provided by Dr. Fleig, the school board approved moving forward with the AVID program for the next school year.

AVID has two main parts: an elective course and school-wide instructional strategies. The elective course is targeted to first-generation college students. The course provides academic support, and teaches organization and structure for note-taking and studying. In addition, the students in the elective course are supported by tutors. Students are recommended by their teachers and interviewed to participate in the elective course.

The school-wide part of AVID provides continued professional development for staff members. Teachers learn a common instructional language and collaborate to support best practices in all classrooms.

AVID is implemented in more than 7,000 schools in 47 states across the U.S., plus schools in Department of Defense Education, Canada and Australia. AVID impacts more than 2 million students in grades K-12 and 62 post-secondary institutions. The School District of South Milwaukee is very excited for the opportunity to offer AVID to its high school students starting in fall 2020.

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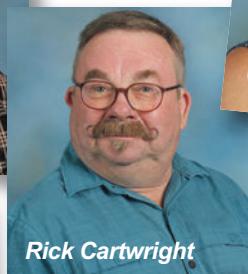




Dawn Curry



Cindy Bucci



Rick Cartwright



Cheryl Hagfors



Jill Zientara



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Mary Clare Trainor

▶ Honoring Retiring School District Faculty

The South Milwaukee School District recently bid farewell to seven faculty members who retired at the end of the 2019-20 school year.

- **Jill Zientara:** Speech and language pathologist at Lakeview Elementary School, 34 years of service.
- **Dawn Curry:** Speech and language pathologist at Rawson Elementary School, 32 years of service.
- **Mary Clare Trainor:** Social studies teacher at SM Middle School, 30 years of service.
- **Cindy Bucci:** Special education teacher at SM High School, 29 years of service.
- **Cheryl Hagfors:** 5th grade teacher at Rawson Elementary School, 28 years of service.
- **Rick Cartwright:** Art teacher at SM High School, 23 years of service.
- **Pete Thompson:** Instrumental music director at SM High School, 21 years of service.

The District is grateful to our retirees for their dedication to our students and families. We thank them for their many years of service. Their commitment to our students is valued and appreciated. We wish them the absolute best that retirement has to offer.

Staff members were also recognized by a School Board proclamation. An in-person celebration is planned for late summer/early fall.

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OUT AND ABOUT IN THE CITY OF SOUTH MILWAUKEE

1. A double rainbow welcomes summer at the South Milwaukee Yacht Club.
2. City staff gather on June 8 to wish a happy birthday to Mayor Chet (see pg. 19).
3. The South Milwaukee School District recently held a food drive to benefit Human Concerns. More than 2,500 food items were donated to help South Milwaukee residents in need.
4. Thanks to the Rotary Club of Mitchell Field for the U.S. flags on display to commemorate Memorial Day.
5. The popular Downtown Market takes place every Thursday from 3-7 p.m. Grab your fresh produce, home-baked goods and lots more!
6. Tuff the Bulldog was rescued last winter by the South Milwaukee Fire Department after falling through the ice near the South Milwaukee Yacht Club. Buy your Built Tuff t-shirt now to benefit the South Milwaukee Fire Department and K9s for Warriors (see pg. 14).
7. Members of the high school Cheer Team are ready for a new season – Go Rockets!
8. The Little League season is well underway in South Milwaukee.



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