

SPRING/SUMMER 2024

# BRIDGES

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### ON THE COVER

South Milwaukee students know the importance of giving back and making a difference in their community. Through fundraising and community service, from volunteerism to food and book drives, our students demonstrate the important ways they are contributing to our City. Here we see Lakeview Elementary students giving back by planning for the future with their plans for a nearby vacant site (see 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.

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](mailto:info@smbridgesmagazine.com).

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

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

## PLEASE NOTE:

The School District of South Milwaukee is committed to provide equal educational opportunities for all District students and to provide a learning and working environment free of discrimination based on a protected class.

**Read our whole nondiscrimination statement at [sdsd.k12.wi.us/notice-of-non-discrimination](http://sdsd.k12.wi.us/notice-of-non-discrimination).**



## MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

### Relentless Commitment: Our Five-Year Plan



Think back to 2019. Think about how much your personal life has changed since then. We can't know what the next five years will bring, but we can be certain that we will grow and change, and we will have obstacles to overcome.

As you know, children grow and mature so fast.

The next five years for them will be critical to who and what they become. That's why we're looking ahead to 2029.

Recently, members of the larger community, staff, administrators and students gathered and spent a lot of time thinking about who we are and what we want for our school community in the next five years.

We established our core values, mission, and vision statements and outlined what we want to accomplish for our staff, students, and the community in the next five years. In March, the School Board adopted that plan, titled "Relentless Commitment."

The title comes from the District's mission statement, that we "act with a relentless commitment to remove barriers and care for all students so they feel accepted and will learn without exception."

This plan, which I encourage you to read on our website, lays out for students some of the best practices for students, like "prioritizing student-centered instructional practices in order to increase academic proficiency and whole-child growth" and engaging in "purposeful planning" with students and caregivers to develop meaningful plans for after high school.

Sometimes when you hear about a big organization creating a plan, it goes on a shelf and isn't looked at again.

NOT HERE.

We have written out a list of performance indicators — goals we expect to reach — like significantly increasing the overall District Report Card score and achieving the "exceeds expectations" designation from the state. Not listed in the published plan but also developed by each team, are yearly markers that are designed to ensure we hit our five-year goals and that our plan doesn't sit on a shelf.


We have similar objectives and measures for how we interact with employees, manage our finances and engage with the community.

All combined, this plan gives us a path forward to ensuring a brighter future for our students and staff, being good stewards of taxpayer dollars, and being an important resource and benefit to the larger community.

I am so thankful for those who spent time working on our strategic plan. Thank you for helping us chart our way forward. I'm excited for what the future holds.

**Deidre Roemer, Superintendent-  
School District of South Milwaukee**





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# GIVING BACK...

## And Making a Difference

### South Milwaukee Students Know the Importance of Giving Back!

As engaged citizens, each South Milwaukee student learns early on about giving back, and this is reflected in each of their characters. Read on about all the ways our students give back to our community.

### Lakeview Elementary Students Plan for the Future



Reading, writing and ... urban planning? This spring, the entire Lakeview Elementary student body took a deep dive into the status of the Everbrite property – now a

mostly empty field two blocks away. “The entire school, from 4K to fifth grade, has a chance to share what they think should go on to these 33 acres of lakefront property,” Principal Chris Sepersky explains.

Students are touring the site, learning about the ins and outs of redevelopment from City representatives and architectural firms, and studying the history of the area to explore the possibilities for the property.

Sepersky says the entire project was about growing

from those initial off-the-cuff ideas to really well-thought-out and informed visions of what they want to see in their neighborhood. Recently, Lakeview students held a community presentation of their ideas for the site. Their ideas ranged from everything from a homeless shelter to a community college to sustainable urban farming.

“We want our students to be engaged with their community. In a real sense, they’re participating in, and contributing to, a South Milwaukee conversation about that land. Our students are learning to invest themselves in the design-thinking process and invest in what will be in their own neighborhood – and subsequently benefit their own children and grandchildren,” reports Sepersky.



### School District Supports Food Drive

**Giving back – whether by fundraising or through community service – is an important part of being a South Milwaukee student.**

It’s an integral part of being part of our City and teaching students what it means to be engaged citizens. It’s not always about collecting items, though the whole District collected more than 6,500 items for a November food drive, donating to South Milwaukee Human Concerns.







## E. W. Luther Students Brighten Days

E. W. Luther students, led by the student council, used their artistic skills to create placemats for senior citizens and delivered meals to homebound seniors and disabled neighbors.

## Making Someone Else's Day Better

Last December, Blakewood students made “kindness snowflakes” – paper snowflakes with encouraging messages on them. These handmade paper treasures were then delivered to Pick ‘n Save and put into grocery bags for shoppers.

For the past eight years, Rawson teacher William Gaynor and his students have packed “cancer boxes” – notes of encouragement (to patients with cancer) and examples of their artwork. “Somebody else is having a worse day than (the students) are and that’s what it’s all about making somebody else’s day better,” Gaynor told WTMJ4 in a story about his work.



## Creating a Sense of Community

At the Middle School, students spent six months during Home Base (their version of homeroom) working on community service projects called “Rocket Resolutions.”

“We did a project partnering with the Humane Society,” eighth grader Chance remembers. “We put up a bunch of posters advertising adopting at the Humane Society. I think we actually got a few pets adopted!”

Vince Farina, the school’s social and emotional learning coordinator, said the projects stemmed from a survey of middle schoolers that indicated many felt they needed to feel they belonged at the school. “They might have friends and people they talk to, but in terms of being a South Milwaukee Rocket and what that means, they didn’t really feel connected,” Farina shares.

“So last year our team decided that we wanted to build a project that would help the kids learn what community is, what communities they are a part of and learn how to be a responsible member of a community.”

## National Honor Society Gives Back

At the high school, there are a variety of ways to give back, from Caroling for Cans with Apollo Jazz in the winter, to taking care of teachers’ outdoor plants in the greenhouse with SMGreen. Perhaps the most noticeable volunteers out in the community, however, are students from the National Honor Society.

“National Honor Society is a group of students who have not only performed well academically, but they also have met the

expectations of good character, good leadership and service,” National Honor Society Co-Advisor James Grassi says.

Joseph, a senior, says the Veterans Day ceremony is one of the biggest events the National Honor Society volunteers at all year. “I think that it hits close to home for teachers, staff and family, because (almost) everyone has a veteran in their family,” he notes. “Really getting to see these veterans come from across the state and get to honor them on that one day is definitely a good community experience.”





# ► South Milwaukee Student Accomplishments



## Brady Ahler 2024 National Merit Finalist

Senior Brady Ahler is one of 15,000 students in the nation to be named a 2024 National Merit Scholarship semi-finalist. He was one of 1.2 million students to take the PSAT and National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMQST) last spring.

Ahler, who is considering pre-med and medical school, is in the competition to be one of 7,140 students nationwide to earn a Merit Scholarship. Those students share in the pool of nearly \$28 million in scholarship funds. Already, though, Ahler is in a rare club. Only one percent of U.S. high school seniors become semifinalists.



## Sabrina Fajardo Earns Full Ride to University of Chicago

Senior Sabrina Fajardo was awarded a QuestBridge Match Scholarship to attend her number-one choice of schools, the University of Chicago, where she will study computer science. The scholarship covers her room and board, books, and more for the first four years of her college career.

## Brooks and SM Performers Have Great Showing at WSMA State Solo and Ensemble Festival

Sophomore Shelby Brooks earned an Exemplary Performer Award – the highest honor a student can receive at the Wisconsin School Music Association Solo and Ensemble Festival on April 27. Brooks capped a day of fantastic performances by SM musicians, who earned 11 Gold and 4 Silver place ratings.

### Gold 1st Place Ratings

*Clarinet Solo:* Mary Swanson  
*Vocal Solo:* Anna Menzia, Shelby Brooks, Genevieve Schramm  
*Music Theatre Solo:* Kai Simons, Anna Menzia, Spencer Henry, Aiden Janusz, Shelby Brooks  
*Vocal Trio:* Shelby Brooks, Anna Menzia, Emily Hatzenbeller  
*Vocal Duet:* Shelby Brooks, Spencer Henry

### Silver 2nd Place Ratings

*Vocal Solo:* Lindsay Krieg  
*Music Theatre Solo:* Genevieve Schramm, Emily Hatzenbeller, Aurianna Torres

### Cheer Team 5th in State

The South Milwaukee Cheer squad won fifth place at the 2024 Wisconsin Association of Cheer/Pom Coaches Championships in Appleton in February.



## Wrestler Breaks Record, 5th Best in the State

Connor O'Donnell earned 5th place at the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Tournament in February. O'Donnell is the most accomplished wrestler in Rocket history.



## South Milwaukee United Boys Volleyball Team Wins Second Straight Title

SM United – a collaboration between South Milwaukee High School, St. Thomas More High School and Reagan High School, won its second straight Woodland Conference Championship last fall, and made it to quarterfinals at State.





# A Focus on Student Artwork

## Moriah Gwyer

Moriah Gwyer is a senior at South Milwaukee High School enrolled in AP Art, and working on compiling her portfolio. This work is one of the final pieces of her high school career. In this piece, she combines gouache paint and embroidery on paper with embroidery thread to add more art medium and try to branch out to different techniques. She tries to incorporate a lot of color and symbolism by portraying hard subjects with more "upbeat" representation.



## Victor Jensen

South Milwaukee High School junior, Victor Jensen II, primarily works in 3D art. He is influenced by his love of Norse mythology and was inspired to make a sculpture of one of Norse mythology's prolific figures, "Jormungandr." This sculpture, titled "Jormungandr's Wrath,"

is a depiction of the serpent emerging from the sea right before it cripples a Viking ship.

## Wyatt Wartner

Wyatt Wartner likes to use scrapped electronics to make functional electronic art. These are two electronic glasses. The first lets others watch Batman on one lens, and refracts light bulbs into different colors. The second lets others play The Oregon Trail on one lens, through controls hooked up on the side. The other lens has a camera attached that hooks up to a specially rigged television to display live footage.



## Spencer Henry

This school year, Spencer Henry, a senior, has focused on making artworks that revolve around the theme of performance. They juxtaposed angular, geometric lines with the natural textures and splatters of a paintbrush, which serves as a metaphor for how performance can affect a person. This painting was created on paper with India ink and white gel pen.



## Mel Kveton

Junior Mel Kveton's "Sus Scrufa" is an acrylic painting purposed to illustrate the "affects affectation" can have on the self.



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*Heather Hanson (left) and Aimee Swanson (right)*

## High School Teachers Named Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Teacher Fellows

Two South Milwaukee High School teachers were chosen as 2024 Herb Kohl Educational Foundation Teacher Fellows. Heather Hanson, a social studies teacher, and Aimee Swanson, the school's choir director and music teacher, were two of just 100 teachers from across Wisconsin recognized for their leadership and service in and outside the classroom, and their ability to inspire a love of learning and to motivate their students. Hanson and Swanson received \$6,000 each for themselves and \$6,000 each for South Milwaukee High School.

"We are proud to have educators of this caliber at South Milwaukee High School," Principal Bryan Terry says. "Their impact is immeasurable, and it can be seen in their enthusiasm and how invested their students are in their classes."

## Another \$100,000 Grant for South Milwaukee Fields

This is Packers' territory – even if South Milwaukee's colors are red, white and black.

The Green Bay Packers Foundation announced in April that South Milwaukee was awarded a \$100,000 grant from the NFL Foundation through the NFL Club Matching Youth Football Field Grant Program. The grant matches the \$100,000 the Packers Foundation already awarded South Milwaukee to help cover the costs of the \$3.8 million renovation of South Milwaukee's athletic fields.

"It means a lot that close to half of all the funding for these beautiful fields came from the community – here in South Milwaukee and in Wisconsin," Superintendent Deidre Roemer reports.

"It's because of the generosity of our neighbors and community-minded organizations like the Green Bay Packers that more students than ever are using these fields, and they are a point of pride for the whole City."

## South Milwaukee Teacher Headed to Teacher Hall of Fame

A South Milwaukee High School English teacher is one of only five teachers across the United States to be named to the National Teachers Hall of Fame (NTHF) as a member of the Class of 2024. Recently, Shelly Moore Krajacic was surprised with the honor in the High School Library, where she was met by current and former colleagues, students, and family members.

"I love all of my students, you know that. I just want to see you be happy and successful in how you choose to be," Krajacic said. "Education really is the single greatest thing we can give to the next generation."

The NTHF Class of 2024 traveled to Washington, D.C., in early May for ceremonies there, and will travel to Emporia, Kan., in June for four days of events before the formal induction ceremony on June 21 at Emporia State University.



*High School teacher Shelly Krajacic shows her surprise when she finds out she has been named to the National Teachers Hall of Fame.*

## SMHS Student Senate Wins Spirit of Excellence Award

The South Milwaukee High School Student Senate was named the Wisconsin Association of Schools Region 4 Spirit of Excellence Award Winners. The Student Senate put together an 88-page presentation on what South Milwaukee High School has to offer students and the community. The award is given to just six schools in the state (one from each region). The students were presented the award during the Milwaukee Bucks game on March 4!



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## Celebrating 20 Years of Performing Arts Excellence: The South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center

It was a singular moment. The entire audience was clapping along with the combined choirs of the South Milwaukee middle and high schools. Milwaukee-based musician and creator Kiran Vidula was at the piano, choir directors Aimee Swanson and Kathleen Miller conducted their students in a rousing first performance of a student-composed piece – the capstone of “Music to Move Us Forward,” a multi-modal celebration of the 60th anniversary of the passage of the Civil Rights Act.

“It’s moments like that for which the South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center (SMPAC) was built,” says South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center Executive Director Rachel Abraham. “It was moving, it was educational, it was collaborative, and our students and their teachers were at their absolute best.”

Located in the heart of South Milwaukee, this vibrant cultural gathering place has enriched lives and inspired creativity for two decades. That’s something worth celebrating. This fall, the South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center will celebrate its 20th anniversary to mark a milestone in its journey as a hub of performing arts excellence and community engagement. From its inception to its impactful present, SMPAC is leaving an indelible mark on the community and the lives of its patrons.

### A Vision Realized: The Birth of SMPAC

The story of SMPAC begins with a vision that took root generations ago, and was founded on a legacy of excellence in music and theater education. In 2002, South Milwaukee residents voted in favor of a referendum to fund the construction

of a state-of-the-art performing arts center within the new South Milwaukee 6-12 campus.

“Before our PAC was built, performances happened in the former high school, in what was termed the cafetorium,” Abraham explains. “There’s only so much that can be done in a utilitarian space that serves as a theater and lunch room. Today students learn lighting, sound mixing, have a full stage with fly-in capabilities – all in a beautiful setting.”

South Milwaukee was one of the first school districts in the area to not only recognize the importance of arts education, but also to take action. The 2002 referendum laid the groundwork for what would become a specialized facility that nurtures artistic talent and serves as a professionally managed venue for touring artists and rental events.

### The Impact on the Community

One of SMPAC’s key initiatives is its commitment to arts education. SMPAC offers educational programs, workshops, and performances tailored to inspire and engage young minds. These programs not only foster artistic skills but also instill valuable life lessons such as teamwork, creativity and self-expression.

### SMPAC’s Impact Extends Beyond the Walls of the Venue

“Over the years, it has become a cultural hub, bringing people together and fostering a sense of community pride. Our stage has featured renowned performers from around the world,



enhancing South Milwaukee's reputation as a destination for arts and culture," Abraham says.

Today, approximately 100 programs and events, plus classes and rehearsals, are hosted at SMPAC annually. The 786-seat theatre is the home for school concerts, plays, musicals, award ceremonies, guest speakers and meetings. A performing arts series featuring professional touring shows with opportunities for student workshops and master classes is curated and presented annually. The South Milwaukee Youth Theatre program produces two musicals for 6-18 year-olds each summer. Dozens of renters, ranging from performing arts groups and dance studios to independent promoters and colleges, choose SMPAC for their events. Outreach includes sponsoring artists who perform at senior living centers and bands that perform at the South Milwaukee Downtown Market and other local events.

That impact doesn't even account for those who fill the theatre's seats. Annual attendance at SMPAC is estimated at 35,000. The whole operation is run by just three full-time staff: an executive director, a box office/marketing manager and a technical director. The trio boasts a combined experience of more than 45 years in management, marketing communications, fundraising and technical theater.

To run such a big program, approximately 20 part-time house managers and technical overhire crew staff fill in the gaps. Additionally, more than 70 volunteers serve as ushers, ticket takers and docents. Fundraising support and scholarships for high school seniors comes from the SMPAC Council, an all volunteer, non-profit 501(c)3 organization.

"I am incredibly proud of how the performing arts center has evolved to meet the diverse needs of our community," Abraham reflects. "Our mission has always been to inspire and enrich people of all ages and aesthetics through the performing arts. The vision of those who came before us, along with the support of our community, the dedication of our staff, and the relationships we've built over the years, have been instrumental to our success."



*The SMPAC's 786-seat handsome theatre is home for school concerts, plays, musicals, award ceremonies, guest speakers and meetings.*

## *We Love What Folks Are Saying About Us!*

*"The South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center gave me a place of belonging, a place where I made all of my friends, and the place where I experienced the fondest memories of high school."*  
– Lia K. (student)

*"SMPAC is definitely a class act. Everyone is very friendly, reminders are sent, parking is free, no traffic jams after the event, and it's right in the neighborhood. Doesn't get any better. Thanks to the entire staff and volunteers who make this a great experience!"*  
– Bob G. (patron)

*"I just wanted to thank you and the SMPAC staff and tech crew for making our showcase experience so enjoyable this year. It was fantastic to have our students on stage again in a real theater and I heard so many great comments from families on how they enjoyed the show!"*  
– Amy B. (renter)

*"We truly appreciate the relationship we share and the performances the SMPAC brings to us, as this is something most of our seniors would not have been able to see otherwise."*  
– Jessica B. (Senior Center program coordinator)



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12 pm to 3 pm

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## SUNDAY, JULY 28

### **CHICKEN DINNER**

12:00 pm UNTIL SOLD OUT  
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### **SHAG**

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## ► Highlighting City Administrator Brever, City Engineer Stollenwerk and Attorney Smith

### Patrick Brever: City Administrator

Patrick Brever was appointed as South Milwaukee's City administrator in October 2023. He has worked for the City in a variety of roles since 2018, including assistant city administrator, economic development director, and city clerk. Brever holds a bachelor's degree in public administration and political science from UW-La Crosse, and in 2020, he earned his master's in public administration with a concentration in municipal management from UW-Milwaukee. His previous work experience also includes service as an alderperson for the City of La Crosse, Wis..

Brever is originally from the area and grew up in Oak Creek. When he isn't working, he enjoys coaching a third and fourth grade girls' basketball team for the South Milwaukee Recreation Department and playing golf in Grant Park.

The City Administrator serves as the chief administrative officer for the City. The position has administrative authority and responsibility over all departments and department managers with the exception of the Public Library. The administrator serves at the pleasure of the Common Council to make sure the policy decisions of the elected officials

are carried out and that public services are delivered efficiently and effectively.

We asked Brever about his life and feelings working for South Milwaukee:

#### • What was your first job?

Youth baseball coach and umpire for the Oak Creek Parks and Recreation Department

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

Making a positive difference in the lives of the City's residents. Working in local government allows you to directly contribute to the betterment of the community.

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

South Milwaukee is a family-oriented community. I am proud to live and work in the same city where my mom served as a teacher (Lakeview and Rawson) for 38 years.

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

Welcoming, historic, revitalizing.

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

"Grant," a biography about President Ulysses S. Grant. (Grant Park in South Milwaukee is named for him.)



*Left: These three professionals have leadership positions with the City of South Milwaukee. From left to right: City Attorney Chris Smith, City Administrator Patrick Brever and City Engineer Genevieve Stollenwerk pose with the popular Crusher statue.*

## Genevieve Stollenwerk: City Engineer

Stollenwerk started her new role as City Engineer in April 2024. Growing up in Milwaukee, she graduated with a bachelor's of science in civil engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Before working with the City, Stollenwerk worked as a civil engineering consultant for the firm R.A. Smith Inc. in its municipal services group.

Stollenwerk finds joy in participating in Adopt-A-River clean ups organized by Milwaukee Riverkeeper, where she dedicates her time to preserving the health of local waterways. Beyond her commitment to land-based conservation efforts, she is also a volunteer scuba diver at Discovery World.

Her appreciation for her community extends to her admiration for local government initiatives, recognizing their role in fostering sustainability and community resilience.

Stollenwerk tells us more about her impressions of South Milwaukee:

### • What was your first job?

I worked in Maggiano's Little Italy in the carry-out department, making sure everyone's pasta needs were well served.

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

Local government can create solutions tailored to the unique challenges and opportunities of their area, fostering a sense of pride and ownership among residents.

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

I really enjoy taking the dog for walks through Grant Park and checking out the lake.

### • Describe South Milwaukee in three words.

Historic, community-oriented, scenic.

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

"The Hotel Nantucket" by Elin Hilderbrand.

## Chris Smith: City Attorney

City Attorney Chris Smith has been representing the City of South Milwaukee since 2016.

The City attorney advises and renders legal opinions on specific issues to ensure that actions taken by elected officials, City departments, and boards and commissions will not conflict with applicable laws and administrative rules.

What does Smith think of South Milwaukee?

### • What was your first job?

I was an ice-skating, warming house attendant.

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

Working in local government allows for the best opportunity to make positive change for the people in the community. Unlike other levels of government, local government can move fast, and is not (or should not) be burdened with partisan politics.

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

The Crusher statue.

### • Describe South Milwaukee in three words.

Proud, historic, tough.

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

"The Crusher Record Book" by George J. Lentz.

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## ► Bucyrus Commons Receives Main Street Award for Best Revitalization Initiative

**T**he Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation celebrated the best downtown revitalization projects of 2023 at the 33rd Wisconsin Main Street Awards ceremony in Green Bay this past April 19.

South Milwaukee's Bucyrus Commons project was honored for Best Revitalization Initiative for Connect Communities with a population over 5,000. The criteria for being selected required demonstrating a proactive approach to historic and commercial district revitalization.

In February 2020, the Bucyrus Foundation committed to a \$2 million gift to the City of South Milwaukee to enable two projects to help transform the downtown. \$1.5 million was dedicated to the renovation of 1919 12th Avenue, now known as the Bucyrus Club & Event Center, and \$500,000 was to be put toward the Bucyrus Commons at the corner of 11th and Madison Avenues.

After several stakeholder committee meetings and two public surveys throughout 2020 and 2021, the Bucyrus Commons design was finalized to include greenspace, an open-air pavilion, a restroom/concession building, a children's digging area, and a covered stage. The Bucyrus Commons officially opened on May 21, 2023.

*Right: Mayor Shelenske (center) accepts the City's Main Street Award. On his left is former Mayor Dave Kieck and to his right former Mayor Erik Brooks.*

"The Bucyrus Foundation gift in 2020 served as the catalyst for our downtown revitalization. With their support, we have been able to create a five-year strategic plan for downtown South Milwaukee, establish grant programs for our small business owners, commission a community mural, and invest in placemaking amenities," says South Milwaukee Mayor Jim Shelenske. "Thank you to the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation for this award. I am confident that South Milwaukee will continue to be a leader in Wisconsin when it comes to economic development and redevelopment."





Left: At the 33rd Wisconsin Main Street Awards ceremony, the Bucyrus Commons project was honored for Best Revitalization Initiative in a community with a population of more than 5,000.

## South Milwaukee Comprehensive Plan Seeks Input

**T**he City of South Milwaukee is seeking community feedback about the City. In 2016, the City of South Milwaukee Comprehensive + Downtown Plan Update 2035 was created by gathering public input, conducting research, analyzing data, and outlining goals and opportunities for the future of South Milwaukee. The purpose of a comprehensive plan is to identify feasible strategies and recommendations for cities to achieve quality-of-life goals and to guide growth.

**To achieve this, we need your input. The City of South Milwaukee is hosting a public Open House on Wednesday, June 26, from 5 to 8 p.m. at City Hall.**

During this event, you can share your opinions and thoughts on topics such as housing, transportation, natural areas, sustainability, and any other areas that you think are important.

Additionally, you can take an online survey to provide your feedback on South Milwaukee. Contact the South Milwaukee Economic Development Department for further input or questions.

TAKE OUR  
SURVEY!



## Sign Up for the Monthly E-Newsletter

**S**tay informed on new businesses, events and happenings within the South Milwaukee business community. A monthly electronic newsletter was introduced last September, and can be emailed to your inbox at the beginning of each month (scan the QR code below to sign up). Archived issues of the newsletter are also available on the City's website under "I Want To."

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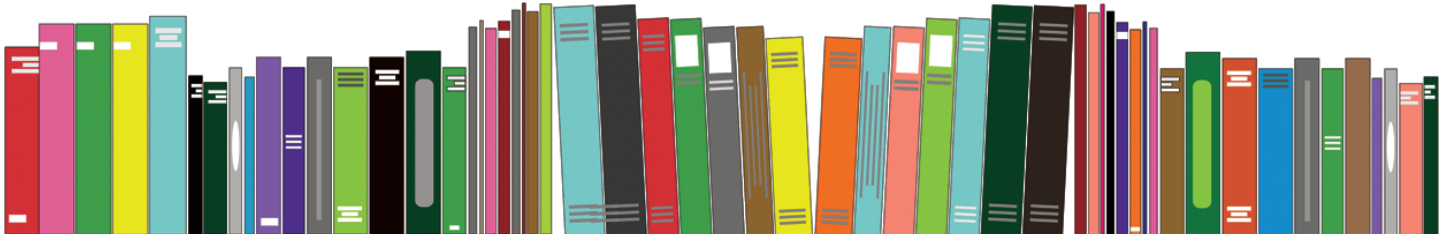
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## South Milwaukee Public Library: Spring and Summer Programming

### ALL AGES

#### **All Knotted Up: Fiber Arts with Friends (Ages 10+)**

*First and third Monday of the month from 5 to 6:45 p.m.*

*Jun. 3, Jun. 17, Jul. 1, Jul. 15, Aug. 5, Aug. 19*

*Saturdays in Summer from 11 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.*

*Jun. 1, Jul. 6, Aug. 3*

Drop in to the Library for our Fiber Arts Club! We open a space for the community to come together and visit while working on fiber arts projects. The Library has knitting and crochet needles available for checkout, plus extra yarn and beginner books to help you get started. There isn't always someone available to teach you how to start learning a new hobby, but you will find a welcoming group as you begin your learning process or continue your project. Ages 10+ welcome. Ages 10-12 please bring a parent or guardian. No registration required.

#### **Free Blood Pressure Screenings**

*First Friday of the month • 10-11 a.m.*

*Jun. 7, Aug. 2*

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

#### **Summer Reading 2024:**

##### **Adventure Begins at Your Library**

*Mon., Jun. 10-Sat., Aug. 10*

Adventure begins at your Library! Readers of all ages, birth to adult, can sign up to track their reading and enter for a chance to win prizes.

Sign up online at [smlibrary.beanstack.org](https://smlibrary.beanstack.org) (or use the Beanstack app), or track with paper logs at the Library. Prize winners will be contacted after the program ends.

### ADULTS

#### **Blood Drives with Versiti Wisconsin**

*Jun. 21, Aug. 23 • 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.*

Walk-ins welcome. Registration encouraged. Call or register online on our website under "Adult Events."

#### **Carl Bergmans and the Continental Faience & Tile Co.**

*Thurs., Jun. 20 • 5:30 p.m.*

Delve into the history of South Milwaukee's Continental Faience & Tile Company, and its legacy throughout the state and country today. Presented by local author and tile artist Ben Tyjeski.

#### **Explore the World with Virtual Reality**

*Thurs., Jul. 11 • 5:30 p.m.*

Try out the Library's VR headset and adventure to the Great Pyramids, the Taj Mahal, the Golden Gate Bridge and more. For adults 18+. Attendees will need to sign a waiver form to participate.

### TEENS

#### **NERF War**

*Fri., Jun. 7 • 5-6 p.m. (after hours!)*

Kick off Summer Reading by jumping into a tornado of foam! SMPL has teamed up with Milwaukee Nerf Wars to bring NERF combat to the Library. Sign up for summer reading, grab a blaster (or bring your own) and do battle amongst the stacks. For ages 12-19.

#### **Grant Park Hike**

*June 20 • 4-5:30 p.m.*

Enjoy the beauty of Grant Park and some Insta-worthy selfie moments. Meet at Area 5 for a hike guided by the Friends of Grant Park. Registration required – please wear comfortable shoes. For ages 12-19.

#### **Teen Anime Evenings**

*June 27, July 25, Aug. 22 • 4-6 p.m.*

Enjoy anime and snacks at the Library! For ages 12-19.

#### **Cosplay Ducks**

*Thurs., Aug. 1 • 4-5 p.m.*

Ducks and cosplay? Who could have guessed they made such an incredible pair? We'll use paint, markers, and other craft supplies to bring our favorite fandoms to life! For ages 12-19.



## KIDS

### STEAM Club

**Mondays: Jun. 17, Jul. 8, Jul. 22 • 4 to 5 p.m.**

Join us for a science-themed activity! Recommended for kids ages 4-12.

### Music and Movement

**Wednesdays: Jun. 12- Aug. 7 • 10 a.m.**

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

### LEGO Club

**Thursdays: Jun. 20, Jul. 18, Aug. 15 • 4-5 p.m.**

Join us at the library for LEGO Club! For kids ages 5-12.

### Projector Playtime

**Fridays: Jun. 14-Aug. 9 • 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.**

Play with our new interactive projector at the Library!

### Racine Zoo

**Tues., Jun. 11 at 10 a.m.**

Join us as we welcome a visit from the Racine Zoo! Learn about the animals they will be bringing with them. For families with kids of all ages.

### Steve Girman

**Tues., Jun. 18 • 10 a.m.**

Join us as we welcome storyteller, juggler and musician Steve Girman! For families with kids of all ages.

### Magician Glen Gerald

**Tues., Jun. 25 • 10 a.m.**

Join us as we welcome magician Glen Gerald! For families with kids of all ages.

### Fourth of July Storytime & Crafts

**Tues., Jul. 2 • 10 a.m.**

Join us for Fourth of July-themed stories, activities and crafts! For families with kids ages 0-10.

### Illusionist Ardan James

**Tues., Jul. 9 • 10 a.m.**

Join us as we welcome illusionist Ardan James! For families with kids of all ages.

### Summer Programs TBD

**Tues., Jul. 16, Jul. 23, Jul. 30, Aug. 6 • 10 a.m.**

## 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 contact the Friends at [friendsofsmkepl@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofsmkepl@gmail.com).

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# ▶ STAY SAFE: PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST SCAMMERS!

**T**here has been an increase in the number of “scammers” out there, trying to trick you into giving them money in a variety of ways. Scammers will pretend to be from an organization you know and trust, like the Social Security Administration, Police Department or Medicare – or they will make up something sounding official. They will also use advanced technology, so the number they are calling from appears to be legitimate when using caller ID.

Scammers will tell you there is an emergency or problem, or that you have won a prize. They will then pressure you to act immediately – they want you to act before you think. They will threaten to arrest you, embarrass you or take away something valuable.


Often scammers insist you can only pay with crypto currency or gift cards. Some scammers will even send you a fake check, that you are supposed to deposit and then send them the money.

## Tips for Avoiding Scams

- Block unwanted calls and text messages.
- Don't give your personal financial information in response to a request for this info; these people called YOU. Honest organizations won't ask you for your bank account info or social security number.
- If you receive an email, call or text from what appears to be a company you do business with, look up their number from a trusted website and call them back.
- Resist the pressure to act immediately.
- Reputable businesses won't ask for crypto currency, gift cards, payment apps or money orders.
- Proceed with caution. Stop and talk with someone you trust – family, friends or neighbors can help you realize that someone is trying to scam you.

Think responsibly, and don't fall for the scams that are circulating online or on the phone today.



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## Bucyrus Civic Grant Program Awards Benefit City Projects

In May 2024, the Common Council had the opportunity to support five exciting projects totaling \$50,000 as part of the Bucyrus Civic Grants Program and the Civic Grants Commission.

For 2024, the Civic Grants Commission and the Common Council approved the following wonderful projects:

- **\$2,000 for Friends of Mill Pond** Adding an informational kiosk near the Oak Creek Parkway Warming House to share educational information, events and Warming House photos.
- **\$22,000 for ArtWorks** Supporting the artist's professional services and materials for a beautiful new mural on the west side of 907 Milwaukee Avenue.
- **\$13,600 for Friends of the Library** Add improvements to the Children's Area at the South Milwaukee Public Library by adding child-appropriate tablets, comfy lounge sofas and child-sized workspaces.

- **\$1,000 for South Milwaukee Historical Society** Adding a laptop and printer for everyone to use and search for ancestry and historical data.
- **\$11,400 for Warm Up South Milwaukee** The purchase of three defibrillators along with training, plus creating a winter coat program by getting new coats for local elementary schools.

Pictured here are images from one of the projects awarded in 2023 at the South Milwaukee Public Library. The Library added a children's interactive projection system and a small computer lab for public use. This new computer lab also houses the Recollection Wisconsin collection and our South Milwaukee/Local History collection, as well.

Hmmm ... What's This All About?  
STAY TUNED!







## Business Spotlight: South Milwaukee Sausage & Meats Small-Batch and Hand-Crafted – Bringing the Best of An Old-Fashioned Butcher Shop to South Milwaukee

Summer has arrived ... and with it comes all of our favorite activities – warmer, longer days, visiting the beach, riding your bike, and going to the pool and park. Plus, one extra pastime is a big part of the summer experience – and that is grilling out! Ah, the sweet aroma of burgers, brats and sausages cooking on a hot grill! And now South Milwaukee has its very own source for the best grilling meats on the southside: South Milwaukee Sausage & Meats!

This charming butcher shop at 1200 Milwaukee Avenue in the City's revitalized downtown area is housed in a historic building that pays homage to one of the businesses that came before it (see photo on adjacent page). Just think of those old-time butcher shops of the past, where mom and pop ordered directly from the man who then cut, trimmed and packaged your order! Now meet Michael "Doc" Donnell ("Doc" is a nickname going back to high school thanks to his M.D. initials), the talented resident butcher, who believes that unparalleled customer service is equally as important as product quality.

But first let's talk about those quality meat products you are going to find at South Milwaukee Sausage & Meats (SM-X2). Doc prides himself in offering small batch, hand-crafted sausages, burgers and marinated meats. There are hand-carved cuts of beef, pork and chicken, along with bulk ground meats (ground round, chuck, turkey and pork). Some are available in bulk, and others are cryo-packed and stored in the shop's refrigerator and freezer cases for easy customer access.

There is also a rotating selection of semi-prepared,

ready-to-cook items like marinated meats, appetizers and prepared items including stuffed peppers, skewered meats, stuffed chicken breasts and stuffed pork roast medallions.

Hands down, Doc's most popular products are his homemade sausages. With more than 50 recipes in his collection, with new options always popping up, there is something for everyone's palate. Consider the "Al Capone" Italian sausage, "Hot Bronson" Polish sausage, and "Crusher" or "Windy City" brats for starters. According to Doc, "Customers are always making suggestions for new burgers and new sausages," he says. "And I love the challenge of creating something new. It seems that everything new that I make becomes another hit," Doc proudly reports.

The store is quickly becoming well-known outside of South Milwaukee. "We were featured at the Harley-Davidson Museum restaurant (Motor) for the month of April with two custom sausages, and Bacon Fest in February at Potawatami Bingo Casino. Most of the events we participate in are local, but our circle of influence continues to grow, and the butcher shop is really becoming a destination for meat lovers," Doc adds.

As Doc explains, he encourages folks to call ahead if they have a specific request or are looking for something special. The butcher shop works with a small crew, and with the demand getting higher, it's best to make a phone call to find out what's currently available and place an order. Doc is happy to honor requests for larger meat orders or custom cuts with enough advance notice.



*Left: South Milwaukee Sausage & Meats offers a sparkling clean environment sporting cases loaded with a variety of meat products.*

*Right: You can't miss South Milwaukee Sausage & Meats on Milwaukee Avenue – just look for the large logo on the building's window.*



The story about how Doc decided to become a butcher is a fascinating one. His journey began in high school when he was looking for a job and landed a position in the meat department at Pick 'N Save. "It looked like the team there was having a lot of fun and it didn't seem like work at all," he remembers. Before long, he was being trained on the band saw, and with the skills he learned there, he moved on to Sendik's Food Markets where he worked for an impressive 17 years.

After Sendik's, he moved on to Kettle Range Meats, a smaller operation in Milwaukee, also known for its high-quality meats. Although Doc's dream has always been to earn his designation as a "master butcher," much of the training to be a butcher is based on hands-on experience. He is fulfilling that dream this year by enrolling in the master meat crafter program through UW-Madison's meat science and animal biologics lab.

With more than two decades of experience under his belt, Doc felt it was time to take the advise of business

Doc readily admits that he loves being a butcher – and LOVES having a business in South Milwaukee.

"When a customer walks into your store, they are choosing YOUR product to share with their family. When it's a community doing this with you, the feeling becomes overwhelmingly positive," Doc says enthusiastically. "We love South Milwaukee – with its hometown pride, the community has been very kind to us. Lots has been happening in the development of downtown, and with South Milwaukee in our name, we participate in every event that happens in the community."

Be sure ask questions when you step inside South Milwaukee Sausage & Meats. The staff here is eager to provide a friendly environment and engage customers in lively conversation. "We want our customers to get excited about our craft and what we do," explains Doc. "We want to be THEIR butcher shop!"

This summer, make South Milwaukee Sausage & Meats your #1 stop for quality meats and uncompromised service. Place your order and fire up that grill for an amazing outdoor cooking experience. Afterall, with 17 nominations for "Best of Milwaukee" (*Shepherd Express*), Doc will be looking forward to helping with your selection!

**South Milwaukee Sausage & Meats**  
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**Hours: Mon.-Tues. Closed • Wed-Sat. 9 a.m.- 6 p.m.  
Sun. 8 a.m.-3 p.m.**



*Above: When renovating the building, Doc discovered these signs behind the old siding from a previous pharmacy that had been housed there. He had the sign refurbished to keep alive the history of 1200 Milwaukee Street.*



*Doc shows off his soon-to-be famous sausage – the number-one seller in the butcher shop!*

partners Deb Guse, Tom Kubusek, Tom Schissel and Randy Kossow, who had been urging him for years to join them in opening a hometown butcher shop.

Together, the partners purchased the 1200 South Milwaukee building and opened the new butcher shop in 2021.



# Important News from the South-Milwaukee-St. Francis Health Department

## Plan 9

A simple guide to the nine essential items to help you shelter-in-place in the event of an emergency. Individuals should plan to have enough supplies for the first 72 hours of an emergency.



### 1 WATER

**Bottled water.** One gallon per person, per day for drinking and sanitation.

- Keep water in a cool, dark place, and change to a fresh supply every 6 months.



### 2 CLOTHES

**Collect one** change of clothes and footwear per person.

- Consider packing blankets, rain gear, and outerwear in case of inclement weather.



### 3 FOOD

**Nonperishable food.** A supply of 3-5 days of food per person

- Ready to eat canned meat, fruit and vegetables.
- Canned or boxed juices
- Powdered milk and soup
- Crackers, granola, trail mix



### 4 FLASHLIGHT

**Keep a bright flashlight** in case there's no electric power.

- Consider getting a lantern-style light for hands free use.
- Don't use candles! They're a fire hazard.
- Don't forget the batteries!



### 5 MEDICATIONS

**Collect three days worth** of any prescription medicines you or your family members are taking.

- Be sure to note the expiration date so you don't keep them past their date



### 6 CAN OPENER

**Make sure it's a manual** can opener in case there's no electric power.

- Consider buying items with a pull-top opening. You won't need a can opener at all!



### 7 RADIO

**A battery-powered radio** for listening to news and weather.

- Consider buying a crank-operated or solar powered radio
- Don't forget extra batteries!



### 8 HYGIENE ITEMS

**Just the basics** like soap, toilet paper and a toothbrush.

- Moist towelettes can be useful for quick sanitation.



### 9 FIRST AID

**Basics such as** antiseptic, gloves, and non-prescription medications

- You can buy a pre-made kit at most pharmacies or grocery stores.





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## South Milwaukee/St. Francis Health Department Sexual Health Clinic

- Gonorrhea, chlamydia, & trich testing and treatment for ages 14+
- Free condoms
- Emergency contraception
- Pregnancy testing, education, & referrals
- Family Planning Only Services (FPOS) enrollment\*

\*FPOS Program provides low to no-cost sexual and reproductive health care for people with limited income. Must income qualify for program.

**Call us to schedule appointment (414) 768-8055**





# OUT AND ABOUT IN THE CITY OF SOUTH MILWAUKEE

## Summer's Here ... Are You Ready?

Our vibrant City is ready to welcome the best season of the year with open arms! First, see what's been happening lately in South Milwaukee. Then, check off all the events on the following page that you are not going to want to miss this season with so much going on. Get ready for a super summer in your favorite town!

**1.** The Downtown Market kicks off on Thursday, June 6, with plenty of live music to enjoy for the second year in its new Bucyrus Commons home! **2.** Michael "Doc" Donnell is the talented butcher behind South Milwaukee Sausage & Meats at 1200 Milwaukee Street. This small-craft butcher shop offers the best in customer service as well as quality meat products (see pg. 24). **3.** K9 Rocket paid a visit to Lakeview Elementary School with his partner Office Edwards from the South Milwaukee Police Department. Rocket's cost was partially underwritten by the fundraising efforts of all four South Milwaukee Elementary Schools whose students had a "penny war" to collect funds. **4.** The South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center is celebrating its 20th anniversary (see more on pg. 12). **5.** The Thursday Downtown Market from 3-7 p.m. offers the area's best fresh produce and homemade products, plus creative works by talented artisans.







# COMMUNITY CALENDAR



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

## MAY

- **Mon., May 27: Memorial Day** All City Departments closed and No School for South Milwaukee Public Schools
- **Wed., May 29: South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center 2024-2025 Season Preview**, 6:30 p.m.

## JUNE

- **Sun., June 2: Powder Puff Football Game**, 7 p.m. (all proceeds go toward the Albert Nazifi football scholarship)
- **Tue., June 4: 5th Grade Recognition**, 6-7 p.m.
- **Wed., June 5: 8th Grade Graduation**, **time?**
- **Thur., June 6: High School Graduation**, 7-9 p.m.
- **Thur., June 6: Opening Day South Milwaukee Downtown Market**, 3-7 p.m. Every Thursday until Oct. 10.
- **Fri., June 7: Last Day of School**
- **Wed., June 12: South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center Presents "Po' Boys"** (Classic Cajun Sound), **time?** Willowcrest Care Center
- **Thur., June 13: South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center Presents "Reverend Raven,"** 5-7 p.m. South Milwaukee Downtown Market
- **Fri., June 14: South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center Hosts "AbbaFab,"** 8 p.m. Presented by Entertainment Events
- **Tue., June 18: First Day of Summer School**
- **Sat., June 22: South Milwaukee Garden Club and Historical Society Garden Tour**, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
- **Sun., June 23: South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center Hosts "Late Night Catechism,"** 3 p.m. Presented by Entertainment Events

## JULY

- **Thur., July 4: Independence Day Celebration and Fireworks**, 10 a.m. Fireworks at dusk.
- **Sat., July 13: SMYT Juniors Present "Willy Wonka, Kids,"** 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.
- **Mon., July 15: Annual Update** (through Infinite Campus for school enrollment)
- **Thur., July 18: South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center Presents "Larry Lynne & The Decades Band,"** 5-7 p.m. South Milwaukee Downtown Market
- **Fri., July 19: South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center Presents "Bamboo Babies"** (Vintage Hawaiian Vibes), **time?** Oak Creek Place
- **Sun., July 21: Friends of Grant Park Art Fair**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- **Mon., July 22-Sun., July 28: Heritage Week**
- **Mon., July 22: D.A.R.E. Golf Outing**, 8 a.m. Grant Park
- **Tue., July 23: Veterans Appreciation Day at Molthen Bell**, 700 Milwaukee, 5-7 p.m.
- **Wed., July 24: South Milwaukee Fire Department Brat Fry**, 4-7 p.m. South Milwaukee Fire Station
- **Thur., July 25: Last Day of Summer School**

- **Thur., July 25: Evening at the Bucyrus Commons**, 3-7 p.m.
- **Fri., July 26: Car Cruise**, 4-11 p.m.
- **Fri.-Sun., July 26-28: LionsFest** 16th and Rawson (see pg. 14)
- **Fri., July 26: SMYT Seniors Present "Beauty and the Beast, Jr.,"** 7 p.m. **Where?**
- **Sat., July 27: Heritage Days Parade**, 11 a.m..
- **Sat., July 27: The Great Duck Race**, 1 p.m.
- **Sat., July 27: South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center Presents "Big Style Brass,"** 12-3 p.m. South Milwaukee LionsFest
- **Sat., July 27: SMYT Seniors Present "Beauty and the Beast, Jr.,"** 7 p.m. **Where?**
- **Sun., July 28: SMYT Seniors Present "Beauty and the Beast, Jr.,"** 2 p.m. **Where?**

## AUGUST

- **Mon., Aug. 5: South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center Presents "Joe & Jordan Bluegrass Duo"** (Bluegrass), Howard Village **Time?**
- **Tue., Aug 6: South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center presents "Steve Peplin Trio"** (Jazz Standards), **Time?** The Waters
- **Thur., Aug. 8: Community Night Out**, 5:30-9:30 p.m.
- **Sat., Aug. 17: Movie Night at Bucyrus Commons**, Fun at 5 p.m., Movie at 8 p.m.
- **Thur., Aug. 22: Car Show at Downtown Market**, 3-7 p.m.
- **Sat., Aug. 26: Cheaterama Car Show**, 9 a.m. lineup, 12 p.m. show.

## SEPTEMBER

- **Mon., Sept. 2: Labor Day** All City Offices Closed
- **Tue. Sept. 3: First Day of School**
- **Thur., Sept. 5: Home Football Game**, 7 p.m.
- **Sat., Sept. 7: Open Doors**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Explore the City!
- **Thur., Sept.12: South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center Presents "The Sensations,"** 5-7 p.m. South Milwaukee Downtown Market
- **Fri., Sept. 20: "Chip for the Arts" Golf Outing**, 8 a.m. To Benefit South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center, Grant Park
- **Thur., Sept. 26: Homecoming Parade/Pep Rally/ Bonfire**, 6 p.m.
- **Thur., Sept. 26: Fall Family Festival at the Downtown Market**, 3-7 p.m.
- **Fri., Sept. 27: Homecoming Football Game**, 7 p.m.

## OCTOBER

- **Oct. 11: Home Football Game**, 7 p.m.
- **Sat., Oct. 19: Family Halloween Event at Bucyrus Commons**, 7 p.m.



# 2023 Annual Consumer Report

## Quality of Tap Water



### SOUTH MILWAUKEE WATER UTILITY'S DRINKING WATER MEETS OR SURPASSES ALL FEDERAL AND STATE DRINKING WATER STANDARDS

*This is an annual report on the quality of water delivered by 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 Utility or this report, please call the Utility office at (414) 768-8070 or visit our web site at: [www.smwi.org](http://www.smwi.org). 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 pm at the Water Utility (100 Marshall Ave).*

**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.

Dlaim 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.





To obtain a summary of the source water assessment please contact, Ben Huffman at 414-768-8070.

### Treatment process

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

### Source Water

Source ID	Source	Depth (in feet)	Waterbody Name	Status
1	Surface Water	30	Lake Michigan	Active

**Additional Health Information: Concerning Lead in our Water** The Utility is required to periodically test the drinking water in homes at 30 predetermined sites in the distribution system for lead and copper, which enters the drinking water by corrosion of home plumbing. For the last test year, 2023, and since the introduction of polyphosphates in 1994, the water supply complies with the lead and copper action levels. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. South Milwaukee Waterworks is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)** or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

### 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.



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

**MRDLG:** 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 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 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.

**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 the contaminant present a health risk.

Contaminant (units)	SMCL (ppm)	PHGS or HAL	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2023)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sulphate (ppm)	250	n/a	21.0	21.0		No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits, industrial wastes



**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.

**NOTE:** Not listed are other compounds for which the water was tested but undetected. This information is available upon request at the Utility office. South Milwaukee Water Utility did not test for radon in 2022. South Milwaukee Water Utility did not test for cryptosporidium in 2022.

Contaminant (units)	Site	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date (if prior to 2023)	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
<b>Disinfection Byproducts</b>								
HAA5 (ppb)	304	60	60	22	16 – 28		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM (ppb)	304	80	0	45.6	27.0 – 60.7		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (ppb)	307	60	60	29	17 – 41		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM (ppb)	307	80	0	48.8	28.9 – 65.5		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (ppb)	402	60	60	21	16 – 27		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM (ppb)	402	80	0	40.7	25.3 – 61.0		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAA5 (ppb)	407	60	60	25	16 – 28		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM (ppb)	407	80	0	49.2	28.2 – 68.9		No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
ARSENIC	10	n/a		0.68	0.68	3/1/2021	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff
BARIUM (ppm)	2	2		0.023	0.023		No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
COPPER (ppm)	AL=1.3	1.3		0.180	0 of 36 + action level		No	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
FLUORIDE (ppm)	4	4		0.4	0.4		No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
LEAD (ppb)	AL=15	0		7.70	0 of 36 + action level		No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
NICKEL (ppb)	100			0.63	0.63	3/1/2021	No	Nickel occurs naturally in soils, ground water and surface waters, and is often used in electroplating stainless steel and alloy products
SODIUM (ppm)	n/a	n/a		11.0	11.0		No	n/a
NITRATE (N03-N) (ppm)	10	10		0.36	0.36		No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Synthetic Organic Contaminants</b>								
Atrazine (ppb)	3	3		0.032		4/19/2023	No	Runoff from herbicide used on crops
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene (ppb)	50	50		0.0		4/13/2020	No	Discharge from chemical factories
<b>Radioactive Contaminants</b>								
COMBINED URANIUM (ppb)	30	0		0.8	0.8	4/13/2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits
GROSS Alpha, Excl. R&U (pCi/l)	15	0		1.0	1.0	4/13/2020	No	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>Unregulated Contaminants:</b> 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.								
Metolachlor (Dual) (ppm)	n/a	n/a		0.0084	0.01 – 0.02	4/19/2023		
Bromochloroacetic acid (ppm)	n/a	n/a		4.0	3.4 – 4.5	2/19/2019		
Bromodichloroacetic acid (ppm)	n/a	n/a		5.9	5.3 – 6.4	2/19/2019		
Chlorodibromoacetic acid (ppm)	n/a	n/a		1.42	1.3 – 1.5	2/19/2019		
Monobromoacetic acid (ppm)	n/a	n/a		0.41	0.48 – 0.65	2/19/2019		
Dibromoacetic acid (ppm)	n/a	n/a		0.81	0.66 – 0.88	2/19/2019		
Dichloroacetic acid (ppm)	n/a	n/a		8.45	7.2 – 9.6	2/19/2019		
Bromochloroacetic acid (ppm)	n/a	n/a		7.43	6.6 – 8.3	2/19/2019		
Aldrin (ppb)	n/a	n/a		0.012	0.00-0.01	4/19/2023		



## 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.

**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 in 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 2023)
PFBS (ppt)		450000	0.43	0.39 - 0.46	
PFHXS (ppt)		40	0.94	0.87 - 1.00	
PFHXA (ppt)		150000	1.65	1.40 - 1.90	
PFOS (ppt)		20	2.15	2.00 - 2.30	
PFOA (ppt)		20	2.10	1.80 - 2.40	
PFOA AND PFOS TOTAL (ppt)		20	4.25	4.10 - 4.40	

The EPA announced the final National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for six PFAS contaminants on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The South Milwaukee Water Utilities drinking water has tested below the new EPA MCL. For more information, please visit the EPA's PFAS website. <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>

## Monitoring Violation

Description	Contaminant Group	Sample Location	Compliance Period Beginning	Compliance Period Ending
Fail to collect Routine Samples – RTCR	Microbiological Contaminants	Distribution System	6/1/2023	6/30/2023

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. During the compliance period noted in the above table, we did not complete all monitoring or testing for the contaminant(s) noted, and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time.

## Action taken

The missing samples were collected on June, 22, 2023. The samples were analyzed, but the results were not uploaded to the DNR as required.

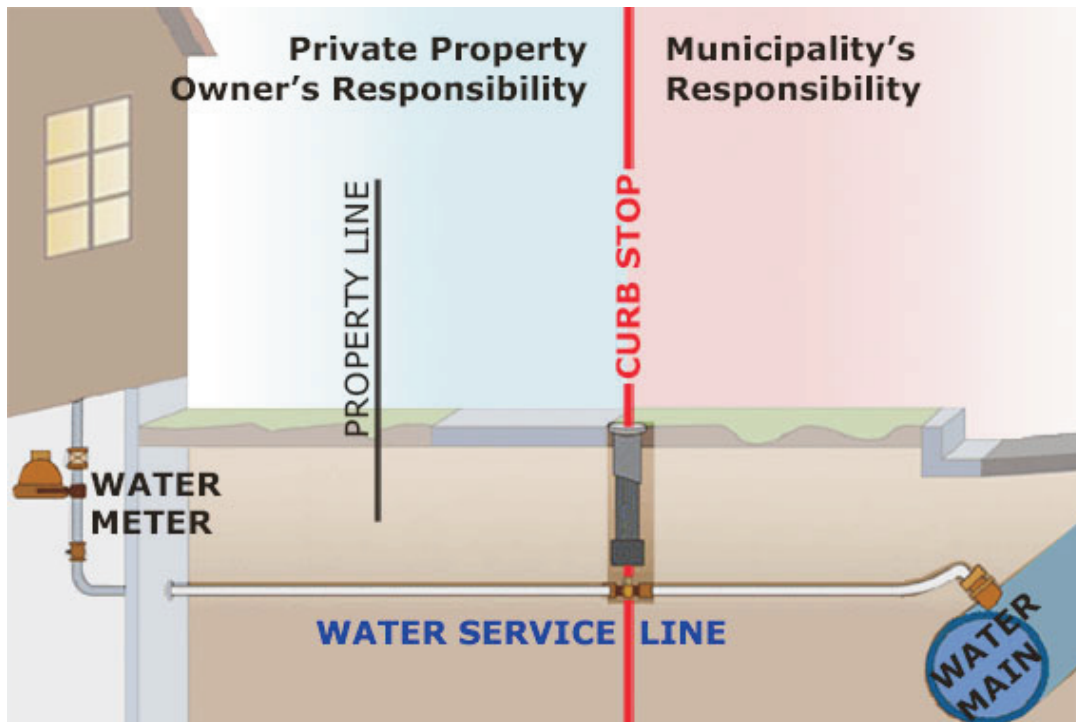
## Lead Service Line Replacements

The South Milwaukee Water Utility has begun the replacement of the approximately 1,700 lead service lines. In 2024, between 250 and 300 are slated to be replaced with the \$2.2 million dollars the Utility received from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. In October of 2023, the Utility submitted an Intent to Apply for State of Wisconsin Safe Drinking Water Loan Program for Lead Service Line Replacements for State Fiscal Year 2025 for approximately \$7 million dollars. We anticipate the funding list for 2025 to be made available by the end of October 2024. At that time, we will learn the amount of grant funding available for private side service line replacement costs for 2025. Please contact the South Milwaukee Water Utility if you have questions regarding lead service line replacements.



## Lead Service Line Funding

Funding for private lead service line replacements is determined by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on an annual basis. The amount of grant funding can vary by census tract. The City of South Milwaukee has seven (7) different census tracts. Any private side lead service line replacement costs that are not covered by a grant is eligible for a 10-year special charge at an interest rate of 0.25% that will be added to the property tax bill.



## South Milwaukee Water Utility Transmission Line Replacement Project

In 2025, the South Milwaukee Water Utility is planning on replacing the 20" water transmission line that runs from the Water Utility to 11<sup>th</sup> and Michigan. This section of piping has failed six times in the past eleven years. There will be additional work on a water main relay on this section of Michigan Avenue, as well as, lead service line replacements and sanitary sewer work.

## Financial Assistance Programs

Customers having difficulty paying their water/sewer bills may be eligible for assistance through the following state programs:

WI Help for Homeowners: 1-855-246-6394

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program: 1-833-426-9472

For links to these programs' websites and for other useful information, visit the Water Utility's department page on the city's website: [www.smmwi.org](http://www.smmwi.org)



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available**

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\*Additional hours  
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