

BRIDGES

CONNECTING OUR CITY OF SOUTH MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY



- ▶ **South Milwaukee Grads Are Brimming With Potential**
- ▶ **Fire Chief Retires After 37 Years of Service**
- ▶ **MATC Apprenticeships Even More Relevant Today**





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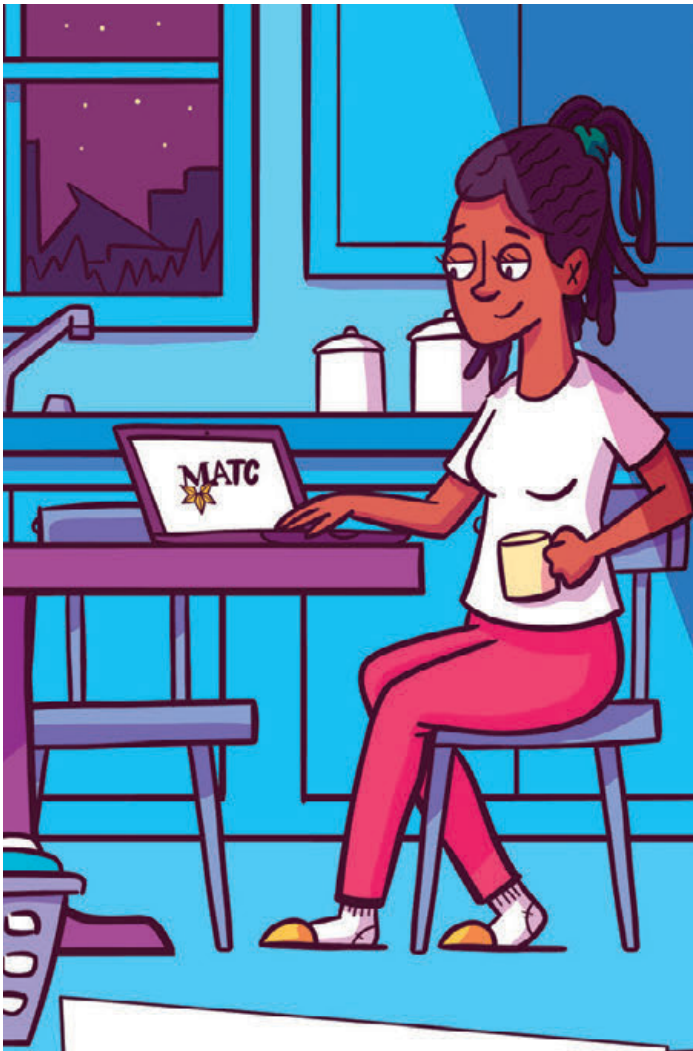
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BRIDGES

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.

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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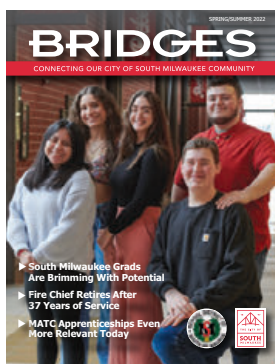
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ON THE COVER

These soon-to-be graduates of South Milwaukee High School have exciting plans for their future. Read about their higher education goals and chosen careers starting on page 8.

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These five graduating seniors from South Milwaukee High School look forward to their future careers. Top left: Lea Papa, Anthony Cook and Hunter Johnson.

Front row: Nadia Maldonado and Olga Ortiz Salgado.

Our Grads Are Brimming With Potential

A Message from Dr. Jeffrey Weiss, SM Schools Superintendent

It's easy to be pessimistic about the future these days; but not when you work with students. If you have children, you know this feeling. Their potential is achingly present. Their whole lives are right in front of them.



Dr. Jeff Weiss

The feeling is a mix of nostalgia and vicarious excitement. Multiply that by 250, roughly the number of seniors roaming the halls of our high school, and you can imagine what it's like to work in education. Schools positively buzz with the potential their lives hold.

That energy is no more apparent than in the spring as our students near graduation. Inside these pages of *Bridges*, we've tried to tell five of those stories, to give you a glimpse into their lives and a look at their future.

You might expect stories of how these students are hoping to make up time lost to the pandemic, or how they're finally free to start their lives after two frustrating years of pandemic health measures. Not so.

What has struck me about these three young women and two young men is how much they look back at the generation or two that came before them. Each of them, when asked why they're going down the path they are on, looked to what their parents did or how

their grandparents' sacrifices allowed them to be here. Some seek to fill a hole left by a lost chance or an unfulfilled dream.

I wish we could tell all of our graduates' stories, but the best I can do is share some information about all of them together. For example, like three of our students profiled in this edition of *Bridges*, 46% of our students will attend a four-year institution in the fall. A further 22% will attend community college.

There was a time that a high school education could mean finding meaningful work and a path to the middle class. Then, for decades it was necessary to have a college degree to get ahead in life. Now, the world has changed again, and a little of both is true.

Through our Certified Career Pathways program we're partnering with local industry to get students the skills they need to start earning a good salary now, knowing that specialized training or more education will be in their future.

I'm excited about these pathways, and we share the story of one of our early program participants in this edition. He's one of the 24% of our senior class that plans to go right into the workforce after high school.

We've also written about two of the five seniors who will join the military and serve our country. One has enlisted in the Army as a combat engineer and will use the G.I. Bill after his enlistment (if he decides on a civilian career). The other has been accepted to the

Coast Guard Academy and plans to study marine science while serving to protect our shores.

While we wish all of our grads good fortune, we turn to our mission of educating the students still in our care.

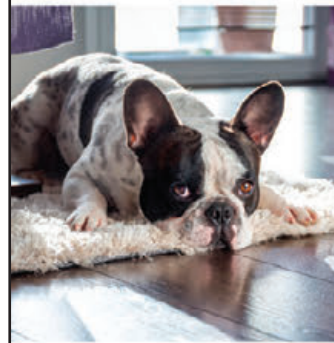
Work will start this summer on installing high-filtration air conditioning units at Luther and Lakeview Elementary Schools (see pg. 18). We can pay for this because we're using federal pandemic relief money the way it's intended – to recover from, and be better equipped for, the pandemic. We're doing this despite forced budget cuts from the state and pressure from elected officials to use that money, called Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds, to fill those gaps.

These AC systems can filter out coronavirus and influenza from the air, and it's just too hot some days in the fall and late spring for meaningful education to happen in these buildings. I'm proud to say that after this project is finished, all of our schools will have the ability to keep the temperature comfortable, and the air clean.

“Our hope is that our elected officials in Madison will believe in us when we tell them the community supports public education, and adjust the state budget accordingly.”

As far as our budget is concerned, there have been reductions. When we should be asking what more we can do for our kids, we're looking for ways to reduce. Our public education is funded by public tax dollars. We cannot do more – or even the same – with less. Surpluses in the state budget don't pay for teacher salaries when they're hoarded for some future need. It's needed now. Our hope is that our elected officials in Madison will believe us when we tell them the community supports public education, and adjust the state budget accordingly.

Finally, I'd like to thank our principals, teachers, staff and parents for working with each other through this tough year. It was this cooperation that helped us keep in-person learning possible all year, and it's our combined effort that will help our students realize the potential that lights up our classrooms every day.



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▶ South Milwaukee Grads Have Big Dreams, Here at Home and Out in the World

Meet These South Milwaukee High School Soon-To-Be Grads

Two students want to be neuroscientists – one a doctor, the other a researcher. Two others will serve their country – one with a mission to help the environment. A fifth student is already out in the workforce, helping construct buildings. That’s what just five of the 251 soon-to-be-graduates of the South Milwaukee senior class plan to do when they finish high school.

“It’s weird to me, that after graduation I’m not going to be here next year,” says Lea Papa, a 17-year-old Albanian immigrant who moved to South Milwaukee when she was just four years old. “I’ve formed a connection with people in my grade. I’m going to miss them.”

Papa has received a full scholarship to Yale University in Connecticut where she plans to study neuroscience. “I want to work in a lab where they develop treatments for neurodevelopmental diseases,” Papa explains.

She will have a home-grown colleague in Nadia Maldonado, 17, who will attend Vanderbilt University in the fall, and who also plans to study neuroscience. A second-generation Mexican-American, Maldonado had her sights set on the Tennessee school and earned a generous scholarship.

“The brain really interests me because there are so many concepts of it,” she says. “I want to learn more about

the brain, and if I decide to go to medical school I either want to do neurosurgery or get a Ph.D. and study areas of the brain.”

Whatever subject Maldonado and Papa finally end up studying, they won’t be alone. A full 68% of this year’s graduating class will attend a college or university. Hunter Johnson, 18, has already started his career. Johnson is a Youth Apprentice in the field of industrial heating ventilation and air conditioning and is part of the 24% of this year’s graduates who plan to work right out of high school. Johnson got an early start. He finished his required courses in January and began the high school-sponsored apprenticeship with Lee Mechanical, which has offices in Oak Creek and Kenosha.

“It’s a great trade,” Johnson shares. “I do a lot of cool things. Today I did welding. Right now, we’re welding up plates. They’re 42 inches long and five inches wide.” He’s worked on jobs all over the region, from refreshing school buildings to new manufacturing plants in the area. Johnson earns \$15.50 an hour as an apprentice and will see his annual earnings grow as he gains more experience. That means working half a day and taking skills-based classes at the union hall.

“I think it was a great opportunity for me,” he explains. “It’s a career.”

A handful of students are headed into the military, like Anthony Cook, 17. The Army recruit will be the fourth generation of his family to serve. "I've been talking to the recruiter for two years now," Cook says. "I'm going as a combat engineer." Since school started he's been working on getting in shape and ready for boot camp. Cook likes to work with his hands and is a Rocket Renegade – part of a club that's repairing a motorcycle at the high school. He thinks he'll eventually work in the trades.

"I'm going to be (in the Army) for three years," he says. "If I decide to (leave the military) I'll be 21, and there's a ton I can do afterward – and I'll be serving my country at the same time."

Olga Ortiz Salgado, 18, has also signed up to serve her country, and she's going to college, too. Ortiz Salgado was recently accepted into the Coast Guard Academy. Her education will be free, and she will be an officer by her junior year. "My goal has been to grow up and help the environment and the people around me," she shares. She plans to study marine science and was attracted to the Coast Guard because of the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) focus of the Academy and the Coast Guard's humanitarian missions.

Ortiz Salgado, who is of Colombian and Puerto Rican descent, is excited to bring her voice to the military. "To be honest, I was told by a boy earlier this year that I wouldn't make it (into the military) because I'm a girl," she recalls. She's proud she was accepted. "It's an empowering thing. You just have to put in the work and not worry about what people say."



Anthony Cook



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Photo by Saturn Lounge Photography

Lea Papa received a scholarship from Yale University and will study neuroscience.

▶ One Generation Won the Immigration Lottery, A Second Earned a Scholarship to Yale

A Family's Journey from Europe Leads to College Match

Lea Papa remembers being 4-years-old and translating for her parents at Customs at O'Hare International Airport, the last step in their journey to start a new life in the United States. The oldest of two daughters, Papa, 17, still translates for her parents, Toni and Sonila, and feels an obligation and need to be there for them. So you can forgive her if there's a bit of hesitancy in her voice when she's asked if she's excited about attending Yale University in Connecticut next year.

"I'm very grateful, I'm happy (but) I was worried," she says. "I'm from an immigrant family, and I'm the oldest child. During my whole life my role has been helping my family," she says. That's why her first choice schools were nearby – Northwestern just north of Chicago and the University of Chicago.

Papa received the offer to attend Yale through a program for high-achieving students. The program matches applicants to one of 40 colleges ranked by preference by the student. The news came suddenly on a Wednesday when she was checking her email for information about bloodwork she needed to have done.

"Instead of the confirmation, I saw an email that said 'your status had been updated.' I wasn't expecting anything, I

wasn't expecting to be matched at all. I guess I didn't want to be let down," she explains. "I knew a lot of people don't match. I was not expecting myself to be one of the people that did. The email said: 'Congratulations you match.'" Her mother, Sonila, received a similar life-changing letter in 2008.

Sonila and her husband, Toni Papa, lived through the turmoil in Eastern Europe that accompanied the fall of the Soviet Union. As a teen, rather than be conscripted into the military, Toni fled to Italy where he started a business. Years later, when the stability returned to Albania, so did he, and he started a family. It was Sonila that got them to the United States by putting her name in the immigration lottery every year after Lea was born. Her name was pulled when Lea was 4, which started Lea's role as the translator for her family. Given the experiences of her parents, getting a good education was important.

"I always felt pressure to do very well in school," she explains. "They thought it was very important for me to get a college education and make the most of the opportunities that I have."



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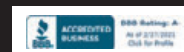
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Hunter Johnson

As a youth apprentice in a school-to-career program for industrial heating, ventilation and air conditioning, senior Hunter Johnson is already working in his chosen profession.

Finding Your Passion – Right Out of High School

Career Pathways Program an Opportunity To Match Students With a Career

Hunter Johnson will walk and graduate with the rest of his class in June, but his first step toward his career started last year when he was a junior.

Johnson is in a youth apprenticeship program, a school-to-career program where he’s been training in the industrial heating, ventilation, and air conditioning industry since June 2021. Though he’s always been interested in working with his hands, he wasn’t quite sure what he was going to do until a chance run-in with building substitute teacher Marta Ahler in a food sciences class.

“Mrs. Ahler asked me: ‘What is your plan after high school?’” Johnson recalls. He said he was interested in the trades. She told him about her husband, Ken, who is a vice president at Lee Mechanical, an HVAC company, and how Lee Mechanical was exploring an apprenticeship program with the high school. “We set up an interview, I got the job, and started June 1.”

Johnson is still a South Milwaukee student. He spent the first half of the 2021-22 school year getting up early and going to work on the job site, where he earned one credit – then at 11 a.m. he got to school for a gym class, and two English classes he still had to take. Now he works the apprenticeship full time while he waits to graduate.

“All around a great job, a great experience,” Johnson says. “I’m not saying college is bad or anything, it just wasn’t for me.”

At one time, college was seen as the goal for every student. Johnson is an example of a growing change in perspective in career education. Employers are looking for specific skills in employees, not necessarily a four-

year degree. South Milwaukee’s tech education program has aligned to meet those employers’ needs.

In February, the school earned Regional Career Pathways Certification from the Cooperative Educational Service Agencies or CESA. The certification means the high school has knitted together a series of courses for students that earn them industry-recognized credentials, dual-credit courses with colleges, career-and-work-based experiences, and career and technical student organizations. Students who study advanced manufacturing, architecture and construction, finance, and patient care can and will find meaningful careers in those fields right out of high school.

“We know there is a dire need for nurses in our world today. Construction firms can’t find enough workers to meet the enormous demand for new commercial and residential buildings,” reports Chris Daniels, the District’s work-based learning coordinator. “This certification means our students will be highly sought after. They’ll be ready to work or be well on their way to professional licensure when they graduate.”

That doesn’t mean they won’t need more education, though. After this summer, Johnson goes right back into the classroom several days a week to learn more about his trade. “I’ll be learning about rigging, welding, and more math and science,” Johnson explains. “High school, for sure, has been great. I enjoyed every day. (But) I’m happy I found a career a little earlier than others. It’s fantastic.”



▶ South Milwaukee High School Unity Club Revives Empty Bowls Dinner

South Milwaukee High's Unity students recently revived an old tradition for a good cause. Crowds of residents recently enjoyed student-made soup in student-made and -fired ceramic bowls, raising more than \$1,200 for Human Concerns, a South Milwaukee non-profit organization.

Empty Bowls dinners were a regular tradition at the school, but fell out of practice in 2014. The Unity student group, which represents students from minority communities and those who support them, chose to revive the tradition in order to become more visible in the community.

"This is a great way to welcome the community into the school and see some of the skills our students are learning," Principal Bryan Terry says. "It's also an opportunity for our students to practice hospitality and give back to the community."

Hungry diners got their choice of tomato, broccoli cheddar or loaded baked potato soup with optional bacon for those who prefer to keep it vegetarian. "These students have a lot to share with the community," reports Ishmael Simmons, a faculty advisor to the Unity group and a family and consumer sciences teacher. "They want to be present and show the community who they are."



Members of the SM High School Unity Club recently invited the community to its Empty Bowls dinner.



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Olga Ortiz Salgado

“It’s hard balancing finding a school that has a good environment, a course of study and a sport you want to go into.”

▶ “Take Every Opportunity You Can” Her Driving Mission

Student Heads to Coast Guard Academy After Graduation

Even if you’ve never met them, you can see Olga Ortiz Salgado’s parents staring back at you when you meet her. Olga’s mother, Maria Salgado, is an environmental scientist who emigrated to the United States from Colombia. Her dad, Raul Ortiz, was a gifted student-athlete who grew up in Milwaukee.

Ortiz Salgado, 18, credits her curiosity and passion for the environment to her mother who made that long, hard trip from Colombia before she was born, and her drive to her father who pushes her to not take anything for granted.

“Throughout my life, he’s enforced that idea – don’t take anything lightly. Take every opportunity you can,” she said. In the fall, Ortiz Salgado will be following in her mother’s shoes, in a way, when she starts at the Coast Guard Academy to study marine science.

“I’m kind of living both of our dreams, and that makes me happy,” Ortiz Salgado exclaims

She said she knows the Coast Guard’s mission varies from keeping the environment safe to enforcing laws at our borders. She’s no stranger to law enforcement – her step-father is a Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) commander, and her brother is a sheriff’s deputy. While she has her father’s drive and her mother’s mind for science and engineering, Olga is her own

person – from her love of acapella music, her fluency in three languages, her speed on the track (she’s one of the top three sprinters in the conference), to her identity as a person of color.

Combating racism is an important issue to Ortiz Salgado, who is co-president of the school’s Unity Club, an organization that promotes awareness of racism and seeks an understanding of the experience people of color have in South Milwaukee and the larger community.

“This isn’t the same South Milwaukee High School it was,” she says. “I’m glad we’re making a difference.”

What drove her to the Coast Guard Academy, she says, was the atmosphere and the opportunity (a track program and an acapella group) the academy offered, and a chance to be a woman and person of color in a leadership role in the military.

“It’s hard balancing finding a school that has a good environment, a course of study and a sport you want to go into,” she says, and she found that balance at the Coast Guard Academy. “I loved it,” she exclaims.



School District Highlights



South Milwaukee School Libraries Support Learning, Technology and So Much More!

If you didn't know better, you might lump your local or school library into the same category as the rotary telephone and dial-up internet. Quaint and nostalgic, but irrelevant when everyone has access to instant information on the smartphone in their pocket. You'd also be wrong. The libraries of the School District of South Milwaukee are brimming with activity and staff who are challenging students to be safe online, to think critically, and to explore life in new and different ways.

If libraries aren't relics of the past, neither are the people responsible for them. The District has two full-time media specialists – one for the elementary and middle grades, and one at the high school. They're well-read experts driving innovation and challenging how teachers teach and students learn.

"In a school, libraries and technology go hand in hand," says South Milwaukee High School Media Specialist Betsy Daniels. "We work with teachers and help weave technology and information literacy into their curriculum." She also instructs students on how to be critical thinkers about the sources and types of data they find on the internet for research assignments.

"A modern school librarian works with students and teachers to find information, to analyze information both from print and media sources," agrees Joanne Sobolik, the media specialist for the elementary and middle schools. "We're making spaces both digital and physical that allow people to discover and to learn." At the elementary level, time in the library is built into students' weekly class schedules, just like physical education or art. Sobolik uses that time with students to teach about the serious business of online safety. She also creates exciting experiences (like learning centers where students become producers through active play), teaches coding and would like to get students to the point where students create virtual reality images with 360-degree cameras. "That is what learning is," she says. "Going from a consumer of knowledge to a producer of knowledge."

And then there are the books. A library book, Daniels explains, can be seen as either a window that lets you peer into another experience, a mirror that reflects your experience, or a sliding glass door that helps you step into another life you might not have experienced before. Both Sobolik and Daniels curate the books in the collection in the eight school libraries that serve South Milwaukee.

"We make sure the books match the diversity of our students," Daniels says. "They can see themselves reflected in the media we offer." The two are supported by a team of library assistants who staff the desks at each library. Those specialists lead elementary learning experiences, circulate books, help students with their Chromebooks, and help students find information.

School can be a stressful place for students both socially and academically. Another thing the libraries are used for is a pressure-relief valve – a quiet space to take a break. Daniels encourages teachers to recommend the library for a student – not as a punishment – but as a haven for students to regroup, do some work and continue their day. "Most people don't realize libraries are a safe place for marginalized people," Sobolik says. Whether it's data literacy, learning, reading for fun or just finding a quiet place, libraries are an important part of the school world. "Our children are full of joy, I love to be able to nurture that joy, just for life and for learning," Sobolik shares. "They have ups and downs, and they're wonderful."



Junior Jack Dunham Passes 1,000 Career Point Mark

Boys Basketball Junior Jake Dunham passed the 1,000 career point mark this year. He's the 5th boy and 11th Rocket overall to hit the 1,000 point mark.

Senior Basketball Players Also Academic Champs

Each senior who played basketball this winter – seven girls and three boys – are members of the National Honor Society.

Rawson Students Earn Teacher vs. Student Basketball Game with Acts of Kindness

Rawson Elementary School students performed 20,000 acts of kindness between September 2021 to March 2022 to earn a fun afternoon of teacher vs. student basketball.

► Her Grandmother Never Got To Be a Nurse – Now She’s Going To Be a Doctor



Nadia Maldonado

Photo by Saturn Lounge Photography

Leaving home is a scary prospect for a lot of graduates. For Nadia Maldonado, 17, home is coming with her to Nashville and Vanderbilt University.

“My parents love Nashville – they’ve always wanted to go,” Maldonado says. “They joked about moving (but) they fully want to move with me.”

For this South Milwaukee soon-to-be-graduate, heading to a top school was always a goal. It helps that Nashville is in a slightly warmer climate than South Milwaukee. She plans to major in neuroscience and minor in nanoscience and nanotechnology. Vanderbilt checked off all those boxes for her.

“It’s not in the cold,” she remembers thinking. “They have a nanotech science major and a nanotechnology minor. That’s my first choice. I want to go there.”

Maldonado will be the first person in her family to earn a four-year degree, and as far as anyone can remember, the first South Milwaukee grad to attend the university. She applied for an early decision from the school and earned nearly a full scholarship – she’ll only have to pay \$5,000 a year to attend.

She said she’s always been driven to learn as much as she can and stay a step ahead. At the end of 8th grade, she mapped out her high school career so she could take all the courses that interested her.

“Freshman year I loved going into the high school and knowing there were so many classes I could take,” she says. “(That year) I doubled up on science so I could take anatomy and physiology in sophomore year.”

At Vanderbilt, the range of possibilities seems vast. In just a shortlist she mentioned, in addition to nanotechnology, she rattled off emergency medicine, neuroscience, neurosurgery and forensics as all possibilities for her future. As of right now, she’s sure she’ll be a doctor, probably a neurosurgeon.

Maldonado will be the first in her family to earn a four-year degree...

She’s always pushed herself, she says, because her grandparents risked so much fleeing Mexico to come to the United States. She feels a deep need to honor that risk and the hard work her grandparents did once they got here to support the family.

“My grandma, she wanted to go to college to be a nurse – and she didn’t get to,” Maldonado says. “They had nothing and they worked so hard to set up a future for their future children. I’ve said: ‘I will continue what you guys couldn’t finish.’”

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Elementary students from Lakeview and E.W. Luther Schools are looking forward to air-conditioned hallways and classrooms this summer. These two schools are the only ones in the South Milwaukee School District that don't have central air conditioning.

▶ Keeping Our “Cool:” Pandemic Relief Fights COVID and Flu At Elementary Schools

On an early September day, Lakeview Elementary School can get really hot inside. It's not uncommon for those sunny days to raise the inside air temperature to 90 degrees or more.

“Those hot days make it really hard to learn, let alone teach,” Principal Christopher Sepersky says. “If there's no breeze, open windows don't help, and noisy fans provide limited relief.”

Lakeview, and its sister school E.W. Luther, are the only two schools in the South Milwaukee School District that don't have central air conditioning – but not for long. This summer, the schools will get new AC systems with hospital-quality air filters that can capture influenza and, more importantly, the coronavirus.

Standing in a music room at Lakeview, Bill King, School District of South Milwaukee manager of buildings and grounds, gestured to the old air handler under the windows.

“Air conditioning is the cherry on top. The main goal is better air quality in this building,” he explains. “All of the

classrooms have this unit, which will be replaced.”

The air unit, which sits under a window with shelving on each side, has seen its fair share of students come in and out of the room. The underside of the vents gives away that the unit was once painted brown, and is now beige. There's no way to know how many other colors the unit has been since it was installed when the building was built in 1957. The shelves, which bookend it, have similar layers of tidy paint. Those will have to go, too, to make room for the bigger air handling unit, and new shelves will be installed.

The AC upgrades for the two schools and the electrical improvements needed to support them will cost a cool \$2.5 million – paid for with Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds. ESSER funds are one-time COVID-relief funding from the federal government given to help schools cope with the new short-term demands the pandemic has wrought. A project of this scope and cost is not easy for the District to do without ESSER funding, especially not now. South Milwaukee is grappling with

shrinking revenues due to two years of zero-percent increase in per-student aid in the state budget.

That, combined with dipping enrollment and soaring inflation puts the District in a bind. The District was forced to make reductions to the 2022-23 budget and faces tougher decisions in the 2023-24 budget. That's all despite record surpluses in government coffers.

"Our elected officials told us to use our federal pandemic relief money to plug our budget," Blaise Paul, District director of business services, says. "That's not what it's for. It's for pandemic relief, like the improvements at Luther and Lakeview. If we took their suggestion, in a year or two we'd be in the same place we are now, maybe worse off, with large budget cuts and nothing left to fight the next variant or new virus that pops up."

King, looking down the lunchroom hallway at Lakeview as students filed in with their lunchboxes, says the improvements to the school will do a lot to keep students in the classrooms. "I've been here long enough, that if we get the flu going through here it could shut the building down," he warns. "Keeping our kids in school – and safe – is the most important thing."



Lakeview Elementary School (above) and E.W. Luther Elementary School (right) will both be getting central air conditioning installed this summer.





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Students can learn about emerging technologies and prepare for careers as technicians and specialists in building automations and controls at classes held at the Center for Energy Conservation and Advanced Manufacturing (ECAM) at MATC's Oak Creek Campus.

▶ Continuing a Time-Honored Tradition: APPRENTICESHIPS EVEN MORE RELEVANT TODAY By Mark Feldmann



Apprenticeships have ancient roots that reach back to the 11th century. But the long-established system of experienced tradespeople providing on-the-job training to workers has become even more essential and relevant in the 21st century. In the Middle Ages, craftsmen employed young people as an inexpensive form of labor in exchange for providing food, lodging and formal training in the craft.

Today, thousands of people in the trades are retiring and leaving their professions, aging infrastructure across the nation needs to be repaired or replaced, and many trades and industries are using sophisticated computer technology that needs to be learned.



*OC Mayor
Dan Bukiewicz*

“Those things combined add up to a tsunami of change coming all at the same time,” says Oak Creek Mayor Dan Bukiewicz, who served an apprenticeship early in his career. “The current generation has a great opportunity to harness the power of apprenticeships to start a career, create a great life for themselves and help improve our world.”

For more than a century, Milwaukee Area Technical College has provided the most appropriate and current classroom training and coursework for apprentices that area employers require.

“With the current predicament we have with human capital and employment, apprenticeships are more important than ever,” says Dave Polk, formerly MATC’s director of apprenticeships and currently Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development director of Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards. “Apprenticeships have become key to growing the economy, addressing supply chain disruptions, advancing race and gender equity, and supporting underserved communities.”

Apprenticeships provide a paycheck with learning on the job, dramatically decrease college debt, deliver marketable skills, and confer credentials that can be used almost anywhere, explains Polk, who completed a five-year plumbing apprenticeship and worked as a licensed plumber and plumbing inspector for 15 years before going into higher education.

Apprenticeships are also one of the most successful models for providing education and employment. Of MATC students who begin an apprenticeship, 92% of them stay and complete the training, while 83% of people who become apprentices stay with employers for five years or more. MATC offers coursework for 31 apprenticeships in varying fields (see sidebar). Many of the apprenticeship courses are offered at the MATC Oak Creek Campus.

The Center for Energy Conservation and Advanced Manufacturing (ECAM), which offers a variety of training and programs, also is at the Oak Creek Campus. The

center provides instruction for MATC students as well as employees of organizations committed to implementing the latest developments in energy efficiency and advanced manufacturing.

IN-DEMAND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

“These apprenticeship opportunities are in some of the most high-demand, good-paying fields,” says Dr. Mark Felsheim, executive director of the Oak Creek Campus. “Apprenticeship students get both work experience and industry-standard training beginning on day one. MATC graduates in the apprenticeship programs are in high demand, and they can take their certifications with them if they move to another state.”

Mayor Bukiewicz attended classes at MATC while he served his electrical apprenticeship. “MATC has been, and will continue to be, an integral part of providing essential training in a wide array of trades, and I believe it is a premier institution in the state,” Bukiewicz says. “MATC is teaching what employers need right now.”

MATC is constantly seeking to expand the apprenticeship model, Polk adds. The college’s advisory committees continually evaluate the programs, and administrators gather input from area businesses and industries to keep current. In the past several years, MATC began providing instruction for new apprenticeship programs in information technology (IT), culinary arts, healthcare and pharmacy technician.

“We take our cues from the industries and the business community,” Polk reports. “We need to keep up with the times as much as possible and try to provide employers with what they need.”

PROGRAMS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

MATC also partners with local high schools to offer apprenticeship preparation programs in fields including carpentry, tool and die, heating/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC), and power engineering. Students earn both high school and college credit for the courses they successfully complete at MATC.

High school teachers, counselors and students are starting to see the value of the trades as a lucrative, fulfilling career, Bukiewicz notes.

“Apprenticeships are the most efficient way to jump-start a career,” he explains. “They offer a definitive timeline of learning a craft, and when completed, you are fully employed in a job that’s usually family-supporting.”

Also, completing an apprenticeship can be just the start. “You don’t have to simply work in that trade for the rest of your life. You can be an instructor, an inspector or a business owner,” Bukiewicz says. “Apprenticeships can open so many doors.”

State Rep. Ken Skowronski, who has represented Greendale and Franklin since December 2013 and whose district borders Oak Creek, worked in the construction and remodeling industry for 53 years as a general contractor. He served as a carpentry and cabinetmaking apprentice – he still carries his certification – and knows the value of apprenticeships.



State Rep.
Ken Skowronski

“Apprenticeships give men and women a way to look into a trade and get paid to get an education,” Skowronski states. “You learn to work with your hands and work with your mind. You never lose the skills that you have learned. They always stick in your memory. Those skills will always be valuable.”

To learn more about MATC’s classroom instruction related to apprenticeship programs, contact Dave Stuart at 414.571.4788 or email stuardd@match.edu.

APPRENTICESHIP INSTRUCTION AT MATC

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Retired Fire Chief
Joe Knitter



▶ Thank You, Chief Knitter!

Fire Chief Joe Knitter Retires After 37 Years of Service

After 37 years of service to the South Milwaukee Fire Department, Chief Joe Knitter retired on February 10, 2022. He first started with the department as a firefighter in 1985. He was subsequently promoted to lieutenant in 1989, captain in 1994 and chief in 2012. At his retirement ceremony, Acting Mayor Bartoshevich presented him with a proclamation to thank him for his service and congratulate him on his retirement.

In addition to being a nationally respected fire chief, Knitter dedicated himself to training the next generation of firefighters. He has been as a mentor to his staff in South Milwaukee, in addition to being a published writer, an instructor for Milwaukee Area Technical College, and member of Incident Management for the State of Wisconsin and the Division of Emergency Management.

When asked about what he hopes his legacy will be, Knitter responded that he wants to be remembered as a champion for the high-level of service that the South Milwaukee Fire Department provides. Chief Knitter also responded to the below questions for the purpose of this article.

What is your favorite memory as an employee of the South Milwaukee Fire Department? I have so many memories about significant calls, both good and bad, but having my wife, children, and mother present for both my swearing in as Fire Chief and my retirement send-off was very special.

What advice would you give aspiring firefighters? Be a lifelong student of the craft. Never stop learning and be willing to invest in your own future.

What do you love most about South Milwaukee? All it has to offer... from Grant Park, to the school system, to the high level of city services.

Describe South Milwaukee in three words.
Traditional. Welcoming. Evolving.

If you were to check out one book from the South Milwaukee Public Library, what would it be? "Report from Engine Company 82" by Dennis Smith, the first book I read about the fire service that increased my childhood interest even more. It should be required reading for all aspiring firefighters. But, the truth is, I own two copies, so no need to borrow from the library.

What do you plan to do with your retirement?
Well, honestly, spend more time with my 5-year-old grandson and 93-year-old mother, as well as working out, running, biking, hiking, kayaking, and pretty much anything outdoors.

Is there anything you would like to share with the citizens of South Milwaukee? Thank you for the opportunity to serve the community for 37 years while fulfilling a childhood dream of becoming a firefighter. I am very proud of the level of service provided by the SMFD, and would put them up against any department, big or small, and trust they would shine.

The Police & Fire Commission is currently engaged in a hiring process to appoint Chief Knitter's successor. In the interim, Fire Captains Boschke, Egner and Frost are sharing the position of acting fire chief.



The Bucyrus Commons Space at 11th and Madison will feature an open-air pavilion and permanent restrooms.

▶ Bucyrus Commons Project Continues

After several stakeholder committee meetings and two public surveys, renderings have been approved for the Bucyrus Commons space at 11th and Madison Avenue. The space is currently used for the Downtown Market, European Beer Gardens, and as the home of events like Crusherfest and the Festival of Trees.

A contract was awarded for construction to take place this year. The project includes an open-air pavilion, permanent restrooms and an event stage. A grand opening is anticipated for the fall of 2022. The City has already received requests for the space to hold weddings and other events.

As we approach the park's opening, a method to rent the park will be advertised. Thank you to the more than 720 people who offered their thoughts and opinions throughout this process. We think the space will complement the events already being held here – and even foster new ones!



An event stage will be part of the overall Bucyrus Commons Space in downtown South Milwaukee.



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Former South Milwaukee Mayor Brooks and his family (from left); Wife Sarah, son Christian, daughter Shelby and Mayor Brooks.

▶ Changing of the Guard at South Milwaukee City Hall

Mayor Brooks Resigns • Alderperson Bartoshevich Fills In
Jim Shelenske Elected New Mayor of City

Effective November 22, 2021, Mayor Erik Brooks resigned from his role. He had served as mayor since 2014 and spent more than 12 years as an elected official for the City of South Milwaukee.

In addition to pursuing other career opportunities, Brooks was appointed as the head girls varsity basketball coach at St. Anthony High School in Milwaukee. In his first season, the Roman Legion hosted its first-ever WIAA home playoff game.

Thank you for your service to the City of South Milwaukee and best of luck in the future, Coach Brooks! Following his resignation, Common Council President David Bartoshevich

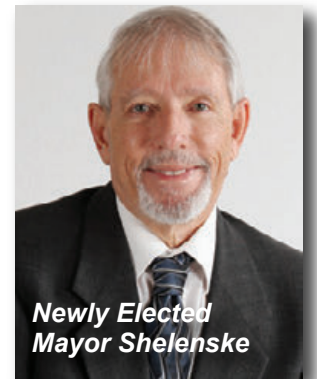
assumed the role of Acting Mayor. Bartoshevich has been serving as a fourth district Alderperson since 1997. His efforts as Acting Mayor over the past few months have been greatly appreciated! A special election was held in April and former City Clerk/Comptroller Jim Shelenske was elected Mayor.



Acting Mayor Bartoshevich

Jim Shelenske Elected Mayor of South Milwaukee

Following the resignation of Mayor Erik Brooks in November, Jim Shelenske won a special election to fulfill the remainder of the position's term. The next election for a full three-year mayoral term will be held in 2023.



Newly Elected Mayor Shelenske

Shelenske is no stranger to City government. He served on the Plan Commission from 1995 to 2006 and as an alderperson for the third district from 2006 to 2010. He was then elected to, and held the position of, city clerk/comptroller until his retirement in 2019.

Shelenske is a lifelong resident of South Milwaukee. He graduated with the South Milwaukee High School class of 1974 and completed an associate degree through Milwaukee Area Technical College. Jim has been married to his wife, Jill, for 45 years. He has two sons, two daughters-in-law, and two grandsons that also live in South Milwaukee. Shelenske is the owner of MJ Media, LLC.

South Milwaukee's new mayor is also very involved in the community, and has held several leadership positions.

Previous positions include board member of the South Milwaukee Chamber of Commerce, two-time past president of the South Milwaukee Lions Club, and treasurer for the 128th Air Refueling Wing Community Council. Additionally, Jim is the founder of the South Milwaukee Downtown Market.

Mayor Shelenske would like to share this statement with the community: "I am honored to serve South Milwaukee as your new mayor."

"I am honored to serve South Milwaukee as your new mayor. Our City is a great place to live and work, and I will continue to keep it that way."

– Mayor Shelenske

Our City is a great place to live and work, and I will continue to keep it that way. I am committed to keeping our citizens safe."

Shelenske continues: "South Milwaukee is a safe city that is independent. We have our own utilities; police, fire, streets and health departments; library; Grobschmidt Senior Center and more. I am also a strong supporter of all our City's local businesses – they are the heart to a thriving community! I am looking forward to keeping our City strong and growing!"

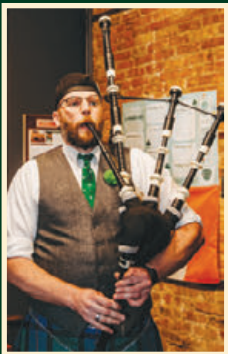


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City of South Milwaukee Public Library

Upcoming Programming

Here is a sampling of spring/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.

ADULTS

Board Game Day

Saturday, May 14 • 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bring yourself, bring a friend, bring the whole family! Stop in the Library for 20 minutes or two hours and try out some of the awesome board games available for checkout. No registration required for this drop-in program. Kids 10 and under must attend with a caregiver.

Adults' Summer Reading Program: Oceans of Possibilities

Mon., June 13 to Sat., August 13

Summer reading isn't just for kids! All ages can sign up online at smlibrary.beanstack.org, on the Beanstack app, or participate at the Library with paper logs for the chance to win super prizes! For adults, every book read is an entry into prize drawings. The more you read, the more your chances to win!

Pride & Pronoun Buttons

Tuesday, June 7 • 5 p.m.

For adults and teens

Come make your own Pride and/or pronoun buttons at the Library. Registration is required as space is limited.

The State of Our Rivers with Milwaukee Riverkeeper Organization

Wed., July 13 • 5:30 p.m.

Learn about water quality in Milwaukee and what you can do to help with the Milwaukee Riverkeeper Organization. Registration is required as space is limited.

Shipwrecks of the Great Lakes

Mon., August 1 • 5:30 p.m.

Join us for some swashbuckling tales of real shipwrecks on the Great Lakes with author Anna Lardinois.

According to her book: "It is estimated that more than 30,000 sailors have lost their lives in Great Lakes wrecks. For many, these icy, inland seas have become their final resting places, but their last moments live on as a part of maritime history." Registration is required as space is limited.

Take & Make Crafts

One kit per person (for adults 18+). Must be present to pick up on Wednesdays (available while supplies last).

- **May 11:** Upcycled Book Keepsake Box
- **June 15:** Jellyfish Paper Lantern
- **July 6:** Seashell Candle
- **August 10:** Plastic Bag Bracelet

TEENS

Summer Reading Program:

Oceans of Possibilities

Mon., June 13 to Sat., August 13

Challenge yourself to read and relax! All ages can sign up online at smlibrary.beanstack.org, on the Beanstack app, or in the Library with paper logs for the chance to win awesome prizes. For teens, every book you read is an entry into prize drawings. The more you read – the more your chances to win!

Take & Make

Tue., May 10: Ninja Stress Ball

One kit per person. Must be present to pick up. Available while supplies last.

In-Person Events

- **Tue, June 21: Tie Dye Mania**

Available from 2-5 p.m. In-person only event (bring your own T-shirt or bag).

- **Tue., July 12: Paint Pouring**

Available from 2-5 p.m. In-person only event.

- **Tue., August 9: Candy Buttons**

Available from 2-5 p.m. In-person only event. Registration is required and will be open two weeks before each event.

Childrens' Summer Reading Program: Oceans of Possibilities

Mon., June 13 to Sat., August 13

All summer long the Library will feature its Summer Reading Program. Kids of all ages can sign up online at smlibrary.beanstack.org, the Beanstack app, or participate at the Library with paper logs for a chance to win cool prizes!

Entertainment by Steve Girman

Sun., June 12 • 10 a.m.

Join us at the Library for a fun performance by storyteller, magician and juggler Steve Girman! Registration is required.

Storytime at the Bucyrus Museum

Tue., June 28 • 10 a.m.

Join us for a construction-themed storytime at the Bucyrus Museum in South Milwaukee. Registration is required.

RECURRING PROGRAMS:

Drop-in Craft

Fridays • 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

For ages 2-12. Stop in the Library to make a fun craft, while supplies last.

Storytime & Craft

Tuesdays from 10-11 a.m.

Registration required. For ages 2-5.

Music & Movement

Wednesdays • 10-11 a.m.

For children ages 0-3 and their caregivers. This program combines music, dance and storytime. Registration required.

LEGO Club

Third Wed. of the month • 4:30-5:30 p.m.

For ages 5-12. Bring your own bricks or use ours. Registration is required.

STEAM Club

First Wed. of the month • 4:30-5:30 p.m.

For ages 5-12.

Join the STEAM Club (S = Science, T= Technology, E = Engineering, A = Arts, M = Math) for some fun activities. Registration required.

Registration for all kids events can be found on the Library's Childrens' Facebook page at facebook.com/SouthMilwaukeeLibraryChildrens

Check out smlibrary.org/children for up-to-date programming information – more events will be added soon!

Student Summer Employment Openings

Do you like to be outside as much as possible during the summer months? Would you like to work full-time, and still have all your nights and weekends free this season?

The City of South Milwaukee is looking for students ages 16 and up to fill summer-help positions. These positions pay \$9 per hour, and the hours are Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-3 p.m. This is your chance to make your community a better place – and earn money at the same time! Applications can be found on the City's website at smwi.org.

Remember when libraries looked like this? This is a shot from the old Carnegie Library in 1958. The South Milwaukee Public Library has undertaken the process of creating a digital history archive.



SM Library Creates Digital History Archive

One of the most exciting and recent new additions to the South Milwaukee Library's collection has been the creation of a local digital history archive. Using the collections of the Library, the South Milwaukee Historical Society and the South Milwaukee Industrial Museum, huge strides have been made to ensure that some of South Milwaukee's most important local history resources are digitally preserved and easily accessible.

Late last year, in conjunction with Recollection Wisconsin and the Milwaukee Public Library, eight decades of South Milwaukee High School's "Bay Mist" yearbook were prepared to be accessible online. Working with the Historical Society, their collection of city directories and phone directories, dating as far back as 1912, were added. And working with the South Milwaukee Industrial Museum, more than 400 issues of the Bucyrus Erie "Scoop" magazine were included in the collection.

These materials are of great value to genealogists and local history buffs alike, and offer a look into South Milwaukee's past through photographs and stories. They were mostly inaccessible to the casual researcher and were unavailable entirely to anyone outside of the City prior to the creation of this digital collection. They are now free for all to use online and keyword searchable.

The work on this project is far from complete. Work is currently taking place to bring the first editions of the *South Milwaukee Journal* to the internet, realizing fruition to a long-term project of the Historical Society. Soon, several decades of the *South Milwaukee Journal* will be available to browse for free online, with each issue keyword searchable. The newspaper project is ongoing and new batches of issues will be added throughout the year. This is a tremendous achievement for all involved and the digitized newspapers will surely become the centerpiece, of any future historical work about South Milwaukee and its people.

In addition to the newspapers, we are in the process of adding the Historical Society's collection of Spectacle of Music programs, as well as materials related to the Library's history. Photographs will be added to the collection in 2022, as well. Plus, later in the year, a call to the public for historic photo contributions will be made, allowing citizens to help in the project. Additional materials, such as oral histories and City publications will also be added.



The expansive Steele Solutions facility in South Milwaukee covers more than 200,000 sq. ft. An additional 85,000 sq. feet of warehouse space is located across the street.

Business Spotlight: Steele Solutions Inc. Exceptional Customer Care From Experts in the Steel Structure and Work Platform Industry

South Milwaukee is known for its rich and dynamic manufacturing history. And we can now add **Steele Solutions Inc.** to the prestigious list of manufacturing businesses that have called the City their home for decades. Located on the former Bucyrus Erie campus at 10th Ave. and Rawson Ave., this innovative industry leader is setting the standards for the design, manufacture and installation of complex work platform solutions throughout the U.S. These structures primarily include platforms to support material-handling automation, and also include platforms that support industrial processing equipment, provide space for storage and mezzanine-level offices, provide access to and over equipment, and increase warehouse space.

Since its founding in 1996, Steele Solutions has experienced rapid growth from its humble beginnings in a small trailer in Waukesha. Two relocations later, the company now has two other locations – Milwaukee and Franklin – besides the South Milwaukee plant. The addition of the South Milwaukee location has significantly increased production capacity and allowed Steele Solutions to keep up with its customers' rapidly growing businesses.

Steele Solutions has installed equipment in all 50 U.S. states, and also in 13 other countries. The founders of Steele Solutions worked together at a competitor before joining forces to chase the American Dream of owning their own business together.

Platform Solutions To Meet a Variety of Needs

As a specialist in equipment platform design and manufacturing, Steele Solutions meets the needs of distribution centers, fulfillment centers, sortation centers, warehouses, manufacturing plants, industrial processing facilities and military installations. All steel



Steele Solutions uses a computerized, state-of-the-art powder coat paint line.



The Steele Solutions' manufacturing facility in South Milwaukee is an ongoing "buzz" of activities during three shifts.

structures are customized to the clients' specifications to ensure each platform will serve all the clients' needs, now and well into the future. A multitude of accessories are also available to enhance the custom mezzanine platform experience, including handrails and railings, stairs and stairways, ladders, gates, catwalks and crossover bridges. These are designed using the most up-to-date safety codes, and meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and OSHA safety requirements.

Industry Awards Include Best Place To Work

The company's excellence and growth has been recognized nationally by *Inc.* and *Entrepreneur* magazines, and locally by the Metropolitan Association of Commerce (MMAC), among other awards. In three consecutive years: 2016, 2017 and 2018, Steele Solutions was awarded "Best Places To Work" by the *Milwaukee Business Journal* for outstanding corporate culture, trusted leadership and positive employee engagement.

Co-owner and CEO Kevin O'Neill shares, "We are proud to have been named one of Milwaukee's 'Best Places To Work' and believe it is a true reflection of our culture at Steele Solutions. We celebrate employee contributions and make investing in our people, facilities and technology a top priority. Our employees are empowered to make (their own) decisions – and they get the opportunity to work for a company whose goal is to deliver the highest-quality customer care, all contributing to a very rewarding career."

The company's slogan, "The Height of Excellence" effectively sums up the guiding principals on which Steele

Solutions was founded. According to co-owner, Terry Young, "When customers choose Steele Solutions, they can expect a responsive and dedicated partner that provides a full menu of manufacturing services from start to finish. We take time to truly understand our customers' needs and provide them with support throughout the entire (production) process. In addition to our strong belief in exceptional customer care, we also pride ourselves in making the highest quality steel structures in the industry."

The owners of Steele Solutions agree that founding the South Milwaukee location has been a wise decision. They note that they love the sense of community here, and how friendly the neighborhoods are. They also agree that South Milwaukee has a small-town feel, but still includes so many amenities you do not usually find in a small town.

With its legacy of heavy manufacturing, Steele Solutions is proud to be a part of this history, and looks forward to being a continued presence

in the community in the future.

Considering a career in manufacturing? Steele Solutions is always looking for hard-working, enthusiastic individuals who thrive in a fast-paced environment to join its team. Applications, along with more detailed information, can be found at steelesolutions.com/careers/.

No matter the vision you have for your warehouse space, there's an ideal structure solution possible from your one-stop source – Steele Solutions. Contact them today!

Steele Solutions Inc. • 1117 E. Rawson Ave • steelesolutions.com

“We take time to truly understand our customers' needs and provide them with support throughout the entire (production) process – from consultation to installation.”



▶ South Milwaukee Health Department Staff Excited To See More Work Within the Community

The past two years for the South Milwaukee/St. Francis Health Department has been spent working in response to COVID-19 through contact tracing, advising community members and businesses on best practices, keeping up-to-date with CDC guidance, and working hard to keep the South Milwaukee community healthy and safe.

This past January was particularly difficult, as COVID-19 cases reached a record high, passing a previous high from over a year ago in November 2021. While this was a chaotic time, it has passed. Spring has arrived along with a renewed motivation to work and reflect on the many different areas of work completed at the Health Department.

Public Health Nurses Taylor, Kailyn, and Melissa have been eagerly looking at restarting work in the community these next few months. Taylor began working at the Health Department just two weeks before the pandemic began. After a lot of work with COVID-19, she is eager to work more within the community. Particularly, she is excited to work on fall prevention efforts with Stepping On, a program that reduces the risk of falls among the elderly population. While Taylor won't miss the pandemic, she will miss the close-knit family time she enjoyed the past few years.

Like Taylor, Kailyn has enjoyed spending time with her family. She is also looking forward to spending more time with family this summer as she welcomes another child. At the Health Department, Kailyn is currently collaborating with

a few businesses as they work to make their workplace more breastfeeding-friendly for nursing mothers. This means designing lactation-inclusive policies for work and implementing a designated and permanent lactation space. She enjoys the coordinated efforts between the health department and local work sites. For Melissa, collaborative efforts are an important aspect of the work she does with emergency preparedness. These past few years have shown the importance of collaborations between the fire and police departments, emergency medical services, and other agencies. Melissa has also enjoyed working at vision screening clinics in collaboration with the South Milwaukee Lions Club, at the elementary schools. For her, it's the work in the community that motivates her and brings her into work every day.

Public Health Nurse Supervisor Mary is ready for change this spring as she begins working on reproductive health programming and starting a sexually transmitted infection (STI) clinic that will be housed within the health department in the coming months. This STI clinic will have testing, treatment, and educational services for those that live in the community. This is an effort that comes after months of planning, and she looks forward to seeing it come to fruition.

Public Health Specialist Brad is new to the Health Department as of last fall. He is also looking forward to

Left: Members of the South Milwaukee Health Department (top row from left): Kailyn Dorniak, Mary Kosterman, Marty Zabkowicz, Debbie Guthrie, Jackie Ove and Cassie Johnson. Front row: Brad Rutter and Taylor Wey. Not pictured: Melissa Ellis, Laurie Strube and Carina Marshall.

getting to know the community, as well as helping facilitate the Healthy Community Partnership, a collaborative effort between St. Francis and South Milwaukee to address health priorities such as mental health and drug use.

Public Health Administrator Jackie has worked over 20 years in the department and is excited to get back in the community to connect with South Milwaukee residents at the farmer's market and other community events. She also notes that COVID-19 has allowed many agencies to collaborate during the pandemic, and she hopes that those partnerships can continue moving forward. For Marty and Carina working in environmental health, they are looking forward to having some normalcy this spring through their work with restaurant inspections, animal bite follow-ups and with other transitions this year. Marty is retiring after working nearly 40 years in environmental health and almost 20 here in South Milwaukee. He looks forward to spending time with his family in retirement.

After a couple busy years, everyone at the Health Department collectively notes that time outdoors with their families and loved ones has energized them after these long weeks. As spring and summer comes around again, the Health Department staff looks forward to all of these exciting programming efforts and seeing members of the community once again.

▶ Health Dept. Volunteers Needed

Are you interested in helping during a public health emergency or looking for ways to get more involved with your local Health Department? Consider joining the Wisconsin Emergency Assistance Volunteer Registry (WEAVR). WEAVR is Wisconsin's initiative to organize volunteers to help during disasters. It is a web-based, volunteer registration system for all types of volunteers. In fact, there are no specific qualifications required to volunteer, but experiences, trainings or certifications may be required for some roles. Please be prepared to provide proof of these qualifications upon registration.

To get involved, please visit weavrwi.org and select "South Milwaukee" or "St. Francis" Health Department as your organization during registration. For questions on volunteering, please call the South Milwaukee/St. Francis Health Department at 414.768.8055 or visit <http://bit.ly/volunteerSMSFHD>.

▶ SM Crime Decreases by 13%

The South Milwaukee Police Department has released its 2021 crime summary. The statistics are reported to the state and federal governments through the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).

The City is pleased to report that overall, crime decreased by 13% from 2020!

The men and women of the South Milwaukee Police Department work diligently to keep our community safe – and they truly appreciate the assistance received from concerned citizens who call when they see something suspicious.

You can view the full 2021 crime summary on the City's website at smwi.org.



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OUT AND ABOUT IN THE CITY OF SOUTH MILWAUKEE

- 1.** Work continues on the Bucyrus Commons Project in downtown South Milwaukee, to be completed later this year (see pg. 23).
- 2.** Student members of the Unity Club display their handmade soup bowls before their event (see pg. 13).
- 3.** Rawson Elementary School Principal Nicholas Anton was duct-taped to the wall for a fundraiser at a school dance last winter. Students paid \$1 for each strip of tape that was used to stick Anton to the wall, and money raised bought supplies to help developing readers at the school.
- 4.** Public Health Nurse Melissa Ellis attended the National Association of City-County Health Officials' Preparedness Summit that focused on public health emergencies and responses.
- 5.** The Varsity Dance Team double qualified for State and was honored with the Jaci Kosin Sportsmanship Award by the Wisconsin Association of Cheer/Pom coaches for displays of kindness to other teams and staff at WACPC events.
- 6.** The Girl's Varsity Basketball Team won the Woodland East Conference Championship – their fourth conference championship in a row.



7. (Right): Steele Solutions in South Milwaukee is an innovative industry leader, setting the standards for the design, manufacture and installation of complex work platform solutions throughout the U.S. (read more on pg. 28). **8.** (Below) South Milwaukee Public Library participants distributed homemade Valentine's Day cards to veterans. **9.** The owners of Atwood Hwy. BBQ Company at 925 Madison Ave. in South Milwaukee, invite you to visit their new restaurant for the best, authentic barbecue in the Midwest (see ad on pg. 19).



7



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9

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

MAY

- **Tue., May 3: 5th Grade Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m.**
South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center
- **Thu., May 5: 6th Grade Band, Orchestra, Choir Concert, 7:30 p.m.** South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center
- **Tue., May 10: 7th Grade Band, Orchestra, Choir Concert, 7:30 p.m.** South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center
- **Wed., May 11: Schools Early Release HS/MS 1:30 p.m.,** Elementary Schools 2:05 p.m.
- **Thu., May 12: Literacy Day/Night, 4:30 p.m.** SM High School
- **Fri., May 13: Last Day To Register for Summer Youth Theatre** (southmilwaukee.org)
- **Sat., May 14: SM Art Walk/Run** To Benefit South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center Grant Park Soccer Field #4, 10 a.m.
- **Thu., May 19: 8th Grade Band, Orchestra, Choir Concert, 7:30 p.m.** South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center
- **Mon., May 23: High School Choir Concert, time TBA**
South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center
- **Tue., May 24: High School Band and Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m.** South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center
- **Wed., May 25: Senior Awards and Scholarships Program, 6:30 p.m.** South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center
- **Thu., May 26: Connects Learning Center Graduation, Time TBA** South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center
- **Fri., May 27: No School**
- **Mon., May 30: Memorial Day – No School for South Milwaukee Schools and City Offices Closed**
- **Tue., May 31: No School for South Milwaukee Schools**

JUNE

- **Wed., June 1: 2022-2023 Performing Arts Season Preview, 6:30 p.m.** South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center
- **Thur., June 2: First Day of South Milwaukee Downtown Market, 3-7 p.m.** 11th and Milwaukee Aves. Produce, baked goods, sweet treat and live music! Every Thursday until Oct. 13. Visit smmarket.org.
- **Thu., June 2: Blast Off Concert, time TBA** South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center
- **Wed., June 8: 8th Grade Recognition, time TBA**
South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center
- **Thur., June 9: High School Graduation, 7 p.m.** Fieldhouse
- **Fri., June 10: Last day of School for South Milwaukee School District** High School and Middle School 11:30 a.m., Elementary Schools 12 p.m.
- **Mon., June 13: SM Rec. Dept. Sharks Aquatics Club Summer Session Starts** (ages 6-18)

- **Tue., June 21: First day of Summer School** All Schools
- **Sat., June 25: Garden Tour** Tickets available at Mari's Flowers, 905 Milwaukee Ave.

JULY

- **Mon., July 4: Independence Day – City Hall and Street Department Closed.**
- **Mon., July 4: 4th of July Celebration, Call to Colors Followed by Kiddie Parade, 10 a.m. Fireworks 9:30 p.m.**
- **Sat., July 16: Disney's "The Jungle Book Kids," 1 and 3 p.m.** SM Performing Arts Center. Call 414.766.5049 for tickets.
- **Thur., July 21: Evening at the Market, 3-8 p.m.** South Milwaukee Municipal Band 3-4 p.m.
- **Mon., July 25: 20th Annual DARE Golf Outing, 8 a.m. Start** Oakwood Golf Course, Oak Creek
- **Tue., July 26: Veterans' Appreciation Day at Molthen-Bell**
- **Fri., July 29: Car Cruise and Car Show, 16th and Rawson Aves.**
- **Fri.-Sat. July 29-30: "Into The Woods Jr.," 7 p.m.** South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center. Call 414.766.5049 for tickets.
- **Fri., Sat. and Sun., July 29, 30 and 31: Lionsfest, 16th and Rawson**
- **Sat., July 30: Heritage Days Parade** (see pg. 3)
- **Sat., July 30: The Great Duck Race, 2 p.m.** 15th and Milwaukee Aves.
- **Sun. July 31: "Into The Woods Jr.," 2 p.m.** (see above listing)

AUGUST

- **Mon., Aug. 1: Youth Tackle Football Starts**
- **Wed., Aug. 3: 20th Annual Community Night Out, 5:30-9 p.m.**
- **Tue., Aug. 9: Primary Election Day**
- **Thur., Aug. 11: Last Day To Register for Flag Football Grades 2-5 and Volleyball Grades 3-8**
- **Wed., Aug. 14: South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center Volunteer Orientation, 6 p.m.** Call 414.766.5049 for details.
- **Mon., Aug. 22: Youth Volleyball Rec. League Starts Grades 3-8, Youth Flag Football Rec. League starts Grades 2-5**

SEPTEMBER

- **Thur., Sept. 1: First Day of School – South Milwaukee Public Schools**
- **Mon., Sept. 5: Labor Day – No School for South Milwaukee School District, City Offices Closed**
- **Thur., Sept. 29: Family Fall Fest, 3-7 p.m.** at the South Milwaukee Downtown Market



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