

SPRING 2018

O A K C R E E K

# CURRENT

M A G A Z I N E

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### Welcome New Businesses

A FOCUS ON THE CITY'S  
BUSINESS RETENTION AND  
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### 4K AND 5K ENROLLMENT FOR 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR

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Creation Technologies, located in Oak Creek, creates custom circuit board assemblies and electro-mechanical products for a variety of industries. Read more on page 8. *Photo by Saturn Lounge Photography*

O A K C R E E K

# CURRENT

M A G A Z I N E

The **Oak Creek Current** is the official magazine of the City of Oak Creek. The **Current** is published four times per year by the City of Oak Creek and the Oak Creek-Franklin Joint School District, with additional financial support from MATC-Oak Creek campus and Barrett Lo Visionary Development. The magazine also receives funding from local advertisers.

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## Message from Dr. Mark Felsheim: Greetings from Milwaukee Area Technical College's Oak Creek Campus

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- **A business that wants on-site training for its employees.** MATC's Workforce Solutions offers customized, on-site training to meet specific employer needs.
- **Businesses looking for skilled workers.** Our graduates are trained in the latest skills to meet the demands of local industry.

This is just a small sampling of the people and organizations we serve in our community. I invite you to stop by the Oak Creek Campus for more information, or visit [matc.edu/about/campuses/oakcreek](http://matc.edu/about/campuses/oakcreek). You also can contact me directly if you have any questions or need more information.

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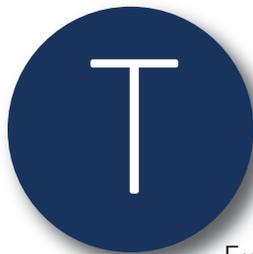
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# REALLY? RIGHT HERE IN OAK CREEK!

by Andrew J. Vickers, City Administrator



he City of Oak Creek has a growing reputation for being a beacon to new businesses.

From new restaurants and retail, to medical resources, to manufacturing, to distribution, the City has positioned itself as a leading community when it comes to new business attraction. The Mayor, Common Council and City staff have earned this reputation; economic development is at the forefront of the community's goals and will remain there for the foreseeable future.



CREATION TECHNOLOGIES

Economic development, however, is not only about attracting new businesses and services to the City. "Business attraction" is only one of several initiatives the City engages in to facilitate economic development. The other side of the coin, "business retention and expansion" or BRE, is equally important. In our recently adopted Strategic Action Plan (SAP), 2017-2020, the Common Council made it clear that connecting to – and assisting with the growth of – current Oak Creek businesses should be re-prioritized.

So, what is "BRE," you might ask? The answer is not as short as the acronym, and means different things to different municipalities and economic development organizations (chambers of commerce, county economic development corporations, etc.). Essentially, the concept of business expansion and retention relates to growing from within; some planning professionals relate this to a concept called "economic gardening."

The strategy behind the City's BRE program is simple, really. First, we do not want to lose businesses currently operating in Oak Creek. That's the "retention" part. We all understand that with the loss of a

local business, we may find ourselves, or our neighbor, without a job. It also means less money circulating in our local economy to support other area businesses. As City officials, we do not like to wake up and read that a business is closing its doors in Oak Creek. The question always persists: "Well, could we, the City, have done anything to help?"

Second, where we can, we want to help existing Oak Creek businesses grow. That's the "expansion" part. The benefits are numerous: an expanded tax base to keep our property taxes low, more jobs, the potential for more local money going to support other area businesses, and many others.

City leaders were able to connect with more than 15 of Oak Creek's largest employers in 2017, the first year of the BRE visitation program. This conversation between City leaders and local CEOs and CFOs produces typical data through questions such as: how many employees and at what type of wages? Do you have workforce recruitment issues? Are sales steady, declining or increasing?

The answers to those questions provide important metrics that should not be minimized. What we have found more



fascinating on our visits, however, is what local companies are producing, whom they are producing for, and more importantly, how they are going about producing it. We learned of unique production processes, high-tech products, out-of-this-world customers (one company is working on a part for Elon Musk’s SpaceX program), and other “great workplace” factors such as awesome displays of corporate culture. When we visited one company, they had a themed dress-up week where each day was a different decade. We were there on ‘70s Day!

Featuring our very own OC businesses in this magazine (read about Creation Technologies on page 8 and GO Riteway Transportation on page 18), and other City communication outlets is a small way to show appreciation for their contribution to the City, and larger community. We will continue to honor our existing businesses in other ways, too, because Oak Creek has become what it is today, and shapes what it will be tomorrow, due in large part to business leaders and small business owners that, once upon a time, decided to set up shop . . . right here in Oak Creek.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE CITY’S BUSINESS RETENTION AND EXPANSION (BRE) PROGRAM

- To demonstrate to existing businesses that the community appreciates their presence in the City and their contribution to the local economy.
- To encourage and provide City assistance for building and/or workforce expansion, and provide guidance documents regarding City approval processes.
- To connect local businesses to available resources to overcome their problems and challenges.
- To provide information and understanding for all local leaders of the strengths and weaknesses of the local business climate.
- To gather intelligence on industry trends and potential threats to businesses being sustained in Oak Creek.
- To provide linkage to the business and the larger community-building process already underway (philanthropy, event participation, joint marketing opportunities, aesthetic enhancement, etc).

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## Business Spotlight: Creation Technologies

# WORKING TOGETHER TO BUILD THE FUTURE

# E

lectronic devices are everywhere. We can press a button or flip a switch and then the magic happens. What we generally take for granted – or simply don't understand – is the technology behind these devices.

If you looked inside of any of them – your home computer, your cell phone or even the electronic toys your kids play with – you would find a printed circuit board assembly (PCBA). A PCBA is the “brain” of any powered electronic device, allowing it to function, providing both electricity and connectivity between the components.

Creation Technologies, located in Oak Creek's Southbranch Industrial Park, is a company whose primary focus is to create circuit board assemblies and complete electro-mechanical products for many different industries. Founded in 1991 in Vancouver, Canada, Oak Creek's facility is one of nine business units in four countries,

and was the company's first expansion into the United States. Prior to joining forces with Creation Technologies, this electronics manufacturing company facility had established roots in Oak Creek many years earlier, in 1982, as Eder Industries, a leading electronics manufacturing services provider in the Midwest.

As Creation Technologies grew, they began to look for ways to expand to the United States. Eder Industries, and their 75,000-sq.-ft. facility, was a perfect fit. Not only did they have a dynamic management team and a solid customer base, but also a very similar corporate culture that made for a seamless integration of the two companies in 2004.

Today, Creation's Oak Creek primary manufacturing plant, and second facility on Bell Court, have 300 employees on two shifts. What they do here is just as impressive as how and why they do it.

“What we offer in the electronic manufacturing services industry is a premier customer relationship. In the low-to-medium-volume space, we provide customized solutions for customers with unique needs,” states Eric Bohnsack, vice president and general manager of Oak Creek's business unit. “As a regional, nearby presence, we're their manufacturing floor.”

However, manufacturing is not the only service that Creation Technologies offers to its customers. Product design and testing, rapid prototyping, aftermarket services, and direct order fulfillment allow Creation to provide highly customizable solutions to meet a broad range of their customers' individual needs.

“This allows companies to focus on their core business. By outsourcing the electronics, they don't need to maintain the expertise, materials or skilled workforce in-house,” Bohnsack points out. For example, one of Creation's customers is a company well-known for



fire suppression technology, used in large, off-road mining trucks. They are a mechanical and chemical company that needs electronic components for their products. They do not have to be electronics experts, however, because Creation Technologies is there to maintain the quality standards, certifications, equipment, capital investment and skills necessary to deliver a product that meets the customer's specifications.

Industrial instrumentation is just one market that Creation Technologies supports. Their circuit boards and assemblies are found in everything from loading dock safety products, to soft-serve ice cream machines, to thermal imaging cameras inside a firefighter's mask, to a medical device that aids a surgeon performing a knee-replacement procedure.

From start to finish, the creation of a PCBA is an efficient, high-precision process that utilizes both state-of-the-art equipment as well as the hand placement of parts. The facility houses four high-speed surface mount lines that put down parts, some as small as flakes of pepper, in rapid succession. A trip through a massive oven fuses the parts to the board, providing both the electrical and mechanical integrity of the circuit. Workers place and solder larger parts to the boards by hand, as well as complete point-to-point wiring for more complicated "box builds" that incorporate multiple circuit boards into an enclosed box. High-tech manufacturing equipment and the skilled and steady hands of Creation's workers perform a multitude of inspections, tests and customizations to these boards to suit each customer's needs.

By design, many of Creation's customers are well-known companies with a regional presence. Their close proximity allows them to visit the manufacturing facility on a daily or weekly basis. Bohnsack admits that Creation Technologies looks for customers that share similar company cultures and attitudes, and focuses on building strong relationships with them. This method appears to be working for them. Creation Technologies has received *Circuits Assembly* magazine's Highest Customer Rating Award for the past three years in a row.

Strong internal relationships are also a hallmark of the company's workforce. Creation's unique approach to the human resources function of the company, which they call People and Culture, contributes to that strength. Employees each take part in an annual partnership discussion as a means to build that relationship.

"It's a bit less about setting numeric goals," Bohnsack notes. "We've got help from headquarters to keep our eye on financial performance goals, but we build success toward those goals by working foundationally on our relationships. We like to think that it has paid off in good employee loyalty." Oak Creek's facility has several 25- and 35-year veterans with the company.

It only takes a casual walk through the manufacturing facility to notice the mutual respect and a sense of caring the diverse workforce has for Bohnsack, and for each other. Bohnsack addresses almost every one of the nearly 200 employees on the manufacturing floor by name. He not only knows precisely what they are working on, but may also greet them with a "Kon'nichiwa" or a question about their new grandchild.

At shift change, as employees leave the manufacturing floor, Bohnsack warmly wishes them a good weekend, waves his fingers and requests they bring back "10 good ones, please!" Workers smile and wiggle their fingers in return. The safety of his team is always a priority, on the job or off. "It's 'Protect Our People, Protect Our Products, and Protect Our Perception,'" he says, reciting the Milwaukee Business Unit's mantra.

Creation Technologies seems to have figured out the solution to better technology is better relationships, and they demonstrate that every day at their Oak Creek facility.

To learn more about Creation Technologies, including employment opportunities in Oak Creek, please visit [creationtech.com](http://creationtech.com).

**Creation Technologies**  
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*Workers carefully place and solder parts to circuit boards.*



*Eric Bohnsack, Vice President and General Manager of Creation Technologies' Milwaukee Business Unit*



Photos by Leslie Flynn

## Volunteer Spotlight: Rudy Umbs

# A LIFETIME PASSION FOR VOLUNTEERISM



Rudy Umbs believes that the spirit of volunteerism is woven into the very fabric of Oak Creek, thanks to the farmers that originally settled in the area. Rudy's grandparents came to Oak Creek in 1920, farming land on 13th Street near Puetz Road. As a child, Rudy witnessed, firsthand, neighbor helping neighbor.

"Oak Creek has a history and culture of helping people. If one farmer needed some help, everyone else stepped up to assist," he recalls.

Umbs attended Hickory Grove School, a two-room schoolhouse, where eight grade levels of students learned together. It is here where he, inspired by the adults around him, learned to volunteer. Rattling off a list of schoolmates, it's apparent that he wasn't the only one – the names are a veritable Who's Who list of Oak Creek's best and most dedicated volunteers.

Umbs, himself, gives back to his community as a Friends of the Oak Creek Library volunteer, a Library technology helper, and as a member of the City's Traffic and Safety Commission.

"How can you not want to contribute to your city?" he queries, "I went to grade school here, middle school here, high school here. I saw the AC Delco plant being built as I looked out the window of my school, and knew I wanted to be an engineer someday."

Graduating from Marquette University with a degree in engineering, Umbs almost began his career with the City of Oak Creek. However, an opportunity arose with the Federal Highway

Administration (FHWA), and it was too good to pass up. Three days after his college graduation, he began his career with the FHWA at a field office in Montgomery, Alabama, the first of many locations the agency would take him in his 39-year career. His specialty was highway and pedestrian safety, and he managed a team of specialists dedicated to every aspect of that cause – from signs and traffic control devices, to pavement markings and guard rails.

Like his passion for volunteering, his interest in safety was also sparked during childhood. He recalls four fatal accidents, over the span of a few years, at the railroad crossing on Puetz Road near his family's farm. As a sixth grader, he wrote a letter to the editor of the Edgewood Elementary school newspaper, stating the need for gates and lights at that rail crossing to prevent future accidents. His commitment to transportation safety grew from there.

Although Umbs' career with the federal government meant living and raising a family in the Washington, D.C. area, he traveled the country extensively, including trips to Oak Creek every summer to spend time with family. When he retired, he came back for good.

"You CAN go home again," he quips. "I feel as comfortable here now as I did growing up. Yes, there are more buildings, but it's the same



*Rudy Umbs (green shirt) assists in the Oak Creek Library's computer and technology classes.*

Oak Creek.” Upon his return to Oak Creek in 2006, Umbs reconnected with many of the people he had known from his past

He credits his wife, Karen, with his involvement with the Oak Creek Public Library. She is a former Library employee, and now holds a position on the Library Board. At her encouragement, Rudy became a member of the Friends of the Oak Creek Public Library, an independent organization of individuals and businesses interested in assisting the Library in various capacities. Each year, the group donates more than \$4,000 to the Library for additional programming and materials.

Through efforts such as selling reading materials in the Library’s “Book Nook” and the annual plant sale, the Friends have sponsored performers for the Summer Reading program, movies at the Library, local author visits, and the unique book clocks found throughout the new Library building. Umbs notes that joining the Friends of the Library is a great way to get involved in the community; new members are always welcome! (Visit [oakcreeklibrary.org/friends](http://oakcreeklibrary.org/friends) to learn more.)

Volunteering as a Friend of the Oak Creek Library has opened up additional ways for Umbs to give back to his community in a meaningful way. When the Library began to offer computer and technology classes, he stepped in to assist. During classes taught by Reference and Technology Librarian Joanne Seward, you will find him moving around the Technology Training Center, offering necessary

guidance to participants. Although he enjoys contributing in this way, he comes out of every class with knowledge he didn’t have before.

With more than 40 years of experience in highway safety, he’s got a lot of knowledge to contribute, as well. Although retired from the FHWA, he still works part time, as a traffic safety engineer. Additionally, Umbs became a member of the City’s Traffic and Safety Commission in 2016. Oak Creek Design Engineer Matt Sullivan believes that Umbs has been a great asset to the group.

“Rudy brings an abundance of knowledge that he is willing to share whenever the opportunity presents itself,” notes Sullivan. “One of the most important things that Rudy provides is a great mix of empathy for residents’ situations, along with providing the most reasonable solutions to those situations.”

One accomplishment that Umbs is genuinely proud of is the City’s Safe Routes to School initiative, done in partnership with the School District. He has been involved in hundreds of similar projects, and believes that Oak Creek’s is one of the best ones around, due to its thorough observations, documentation process and outstanding recommendation. (Look for the Safe Routes to School project in an upcoming *Current* magazine.)

Although Umbs admits that he has no typical hobbies to speak of, volunteering is something to which he happily dedicates his spare time, knowledge and energy. “If you can add something to society, why not add it? Everyone has their niche.”



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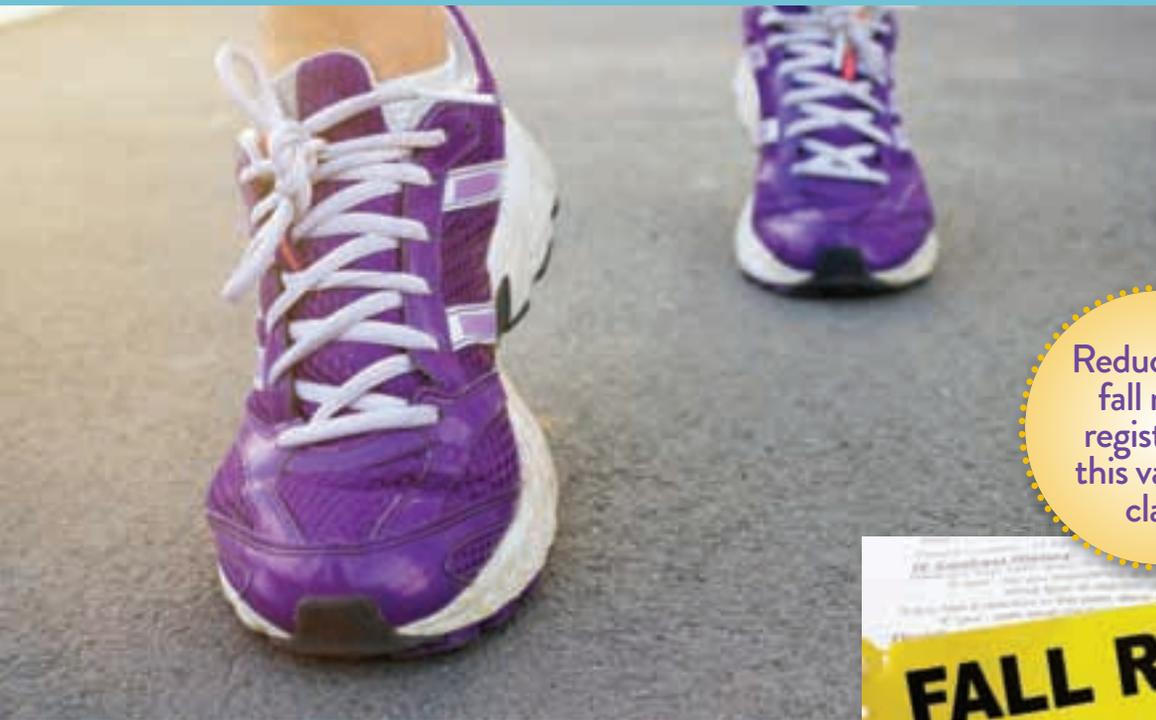


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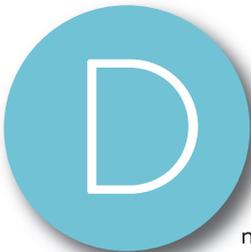




Reduce your fall risk – register for this valuable class!



# STEPPING ON: STAYING STEADY ON YOUR FEET AS YOU AGE



Do you have a friend or relative who has fallen? Have you fallen yourself? If so, you are not alone. One in four adults over the age of 65 falls each year! However, falls are not a normal part of aging, and there are many things that can help reduce the risk of falling.

The Oak Creek Health Department will be offering a Stepping On, seven-week, fall-prevention class starting April 12, in the Oak Creek Civic Center.

Stepping On is designed specifically for people who are at risk of falling, have a fear of falling, or who have fallen one or more times. Participants meet for two hours a week for seven weeks. Trained leaders facilitate the workshops and provide a safe and positive learning experience. Classes are highly participative; mutual support and success help build participants' confidence in their ability to manage their health behaviors, reduce their risk of falling, and maintain active and fulfilling lives.

### Who should take the workshop?

Stepping On is for older adults who:

- Live in their own home or independent apartment.
- Are able to walk without the help of another person.
- Do not use a walker, scooter or wheelchair most of the time indoors.

- Are cognitively intact.
- Understand the language being used by the Stepping On leader.

### Subjects covered include

- Simple and fun strength and balance exercises.
- The role vision plays in keeping your balance.
- How medications can contribute to falls.
- Ways to stay safe when out and about in your community.
- What to look for in safe footwear.
- How to check your home for safety hazards.

### Benefits of participation

- Learn to step outside your home with confidence.
- Learn with people your own age.
- Become more aware of fall hazards and learn how your fall risk can be reduced.
- Study the most up-to-date information on fall prevention.
- Help others by sharing what has worked for you.

Contact the Oak Creek Health Department at (414) 766-7950 to learn more or to register for the class.





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*Farmers Market*

## OAK CREEK COMMUNITY EVENTS:

# A YEAR IN REVIEW!

With the establishment of the Oak Creek Tourism Commission last January, 2017 was a year full of milestones and successes. Tasked with promoting Oak Creek as a destination for visitors, the group worked diligently throughout the year to bring family-friendly events to the community. From outdoor movie nights to food truck festivals, there was something for everyone to enjoy.

**Looking back at last year, Oak Creek residents and visitors enjoyed these big events in 2017:**



• **Dog Day at Drexel:** The second annual Dog Day at Drexel was held in July, once again featuring Pier Pups Canine Dock Diving. Throughout the day, dogs, both novice and pro jumpers, competed for first-place ribbons while entertaining the crowds with their jumping, flying and splashing fun! Dog Day also featured 40 dog-related vendors, agility-training courses, AKC Canine Good Citizen

testing, and a canine costume contest.

• **Oak Creek Beer Garden:** The premier Oak Creek Beer Garden took over Abendschein Park for a weekend in August, offering six rotating beers on tap from Milwaukee's best craft brewers. Each day a new "brew master" stopped by to educate the crowd and answer questions about craft brewing. The Oak Creek Beer garden also offered food trucks, backyard games, live music – and of course polka dancing!

• **Sneak Peek at Oak Creek:** Residents and visitors took advantage of a unique opportunity to visit, explore and enjoy the City with September's Sneak Peek at Oak Creek event. This open house event offered in-depth tours of various Oak Creek businesses and

buildings, giving people the chance to peek inside and satisfy their curiosity about these notable locations and hidden gems!

• **Fall Festival:** In October, Oak Creek celebrated autumn with a Fall Festival in Drexel Town Square. This indoor/outdoor event featured hayrides through Emerald Preserve, pumpkin bowling, a costume parade and Trick-or-Treat around the square. Fall Festival was fun for the whole family – while children played, adults enjoyed the harvest market and fall beer tastings.

Oak Creek is a city that is growing and changing. From the construction of the TownPlace Suites hotel in Drexel Town Square, to the much-anticipated IKEA store, there's a new energy in the air. In 2018, you will not only see new architecture, but also a parade of new community events to join the great ones we have already established. All of the events you enjoyed last year will be coming back this year, bigger and better!

**Here's what's new in 2018:**

• **Oak Creek Winter Festival:** As this issue of the *Current* magazine goes to press, residents and guests will be enjoying the Oak Creek Winter Festival on Saturday, February 17, at Drexel Town Square. What a great way to keep the winter doldrums at bay, with ice carving demonstrations, a winter market, kids' games and more!

• **Oak Creek Farmers Market:** The Oak Creek Farmers Market is coming to Drexel Town Square this summer! From June to October, we will be offering homemade, handmade and homegrown seasonal products from local Wisconsin farmers and vendors. The Farmers Market will be an enjoyable and educational experience – stop by to purchase the freshest ingredients and learn how to cook with them.

Are you interested in participating? Please contact Kristin Kowaleski at [kkowaleski@oakcreekwi.org](mailto:kkowaleski@oakcreekwi.org) for more information.

To learn more about Oak Creek events, please visit [VisitOakCreek.com](http://VisitOakCreek.com). Stay tuned for the next issue of the *Current* for a complete 2018 event calendar!

# CITY HIGHLIGHTS



## Seeking Oak Creek Military Personnel for Banner Program

For the third year in a row, the City of Oak Creek will recognize the sacrifice and bravery of local men and women currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces through their Military Banner Program. These banners, to be installed around the public square this spring, honor the military personnel that call Oak

Creek their hometown by featuring the official military photo of the service person, as well as their name, rank and branch.

Banners will be on display until the fall when they will be taken down and presented to the honorees or their families at Oak Creek's annual Veterans Day Remembrance ceremony.

These local military heroes were featured last year:

- Lt. (junior grade) Shaun Cero, U.S. Navy
- Sgt. Colin Crawford U.S. Army National Guard
- Specialist Anthony Galewski, U.S. Army
- Capt. Mark Ganey, U.S. Army National Guard
- Sgt. David Gerasch, U.S. Army
- Sgt. Jennifer Gerasch, U.S. Army
- Airman First Class Brian Grabner, U.S. Air Force
- Major Emily Kubusek, U.S. Air Force
- Senior Airman Seth Labodda, U.S. Air Force
- Staff Sgt. Melissa Mussa, U.S. Air Force
- Master Sgt. Kristin Odekirk, U.S. Air Force
- Specialist Travis Tyler, U.S. Army National Guard

If you or a family member would like to be considered for this year's banner program, please visit [oakcreekwi.org/militarybanner](http://oakcreekwi.org/militarybanner) to download an application, or contact City Clerk Catherine Roeske at (414) 766-7023 for more information. The deadline for consideration is March 31, 2018.

## Money Smart Club for Kids Begins March 8

In this seven-week interactive and fun afterschool club, children in grades 3-5 will work with a financial professional to discuss the good choices needed to make money, save money and wisely spend money. At the completion of the program, the whole family is invited to celebrate with a graduation party during Money Smart Week! This event, held at the Oak Creek Library, is sponsored and presented by Educators Credit Union.

Participation in the Money Smart Club is free, but registration is required. To register your child, call (414) 766-7900 or visit [oakcreeklibrary.org/events](http://oakcreeklibrary.org/events).

## DOSE OF REALITY: THE DANGERS OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE

[DoseOfRealityWI.gov](http://DoseOfRealityWI.gov)



Drug abuse is an issue affecting many people in our community. Preventing abuse is a challenge, but the Oak Creek Health Department is committed to addressing it. Prescription painkillers cause more deaths than all other drugs, and 4 out of 5 heroin addicts in Wisconsin get started with prescription painkillers.

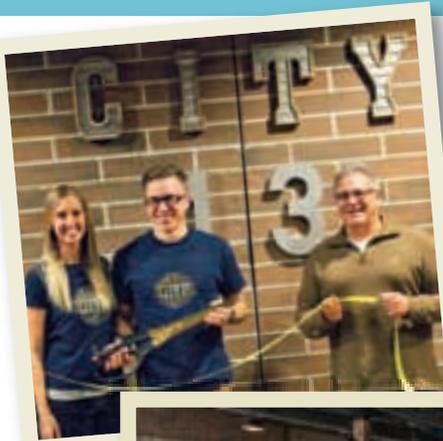
In order to reach our community, the Oak Creek Health Department looks for new ways to raise awareness about the risks of prescription misuse and abuse. Beginning in January, "Dose of Reality" advertisements will run at Marcus Southgate Cinema for six months to assist the community in recognizing the dangers of abusing prescription pills. Dose of Reality is a statewide campaign aimed at preventing Wisconsin residents from abusing and becoming addicted to prescription opioids (or narcotics). Look for the Dose of Reality advertisement the next time you go see a movie, and use it to start a conversation about the dangers of misusing prescription pills and how you can help prevent abuse.

Seventy percent of people abusing prescription painkillers access them through family or relatives. Prevent prescription drug abuse by disposing of unused and expired medications in the medication collection lockbox located at the Oak Creek Police Department. Also, keep prescriptions in a safe location, out of the reach of children, teens and addicts, preferably in a locked location. The Oak Creek Health Department has medication lockboxes available for a small fee.

If you want to learn more about these programs and resources, contact the Oak Creek Health Department at (414) 766.7950. If you are interested in helping to determine how our Health Department addresses drug abuse, please consider joining the Oak Creek Alcohol and Drug Taskforce. Call for details about the next meeting.

# WELCOME NEW OAK CREEK BUSINESSES!

Photo by Leslie Flynn



Men's Hair House



A new Edward Jones office is located on South Howell Avenue.



Above: Oak Creek Mayor Bukiewicz (right) joins owners Ashley and Nick Timber at the opening of their new business, City 13. With a spacious lobby/party room, City 13 is a great team-building, escape room adventure!



Froedtert & Medical College of Wisconsin has opened the Drexel Town Square Health Center at 6th Avenue and Drexel Avenue.



Photos by Saturn Lounge Photography

## Welcome to these new Oak Creek businesses!

### PLEASE STOP IN TO SAY HELLO AND SHOP LOCAL.

**City 13**  
6925 S. 6th St., Suite 500  
(414) 405-9642  
escapacity13.com

**Edward Jones**  
8880 S. Howell Ave., Suite 800  
(414) 762-3774  
edwardjones.com

**Fanatics Sports Central Pub**  
7126 S. 27th St.  
(414) 301-9832

**Froedtert & Medical College of Wisconsin**  
Drexel Town Square Health Center  
7901 S. 6th St.  
(414) 805-3666  
froedtert.com/clinics/drexel

**Han's Dry Cleaner**  
(new location)  
8201 S. Howell Ave., Suite 300  
(414) 571-1944  
hansdrycleaners.com

**Indian Delight**  
140 E. Drexel Ave.  
(414) 301-5091  
indiandelightwi.com

**Kettle Moraine Counseling**  
7071 S. 13th St., Suite 206  
(262) 334-4341  
kettlemorainecounseling.com

**Kwik Trip**  
6300 S. 27th St.  
kwiktrip.com

**Men's Hair House**  
160 W. Town Square Way  
(414) 215-7876  
menshairhouse.com/locations/oak-creek-wi

**Old Forest Studio**  
8660 S. Market Pl.  
(414) 305-3405  
oldforeststudio.com

**Pilot Freight Services**  
(new location)  
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pilotdelivers.com

**StorageShopUSA**  
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(608) 444-1515  
storageshopusa.com

# POLICE DEPARTMENT SEEKS AUXILIARY MEMBERS



The Oak Creek Police Department Auxiliary Officer Unit is looking to add a few qualified people to its team. The auxiliary unit is comprised of an all-volunteer force that assists the Oak Creek Police Department with many critical functions and events. This includes assisting with the operations of the Oak Creek Municipal Court, LionsFest, holiday parades and festivities, and local sporting events.

Auxiliary officers receive police-style uniforms and training and must commit to attending monthly meetings at the Oak Creek Police Department. Auxiliary officers are also required to commit to at least 25 hours of service per year. Successful applicants must interview with members of the OCPD Command Staff and pass a background investigation.

If you have a volunteer spirit and a desire to serve your community in a meaningful way, please contact Sergeant Ron Piojda at (414) 766-7636 and leave a message indicating your interest to join the unit. You can also visit the OCPD at the front desk of their main entrance (301 W. Ryan Rd.) to pick up an application.

## SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

The Oak Creek Citizen of the Year program began in 1960 with the mission of encouraging citizen participation and volunteering in support of local organizations, groups, persons and the general community. The person, persons or group nominated for the Oak Creek Citizen of the Year award may have been active in one or more of the following categories – civic, social, welfare, education or city advancement. Activities to be considered shall be for volunteer efforts of the nominee.

On an annual basis, the Oak Creek Citizen of the Year Committee:

- Recognizes those individuals who have made significant contributions to the social, civic, educational and welfare advancement of the City of Oak Creek.
- Recognizes two or more graduating Oak Creek High School students who have at least 500 hours of community service and awards them the Citizen of the Year Community Service Award.

The Oak Creek Citizen of the Year Committee is now accepting nominations for the 2017 Oak Creek Citizen of the Year. Nomination forms are available at the Oak Creek Community Center, the Oak Creek Civic Center, from past citizen of the year award recipients, or by emailing [OakCreekCoY@gmail.com](mailto:OakCreekCoY@gmail.com). Completed nomination forms must be received by February 28, 2018.

If you would like more information about the program, please email [OakCreekCoY@gmail.com](mailto:OakCreekCoY@gmail.com).

# Valentine

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## Featured Pairing

Our Charcuterie Board with a selection of 3 cured meats and/or patés with house pickles, cherry peppers, beer mustard, and crusty bread. Enjoy with a glass of Selvapiana Chianti Rufina – this supple, perfectly balanced Tuscan classic pairs well with notes of baking spice, dried herbs, and wild berry.



Our kitchen is open every day for  
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner and Shared Plates.

## Drexel Town Square

7981 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street | Oak Creek, WI



*The GO Riteway fleet of vehicles includes school buses, motor coaches, luxury and mini coaches, executive sedans, SUVs and vans.*

## Business Spotlight: GO Riteway Transportation Group

# GOING THE EXTRA MILE FOR MORE THAN 60 YEARS

While driving down Wisconsin's highways, you may have spotted the bright green and white motorcoaches that say GO Riteway Transportation Group. This premier ground transportation leader has more than 1,100 vehicles and serves a wide variety of individuals, corporate groups, students, tourists and travelers in both Southeast Wisconsin and Northern Illinois.

GO Riteway's interesting history dates back three generations to 1957 when Roland (Rollie) and Pearl Bast started Riteway Bus Service, Inc. with just four school buses for the Germantown School District. As demand increased, the company gradually began serving other school districts and answering the transportation needs of charter and tour services. This led the company into a new era of growth and the opening of additional locations:

- **1974:** A new office and garage opened in Richfield, Wis.
- **1984:** The company's first motorcoach was purchased.
- **1985:** A second location opened to serve students at Milwaukee Public Schools.
- **2000:** Riteway located its corporate offices at 6970 S. 6th St. in Oak Creek (an additional school bus terminal located on South 10th St.).
- **2003:** The company introduced commercial service options including luxury sedans, SUV and executive van service.
- **2011:** The company rebranded itself from Riteway Bus Service to GO Riteway Transportation Group and introduced airport shuttle service.
- **2016:** GO Riteway won the school bus transportation contract for the La Crosse, Wisconsin School District.
- **2017:** The company proudly celebrated its 60th anniversary.

Interestingly, GO Riteway is still family-owned and -managed today, and is led by a dedicated and innovative team driven by the same values established in its early days. And although operating a family-owned business might be challenging for some companies,

the Basts seem to thrive on it. Co-owner and Vice Chair R.J. Bast acknowledges that the family is fortunate that "they are very close and all get along. It helps, too, that we each work at different locations and have different focuses in the business," he says. And across the board, each is dedicated to delivering the best possible experience to every passenger.

According to Ron Bast, Chairman of the Board of the company's family ownership group, the company's success really starts with great people. "Thanks to the efforts, honesty and hard work of our employees, our organization has grown in both size and complexity these past 60 years. We hire good people and let them do what they do best," Bast says.

Co-owner and Vice Chair Rochelle Bast, agrees. "Our drivers, our maintenance crew and our support staff are the face of GO Riteway. They make it happen every day," she says, adding that, "we work hard to honor and recognize these people. And in keeping with the legacy of Mom and Dad (referring to the late Roland and Pearl Bast), we always try to figure out how we can be better."

Much like his other family members, R.J. Bast also takes pride in seeing GO Riteway's drivers and staff provide great service to customers. "It's gratifying to step on site at one of our schools or at a corporate event and observe GO Riteway drivers and staff fulfilling customers' expectations," he explains, adding, "I truly love this business. There's always a lot variety when putting the puzzle together every day."



*The GO Riteway ownership group is comprised of (left to right): Wendy Bast, Ron Bast, Rochelle Bast and R.J. Bast. Ron and Rochelle's parents, Rollie and Pearl Bast, founded the company in 1957.*

With 18 years at GO Riteway, R.J. Bast has seen many changes in Oak Creek since the company first opened its terminal there in 2000. “Both City officials and School District leaders have been very forward thinking as they built new schools and developed the Town Center. It has been exciting to work here and to see all of the positive changes taking place,” he notes.

Along the way, GO Riteway has seen many positive changes as well. Today, its versatile fleet consists of school buses, motor coaches, luxury and mini coaches, executive sedans, SUVs, and vans that offer numerous travel options. It can move any number of passengers to any location, and while the company is based in Wisconsin, they will go anywhere in the U.S.

What’s more, GO Riteway passengers can feel confident that they are traveling in the finest and safest vehicles the market has to offer. Their experience is made perfect, thanks to the work of dedicated crews who make consistent safety checks on every vehicle and clean them after every trip. Skilled maintenance technicians know the fleet inside and out and keep everything in tip-top shape. Professional drivers are friendly, courteous and knowledgeable. GO Riteway has a lot going for it and is always willing to go the extra mile.

## What Type of Travel Do You Need?

### • Airport Transportation

Every day, thousands of travelers rely on GO Riteway’s door-to-door, stress-free airport transportation to get them to the gate on time and home to their loved ones – safely, quickly and efficiently. 365 days a year, GO Riteway’s team of drivers pick up and drop off passengers at home, work, school and hotels throughout Wisconsin and Illinois with the company’s updated, modern vehicles that ensure an efficient, comfortable solution to airport transportation.

### • Corporate Transportation

Whether your specific needs are for employee/client airport transportation, point-to-point transfers, group outings or conventions, GO Riteway offers the experience, fleet and people to meet your business needs.

### • Premium Chauffeur Services

Corporate travel demands great attention to detail and high standards, and GO Riteway delivers with its chauffeur services, offered throughout the Milwaukee and Chicago areas. Its fleet of late-model Cadillac sedans, GMC SUVs and executive vans is the largest in Wisconsin, so whatever the travel need, you are covered.

### • Group Transportation

With one of the Midwest’s newest fleets of motorcoaches, GO Riteway moves large groups locally, regionally and nationally, with safety and comfort as top priorities. Using full-size, 56-passenger motorcoaches and 33-passenger mini coaches, GO Riteway partners with universities, Fortune 500 companies, K-12 schools, professional sports organizations, tour operators and more. GO Riteway’s service area includes all of Wisconsin, Chicagoland and Northern Illinois. It also extends nationwide with tour operators using its Milwaukee charter bus rental service for cross-country, multi-day charter bus tours.



### • School Bus Transportation

GO Riteway’s school bus services offer transportation for athletic teams, special needs groups, field trips and extracurricular activities. With nearly 1,000 school buses in the fleet driven by professionally trained drivers, you can count on GO Riteway for transportation efficiency, safety and unparalleled customer service.

GO Riteway has buses that run on propane, gas and diesel fuel. Of particular note is their use of propane, a domestically produced alternative fuel. With a 30,000-gallon propane tank at the Oak Creek facility, fueling vehicles with propane can produce lower amounts of some harmful air pollutants and greenhouse gases (depending on vehicle type, drive cycle and engine calibration), that benefits the environment.

### Be More Than a Ride. Be a Solution.

GO Riteway is always looking for drivers and is quick to point out that this could possibly be the best part-time job in town! Opportunities range from driving children to and from school to transporting executives in a black car to and from airports and meetings. GO Riteway offers paid training and will work with you to earn your commercial drivers license (CDL).

So wherever your next travels take you, choose GO Riteway for your ground transportation – operating with safety, integrity and teamwork while providing superior transportation solutions since 1957.

### GO Riteway Transportation Group

6970 S. 6th St. • Oak Creek • goriteway.com



*GO Riteway credits its dedicated staff that provides unparalleled service as the face of the company.*





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- **Friday:** Featuring our Cellar fish fry, steak specials and more!

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*MATC School of Health Sciences Dean Nancy Vrabec (left) presents Emily Treuthardt the pin she earned as a December 2017 graduate of the college's registered nursing program.*

## VITAL SIGNS: MATC AND UNITED HEALTH FOUNDATION ADDRESS NURSING SHORTAGE



Hospitals and other care providers across the country are struggling to meet the rising demand for care in the face of a serious nursing shortage. The Public Policy Forum has characterized the shortage of registered nurses in Wisconsin as “one of the greatest

workforce challenges facing the healthcare industry – and employers as a whole.” The report, which was commissioned by the Wisconsin Center for Nursing, calls for a 24 percent increase in the number of registered nurses in the state by 2020.

Thanks to a \$2.3 million capacity-building grant from the United Health Foundation in early 2017, Milwaukee Area Technical College will continue to be an important part of the solution. Through 2019 the grant funding will enable MATC to expand recruitment activities and increase the size of its nursing faculty.

Maintaining the college's high quality program is key, according to Nancy Vrabec, Ph.D., RN, dean of MATC's School of Health Sciences. MATC currently boasts a 95 percent student pass rate for the NCLEX-RN licensure exam required to become a registered nurse. “Providing a skilled and diverse nursing workforce for the community is always our ultimate goal,” Vrabec says.

### **Growing Knowledge with Professional Development**

Emily Treuthardt graduated from MATC's registered nursing associate degree program in December 2017. As part of its partnership with MATC, United Health Foundation paid for her and classmates Stephanie Carrillo and Jennifer Seymour to attend OptumHealth Education's 26th Annual National Conference in Chicago in October. Healthcare professionals from around the country came to learn more about current issues such as diabetes, obesity and chronic kidney disease, the opioid abuse epidemic and more.

“It was a privilege to hear such amazing speakers share their knowledge and spark important conversations,” Treuthardt says.

Before coming to MATC, Treuthardt studied pre-veterinary sciences. To support herself, she earned a certified nursing certificate and worked as a nursing assistant. “The CNA job inspired me to



*Jennifer Seymour (left), Stephanie Carrillo and Emily Treuthardt attended the OptumHealth Education's 26th Annual National Conference in October 2017 when they were MATC nursing students.*



*Stephanie Carrillo (right) receives her pin from MATC School of Health Sciences Dean Nancy Vrabec at the pinning ceremony held Dec. 12, 2017, at Milwaukee Area Technical College.*

**“The average starting wage for practical nursing graduates is approximately \$41,280, and for our registered nursing graduates, it is \$58,060.”**

– Dr. Mark Felsheim, MATC Vice President



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

pursue a career as a registered nurse,” Treuthardt says. She began studies at a four-year university but soon transferred to MATC.

“I did some research and decided to switch. MATC really enforces core values such as effective communication and collaboration, providing care that is respectful of diverse populations, enhancing critical thinking and demonstrating responsibility,” she explains. “Every clinical site I have been to expresses how much they enjoy having MATC students working on their floor – that we are always so prepared.”

Treuthardt passes the credit along to MATC’s instructors. “The amazing faculty members help make MATC’s program so strong. Every instructor brings so much knowledge to the classroom,” she adds.

Carrillo, also a December MATC nursing graduate, attended several presentations at the conference. “It was such a great experience,” she says. “The speakers provided interactive presentations that left an impression on me.”

“The grant from United Health Foundation affirms its commitment to our community and provides us with the resources needed to identify, recruit, develop and educate the next generation of nurses needed in the Milwaukee area and throughout Wisconsin,” says MATC President Vicki J. Martin, Ph.D. MATC’s nursing program has been vital to the community for more than 70 years.

MATC offers students options for entering the workforce and continuing their education. Vrabec explained that after one year of full-time study, nursing students can earn a practical nursing technical diploma and become eligible to take the licensure exam for practical nurses, the NCLEX-PN. Students can opt to work as licensed practical nurses (LPNs) and then enter the second year of MATC’s registered nursing associate degree program.

“This Career Pathway helps meet the region’s need for nurses. It provides the opportunity to earn a good wage as an LPN, while also

***“Every clinical site I have been to expresses how much they enjoy having MATC students working on their floor – that we are always so prepared.”*** – Emily Treuthardt, MATC graduate

Carrillo works in a long-term care facility. “I have always been interested in the medical field,” she says. “Along the way, I have found that I truly enjoy the opportunity to build relationships with patients and their families.”

### **Addressing the Community’s Need for Nurses**

The United Health Foundation grant will increase MATC’s nursing program capacity. The goal is to graduate an additional 100 nurses every year starting in 2019. Another key objective is to increase the diversity of the state nursing workforce. MATC, the largest majority-minority college in the state, is uniquely suited to increase the number of nurses representing underserved populations and meet the United Health Foundation’s goal to increase the number of primary care health providers ready to meet the needs of future populations.

gaining the education needed to become an RN,” says Mark Felsheim, Ph.D., vice president at MATC’s Oak Creek Campus. “The average starting wage for practical nursing graduates is approximately \$41,280, and for our registered nursing graduates, it is \$58,060.”

The practical nursing program is offered at MATC’s Oak Creek and Downtown Milwaukee campuses. The college offers the registered nursing and the LPN-RN Educational Progression associate degree programs at the Downtown Milwaukee and Mequon campuses.

**Learn more about MATC’s registered nursing program at [tinyurl.com/MATCnursing](http://tinyurl.com/MATCnursing).**

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Tatyana Spidell (left) found her “best buddy” in sophomore Ava Lemke.

Photo by Saturn Lounge Photography

## OAK CREEK RECOGNIZED FOR WISCONSIN CHAPTER OF THE BEST BUDDIES PROGRAM

**F**riendships are an important part of a teen’s journey to adulthood. Friendships help teenagers learn important social and emotional skills, such as being sensitive to other people’s thoughts, feelings and well-being. For students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), developing friendships at this time of heightened social and emotional development can be extremely difficult.

The Best Buddies program at Oak Creek High School addresses these issues. Best Buddies creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships between students with and without IDD. These friendships help students with IDD gain self-confidence and self-esteem, and share interests, experiences and activities with their peers. The program also helps to promote a school environment that celebrates inclusion.

Best Buddies is an international, nonprofit organization with more than 2,300 chapters worldwide. Oak Creek High School was recently recognized as the 2017 Wisconsin Chapter of the Best Buddies Friendship Program.

### THE JOYS OF FRIENDSHIP

Oak Creek High School junior Tatyana Spidell found her “best buddy” in sophomore Ava Lemke. Since 2016, the two have built a friendship that will last a lifetime! Tatyana and Ava are a shining example of what the Best Buddies program is all about – students with IDD forming meaningful connections with their peers.

“Tats and I just enjoy being around each other,” Ava shares. “We like taking walks, swinging at Kayla’s Playground, eating, laughing and dancing,” Ava continues.

On the morning of October 26, 2017, Tatyana and Ava were invited to the Pfister Hotel ballroom in Milwaukee for their very own recognition ceremony. During the ceremony, Tatyana and Ava were able to share their stories with major influencers in the city.

“It felt great to share our story. I made it my high school mission to include as many students as possible to ensure everybody felt comfortable in their own skin. After all, celebrating differences is what life’s about!” Ava explains.

There has been an outpouring of support for the students and volunteers that have stepped up to make a difference through the Best Buddies program. “No matter who you are, the impact you have on another’s life will be unforgettable. By joining a program like Best Buddies, you’ll establish lifelong friendships and learn to appreciate what others have to offer while seeing the greatness in yourself, too,” Ava says.

Though there is a plethora of ways the world may try to shut out the light, programs like the Best Buddies initiative help us understand there are more ways to love and support one another. From our schools and communities to our homes and families, there is never a shortage of areas to give back and make a difference in the lives of others.

To learn more about Best Buddies Friendship Programs, please visit [bestbuddies.org](http://bestbuddies.org).



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## STUDENT AND FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OFFERS VALUABLE RESOURCES

After a challenging day at school, a student stopped in the pupil services office at her school to seek help with her new family situation. Her parents were going through a divorce and she did not know how to manage the stress from all of the recent change in her life. Her grades started declining and she was becoming defiant in school and at home. The school's pupil services team invited both parents into the school office and recommended the family seek counseling services provided by the Student and Family Assistance Program, a unique program that gives families access to free, confidential counseling services.

After just a few sessions, the student began to feel like a weight was lifted off her shoulders. She was now able to talk freely about the changes occurring in her life with both of her parents. Her confidence at school increased and so did her academic performance. Helping this family work together is just one example of how the Student and Family Assistance Program is helping Oak Creek-Franklin families cope with life's challenges.

Sponsored by the Aurora Employee Assistance Program, the Student and Family Assistance Program was initially offered to students and families of Oak Creek High School in 2015 and was expanded in 2016 to also include East and West Middle Schools. "Many families who could not otherwise afford counseling services, now have an outlet for their needs," says Kelly Groh, school counselor at Oak Creek High School.

Students and their families have used the program to help with a variety of life challenges such as anxiety, coping with academic pressures, stress management, and addressing issues that arise from family dynamics. The District is very proud to be able to offer this unique program as a tool to promote healthy homes, minds and families.



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# 4K AND 5K ENROLLMENT FOR 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR

## TIME TO ENROLL THE NEXT CLASS OF FUTURE KNIGHTS!



Enrollment week for the District’s 4K and 5K programs will take place Monday, March 12 through Friday, March 16, from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Oak Creek-Franklin Joint School District Office located at 7630 S. 10th St. in Oak Creek.

Parents and guardians should begin the enrollment process online, using the District’s website [ocfsd.org](http://ocfsd.org) (under the enrollment tab). To finish the enrollment process, parents and guardians are asked to stop in the District Office during enrollment week to provide proof of residency, the child’s birth certificate, and the child’s immunization record. There will be computers available during enrollment week if you wish to complete the online portion at the District Office.

Please note this process is for residents of the Oak Creek-Franklin Joint School District only. 5K enrollment is only for students NOT currently enrolled in the District (not currently attending the District’s 4K program or Early Childhood program).

If you have any questions, please call the District Office at (414) 768-5880, or visit [ocfsd.org/enrollment/4K-5K-enrollment](http://ocfsd.org/enrollment/4K-5K-enrollment).

### About Our 4K Program

The District’s 4K program started in 2006 with just four sections in two off-site locations. Today, the program has grown to 14 sections in four locations: Deerfield Elementary, Forest Ridge Elementary, Shepard Hills Elementary and The Salvation Army.

“With enrollment for 4K increasing annually, the District has been successful

with placing children in or near their neighborhood schools, based on the child’s attendance area,” says Lisa Kujawa, Assistant Superintendent of Student Learning. “The Salvation Army and other childcare centers have partnered with the District to offer families an option for wrap-around care either before or after their child’s school day,” Lisa continues. The District also offers transportation for 4K students, something new the District was able to provide starting with the 2017-18 school year.

With a curriculum focused on math, literacy and handwriting, the half-day 4K program helps prepare students for 5K. In fact, approximately 85% of today’s 5K students have attended 4K in the District. Helping students develop social and self-help skills is also a big part of the 4K program.

“Our 4K teachers do a wonderful job of combining academic readiness with self-help and play skills,” explains Eileen Aalderks, the learning coach who provides the 4K teachers with education, behavior and English Language Learner (ELL) support. “While we have curriculums that we follow, there is also a strong focus on fine motor development, turn taking, playing with friends, and communicating with friends and teachers,” Eileen adds.

The District is very excited to welcome the next class of future Knights!



Photos by Saturn Lounge Photography

### 4-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN (4K)

- Students must be 4 years old on or before September 1, 2018.
- The District offers a half-day 4K program.

### 5-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN (5K)

- 5K enrollment is only for students NOT currently enrolled in the District.
- Students must be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2018.



Students at West Middle School are pleased to have a new app that helps them anonymously report bullying or other inappropriate behavior.

## SCHOOL DISTRICT ADDS NEW TOOL TO ENHANCE SAFETY

All Oak Creek-Franklin students now have access to a new tool that will help them take action against bullying and enhance school safety. The new tool is an app called STOPit that gives students the ability to anonymously report any inappropriate behavior directly to a school administrator. "Students don't always feel comfortable talking about an issue, but with the STOPit app, students can anonymously share things that are bothering them and report any unsafe behaviors they observe," explains Meadowview Principal Lisa Rezner.

The STOPit app is installed on every electronic device in the District, making it easy for students to access throughout the school day. Each school has a unique code for students to enter to ensure their anonymous report is instantly delivered to the administrators and pupil services team at their school. Students are encouraged to provide as much detail as possible and even have the ability to submit screenshots, pictures and video clips with each submission. The messenger tool allows administrators to contact the person who submitted the report for further details.

The after-hours setting directs students who use the app outside of the school day to the Get Help tab (which is embedded in the app) to a list of resources including the National Suicide Prevention Hotline, Milwaukee Psychiatric Crisis Hotline and the Oak Creek Police Department.

So far, school officials have seen a positive impact. "The STOPit app gives our students another avenue to say something when they see something, allowing them to continue to advocate for safety in their school," says Jenny Handlen, social worker for both of the District's Middle Schools.



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## FOURTH GRADERS USE FINCH ROBOTS TO PRACTICE CODING



F

Fourth graders at Shepard Hills Elementary are having a blast learning to code using Finch robots. The Finch is a small robot designed to help students learning computer science by providing them a physical representation of their code. "It's cool! You can connect the codes right to the Finch and

test it out right away," says fourth grader Sebastian. The students use Scratch and Snap coding programs to write the code that controls the robots.

The Finch Robots were brought to Shepard Hills after fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Rachel Kaiser, received a grant from Birdbrain Technologies for 15 Finch robots to use in November and

December. "It's always great to have hands-on, engaging learning activities in the classroom that our students can really get excited about," says Mrs. Kaiser.

After learning the basics of coding, the students went on to create their own projects, like coding the Finch to write a message or creating an obstacle course and figuring out the code to maneuver their Finch through it. The class also breaks into teams to complete coding challenges during class. "We have to make our Finch robot go around the chair," explains fourth grade student Maya. "We also have to make sure we set the Finch at the perfect angle to start in order for our code to work," Maya continues.

The Finches have proven to be an excellent educational tool and have helped excite and encourage young minds to explore computer science.



### WHAT SOME OF THE FOURTH GRADERS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT WORKING WITH THE FINCHES:

*"I like how all of the codes can make the Finch do different things. It's pretty neat!"* – Michael

*"It's kind of like a car. You can tell it which direction you want it to go!"* – Samara

*"I've always wanted to control a robot. Now I know how!"* – David

*"We can test out our codes right away to see what we need to change."* – Jacob

*"It makes us more creative and gets our brains going!"* – Elijah

*"You can even use code to choose what color you want the nose to be."* – Brody



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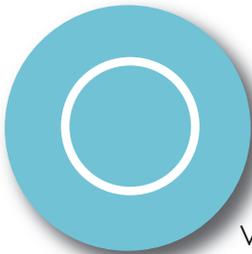
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# YOUTH PROGRAMS OFFER FUN AND ENRICHING EXPERIENCES



CFJSD Youth Programs offer a variety of family-friendly activities to stay active, learn something new and have fun! Classes fill quickly so register soon. Visit [ocfsd.org/youth-programs](http://ocfsd.org/youth-programs).

## OPEN SWIM, ADULT/TEEN LAP SWIM, OPEN GYM

With the New Year comes the resolution to live a healthier, more active life. Here's your chance to get your body moving!

**Open Swim** offers time for free play and activities in the Oak Creek High School pool. Three lap lanes remain open for those interested in lap swim time. Join us for Open Swim on Saturdays, January 20-May 19 (closed 3/31 and 4/7) from 11 a.m.- 1 p.m.

**Adult/Teen Lap Swim** is offered Monday-Thursdays, January 29-May 29, from 8-9 a.m. Sessions are only \$2/person or \$1/person (ages 55+). Enter door #21 on the east side of Oak Creek High School.

**Open Gym** is now offered at two locations. Join us on Saturdays, January 6-March 24 from 6-8 p.m. East Middle School will host students and players grades 6-adult. Enter at door #7 at the back of the building. Forest Ridge Elementary will host families and players grades K-5. Enter door #6 at the back of the building.

## NEW! ADULT ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

Youth Programs is excited to offer NEW Adult Enrichment programming. The two new classes being offered this spring are focused on helping parents and families support their school-aged children.

The first class is designed to help improve skills in the use of Google Drive, Mail and Calendar. Four meeting dates are offered Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning March 13 from 6-8 p.m. The second class will focus on social media and help answer the question "What are my kids into now?" Classes are offered at \$45 per person with pre-registration required.

## SPRING BREAK CAMP

All students grades Kindergarten-5th grade are welcome to join Discovery Camp, a full-day camp offered during Spring Break, April 2-6, from 6:45 a.m.-5:45 p.m., at Forest Ridge Elementary. There will be an Earth Week focus on nature, science and the world around us. Registration is open online until the camp is filled.

Visit [ocfsd.org/youth-programs](http://ocfsd.org/youth-programs).

## UPCOMING EVENTS: OAK CREEK-FRANKLIN FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATION

### TASTE OF OAK CREEK: THURSDAY, MARCH 8

This year celebrates the 8th anniversary of the Taste of Oak Creek-Franklin – a FUNdraising event to support the grants and awards distributed through the Oak Creek-Franklin Foundation for Education.

This tasting event will be held Thursday, March 8, from 5-8 p.m. at the Oak Creek Community Center. Local restaurants will feature their specialty items offering a “taste” for all. This adult evening of food, live music and raffles has something for everyone’s palette. Tickets are available at the School District Office and the Oak Creek Community Center.

All monies raised go directly to programming, equipment and services to support children in the Oak Creek-Franklin Joint School District. Recent grants included outfitting a classroom at West Middle School to help reduce stress and anxiety for students, alternative seating options for students at Carrollton Elementary, a new drum set for the Oak Creek High School jazz ensemble, and a week-long, artist-in-residence program entitled “Potency of Poetry” for freshmen English students.

### ART IN THE PARK: SATURDAY, MAY 26

Plans are underway for a wonderful spring art event in Oak Creek. Set aside Saturday, May 26, from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. for Art In the Park at Henry Miller Park. Local professional and student artists join together to share their works with the community. Entertainment is offered by the Oak Creek High School Music Department, and hands-on art activities are provided by the District’s Fine Arts Department teachers and students. Kohl’s Wheels of Color will offer art projects for all ages.

The OC Lions Club will be celebrating its 60th anniversary sharing local food favorites joined by specialty food trucks. Funds raised at this event are dedicated to the Oak Creek-Franklin Joint School District Fine Arts programs. What a lovely way of celebrating fine arts in our community!

## OCFJSD CELEBRATES YOUTH ART MONTH

During the month of March, schools across the country are celebrating art during Youth Art Month! The Oak Creek-Franklin Joint School District will be doing its own celebrating by hosting the 25th annual District art exhibit on Thursday, March 8, from 5:30-7 p.m. at Oak Creek High School. Selected student artwork from grades K-12 will be on display. Join us in celebration and view artwork created by Oak Creek-Franklin’s talented art students!



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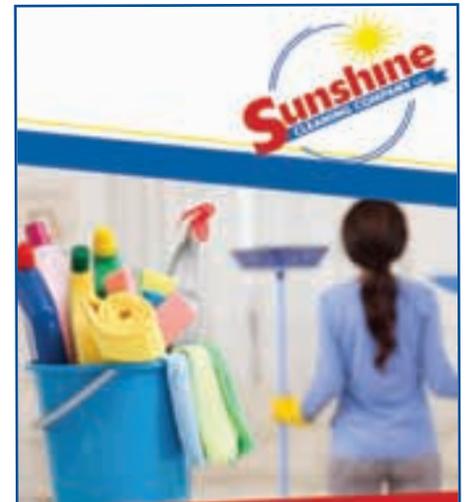
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## Community Easter Egg Hunt

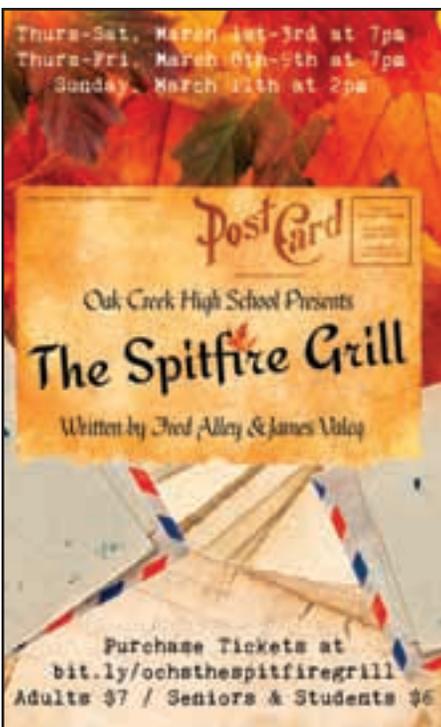
at Drexel Town Square

**Saturday, March 24**  
10 a.m. -1 p.m. • Rain or Shine  
For kids ages 2-10  
Easter bags will be provided.

Stop by the Civic Center, 8040 S. 6th St., for pictures with the Easter Bunny and child-friendly crafts.



Thurs-Sat, March 1st-3rd at 7pm  
Thurs-Fri, March 8th-9th at 7pm  
Sunday, March 11th at 2pm



PostCard

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Written by Fred Alley & James Wiley

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A young woman settles in Gilead, Wis. where she gets a job working at the local diner. She makes friends with a pair of local women and together they work to fix each other's lives – and their own! This is a passionate story about hope, redemption and the process of healing.

## spring cleaning CHECKLIST

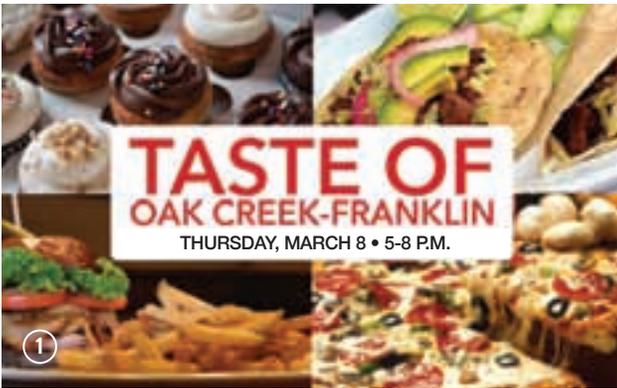
- Change furnace filters
- Prepare HVAC system for spring

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# OUT AND ABOUT IN THE



## WELCOME TO A NEW YEAR IN OAK CREEK!

We invite you to experience all our great City has to offer! Check out the community calendar on page 39 to see all the special events taking place over the next few months - we hope to see you out and about this spring!

1. The popular Taste of Oak Creek-Franklin event returns on March 8 with proceeds benefitting the OCFJ School District. See pg. 33.
2. The Women in Business Breakfast, held on Friday, December 1, at the Oak Creek Civic Center, featured a panel discussion that was a joint effort between the South Suburban Chamber and the Oak Creek Tourism Commission.
3. The Oak Creek Military Banner Program kicks off another year with photos of local men and women serving in the U.S. Armed Forces featured on banners displayed during the summer in the Town Square. In the fall, the banners are taken down and presented to the honorees or their families at the City's annual Veterans Day Remembrance Ceremony. See pg. 15.
4. During the month of March, schools across the country, including the OCFJ School District, will be celebrating Youth Art Month, when select student art will be on display at Oak Creek High School. See pg. 33.
5. City 13 is a new Oak Creek business featuring two "escape rooms" that are quickly becoming the trend for team building, date nights, birthday parties and more.



Photo by Saturn Lounge Photography

# CITY OF OAK CREEK

6. Froedert and Medical College of Wisconsin recently opened its Drexel Town Square Health Center at Drexel Ave. and 6th Street.
7. Save the date for “Art in the Park” on Saturday, May 26, at Henry Miller Park. Funds raised at the event benefit the OCFJ School District Fine Arts programs. See pg. 33.
8. Creation Technologies is one of Oak Creek’s fascinating manufacturing businesses. Read all about how they are “Working Together To Build the Future” on pg. 8.

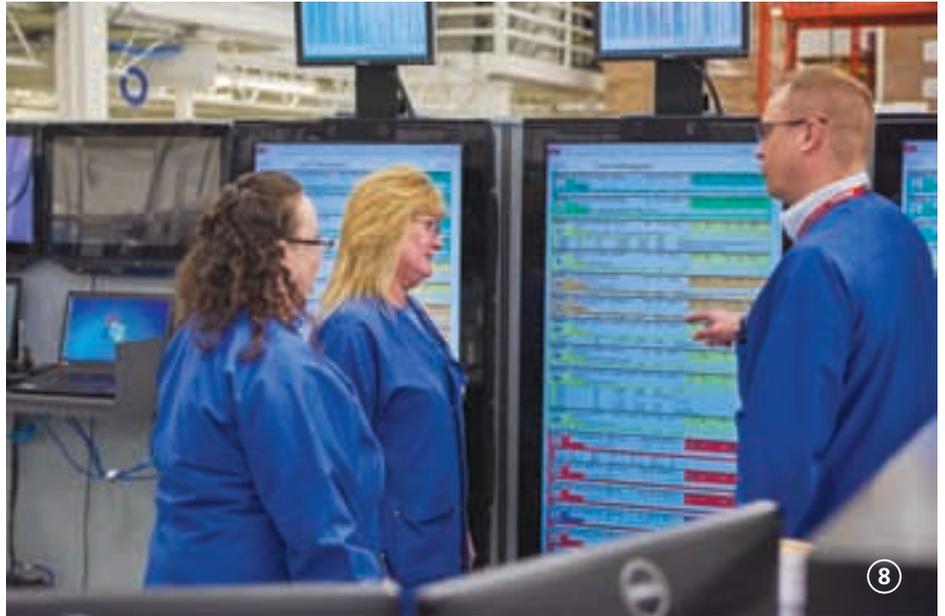


Photo by Saturn Lounge Photography

## OCFJ SCHOOL DISTRICT 4K AND 5K ENROLLMENT



Photo by Saturn Lounge Photography

For 4K and 5K Students  
New to the OCFJ School District  
For the 2018-2019 School Year

Mon., March 12-Fri., March 16 • 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Oak Creek-Franklin Joint School District Offices  
7630 S. 10th St. (see page 28)

Start the process online at [ocfsd.org](http://ocfsd.org). Then bring your child’s birth certificate, immunization records and proof of residency with you in person.



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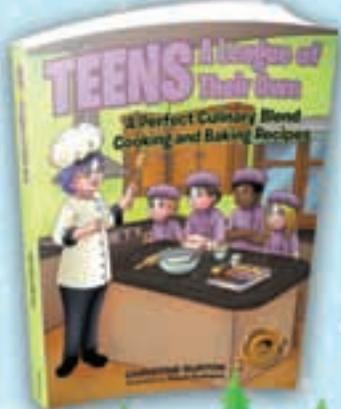
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 Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

Cashier's checks made out to: **C & B Books; Christine Burton**

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CALL AHEAD TO CONFIRM EVENT DETAILS.

## FEBRUARY

- **Sat., Feb. 17: Oak Creek Winter Festival, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.** in Oak Creek Town Square, 361 W. Town Square Way. [visitoakcreek.com](http://visitoakcreek.com).
- **Sat., Feb. 17: Spring Craft Fair, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.** at Oak Creek Community Center, 8580 S. Howell Ave., free. [occenter.com](http://occenter.com).
- **Tue., Feb. 20: Spring Primary Election** For more information, visit [oakcreekwi.org/elections](http://oakcreekwi.org/elections).
- **Mon., Feb. 26: School Board Meeting, 6 p.m.** at Cedar Hills Elementary School, 2225 W. Sycamore Ave. School tour 5:30 p.m.

## MARCH

- **Thur., Fri. and Sat., Mar. 1-3: Oak Creek High School Spring Musical, 7 p.m.** at Oak Creek High School, 340 E. Puetz Rd.
- **Sat., Mar. 3: Indoor Rummage Sale, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.** at Oak Creek Community Center, 8580 S. Howell Ave.
- **Sat., Mar. 3: Comedy Night, 7 p.m.** at Oak Creek Community Center, 8580 S. Howell Ave. \$8 per person in advance, \$10 at door. Featuring comedians Harry Hickstein and Bill Brady.
- **Thur., Mar. 8: OCFE's Taste of Oak Creek-Franklin, 5-8 p.m.** at Oak Creek Community Center, 8580 S. Howell Ave. See pg. 33.
- **Thur., Mar. 8: District Art Show, 5:30-7 p.m.** at Oak Creek High School, 340 E. Puetz Rd. See pg. 33.
- **Fri., Sat. and Sun., Mar. 9-11: Oak Creek High School Spring Musical** Mar. 8-9 at 7 p.m.; Mar. 11 at 2 p.m., Oak Creek High School, 340 E. Puetz Rd.
- **Mon., Mar. 12: School Board Meeting, 6 p.m.** at East Middle School, 9330 S. Shepard Ave.
- **Wed., Mar. 14: Money Matters Workshop: Credit Reports 101, 6:30 p.m.** Oak Creek Public Library, 8040 S. 6th St. Presented by Educators Credit Union. Register at [oakcreeklibrary.org/events](http://oakcreeklibrary.org/events).
- **Thur., Mar. 15: Blood Drive, 1-6 p.m.** at East Middle School, 9330 S. Shepard Ave.
- **Sat., Mar. 24: Community Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.** at Oak Creek Civic Center, 8040 S. 6th St. Pictures with the Easter bunny, crafts and a kids' egg hunt; [visitoakcreek.com](http://visitoakcreek.com).
- **Sun., Mar. 25: Lunch with the Easter Bunny, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.** at Oak Creek Community Center, 8580 S. Howell Ave. Kid-friendly lunch and activities, visit with the Easter Bunny. \$10 per person, \$5 for children 2 and under. Advance tickets required. Visit [occenter.org](http://occenter.org).
- **Mon., Mar. 26: School Board Meeting, 6 p.m.** at East Middle School, 9330 S. Shepard Ave. School tour 5:30 p.m.
- **Thur., Mar. 29: Oak Creek Lions Blood Drive, 1-6 p.m.** at Oak Creek Community Center, 8580 S. Howell Ave.
- **Fri., Mar. 30: Spring Break Begins for OCFJ School District**
- **Fri.-Sat., Mar. 30-31: City Offices, Library and Recycle Yard Closed for Spring Holiday**

## APRIL

- **Sun., Apr. 1: Winter Parking Rules End**
- **Mon.-Fri., Apr. 2-6: Spring Break OCFJ School District**
- **Tue., Apr. 3: Spring General Election** [oakcreekwi.org/elections](http://oakcreekwi.org/elections)
- **Thur., Apr. 5: Family Movie Night** at Oak Creek Community Center, 8580 S. Howell Ave.
- **Mon., Apr. 9: Classes resume OCFJ School District**

- **Thur., Apr. 12: Oak Creek Health Department's Stepping On Program Begins** This fall-prevention workshop meets for seven consecutive Thursdays. For more information, call the Health Department at (414) 766-7950. See pg. 12.
- **Sat., Apr. 14: Home, Flower & Garden Show, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.** at Oak Creek Community Center, 8580 S. Howell Ave. Vendors, garden and floral ideas, home improvement advice; free.
- **Mon., Apr. 16: School Board Meeting, 6 p.m.** at West Middle School, 8401 S. 13th St.
- **Sat., Apr. 21: Shred Day & Computer/Electronics Recycling Event, 9 a.m.-12 noon** Oak Creek Street Department, 800 W. Puetz Rd. Bring your sensitive and private documents for FREE, secure destruction provided by Shred-It. Limit of 6 boxes per vehicle. Midwest Computer Recycling will also be onsite to responsibly dispose of your outdated electronic equipment. Visit [oakcreekwi.org](http://oakcreekwi.org).
- **Mon., Apr. 23: School Board Meeting, 6 p.m.** at West Middle School, 8401 S. 13th St. School tour 5:30 p.m.
- **Sat., Apr. 28: Oak Creek Community Cleanup, 10 a.m.-12 noon** Oak Creek Civic Center, 8040 S. 6th St. Get outside, meet other residents, and do a little spring cleaning of the Civic Center grounds and surrounding area. Volunteer service hour forms will be available.
- **Sat., Apr. 28: Taste of Italy** at the Oak Creek Community Center, 8580 S. Howell Ave. Presented by the Oak Creek Kiwanis Club.
- **Sun., Apr. 29: 37th Senior Citizens Spring Prom, 12-4 p.m.** at the Oak Creek Community Center, 8580 S. Howell Ave. Presented by the Rotary Club of Mitchell Field. An afternoon of big band music, lunch and door prize drawings. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at the Center. For information, email [info@rcomf.org](mailto:info@rcomf.org).

## MAY

- **Tue., May 1: Branch Pickup Begins**
- **Wed., May 2: Teen Job Fair, 5:30-7:30 p.m.** in the Oak Creek Civic Center Multi-Purpose Room, 8040 S. 6th St. Attention teens: meet hiring managers from local businesses. Bring your resume and dress in business-appropriate attire. Registration is not required.
- **Fri.-Sat., May 4-5: Friends of the Oak Creek Public Library Plant Sale** Oak Creek Civic Center Lobby, 8040 S. 6th St.
- **Sat., May 5: Outdoor Rummage Sales Begin for Season** at the Oak Creek Community Center, 8580 S. Howell Ave. Visit [occenter.org](http://occenter.org).
- **Wed., May 9: Money Matters Workshop: Home Buying Essentials, 6:30 p.m.** Oak Creek Public Library, 8040 S. 6th St. Presented by Educators Credit Union. Register at [oakcreeklibrary.org/events](http://oakcreeklibrary.org/events).
- **Sun., May 13: Mother's Day Brunch, 10 a.m.** at the Oak Creek Community Center, 8580 S. Howell Ave. Visit [occenter.org](http://occenter.org).
- **Tue., May 15: Spring Cleanup Begins** No charge pickup of most discarded items from residential homes and condos that have City-provided garbage and recycling pickup. See [oakcreekwi.org](http://oakcreekwi.org) for a list of accepted items.
- **Thur.-Sat., May 17-19: Oak Creek Beer Garden** Abendschein Park, 1311 E. Drexel Ave. See [visitoakcreek.com](http://visitoakcreek.com) for details.
- **Sat., May 26: Art in the Park, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.** at Henry Miller Park. Funds raised to support the OCFJSD Fine Arts programs. See pg. 33.
- **Mon., May 28: City Offices and Library Closed for Memorial Day**

**CITY OF OAK CREEK**

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