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CURRENT

MAGAZINE

OAK CREEK FIRE STATION



**Oak Creek Fire Department
Receives National Accreditation**

**Marching Knights
Bring Home the Honors**



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ON THE COVER

The Oak Creek Fire Department recently received national accreditation, after a five-year process. Read more on page 6. *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, WiRED Properties and Barrett Lo Visionary Development. The magazine also receives funding from local advertisers.

This publication is guided by a professional advisory committee comprised of representatives from the City of Oak Creek, the Oak Creek-Franklin Joint School District, City residents and business owners. Please email all inquiries/suggestions to info@oakcreekmagazine.com.

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Message from the Mayor:

Reflecting on Our Accomplishments

As 2017 draws to a close, it seems the appropriate time to reflect on some of the City's accomplishments this year, and reaffirm some of its goals for the future.

This year, the City hosted numerous events, bringing our residents together to celebrate what Oak Creek has to offer. From concerts, movie nights and food trucks on the Square to beer gardens, seasonal festivals and even a Sneak Peek at Oak Creek, we had something for everyone. I hope that you and your family were able to experience some of these great events.



Oak Creek's City Hall saw some changes this year. We welcomed a new Health Officer, Destination Marketing Specialist, two new Aldermen and a Mayor. Several voting locations were modified to help better protect and serve our residents. The City updated its strategic plan for the first time since the late '80s.

As a community, we welcomed many new businesses that now call Oak Creek "home." We celebrated the retention of the Master Lock Co. and its move to a new World Headquarters. Plus, the opening of the new 9th Grade Center and the new Aurora medical facility, the ground-breaking of the long-awaited IKEA store, and the substantial progress made with Lake Vista Park and the new Froedtert Health Center made 2017 a great year of progress in Oak Creek.

The Oak Creek Fire Department recently earned its national accreditation, making it just one of 239 in the nation to achieve this distinction. Our Celebrations Commission continued to serve our community with the Holiday Giving Trees, the 4th of July parade and the Summer Solstice. They also secured a \$3,200 donation from the Painters District Council 7 Allied Craft Union to benefit local homeless and at-risk students in Oak Creek.

On behalf of the Common Council, I would like to thank all of our Oak Creek employees and those residents who volunteer for a City board or commission. Their dedication, knowledge and skill are truly making Oak Creek a great place to live, work and play. As we look forward to 2018, we remain committed to providing high-quality services, as well as responsible investment and growth to best serve the residents of Oak Creek. We will continue striving to be a safe, vibrant community.

I wish you all great health and happiness, and encourage you to discover and celebrate Oak Creek in 2018.

Dan Bukiewicz, Mayor

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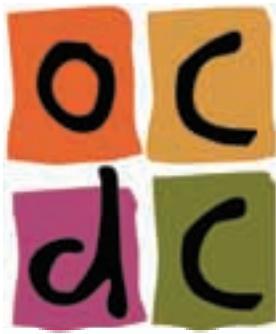


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National Manufacturing Day, an initiative by the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), was celebrated on October 6th by schools and companies across America. The PPG Oak Creek facility hosted students from Oak Creek High School for tours, expo and lunch.



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I like to pause at this time of year and give thanks for family, friends, clients and the incredible community of Oak Creek we all live in. Call to build your custom financial plan and happy holidays!



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OAK CREEK FIRE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

T

The City of Oak Creek is pleased to announce that the Oak Creek Fire Department has received Accredited Agency status through the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI), a national recognition resulting from the department's five-year commitment to the accreditation process. The model used helps departments achieve excellence through self-assessment, resulting in quality improvement and enhancement of service delivery to their community.

The accreditation was administered by CFAI through the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE), a non-profit organization helping fire and emergency organizations continuously improve services that contribute to a higher quality of life for their communities. CPSE provided education and guidance throughout the department's accreditation journey.

After receiving Common Council approval in 2012, the department began its path to accreditation with a rigorous self-assessment. This involved evaluating current performance of the department compared

to key elements of the qualification framework.

In order to succeed, the department was responsible for completing three comprehensive documents: the Community Risk Assessment-Standards of Cover document, the agency's self-assessment manual and the agency's strategic plan.

"We will build a better organization because of this process, and that will result in better services for our community."

Each of these documents was supported by guidelines that provided the department with the direction, best practices and standards necessary to be considered for accreditation.

The key components of the Community Risk Assessment-Standards of Cover document were a department evaluation of

the unique characteristics of the City and an all-hazard risk assessment of the community.

Through a comparison of response performance during the last three years against the community's hazards and risks, the department was able to classify the quality of performance based on location and type of emergency. This process allowed the department to identify operational gaps and establish performance maintenance and improvement programs.

The department's self-assessment manual consisted of a comprehensive review of the department's performance as measured against 252 performance indicators. These indicators, based on national standards and best practices, address all aspects of an organization's operations from daily administrative activities through emergency deployment and performance. One third of the performance indicators are identified as "core competencies," critical behaviors that must be successfully met by an organization in order to be considered for accreditation. Both the self-assessment and creation of this manual were a significant undertaking that required the department to perform comprehensive analysis and gain an

enhanced understanding of its policies and practices.

Finally, the department performed an update of its 2013 strategic plan. The 2017 plan was based on the information obtained through the organization's self-assessment as well as the information obtained through the City of Oak Creek's own strategic planning process. The accreditation model stresses the importance of maintaining the strategic plan as a "living" document that considers the input of internal and external stakeholders, and continues to grow and evolve with the organization. The department anticipates that future editions of the strategic plan will continue to place a significant emphasis on community input.

Oak Creek's documentation was submitted for peer review in March 2017. Peer review teams consist of volunteers who have received peer assessor training through the CPSE. Team members generally come from the fire service, although some do serve in other capacities or organizations, such as the police service, data analytics or city government.

Oak Creek's peer team was led by an experienced team leader. Gerard Kay from the Regina (Canada) Police Service. Other members included Jason Haddock of the Vandenberg (Calif.) Air Force Base Fire Department, Sean Daniels of the Mt. Lebanon (Penn.) Fire Department, and Anastasia Turner of the Ottawa (Canada) Fire Department. Each member contributed his/her own specific area expertise to the team, providing feedback and requesting additional information from the department as needed. The team completed its preliminary review in early

April and determined that the department was prepared to move on to the next step in the accreditation process – the site visit.

The peer team visited Oak Creek for five days in May. During this time, the team reviewed all aspects of the department's operations. A key element of the site visit is the determination of credibility – does the department do what the documentation says it is doing? The team met with City leaders and managers, department program leads, and outside agencies that routinely interact with the Oak Creek Fire Department. They also spoke with numerous fire department staff to gain their insights and views of what the accreditation process meant to them. At the conclusion of the visit, the peer team found that the Oak Creek Fire Department had successfully complied with the requirements of the accreditation process, and was credible in their activities. As a result, it was recommended that the department appear before the CFAI for a final hearing.

On July 26, 2017, the Oak Creek Fire Department, along with peer team leader Gerard Kay, appeared before the commission – a group comprised of government and public safety leaders tasked with reviewing the reports of the peer team in order to determine the organization's suitability to receive accredited agency status. Following a question-and-answer session between the department and the commission, the department was awarded accredited agency status, making it the 11th agency in Wisconsin, and one of only 239 agencies in North America to earn this achievement.

Although this achievement is a significant milestone in the history of the Oak Creek



Oak Creek Fire Department staff regularly engage in comprehensive training sessions.

Photo by Saturn Lounge Photography

Fire Department, it does not mean that the process of accreditation is complete. The department will continue to use the accreditation model to provide quality services and improve the quality of life for the citizens and visitors of the Oak Creek. They will also provide annual compliance reports to CFAI outlining its progress with the peer team's recommendations, as well as providing updates on its service delivery performance. In five years, the department will once again engage in a formal document review and site visit as it pursues its first re-accreditation.

Through the pursuit of accreditation, the Oak Creek Fire Department has strengthened its mission to "prevent harm, provide care, protect each other, and take responsibility."

"The accreditation process really changed our organization in a positive way," reflects Assistant Fire Chief Mike Kressuk. "It provided us with the opportunity to highlight the good things we are doing, as well as identify the areas where we can improve. We will be a better organization because of this process, and that will result in better services for our community."

The peer accreditation team (from left to right): Battalion Chief John Martin; Sean Daniels-Mt. Lebanon, Penn.; Battalion Chief Tom Jonson; Anastasia Turner-Ottawa, Canada; Chief Tom Rosandich; Peer Team Leader Gerard Kay-Regina, Canada; Battalion Chief Scott Kasten; Assistant Chief Mike Havey; Jason Haddock-Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.; and Assistant Chief Michael Kressuk-Accreditation Manager





The “Beacon” at Lake Vista Park is a dramatic landmark for the area.

Lake Vista Park Takes Shape



ak Creek is on its way to getting something it has never had in its 62-year history: a city park on the shore of Lake Michigan. Slated to open to the public in the summer of 2018, Lake Vista Park is finally taking shape. With the construction of Lake Vista Drive completed last year, many residents have already begun to visit the area; the views of the lake alone are worth the drive. However, the addition of many exciting new amenities will make this public park a destination for families, as well as an attractive scenic drive.

The conceptual design for the 50-acre park has now been brought to life; construction of the various park features started in spring and is now nearing completion. Entering Lake Vista Park from the north entrance, the Pavilion immediately comes into view. This facility, when complete, will become a rentable space for private gatherings such as weddings and parties.

Adjacent to the pavilion is a colorful and engaging playground, designed to provide unique amenities catering to a variety of age groups. The playground is sectioned into three separate, but adjacent areas, each designed for different age groups. One section, geared toward two-to-

five-year-old children, contains smaller play structures such as a climbing dome, a rock climber, swings and a xylophone. Adjacent, is a section for children aged five to 12. This area contains a group swing, monkey bars, an omni-spin and chimes. The playground will also include a mixed-age area with a 60-foot long zip line and Mobius climber.

The surface of the playground is designed for safe play, and varies from sand to mulch, to a state-of-the-art rubberized surface. Public rest rooms are conveniently located nearby on the south wall of the pavilion.

For those looking to spend a casual afternoon in the park, sail shelters will provide hours of family fun and a place to relax and have a picnic lunch. A trail leads from the pavilion past the playground to three available casual picnic areas with canvas canopies providing shelter, and a paved surface on which to gather. Each of these is also available for rental.

In front of the pavilion and playground is a large open recreation field. This grassy field is the perfect space for an impromptu soccer match, a friendly game of Frisbee or an afternoon of kite flying. This field will also be available to be rented for events such as games or family activities.

Two open-air, covered bluff

Below: Lake Vista Park is the City's first park on the shore of Lake Michigan.



overlook shelters, also available for rental, boast spectacular views of the lake and offer an ideal setting for small gatherings.

Visitors to the park looking for a panoramic view of Lake Michigan will be treated to many ideal vantage points to take it in. The picturesque beacon at the northeast corner of the park boasts an overlook and seating area, and is a great spot for photos. A parking area south of the beacon provides lake views from the comfort of your vehicle, or from outdoor seating areas – perfect for taking a quick break from your day.

Those looking for some exercise will enjoy the many walking trails throughout the park, especially the one leading to a wooden deck overlook, midway down the bluff, and continuing down to the lake. An ADA-compliant path ensures that everyone will be able to enjoy the gorgeous view.

Nature lovers of all ages will also find enjoyment in the park as the Lake Vista area is a flyway for migratory birds, with special attention

paid to providing native plants for habitat throughout the park. Bird watching blinds, found on the east end of the park, are an ideal spot to view the various birds passing through the region, or for those making southeast Wisconsin their home.

Nearby, an adventure/nature playground can be found tucked into the bluff along the lakeshore. This wooded area allows kids to explore nature and find creative ways to play

outdoors, while following a trail marked with the footprints of some notable woodland animals.

The transformation of a former industrial site to a usable public park has taken many years, and would not have been possible



Above: Two open-air shelters are the ideal settings for small gatherings and are available for rental.

Below: The colorful playground is divided into three distinct areas, each designed for a specific age group.



without the assistance of many project partners, including the residents of Oak Creek who took the time to provide their input and vision for this important space. From that feedback, SmithGroup JJR created the overall layout of the park. Rinka Chung Architecture provided the design of the park pavilion and bluff structures. And Oak Creek company Edgerton Contractors oversaw the construction of the entire project, making a long-term investment into the amenities in their own community.

Grants totaling more than \$800,000 from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Fund for Lake Michigan, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, and the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District provided funding toward the native plantings and habitat, as well as storm water green infrastructure that includes pervious pavers and storm water biofiltration from the newly constructed areas.

When complete, Lake Vista Park will provide Oak Creek residents and visitors alike a beautiful new location for recreation, exploration and leisure. It will also serve as the anchor for the redevelopment of the surrounding area, ultimately breathing a new life into Oak Creek's lakeshore. Next summer, when the facilities are complete and the vegetation is established, the City will host a grand opening celebration to show off our new lakeside gem. Please see future issues of the Current for complete details!



The Lake Vista Park pavilion



RIGHT CARE, RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT TIME MISSION OF FROEDERT & THE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF WISCONSIN

F

roedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin health network is bringing high-quality, cost-effective outpatient care closer to home for residents of Oak Creek and surrounding areas. The new Froedtert & MCW Drexel Town Square Health Center, at the corner of Drexel Avenue and Sixth Street, is scheduled to open by the end of January. A community open house is planned for mid-January to give area residents a preview before patient appointments begin.

The 109,000-sq.-ft. health center will offer a wide spectrum of services in one location, from primary and specialty care and urgent care to an outpatient surgery center and a full-service cancer center. Imaging, lab and a retail pharmacy will also be available onsite.

The health center also has created more than 150 new jobs with more expected to follow. Positions include physicians, nurses, physician assistants, nurse practitioners,

medical assistants, physical therapists, lab, surgical and imaging technicians, and others.

"Many people from the Oak Creek area already seek care from the Froedtert & MCW health network," says Mark Lodes, M.D., president of Froedtert & MCW Community Physicians. "So we were excited when the opportunity arose over two years ago to participate in the Drexel Town Square project. We strive to deliver the right care in the right place at the right time, and the new Drexel Town Square Health Center will be a perfect example of how we put that mission into practice."

New Health Center Reflects Community's Needs

Dr. Lodes says the Froedtert & MCW planning team carefully studied the community's needs and took a thoughtful, measured approach to determine the appropriate services to offer. Thirty-nine physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants are expected to practice in the location, including specialists representing a dozen different specialty care areas.

Primary care and urgent care were identified as needs in the community, and three primary care physicians will be available and will offer extended hours. Obstetrics and gynecology doctors will also be available. Urgent care will be open seven days per week.

Specialty care will include cardiology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, ear/nose/throat, general surgery, ophthalmology, orthopedics and sports medicine, pain management, plastic surgery, podiatry and urology, all of which also were identified as needs in the area. Additional specialty care services may be added in the future. Imaging services will include mammography, CT, ultrasound and general imaging; cardiac diagnostics, rehabilitation services, non-cancer infusion services and a retail pharmacy also will be available.

Health Center Offers Outpatient Surgery, Cancer Care

Dr. Lodes notes that Froedtert & MCW Drexel Town Square Health Center will have two key additional outpatient care features.

"Affordable, effective, convenient care



were top of mind when we planned this new health center,” he explains. “Increasingly, many minor surgical procedures can be performed on an outpatient basis, enabling patients to avoid the cost and inconvenience of hospitalization. We wanted to be sure to make that available here.”

The planning team decided an outpatient surgery center was a must. The Drexel Town Square Health Center’s outpatient surgery center will have two operating rooms, two procedure rooms, extended recovery and observation rooms, and will be an option for patients who need procedures such as colonoscopy, arthroscopy, ear procedures, ophthalmology and certain orthopedic procedures. The 16,500-sq.-ft. surgery center will be equipped with the latest in endoscopic and arthroscopic video and image-capture technology. Additionally, the operating rooms and recovery areas were designed to be adaptable to future developments in surgical techniques and capabilities, an important consideration as inpatient procedures continue to move into outpatient settings.

The health center also will have a 17,000-sq.-ft. cancer center, that will offer surgery, medical oncology and radiation oncology services. As part of the Froedtert & MCW Cancer Network, the cancer center will be affiliated with the Froedtert & MCW academic medical center, providing streamlined access if a higher level of care is needed. It will be equipped with state-of-the-art technology for radiation therapy, saving

travel for patients who require daily treatments. Cancer surgeries will initially focus on breast, prostate/urologic, lung/thoracic and colorectal cancers.

Convenient Services for Employers

The new facility also will offer Oak Creek area employers a full complement of employer services through Froedtert & MCW Workforce Health. Occupational medicine clinics, employee health and work injury assessment and care, employment-related exams and testing and workplace clinic programs are some of the services offered by Workforce Health.

“People tell us they want high-quality care that’s convenient and fits their lives,” Dr. Lodes explains. “The Froedtert & MCW Drexel Town Square Health Center is designed to deliver that. We are very much looking forward to joining the Oak Creek community.”

About Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin

The Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin regional health network is a partnership between Froedtert Health and the Medical College of Wisconsin supporting a shared mission of patient care, innovation,

medical research and education. Our health network operates eastern Wisconsin’s only academic medical center and adult Level I Trauma Center at Froedtert Hospital, Milwaukee, an internationally recognized training and research center engaged in thousands of clinical trials and studies.

The Froedtert & MCW health network, which includes four community hospital campuses, more than 1,600 physicians and nearly 40 health centers and clinics, draws patients from throughout the Midwest and the nation. In our most recent fiscal year, outpatient visits exceeded 1.1 million, inpatient admissions to our hospitals were 49,250 and visits to our network physicians totaled 932,000.

The Drexel Town Square Health Center will serve the needs of a growing number of people who seek care from convenient outpatient clinics. For more information, visit froedtert.com.



“People tell us they want high-quality care that’s convenient and fits their lives. The Froedtert & MCW Drexel Town Square Health Center is designed to deliver just that.”



Photos by Leslie Flynn

TECHNOLOGY SERVICES ABOUND AT OAK CREEK PUBLIC LIBRARY



The Oak Creek Public Library offers a wide range of technology services to the public. Here are some helpful things you should know about using these services:

- With a Milwaukee County library card, patrons can use the Oak Creek Library's public computers for up to 3 hours per day. There are 12 computers for teens and adults, and eight for children to use.
- Printing and photocopying are available at the Library for only 15¢ per page for black and white, and 30¢ for color copies. Scanning services are also available for free – scan to your own flash drive or to email. Printing can be done on the Library's computers, from personal laptops and devices or even from home! Access the link for printing at oakcreeklibrary.org/computers-technology. Download the printing app, PrinterOn, to print from your tablet or cell phone. You can even forward emails to the Library printer!
- Don't feel like lugging your personal laptop with you to the Library to use in one of the study rooms? Beginning this winter, the Library will begin checking out laptops to adults for use in the Library only. Check one out with your valid Milwaukee County library card!
- Computer classes are offered for adults on a monthly basis, with the exception of December. Classes typically meet once a week for

a total of four weeks, or meet for just a one-time session. To learn about upcoming classes, please see the computer class schedule on the following page. To learn about additional classes that may be offered in the future, please check the Acorn or Library website (oakcreeklibrary.org) for further details.

- The Library offers one-on-one technical help for those people who need personalized assistance with their technology issues. This program is run by tech-savvy volunteers, who can assist with a great range of expertise, including help with email (creating, accessing, use, etc.), assistance with filling out online forms/accessing different websites (like Facebook, YouTube, etc.), or guidance with using your own device (tablet, cell phone, laptop, etc.) to install/use apps, download/transfer photos, etc. To learn more about opportunities to receive one-on-one technical help, please see the computer class information on the following page.

These free and low-cost options make the Library your “go-to” destination for all of your technology needs! The Library is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. (closed Sundays).

For questions about technology services or any other Library program, please visit the Library website at oakcreeklibrary.org or call (414) 766-7900.

UPCOMING LIBRARY COMPUTER CLASSES

Registration is required for all classes. Space is limited; please visit oakcreekwi.org to reserve your spot. Attendees must be age 18 or older.

JANUARY

Basic Computer Skills (4-week course)

Wednesdays, January 3-24 • 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

In this four-week class, participants will learn computer, internet, search tool and email basic concepts. Class will cover topics such as using a mouse, opening and closing windows, going to websites, navigating a website, using the online Library catalog, using google.com, and sending, replying and deleting emails.

Office for Beginners (4-week course)

Thursdays, January 4-25 • 6-8:30 p.m.

Do you need to learn how to use Microsoft Office for work or school? Do you wish that you were more familiar with the basics? Learn the fundamentals of Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Publisher, such as creating a simple document, formatting text, cut, copy and paste, creating a monthly expenses spreadsheet, using AutoSum, creating a simple slideshow, inserting pictures, using animations, creating a simple flyer and using a template to create a business card.

FEBRUARY

Intermediate Microsoft Office (4-week course)

Thursdays, February 1-22 • 6-8:30 p.m.

This class is recommended for people who have a basic working knowledge of Microsoft Office (or who have taken a Beginner's Microsoft Office class). Learn more intermediate concepts in Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Publisher, such as using tables and editing headers/footers, using conditional values and creating charts/graphs, animating slides and using timing, creating shapes and inserting building blocks.

Downloading and Editing Pictures (2-week course)

Wednesdays, February 7-14 • 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Do you have photos on your camera that you have been having a hard time getting onto your computer? Do you want to learn more about saving your pictures, and how to organize them in folders on your computer or flash drive? Do you want to learn how to do some basic editing of your digital photos? If you answered yes to any of these questions, this class is for you!

ONE-ON-ONE TECH HELP

Do you need one-on-one technology assistance? The Library provides two ways to receive guidance from one of our tech experts:

- **Drop-in assistance: Tuesdays 11 a.m.-5 p.m.** Please call (414) 766-7900 in advance to make sure there is a volunteer on duty.
- **By appointment: Saturdays 9 a.m.-3 p.m.** Call (414) 766-7900 to schedule an appointment.

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FALL/WINTER LIBRARY PROGRAMMING

Visit the Library website at oakcreeklibrary.org



FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Looking for something fun to do as a family during the school year? Come to the Oak Creek Library as a family on a Tuesday night and participate in a different activity each month. This family program is free and geared toward children ages 5-10, but all ages are welcome. Registration not required.

November 14: Healthy Living

December 12: Holiday Card Creation

February 13: PokéMon Go Scavenger Hunt
(no phones needed)

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME

• Wednesdays, 10:30- 11:15 a.m.

November 15-December 13 and
January 17-February 14

• Thursdays, 10:30-11:15 a.m.

February 22-March 22

This 45-minute program is designed to be a child's first school experience. It incorporates books, songs, and other early literacy activities followed by a playtime. Children (ages 3-5) sit independently with Library staff. Registration not required.

BABY AND TODDLER STORYTIME

Fridays, November 10 and 17,

December 8 and 15, February 2 and 9

10-10:20 a.m. Story Time

10:20-11:45 a.m. Playtime

This program introduces babies and toddlers to rhymes, songs, finger plays and short stories, followed by a playtime. For ages birth to 3 years old with an adult.

Registration not required. Baby and Toddler Storytime is limited to the first 25 families. After 10:20 a.m. everyone is welcome to join the playtime.

NANOWRIMO

This November, Oak Creek Public Library will participate in National Novel Writing Month. We will provide a space to write and weekly meetings to discuss writing strategies and get encouragement along the way. Bring a laptop or something to write in. Please visit the Library website for more information.

FAMILY STORY TIME

Wednesdays, 6-6:45 p.m.

November 15- December 13 and

January 17-February 14

This 45-minute family program is for all ages. Immerse your child in an enjoyable, interactive literacy experience, followed by a playtime.

FAMILY STORY TIME WITH AUTHOR KATE DICKINSON

Saturday, December 2, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Author Kate Dickinson will present a story time featuring her new book, "Superhero Kid in Training," the perfect book to help children tackle their fears and learn how to embrace the superhero inside. Books will be available for sale and signing at the event. Enjoy crafts and activities. Registration is not required. Geared toward ages 3-8, but all are welcome!

NOVEL IDEAS BOOK CLUB

Enjoy and discuss a different novel each month with fellow book lovers in this monthly book discussion group. Moderated by a former librarian, each month, participants will read and chat about the highlights and lowlights of each title. Books and authors vary. Register online at oakcreeklibrary.org/events

TEEN BOOK CLUB

On the last Thursday of the month at 5:30 p.m. teens meet to discuss a book or any books they may be currently reading. Open to grades 9-12. Pizza provided for free from Pizza Man Oak Creek. Bring your ideas and your appetite! Please visit the Library website for current titles.

ADULT WRITING CLUB

Open to writers of all skill levels, bring a laptop or something to write in. The second Tuesday of each month, meet at 6 pm in the Tower Room. There are writing prompts and group projects, or feel free to bring in something else you are working on. Sharing is optional. For more details, contact krimphius@oakcreekwi.org

WIZARDS & WATERPARK

Wednesday, Nov. 22 • 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

For children ages 9-13

Spend your day off of school with us! Enjoy a Harry Potter party with magical crafts, snacks and a chance to play "Muggle Quidditch" in the morning. We'll load up the bus at 12:30 p.m. and head to Timber Ridge Waterpark in Lake Geneva for the afternoon.

Pizza lunch will be served before the field trip. Food intolerance? Please let us know at time of registration.

What to bring: Swim suit and towel and a bag to carry wet suit and towel. Supervision will be provided by Oak Creek Library and Recreation staff.

Registration is required. Oak Creek residents \$38; non-residents \$44.

Early drop-off is available from 7:30- 9 a.m. for an additional fee of \$5 for residents or \$7 for non-residents. Late pick up at 5:30 p.m. is available at no extra charge – please note at registration.

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CITY REMEMBERS 30-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF DEVASTATING PETER COOPER FIRE

B

efore the Lakefront District redevelopment efforts began, Oak Creek's Lake Michigan shoreline was historically the home to many industries. The U.S. Glue Company opened on 80 acres of land in June of 1899, and the "company town" of Carrollville was established soon after. The Peter Cooper Corporation purchased the building in 1929, and although it was sold to French pharmaceutical company Rousselot in 1976, the factory was routinely referred to by the Peter Cooper name until it ceased manufacturing glue in 1985.

During the early morning hours of November 3, 1987, the Oak Creek Fire Department responded to the report of smoke rising from the main Peter Cooper factory building. The command staff – and veteran Oak Creek crew – understood the complexity of the building thanks to tours of the facility, and were prepared for the emergency. Little did they know, however, that this fire would become one of the largest fires in Oak Creek's history, lasting for 3 days, and requiring the aid of South Milwaukee, Cudahy and Franklin fire crews.

Fire Chief Tom Rosandich, then a firefighter responding to the call, recalls watching the rapid growth of the fire from his vantage point on 5th Avenue. "I saw the fire light up windows one at a time, like someone was going through the plant and turning all the lights on," he remembers.

The building's wooden structure and sheer size complicated efforts, keeping firefighters at bay. A defensive strategy was put in place to combat the massive fire, with long hose lays from 5th Avenue set up around the building. Chief Rosandich recalls having 1,500 feet of line from the hydrant, to Engine 5 – a 1959 American LaFrance – and then to the fire. Severe heat and building collapse were the main concerns. "Emergency lights melted on trucks, and a flashlight sitting on the ground 30 feet away from the building melted," recalls Rosandich. This flashlight is now displayed alongside other Oak Creek Fire Department artifacts at Station 3.

Rosandich credits the quick decision of Officer Jim Repovich for saving the lives of two firefighters that day, when he ordered them out from between two structures. Where they had stood a moment before laid a pile of bricks, from the collapse of the west wall of the building. Thankfully, no injuries were reported from the blaze.

The fire burned well into the morning, when it was finally placed under control. Hotspots continued to burn for several days, until firefighters were finally able to put out all of the flames. Although arson was ruled out, damage to the structure was too severe to determine an actual cause. An Oak Creek landmark had been destroyed, leaving only the charred rubble of a piece of Oak Creek history remaining.

Today, 30 years after the fire, the site of the former Peter Cooper factory still lies vacant. The landmark is gone, but memories remain, especially for the firefighters responding to the scene in 1987. A part of the Lakefront District redevelopment, this area, like the new Lake Vista Park to the south, will be revitalized – a new chapter for land significant to the city's history for so long.





OAK CREEK WELCOMES NEW PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

The City of Oak Creek recently welcomed a new community public health officer to lead the Health Department. Darcy DuBois comes to Oak Creek from the City of Milwaukee Health Department, where she served as a program manager. As Oak Creek's community public health officer, she will be responsible for the overall management of the department, including maintaining the City's public health services, and overseeing a comprehensive public health program serving all age groups in the community.

With a background in social work and a master's degree in public health from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, DuBois has experience working with diverse populations of all ages. "I have a strong background in serving families and individuals as a social worker and in leading public health teams, and I feel that this experience will be an asset to the Health Officer position," she reflects.

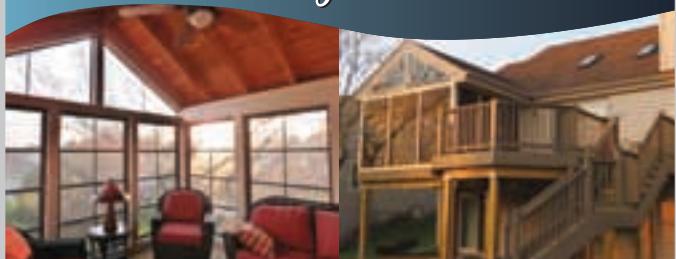
While working for the City of Milwaukee Health Department, DuBois is credited with developing and implementing programs for expectant parents, particularly a home-visitation initiative for fathers. This evidence-based program set out to improve family and child health through increased involvement of fathers and fathers-to-be, and has been positively received by participants.

DuBois and her family are looking forward to learning about the City, and enjoying the businesses and green spaces found here. She is also eager to work with Oak Creek's strong team of public health professionals. "I believe that public health plays an important role in the health and well-being of a community, and I'm excited to work together with the Health Department team to serve the community of Oak Creek," she says.

The Oak Creek Health Department is committed to improving the health and well-being of City residents with the mission of promoting health, preventing disease and injury, and providing a healthy environment for individuals, families and the community. To learn more about the Oak Creek Health Department and the services they provide, please visit oakcreekwi.org/health.

An advertisement for Meadowmere Senior Living. It features a photo of an elderly couple smiling. The text reads: "Senior living designed with your parents in mind. In The Heart Of Oak Creek... MEADOWMERE INDEPENDENT LIVING ASSISTED LIVING MEMORY CARE". Below this, it says: "Schedule your personal tour today: MEADOWMERE SENIOR LIVING 701 E. PUETZ RD., OAK CREEK 414-766-2100 WWW.MEADOWMEREOKCREEK.COM". At the bottom, there is a Five Star Senior Living logo and icons for accessibility, a house, and a dog.

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Photo by Saturn Lounge Photography

Sandy Young (center) shares a moment in Young Dance Academy's handsome lobby/reception space with instructors Jenna Engen (left) and Lisa Price.

Business Spotlight: Young Dance Academy CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF DANCE

According to world-renowned dancer and choreographer, Martha Graham, "Dance is the hidden language of the soul." And Sandy Young, owner and director of Young Dance Academy (YDA) in Oak Creek couldn't agree more, as she describes the way dance has been an integral part of her soul for her entire life. Over the years, it was dance that catapulted her to prominence as an award-winning choreographer and then as proprietor of a highly successful dance studio – one well known for sending its dancers onto national acclaim.



Sandy Young introduces her grandson, Caleb, the next generation of YDA dancers.

life changes brought her to Milwaukee and in 1983 she founded Young Dance Academy. YDA had modest beginnings in a room at Faith Presbyterian Church on Rawson Avenue, but two relocations and about 15 years later, Young purchased the Academy's current building at 181 W. Marquette Avenue. Today, YDA is proud to be celebrating its 35th season!

Young Dance Academy welcomes

students age three and older, regardless of their level of experience. Classes in ballet, jazz, tap and hip-hop, as well as lyrical, musical theater, combo programs and yoga are all part of its dance curriculum. There is also a technique intensive program that accepts dancers by audition only, plus a competitive dance program that sends dancers to compete in regional and national conventions/competitions, and a progressive dance program for children with special needs. But regardless of level, "Our goal is to have all our students experience the enjoyment of dancing," Young says.

Distinguished Faculty and Staff

YDA's season runs from September through June. Its four spacious and fully equipped dance studios come complete with raised wood flooring, essential for the prevention of injury. Also, there is plentiful parking, a spacious and comfortable lobby, and helpful, friendly front desk staff. But its excellent, highly qualified staff of more than a dozen teachers, whose love and passion for dance and for teaching children of all ages, are the hallmark of the academy. Some of them have been with YDA for decades, and some even started their own dance training there when they were toddlers themselves. Not surprisingly, their lifelong commitment to dance and their years of experience have resulted in lengthy resumes packed with regional and national awards.

Owner Sandy Young's daughter, Jenna Engen, who is also part of the YDA team, literally grew up in the dance world. In fact, one could say she has been dancing with the company since before she was born. After touring, teaching and performing internationally with the performance group The Young Americans after high school, she returned to Milwaukee and YDA where she enjoys being an instructor.

Young has collected her own set of top honors over the years. Her resume includes choreography featured at Summerfest and in shows featuring Bob McGrath from Sesame Street, Kinderconcerts with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and a back-to-school advertising campaign for Milwaukee Public Schools. She also co-choreographed the opening act for Danny Gokey's album release concert in June 2014.

Not only does YDA provide fun and rewarding classes for children and adults who love to dance, it also provides the best training for those who want to pursue a future dance career. "Some of our students come from as far away as Germantown, Waterford and Sturtevant to take classes," explains Young, "and many have gone on to excel in national and international dance companies."



**REGISTRATION
CONTINUES THRU
NOVEMBER!**

According to Young, dance is becoming more popular than ever, thanks to the emergence of TV shows that feature dance. "My son Nick auditioned for FOX's, 'So You Think You Can Dance,' and made it all the way to the Top 20 as one of the only tap dancers in Season 8," she shares. "As interest in dance continues to grow, more and more people are discovering dance as an art form and as a way to stay in shape, both mentally and physically," she adds.

A Family Affair

While Young Dance Academy's commitment to excellence in dance education since 1983 has led to its outstanding reputation, Sandy Young is quick to attribute much of its success to the strong support of her family. "My husband, Bob, and my family (daughter Jenna and sons Nick and Zack – and now my son-in-law Shane and grandson Caleb) are my biggest supporters," explains Young. "Bob does the majority of renovations and repairs at the studio," Young says, adding, "even before our kids were dancing, he attended conventions and competitions in support of my dream. My kids all grew up dancing at the studio which allowed me to be with them during after-school hours – the prime operating time for dance studios." YDA has definitely been – and continues to be – a family affair!

Young's daughter Jenna relays how dance has shaped her life as well. "I began dancing at a very young age and always knew dance would be a part of my future. Although I never thought I would end up back in the Milwaukee area teaching at YDA, I cannot imagine being happier anywhere else," she admits.

Young Dance Academy has been a dance destination in Oak Creek for decades, and Young is especially grateful that the community is such a supportive one. "I have always considered the City as my dance studio's home. I especially love the new Drexel Town Square, which is within walking distance to the dance studio," she says.

Giving Back to the Community

It's easy to see that Young Dance Academy is invested in the community and takes great pride in giving back. Currently, YDA is collecting nonperishable food items for Feeding America. But YDA's community support is ongoing. For example, The Muscular Dystrophy Association is a favorite charity, and to date, YDA has raised more than \$50,000 for its benefit through an annual gift basket fundraiser. YDA has also donated funds raised for other charities such as Aids Walk Wisconsin, the Susan G. Koman Breast Cancer Foundation, the Ronald McDonald House and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. It has also hosted end-of-year events for children with special needs and their families from the Oak Creek-Franklin Joint School District.

Thanks to YDA for its many contributions and for helping our children realize their dreams of being dancers!

Note: Looking to plan a unique birthday party for children? YDA is available for booking parties on select Sundays throughout the year, from either 11 a.m.-1 p.m. or 2-4 p.m. Cost is \$15 per party attendee (min. paid 10 guests) and includes decorations, paper goods and utensils, snacks and juice, games, face painting, a balloon for each guest, and of course, dancing. All you bring is the cake!

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CITY HIGHLIGHTS

Oak Creek Residents Participate in Annual Oak Creek Health Fair

The fourth annual Oak Creek Health Fair took place on October 5, providing many free health services and resources to Oak Creek residents. This year's Health Fair featured blood pressure screenings by Aurora Healthcare, blood glucose screenings provided by Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin, and blood typing done by the Blood Center of Wisconsin. In total, 27 local businesses participated in this year's event.

The Oak Creek Health Department hosts this fair during the first week of October every year. Follow the department on social media or check future issues of the *Current* and the *Acorn* for complete details.

Polling Location Changes

With school safety in mind, two of Oak Creek's polling locations have recently been moved out of local school buildings. District 3 voters who have historically voted at Oak Creek East Middle School will now vote across the street at the American Legion Post 434 (lower level), 9327 S. Shepard Ave. District 2 voters who cast their votes at Oak Creek West Middle School will now vote down the street at Oak Creek Assembly of God, 7311 S. 13th St.

Since 2012, City Clerk Catherine Roeske has successfully relocated four polling locations out of schools in order to ensure the safety of the children. Although the Oak Creek-Franklin Joint School District has always been supportive of city elections and the election process, Roeske felt it imperative to address the concerns of residents and teachers in this matter.

"Although every effort is made to isolate voting to one area within a school, there is no way to completely eliminate the chance of someone entering other areas of the building,"

explains Roeske. "On Election Day, the schools are already impacted with an increase in traffic, congested parking lots, delayed buses, and the loss of a large space in the building that may be used for other needs."

These changes will be effective for all 2018 elections and beyond. Residents may check their Aldermanic District and polling location by visiting oakcreekwi.org/aldermanicdistricts.

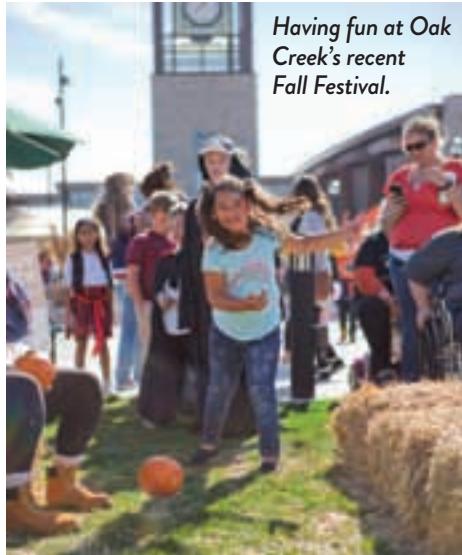
2018 ELECTION DATES

February 20: Spring Primary Election

April 3: Spring Election

August 14: Partisan Primary

November 6: Fall General Election



Oak Creek Celebrations Commission Continues to "Pay It Forward"!

The Oak Creek Celebrations Commission recently collaborated with the International Union of Painters Allied and Allied Trades District Council 7 (DC7) to help homeless students in Oak Creek. Together, they presented Oak Creek High School with a check for \$3,240 to be used to help with

necessities like food, housing, transportation, hygiene items and school supplies. Last year alone, the Oak Creek High School enrolled 19 homeless or displaced high school students (known) and helped provide some of these basic needs from donations totaling \$500.

Carolyn Bukiewicz, chairwoman of the Oak Creek Celebrations Commission, learned of this community issue through a year-long Pay It Forward initiative she and her committee coordinated in 2015.

Bukiewicz notes, "What makes this cause different than some of the other Pay It Forward events is that these are kids who chose not to give up on themselves no matter what hand they have been dealt. So why should we?"

Additional donations will be needed throughout the school year to make sure each student is fed and clothed and has somewhere warm to go when winter arrives.

If you are interested in donating, please contact Oak Creek High School social worker Courtney Curry at (414) 768-6117.

Oak Creek Farmers Market Coming Summer 2018

The Oak Creek Farmers Market is coming to Drexel Town Square in 2018! From June to October, we'll be offering homemade, handmade and homegrown seasonal products from local Wisconsin farmers and vendors. Stop by to purchase the freshest ingredients and learn how to cook with them!

Stay tuned to our next *Current* magazine for additional details on the 2018 market. Interested in participating? If you are a vendor with homemade, handmade and/or homegrown products, please contact Kristin Kowaleski at kkowaleski@oakcreekwi.org for more information.

Oak Creek's new IKEA store is taking shape at the intersection of Drexel Ave. and I-94, and will be open summer 2018.





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Gracelynn Sicilia graduated from South Milwaukee High School in 2017 and began her first semester as an MATC accounting associate degree student in August.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CHOOSING MATC FOR COLLEGE TO LAUNCH THEIR CAREERS

I

t's time for high school seniors to conduct an important research project: What is next? They explore college campuses, carefully compare information from multiple schools and begin to choose a career.

Jackson Rehm, a Milwaukee Area Technical College student who graduated from Franklin High School in June, remembers researching colleges last year. He recalled looking at the tuition costs of four-year schools. "I realized that MATC is more cost effective. Now that I'm a student here, I'm even more impressed with MATC, especially with the instructors. They have so much experience in their fields," Rehm says.

MATC's transfer agreements with more than 50 four-year colleges and universities also influenced his decision. Rehm plans to earn an associate in arts degree at the Oak Creek campus and transfer to the University of Wisconsin-Madison to complete his bachelor's degree. "I'll be able to begin there as a junior and have a degree from Madison," he explains, noting that this path saves him thousands of dollars.

Gracelynn Sicilia, a 2017 South Milwaukee High School graduate, also chose MATC because of the college's affordability and transfer opportunities. She plans to transfer to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee after completing her associate degree. "MATC has been a good fit for me, and I really like my classes and the environment here at Oak Creek," Sicilia explains.

Wide Range of Career-Focused Programs

More than 9,000 students attend classes at the Oak Creek campus, 6665 S. Howell Ave., each year. "This is a vibrant, engaging place to learn," says MATC Vice President Mark Felsheim, Ph.D. "Our class sizes are small, so instructors know their students."

MATC is Wisconsin's largest, comprehensive technical college. In addition to the Oak Creek location, MATC serves students at its downtown Milwaukee, Mequon and West Allis campuses, and at the MATC Education Center at Walker's Square.

The college offers more than 200 career-focused programs. Most associate degree and technical diploma programs can be completed in two years or less of full-time study. MATC also provides the classroom instruction for more than 20 apprenticeship programs that range from manufacturing and construction to arborist and barber.



At the Oak Creek campus, students choose from more than 70 academic programs, such as business management, fashion and retail marketing, IT computer support, culinary management, quality engineering technology, automotive repair and emergency medical services. Unique features include:

- The Center for Energy Conservation and Advanced Manufacturing (ECAM) with its cutting-edge technology and equipment (see photo below).
- A burn tower for firefighter training.
- Shooting-simulation rooms for police training.
- A driving range for the truck driver training program.

MATC Graduates Are In Demand

A recent survey of MATC graduates found that more than 91 percent were employed six months after graduation. “Our graduates attain the job-ready skills sought by local employers in a wide range of industries,” Felsheim says. “When it comes to the skills gap, MATC is educating the students who will help close it.”

The college emphasizes hands-on, “real world” education through its state-of-the-art facilities and through internship and clinical opportunities. Rehm, who is interested in law, finance and politics, recently secured a position as a legislative intern for Ken Skowronski, the state representative for Wisconsin Assembly District 82.

The MATC Promise

Felsheim says many area high school students ask about the MATC Promise program that pays the tuition and fees for eligible students’



The Center for Energy Conservation and Advanced Manufacturing (ECAM) on MATC’s Oak Creek campus provides training opportunities in several areas, including advanced manufacturing, energy solutions and HVAC digital controls.

**Average annual earnings six months after graduation:
\$40,710 for MATC associate degree graduate
\$32,530 for MATC technical diploma graduate**

program courses, after federal and state financial grant aid has been applied, up to a maximum of 75 credits.

The Promise is offered to eligible Class of 2018 high school seniors. Promise requires the student to graduate from a high school in the MATC service district and/or reside in the MATC service district. Eligibility requirements also include a grade-point average of 2.0 or higher and a 90 percent attendance rate for the student’s first semester of senior year, and the student must be Pell Grant eligible. Applications must also be received by February 1, 2018, to be considered for the Promise program. Additional eligibility and application information is posted at matc.edu/promise.

Campus Provides Engaging College Experience

Diversity is another distinctive aspect of MATC, which is the state’s largest majority-minority college. “We do not have an ethnic majority and that contributes to our dynamic learning environment,” notes Felsheim.

Sicilia said the college’s diversity was one reason she enjoys attending MATC. “You learn to see things from different perspectives and not just from your own bubble,” she explains.

MATC also provides resources and promotes activities that foster student success through:

- Comprehensive student services, including tutoring and career advising.
- More than 50 student clubs and professional organizations.
- Junior college men’s and women’s athletics.

To experience the campus environment, Felsheim suggests that potential students call for a tour. Rehm and Sicilia noted that their visits last year helped them realize MATC would best fit their goals. Oak Creek campus tours can be arranged by calling the Welcome Center at (414) 571-4500.

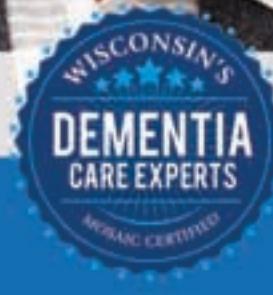
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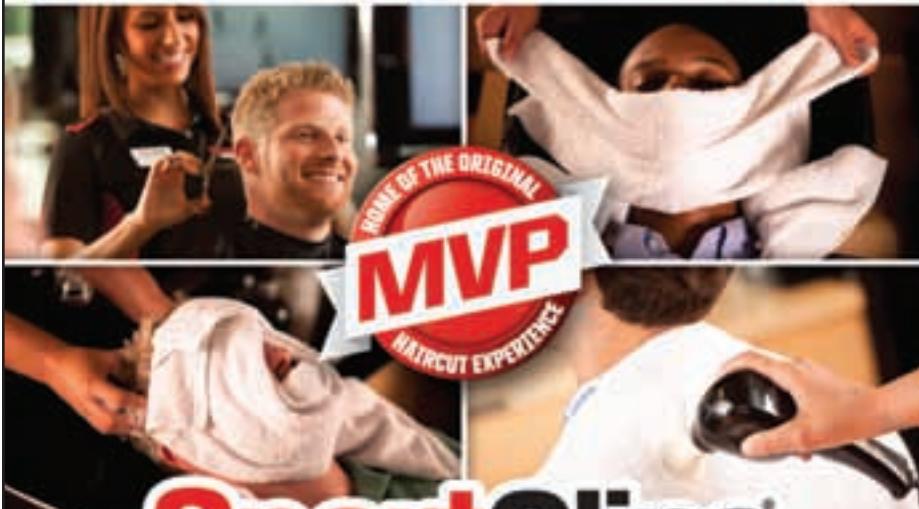
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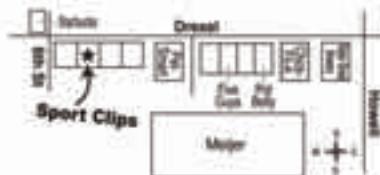
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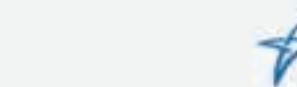
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EMERALD ROW CELEBRATES 1-YEAR ANNIVERSARY



Emerald Row recently celebrated its one year anniversary – and Barrett Lo Visionary Development would like to thank the City of Oak Creek and everyone involved in developing the new Drexel Town Square. We couldn't be happier with the response from the City and its residents!

Over the past year, families from all over Southeastern Wisconsin have made Emerald Row their home. Drexel Town Square residents have been enjoying the many amenities of the neighborhood, including local and national businesses that have also chosen Oak Creek and Drexel Town Square as their home.

Aside from convenient restaurants and businesses, residents have also been thrilled with the many building amenities and other Drexel Town Square conveniences. With two gas grills and a zero-entry pool on site, residents enjoyed many gorgeous summer days pool side last season getting to know their neighbors. Emerald Row recently began staging a bi-weekly morning breakfast for its residents, and many have taken advantage of this new perk. These fun and friendly morning meals with their neighbors have been a big hit, and have helped formed a strong sense of community at Emerald Row!

Another benefit to Drexel Town Square that Oak Creek families have been loving, especially the youth of Emerald Row, is the splash pad! Available seven days a week during the warm months, kids of all

ages have had a safe and fun way to cool off. Drexel Town Square also hosted family-friendly outdoor movie nights on select Friday nights during the summer, and will continue to offer kid-friendly activities this fall.

With a growing community and a lively Town Square, Emerald Row residents have provided overwhelmingly positive reviews on how it feels to live in Oak Creek. Emerald Row is now 100% occupied, and Barrett Lo Visionary will be introducing Phase II of Emerald Row in the coming months. This new phase will bring an additional 240 apartment units to the neighborhood.

Watch for in-depth details on the new project in the next issue of the Current magazine.



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*"Barrett Lo
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**EMPOWER ACADEMY'S DESIGN TEAM**

Back row: Dan Piotrowski, Lisa Kujawa, Catherine Perry and Robin Stein. Front row: Annalee Bennin, Alyssa Soderman, Kate Cronk and Sarah Franson. Not pictured: Jackie Cebertowicz and John Krenek.

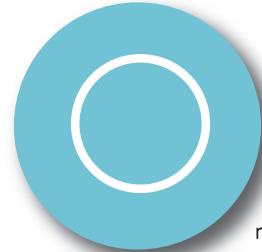


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PERSONALIZED LEARNING AND EMPOWER ACADEMY OFFER NEW TEACHING METHOD



Over the last few years, the Oak Creek-Franklin Joint School District has been implementing a new form of classroom management that is structured around the idea of "personalized learning." There are various definitions of personalized learning as each individual is unique and sees the world in different ways. In a general sense, however, personalized learning is a teaching method that allows many different opportunities for any student to learn in the way that he or she learns best.

Essentially, this is done by letting the student demonstrate his/her competency on any particular subject in the way that is most effective for them, while the teacher facilitates the learning environment for that student. This could mean, for example, that a student who is creative or theatrical can give a speech or presentation to demonstrate his/her knowledge on a subject – while another student who prefers to write or analyze can draft an essay or report. Both examples prove that every student can learn and achieve when learning is interesting to them.

A big part of personalized learning is best represented by the phrase "voice and choice." Annalee Bennin, Director of Curriculum and Assessment describes it as the student "... learning independence and excelling to a whole new level because they find ways to learn something in an interesting way to them – whereas,

in a traditional classroom environment, the teacher may only be teaching for one specific style." When the student is given the choice to learn in a particular method, they are given a voice to determine his/her own future. As a result, the District has seen significant improvements in student success, classroom dynamics and overall happiness of the schools.

Lisa Kujawa, Assistant Superintendent of Continuous Improvement of Student Learning, has seen the positive changes on her frequent visits to District schools and credits the school staff with the improvements. "Our staff has really embraced (personalized learning) and their excitement for it is evidence of their ability to be open to new ideas," she explains. "The kids are advocating for a more personalized learning environment, and we really have to congratulate the staff on doing such a wonderful job of stepping up to the challenges that come with change."

To expand the potential of personalized learning, the District is currently working together with design specialists to create a space for learning to thrive even more. Empower Academy is a whole new type of classroom. This space will be offered to middle-level students who choose to learn in a more flexible, personalized environment as opposed to traditional schooling. Here, the student is able to put his/her learning abilities to the test with all that Empower Academy has to offer.



“Empower Academy is a whole new type of classroom.”



Located on the lower level of the new 9th Grade Center, Empower Academy is beginning to take shape. The large area is an exceptional space for learning to take place. Essentially, it would provide an opportunity to create an innovative model of personalized learning. Further, the space will consist of multiple “islands” in which students can learn in different ways. These learning areas will consist of everything from large group classrooms and laboratories to individual work pods and small group work spaces.

The idea is to have an open platform by which each student and teacher can travel in between the different learning spaces with ease throughout the day. This personalized mobility will allow for greater productivity of the staff as well as ensure the safety of every student.

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hy?

After 10 years of “PLAN” and two years of “DO,” the School District opened Forest Ridge Elementary and the 9th Grade Center at OCHS on time and under budget. We know from our commitment to Continuous Improvement that now we must “STUDY” our current facility situation and then “ACT” on what we need to do next over the next 10 years to provide clean, orderly, safe, cost-effective, and instructionally supportive school environments contributing to our mission of educating children to meet the intellectual, physical, and emotional demands of the 21st century.

How?

This study will be a comprehensive analysis taking into consideration enrollments, capacities, the educational framework and vision, as well as finances. The goals are to:

1. Assure we have plans in place to address projected growth in the District.
2. Provide schools greater choices in learning opportunities to meet the needs of our students.

3. Modernize schools’ physical environments to bring all schools to equitable standards – with each other, and our key competitors, in terms of:

- Educational adequacy and equity
- Mechanical/electrical/technology/heating/cooling systems
- Energy and water conservation/operations savings opportunities
- Safety/security
- Arts and athletic facilities including fields and other outdoor spaces

Who?

This study must be done with a great deal of input from many stakeholders across the community. One way we aim to do this is by holding some initial community-wide listening sessions.

The process of creating a new master plan establishes a forum through which interested parties have a chance to voice their opinions about the future of the School District. This opportunity, and the dialogue that ensues, is a way to infuse fresh ideas and new perspectives into the future of our schools and our students. We aim for an atmosphere of respectful decision-making that fosters support for the decisions being made about the future direction – and steps that must be taken to achieve these improvements to our school facilities.

What do YOU see in our future? Send us your thoughts by visiting ocfsd.org/district/contact.

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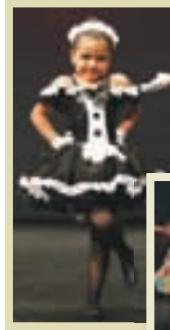
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**EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL
8TH GRADERS**
*Thalia Pagan, Cassidy Spease,
McKenna Olsen, Brianna Sanchez,
Evelyn Wagner and Ella Sabo.*

8TH GRADERS ANTICIPATE CHANGE AS THEY TRANSITION TO HIGH SCHOOL



As students grow and develop throughout their education, they are often confronted with new experiences and lessons. One of the aspects of their educational experience that never fails to make an impact is change. Change is constant and every school year that comes to a close blossoms into another exciting adventure filled with change. With the progression of grade levels, one of the milestones of this change is the transition from middle school to high school.

When 8th graders were asked what they look forward to most about high school, they had a lot to say. Ella Sabo, student at East Middle School, commented by saying, "I can't wait to meet all of the new people, try new food and take AP classes." One of her classmates, Cassidy Spease, says that "(she) is excited to have the freedom to choose (her) schedule and join new clubs and activities." Additionally, classmates Thalia Pagan and McKenna Olsen look forward to "going to school in the new 9th Grade Center – it looks awesome!"

The overwhelming consensus, however, was that the students were most looking forward to a fresh start. New changes bring about new opportunities to develop into an even better version of oneself – and that is exactly what they are yearning for. While there was a lot of talk about all of the great things that high school has to offer, the 8th grade students also had some hesitations.

"I am so afraid of getting lost in high school!" exclaims Brianna Sanchez, 8th grade student at East Middle School. "I feel like I am going to be all alone wandering the halls looking for my classes,"

she adds. Academics aside, the 8th graders are also reluctant about the increased workload, socializing with new people, and branching out to other groups to find where they can be their best self.

"It's kind of scary to think that everything is going to change by the end of the year," Evelyn Wagner, 8th grade classmate, remarks. It is no doubt that change is inevitable, but it is also necessary for students because it teaches them lessons that classrooms cannot always achieve.

Things will never be the same for these 8th grade students after they move on to high school and start the next phase of their lives. Leaving a routine of great teachers, recess and a general sense of feeling comfortable is definitely on their minds as they soak up every minute of this school year. One thing they will always look back on are the friendships and memories they have made at East Middle School that will last a lifetime. "It's going to be tough to move on and have everything change – but we will always have each other," the classmates agree.

As they approach high school, this group of 8th graders is already thinking about where they would like to attend higher education. Brianna is hoping to go to Harvard or Marquette University one day. Thalia, McKenna and Cassidy would like to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison together. Evelyn hopes to study at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay or La Crosse. Ella is hoping to attend Stanford, MSOE or Dartmouth for her college education.

Though these students will miss their days as 8th graders at East Middle School, their futures are looking brighter than ever.



OAK CREEK HIGH SCHOOL HOMECOMING HIGHLIGHTS

This year's Homecoming festivities during the week of September 25 were loads of fun for everyone! From games and parades to spirit days and dances, the Oak Creek-Franklin Joint School District showed its school spirit with pride.

Win or lose, everyone had a great time at this year's homecoming games. The stands were filled with enthusiastic staff, faculty, students, parents and friends who shared in supporting our home teams!

Girls Powderpuff Game: September 27

Seniors vs. Juniors

8-6 Win for the senior girls

Homecoming Football Game: September 29

OCHS vs. Horlick

64-29 Win for Racine Horlick

The Homecoming parade and dance were also highlights of the weekend. Hundreds of students and families came out to watch the parade. Congratulations to Elijah Robinson and Haley Zylka who were crowned as Homecoming 2017 King and Queen.

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Photos by Saturn Lounge Photography

ASPIRE/YOUTH PROGRAMS OFFER EXCITING AND FUN LEARNING OPTIONS



As a department of the Oak Creek-Franklin School District, Youth Programs offer students and families opportunities for involvement in Family Engagement, Student Enrichment, Community Education, Child Care & Development, and Sports & Wellness programming. The After-School Programs for Involvement, Recreation and Enrichment (ASPIRE) is a service that allows students to participate in after-school activities that will strengthen their mind and body outside the classroom walls.

While the programs are open to all Oak Creek residents and Oak Creek-Franklin Joint School District families, there is an enrollment process to ensure the activities are planned and staffed accordingly. Led by Youth Programs Coordinator Heather Ryan, ASPIRE offers fun and exciting ways to allow students to enjoy their time at school with programs all year long. Students can participate in everything from computer and cooking classes to diving clubs and basketball teams. There is no doubt that students are constantly looking for ways to live and learn, so the School District takes great pride in providing options and resources to fulfill their yearnings.

ASPIRE WINTER/SPRING PROGRAMS 2018

- Cooking Classes: Starts early January. Open to all parents and residents
- Basic Water Safety: Starts mid-January
- Remote Control Cars: Starts late January
- Computer Classes: Using Google starts mid-March. Open to all parents and residents
- Diving Club: Starts mid-March

- Backyard Games: Starts in April
- Youth Basketball: Starts mid-January. Four programs: Middle School Girls, Boys grades 2-8, Girls grades 2-5, Boys and Girls grades K-2



- Aquatics: Ongoing registration. Open to all.
- Club 3:05: Ongoing registration for all elementary schools.
- Open Swim: Saturdays 11-1 p.m. Held at Oak Creek High School Main Campus. Enter door #21. Through December 9, then returns January 20-March 24
- Open Gym - Saturdays 6-8 p.m. Held at East Middle School. Enter door #7. Through December 16, then returns January 20-March 24.

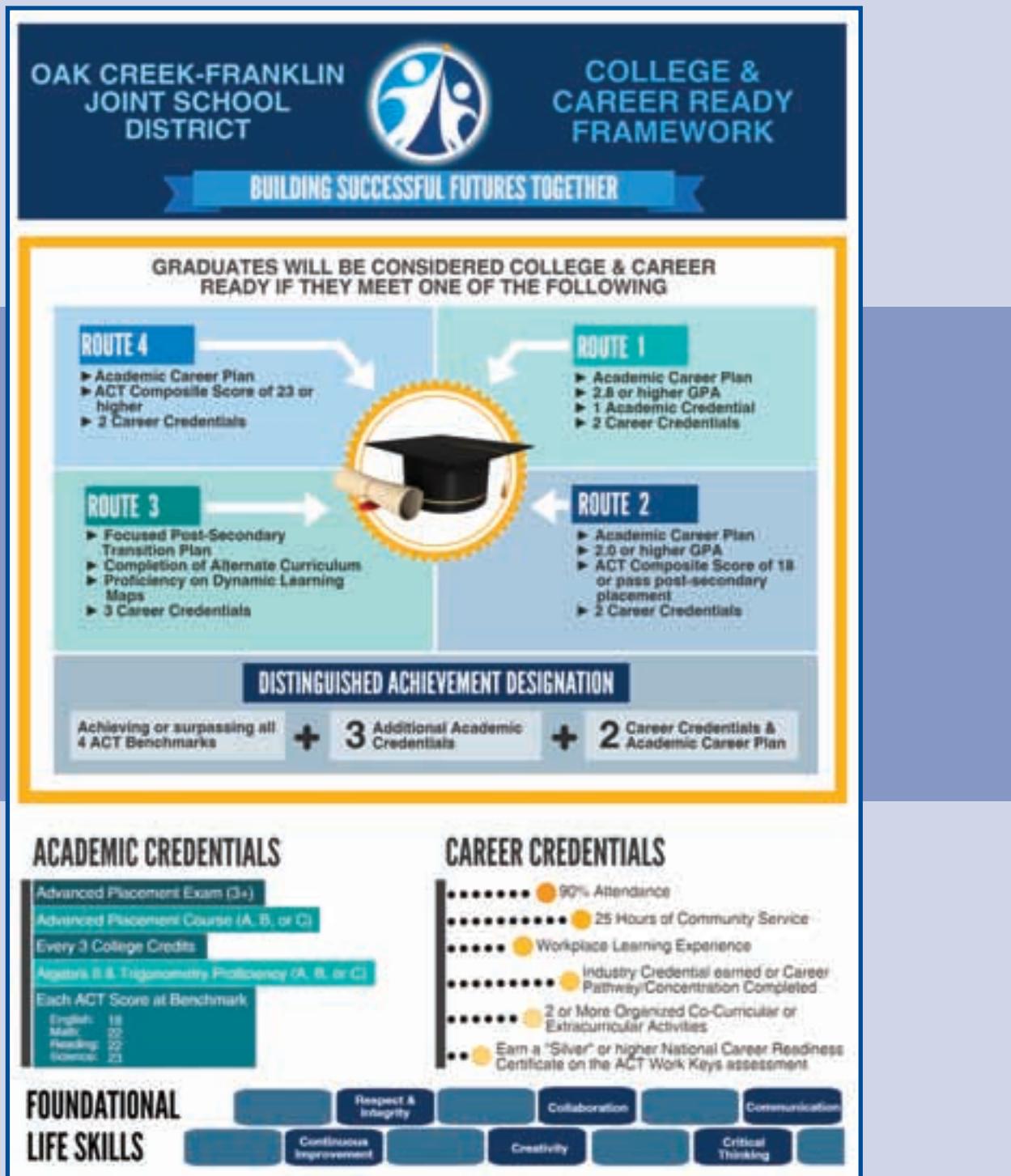
Both Open Gym and Swim are open to the public for only \$2/person at the door. Pre-registration not required.

ASPIRE provides high-quality before- and after-school programming in collaboration with community agencies, parents, District staff and faculty.

- Before-School Care is offered 6:45-7:50 a.m. each school day.
- After-School Care provides planned activities from 3:05-5:45 p.m.
- School Days Out - Child care is provided during School District in-service days and select holidays. The remaining 2017-2018 dates offered are November 22, January 22-23, February 16, and April 2-6.

CAREER CREDENTIALS HELP ENSURE SUCCESS FOR TODAY'S GRADUATES

The Oak Creek-Franklin Joint School District is in the process of redefining what it means to be ready for career and college after high school. The old view was that earning 23 credits with a D- or better meant a student graduated "ready." However, we have learned that in addition to credits, it is more important for our students to have "high credentials." Credentials are habits, conditions or achievements that research has proven contribute to successful future outcomes in college and the world of work. The diagram below shows our current thinking about what it means for "every student graduates prepared to excel at their school or career of choice ..." Empowering our students to attain these credentials is how we will help them build successful futures!





MARCHING KNIGHTS “TOOT THEIR HORNS” AND BRING HOME THE HONORS

T

The Oak Creek Marching Knights have been making lots of noise in the past few years and proving to be a force to be reckoned with. Founded in 1988 by Gary

Kautenburg, the Marching Knights program has grown tremendously. Starting out with just a few dozen members, the band has grown to a towering 330 strong and talented Knights.

The 330 members of the Oak Creek High School Band enjoy a comprehensive music education program that provides a wide variety of musical experiences in *Marching Band, Pep Band, Jazz Combo, Jazz Ensemble, Concert Band, Solo/Ensemble, Pit Orchestra and Music Theory*. The band travels throughout each year to perform in marching contests, jazz festivals, and clinics across Wisconsin and the United States. Most recently, the Oak Creek High School Band traveled to Disney World where they had the opportunity to “Perform for the World” in the Disney Electrical Parade in the Magic Kingdom.

Every season starts out with a few rehearsals in the summer to get the band acclimated to the new show. They start out by learning the music first then proceed to begin learning the marching drill formations on the practice field. Once the school year starts, everything begins to speed up. The band rehearses twice a week for 3 hours or more at a time to bring their show together. Throughout the beginning of the school year, the band competes in marching competitions statewide to not only entertain large crowds of people but to also get valuable feedback from the judges. Finally, as September comes to a close, the Marching Knights work diligently to fine tune and perfect their show in order to be ready for the state competition in October at UW-Whitewater.

This year, the Oak Creek Marching Knights put on a spectacular show called “Mazes.” The show is made of up three movements: Into the Maze, Trapped and Escape from the Maze. The show combines the musical expression of the wind and percussion ensembles with the theatrical displays of the color guard to transport the audience into the experience of The Maze. Competing in class AAAA, the Marching Knights go head to head with some of the largest schools in the state for the first-place trophy.

With all of their hard work and passion, we are proud to announce the Oak Creek Marching Knights have won first place at UW-Whitewater for the last 4 years in a row! Additionally, Oak Creek has had the opportunity to host one of the competitions at home for the first time. The Knights did not compete, but performed an outstanding exhibition performance on the home field on October 7.

The members of the Oak Creek High School Band take great pride in their vast musical accomplishments and widespread reputation for maintaining the highest standards of integrity and character. The staff and students give a very special thanks to the wonderful parents, alumni and friends who support the musical endeavors of the Oak Creek High School Band.

“The Marching Knights are unlike any other group of kids you





have ever encountered,” says Senior Drum Majors Michaela Richman and Landry Forrest. “Sure, there is sometimes stress among this group of teenagers, but this is what heightens the moments of pure joy, excitement and camaraderie we experience with emotions that you can’t put into words. Like any other family, we can be dysfunctional, but at the end of the day, we will always have each other’s backs!”

Not only do the band members consider themselves a family but also a family that gives back. The Oak Creek Marching Knights have continuously shown their love and support for their community through service and showmanship. Some of these activities include playing at nursing homes, jazz combos, art shows and business grand openings. They have even performed at General Mitchell Airport for the Honor Flight more than 5 times.

Band Directors Guy Gregg and Amy Fuchs stress the importance of character education and how it is applicable both in and outside of the bandroom. Many of the band seniors have also served as mentors for the 9th grade band members, so they can help build the freshmen confidence and musicianship as well as their own.

The Oak Creek Marching Knights certainly have many reasons to “toot their own horn” and have a lot to be proud of. With a winning streak on the field and a winning attitude in the community, it isn’t hard to get up and cheer for all that the band does!



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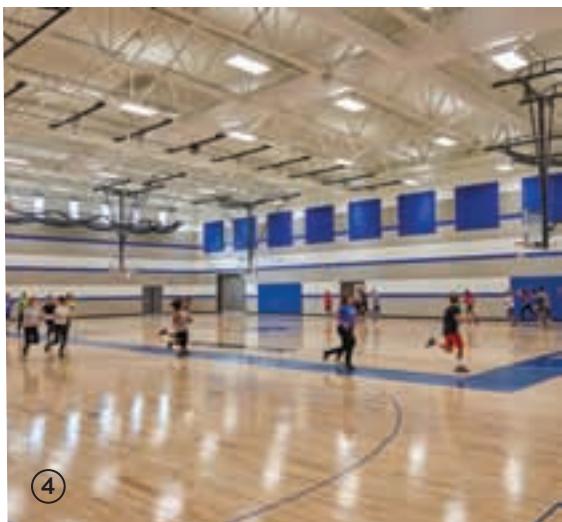
OUT AND ABOUT IN THE



OAK CREEK WELCOMES THE HOLIDAY SEASON!

As we prepare for the upcoming holidays, we reflect on another great year in the City of Oak Creek. Here is just a sampling of what has been going on recently in our community. Be sure to check the calendar on page 47 as we look forward to the new year ahead. Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season and a joyous 2018!

1. Manufacturing Day was held at PPG on October 6 to introduce students to manufacturing job opportunities so they can explore future career options.
2. Edgewood Elementary School celebrated its 60th anniversary on October 6 with visits from prior students and teachers, and a fundraiser walk.
- 3 & 4. The Oak Creek-Franklin Joint School District proudly opened its new 9th Grade Center for the new 2017-2018 school year. The bright and airy cafeteria and the spacious gymnasium are two special areas already getting lots of use.
5. Summer Movie Nights in Drexel Town Square were popular events during the warmer months.
6. Young Dance Academy is celebrating its 35th season with its commitment to excellent in dance education (see pg. 20).
7. Oak Creek Fire Chief Tom Rosandich proudly displays the department's plaque commemorating its national accreditation status (see pg. 6).



CITY OF OAK CREEK

8. The official ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new 9th Grade Center was attended by students, families, staff and community leaders. The new building includes 193,000 square feet, with 540 students currently enrolled and plenty of space to accommodate 1,000 total students. More than three dozen classroom spaces, other learning and multi-purpose spaces, a gymnasium, and a cafeteria are also included. VJS Construction Services broke ground in January 2016 and the building was completed on time in August 2017.



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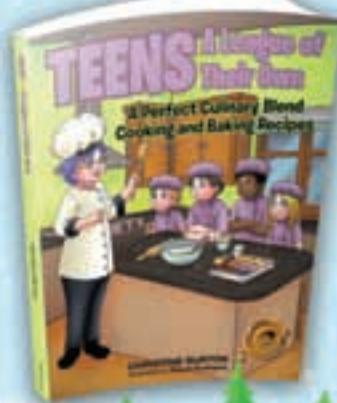
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

NOVEMBER

- **Mon., Nov. 13:** Holiday "Giving Tree" Event Begins Oak Creek Civic Center, 8040 S. 6th St. Stop in before Friday, Dec. 15, to pick a tag from one of the decorated trees in the lobby and the Library and help fulfill Christmas wishes. Unwrapped gifts may be dropped off at the Library customer service counter during normal business hours.
- **Fri., Nov. 17:** An Evening with Tom Anthony, 7 p.m. Oak Creek Community Center, 8580 S. Howell Ave., \$5 in advance, \$10 at door, limited seating. Visit occenter.com.
- **Sat., Nov. 18:** 2nd Annual International Games Day, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Oak Creek Public Library. Games of all types for the whole family will be available for playing, including a giant version of Candyland, Jenga and Battleship. Visit oakcreeklibrary.org.
- **Wed., Nov. 22:** Schools Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
- **Thur.-Fri., Nov. 23-24:** City Offices, Recycling Yard, Library and Schools Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
- **Wed., Nov. 22:** Wizards & Waterpark, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Kids will enjoy a Harry Potter party, a pizza lunch and a field trip to Timber Ridge Waterpark in Lake Geneva when school is closed this day. Presented by the Oak Creek Library. See pg. 14 and register at oakcreeklibrary.org.
- **Thur., Nov. 23:** Thanksgiving Day Community Turkey Trek, 8-9 a.m. Emerald Preserve, 8031 S. 6th St. Start out your day with an hour-long walk before you begin your holiday festivities! Participants are encouraged to bring healthy, non-perishable foods to help the Hunger Task Force.
- **Sat., Nov. 25:** Fall Craft Fair, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Oak Creek Community Center, 8580 S. Howell Ave., free. Visit occenter.com.
- **Sun., Nov. 26:** Community Tree Lighting, 5-7 p.m. Oak Creek Community Center, 8580 S. Howell Ave. Live reindeer, kids' activities, treats and a visit from Santa, free. Visit occenter.com.

DECEMBER

- **Fri., Dec. 1:** Winter Parking Rules Begin Please visit the City website for information: oakcreekwi.org
- **Fri., Dec. 1:** Insights of Successful Women Roundtable Breakfast, 7 a.m. Oak Creek Civic Center Multi-Purpose Room, 8040 S. 6th St. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at southsuburbanchamber.com.
- **Sat., Dec. 2:** Canadian Pacific Holiday Train Viewing, 5:25-6:50 p.m. Drexel Town Square. Bring a non-perishable food item to donate to local families in need and enjoy candy canes and warm beverages in Drexel Town Square. Then grab your flashlight and enjoy Emerald Preserve as you wait for the Canadian Pacific Holiday Train to roll through Oak Creek, as it travels from Sturtevant to Milwaukee.
- **Wed., Dec. 6:** Drexel Town Square Christmas Tree Lighting, 5:30-7 p.m. Town Square, 361 W. Town Square Way. Bring the



whole family to the Town Square to enjoy hot refreshments, caroling and the lighting of the Christmas tree! Please bring a non-perishable food item to help support local families.

- **Wed., Dec. 6:** Middle School Band and Jazz Concerts, 7 p.m. East Middle School, 9330 S. Shepard Ave., free admission.
- **Wed., Dec. 6:** Middle School Band and Jazz Concerts, 7 p.m. West Middle School, 8401 S. 13th St., free admission.
- **Thur., Dec. 7:** Blood Drive, 12-6 p.m. Oak Creek Community Center, 8580 S. Howell Ave. Presented by Oak Creek Lions Club.
- **Sun., Dec. 10:** Breakfast with Santa, 10 a.m.-12 noon Oak Creek Community Center, 8580 S. Howell Ave. Advance tickets required. Visit occenter.com for details.
- **Wed., Dec. 13:** District Festival of the Bands, 2:30 and 5 p.m. Oak Creek High School, 340 E. Puetz Rd., free.
- **Thur., Dec. 14:** Oak Creek High School Holiday Jazz Concert, 7 p.m. Oak Creek High School, 340 E. Puetz Rd., free admission.
- **Sun., Dec. 17:** Breakfast with Santa, 10 a.m.-12 noon Oak Creek Community Center, 8580 S. Howell Ave. Advance tickets required. Visit occenter.com for details.
- **Thur., Dec. 21 and Fri., Dec. 22:** A Christmas Carol, 7 p.m. Choose from two performance readings of the great Dickens classic – a new family tradition! Oak Creek Community Center, 8580 S. Howell Ave. \$2 per person.
- **Mon.-Tues., Dec. 25-26:** City Offices and Library Closed for Christmas Holiday.
- **Mon., Dec. 25-Tue., Jan. 2:** Schools Closed for Winter Break

JANUARY

- **Mon.-Tues., Jan. 1-2:** City Offices and Library Closed for New Year's Holiday.
- **Thur., Jan. 11:** High School Open House, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- **Mon.-Tue., Jan. 22-23:** Schools Closed
- **Sun., Jan. 28:** Corn Hole Tournament, 1-6 p.m. Register your team and show us what you've got! Oak Creek Community Center, 8580 S. Howell Ave. Team fee required.

FEBRUARY

- **Sat., Feb. 3:** Bridal Show, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Everything you need for the wedding of your dreams! Oak Creek Community Center, 8580 S. Howell Ave., free admission.
- **Fri., Feb. 9:** Ladies Night Out, 7-10 p.m. Vendors with everything just for the ladies! Oak Creek Community Center, 8580 S. Howell Ave., free admission.
- **Sat., Feb. 17:** Oak Creek Winter Festival, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Town Square, 361 W. Town Square Way. More information at visitoakcreek.com.
- **Sat., Feb. 17:** Spring Craft Fair Oak Creek Community Center, 8580 S. Howell Ave., free admission. Visit occenter.com.
- **Tue., Feb. 20:** Spring Primary Election

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