

AUTUMN 2019

O A K C R E E K

# CURRENT

M A G A Z I N E

CHRIS GUZIKOWSKI CHOSEN  
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

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### ON THE COVER

The OC-Franklin School District is already preparing for the new fall season! Students in Summer Camp were using their creative talents to apply fall leaves to recent craft projects. The new 2019-2020 school season starts Tuesday, September 3.

*Photo by Saturn Lounge*



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, and is mailed for free to all households and businesses in the City. 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 the MATC-Oak Creek campus. The magazine also receives funding from local advertisers.

This publication is guided by a professional advisory committee comprised of representatives from the City, the School District, and residents and business owners. Please email all inquiries/suggestions to [info@oakcreekmagazine.com](mailto:info@oakcreekmagazine.com).

CITY OF OAK CREEK  **Daniel Bukiewicz, Mayor**8040 S. 6th St. • Oak Creek, WI 53154  
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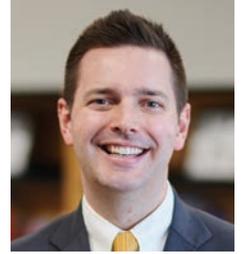
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From Daniel Unertl, the new Superintendent of the Oak Creek-Franklin Joint School District

## Hello, Oak Creek-Franklin Families and Community,



My name is Dan Unertl, and I have the great honor of serving as superintendent of our School District. I joined the high school administrative team under Mr. Michael Read in 2012, and for the last several years, I've had the privilege of working side-by-side with Dr. Tim Culver as assistant superintendent.

I am one of those lucky people who get up in the morning to go to a job I love – it's easy when I am surrounded by talented and inspirational staff, phenomenal families and spectacular students! It's a rewarding role that allows me to steward work leading to exceptional learning opportunities for our kids.

I feel fortunate to work in a community that blends tradition with a sense of vitality for the future. As a School District, we are fortunate to play a part in a community that values and supports children in so many great ways. I get to visit all our schools: seven elementary schools, East, West and Empower; the High School main and ninth grade campus; and Connects Learning Center; plus our 4K sites – all spread throughout town, I put on a lot of miles! And I get to see economic growth, institutions of higher learning in our backyard, meet visionary community leaders, interact with wonderful faith communities, work with strong civic organizations, and on a daily basis see a community filled with pride.

In my remarks to the 2019 graduating class at this past year's graduation ceremony, I noted the pride you could see on everyone's faces, not just the graduates' faces. That is because we are all Knights, and we come together in a special community of support for one another and for our home – and that pride pushes students forward to their future and carries them back home to their community.

Having grown up in a small town myself, with fewer than 600 people, I have always felt like Oak Creek was a big small town, and I've always been at home here. My wife Sara and I have two young boys, and the little free time we have consists of karate, swimming and robotics events. We love the warmth and vibrancy of Oak Creek/Franklin and count ourselves lucky to be a part of the community. I look forward to helping our School District reach even greater heights in the future, here in our community, where success for all of our children is our highest priority.

I hope you learn a lot more about our great City here in these pages of the *Current*. I know that I always enjoy reading about the great things happening around town, and am proud to contribute through our School District in keeping Oak Creek a destination community!

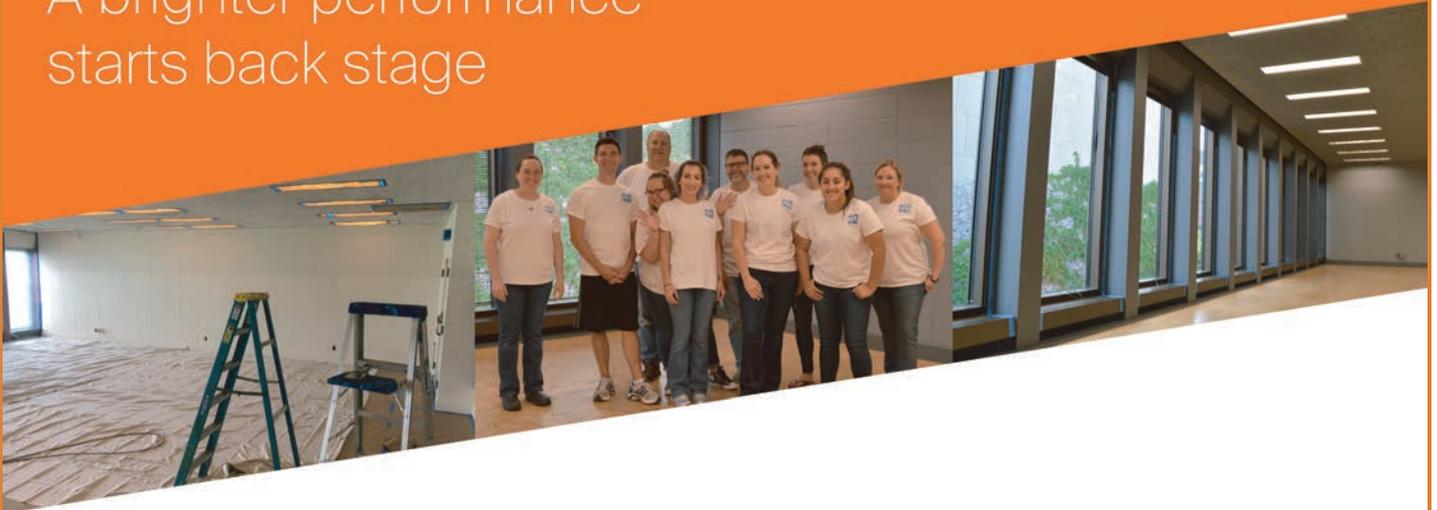
Working together to engage, challenge and inspire every student every day!

In gratitude, Daniel D. Unertl, J.D.

Oak Creek-Franklin Joint School District



A brighter performance starts back stage



As part of PPG's Colorful Communities' initiative, our PPG team and local union 781 IUPAT D.C. 7 helped restore the rehearsal studio of the Marcus Performing Arts Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The local community can attest to the value of this studio and are proud to see the unified effort of many to make the project possible.

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## 2018 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR: CHRIS GUZIKOWSKI



Service is something that has always come naturally to Chris Guzikowski, Oak Creek's 2018 Citizen of the Year. Born and raised in Oak Creek, Chris is an Oak Creek High School graduate and currently serves as the City's 6th District Alderman.

Chris and Colleen, his wife of 31 years, have raised their three daughters, Alyssa, Carle and Lauren, in the city they've both called home since childhood. Their hometown loyalty is apparent; their entire family is active in the community and are familiar faces at many events. Chris' social media followers are often challenged to figure out what he's up to with his entertaining "Where is Alderman Guzikowski in the OC?" posts. He does, indeed, seem to be everywhere!

As a City alderman, Chris not only attends Common Council meetings twice a month, but also serves on the City's Plan Commission, Library Board, Landscape and Beautification Committee, and the Capital Improvements Committee. Before his election as alderman, he served as a citizen representative on both the Traffic and Safety Commission and the Board of Housing and Zoning appeals. He also served on the Oak Creek Library Planning Committee, that was responsible for planning and designing the new library at its current location within the Oak Creek Civic Center.

Any of those activities, plus his full-time job on the Quick Response Manufacturing (QRM) team for Western Envelope Company, would be considered a full plate. But Chris' efforts do not stop there. At Western Envelope, where he has worked for the past 31 years, Chris served for five years as the team chairperson for the company's Al's Walk and Run team, and was also actively involved in their annual "Spikes for Tykes" volleyball team fundraiser.

St. Stephen's Parish in Oak Creek has also benefitted from Chris' generous spirit. As an active parishioner, Chris has served on multiple committees and has served on the Parish Council as both a member

and the president. Spending 13 years as the parish trustee-secretary, he took on the role of owners' representative for the construction of their new church at 13th Street and Oakwood Road, an \$8.5 million project. This massive undertaking was completed on time and within budget. Chris also led the parish's transition team, facilitating the church's move from Milwaukee to Oak Creek. Now that St. Stephen's is firmly rooted in its new community, Chris can be found helping out with the Parish Festival and Lenten Friday Fish Fry dinners.

Any remaining spare time Chris might have is spent serving on the Oak Creek Community Center Board of Directors, on the Oak Creek Cares Advisory Board, or as a member of the Oak Creek Lions Club, and volunteering at the numerous community events these groups host.

During the Citizen of the Year celebration held for Chris on June 14 at the Oak Creek Community Center, more than one person wondered how Chris was able to balance it all. His twin sister, Kathy, praised his efforts. "There are so many examples of how Chris gives of his time and talents on a daily basis, and he does it all while working a day job, maintaining his home, attending meetings and appointments, being a husband, a dad, a brother, and a friend. We're not sure how he fits it all in, but he sure makes it seem effortless," she admits.

Chris' family and upbringing are the foundations for his commitment to serving the Oak Creek community. Although their father, Bob, passed away six weeks before the twin's birth, Chris was inspired to follow in his dad's footsteps as someone involved in the betterment of his community. Bob had served as a member of an early parks commission, and Chris has taken pride serving his community similarly.

Vi Guzikowski, Chris' mother, passed away in 1973 at just 44 years



Chris Guzikowski

*Left: The Guzikowski family.*

*Right: Colleen applies an award pin to her husband's suit coat.*



of age. The six Guzikowski children were able to stay in their family home because of the generosity of so many in the community. The eldest sisters, Judy and Patty, ages 22 and 20 at the time of their mom's passing, assumed the responsibilities of raising their younger siblings, which also included sister Susie, 18, and brother Greg, 13, in addition to the six-year-old twins. Judy's husband, Dale Richards, is a former mayor of Oak Creek and has been a father figure to Chris and his siblings. His passion for public service was also an inspiration to Chris, who ran for and was elected to public office in 2014.

To this day, Chris feels blessed by the outpouring of kindness shown to his family after their mother passed away. Neighbors and members of the community rallied behind the family, hosting a benefit dance to help the children financially. Several Oak Creek firefighters even helped to paint their home's exterior. Although Chris was young at the time, witnessing everyone's generosity was something that remained on his mind.

"Service has been, for me, much more rewarding than it has been work. It all goes back to when my parents passed away, and the community stepped up to help us. It has always been my desire to give back to the community that was so supportive to us," notes Chris. "You don't know how many people you can impact with a single act of kindness."

The Citizen of the Year Committee not only chooses an individual to honor with the coveted title of "Citizen of the Year," but they also select one or more high school students who show leadership and embody the spirit of volunteerism with a Community Service Award. This year's honorees, Logan Ashenhurst, Manleen Rajput and Halle Ciesielczyk, have put in more than 3,000 combined volunteer hours. These exemplary students, too, found time in their busy lives to do positive things for our community, certainly inspiring others to do the same.

As the 2018 Citizen of the Year, Chris received accolades from Senator Ron Johnson, County Executive Chris Abele, State Senator Chris Larson, State Representative Jesse Rodriguez, County Board Supervisor Patty Logdson, and his peers on the City of Oak Creek Common Council. An avid Elvis Presley fan, Chris even received a heartfelt and humorous tribute video from his daughters titled, "Living the Dream: Defining Chris Guzikowski in an Elvis Medley." The theme common to all of the recognitions is Chris' commitment to service, something he challenged everyone to do.

"If you all pitch in just a little bit, you'll be amazed how it can change your life," he observes.



*Above:*  
**Agave Blu Cantina**



*Right:*  
**Stanton Optical**

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# TIPS FOR PLANTING THE PERFECT TREES THIS SEASON

By Rebecca Lane, Urban Forester

A

utumn is a great time to plant new trees in your yard, an excellent way to instantly improve your surroundings. But before you head out to your local nursery to choose the perfect tree, it is worth pointing out a few to avoid and the reasons why. Although there are other trees we do not recommend planting, the following three are widely available, and therefore commonly overplanted.

## 1. ‘Autumn Blaze’ Freeman Maple

‘Autumn Blaze’ Freeman maple (*Acer freemanii*, Jeffersred’ AUTUMN BLAZE) is probably the most overplanted cultivar, or cultivated variety, in our region. These trees, a natural cross between silver maple and red maple, are widely available and hardy. Because these trees are so common, many may be lost if a pest such as the Asian long-horn beetle struck. Planted as a street tree, the fast growth and poor branch attachments keep the forestry staff busy, as we try to remain current on pruning before branches get too large to remove. Tight branch forks create short-lived trees because that is where they break/split when the high winds hit or decay sets in with age due to compression of the branches against each other and the trunk.

**Pluses:** Thrilling autumn color. Resilient.

**Minuses:** At times, exhibits aggressive surface roots. Poor branch attachments will become a problem with age. Requires frequent pruning to reduce branch crowding and tight forks. Bold autumn color can look unnatural when not tempered with other trees.

**Better Alternatives:** If you must plant a maple, there are better choices – even if it is merely choosing a different type of Freeman with better structure. ‘Autumn Fantasy’ has an excellent structure, lovely fall color, and is slower growing and less aggressive. The Wisconsin state tree is the beautiful sugar maple, which requires fertile soil but is a good long-term choice for our area.

**2. Callery Pear** This tree also goes by Bradford pear (*Pyrus calleryana*) and a number of cultivar names such as ‘Autumn Blaze.’ This species often becomes brittle and was considered a mistake of early urban foresters because of its short life. It is our goal to plant a fair number of trees that are capable of living a long life, thereby increasing the potential for continuous, positive impacts on the environment. Recently listed as an invasive species, the Callery pear has been found invading natural areas in Oak Creek. When academic professionals identify a species as a bad choice due to invasiveness, we stop planting it.

**Pluses:** Beautiful white spring blossoms. Long-lasting, orange fall color.

**Minuses:** Invasive. Weak branch structure that causes us to call it a pruning nightmare. Short-lived and therefore doesn’t maximize contributions to the urban canopy.

**Better Alternatives:** Another option for a spring flowering tree with orange autumn color is serviceberry (*Amelanchier* species). Serviceberries are edible and delicious, but you will have to net the trees to keep the birds from devouring the berries in just a few days. A delightful, less planted, selection is the yellowwood (*Cladrastis lutea*) which has cascading white blossoms in spring and bold, yellow fall color.

Above: The Wisconsin state tree, the sugar maple, exhibits glorious, colorful foliage in the autumn season, and is a good long-term planting choice for our area.



Above: The branch attachments of the ‘Greenspire’ linden tree are compressed so tightly to the trunk, and stacked so close together that it is a significant structural defect for a street tree.

Top right page: The serviceberry has beautiful autumn color and delicious berries – but watch out, the birds will devour them in only a few days!



**3. Greenspire Littleleaf Linden** (*Tilia cordata* ‘Greenspire’). Perhaps people are attracted to the formal shape of this European linden tree. It grows similar to a conifer in that it has many tightly arranged branches and can have a central leader, which is a positive feature for longevity in most trees. However, the branch attachments of this cultivar are compressed so tightly and stacked so close together that it is a significant structural defect, especially for a street tree.

**Pluses:** Tolerant of urban conditions. Fragrant blossoms in June attract many bees, which is good for pollination.

**Minuses:** Structural defects. Over-planted cultivar. As are all linden, this cultivar is a favored food of Japanese beetle, and are also particularly susceptible to the linden borer.

**Better Alternatives:** Luckily, there are numbers of better linden choices, one of which is the American linden, often called basswood. When we select trees in the field, we look for strong branch attachments – a 90-degree angle from the trunk is best.

**Special note:** Due to a nearly hypnotic attraction of bees to linden trees, the chemical labels of many insecticides have been changed to disallow their use on them.

The types of trees we recommend planting in Oak Creek are based on several factors:

1. Compatibility with our climate, soil and the site they are placed in.
2. Reasonably resistant to major diseases and insects that we currently know of.
3. Structurally sound physical form.
4. Not an invasive species – capable of escaping cultivation and having negative impacts on local natural areas.
5. Not over-planted. Maple and blue spruce are two of the most commonly planted trees selected by homeowners.
6. Available in straight species – non-cultivar, genetically diverse.
7. Have positive aesthetic characteristics.
8. Locally grown and available. Besides supporting the local economy, buying local stock decreases the likelihood of bringing in destructive insects and diseases. Emerald ash borer was spread mostly through the transport of firewood and nursery stock.

Only after the above criteria are met do we select for aesthetic characteristics. Statistically, homeowners favor blossoms and autumn color when choosing trees. These are important factors; the joy that people experience from their trees is one of those things that make for a rich life, and City forestry staff try to add in tree selections that provide pleasure. However, those characteristics can rarely be the first consideration. The more you learn about trees, the more interesting and celebrated the less conspicuous features become!

For a list of recommended trees (our City Tree list), please visit [oakcreekwi.org/government/departments/public-works/forestry/recommended-tree-list](http://oakcreekwi.org/government/departments/public-works/forestry/recommended-tree-list).

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# Abendschein Park Skatepark To Get a Redesign

The City of Oak Creek is working with Newline Skateparks to redevelop the existing skate park at Arthur Abendschein Park, 1311 E. Drexel Ave., as part of the Abendschein Park Master Plan and the City's overall Capital Improvement Plan. The new design will provide important upgrades to this popular City attraction, while integrating with the surrounding areas. Community engagement will be an important part of the design process.

Newline Skatepark Project Manager and Senior Designer, Kanten Russel, is a former professional skateboarder and has spent the past 10 years using his knowledge of action sports to help develop more than 260 youth park facilities across the country. The construction of the new skatepark is slated to be completed by July 2020.

The design team will meet with local youth and community members through a set of workshops that will help determine the ultimate design vision for the project. Please follow the City of Oak Creek Government on social media to learn of opportunities to become involved in upcoming Skatepark design community workshops.

# Top 10 City Taxpayers

Taxpayer	Type of Business*	2018 Equalized Valuation
Springbrook Cercle Apartments	Apartments	\$55,721,600
Occidental Development LP	Apartments	\$50,520,300
Arbors at Centennial Park LLC	Apartments	\$38,505,500
Legacy/Timber Ridge LLC	Apartments	\$25,884,300
JES Oak Creek MOB LLC	Froedtert Health	\$24,379,800
Aldi, Inc.	Grocery/Warehouse	\$22,810,400
NDC LLC	Tri-City Bank	\$21,070,500
Woodman's Food Market, Inc.	Grocery Store	\$19,716,500
Barrett Lo Visionary Development, LLC	Apartments	\$19,640,100
HSI Drexel Ridge LLC	Apartments	\$18,979,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$297,228,000**</b>

\* Six out of the top 10 City taxpayers are multifamily apartment developments.  
 \*\* In 2018, \$6,277,455 total in property tax payments were received for all taxing jurisdiction from these 10 taxpayers, with \$1,870,682 retained by the City of Oak Creek for its operations.

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# CITY HIGHLIGHTS

## FALL FEST BOOK SALE ON OCTOBER 19

The Friends of the Oak Creek Public Library volunteer group is hosting a HUGE book sale during this year's Fall Fest. Taking place on Saturday, October 19 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., the Fall Fest Book Sale will be held in the Multi-purpose Room located in the Oak Creek Civic Center. There will be a wide assortment of books for all ages and interests, including many fiction and non-fiction titles, as well as magazines and media items. Prices and more information will be made available on the Library's website by October 1.

All proceeds go toward supporting Library programs and services.

The Friends of the Oak Creek Public Library is an adult volunteer organization dedicated to helping with projects and fundraising. Interested in joining? Membership is currently free and open to everyone, so fill out a membership form and make some new Friends today! Application forms are available online at [oakcreeklibrary.org/friends](http://oakcreeklibrary.org/friends) and at every Library service desk.

## OC HEALTH DEPARTMENT EARNS HIGH LEVEL III DESIGNATION

The Oak Creek Health Department has earned a Level III designation from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). Local health departments complete a comprehensive review process with DHS every five years to ensure they are providing the required level



of services to the community. Level III is the highest designation a health department can receive, and it indicates that the department is providing the most extensive array of services to the community.

Health departments work hard to assess, promote and protect health in the community. The Oak Creek Health Department offers services in the areas of car seat safety, breastfeeding support, falls prevention, immunizations, communicable disease investigation, beach water quality monitoring, sharps container collection, and many more. Visit the Health Department website at [ocwi.org/health](http://ocwi.org/health) or contact them at (414) 766-7950 for more information.



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# HOW OUR CITY PLANS FOR AN EMERGENCY

Many families have plans in place in the event of an emergency. This may come in the form of an evacuation plan, a safe meeting spot in case of a fire or practicing a tornado drill for severe weather. Much in the same way, our local government also plans for large-scale emergencies that could affect the residents and businesses located in our community.

Because of its geographic location, and a mix of industrial, transportation and natural hazards, the City recognizes that there is always a potential to experience both natural and human-made disasters. The Emergency Operations function of our municipal government ensures that staff will be prepared to deal with these events rapidly and professionally.

A designated Emergency Management group, comprised of critical organizational staff, is responsible for managing events during and after a disaster situation, following policies outlined in the City's Emergency Operations Plan. With oversight from the mayor, the fire chief serves as the director of emergency management, with the police chief acting as the deputy director.

When an incident occurs that requires emergency service responders, an on-scene incident command post is established. This command post ensures the necessary personnel and equipment resources are available immediately, creating the highest efficiency for all agencies at the scene.

Although a field incident command is an outstanding manner of managing emergency resources, sometimes they do not have sufficient capabilities to handle all management aspects of a disaster or emergency. Generally, when the City requires the assistance of multiple departments or outside agencies, the activation of the City Emergency Operation Center (EOC) is necessary.

When most people picture an EOC, they may imagine a facility serving the Federal government in Washington, D.C., or perhaps even a darkly lit nerve center appearing in a disaster movie. What you might not realize is that the City of Oak Creek – and many other cities – have a designated area to coordinate an effective response to emergencies affecting the public.

The EOC is the focal point for coordination of the City's emergency planning, training, response, and recovery efforts. Our EOC processes follow the National All-Hazards approach to major disasters such as fires, floods, earthquakes, acts of terrorism and large-scale events in the City that require involvement by multiple City departments. Depending on the situation, other government entities, non-profit agencies, community-based organizations and private-sector organizations may also be included in the emergency response.

The City's EOC can assist with the incident response in several ways. Having a fully outfitted facility serves to support the field incident command with resources not easily provided in a mobile

environment. This assistance can come in the form of establishing policies, creating a communications hub, managing media requests, providing logistical support, prioritizing resources, authorizing expenditures and coordinating external agencies.

For decades, the City of Oak Creek has been an active leader in maintaining a fully working EOC and training members for an emergency operations activation. In the past, our current and former police stations, as well as the old city hall building, have served as the EOC, with a backup location at Fire Station 3. Today, the EOC is located on the second floor of the Civic Center, inside City Hall. It is ready 24 hours a day to serve the citizens of Oak Creek in a crisis.

While the EOC has been activated during real emergencies, tabletop exercises are performed in between to keep all City departments ready for when a real situation arises. Although large-scale emergencies do not, thankfully, occur frequently in our community, we are proud to say that we are prepared to return the City to normal operations when they do!



## FIRE POLICE EMS EXPO

**SATURDAY - SEPTEMBER 7, 2019**

**FREE COMMUNITY EVENT**

**9 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

MATC Oak Creek Campus  
6665 South Howell Avenue

- Free Expo T-shirt to first 1,200 visitors
- 9 a.m. Antique & active emergency vehicle parade
- 9:30 a.m. Sept. 11 Memorial Ceremony



**Join Us Saturday, September 7**

**SEE PAGE 19 FOR ALL THE DETAILS!**

**Demonstrations**

- Police canines
- Police motorcycles
- Flight for Life helicopter (weather/emergency dependent)
- Tactical maneuvers
- EMS (Emergency Medical Services) and vehicle extrication
- Protective services training standards demonstrated by MATC instructors and students

**Challenge Activities for Children & Adults**

- MFD mobile Survive Alive house
- Obstacle course
- Coloring contest
- Protective Services Job Fair
- Safety Fair & Free Gun Safety Locks
- September 11 Memorial Displays
- Food for Purchase

**PLENTY OF FREE PARKING!**



Contact: Doug Braun, braund@matc.edu



# SERENITY GARDEN AND SOCIAL TERRACE AT OAK CREEK PUBLIC LIBRARY

By Rachel Rose, Librarian



Photos by Saturn Lounge

**T**he Civic Center south plaza is a busy place these days. Dedicated as a serenity garden and social terrace earlier this year, members of the community now use the tranquil space to meet up with friends, relax and enjoy the warm weather. Joggers and dog walkers alike pass through on a regular basis. Library patrons can be seen reading, eating lunch or listening to music along the shaded benches, along with families and children enjoying the water feature.

Few people outside of the City may know that the garden has actually been a while in the making. Funded exclusively through private donations to the Oak Creek Public Library Foundation, the garden’s planning committee dedicated a lot of effort to make the space as beautiful as it is today.

In 2012, the Foundation launched the “Building for the Future” campaign to raise funds for construction of a new Library. Part of that campaign included identifying naming opportunities throughout the Civic Center based on early site plan drawings. Donors soon pledged funds to create a garden in the south plaza but, due to financial constraints, the landscaping proposal was restructured during the initial construction. In mid-2018, the Foundation formed a subcommittee to modify the garden plan to better align with the initial design. And the idea of the serenity garden was born.

Local residents Tom Bauer and Tom

Marciniak originally suggested the idea of the new garden and social terrace in memory of their late wives, Connie and Darlene respectively. They put together a group of devoted volunteers and helped the Foundation raise the funds needed to finance everything. “I wanted this area to be developed to its full capacity, and I think a serenity garden is just that,” says Tom Bauer.

With everything approved by the Library Board and Common Council, demolition for the new garden began April 3, 2019. Concrete was poured less than a week later, and laborers began to put in the pond. Despite rainy weather, their work moved along smoothly and was completed within only two months. With a recirculating water feature by Aquatica of Wales, Wis., the workers also added quiet seating areas and perennial flower beds. These redesigned installations are all variations on the original Civic Center site plan. The City now maintains the space with treatment for the water feature and ongoing maintenance of the grass, pavement and planting beds.

Construction caused little inconvenience for visitors during those short spring months. “Aquatica, Maass Excavating, JW Rudolph Concrete and Swartz Nursery were so helpful and professional in their work,” Tom adds. Tom took part in overseeing the Library’s outdoor extension. Also taking part in the construction’s management was Jerry Hammernik, president of the Friends of the Oak Creek Public Library. The Friends is a volunteer group that supports OCPL’s many programs and projects. Members help

beautify the Library by doing everything from dusting shelves to creating pieces of art for display throughout the building. To Jerry, helping with the garden seemed like a natural extension of the group’s impact.

A public dedication of the serenity garden took place on May 31 (see pg. 32) with Library Board members, elected officials, City staff and local community members in attendance to celebrate the space’s completion. The onset of warmer weather – temperatures reaching that week’s high point of 84 °F – seemed to punctuate the special occasion. The true proof of the garden’s success, however, is its ongoing popularity. Residents and visitors alike can walk along its peaceful paths whenever they need a break from daily routine.

To show your support for projects led by the Oak Creek Public Library Foundation, consider making a donation. Gifts to the Foundation can be made online with a credit card or in person at the Library with cash or check. You can make a lasting difference for all patrons. For more information, please visit [oakcreeklibrary.org/library-foundation](http://oakcreeklibrary.org/library-foundation).



# MILESTONES

Our “MILESTONES” column features celebratory dates, anniversaries and special occasions for our Oak Creek businesses and non-profit groups. If your business is celebrating a “milestone” or receiving an award, please contact us!



## New South Suburban Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Announced

Sarah Anderson is the newly named executive director for the South Suburban Chamber of Commerce (replacing Barb Wesener who recently retired). Anderson’s experience includes leading the Fund Development and Volunteer Program at Hunger Task Force’s Farm, located in Franklin.

She also honed her non-profit and management skills at Harley-Davidson Motor Company straight out of college, working with executive leaders and managing programming for the Harley-Davidson Foundation. Sarah calls South Milwaukee home, along with her husband, Dale, and one-year-old son, Eben. Welcome aboard, Sarah!

## Kelvin Schroeder Jeweler Moves to New Location

Long-time Oak Creek business, Kelvin Schroeder Jewelers, recently relocated its store to 8645 S. Howell Ave. Founded in 1937, this family-owned and -operated business is now three generations strong. Their beautiful new showroom is testament to the pride they take in providing the most outstanding jewelry from today’s finest designers and manufacturers, within an enjoyable, pressure-free shopping experience. Watch for a Business Spotlight article on Kelvin Schroeder Jewelers in an upcoming issue of the *Current*.



## Brewers Take the Mad Hog ’N Cheese on the Road

On May 22, the Mad Hog ’N Cheese burger was chosen as the winner of Georgie Porgie’s 5th Annual Burger Contest. More than 220 customer-submitted ideas were narrowed down to the restaurant’s favorite five before being handed over to a panel of local celebrity judges (including Ed Sedar

and Marcus Hanel of the Milwaukee Brewers) to vote for their favorite. The winning burger idea, submitted by David W. of Racine, is an angus beef burger topped with white cheddar mac ’n cheese, pulled pork, bacon, sliced jalapeños and chipotle mayo served on a pretzel bun. The winning burger was served during June at the restaurant’s two locations, in Oak Creek and Mt. Pleasant. Georgie Porgie’s sent the winning burger along with the Brewers when they kicked off an 8-game road trip in June.

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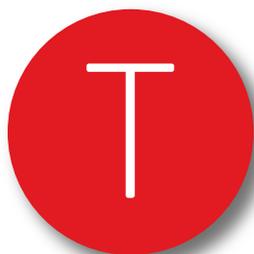
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# Business Spotlight: The Salvation Army DOING THE MOST GOOD IN OUR COMMUNITY

## So Much More Than the Familiar Red Kettles During the Holidays



The Salvation Army's bright red kettles and bell ringers are a familiar sight each holiday season, but many may not realize that the money collected is used in our community year-round to "do the most good where the need is greatest." This vital international

non-profit organization is motivated by faith in God and love for all people without discrimination, and its work and programs clearly contribute to the betterment of our community.

The Salvation Army Community Center in Oak Creek, at 8853 S. Howell Ave., is a perfect example. This amazing retreat provides a gathering place for worship, empowering youth, combatting addiction, curing hunger, summer day camps, sports programs, before- and after-school day care, and so much more – even a chance to ring those bells at the holidays!

The Salvation Army's interesting history can be traced back to 1865 when it was founded by William Booth, a Methodist street preacher, who worked with people in the slums of East London. In 1880, The Salvation Army began work in America. During World War II, The Salvation Army operated 3,000 service units for the armed forces – and led in the formation of the USO. Since World War II, the Army has continued its own worldwide program. Over the years, its ministry spread across our country, reaching the streets of Oak Creek in 1989. Today, The Salvation Army continues to work where the need is greatest, still motivated by its faith in God and its love for all people.

There is no one better suited to tout The Salvation Army's many programs and services than Mark Lewis, the Ministries' Director for Oak Creek's facility. Lewis currently oversees the Community Center and runs the sports programs, along with other "duties as assigned." This energetic spokesperson for the organization has been with them for his entire life – a child of Salvation Army pastors (officers). Lewis lives in Oak Creek and has worked many jobs within The Salvation Army, from bell ringer and custodian to summer camp dishwasher/snack shop manager and office services staff. He was also part of The Army's disaster relief team during the 9/11 tragedy and the floods in North Dakota in 1997.

According to Lewis, "Seeing the kids having fun in a safe environment, with smiles on their faces is a constant reminder of the importance of



Photos by Saturn Lounge

all the work we do day to day. I especially enjoy the opportunity to work with, and coach, kids in our many different sports programs," he says. "There is nothing more satisfying than when young people who don't play very often, or have never played before, 'get it.' When it all comes together for them, and you see marked improvement in their skills from day to day, season to season, it is really gratifying."

The job, of course, is not without its challenges. "Communication is key to our success," explains Lewis. "We have hundreds of people coming through our doors daily and we need to educate them on all the things we have to offer. Most people only think of The Salvation Army when they see the red kettles and bell ringers out at the holiday season. But the SA is hard at work behind the scenes, 24/7, 365 days a year in our community doing whatever is needed to keep our residents safe and healthy with vital resources for all age groups." (See opposite page below.)

He also notes the joy he finds working with the City of Oak Creek and its representatives, including those from the School District. "I look at our community as something I can always rely on, and they never disappoint. They always make time for us," he shares. "They repeatedly tell us how The Salvation Army has been a blessing to them personally or to someone close to them – reinforcing everyone's importance and how we all need each other." Lewis continues, "Of particular note are the local schools that help with our food drives, giving kids a sense of what it's like to be charitable and help others in need."

Lewis is quick to praise outgoing Business Administrator Ken Tregellas as the standard bearer for all the great work that has been started and cultivated by The Salvation Army in the Oak Creek-Franklin area, but adds that incoming Business Administrator TJ Anguiano has also made a significant impact in the community. "The facility will soon be overflowing with fresh enthusiasm," Lewis says, "along with contributions from our Corps Officers (Pastors) Majors Bob and Ruth Fay, who transferred here from Janesville in summer 2018."

### How You Can Help

The Salvation Army relies heavily on donations of cash, food and volunteer hours to keep running strong, healthy programs and helping those in need. Currently, the greatest needs are for non-perishable food donations. Plus, two new vehicles are desperately needed to transport kids to offsite programs/activities. Enjoy working with kids?

Coaches are always welcomed to be positive role models for today's youth. There are many, many ways for City residents to get involved!

Oak Creek is proud to have The Salvation Army Community Center and its Booth Manor senior housing apartments call the City its home. For those facing significant life challenges or just needing a place to worship, to experience camaraderie with friends, to improve sports skills, or to find a welcoming respite from today's hectic lifestyles, The Salvation Army stands ready to embrace you, whatever your needs, doing the most good for our community!

**The Salvation Army Oak Creek**  
**8853 S. Howell Ave. • (414) 762-3993 • oakcreeksa.org**



*The Salvation Army Food Pantry*

### SOME OF THE SALVATION ARMY'S MOST VITAL PROGRAMS FOR OUR OAK CREEK NEIGHBORHOODS INCLUDE:

- **Food Pantry and Food Drives:** The Food Pantry is open to the community on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. A 2-3 day supply of emergency food is provided to neighborhood individuals and families that are hungry. Non-perishable food items are always needed for the Pantry, located inside Community Center (see photo). Consider volunteering your time in the pantry or donating food. You can also schedule a food drive at your school, church, business or group. Please call us to get started!
- **Worship:** Sunday services, Bible studies, band rehearsals, Boys' Club, Praise Team, and Sunbeams, Moonbeams and Grangers Clubs are all great ways to reach teens and young adults and share God's love.
- **Christmas Toy Shop:** The Salvation Army's annual Toy Shop provides toys to children from newborn to age 15 in families where the need is great (certain income guidelines must be met). New toy donations are always welcome, along with volunteers to help sort the toys.
- **Sports Programs:** Flag football, basketball, indoor soccer and pickleball are some of the most popular sports programs, engaging kids of all ages and adults. Players and coaches are also needed.
- **Summer Day Camp:** From June- August, a Monday-Friday camp with plenty of activities and trips to keep children active and engaged.
- **School Supply Donation Drive:** Donate school supplies or be a volunteer at this annual "stuff the school bus" event to collect school supplies for local children.
- **Before- and After-School Care:** A safe environment for kids ages 3-13 to begin the day, including milk, a snack and transportation to and from schools in the OC-Franklin Joint School District.

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- **Pre-School:** Morning and afternoon sessions are available Monday-Friday, and include lunch, art and gym activities, story time, quiet time and self-directed activities.
- **4K:** This Early Learning Academy meets the academic and social needs of children in our School District to provide a foundation for future academic success. Classes meet each school day, following the Oak Creek-Franklin Joint School District calendar.
- **Disaster relief:** The Salvation Army brings hope and healing to those affected by natural disasters, transportation accidents, civil unrest situations and terrorist attacks, providing meals/beverages, and emotional and spiritual care to first responders and survivors.
- **Housing for Older Adults:** To meet the growing need for safe, affordable housing for seniors in our community, Booth Manor, a subsidized housing facility for older adults, was created right next door to The Salvation Army Community Center in Oak Creek.
- **Combating Addiction:** The Salvation Army's Adult Rehabilitation Centers have provided assistance for men and women who have lost the ability to cope with their problems and provide for themselves.
- **AND OF COURSE, THE RED KETTLES:** More volunteers are always needed at kettle sites each holiday season to collect monetary donations to use for programs and services.

In addition, the Oak Creek Salvation Army Community Center is available for rental for birthday parties, wedding or baby showers, business meetings, or sports groups. Choose from multipurpose rooms and a 300-seat auditorium. There is also a gymnasium with a baseball net for indoor pitching and batting practice.





# EXPO TO CELEBRATE FIRE, POLICE AND EMS PROFESSIONALS/CAREERS

Saturday, September 7 at MATC's Oak Creek Campus



esidents of Oak Creek and the surrounding communities are invited to the free, public "Fire/Police/EMS

Expo" from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, September 7, at MATC's Oak Creek Campus, 6665 S. Howell Ave.

The Expo is designed to encourage adults and children to explore, understand and celebrate the work of firefighters, police officers and emergency medical technicians. MATC trains students for careers in all three protective services fields.

"Together with our sponsors, we have created a fun, meaningful day for our community. Whether you want to check out an antique fire truck or just get a free ice cream, I hope you'll stop by!" says Doug Braun, MATC police technology instructor.

The event kicks off with a 9 a.m. parade of antique and active emergency vehicles. A September 11 memorial ceremony begins at 9:30 a.m., and the Flight for Life helicopter arrives for viewing at 11:30 a.m. (weather/emergency dependent). Visitors also can watch demonstrations and view displays of tactical maneuvers, vehicle extrication methods and protective services training standards demonstrated by MATC instructors and students, plus police dogs. Interactive activities for children and adults include an obstacle course, a coloring contest and exploration of the Survive Alive mobile house.

"Our doors are always open to the community, and this is an especially good day to visit our campus. We will be showing off our

new training tower for use by firefighters and other first responders," says Mark Felsheim, Ph.D., Oak Creek Campus vice president.

The Expo also features a protective services job fair, safety fair, free gun safety locks and an auction benefiting the Milwaukee Area Junior Fire Institute and the Police Officer Support Team. Parking is free, and complimentary Expo T-shirts will be given to the first 1,200 visitors. Attendees will enjoy free snacks, and food will be available for purchase.



"This free event will keep everyone interested, and we expect the Flight for Life and the Survive Alive House to be popular," says Braun.

Platinum sponsors are Martin Law Office S.C. and WaterStone Bank. Gold sponsors include Bell Ambulance and Modern Woodmen of America.

For more information, contact Doug Braun at braund@matc.edu or (262) 212-9005. Keep up-to-date by visiting the Upcoming Events section on MATC's Facebook page (MATCMilwaukee) and clicking "interested" or "going" under the entry for Fire/Police/EMS Expo.

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

## THIS EXPO PROVIDES INTERESTING ACTIVITIES AND GIVEAWAYS

- Free Expo T-shirts to first 1,200 visitors
- Free gun safety locks
- Free snacks and refreshments
- Emergency Vehicle Parade 9 a.m.
- September 11 Memorial Ceremony 9:30 a.m.
- Milwaukee Fire Department Mobile Survive Alive House
- Antique fire and police vehicles on display
- Demonstrations including tactical, emergency medical services, vehicle extrication, police motorcycles and canines
- Flight for Life (weather and emergency dependent)
- Protective services job fair



Dr. Mark Felsheim

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 Dr. Mark Felsheim, Vice President

# WELCOME NEW SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS



lease help us welcome the new members of the Oak Creek-Franklin Joint School District's administrative team. Some of our new administrators are new to OCFSD, while others have been with our District for a number of years. Best wishes to all in their new roles!



**AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE**  
**Steve Rohde, Director of Buildings and Grounds**

After obtaining a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, Rohde spent the next 30+ years in the facility operations business, most recently, the last six years running facility operations for the West Allis-West Milwaukee School District.

"I look forward to working with our teams to enhance every aspect of our learning environments within and around our facilities. Teamwork, trust and a sense of pride are the cornerstones of what I strive to develop in our daily activities," says Rohde. "I see the City of Oak Creek flourishing, and I am grateful to have the opportunity to serve this School District and community."

**John Krenek, Director of Curriculum and Instruction**

John Krenek has been a part of the Oak Creek-Franklin Joint School District for the past five years, serving as an associate principal at East Middle School and principal of Edgewood Elementary. Before joining OCFSD, Krenek taught social studies and communication arts in the Hamilton School District.



John has a master's degree in professional development, as well as principal, director of instruction and superintendent licenses. John is looking forward to working with the different students and staff at all three levels: Elementary, Middle, High School. "The Oak Creek-Franklin community has been great to work with for the past five years, and I am looking forward to continuing to work with all of our Oak Creek-Franklin families," Krenek says. He enjoys spending time with family, attending Badger football games, and exercising.

**IN OUR SCHOOLS**

**Candis Mongan, Oak Creek High School Principal**

Candis Mongan is extremely excited about beginning her role as the principal of Oak Creek High School. "I look forward to continuing the strong tradition of excellence established by our District and



previous high school administration," she says. Mongan began her career in education in Wauwatosa teaching communication arts, and later enjoyed her position as a guidance counselor. Mongan continued her career in the Hamilton School District, most recently, serving as the principal of Hamilton High School. "After accumulating a total of 18 years with the Hamilton School District, I can say that my most enjoyable experiences have involved the growth of students and teachers – a solid foundation that will serve me well as I embark upon my leadership role at Oak Creek," she explains. "There are many opportunities that await me as I prepare to support students in their classrooms and attend athletic events and activities, assist with referendum projects, collaborate with administration and teachers, and celebrate being a Knight."

**Kris Russell, Edgewood Elementary Principal**

Kris Russell has been in the world of education for 27 years. She has held the roles of teacher, math coach, associate principal and principal all at the elementary level. Russell is excited to continue her career at Edgewood. "I am looking forward to getting to know the staff and families this year. I hope to create a strong partnership with families and staff to keep Edgewood moving forward," she shares. In her free time, Russell enjoys reading and spending time with family.



**Geoff Pontus, Forest Ridge Elementary Principal**

"Oak Creek is a wonderful city and I am truly fortunate to be able to continue my career serving its learners and their families," says Geoff Pontus, the new principal of Forest Ridge Elementary. Pontus has been a part of the Oak Creek-Franklin Joint School District for four years, serving as an associate principal for East Middle School. His career in education began at a day camp, which served children in first through sixth grade. "It was my time working with that age



group that sparked my passion for teaching and learning," Geoff says. "Having worked at the middle-level for the past 10 years, I am excited to return to working with elementary learners and their families." Geoff holds a master's degree in educational leadership and a director of curriculum and instruction license. "I am looking forward to working with an energized and passionate

staff to help all our learners succeed," Geoff adds. Outside of work, Geoff enjoys reading, biking, swimming, music and traveling.



**Marty Lataille, Oak Creek High School  
Associate Principal**

Marty Lataille is joining the high school administrative team as an associate principal. "I'm eager to work with students as they strive to achieve their dreams and discover their potential, and I look forward to learning about our educators in the building and supporting them as they impact the lives of students," he shares. Marty has been with the Oak Creek-

Franklin Joint School District for the past seven years and holds a master's degree in both teaching and learning and educational administration and is a certified trauma practitioner and trainer. Lataille also has a U.S. Soccer Federation C License and U.S. Coaches Premier Diploma and has spent more than 15 years coaching high school, college and club soccer. "That has been a huge part of my life and I'm extremely passionate about coaching," he shares.



**Sarah Sprangers, West Middle School  
Associate Principal**

Sarah Sprangers is looking forward to becoming an integral part of the West Middle School team by forming relationships with staff, students and families, celebrating the accomplishments of all, and helping colleagues and students reach their

full potential. Sprangers has a passion for education, exclaiming, "I can't imagine pursuing a career that would have more meaning to me. I feel very fortunate to have been a teacher and now an administrator at WMS." This past year, she graduated from UW-Madison's first social justice leadership cohort. She also holds a principal's license and is finishing work on her director of curriculum and instruction and director of pupil services licensures. Outside of work, Sarah enjoys the outdoors, and enjoys playing and coaching tennis, running and biking.



**Bill Kujawa,  
Empower Academy  
Administrator**

With a strong background in mathematics and master's degrees in educational leadership and educational

psychology, Kujawa is excited to be both the new administrator and the mathematics teacher at Empower Academy. "I am most looking forward to the opportunity to share

my love of mathematics with the students and collaborate with Dan, Jessica and Encore teachers at Empower," Kujawa states. For the past two years, he has served as an associate principal at Oak Creek High School. "My wife Marie and I are Oak Creek residents with three children – Audrey, Joe and Evelyn. Next year, all of our kids will be attending schools in the District," he says.



**Clare Huerter, East Middle School  
Associate Principal**

For the last seven years, Clare has worked at Red Cloud Indian School, located on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. There she taught freshmen English and later worked in administration. Huerter has a master's degree in educational leadership and administration

from Creighton University. "I am excited for the opportunity to work with middle school students again," she says. "I'm eager to learn and grow from the amazing staff at EMS and am looking forward to working with such a dedicated and positive administrative team." Clare recently relocated to Milwaukee with her fiance, James, and dog, Teddy. "We are really enjoying exploring this beautiful city and surrounding areas, taking Teddy to the dog park and walks along the lake, and spending time with family and friends," she adds.

**FALL FUN at the Oak Creek COMMUNITY CENTER!**

Visit our website [occenter.com](http://occenter.com) for all the latest information on event dates and times!

**THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING GOING ON AT THE OC CENTER!**

- Thu., Oct. 3: OC Lions/OC Health Dept. Health Fair 1-4 p.m.
- Sun., Oct. 20: Halloween Carnival 1-4 p.m. – Great family fun!
- Fri., Oct. 25: Dream Drawing Giving Away \$50,000 in Cash Prizes
- Sat., Nov. 2: Murder Mystery Dinner 6 p.m. (Tickets only \$30)
- Sun., Nov. 3: OC Center Swings with Tony Rocker (Elvis) 1-4 p.m.
- Sat., Nov. 9: Corn Hole Tournament – 11 a.m. registration, play at 12
- Sat., Nov. 23: Holiday Market and Craft Fair 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

**THE OAK CREEK COMMUNITY CENTER**  
8580 S. Howell Ave. • [occenter.com](http://occenter.com)  
(414) 768-5840



*Oak Creek High School students participated in an Interview Summit on April 17 to better prepare them for future careers after high school. Industry professional helped students hone their interviewing skills and better understand the job market.*

## INTERVIEW SUMMIT PREPARES STUDENTS FOR FUTURE CAREER PATHS



his past April, more than 350 Oak Creek High School students became better prepared for future job interviews, thanks to the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Department's second annual Interview Summit. Industry professionals from 24 different companies helped high school

students enrolled in automotive, business and marketing, computer sciences, family and consumer, health sciences, and technology education courses hone their soft skills and better understand the current job market.

The goal of the annual event is to bring awareness to students about current hiring practices and opportunities while employers get a glimpse of the skills and knowledge that students have acquired through their participation in the various academic offerings in Career and Technical Education at Oak Creek High School.

"This event helps students prepare for what to expect after high school," says Ms. Ricci Huber, a business and marketing instructor at OCHS.

"Businesses are eager and willing to assist our youth in preparing for their future career paths. Experiences like the Interview Summit create important connections between what students are learning in school and what is required of them while preparing for careers," Huber adds.

Student feedback has been positive. In fact, student participation in this voluntary event increased by 50% from last year. "Several students are offered jobs after the summit and students are always asking, 'Are we going to do this again next year?' Our answer is – Absolutely!" Huber says.

"I think it's good to have a real interview experience," says Jackson Musick, a junior who interviewed with State Farm Insurance. "I will for sure do this again next year."

Junior Eva Obrknez was nervous going into her interview with Baird. "You go in so nervous, but once you get talking it goes pretty smooth," Eva explains. "It was really helpful because at the end, the interviewer gives you real feedback," Eva explains.

In addition to the CTE Interview Summit, the CTE department has created the following academic opportunities to better prepare students for the 21st-century workforce:

- Youth apprenticeships
- Articulated college credit
- Internships through the Oak Creek School-Based Enterprise - Armory and Knight's Construction

The Interview Summit is a perfect example of Academic and Career Planning working at its finest.

This real-world experience aligns with the four components of Academic and Career Planning which includes Know, Explore, Plan and Go. The students had to understand their unique strengths and interests aligned to a particular career (Know); they developed knowledge, skills and habits in preparation for the interview (Explore); they created a plan and practiced for their experience (Plan); and finally they were able to navigate the world of employment through an interview process (Go).

For more information about Academic and Career Planning (ACP), visit [ocfsd.org/ACP](http://ocfsd.org/ACP).





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**THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2019**

# CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2019



More than 500 seniors from Oak Creek High School walked across the stage during the 2019 graduation ceremony on Saturday, June 15, 2019, at Miller Park Stadium. This extraordinary class has earned more than \$1.5 million in scholarship money and contributed over 48,000 volunteer hours to their school and community.

Oak Creek High School's graduating seniors go off in all different directions after high school. Some attend college, others enter the workforce, some join the military and others take on apprenticeships. The following Oak Creek High School seniors share their reflections on their school careers and their plans for the future.



**NOAH KLEBENOW**  
 Graduating senior, Noah Klebenow, is going to miss his hometown of Oak Creek as he heads off to Navy boot camp in Great Lakes, Ill., at the end of June. After Noah completes boot camp he will be

heading to the Naval Air Technical Training Center in Pensacola to complete training to become an aviation electronics technician.

Noah took an interest in aviation at a young age. "My mother worked at the airport, and as a kid, I would come to work with her and watch the airplanes take off and land," Noah shares.

After touring a few colleges, Noah decided to take a look at his options in the military. "The military was the best fit for me and I swore in 7 days before my 18th birthday," Noah says. After serving in the Navy, Noah hopes to become a pilot for an airline.

During his time at Oak Creek High School, Noah says his favorite class was Mr. Kurth's AP Economics class. "Mr. Kurth's teaching style is really engaging and he keeps up to date with current events. I really enjoy talking with him about those," Noah explains.

**NATALIA SANTIAGO**  
 Since she was a little girl, Natalia always knew she wanted to be a teacher. "When we were little, my cousin and I would wake up early and have a whole day of pretend school," she recalls. However, it was Natalia's fourth grade teacher at Cedar Hills, Mrs. Paige, who gave her a whole new outlook on becoming a teacher. "Mrs. Paige always



made me feel special. She showed me that it's so much more than teaching. It's about truly making a difference in kids' lives," Natalia shares.

Throughout her senior year, Natalia had the opportunity to help out in Ms. Edminster's kindergarten class at Carrollton. "Ms. E is so passionate about what she does and really makes learning fun," Natalia explains. Miss Natalia, as the kindergarteners call her, read books to the class, taught math lessons, and assisted students who needed a little extra help. These experiences will continue to have an impact on her journey to become an elementary educator.

When asked who the most influential person in her life was, Natalia was quick to name her father. "My dad has overcome so many obstacles and is the true definition of resilience. He worked so hard to get where he is today and I admire his work ethic," Natalia says. Natalia will be attending MATC in the fall for two years and plans to transfer to a four-year college to obtain a degree in elementary education.



## HUNTER KENNOW

During his freshman year, Hunter heard some of his friends talking about a cool program where you can leave school

early to build a house. The idea of leaving early was appealing to Hunter so he found out what classes he needed to enroll in the Knight Construction program. At that time, Hunter did not know his experience in Knight Construction would lead him on a path to a career as a plumber.

Students in Knight Construction work with local professionals and craftsmen to construct a house from the ground up, gaining experience working with a variety of trades. "I liked completing the plumbing work at the Knight Construction house which led me to pursue an apprenticeship my senior year," Hunter says.

The program leader, Mr. Lonergan, was the teacher who has made the greatest impact on Hunter's school career. "Mr. Lonergan has guided me since I was a freshman in his Woods Class, to being my supervisor every day on the Knight Construction site my junior year, to now, where I am in my apprenticeship," Hunter shares.

Hunter also appreciates the time he spent with Mr. Tanem in science class. "No matter what is happening outside of those classroom doors, Mr. Tanem is going to make sure you leave his classroom with a smile on your face. Every day he has the seniors "think outside the walls of Oak Creek High School" to make you think about your next steps in life," says Hunter.

## JACKSON WOLF

Jackson graduated feeling well-prepared for the next chapter of his life. His love for the design process led him to



take a lot of engineering classes throughout his high school career. "I appreciate the specialized classes Oak Creek has to offer. I have taken a lot of engineering classes and those were super helpful," Jackson shares.

Jackson will be attending UW-Madison to pursue a degree in computer engineering. After researching future careers, Jackson decided computer engineering seemed to be the best blend of programming and physical work, with high demand in the current job market.



It was Jackson's parents who had the most influence on his school career. "My parents have instilled in us a desire to work hard and stay motivated. My siblings and I all want to do good in school," he explains.

Jackson took advantage of the many opportunities available at OCHS, including playing in the marching band and jazz band and being part of the National Honor Society, Renaissance Club and serving as the vice president of OCHS Young Republicans Club. Jackson also played baseball and was on the high school wrestling team. "I've learned different lessons from all of the different things I'm involved in, from helping at my church to leading people in marching band. These experiences will continue to help me throughout my life."

## LIAM MLOT

Liam has attended school in the District since his days at Shepard Hills Elementary. While Liam has had many wonderful teachers throughout the years, the teacher who has



had the greatest impact on his school career is his U.S. History teacher Mr. Comiskey. According to Liam, "Mr. Comiskey connects with his students, pushes

them to do better, and always tries to make learning fun. . . Fun in room 111! He is just a great teacher."

Although many of Liam's school experiences have helped prepare him for life after graduation, band has equipped Liam with a variety of life skills that will help him throughout his journey. "Band has taught me responsibility, leadership and, most of all, how to grow," Liam explains. "When I was a freshman, I was really shy, but band taught me how to open up and gave me the confidence to try new things," Liam continues. Liam plays the trumpet, French horn and mellophone, and is part of the Jazz Knights and Marching Knights. "I'm going to miss seeing Mr. Gregg and Ms. Fuchs every day and being with my friends in band," Liam shares.

After graduation, Liam is entering a two-year program at Fox Valley Tech in Oshkosh to become a pilot. Upon graduation from Fox Valley Tech, Liam plans to become a flight instructor until he has obtained enough hours to become a pilot for a commercial airline.

Liam has always been interested in aviation. "Growing up, I spent a lot of time with my Grandma Barb who lived close to General Mitchell Airport. She would always take me to watch the planes take off and land," he remembers.

"Get involved in clubs" is Liam's advice for incoming freshmen. "I waited until my senior year to join Jazz Knights, Environmental Club and T-4 Acapella Choir - and I really had a lot of fun in those clubs," he says.

*Congratulations to the Class of 2019!*

# SCHOOL DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

## Back-To-School Safety Reminders

September 3 is the first day of school for students and the official start of the 2019-2020 school year! Please drive carefully and be patient as parents, students and school bus drivers get back into their school routines.

## Back-To-School Safety Tips:

- Slow down and look for children waiting at the bus stop, walking or riding their bicycles to school.
- Red flashing lights and the extended “STOP” arm on a school bus means traffic (in both directions of a 2-lane roadway) is required to stop until the “STOP” arm is withdrawn.
- Use caution when coming to a bus stop. Children could be running out to the bus.
- Follow all school zone speed limits.
- Never pass a bus on the outside of a turn.



## 2019 Summer School

The Oak Creek-Franklin Joint School District offers a variety of summer school classes and programs, all geared toward helping students sustain skills they developed during the regular school year.

More than 1,100 students in kindergarten through eighth grade participated in 43 enrichment classes this summer. “Bringing

Literature to Life,” “Science Adventures” and “Young Authors Creative Writing” were among some of the new, engaging classes offered. In addition, 132 students attended summer band lessons.

This summer, more than 150 high school students got a head start by completing physical education class in advance of the school year. 143 incoming freshmen enrolled in U.S. Government class, completing their very first high school course. 93 students took AP Science Prep, and 28 students took AP Physics Prep. More than 200 students participated in six weeks of Fitness and Conditioning.

More than 100 students enrolled in the high school’s credit recovery program, focusing on the core content areas of math, science, English and social studies. More than 140 students participated in the Momentum program. Momentum is designed to help students who need coursework, but also need study skills and a better connection with school. Students work in small groups with staff and participate in team-building activities as well as academics.

## OCHS Homecoming 2019

Oak Creek High School will kick off Homecoming festivities with Spirit Week October 1-4. The annual Homecoming Parade will take place on Wednesday, October 2, at 6 p.m. The parade route will start at the 9th Grade Center and head north on Knights Place, east on Groveland, west on Puetz and finish in the High School’s back parking lot.

The Powderpuff game will take place at Knights Community Stadium immediately following the parade. Help us fill the stands at Knights Community Stadium and cheer on the OC Knights as they take on Racine Park at the Homecoming Football Game on Friday, October 4, at 7 p.m. The Homecoming Dance (students only) will take place on Saturday, October 5, at 7 p.m.



## OC High School Open House for Incoming Freshmen

Save the date: Thursday, January 9, 2020  
Oak Creek High School is hosting an Open House for incoming freshmen (current 8th grade students) from 5:30-7:30 pm at the 9th Grade Center at Oak Creek High School. During the Open House, guests will be able to tour the building, meet members of the high school staff and ask questions about their upcoming high school experience.

## Stay Connected

To keep up to date with our quality schools and their success stories, special events and more, you have a variety of communication choices. Please check in with us often!

- Visit our website at [ocfsd.org](http://ocfsd.org).
- Join our community email list at [ocfsd.org/email](mailto:ocfsd.org/email).
- “Like” us on Facebook.
- “Follow” us on Twitter @OCFSD.
- View the OCHS Knights athletic calendar [ocfsd.org/go-knights](http://ocfsd.org/go-knights).





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*Walls are going up at Meadowview Elementary School for the new gymnasium – one of five gymnasiums planned districtwide.*

*Below: The library is being remodeled at West Middle School.*



## FROM BONDS TO BRICKS, OCFSD IS BUILDING SUCCESSFUL FUTURES



Since the referendum passed in November 2018, the Oak Creek-Franklin School District has been busy working with its facility services partner to manage the design, bidding and construction process for facility improvements districtwide. Over the last nine months, a three-year project schedule has been established, design and bid work for five school buildings has been completed, and construction at five schools has begun.

This summer the District took its first steps toward building the vision created by our community and as the new school year quickly approaches, work on the projects from this summer is quickly coming to an end. Some of the most noticeable project highlights from this first phase include:

The **Edgewood and Meadowview Elementary Schools'** interior updates are already wrapping up. Staff and students will return to a remodeled main office area and renovated classrooms – many with fresh paint and new flooring, ceilings, sinks, and cabinetry. Both schools also underwent Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) upgrades this summer to improve accessibility to classrooms, bathrooms and sidewalks.

New parking at Meadowview (with improved traffic flow) will be ready for use at the beginning of this school year. However, work on the new gym additions at these two schools will continue through the school year. Concrete foundations are in place, walls are going up and the gymnasiums are scheduled for completion during the summer of 2020.

**Deerfield Elementary School** interior remodeling will be finished this month and provide more educational support spaces for students in the upcoming school year. Exterior improvements to the main parking lot and traffic circulation are also scheduled to be completed before school starts.

**East Middle School** safety and security updates – including new security doors in corridors for building compartmentalization and protective fencing around classroom courtyards – will be done this summer.

**West Middle School** interior remodeling is finishing up this summer to create additional small group breakout spaces in the Library, as well as flexible spaces for large group instruction. Staff and students will return to a remodeled main office and refreshed classrooms/hallways – many with fresh paint, new flooring, and ceilings. Like East, new security doors were also added in corridors for security compartmentalization.

Additionally, these school buildings received LED lighting updates to gain energy efficiencies and improve student focus and concentration in learning environments.

And this is just the first summer of work here at OCFSD. To view the design and construction schedule for districtwide projects over the next three years, visit [ocfsd.org/referendum](http://ocfsd.org/referendum). This districtwide project schedule shows the different phases of work and what projects are coming up for the District. The projects next in line include:

- Interior remodeling and construction of the new addition at Shepard Hills.
- Work on the athletic fields, which includes new baseball, softball and soccer fields.
- The design phase for the High School wraps up and makes project construction-ready for Summer 2020.

Superintendent Daniel Unertl says, “I don’t care what the scale of your project is – bathroom remodel, school referendum – construction projects are complex, challenging, and exciting. The commitment of our teachers and principals throughout each phase of this process gives me great confidence we are successfully building the future of OCFSD.”



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

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The "What To Do?" Activity Guides contain information about regular programming including sports camps, instructional programs, child care and other fun activities. Activity Guides may be found in any School Office, OC Library, District Office, Oak Creek Community Center, or online at [www.ocfsd.org/youth-programs](http://www.ocfsd.org/youth-programs).



## Registration FOR FALL 2019 YOUTH PROGRAMS CLASSES Opens August 26

Register Online [ocfsd.org/youth-programs](http://ocfsd.org/youth-programs) or  
call 414-768-6166 for more information

A.S.P.I.R.E. provides high quality before and after school programming each school day at every district elementary school. Before School Care is offered 6:45 – 7:50 a.m. and After School Care is offered 3:05 – 5:45 p.m. Pre-registration is required with forms and fees are due by August 15. Payment Options: Auto Payment, Pay-by-the-Month, Drop-In Care.



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#### Forest Ridge School

Grades K - 5  
Saturday Evenings  
4pm - 6pm

#### East Middle School

Grades 6 and Up  
Saturday Evenings  
4pm - 6pm

#### Oak Creek High School Pool

Saturday Late Mornings  
11am - 1pm

### Open Swim/ Laps

#### Open Swim

**\$2.00 per person**

Saturdays 11am - 1pm  
Starting September 21

#### Lap Swim

**\$1.00 per person**

Mondays - Thursdays 8pm - 9pm  
Starting September 16  
Saturday Mornings 8am - 9am  
Starting September 21

### Open Basketball Starting September 16

**Saturday Evenings \$2.00 per person or Season Pass\* for \$40**

#### East Middle School

(Grades 6 and Up)  
6pm - 8pm

#### Forest Ridge School

(Grades K - 5)  
6pm - 8pm



\*Season Pass will allow one person to come to every open gym (6 - 8pm) from Sept 21 - May 30. There are some dates that there will be NO open gym. Please look at our website for details. [www.ocfsd.org/youth-programs](http://www.ocfsd.org/youth-programs)

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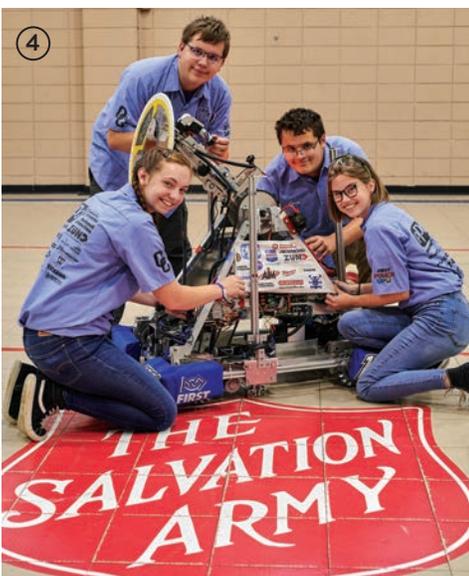
# OUT AND ABOUT IN THE



## THE AUTUMN SEASON IS ON THE WAY!

Summer always flies by so fast – and here we are again, already getting ready for fall colors, shorter days and a new school year! Check out what’s been happening during the summer months here in the City, and then see what’s in store for the months ahead in our Community Calendar on page 34. There’s always something fun happening in the OC!

**1.** The splash pad at Drexel Town Square got a big workout this summer – what a popular spot for kids to stay cool and have fun. **2.** A public dedication of the serenity garden at the Oak Creek Public Library took place on May 31 (read more on pg. 14). **3.** The OC Farmers Market celebrated a day of diversity with dancing, food and exhibits from different cultures. **4.** The robotics team from Oak Creek High School visited The Salvation Army Summer Day Camp during a special “robotics day” to share their knowledge about building robots (see pg. 16). **5.** 2019 OC high school graduates visit students at Forest Ridge Elementary School. **6.** Summer campers enjoy fun activities at Forest Ridge Elementary.



# E CITY OF OAK CREEK

7. The 2019 graduating class of OC High School filled Miller Park on June 15 as grads received their diplomas and were congratulated by family and friends (see pgs. 24-25). 8. In partnership with the City, NEWaukee brought unique, outdoor public art installations to Lake Vista this summer. This piece is titled “Interdependence” and was created by artist Keenan Lampe.



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**OR MEET ME AT THE NEXT OAK CREEK EVENT!**



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

## AUGUST

- **Wed., Aug. 28: Traveling Food Truck Tour, 4-9 p.m.** Drexel Town Square, 361 W. Town Square Way. Milwaukee's best food trucks and carts along with local restaurant favorites. Live music, lawn games and a Kids Zone! Visit [milwaukeefood.com](http://milwaukeefood.com).
- **Fri.-Mon., Aug. 30-Sept. 2: Oak Creek Lionsfest** American Legion Grounds, 9327 S. Shepard Avenue. See opposite page and visit [oakcreeklionsfestival.com](http://oakcreeklionsfestival.com) for details.
- **Sat., Aug. 31: Oak Creek Farmers Market, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.** Drexel Town Square, 361 W. Town Square Way.

## SEPTEMBER

- **Mon., Sept. 2: City Offices and Library Closed for Labor Day Holiday**
- **Tue., Sept. 3: First Day of School and Branch Pickup Begins**
- **Sat., Sept. 7: Oak Creek Farmers Market, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.** Drexel Town Square, 361 W. Town Square Way.
- **Sat., Sept. 7: MATC Fire/Police/EMS Expo** (see pg. 19).
- **Tue., Sept. 10: Family Fun Night – Pokémon Scavenger Hunt, 6:30-7:30 p.m.** Oak Creek Public Library, 8040 S. 6th St. Search for your favorite Pokémon throughout the Library.
- **Sat., Sept. 14: Sneak Peek at Oak Creek, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.** A free citywide, community event that includes in-depth tours of various OC businesses to showcase our City, welcome exploration and foster pride in Oak Creek. See [visitoakcreek.com](http://visitoakcreek.com).
- **Sat., Sept. 14: Oak Creek Farmers Market, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.** Drexel Town Square, 361 W. Town Square Way.
- **Thu., Sept. 19: Oak Creek Health Department's Stepping On program begins, 1-3 p.m.** This Fall Prevention workshop meets for seven consecutive Thursdays. For more information, call the Health Department at (414) 766-7950.
- **Sat., Sept. 21: Shred Day and Electronics Recycling Event, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.** Oak Creek West Middle School, 8401 S. 13th St. Bring your sensitive/private documents for FREE, secure destruction by Shred-It. Limit of 6 boxes per vehicle. Plus, Midwest Computer Recycling will be onsite to responsibly dispose of your outdated electronic equipment. Visit [oakcreekwi.org](http://oakcreekwi.org).
- **Sat., Sept. 21: Oak Creek Farmers Market, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.** Drexel Town Square, 361 W. Town Square Way.
- **Tue., Sept. 24: Downton Abbey Tea Party, 5:30-6:30 p.m.** Oak Creek Public Library, 8040 S. 6th St. Celebrate the premiere of the popular TV series' new movie with tea and treats.
- **Wed., Sept. 25: Oak Creek Traveling Food Truck Tour, 4-9 p.m.** Drexel Town Square, 361 W. Town Square Way. Sample from Milwaukee's best food trucks and Drexel Town Square restaurants. Visit [MilwaukeeFood.com](http://MilwaukeeFood.com).
- **Sat., Sept. 28: Oak Creek Farmers Market, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.** Drexel Town Square, 361 W. Town Square Way.

## OCTOBER

- **Wed., Oct. 2: Homecoming Parade, 6 p.m.** (see pg. 26)
- **Thu., Oct. 3: Fourth Annual Oak Creek Health Fair, 1-4 p.m.**

Oak Creek Community Center, 8580 S. Howell Ave. More than 30 vendors providing health screenings, giveaways and community resources. Free/donation of non-perishable food items appreciated.

- **Fri., Oct. 4: Paranormal Wisconsin, 5:30-6:30 p.m.** Oak Creek Public Library, 8040 S. 6th St. Paranormal researcher Chad Lewis, shares Wisconsin's strangest cases of alien abductions, haunted places and more.
- **Fri., Oct. 4: Homecoming Game, 7 p.m.** (see pg. 26).
- **Sat., Oct. 5: Oak Creek Farmers Market, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.** Drexel Town Square, 361 W. Town Square Way.
- **Tue., Oct. 8: Family Fun Night – Star Wars, 6:30-7:30 p.m.** Oak Creek Public Library, 8040 S. 6th St. Join in on games, crafts and other fun activities. Costumes are encouraged!
- **Sat., Oct. 12: Oak Creek Farmers Market, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.** Drexel Town Square, 361 W. Town Square Way.
- **Sat., Oct. 19: Oak Creek Fall Farmers Market, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.** Drexel Town Square, 361 W. Town Square Way.
- **Sat., Oct. 19: Fall Fest Book Sale, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.** Oak Creek Public Library, 8040 S. 6th St. Hosted by the Friends of the Oak Creek Public Library (see pg. 12).
- **Sat., Oct. 19: Fall Festival, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.** Drexel Town Square, 361 W. Town Square Way. See [visitoakcreek.com](http://visitoakcreek.com).
- **Sun., Oct. 27: Citywide Trick or Treat, 4-6 p.m.** [visitoakcreek.com](http://visitoakcreek.com)
- **Sun., Oct. 27: Halloween Safe Site, 4-6 p.m.** Oak Creek Historical Society, Corner of 15th and Forest Hill Aves. Kids can Trick-or-Treat from museum to museum while learning the City's history. See [visitoakcreek.com](http://visitoakcreek.com)
- **Thu., Oct. 24: High School Fall Choral Concert, 7 p.m.**
- **Fri.-Sun., Oct. 25-27: High School Fall Play, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.** Friday and Saturday; Sunday 2 p.m.

## NOVEMBER

- **Fri., Nov. 1: Branch Pickup Begins**
- **Tue., Nov. 5: Veteran's Event, 4-5 p.m.** Oak Creek Public Library, 8040 S. 6th St. All are welcome to attend this social event with a presentation on WWII history, shared stories and more.
- **Sat., Nov. 9: Veteran's Day Ceremony, 9 a.m.** Fire Station #3, 7000 S. 6th St. Military banners will be presented to active military members who were featured in our town square over the summer.
- **Tue., Nov. 12: Family Fun Night – Pirate Adventure, 6:30-7:30 p.m.** Oak Creek Public Library, 8040 S. 6th St. Come as a family for a pirate treasure hunt – costumes are encouraged!
- **Fri., Nov. 15: Fall Clean-up Begins** No charge for pick up of most items from residential homes and condos that have City-provided garbage and recycling. (There is a small fee for freon appliances and televisions.) Visit [oakcreekwi.org](http://oakcreekwi.org).
- **Sun., Nov. 24: OCHS One Act Performance, 12 p.m. and 2 p.m.**
- **Thu.-Fri., Nov. 28-29: City Offices, Recycling Yard and Library Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday**



FREE  
ADMISSION  
& PARKING

# OAK CREEK LIONS FEST 2019

Fri., Aug. 30 - Labor Day, Mon., Sept. 2

Carnival • Games  
Food • Raffle • Entertainment



9327 S. Shepard Ave. • HOTLINE: (414) 301-2721 • [www.oakcreeklionsfestival.com](http://www.oakcreeklionsfestival.com)

• Lionsfest Raffle with \$8,000.00 in cash prizes - Tickets NOW on sale! •

FRIDAY • SENIOR DAY 12 pm - 3 pm • FISH FRY 4 pm - 7 pm

SATURDAY • STEAK SANDWICHES • SPECIAL FAMILY DAY EVENTS 11 am - 3 pm

SUNDAY • CAR SHOW 10 am - 2 pm

SUNDAY & MONDAY • DELICIOUS PORK & BEEF SANDWICHES

MONDAY • VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY Noon - 6 pm

Delphi  
Reunion

Helicopter  
Rides

## Inside Stage

## Outside Stage

### FRIDAY, AUG. 30 Senior Day

12:30 - 3:30 pm Mike Schneider Duo  
4 - 7 pm Dusty Case  
8 - 12 am Deputy Dan Band

### SATURDAY, AUG. 31

11 am - 3 pm Children's Activities  
(Clowns: face painting & balloon art)  
12 pm & 1 pm Kohl's Wild Theater  
4 - 7:30 pm Bob Heckler  
8 - 12 am Smart Mouth

### SUNDAY, SEPT. 1

10:30-11:30 am Polka Mass  
11:30 am - 1:30 pm Mike Schneider Duo  
2 - 6 pm Steve Meissner Band  
6 - 8 pm Mechele  
8:30 - 11:30 pm Rev. Raven & The Chainsmokin' Altar Boys

### MONDAY, SEPT. 2

12 - 3 pm The Tom Brusky Band  
3 - 7 pm Bluegrass All Stars

### FRIDAY, AUG. 30

5 - 7:30 pm Up All Night  
8:30 - 12 am Bella Cain

### SATURDAY, AUG. 31

12 - 3 pm Identity Crisis  
3:30 - 7:30 pm Sensations  
8 - 12 am The Crisis

### SUNDAY, SEPT. 1

10 am - 2 pm Car Show  
(upper parking lot)  
12 - 3 pm Neil Diamond & Frank Sinatra Tributes  
3:30 - 7:30 pm Mount Olive  
8:15 - 12 am Almighty Vinyl

### MONDAY, SEPT. 2

12 - 3:30 pm Doo-Wop Daddies  
4:30 - 8 pm Road Crew

## Discount Carnival Ride Tickets

Available until 5 pm August 30th at these Oak Creek & Franklin Locations:

American Legion • Oak Creek Library • Gary's Beer & Liquor • North Shore Bank • OC Community Center • Piggly Wiggly • Walgreens • OC National Night Out

No advance ride tickets will be sold during the festival!

4 ARM BAND DAYS: Fri., Aug. 30th - 4 to 11pm • Sat., Aug. 31st - 11am to 11pm • Sun., Sept. 1st - 12 to 11 pm • Mon., Sept. 2nd - 12 to 8 pm

\$25.00 = 1 Arm Band Coupon in advance of festival - Good for one day (\$30.00 at festival)

\$50.00 = UNLIMITED ARM BAND - Good for entire festival (\$65.00 at festival)

SENIOR DAY SPONSORED BY: Meadowmere Senior Living Community & Molthen Bell & Son Funeral Home  
MAJOR SPONSORS: Meijer, Sorce Services, Barricade Flasher, Tehan Greenhouses, AmeriGas, Milweb 1 Vinyl Graphix & Sunbelt Rentals

## CITY OF OAK CREEK

8040 S. 6th St.

Oak Creek, WI 53154



*So Many Reasons  
To Love Fall*

IN



**OAKCREEK**  
— WISCONSIN —

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**Drop By and Visit Us In Our New Building!**

7472 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street ▶ Oak Creek, WI 53154