

# OAK CREEK CURRENT

MAGAZINE



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Welcome to remote class.  
Remember "Present" click on to  
for your a

Today is:  
Thursday, October 22  
Our live Google Meets are at  
8:15am, 10:00am, 12:00pm, 1:00pm  
and 2:30pm. Click on the video  
camera to join the meeting at  
those times.

Watch Mr. Kerwood's Weekly  
Announcement

Click on today's date on the  
calendar to see assignments.

VIRTUAL  
LEARNING  
Blends Elements  
of Classroom and  
DIGITAL  
Instruction

## HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: Hillside Coffee House

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### ON THE COVER

Jamie Hennessy, third grade teacher at Carrollton Elementary, is ready to virtually greet her students each school day (see pg. 10).

*Photo by Saturn Lounge Photography*

### CORRECTION

In the Autumn issue of the Current, we neglected to give credit to the cover photographer, Dee Von Drasek Photography, [deevondrasek.com](http://deevondrasek.com).

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).

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From Dan Bukiewicz-Mayor, City of Oak Creek

## Showing Gratitude and Kindness

Dear Oak Creek Residents,



If you're anything like me, you began 2020 with optimism and excitement for all of the possibilities the year would bring. I don't think any of us could have imagined the challenges that came our way. But with every challenge comes opportunity, and with opportunity, gratitude. I hope amidst the uncertainty and change this year, you've still found many things to be grateful for.

Maybe it's picking up a few new technology skills, as virtual meetings have taken the place of face-to-face visits. Or, the joys of leisurewear as you navigate a work-from-home environment. Maybe it's brushing up on your middle-school math skills as your family shifted to online learning. Perhaps it's spending extra quality time with your kids, as the usual hectic pace of everyone's lives has slowed down. The year has been stressful for all of us. Don't hesitate to pause and look for the small moments of good that appear around us.

As a city, we've again had to show how resilient we could be as a community. We stepped up to support our local businesses, and have helped our neighbors. We've adjusted to everything operating differently than usual. I'm grateful that this was accomplished with the kindness and grace that our residents bring to all situations – it's what makes us strong. Thank you all for keeping our community's health and safety in mind as you go about your lives.

I'm also grateful for our City staff, who have demonstrated flexibility and dedication in serving our residents, sometimes in a drastically different way than normal. Even while our community spent time "safer at home," our employees understood that their work affected the quality of life for the people who live here. They didn't miss a beat.

We've provided the same level of police, fire and public works services that our residents have come to expect. We've held three elections while keeping our voters and workers as safe as possible. We've navigated a pandemic while communicating updates and guidelines to residents for their health and safety. We've processed building permits, lent out library books, held virtual recreation programs, and managed countless other acts of public service that go largely unnoticed. I'm thankful that our City staff is dedicated to the residents, businesses and visitors they serve.

As we enter into the holiday season, we will have to continue to make adjustments to keep ourselves and those we love safe and healthy. But some things don't have to change. We can still reflect on the things we're grateful for, and spend time showering our family with love through gifts and acts of kindness. We will still have the opportunity to create happy memories despite the challenges this year has delivered.

I wish you all a healthy and joyous end to the year – and look forward to seeing you in 2021!

With gratitude, Mayor Dan

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## Dear Oak Creek Community,

This year continues to be a year of firsts for all of us. And there have been challenges, no doubt. However, we all hope for a complete return to as-close-to-normal operations as soon as we can, as safely as we can.

This year we built and opened a fully virtual school, Oak Creek-Franklin Virtual, which by total enrollment is now our second-largest school. The time between March and September has felt like a barn-raising – an essential and necessary moment, requiring everyone's help – resulting in a transformed resource, built to help us all move forward into times we are left to only anticipate . . . but we are together in that anticipation.

This year, your Oak Creek-Franklin public schools welcomed nearly 6,500 students. We know that the futures of the children in our community depend on all of us – parents, School District staff, school board members, neighbors, business leaders, community partners and many others. Our community cares deeply about our children and understands the power of an excellent public education.

As a community, we've relied on one another, and the only way we will both manage and thrive will be to rely on one another again. I couldn't be more proud of our teachers, administrators, support staff, families, and most of all, our students, for working so incredibly hard as we work through the challenges of the 2020-2021 school year, with all the uncertainty that entails.

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

Thank you for your continued support and advocacy.  
Go Knights!

**In gratitude,  
Daniel D. Unertl, J.D.-Superintendent  
Oak Creek-Franklin Joint School District**



Photos by Saturn Lounge



**Steve Anderson is in charge of Virtual Learning  
for District students in grades K-5.**

Photo by Saturn Lounge

## VIRTUAL LEARNING: A WHOLE NEW WAY OF TEACHING OUR STUDENTS

### T

his new school year brings a whole new way of teaching and learning. As with most educational staff of the Oak Creek-Franklin Joint School District, they have taken on new roles and adapted to help better fit the needs of our students.

Steve Anderson, assistant principal of East Middle School, is also in charge of Virtual Learning for grades K-5. This virtual learning initiative, called Edmentum, blends elements of a classroom with digital instruction. Edmentum includes some student/teacher interaction with the help of both interactive and premade videos. In addition, teachers and staff offer designated virtual office hours for all students and families to help further assist with the process. Many of the K-5 students are taught language arts and math by their teacher, and work with their parents or use online resources on social studies, science and some electives.

While being used to working with middle school students, Mr. Anderson is now embracing the opportunity to help more than 500 students between kindergarten and 5th grade. He focuses a lot of his efforts on getting students used to the new format, working out problems, transitioning students in and out, and collaborating with parents.

"There is significantly less disciplinary action in the virtual environment" he adds. As an authority figure in the middle school, he is now adjusting his experience to tackle difficult problems from a new perspective.

He also feels humbled and encouraged by the opportunity to lead this process by making decisions that have a much greater impact on the students he serves. No matter what, Mr. Anderson is committed to doing everything he can to adapt for the families of the District and commenting that "whenever there's change, it's difficult . . . and we'll work through that together."

Looking ahead to the uncertain future, Mr. Anderson is still making advancements to the virtual learning system by greatly improving communication to students and families. "With everything being so busy this fall, I'd love to have a more consistent source of information to send out," he says, referring to a biweekly newsletter and incorporating parent feedback moving forward. Furthermore, Mr. Anderson hopes to get students to work with more hands-on assignments and projects to help lower their overall screen time while also fueling other forms of learning.

He also recognizes that this process is new to everyone which inevitably requires more parent involvement. Though challenging to face, Mr. Anderson is thrilled with how helpful and supportive parents have been with the teachers' current predicament. The harmony that must exist between students, parents and teachers is crucial for any of this to work – and it is working! Mr. Anderson adds, "It's not an ideal situation, but there's a need for virtual school and we're trying to fulfill that the best way we can. We are most appreciative of our parents who have been very helpful and understanding."



**There are more than 400 student-athletes competing this fall, with social distancing and wearing masks applied to keep everyone safe.**



## A NEW WAY TO ENGAGE OUR STUDENT-ATHLETES

### Coaches Dedicated to Students' Health and Safety During Competition

T

hings are certainly different for our student-athletes this year. Scott Holler, Oak Creek High School Athletic and Activities Director, commented on how this school year has affected some programs. "Since early July,

our coaches and athletes have been incredibly dedicated and determined for our teams to have a WIAA fall season. I can't say enough about the commitment our coaches have shown to our student-athletes, and the commitment our student-athletes have shown to each other. We have more than 400 student-athletes competing this fall and it's been so great to see them out on the courts, fields and courses doing what they love."

"It truly has been exhausting on some of our coaches, particularly those that coach our large programs, such as football, soccer, volleyball and swim. The close contact that naturally occurs in those sports has forced our coaches to get more creative than ever in how they prepare our teams to be successful on a daily basis. Not only did our coaches accept the challenge before them, our student-athletes have responded, as we have not missed a beat with each of our programs competing at their usual high level."

"The major drawback has certainly been not having the usual large crowds and support from our student body and all of the family members. However, the majority of our families have been supportive

in knowing that the ultimate goal all along has been for our student-athletes to compete and complete their full fall season. If that meant parents had to watch a road game on their couch via a live stream, then they were willing to do that."

"I do feel terrible for our student body not being able to be there in person to support their classmates and friends. That is one of the highlights of high school athletics and the high school experience in general – the electric atmosphere that the student body helps create when they are in attendance. Unfortunately, they didn't get to be a part of that this fall."





## Honoring Maurice Wood

Since 2001, Connects Learning Center has served high school students from four area school districts. A very special staff member, Maurice Wood, was a mentor to all involved in the unique educational experience offered at Connects. Mr. Wood, a Desert Storm veteran, unexpectedly passed away in November.

Maurice Wood was intent on securing an American Flag to be placed on the site where Connects Learning Center works its magic in transforming students' lives. Sadly, Maurice's quest was only realized after his passing. A dedication was recently held of the now prominently secured American flag proudly waving daily. Mary Wood, Maurice's widow, was present to raise the flag in memory and dedication of her husband. In addition, former colleagues, friends and family, and fellow members of the DMZ Motorcycle Club were present for the event held in front of the school.

The American flag represents hardiness, valor, vigilance, perseverance and justice, with Mr. Wood the epitome of these qualities. Frequently, he would share a story from his past that showed just how much he endured, but still thrived. He showed great courage and valor in his service to the U.S. Army. And he kept watch over the students and staff of Connects Learning Center as gatekeeper to the building – an example of determination, commitment, and purposefulness to the youth he mentored.

The Connects Learning Center embraces a motto daily: "If it's to be, it's up to me." Mr. Wood always made certain that everyone else was taken care of before himself. He would lead the school's service learning projects, encouraging generosity among the students and educating all on homelessness among veterans and childhood cancers. He would also serve as a "bodyguard" when he was worried about the safety of the students or staff. Maurice Wood embodied hardiness, valor, vigilance, perseverance and justice. We shall all be reminded of him when we walk past this flag.

Maurice Wood was an honored veteran, a loving husband, a generous friend and a mentor to youth at risk, who we will remember with fondness and admiration. A brass plaque placed on the flag pole has a quote that reads: "Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall." This quote is attributed to Batman, and it also embodies the values that Maurice Wood stood for. This great man will be deeply missed.

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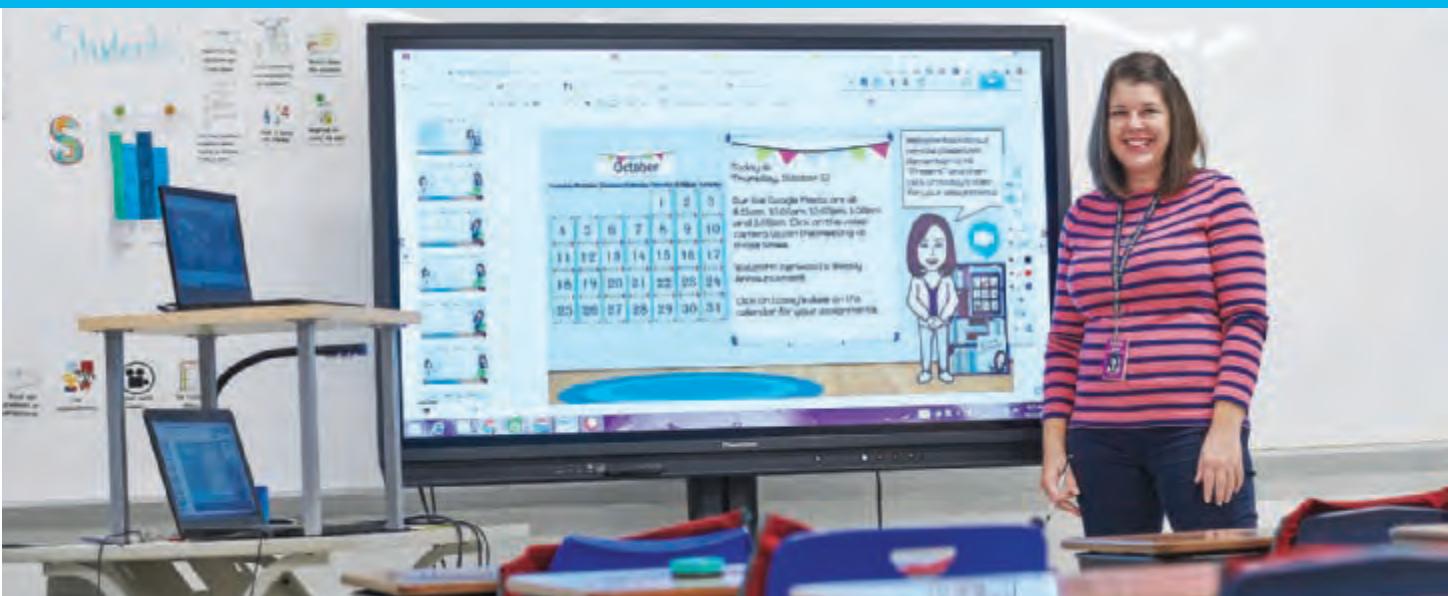
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**Jamie Hennessy** teaches a hybrid model of learning in her third grade class.

## VIRTUAL LEARNING TAKES MANY SHAPES AND FORMS

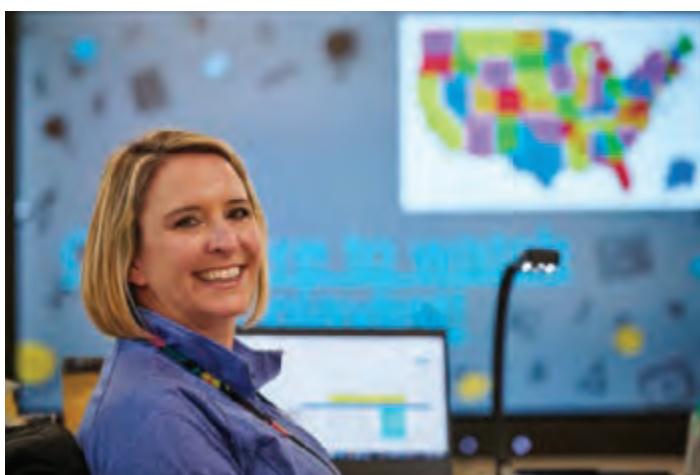
**I**t's no surprise that this school year has been unique – and everyone's experience is a little different. From the teachers and students to the parents and staff, we all have had to embrace this change together as a community. Some learning environments have transitioned in-and-out of the classroom, while others have remained fully virtual. In addition, the way our students are interacting with one another is changing this year. One thing that is certain, however, is the resilience and adaptability of our educators and their young learners has been nothing short of extraordinary.

As expected, the transition in or out of what 'normal schooling' looks like now has required a great deal of learning from both ends. Read on for the feedback some OCFJSD teachers have about this year of virtual learning experiences.

Special Education teacher **KATHY FLANAGAN** has found

herself pivoting her approach to teaching this year by incorporating more technology into her usual activities. During in-person school, her students practiced seeing each other on TV screens using Zoom, helping them become more independent on tasks, and even learning more about personal and communal hygiene with open discussions about "The Germ" as they refer to it. Her students are exploring new resources and new styles of learning throughout this process.

Virtual teaching has also progressed to new heights with **SARA BUERGER'S** 5th grade class. The students can always rely on a morning meeting to check-in, socialize and play a trivia activity before diving into their math and language arts instructional time. Afterwards, the students have work time where they also have a chance to meet with Ms. Buerger one-on-one to discuss any problems they may be having or ask questions. All of this work is done through Google Meets, Google Classroom or the privacy of GoGuardian – a teacher monitoring platform. Even with all of this integrated technology, her students still cultivate a sense of community through a screen. "Kids are talking with each other and typing to each other in the virtual chats. Even (kids) from different schools have created a friendship together. Existing students are really welcoming when new faces and names pop up in the virtual classroom," she adds. Though socializing looks a bit different, the camaraderie between the students still flourishes with the incorporation of more technology. One major impact she notices is that her 5th graders are becoming much more prepared for middle school as a result of the virtual classroom by learning how to self-pace themselves, be more independent, and take responsibility for their own work.



**Courtney Lidwin** says with virtual learning her students have become closer friends.

On the other hand, **JAMIE HENNESSY'S** classroom experienced more of a hybrid model. For a time, Mrs. Hennessy was providing instruction to an entire 3rd grade class while one student was participating, virtually, from home. Since her students were already used to using technology for many of their assignments, the transition into this school year was a bit easier for them to get comfortable with. To further include her virtual students in classroom instruction, Mrs. Hennessy begins every class by setting up one laptop in "presentation mode" to view the lesson, another on "video mode" to view the teacher and students, as well as the smart board for the rest of the classroom. She states that "a big part of teaching is the connection with the students and I want to make sure (they) still get that from me."

This hybrid model has also caused her students to really appreciate the joy of education since they know what it is like to learn virtually and in-person. In addition to using technology, her students also engage in many hands-on activities to utilize more tactile learning skills and avoid too much screen time. "It takes a tremendous amount of planning" Mrs. Hennessy adds "to be structured far enough but not too far if my whole class moves to virtual. But, it's important for people to know that the students had to adjust to a lot – and it's a testament to how flexible and strong the kids are."

First-year teacher **ABBEE DAEHNERT**, and long-tenured, 31-year teacher **RANDY GREEN**, have also had some interesting starts to their school year. With two kindergarten classes to instruct, Ms. Daehnert has learned a significant amount about how to work with her younger students through a screen and make it a useful experience for her class. She utilizes the helpful lessons from Edmentum and increases participation by doing workbook pages together as well as student-favorite 'wiggle breaks.'

In Mr. Green's virtual classroom, things look a lot different than he is used to as well. Previously a middle school teacher, Mr. Green is adapting to life with his virtual elementary students. "It's very strange to walk into a classroom by myself for the entire day and learn a whole new curriculum that somebody else developed. But, we are working with it. Since I've seen a lot of things come and go, my experience helps a lot," he explains. Mr. Green's expertise has also been met with unexpected joys of working with his virtual class from

watching the students continue to connect with each other to collaborating with parents more often and using significantly less paper!

Still, the impact of this school year was felt most by the students. With all of the changes they have been faced with, the level of courage and adaptability they have demonstrated these last few months has been astonishing. In **EMILY WULFKUHLE'S** 5th grade class, students have formed their own 'Coffee Clubs' to chat with their peers about their day before and after class while also sharing a heightened awareness of their impact on others. Many of her students expressed their concerns that "... they don't want to be the reasons someone else gets sick or their family gets sick." In addition to their consistent teamwork to keep each other safe, Ms. Wulkuhle has also seen very little difference in her classroom procedures because her students love being in school and have learned to multitask very quickly.

When the 4th graders of **COURTNEY LIDWIN'S** class were asked what they liked most about school, the consensus was seeing and working with their friends – and recess, of course. Though the students have classroom instruction, lunch and worktime all in the same room, they also feel that they have become closer friends as a result. They play their own Kahoot games, make inside jokes, and include their peers in playground activities – which they often have all to themselves. Their school days also feature frequent, closely monitored 'mask breaks,' Google Classroom projects, and an abundant amount of appreciation for their education – no matter which side of the screen they are on.

All of the teachers mentioned above expressed their collective gratitude for the parents and support staff that have helped them throughout this whole process. These classrooms have seen many parents step up to make a substantial positive impact on our students' education. Without a doubt, these teachers and students could not have adequately navigated the various virtual learning environments without the support, guidance and understanding of the parents and support staff.

Mr. Green says it best: "It may not be what anyone expects education to be, but it is an overwhelmingly positive experience and it will change the way education is moving forward."



**Teacher Abbee Daehnert's virtual kindergarten classes enable her to view each of her students (here shown displaying their "monster" drawings).**



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## MATC Offers Flexible Educational Options To Help You Reach Your Goals



While the world can seem to be at a standstill through these uncertain times, Milwaukee Area Technical College has remained dedicated to keeping its students' education in forward motion, while prioritizing health and safety.

For the spring 2021 semester, MATC will offer more flexible course options to meet students' needs. The college is giving students different ways to either start or continue their education.

Options include:

- 16-week courses starting in January.
- 12-week courses starting in February.
- Eight-week courses starting in January and March.

Offerings for these sessions include online classes, in-person classes and hybrid classes, which are presented with a mix of online and in-person instruction.

The fully in-person courses are offered for programs that require this approach, focusing on teaching career-specific, hands-on skills. Safety measures are in place that exceed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) standards.

Some classes, such as apprenticeships and clinicals, take place off campus and may occur in person or online based on program requirements.

Any course requiring a physical presence is structured to accommodate students' needs and limit exposure to COVID-19. "First and foremost, the emphasis has been on the safety of our students, staff and faculty," says Dr. Mark Felsheim, MATC's Oak

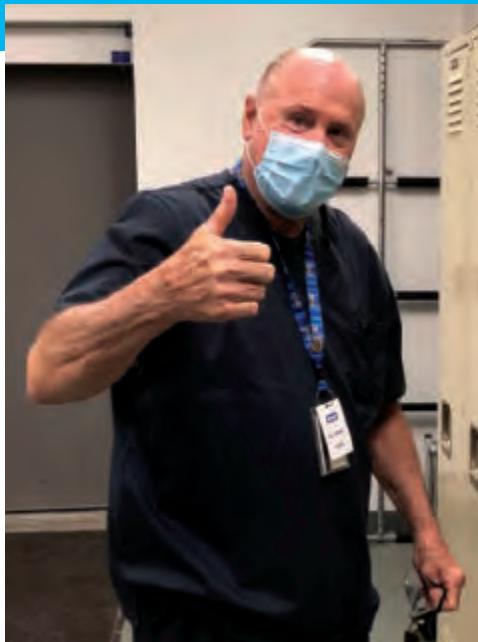
Creek Campus executive director. "The majority of our courses are fully online and our faculty has gone through extensive training for how to teach online. We've provided eligible students with laptops if they don't have a computer and expanded our Wi-Fi networks, so students don't have to enter the building."

MATC also has implemented rigorous COVID-19 safety protocols and a contact investigation procedure. Classrooms, labs and offices were evaluated to ensure social distancing. All students and employees complete a health form and training before coming to campus. Identification is required for students and faculty as they go through a temperature screening each time they enter a campus building.



Child care is a critical issue for students and MATC operates four high-quality, five-star rated Children's Centers. Each MATC campus offers child care for children ages 6 weeks through 12 years, from early morning through late afternoon. Child care tuition rates for students are calculated at a discounted rate.

Providing an array of on-campus and online services, the college emphasizes supporting students to help them achieve their academic goals. MATC's Academic Support Centers (ASC) and Tutoring Services are open at each campus and virtually. Students can get free assistance with math, science, writing and other subjects, and work at campus computers and printers.



*Industry-expert instructors lead  
MATC classes.*



### **Distance Learning for the Not-So-Distant Future**

With a long history of distance learning, MATC's commitment to education has never been limited to the classroom, which is now more critical than ever before. MATC has been refining its remote lessons for more than 60 years.

It was in 1958 that the college gave its first live broadcast to Milwaukee Public Schools. In 1972, the school created the College of the Air, a program to broadcast classes on public television. It was phased out in favor of modern online platforms like Blackboard and Google Classroom. The College of the Air is still used via satellite within the Wisconsin Department of Corrections and six other state prisons, providing education to inmates who don't have internet access.

The college's proficiency with remote education proved invaluable during the Spring 2020 semester, when thousands of MATC students shifted to online learning with great success.

To implement the changes required when campuses closed due to the state's Safer at Home order, faculty quickly increased their knowledge and gained the skills needed to present high-quality, online classes. That experience has helped ensure instructors are adept at making the remote learning process seamless for students in the upcoming semester. Things may look different, but MATC maintains its dedication to transforming lives, industry and community. Industry-expert instructors still lead MATC classes. Tuition is affordable and even free for eligible MATC Promise students. And

graduates are always ready to enter the workforce on day one, transfer to a four-year institution – or do both.

By completing an MATC program, students are prepared to join the 94% of associate degree and technical diploma graduates who are employed within six months. The college offers students and alumni career-planning services.

MATC makes it easy for students to start a bachelor's degree at the college. Students can seamlessly transfer MATC credits to more than 35 four-year college or university partners in Wisconsin and other states. MATC also offers guaranteed transfer options to the University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, University of Wisconsin-Parkside and Marquette University.

To get started at MATC, students can visit [matc.edu/apply](http://matc.edu/apply).



**Dr. Mark Felsheim**

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**Dr. Mark Felsheim,**  
**Campus Executive Director**

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

**“The majority of our courses are fully online and our faculty has gone through extensive training for how to teach online.”**

– Dr. Mark Felsheim, Campus Executive Director

# What is a Parterre?

A level space in a garden or yard occupied by an ornamental arrangement of flower beds. Parterre comes to English by way of French where it means “on the ground.”

At Drexel Town Square, the second phase of Emerald Row, known as **Parterre at Emerald Row**, is well underway. This four-story building will include 240 luxury units: 161 one-bedroom, 60 two-bedroom and 19 three-bedroom units with private terraces and porches overlooking the adjacent wetland and walking trail. Interiors will feature contemporary open floor plans with natural design wood grain flooring, polished granite counter tops and high-end Whirlpool appliances. Parterre is a W-shaped building with dual courtyards, featuring a pool and entertainment area on the north, and outdoor space adorned with the property's namesake, a “parterre.”

**Parterre at Emerald Row** will be completed later this year to the highest standards, using quality construction, modern interiors and a superior amenity package. For a full description and building renderings, open the camera on your phone and scan the QR code to the right.

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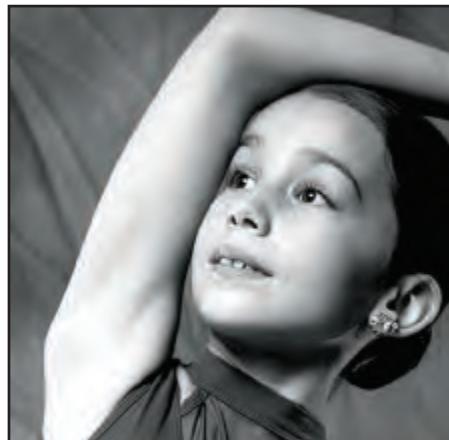
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## Holiday Celebrations in the Time of COVID-19

**F**

or many, the period between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day is the most eagerly anticipated and celebrated time of the year.

Like almost everything this year, COVID-19 has turned all of our traditions upside down.

The Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade has shifted to a television-only broadcast format, causing New Yorkers and visitors to watch the festivities like the rest of the country – from the comfort of their living room. The Radio City Rockettes Christmas Spectacular and Tournament of Roses parade are canceled altogether. Like the organizers of large events, each one of us is evaluating the safety of celebrating together. Holiday celebrations like Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's are typically the most social gatherings, where people gather, mainly indoors, thanks to the cold weather.

Celebrating like it's 1999, however, could give you more than holiday cheer this year. Gathering indoors, crowded around a table together without masks, and sharing food could produce a gift less welcomed than Aunt Edna's "famous" fruit cake – a family outbreak of COVID-19.

A recent survey found that 51% of Americans do not expect to spend Christmas with family this year. But for those that do, it's essential to assess the risks associated with gathering and take measures to reduce the risk of celebrating together. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) encourages individuals to consider several factors.

- **What does COVID-19 currently look like in your community,** and the ones your guests will be traveling from? Higher levels of COVID-19 cases and community spread increase the risk of infection and spread among attendees.
- **Where are you gathering?** Indoor gatherings pose a higher risk, especially those with poor ventilation (i.e., closed doors and windows).

- **How long is your gathering?** Shorter gatherings pose less risk than more extended celebrations.

- **How many people are on the guest list?** The size of a gathering should be based on providing adequate space for guests to maintain a physical distance and limit contact.

- **Who are you inviting?** People with or exposed to COVID-19 shouldn't host or participate in in-person festivities. People with an increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19 should also avoid gathering with people outside of their household.

- **Is anyone on Santa's "naughty list?"** Those who don't adhere to physical distancing, handwashing, and mask-wearing before and during the event pose a risk to other attendees.

If you're planning a holiday gathering, there are ways to minimize the risk to you and your guests. Getting tested for COVID-19 shortly before the holidays and quarantining yourself for 14 days before the event would help ensure that you do not spread the virus to your family. When you're with your loved ones, minimize transmission risk with regular handwashing, wearing a face covering, and keeping six feet of distance between you and your extended family.

If your holiday celebrations will not expand to include those outside of your immediate household, there are still ways to make them joyous. In a season typically filled with the stress of shopping and planning, take this as an opportunity to focus on the season's simpler traditions. Bake cookies, drive around to look at holiday lights or enjoy a holiday movie or story night. Connect with extended family through heartfelt greeting card messages, lengthy phone calls, or a lively virtual gathering using today's technology. Although navigating through Coronavirus has undoubtedly presented challenges to each of us this year, our holiday season can still be filled with memorable moments with some planning and preparation.



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**Daniel Carranco, Oak Creek's new crime analyst, analyzes police data so the department can better deploy their services in the community.**

## OAK CREEK POLICE DEPARTMENT CRIME ANALYSIS: Intelligence-Led Policing Action

**V**irtually every industry relies on data to make decisions, and local government is no different. In 2019, the Oak Creek Police Department hired a part-time crime analyst, Daniel Carranco, to analyze data collected by the department so that they may better deploy their services in the community.

Carranco is a 2019 graduate of Marquette University. With a degree in criminology and law studies, he is currently working toward his master's degree in criminal justice data analytics from the same institution. Interestingly, Carranco originally had his sights set on a legal degree, with a family law career path. "My professor at the time, Dr. Snowden, recommended that I take a crime mapping course since I needed an additional elective for my degree, and I fell in love with it," he notes. "I dropped everything and decided to become a crime analyst."

"It's exciting to have someone so passionate about what he does in this new role for our department," states Captain Dave Stecker. "His role in intelligence-led policing will enable the department to be more efficient with our resources."

Carranco's enthusiasm for crime data and mapping is evident. He enjoys the challenge of analyzing years' worth of statistics to get a sense of what's going on in the community. Although the department has always collected data, it can be challenging to spot data trends in a spreadsheet. Mapping instances of crime over time allows staff to see patterns more easily, and enables the department to allocate resources better where needed. Not only does the mapped data show what has happened, but it can also be used to predict what could happen based on past trends.

One of Carranco's first projects with the Oak Creek Police Department was creating a series of useful reports. Weekly reports

are delivered to patrol officers, advising them where issues are occurring around the city. These reports enable supervisors to better allocate resources, and help officers be more proactive in the field. Maps from the weekly report are displayed on screens around the department so that the most current data is always a glance away.

Carranco takes a more in-depth look at the data in a monthly report. Not only is this resource made available to police department staff, but also the public on the City's website. The monthly crime analysis report takes a detailed look at five different statistics: property damage-motor vehicle accidents, burglaries, thefts, thefts from vehicle, and vehicle thefts. For each category, Carranco summarizes the day, time and location of the incident and looks for patterns in the data over time.

Car accidents, Carranco points out, typically occur at consistent times of the day – for example, during typical commute times – and more often on weekdays. Seasonal factors, such as winter weather or deer strikes, are also seen when looking at data over time. Looking at where and when accidents occur can guide patrolling – and could potentially be used to make future changes to traffic patterns.

When discussing theft from vehicle data, Carranco becomes animated. "In 2020, nearly 65 percent of all reported thefts from vehicles are from cars that were unlocked. Another 28 percent can't recall if their cars were locked. This means that nearly ALL thefts from vehicles could be prevented if people remember to lock their car doors," he asserts.

Furthermore, unlocked vehicles can also be a contributing factor in burglaries. Garage door openers are often left in cars, allowing criminals easy access to your home. Unlocked vehicles can also lead to vehicle theft because the owner of the vehicle might forget to take his/her keys out of the vehicle and can be stolen. The lesson to be learned is a simple one: Don't forget to lock your car doors to lower

your chances of becoming a victim of these crimes.

Sharing data with the community is something that Carranco – and the department – are proud of. The Oak Creek Police Department is committed to transparency and informing residents of the activity that occurs in their community. The department has been part of the national Police Data Initiative since 2014, an organization that promotes the use of open data to encourage joint problem solving, innovation, enhanced understanding and accountability between

communities and the law enforcement agencies that serve them.

"In our continued commitment to transparency, Dan's work allows for continued monthly information that is used both by the OCPD for allocating resources, as well as posting it publicly on our website," explains Captain Stecker. "Plus, the weekly information allows us to make adjustments to patrol tactics and get out weekly, and sometimes daily, updates via social media on how our citizens can be safer."

## PERSONAL SAFETY: What You Can Do To Keep Yourself Safe



With the cold weather settling in, we find ourselves changing out habits and routines as we brace for a long, cold winter. What we shouldn't change is our situational awareness and general care to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe. We encourage everyone from young women to older adults, and especially those who live alone, to be aware of their surroundings and be cautious both out in the community and in their homes.

### SAFETY ON THE GO

Try to complete your errands during daylight hours. While this is harder when winter days are shorter, dark parking lots provide more cover for would-be criminals, so getting errands done during the day may keep you safer. Additionally, when doing your errands:

- Park your vehicle under a streetlight (if parking at night) and away from suspicious-looking vehicles.
- Keep your doors locked until you are ready to exit and when exiting your vehicle, have all your possessions (e.g. purse, phone, bags) securely in your hands. Quickly lock your door and walk confidently into the store.
- While in the store, keep your purse and other possessions securely in hand and don't leave them unattended. Be wary of two or more people who approach asking for your assistance in a store. A common tactic is for one person to keep a victim occupied while the other attempts to take his/her wallet or purse.
- When exiting the store, look before you leave. Confirm that there isn't anyone milling around your vehicle. Walk directly to your car and enter as quickly as possible locking the door behind you. If you need to unload groceries, lock your purse in the car and keep your keys with you.
- Other dos and don'ts for when you are out and about:
- Walk directly to and from your destination without distractions (i.e., put away your phone!).



- If you see something in the parking lot that concerns you, either leave and run your errand at a later date or request an escort to your car if you are already in the store.
- Utilize the buddy system, if possible, when running errands.
- Make use of the free or low-cost pickup services at many major retailers.

### SAFETY AT HOME

Many people feel safest when they are in their home, and may lower their guard about potential dangers that may appear at their doorstep. While you are at home, to ensure your safety and well-being:

- When returning home from running errands, do a quick scan of your street and make note of any unfamiliar cars or people going door to door.
- Pull into your garage and close the door behind you. Ensure that your home is secure before unloading groceries or performing other tasks.
- Keep doors and windows locked when you are at home, especially if you are alone.
- Don't feel obligated to answer the door to unexpected callers. If you do answer the door, don't let them into your home and be wary of multiple people who seem to want to sell you an unsolicited service or want to come inside.
- Service providers from utility companies (e.g., cable, electric) will have a picture I.D. If you were not expecting a service provider, call the company to verify before allowing them to enter your home.

The Oak Creek Police Department is looking forward to offering its Women's Self Defense Class again once it is safe for the trainers and the participants. Please watch our website for upcoming class dates.



## Dan Callies Honored as Oak Creek Citizen of the Year



Oak Creek resident and business owner, Dan Callies, has been named the City's 2019 Citizen of the Year. Callies, an Oak Creek High School graduate, is the second-generation owner of Oak Creek Plumbing, a business headquartered in the City since 1972.

As Oak Creek Plumbing has grown, Callies has remained committed to keeping the company firmly rooted in our City. This commitment is demonstrated in Callies' history of community sponsorships and volunteerism.

"What is perhaps most impressive, Dan often works quietly behind the scenes to lift others, desiring no attention himself," says the anonymous individual who nominated Callies for the award.

Dan leads the way in local corporate responsibility by backing numerous activities and events, including the Oak Creek Little League, Cut Scout Pack 330, Oak Creek National Night Out, and the City's Shred Day and Electronics Recycling events. He is also on the board of directors of the Oak Creek-Franklin Foundation for Education, providing leadership for its mission to provide funding for programs not covered in the School District's budget.

Callies and Oak Creek Plumbing are also active contributors to the High School's Knight Construction program, donating

consultation, guidance, labor and parts for this valuable educational program's plumbing needs.

"Dan's support of the Knight Construction program is directly related to its success. His efforts have allowed students to get real hands-on experience in the plumbing industry. This type of experience is invaluable for students who choose to pursue a skilled trade career. He is truly helping create the next generation of skilled workers," states Oak Creek Mayor and Milwaukee Building and Construction Trades Council Statement President, Dan Bukiewicz.

The Oak Creek Citizen of the Year program began in 1960 to encourage citizen participation and volunteerism in support of local organizations, groups, persons and the general community. The person, persons or group nominated for the award may have been active in one or more of the following categories – civic, social, welfare, education or city advancement. The Oak Creek Citizen of the Year committee not only honors a Citizen of the Year annually, but also recognizes two graduating Oak Creek High School students who have at least 500 hours of community service, and awards them Oak Creek Citizen of the Year Community Service Awards.

If you would like to learn more about the Oak Creek Citizen of the Year program, please email [OakCreekCoY@gmail.com](mailto:OakCreekCoY@gmail.com).



## GRUNAU COMPANY CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

Grunau Company, headquartered in Oak Creek, is celebrating an important milestone in 2020 – 100 years as a successful and growing business. Grunau was established as a plumbing company in 1920 by Paul J. Grunau, and has since expanded to include mechanical construction, fire protection services, and metal fabrication. With offices in Wisconsin, Florida, Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania, Grunau provides design, installation and 24/7 service to many industries across the country.

Named the 2019 Business of the Year by the South Suburban Chamber of Commerce, Grunau's efforts have helped reshape our community and the greater-Milwaukee area over the last century, including Schlitz Park, the U.S. Bank Center, the Northwestern Mutual Tower, the Fiserv Forum, the Oak Creek Public Library and Drexel Town Square. Beyond being a successful business, Grunau is also a well-established community partner, sponsoring the Oak Creek High School Robotics Team and volunteering with the Ronald McDonald House and the Wisconsin Veterans Chamber of Commerce, among others. Grunau also participates in the Veterans in Piping (V.I.P.) program, that aims to address the shortage of skilled workers in the pipe trades while tapping into a capable resource, our local veterans.

Grunau was recently recognized at an Oak Creek Common Council meeting with a mayoral proclamation for its milestone anniversary. Mayor Bukiewicz remarked, "Few companies make the century mark, as Grunau has. Not only have they reached that mark, they've grown – not just in the area, but nationally. They're recognized around the country as one of the best mechanical contractors in the land, and we've got them right here in Oak Creek."

Grunau's president, Bill Ball (seen above on the left with Mayor Bukiewicz), was on hand for the recognition and stated, "We're looking forward to many more years of serving and investing in the Oak Creek community. We're very proud to call Oak Creek our home."

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# CITY OF OAK CREEK HIGHLIGHTS

## South Shore COVID-19 Testing Site

The Oak Creek Health Department, in conjunction with the South Milwaukee/St. Francis and Cudahy Health Departments, has opened a COVID-19 testing site at 1625 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. in South Milwaukee. This testing site is the first of its kind in the South Shore area, offering free, low-barrier tests to any Wisconsinite, ages five and older, who believes they need to be tested.

The testing site is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. No appointments are necessary. It is recommended that you pre-register for testing through COVID Connect at [register.covidconnect.wi.gov](http://register.covidconnect.wi.gov).

"Access to local testing, combined with masking, social distancing, and staying home to isolate or quarantine when appropriate, is critical to combat COVID-19," says Darcy DuBois, Oak Creek health officer. "No one wants to pass this illness to their friends or family. Getting tested provides vital information and peace of mind on an individual level and a community level – it helps us protect those we care about and slows the spread of the disease," she adds.

For more information about this testing site, please visit the City's website at [oakcreekwi.org](http://oakcreekwi.org).

## NEW THIS YEAR! Light the Square

The Oak Creek Celebrations Commission and Martin Law Offices are pleased to present "Light the Square" this holiday season. Beginning December 2 at 5:30 p.m. and running through the entire month of December, visitors may take a leisurely stroll through Drexel Town Square to enjoy the beautiful holiday displays, including a 30-ft. lit tree. Cubanitas will be offering free hot chocolate on December 22. Visitors may also take advantage of their drink-of-the-month special, the Mistletoe Mojito. Due to COVID-19, there will be no entertainment activities on December 2 to ensure our residents' safety.

**We want to thank Martin Law Offices for their generous exclusive sponsorship of this community event.** Visit them at [martin-law-office.com](http://martin-law-office.com) or call (414) 856-4010.

## Cybersecurity Month: Resources for Residents and Local Businesses

As part of October's Cybersecurity Awareness Month, the City of Oak Creek Information Technology team has created a valuable resource for residents and businesses that covers many important cybersecurity topics. Containing links to federal and state agencies and cybersecurity firms, this comprehensive web page (found on the City website) features information on device and password security, online privacy, social engineering, identity protection, fraud, and other topics.

Like all powerful tools, the Internet and mobile technologies come with some risks. Individuals can manage these risks by becoming familiar with the types of threats that exist, and knowing how to protect themselves from becoming victims of cybercrime.

To view this resource, visit [oakcreekwi.org/cybersecurity](http://oakcreekwi.org/cybersecurity).



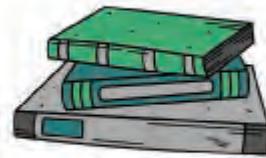
## New and Improved Curbside at OCPL

Need a few personalized material suggestions for your children? Working on a certain subject in your classroom and want some great books to share with your students? Look no further than Oak Creek Public Library's 'Library Materials Request Form.' Fill out this online form to receive librarian-selected materials for take out or curbside pick-up service.

Simply let us know if you are after picture books, chapter books, DVDs or anything else. Include your children's ages or grade levels, as well as specific areas of interest, and our staff will collect up to 10 recommended items. You can even request board games and magazines!

Looking for items that aren't available to check out? Fill out the new 'Non-Library Materials Request Form' to get a hold of some "take & make crafts," the latest issue of BookPage, your mobile print jobs, and so much more. Visit [oakcreeklibrary.org](http://oakcreeklibrary.org) for further details and to fill out both forms!

**Need Books?**



**Use Curbside Pick Up**

## Thanksgiving Day Community Turkey Trek on Thursday, November 26

Start your Thanksgiving with a walk around Drexel Town Square's gorgeous Emerald Preserve from 8-9 a.m. Bring your family and meet your friends, neighbors and City leaders for a few loops around the Dale Richards trail before your Thanksgiving Day celebrations begin! (Bonus: After a little exercise, you won't have to feel guilty for having that extra piece of pumpkin pie later in the day!)

We encourage everyone attending to bring one or more healthy, non-perishable food items that will be donated to a local food pantry.

# Welcome to these New Oak Creek businesses

**SHOP LOCAL... STOP IN... SAY HELLO...  
AND WELCOME THEM TO OUR CITY!**

A



B



C



Photos by Saturn Lounge

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**"Take & Make" kits for all age groups can be requested at the Oak Creek Public Library.**

## LONG LIVE VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING

Virtual programs rise in popularity as people adapt to a world still struggling with the effects of COVID-19   By Rachel Rose, Librarian



Just because everyone is practicing safe physical distancing doesn't mean there is no room for fun – or learning! Community libraries have reworked engaging activities from seasons past by adjusting to a more pandemic-conscious world. With health and safety paramount, Oak Creek Public Library (OCPL) has temporarily halted in-person programming in favor of virtual and 'take out' services. This initiative started during Wisconsin's Safer at Home order, which effectively shut down all non-essential locations to help slow the virus's spread. OCPL remained attentive toward the public's needs. With doors shuttered, staff quickly designed some exciting new events that could be attended remotely.

These digital programs stuck around even after the building reopened. They have proven to be fantastic alternatives for those who don't want to risk venturing out for face-to-face (or mask-to-mask) interactions. By attending events via free conferencing tools or watching tailored recordings uploaded to the web, participants of all ages can network while remaining safe at home. All that's needed is an Internet-connected computer or smart device. Suddenly, a world of possibilities will appear! If those aren't easily available, patrons can still join in on entertaining experiences by bringing home craft kits or taking part in free giveaways.

As for virtual programs, parents can stimulate their children's minds by tuning into weekly Online Story Time sessions, navigating

remote scavenger hunts and so much more. Adults continue to attend resume-building workshops through the Goodwill Workforce Connection Center, acquiring skills that will help them secure a brighter future. Friend groups interested in launching their own book clubs can find specially curated reading suggestions and discussion guides on the Library's website at [oakcreeklibrary.org/diy-book-club/](http://oakcreeklibrary.org/diy-book-club/). Computer classes that teach everything from the basics to advanced Office Suite techniques are now available 'on demand,' making it a cinch to learn on the go.

Do-it-yourself is a popular option during social distancing, too. Librarians have provided 'take out' materials for young patrons to create cardboard drive-in movie theaters while at home. Themed 'Imagination Stations' allow kids to enjoy playing pretend inside their own farmers markets, pizzerias – anything that the mind can conjure up for an afternoon of play. OCPL's 'Family Fun Night' program, usually a large event held inside the building's multi-purpose room, was recently reworked so families can sign up for kits containing chalk, coloring sheets, stickers and other portable activities. 'Take & Make' crafts are greatly enhanced, too, with a wider range of kits available for all age groups. These crafts can be collected while supplies last by visiting the children's department, or requested through OCPL's curbside pick up by visiting [oakcreeklibrary.org](http://oakcreeklibrary.org).

Don't miss out on special pop-up events, either. In late September through early October, the Library teamed up with the City of Oak Creek Tourism and local businesses to host StoryWalk® on Drexel

Town Square. Visitors could enjoy exercise and a favorite picture book as they strolled around town, following a map from one stop to the next. Participants were also encouraged to take pictures and tag the program on social media, connecting friends and family. The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vt., and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. It has been sweeping the nation, and countless libraries are stepping up to share their love for local communities and – of course – reading.

Why not register for one of these virtual programs or join in on some pop-up events? There is always something for patrons to do with the Oak Creek Public Library. Beyond these digital services, the building is open for quick browsing, reference assistance, and limited technology and study room usage. You can also check out board games or playaway audiobooks from the children's department. Both collections are brand new and have been a hit with patrons young and old.

We all look forward to a time when everyone can once again gather with friends to socialize or study within the Library. Until it is safe to do so, virtual programs will provide community members with a certain level of interaction in a time of uncertainty. Who knows? Their overall popularity might just mean that long-distance lineups will stick around even after in-house programming makes a comeback.



2020

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## Business Spotlight: Hillside Coffee House From Fresh Bakery to Savory Coffee and Tea, See Where the Magic Happens!



**S**tepping inside the Hillside Coffee House in Oak Creek is like traveling back in time. Not only is the building at 237 E. Ryan Rd. a historic community landmark, its comfy, cozy furnishings are much like those you might find in your grandmother's house. And when the fragrant aromas of freshly baked pastries and delicious coffee drinks fill your senses, you know something special awaits your taste buds.

Hillside Coffee House was the brainchild of owner Rose Patterson. She had been unable to find both great coffee and delicious pastry in one spot, and her frustration kept growing. So with a solid kitchen and food background (she formerly owned her own spice and dry blend business, and had run the lunch program at St. Matthew School), Rose opened Hillside the first week of March this year. The business has gained a huge following of loyal customers and received rave reviews ever since. "I felt strongly that I was destined for this wonderful chapter in my life, so I set out to create a special place that was warm and inviting – as if people were in my own home," says Rose. "And, of course, it had to have both great coffee and delicious pastry."

Hillside's ambiance can indeed be described as warm and friendly. Rose tracked down the furnishings from a variety of sources, including resale and antique shops. The vintage furniture complements the era of the building, built in 1934 (see pg. 31). You can find a cozy corner by the fireplace to sit and relax – or choose a table for small groups (all spaced apart for social distancing). "I wanted to engage customers in the decor," explains Rose, "perhaps triggering their own memories

of bygone days." An acre of outdoor space allows for eating and drinking outside during the warmer months. And there is a large, fully furnished lower level for meetings and parties.

Not surprisingly, however, the biggest attraction at Hillside is its amazing bakery items created by Rose herself. The most popular include cinnamon pecan rolls, lemon blueberry bread, macaroons and lime bars. There are also seasonal delights like spice cake, pumpkin rolls, turtle cheesecake and spiced chocolate cookies. Rose started out with a small bakery in mind, but the demand has been so high that she hired two additional bakers to help. Every day at least two gluten-free bakery options are featured, and Hillside also takes special bulk orders for gluten-free bread. In addition you can place an order for other bulk items, like a full cake or pie, etc., if you are entertaining at home.

Gradually, Hillside has also added more substantial food items over the months (think brunch or lunch!). For example, quiche and a side salad are offered on most Sundays, and a made-from-scratch pizza is featured on Fridays. And with the arrival of the colder months, Rose recently introduced mac 'n cheese and several different



Rose Patterson owns Hillside Coffee House.



**Above:** The main dining room features groups of comfortable furniture.

**Bottom:** Yoga in the Yard was popular during the warmer months.

**Top right:** This cozy seating area can be found on the main level.

**Bottom right:** A spacious lower level is available for large groups.



soups (don't miss the butternut squash!).

To complement your meal or snack, Hillside serves Anodyne coffee and Rishi teas – both hand-crafted in Milwaukee. Order your favorite iced or hot beverage as you sit back and relax. Hillside's house blend coffee, appropriately named "Hillside," is a special blend created by Anodyne to suit Rose's personal palate. Grab a cup of this nutty, earthy blend at the café or take a bag of whole beans with you to brew at home (Hillside can grind for you, if needed).

As many regulars know, Hillside made good use of its outdoor grounds in September by hosting a Fall Fest and Vendor Craft Fair. It was a fabulous day with fresh-baked treats, warm drinks, live music and a variety of talented artisans displaying and selling their work (outdoors in a social-distanced environment). In lieu of a booth fee, vendors donated money to the Hunger Task Force, and guests donated non-perishable items to a local church. "We wanted to reach out to the community during a difficult time, and support our small, local businesses and those less fortunate," Rose explains. And this past summer, another popular outdoor activity at Hillside was Yoga in the Yard (see photo above).

To make use of the large, lower level of the building, Hillside has hosted a book launch, birthday parties, work meetings, Bible studies and more. The decor is as comfy and cozy as upstairs, and can be rented out to larger groups (fees are dependent on event details, bakery ordered, etc.) And although there are future plans for other events for all ages, Hillside is taking it day by day with the current Coronavirus situation.

For now, however, as the menu continues to evolve, there's good reason to stop by Hillside often for your daily "fix" of coffee, tea or sweets. You will find Rose always on the move, from kitchen to dining room, making sure all the details are covered and that her customers are content. From fresh bakery to savory coffee – and more – come see where the magic happens at Hillside Coffee House. Be sure to say hi to Rose – and tell her you read about the coffee house in the *Current* magazine. Hillside will "bake" you happy!

**Hillside Coffee House • 237 E. Ryan Rd. • (414) 304-5559**

**Wed.-Thur. 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m. • Fri.-Sun. 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.**

**Closed Mon.-Tues.**

*Jen prepares to serve some of Rose's delicious Samoa cupcakes.*



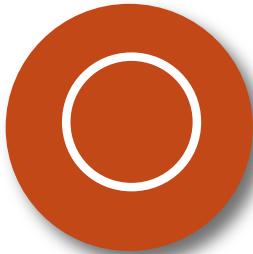


**City Clerk John Trost proudly shows off the new City charter at City Hall just before 1 a.m. on December 16, 1955. Town Attorney Tony Basile, author of "Oak Creek Law," stands next to Trost's wheelchair (with hands folded). Supervisor Henry Gutknecht, Assistant Clerk LaVerne Gutknecht, Mayor Art Abendschein and Supervisor Charlie Guckenberger are pictured left to right behind Trost.**

*Photo courtesy of Oak Creek Historical Society.*

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY, OAK CREEK

## The City Celebrates 65 Years of Incorporation: 1955-2000



In December 15, Oak Creek will celebrate 65 years as a city. Did you know that Oak Creek's transition from a town to a city comes with a fascinating, almost movie plot-worthy story?

Approximately 40 families lived in the Town of Oak Creek when it was established in 1840, but access to the lake and railroad and industry growth to the area soon caused the population to increase. When the Wisconsin Electric Power Company built a power plant in Oak Creek in 1951, the City of Milwaukee showed interest in annexing the town into its boundaries. The Oak Creek Town Board, led by local farmer Art Abendschein as chairman, and the townspeople of Oak Creek did not want to become part of the City of Milwaukee, so they began to fight to become a city of their own.

Town Attorney Anthony X. Basile drafted a bill, which later became known as the Oak Creek Law, that would allow towns bordering a first-class city, which Milwaukee was, to hold a referendum for incorporation if they met specific population and land valuation requirements. After passing through both houses of the state government, the bill was signed into law by Governor Walter Kohler on July 25, 1955. With a population of nearly 7,000 and an assessed land value of almost \$22,000,000 (meeting the requirements laid out in the law), Oak Creek scheduled its referendum for October 27, 1955. The path to incorporation seemed almost certain; voters would decide if Oak Creek would become a city.

Not surprisingly, Milwaukee officials were less than pleased when they found out that Oak Creek was trying to incorporate, and initiated an effort to block the referendum with 13 legal actions filed the month before the referendum. However, for this to succeed, process

servers needed to deliver legal papers to Oak Creek officials. They never got the chance. Days before the referendum, Oak Creek's officials took a "vacation" and remained undercover to avoid further court summons. Some moved in with relatives and friends outside of Oak Creek so they couldn't be found. A local tavern was used as a mail drop.

While officials remained under the radar, the referendum was held as scheduled. The results: 2,107 townspeople voted for incorporation and 126 voted against it. Edgar Boers, the town's street superintendent, was responsible for delivering the election results to City Clerk John W. Trost for certification. He changed cars twice because he feared he was being followed to be served with a court summons.

Despite several legal actions filed by the City of Milwaukee after the referendum, Oak Creek became a city on December 15, 1955, making it impossible for Milwaukee or anyone else to annex them. Town Chairman Arthur Abendschein became the City's first mayor and the first officials were City Clerk John Trost, Assistant Clerk Laverne Gutknecht and Treasurer Fred Brinkman.

**Want to learn more about  
Oak Creek's interesting history?  
CHECK OUT THESE BOOKS:**

*"Oak Creek Historical Society, Images of Oak Creek Wisconsin,"* written by Anita and Larry Rowe

*"Oak Creek: 50 Years of Progress,"*  
written by Jim Cech



The building at 237 E. Ryan Rd. has housed a variety of businesses over the past 80+ years.



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### HILLSIDE SCHOOL, OAK CREEK CITY HALL, MILLE'S PHOTOGRAPHY AND NOW HILLSIDE COFFEE HOUSE

The first Hillside School was a wood structure built on the north side of Ryan Road in 1860. It was replaced by a brick building in 1892. In 1934, part of the old brick building was moved to the south side of Ryan Road to be part of the new building. The school was closed in 1956 as part of school consolidation. The building was later used in the late 1950s and '60s as Oak Creek City Hall and the police station. It was later sold and used for private business purposes. Mille's Photography was one such business (it closed in 2007). Most recently, the building was home to an artisan consignment shop. Today, it is home to Hillside Coffee House, incorporating the building's original Hillside name.

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# OUT AND ABOUT IN THE CITY OF OAK CREEK



## GETTING READY FOR THE HOLIDAYS...

Can you believe it's already November? As we remember the past season, we look ahead to physically distanced celebrations with family and friends. Be safe this season – and let's all be thankful for the many blessings we share.

1. We bid farewell to our popular Farmers Market at Drexel Town Square. Before we know it, the market will be back next June. **2.** Steve Anderson is the assistant principal at East Middle School, and is also the head of the District's online learning platform called Edmentum (read more on pg. 7).
3. Virtual learning in the OCFJ School District comes in many shapes and sizes. Here 3rd grade teacher Jamie Hennessy demonstrates how she sets up multiple laptops for her students –one in presentation mode and another in video mode (see pg. 10).
4. The Hillside Coffee House on Ryan Rd. is a great place to gather with friends. Read more about this new Oak Creek business on pgs. 28-29, and the historic building where it is located (pg. 31).
5. Artists took part in the special Confluence event on September 19, in conjunction with Oak Creek's final beer garden of the season. In partnership with NEWaukee, the event also included live music, food trucks, and an artist market.



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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

During our current ever-changing environment, some community events may be cancelled/modifed.

PLEASE CALL AHEAD TO CONFIRM EVENT DETAILS OR VISIT THE CITY AND SCHOOL DISTRICT WEBSITES.

## NOVEMBER

- **Mon., Nov. 16:** Fall Clean-up Begins. No charge for pickup 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).
- **Wed., Nov. 25:** No School for OCFJ School District
- **Thur., Nov. 26:** Annual Community Turkey Trek, 8-9 a.m. Emerald Preserve, 8031 S. 6th St. Start your Thanksgiving with a community walk around the Preserve, and your family, friends and neighbors. Bring one or more non-perishable food items to be donated to a local food pantry.
- **Thur.-Fri., Nov. 26-27:** City Offices, Recycling Yard and Library Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday. No School for OCFJ School District.
- **Fri.-Sat., Nov. 27-28:** City Recycling Yard Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday.
- **Sun., Nov. 29:** Community Tree Lighting, 4-9 p.m. Oak Creek Community Center, 8580 S. Howell. Visit [occcenter.com](http://occcenter.com).

## DECEMBER

- **Tue., Dec. 1:** Winter Parking Rules Begin Visit the City website at [ocwi.org](http://ocwi.org) for more information.
- **Tue.-Sat., Dec. 1-19:** Heartwarming Holidays Oak Creek Public Library, 8040 S. 6th St. Read a themed book, write a review, and turn it in to receive a hot chocolate mix and candy cane prize.
- **Wed., Dec. 2:** Light the Square, 5:30 p.m. Drexel Town Square, 361 W. Town Square Way. Kick off the holiday season with this new event (see pg. 24).
- **Mon., Dec. 7:** Custom Bath Bombs, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Oak Creek Public Library, 8040 S. 6th St. Learn how to make your very own bath bombs. Participants will go home with a set of bath bombs perfect for the holidays.

- **Tue., Dec. 8:** Take-Out Family Fun-Spy Training, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Oak Creek Public Library, 8040 S. 6th St. Sign up and receive spy training activities to do at home.
- **Tue., Dec. 8:** Goodwill Workshop-Building Your Resume, 5:30-7 p.m. Oak Creek Public Library, 8040 S. 6th St. Made possible through the Greendale Goodwill Workforce Connection Center.
- **Tues., Dec. 15:** Oak Creek Incorporation Day Oak Creek celebrates 65 years as a city!
- **Wed., Dec. 23-Fri., Jan. 1:** Winter Break – No School for OCFJ School District
- **Thur.-Fri., Dec. 24-25:** City Offices and Library Closed for Christmas Holiday
- **Thur., Dec. 31:** City Offices and Library Closed for New Year's Holiday

## JANUARY

- Fri., Jan. 1: City Offices and Library Closed for New Year's Holiday
- Mon., Jan. 4: OCFJSD Schools Reopen After Winter Break
- Mon., Jan. 18: No School for OCFJ School District
- Mon., Jan. 25: No School for OCFJ School District/Possible Make-Up Day
- Tue., Jan 26: First Day of 3rd Quarter OCFJ School District

## FEBRUARY

- Sat., Feb. 6: Bridal Expo, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Oak Creek Community Center, 8580 S. Howell. Visit [occcenter.com](http://occcenter.com).
- Sat., Feb. 13: Oak Creek Winterfest, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Town Square, 361 W. Town Square Way. Celebrate winter in Oak Creek! This free community event will feature ice-carving demonstrations, live music and more. See [visitoakcreek.com](http://visitoakcreek.com) for details.
- Tue., Feb. 16: Spring Primary Election



Drexel Town Square will be “decked out” for the holidays this season.



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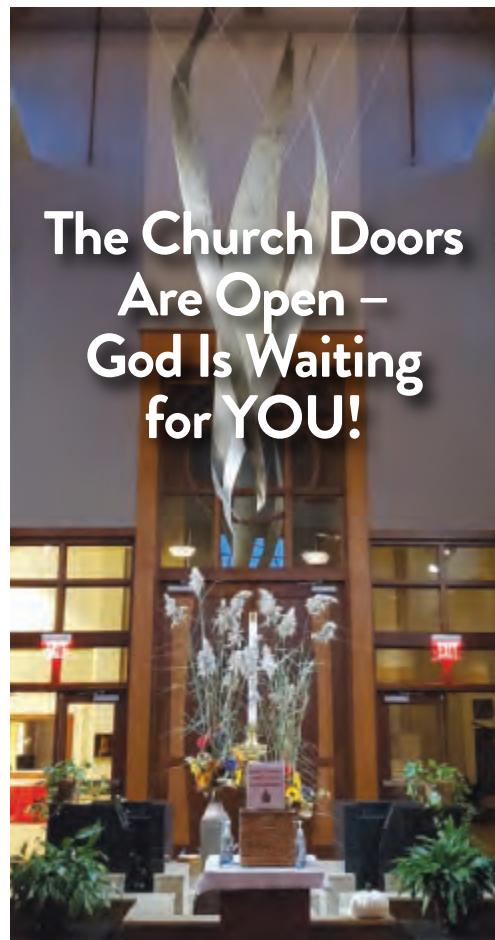
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Getting Ready  
To Celebrate  
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