

OC CONNECTION



City of Oak Creek Employee Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 4 • Fourth Quarter 2024

VISION

Oak Creek: A dynamic regional leader driving the future of the south shore.

MISSION

We are a organization dedicated to providing high-quality services that positively impact Oak Creek residents, businesses, and visitors.

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Oak Creek: Our Shared Story

This chapter of the City’s history is marked by our Elected Officials sharing a strong vision for the City’s future, and willingness to invest to ensure the City realizes its full potential. Investments have come not only in the physical “things” we build, but also in our investments in those that make the City what it is and what it will be: our City staff.

We had occasion to reflect on some City accomplishments during a premier party for the upcoming Discover Wisconsin episode featuring Oak Creek. What struck me when I was preparing statements for that night was how much work it has taken for the community and our organization to get to this point in our history. The past settlers, farmers, industrialists, elected officials, citizen volunteers, business leaders, and generations of dedicated City staff also had bold vision and set the City up for the success it is enjoying today. We are now in a great position to “carry the mantle” in this chapter of the City because of those people and those groups.

It is often said that the work we engage in, public service, is a thankless gig; not many pats on the back from our customers, and we certainly hear about it when things do not go well. In our Strategic Action Plan, our staff will see many goals and objectives relating to telling our story and recognizing our staff and public services they deliver. We do intend to throw just a ‘little bit’ of our humility out the window, while staying “Midwest humble”.

Each day, you all come to work and play parts, large and small, to improve the Oak Creek community. The work we all do is “writing” the story, and if we are writing that story every day, let’s also “tell” our story! Our Discover Wisconsin episode is a reflection point, but only one of many ways we will tell our story and show our work going forward. It’s our turn and our responsibility to leave our community and organization in a good place for those writing, and telling, the City’s next chapter!

Thanks for all you do!

Andrew J. Vickers, MPA
City Administrator

Happy Birthday!



Happy Birthday to City employees born in October, November and December!

October

James Dooley	Police	Oct. 2
Sabrina Einhorn	Health	Oct. 2
Christa Miller	Clerk	Oct. 2
Doreen Paradise	Maintenance	Oct. 2
Kurt Gorski	Inspection	Oct. 3
Gary Schneider	Police	Oct. 3
Brandon Agnello	DPW	Oct. 5
Sophia Waszak	Fire	Oct. 6
Jennifer Davies	Library	Oct. 7
Brent Miller	IT	Oct. 9
Adam Scherzberg	Utility	Oct. 10
Paul Craig	Utility	Oct. 12
Andrew Kosbab	Admin. Support	Oct. 12
Nathan Basting	Police	Oct. 14
James Flatow	Utility	Oct. 14
Cameron Fry	Police	Oct. 14
Jeffrey Mallas	Fire	Oct. 14
Deborah Chvilicek	DPW	Oct. 18
Patrick Gallagher	Utility	Oct. 18
Dawn Hanizeski	Police	Oct. 18
Wayne Evans	DPW	Oct. 20
Michael Rainy	Fire	Oct. 21
Andronico Guzman Rivera	DPW	Oct. 23
Lauren Johnson	Police	Oct. 23
Robert Anthony	Maintenance	Oct. 25
Melissa Gerum	Finance	Oct. 26
Justin Gauger	Police	Oct. 27
Anthony Griph	DPW	Oct. 27
Steve Kurkowski	Aldersperson	Oct. 28
Isabel Fleischmann	DPW	Oct. 30
Daniel Piasecki	Police	Oct. 30
Jesse Teichmiller	Fire	Oct. 31

November

Taryn Knezevic	Utility	Nov. 1
Bodhi Wettengel	Police	Nov. 1
Dale Pittman	Health	Nov. 2
Joshua Naker	Fire	Nov. 3
Peter Olson	Fire	Nov. 4
Eleanor Young	DPW	Nov. 4
Tamira Rice	Community Dev.	Nov. 5
Collin Doome	Police	Nov. 8
Lisa Marshall	Aldersperson	Nov. 8
Nicole Maier	Police	Nov. 9
Jerry Mc Clellan	Fire	Nov. 10
Brett Van Dyke	Police	Nov. 10
Rachel Rose	Library	Nov. 11

Greg Loreck	Aldersperson	Nov. 12
Jeremy Fontanez	Fire	Nov. 14
Anthony McQuestion	Police	Nov. 14
Darcy Dubois	Health	Nov. 15
Toni Vanderboom	Human Resources	Nov. 16
Daniel Niemi	Utility	Nov. 17
Aaron Spahn	Fire	Nov. 17
Amanda Anderson	Admin. Support	Nov. 20
Aaron Krukowski	Fire	Nov. 20
David Stecker	Police	Nov. 20
Angela Sayeg	Police	Nov. 22
Samantha Burns	Library	Nov. 24
Ashley Kiepczynski	Engineering	Nov. 26
Jordan Mertz	DPW	Nov. 26
Sara Otto	Police	Nov. 28
Adam Bridges	DPW	Nov. 29

December

Donald Noll	DPW	Dec. 1
Tara Murphy	HR	Dec. 3
Jiji Lalian	Library	Dec. 4
Michael Ratajski	DPW	Dec. 7
Ramel Repavich	Health	Dec. 7
Jerry Biggart	Fire	Dec. 11
Aaron Kolosovsky	Fire	Dec. 11
Leelas Dakak	Library	Dec. 13
Laura Yocum	Fire	Dec. 13
Kathryn Warren	Police	Dec. 14
Caleb Curry	DPW	Dec. 15
Victor Ordonez	Fire	Dec. 18
Amy Grzyb	Fire	Dec. 21
Garrett Hamilton	Police	Dec. 21
Michael Musa	Police	Dec. 21
Steven Kohnke	DPW	Dec. 22
Paula Nevarez	Marketing & PR	Dec. 24
Sean Runge	Fire	Dec. 24
Tyler Buerger	DPW	Dec. 26
Michael Havey	Fire	Dec. 26
Aaron Ritchie	Fire	Dec. 26
Shawn Lentz	Police	Dec. 27
Craig Thoreson	DPW	Dec. 28
Mark Proeber	Utility	Dec. 29
Maria Dietrich	Library	Dec. 31
Melissa Karls	Legal	Dec. 31
Brandon Schott	DPW	Dec. 31

Employee Spotlight: Christa Miller

In this Employee Spotlight, we're getting to know **Christa Miller**, Deputy City Clerk.

What does your typical workday look like?

Organized Chaos. On any given day, my desk looks like it exploded. Nearly every morning, I sit with my supervisor and we go over what each of us is working on for the day/week. After our quick meeting, I go to my desk, start going through emails, responding as necessary, then move on to the tasks of the day. Sometimes I'm called up front to assist with a licensee, voter or person who needs to file paperwork with the Clerk's office.

What do you enjoy the most about your job?

I love the variety of tasks. Depending on the time of year, you can find me involved in annual liquor licensing, be knee-deep in an upcoming election, or working on a Common Council agenda packet. Sometimes, all three at the same time, but I love it. I love the variety and working with not only other departments, but the Oak Creek citizens as well.

If you could do another job for one day, what would it be?

Detective. I love investigating. My friends say if they ever want to know about a person, all I need is a first name and by the end of the day, I'll have a full report on the person.

What has been your biggest accomplishment of favorite project to work on as a City Employee?

I've worked on some pretty incredible projects, but 2020 rings high on the lists of accomplishments. In March when COVID hit, City Hall was closed, but the Clerk's office was in the midst of the 2020 Presidential Preference Election. The Clerk's office stayed open allowing voters to come in and vote during in person absentee. On top of that, the requests to have mailed absentee ballots jumped from less than 1,000 to nearly 9,000 for that one election. It was incredibly stressful and busy, but at the end of the day, we got through it and we had a very successful election. Looking back, it almost seems like a dream.

What career would you choose if you weren't doing this?

This is a hard one, but probably an Investigative Genetic Genealogist. I love all things that have to do with figuring out a human puzzle. Tracing back family trees and finding potential suspects based on DNA samplings sounds super interesting and fulfilling!

What is the first thing you'd purchase if you won the lottery?

I've always wanted to buy my older brother a plot of land and build him a small house. He's never had much and I'd love to someday give this to him.

What is something that people would be surprised to learn about you?

I'm actually shy at first. No, really!

Where did you grow up?

Everyone knows . . . Omer. Smallest City in Michigan. Less than 300 people.

What is your favorite quote?

"Not everyone gets the privilege of growing old."

What are your favorite pastimes?

Spending time with my friends and baking holiday candy.

If you were a potato, what kind would you be?

A baked potato.... kinda fluffy. :) LOL.

This or That?

Reading or Watching TV

Passenger or Driver

Speak only in questions or Speak only in movie quotes

Apple or Android



Happy Birthday Month, Christa!

Interested in appearing in a future Employee Spotlight?

Submit your application on the website or email Leslie Flynn, Communications Coordinator, at lflynn@oakcreekwi.gov.

Welcome New City Staff!

Reed Styza

Public Works Technician, 4/15/2024

Reed, a South Milwaukee native, previously worked part-time for the City of Oak Creek in 2018 and has now returned full-time after spending the last four years working for the City of South Milwaukee. He's set to marry his fiancée, Stefani, a teacher, next year. Outside of work, Reed enjoys attending concerts, Admirals and Brewers games, and spending time with his family.



Nicole LaBeck

Police Officer, 7/29/2024

Originally from the Chicago suburbs, Nicole now calls Franklin home. She holds a degree in exercise science from Marian University and a master's degree in applied exercise science from Concordia University Chicago. Nicole joins Oak Creek from the Wisconsin Athletic Club, where she worked as a personal trainer. She has also coached softball at the collegiate, high school, and travel levels. Nicole lives with her girlfriend, Alyssa, and their pets, a dog named Cali and a cat named Russell. Outside of work, she enjoys working out, spending time with friends and family, and visiting local breweries.



Sara Bressler

Police Clerk, 7/8/2024

Sara grew up in Hartford, Wisconsin, but has since moved to Caledonia, where she lives with her boyfriend and daughter, Macy. Prior to working at OCPD, Sara was a Veterinary Technician in Oak Creek from 2014-2024. When she is not working, Sara enjoys spending time outdoors, hiking, hunting, kayaking. Sara also enjoys the company of her 3 dogs, Milo, Paizley, and Sullivan.



Audrey Tarvainen

Youth Services Librarian, 7/30/2024

Audrey is originally from Wisconsin but spent the last four years in New York. After returning this past February, she decided to see what opportunities were available in Milwaukee, and was happy to find a home at the Oak Creek Public Library. With most of her career focused on adult library services, she is excited to transition to working with children. In her spare time, Audrey enjoys writing, painting, and hiking.



Ryan Raffaele

Firefighter Paramedic, 7/22/2024

Ryan, originally from southwest Wisconsin, recently returned after living in Phoenix, AZ, for 15 years. He joins the Oak Creek Fire Department after serving as a Flight Paramedic for the last 8.5 years, bringing with him 15 years of paramedic experience. Ryan resides in Mukwonago with his wife Erin, their son Silas, a soon-to-be-born daughter, and their Golden Retriever, Sully. When he's not working, Ryan loves spending time with his son, immersing himself in all the hobbies and activities that bring his son joy!



Anthony Griph

Recycling Yard Attendant, 8/6/2024

Tony grew up in Cudahy and enjoys weightlifting and playing video games. He previously worked as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and has experience working in various warehouses.



Hannah Guibord

Police Officer, 7/29/2024

Hannah grew up in Oak Creek and continues to call it home. Inspired by family and peers, she earned an associate degree in criminal justice from Milwaukee Area Technical College and later completed her bachelor's degree in criminology and criminal justice at UW-Milwaukee. Outside of work, Hannah enjoys playing softball, engaging in art and photography, and spending time with her family and dogs.



Daniela Espadas

Library Desk Clerk, 8/7/2024

Daniela, a Racine native, moved to South Milwaukee about four years ago. She holds a degree in accounting and works part-time as a bookkeeper for her family's business when she's not at the library. Daniela lives with her partner, Camen, and their cat, Maki. In her free time, she enjoys reading, arts and crafts, and watching the latest movies and shows.



Welcome New City Staff! (continued)

Crystal Pahman Dispatcher, 8/8/2024

Crystal was born and raised in Milwaukee and lived in Oak Creek for 10 years before moving to Greenfield. She is a mother of three children, all of whom attend the Oak Creek School District. Her eldest is currently in San Diego, training to become a United States Marine. Crystal holds an associate degree in criminal justice and originally planned to pursue law enforcement. When Oak Creek opened an emergency dispatch position, she saw it as a new opportunity. In her free time, Crystal enjoys painting, crafting, gaming, and spending time with her family.



Aaron Spahn Fire Inspector, 9/6/2024

Aaron lives in Hales Corners with his wife, two daughters, and two dogs. He works full-time with the Wauwatosa Fire Department, where he has served for the past 22 years, and joins Oak Creek as a part-time Fire Inspector. In his free time, Aaron enjoys camping and training his dogs.



Austin Schulte Marketing Specialist, 9/16/2024

Austin lives in Greenfield with his wife Natalie, their two children, Zeke and Lilly, and their dog Jelly. Originally from Oregon, Illinois, Austin holds a bachelor's degree in marketing from Northern Illinois University. He has over twelve years of professional marketing experience ranging from website development, event planning, and content creation. In his spare time, Austin enjoys watching movies, bowling, playing video games, running, and cooking. His family shares a passion for Disney and Marvel. A fun fact: Austin's bucket list includes appearing on a game show or reality TV competition!



Aiden Bridges Public Works Technician, 8/26/2024

Aiden recently became a Public Works Technician after spending several summers working as a laborer with the Department of Public Works. In addition to his public works experience, he has also worked as a lifeguard. Aiden is excited to continue serving the City in his new role.



Daniel Piasecki Police Officer, 9/3/2024

Daniel grew up in Bay View and now resides in South Milwaukee with his wife Brooklynn, daughter Macie, and son Cassius. Before joining the Oak Creek Police Department, he served four years with the Milwaukee Police Department. In his free time, Daniel enjoys playing video games, riding his motorcycle, and spending time with his family.



Robert Minkler Dispatcher, 9/4/2024

Robert, originally from Illinois, now resides in Oak Creek. He graduated from Illinois State University with a degree in Business Administration and joins the City of Oak Creek after working as an Assistant Branch Manager at Enterprise Holdings. In his free time, Robert enjoys playing basketball and tennis, as well as taking long walks on the beach.



Jill Schoenecker Dispatcher, 9/16/2024

Jill's hometown is South Milwaukee and where she currently lives with her husband, Jim, and their son, James. Jill earned her bachelor's degree in art from the University of Wisconsin - Madison and attained her master's degree in management from Cardinal Stritch University. After a career as an executive in corporate marketing, Jill decided it was time to make a change. She last worked as a dispatcher at South Milwaukee Police Department. Jill enjoys spending her free time with family and friends, escaping reality with a good book, and traveling near and far, often off the beaten path. She is also a culinary enthusiast and enjoys trying new recipes at home.



Welcome New City Staff! *(continued)*

Mario Lunar

Marketing & Events Intern, 9/23/2024

Mario is a Milwaukee native currently pursuing a degree in Marketing Management at Milwaukee Area Technical College. He lives in Greenfield with his two siblings, Christian and David. In his free time, Mario enjoys working out at the gym, reading comic books, attending sporting events, and spending time with friends and family.



Thomas Parker

Marketing & Events Intern, 9/24/2024

Thomas is excited to join the City of Oak Creek as the new Marketing and Events Intern. Currently a senior at Carthage College in Kenosha, WI, he is majoring in Public Relations with minors in Sociology and Business Administration. Coming from a family of writers, Thomas has a natural passion for storytelling and public relations, and he looks forward to contributing his skills and experience to the team.



Milestone Anniversaries

Congratulations to those with milestone work anniversaries between October and December!

Please give these co-workers a high-five for their hard work and dedication to the City of Oak Creek!



Name	Dept.	Date of Hire	Years of Service
Gary Wagner	DPW	11/21/1994	30 years
Michael Musa	Police	10/11/1999	25 years
Samantha Nelson	Police	11/15/2019	5 years

Retirements

JoAnn Allain - Library

10 years: 10/21/2013 - 8/16/2024



Staff Shout Outs

True to our City's mission, vision, and values, our dedicated staff are doing wonderful things in our organization and our community. We want to recognize and congratulate the following employees for their recent accomplishments!

Promotions:

- **Emmy Hakes**, Police, was promoted to Dispatcher - Advanced on July 12.
- **Jack Bateman**, Police, was promoted to Police Officer from Police Aid on July 29.
- **Aiden Bridges**, DPW, was promoted to Public Works Technician on August 19.
- **Sara Kawczynski**, Finance, was promoted to City Treasurer/Revenue Manager on August 26.
- **Stephanie Barbian**, Police, was promoted to Dispatch Lead on September 1.
- **Katie Pink**, Police, was promoted to Dispatch Supervisor on September 9.
- **Kyle Owens** and **Christopher Schuerman**, Police, were promoted to Police Sergeant on September 16.
- **Wesley Jerving**, Police, was promoted to Police Lieutenant on September 16.
- **Vincent Zamborini**, Police, was promoted to Police Detective on September 16.
- **Carter Streubing**, Fire, was promoted to Firefighter/EMT from Fire Intern on September 23.



Professional Development Recognitions:

- Lieutenant/Paramedic **Aaron Kolosovsky** recently completed the necessary training requirements to serve as an Acting Battalion Chief.
- Firefighter/Paramedic **Sophia Waszak** successfully completed her 18-month probationary period on September 8.

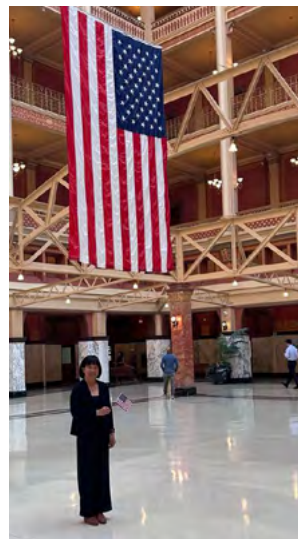
Recognitions:

- PO **Dawn Hazineski** successfully secured a \$1,000 grant from the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Canine Handler Association (WLECHA) through the Ryan Copeland Memorial Grant. These funds will be used to replace the aging heat/door popper system in her squad. The Ryan Copeland Memorial Grant, awarded annually, supports K9 programs in Wisconsin law enforcement agencies that demonstrate a need for funding. It honors the memory of Ryan Copeland, a K9 officer with the McFarland Police Department, who tragically lost his life in an on-duty traffic accident on November 23, 2015.
- Communications Coordinator **Leslie Flynn** was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the City-County Communications and Marketing Association (3CMA). In this role, she will help guide the organization's mission to advance communications, marketing, and public engagement in local governments, shaping strategy, providing governance, and ensuring programs like conferences and webinars support members' professional development.

Celebrating Jiji's Milestone: United States Citizenship!

We are proud to share that Jiji Lalisan, Oak Creek Library Desk Clerk, took the Oath of Allegiance and became a United States citizen on September 19, 2024.

Jiji is originally from Cagayan de Oro in the Phillipines and has been in the United States since 2016.



Jiji's journey to citizenship reflects her dedication, perseverance, and love for this country. This is an extraordinary achievement and a moment of immense pride, not only for Jiji but for those who have had the privilege to work alongside her.

Please join us in congratulating her on this incredible milestone!

In the Loop

Looking for the Human Resources Staff? Phone First!

Pardon our dust! With the build-out of some new office space inside City Hall, [Toni Vanderboom](#) and [Tara Murphy](#), our Human Resources staff are temporarily on the move! If you need to pay either one of them a visit over the next few months, we encourage you to phone or email them first to find out where they'll be stationed. HR staff can be reached at (414) 766-7059 and (414) 766-7058.

Open Enrollment Period October 28 through November 8



Stay tuned for the official announcement of this year's Open Enrollment period, which will take place from October 28 through November 8.

Keep an eye out for updates from the **Human Resources** Department, including details about the schedule and additional information, coming your way very soon!

Don't forget, if you're enrolled in the Flexible Spending Plan, it's crucial to make your election for the upcoming year. Remember this needs to be done annually. Want to learn more about Flexible Spending Accounts? "What is an FSA?" on page 10!

Upcoming Health Insurance Plan Changes for 2025

As part of the 2023-2027 [Strategic Action Plan](#), the City is committed to offering affordable, competitive benefits to employees while ensuring long-term financial stability for the organization. Starting in 2025, we will transition to the UMR NexusACO plan, designed to balance cost savings while minimizing disruptions to employees because we have access to the same quality healthcare.

This new plan keeps premiums affordable while introducing a tiered network to help control rising healthcare costs. The best part? By choosing Tier 1 providers—like Advocate Aurora, Children's, Froedtert, and Medical College of Wisconsin—you'll enjoy the same low costs as you do now!

This plan is designed to offer flexibility while helping you save on healthcare expenses. We're confident this change will benefit both our employees and the City's long-term financial health.

Wondering if your current physicians are in Tier 1? Finding a network provider on [umr.com](#) or the UMR app is simple! [Visit this link for complete, easy-to-follow instructions.](#)

Watch your inbox for more details from the Human Resources Department as we prepare for a smooth transition in 2025!

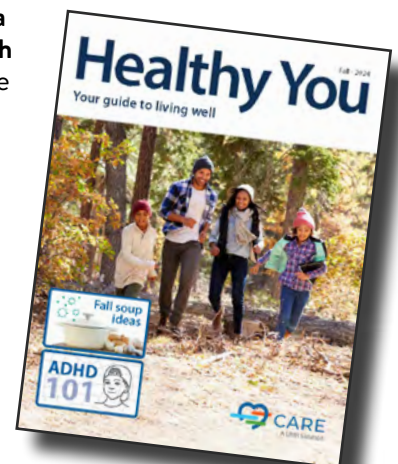
Healthy You Magazine Available to UMR Members

Want to learn more about making healthy choices? *Healthy You* magazine is published as a free educational resource for UMR members. This award-winning publication is filled with health and wellness articles that support and encourage your healthy choices. Learn more about:

- Getting care
- Health and wellness
- Nutrition

The Fall issue of *Healthy You* covers topics such as Halloween safety tips, habit stacking strategies, ADHD 101, healthy soup recipes, and walking when the weather turns colder. [Read the Fall issue here!](#)

Healthy You is just one UMR resource available for members. [For more, visit their website!](#)



In the Loop *(continued)*

Oak Creek's Discover Wisconsin Episode to Air

If you couldn't attend the Episode Premiere event, don't worry—you still have plenty of chances to watch and share the newest Discover Wisconsin episode featuring Oak Creek! This episode highlights Oak Creek's past, present, and future, and drew inspiration from our current Strategic Action Plan. It's a fun and insightful look at our community, featuring many familiar faces.

Starting Wednesday, October 2, the episode will be available for streaming on [DiscoverWisconsin.com](https://www.discoverwisconsin.com). You can also catch it on TV during the weekend of October 5-6. In the Milwaukee area, tune in to WITI TV 6 (Fox) at 9:30 a.m. or Bally Sports Wisconsin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 5.



For additional broadcast details, cable access, or streaming options, visit [DiscoverWisconsin.com](https://www.discoverwisconsin.com).

Save the Date! Citywide Values Launch and Staff Lunch

Mark your calendars! On October 25, we will be hosting a special staff luncheon to celebrate the culmination of a week-long introduction to our new employee-driven core values. This event is a perfect opportunity to gather as a team, enjoy delicious food, and have some fun with colleagues as we cap off the values launch week!

Date & Time: Friday, October 25, 2024, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Drive-up option available!)

Location: Drexel Town Square

Stay tuned for more details on the week's activities and how you can participate. We look forward to celebrating with you all!

Utility Accounting and Support Staff Move to City Hall

On August 26, 2024, the Utility accounting and support staff officially transitioned to the Finance Department and relocated to City Hall. With this change, all utility bill payments are now accepted at City Hall. Additionally, the front office of the Utility Administrative Building has closed, and the payment drop box at the Utility has been removed.

This transition is part of the City's broader effort to centralize and streamline finance and accounting operations, as outlined in the 2023-2027 Strategic Action Plan. Originally identified in the 2017 SAP, this initiative aims to eliminate resource overlap, strengthen business resilience, and improve customer service for all departments and residents.

We're pleased to welcome the following staff to City Hall:

- **Cathy Leranth** and **Taryn Knezevic** to the Treasury & Revenue Management Division
- **Nicole Butler** to the Finance & Accounting Division

Taryn is working at the front counter, training staff on handling utility payments and basic utility inquiries. Cathy and Nicole, who can be found on the second floor of City Hall, are supporting utility billing, accounts payable, payroll, and other key financial tasks.

Thank you to everyone for your continued collaboration as we work to enhance our financial services across the City!

Oak Creek Historical Society Looking for Members

Are you passionate about Oak Creek's rich history and excited to play a part in preserving it for future generations? The Oak Creek Historical Society invites you to become a member and help safeguard our community's heritage.

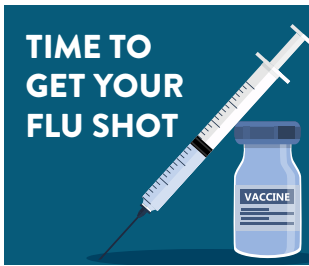
The Historical Society works tirelessly to maintain several historic buildings, including a one-room schoolhouse and a 19th-century log cabin. By joining, you'll not only support the upkeep of these landmarks but also get the chance to attend events, explore archives, and contribute to educational programs.

Membership is just \$10 for individuals and \$15 for families per year. The Historical Society relies on support from members like you to continue its important work.

To learn more about becoming a member, visit the [Oak Creek Historical Society website](https://www.oakcreekhistoricalsociety.com). Help keep Oak Creek's history alive—join today!

News You Can Use

Flu and COVID Vaccines for Employees and Eligible Family Members



The Health Department will be providing flu and COVID-19 vaccines for employees and eligible family members again this year at two scheduled clinics in October.

All City employees are eligible to receive the flu and/or COVID-19 vaccines at no cost to them. Family members who are enrolled in the City of Oak Creek's health insurance plan are eligible to receive flu and COVID-19 vaccines at no cost to them as well. Both vaccines will be available for individuals ages 6 months and older.

The first clinic will be held on Thursday, October 17 from 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. at Oak Creek Fire Station 3 (7000 S. 6th Street). This clinic will be a drive-through clinic. Please enter the clinic

through the Fire Station parking lot entrance and follow the signs to proceed through the clinic. You will remain in your car throughout the clinic.

The second clinic is scheduled for Tuesday, October 22 from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the Oak Creek Health Department (8040 S. 6th Street).

We will not be scheduling appointments this year; clinics will be run as walk-in clinics. Clients will be served as they arrive, and there may be a short wait for your vaccine.

The [Vaccine Administration Record \(fillable form\)](#) is available on the city's website. If possible, please complete, print, and bring the completed Vaccine Administration Record forms to the Health Department at the time of your appointment. Hard copies of the form will also be available at the time of your appointment. Additionally, the [Flu Vaccine Information Statement \(VIS\)](#), the [Moderna COVID-19 VIS for ages 6 months - 11 years](#), the [Moderna COVID-19 \(Spikevax\) VIS for ages 12+](#), and the [Notice of Privacy Practices](#) are linked for your review.

If you have any questions, please contact the Health Department at (414) 766-7950.

Friends of the Library Silent Auction

Show your support for the library by bidding on a slate of great items! Join us in the Multi-Purpose Room during the library's open hours to bid on unique items perfect for the gift-giving season, donated by our community members. All proceeds raised by the Friends of the Oak Creek Public Library are used for programming and services. Bidding opens November 19.

For more information, please visit oakcreeklibrary.org/silent-auction.



What is an FSA?

Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs) allow employees to pay for qualifying medical, dental, vision and dependent care expenses on a tax-free basis. FSAs offer flexibility and immediate savings for employees, making healthcare and dependent care more affordable throughout the year. The Healthcare FSA covers a wide range of medical expenses like copays, prescription costs, and medical devices, while the Dependent Care FSA can be used for childcare or elder care expenses, helping working parents or caregivers balance family and professional obligations.

Eligible employees determine the amount they want to contribute to their Health Care FSA or Dependent Care FSA. The amount chosen by the employee is automatically deducted pre-tax from each paycheck during the plan year.

During open enrollment, employees can enroll in Flexible Spending Accounts for the coming year. It's important to plan carefully so that the election amount does not exceed expenses, because employees are not allowed to change the election amount during the plan except in limited circumstances such as marriage, divorce, birth, death, etc. Currently, the IRS limits carryover funds from 2024 to 2025 to \$640. If you are currently enrolled in the FSA, review your balances to ensure you get below \$640 by the end of the year to avoid losing access to your funds.

The City of Oak Creek utilizes [Diversified Benefits Services](#) for its FSA provider. A [helpful FAQ document](#) on their website has answers to many questions you might have about FSAs.

To learn more about this year's open enrollment, please see "Open Enrollment Period Coming Soon" on page 8!

On the Calendar

Kites in Flight

Date & Time: Saturday, October 5 • 1 - 6 p.m.

Location: Lake Vista Park



Join us at Lake Vista Park for a new event - Kites in Flight! Enjoy kite flying demonstrations by Jake "The Kite Guy" and fly your own - or create one! There will be

music, food, drinks, yard games, and more! Don't forget to bring a chair or blanket!

Bigfoot: Where is He?

Date & Time: Tuesday, October 15 • 6 - 7 p.m.

Location: Oak Creek Public Library Multi-Purpose Room

Is Bigfoot really out there? Have you seen or heard something yourself? Don't miss this presentation from Barnaby Jones, a cryptozoologist, paranormal researcher, and author.

Registration not required.

Fall Festival

Date & Time: Saturday, October 19 • 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Location: Drexel Town Square

Don't miss out on this autumn tradition in DTS, a day of family fun at the Fall Festival. This will also be the last day of the 2024 Oak Creek Farmers Market.



Trick-or-Treat

Date & Time: Sunday, October 27 • 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Location: Citywide



Oak Creek residents can expect little ghosts and goblins to pay them a visit for our annual citywide trick-or-treat! The Oak Creek Historical Society will also host their traditional Safe Site that day from 4 to 6 p.m., giving kids a chance to trick-or-treat from museum to museum.

Veteran's Day Memorial Ceremony

Date & Time: Saturday, November 9 • 9 a.m.

Location: Fire Station #3

Salute the men and women who have served in our nation's military in our annual Veteran's Day Memorial Ceremony, hosted by the Oak Creek Fire Department with participation from VFW Post 8482 and American Legion Post 434.



Annual Community Turkey Trek

Date & Time: Thursday, November 28 • 8 - 9 a.m.

Location: Emerald Preserve

It's become an Oak Creek Thanksgiving tradition to start the morning with a walk around Emerald Preserve with the Mayor. With a little exercise in, you won't feel guilty later for having a second piece of pie! We encourage everyone attending to bring one or more healthy, non-perishable food items, which will be donated to a local food pantry.



Light the Square

Date & Time: Friday, December 6 • 5:30 p.m.

Location: Drexel Town Square

Kick off the holiday season with the festive Light the Square event, and see Drexel Town Square lit up for the holiday season.



Dress warmly, bring a camera, and get ready to herald in the holiday season with your friends and neighbors!

Do you have ideas to make the OC Connection a more valuable employee resource?

Please share! Content suggestions for future editions can be submitted to Communication Coordinator Leslie Flynn at lflynn@oakcreekwi.gov.