

August 2021

# Bay Leaves



## Tight-Knit Community

**Brought Ernster Family  
Back To Whitefish Bay**



Best Version Media

Photo by Boutique Photographer

### The Official Village Weekly E-Newsletter:

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### Refuse and Recycling Schedule Change

- ▶ Refuse and recycling normally collected on Monday, September 6, 2021, will be picked up on Tuesday, September 7, 2021.



### New Stormwater Bioswale Installed Adjacent to Village Hall

You may have noticed some new greenery recently installed between the Library and Village Hall, next to the parking lot. While it certainly adds beauty to the space, this landscape feature will also help protect Lake Michigan from water pollution.

Called a bioswale, this feature captures stormwater runoff from the parking lot as well as the roadway pavement on Marlborough Drive. The Village Hall Parking lot is located within one of the Village's Lake Michigan drainage subbasins and discharges into the lake through the storm sewer outfall located at Silver Spring Park. This bioswale, which was constructed with engineered soil, will improve the water quality discharging directly to the lake by filtering out Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and capturing phosphorus through the use of native plantings, thus reducing Total Phosphorus

(TP). It also provides relief to the storm sewer system during heavy rain events by detaining stormwater in the bioswale. The initial moments of a rain event are critical for capturing the first flush of water which contains the most TSS and TP. The bioswale will also aid in the prevention of stormwater entering the Village sanitary sewer system through both water inflow and infiltration.

An educational sign explaining how the bioswale works will be posted next to the street sidewalk. The project, which was funded through a Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) Green Solutions Program grant, is in its final phase of construction and is nearing completion. It was publicly bid and awarded to All-Ways Contractors, Inc. earlier this spring.

BY SPENCER CHARCZUK, STAFF ENGINEER, VILLAGE OF WHITEFISH BAY







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Photo by Julie Collins

**Publisher:** Kathy Durand  
**Bay Leaves Project Coordinator:** Beth Raab

**PUBLICATION TEAM**

**Content Coordinator:** Christine McBride  
**Designer:** Laura Wire  
**Contributing Photographer:**  
 Boutique Photographer

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**Contact:** Kathy Durand at (262) 716 4788, or kdurand@bestversionmedia.com

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Have feedback, ideas or submissions? We are always happy to hear from you! Deadlines for submissions are the 20th of each month. You may also email your thoughts, ideas and photos to Christine McBride at cmcbride@bestversionmedia.com

**CONTENT SUBMISSION DEADLINES**

Content Due.....	Edition Date
December 20 .....	February
January 20 .....	March
February 20 .....	April
March 20.....	May
April 20.....	June
May 20.....	July
June 20 .....	August
July 20 .....	September
August 20 .....	October
September 20.....	November
October 20.....	December
November 20.....	January

**IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**

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Police (non-emergency) .....	(414) 351-9900
North Shore Fire Dept. (non-emergency).....	(414) 357-0113
Village Hall.....	(414) 962-6690
Public Library .....	(414) 964-4380
Dept. of Recreation & Community Education.....	(414) 963-3947
Whitefish Bay School District.....	(414) 963-3921

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**DEAR RESIDENTS,**

What a joy this summer has been so far! It's great to see the return of block parties, days at the pool, and runs with views of Lake Michigan. Our block was one of the five lucky blocks to win the Elsafy Team block party contest, which included a dunk tank and ice cream truck. My son and his friends loved the 1970s style contraption which provided hours of outdoor fun. The highlight was when Essam Elsafy surprised us all by going into the dunk tank with his full suit and tie on!

Our feature family, the Ernsters, have a different connection with water, since their oldest son is an accomplished swimmer who qualified for the WIAA State Swim Meet last season. Enjoy reading their story and here's to many more summer days ahead!



**Cheers,**

*Christine McBride*

**DEAR RESIDENTS,**

I would like to acknowledge my wonderful business partner, Christa Banholzer, of almost 8.5 years. She is moving on to a new chapter, and I am so happy for her! Thank you, Christa, for your courage to start and build our business. I could not have done it without you and wish you all the best and many blessings! Cheers to you, Christa, and many thanks for the memories over the years!



**Gratefully,**

*Kathy Durand*



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# Tight-Knit Community

## Brought Ernster Family Back To Whitefish Bay

**P**laying any sport at the high school level and above requires commitment and lots of hard work. For Ben Ernster, an incoming junior at Whitefish Bay High School, the sport of swimming has also given him a new found confidence. However the story of how Ben went from never being part of a swim team until 6th grade, to having qualified for the State meet in high school last year, of course first begins with his parents.

Matt and Sarah Ernster, have had a loving relationship for almost 30 years, meeting serendipitously while in high school. They both had summer jobs at a chain pizza parlor, Matt working in Glendale and Sarah on the South Side. The opportunity arose to work at the Summerfest location for the restaurant, which included a coveted free ticket into the festival. "We both ended up working similar shifts, and after work would hang out at Summerfest," said Sarah. "We had so much fun together during those two weeks that we kept dating, and fast-forward six years later we got married."

With Sarah working as an ICU nurse, Matt as a network engineer, and a baby on the way, life was busy for their family. "At the time we had a tiny house in Bay View but it was 2005 and the housing market was crazy, so we looked into moving further away where we could build a brand new house on a lot of land for an affordable price," said Sarah. In 2005 they built a house in Burlington, Wisconsin located about an hour west of Milwaukee.

While the house was great, after a few years both Sarah and Matt were itching to move back into a more urban setting. "All of the friends the kids made lived a solid 15-20 minutes away, and we missed a lot of our adult friends that still lived in Milwaukee. We had this great big house, but nobody ever wanted to come visit because it was too far of a drive. Plus my parents lived in Glendale, so the commute for them to help us with childcare was also taking a toll on everyone," said Matt.

Matt had grown up in Whitefish Bay and went to Cumberland through 3rd grade, so he was familiar with the Whitefish Bay lifestyle. In 2015 they sold their large new construction house, and purchased a modest, significantly older home in Whitefish Bay. "I still remember when we first took the kids to see our Whitefish Bay house, Ben walked in and looked around and asked if we had lost our jobs," said Sarah while laughing. "He couldn't understand why we would trade our large space for a





much smaller one. Now having lived here for 6 years, our kids love the ability to ride their bikes everywhere and wouldn't want to be raised anywhere else."

The Ernster family consists of three boys, Ben (16), Jack (13), and Charlie (11). When Ben was in first grade he was diagnosed with Aspergers, a condition that affects both his coordination and social communication skills. Playing ball sports such as soccer, baseball and basketball weren't a good fit for him. It wasn't until Ben was in sixth grade that someone suggested he tried competitive swimming as a sport. "We really weren't sure what to expect, but after a few weeks of Ben learning all of the strokes, his coaches suggested he participate in a swim meet," said Matt. "It was an eye-opening experience for Ben, and for us as parents. He finally found a sport that he could excel in. Ben could have both the individual success that swimming offers, along with the camaraderie that goes along with being a member of any sports team."

"It was great for our entire family to be able to have Ben as part of such an amazing team," said Sarah. "All the upperclassmen have always been kind and supportive of the younger guys on the team, and we loved having weekly swim dinners or hitting up an ice cream shop after meets. When our door was decorated with a banner for Ben heading to State, it made us thankful to live in such a tight-knit community."

Aside from lots of time in the pool, the Ernster family enjoys time together at other sporting events. Jack plays baseball and football for the Jr. Dukes teams, and Charlie plays Jr. Dukes football. Jack also spent the last year learning more about weight lifting and nutrition, and loves biking to meet friends to go fishing. Charlie is the comedian of the family, always making everyone laugh with his quick-witted monotone remarks.

"We are so thankful to have found a great community both in Whitefish Bay and in the swimming world," said Sarah. "We knew that moving back into a more city-like atmosphere would be great for our family, but we never imagined just how positively it would impact all five of our lives."



From the time Ben received his first two ribbons at a swim meet, he was determined to work hard and see his swimming career grow. As a freshman he made the varsity team, and this past year as a sophomore his fast times in both the 200 and 500 free-style races earned him a spot for both Sectionals and State swim meets.

BY CHRISTINE MCBRIDE, PHOTOS BY BOUTIQUE PHOTOGRAPHER

*Special thanks to The Town Club for allowing us to take pictures at your gorgeous clubhouse.*

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Current owners Kyle and Gretchen Beyer are Shorewood residents and for years had discussed purchasing the building and business from the previous owners. They reached an agreement and closed on the deal, March 1st, 2020, just as the pandemic was descending on the world. While they had to adapt to various challenges that

Covid brought, they remained steadfast in running a safe pharmacy for their clients. Over the last year, they renamed the business, completed an interior and exterior remodel, and provided over 6,000 Covid tests and 5,000 Covid vaccines to the community, all while still taking care of their prescription customers. Kyle, who is also a pharmacist and works at the pharmacy daily, and was encouraged every day with the support they received from the community.

"We take a lot of pride in what our team was able to accomplish over the last year," said Kyle. "From starting Covid testing in November, to providing our first Covid vaccines in January, we've been able to help so many residents of Whitefish Bay and surrounding communities"

Business has increased as well, as many Whitefish Bay residents who were used to

the warm, personal experience and services that an independent pharmacy provides, were delighted to find a new pharmacy home.

"At least once a day, we would have someone come in for a vaccine and state, 'I am so glad you are here, I miss my old independent pharmacy!', Kyle said, "It gave us a really unique opportunity to showcase our services and the level of care you receive from our team."

Some of those services include free home delivery of prescriptions, bubble packing medications, and synchronizing the fills of prescriptions to one date a month. "This simplifies the patient experience and increases compliance on important medications," said Kyle.

"So much of what drove our desire to own a pharmacy in the North Shore was to provide simple and local care. We see time and time again where we are able to help





a family or individual who is struggling to manage their medications with our services and personal care"

For someone that has never tried an independent pharmacy, Kyle says the easiest step to take is to stop by or give them a call. His team of three full-time pharmacy technicians and full-time staff pharmacist have a combined 80+ years of pharmacy experience, and take pride in working for a small business focused on helping people.

Outside of the pharmacy, Kyle and Gretchen stay busy with their two children, Erik and Evie, and their dog Winston. They look forward to having their kids start school at Atwater for kindergarten and in Holy Family's 3K program this fall. Gretchen is a Physical Therapist at Columbia St. Mary's, having complet-

ed her Doctor of Physical Therapy at Marquette University. Kyle studied at the University of Iowa, and the two met while living on the East Side.. They have been married since 2014 and moved to Shorewood in 2015.

"The North Shore is such a fantastic place to raise a family, with so many services and amenities, and we're driven to make sure that North Shore Pharmacy is one of those amenities for families of all ages," said Gretchen.

For more information on the North Shore Pharmacy, visit them at 1421 E Capitol Drive in Shorewood, call 414-962-9665, or online at northshorepharmacy.org.

BY CHRISTINE MCBRIDE



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Can you believe that it is already August? I hope you enjoyed plenty of time with family and friends at in-person gatherings—events that were so missed last year! Last month, we welcomed the return of the WFB Art Festival, which featured so many talented artists, and the annual Side Walk Sale was again a fun day for all, with lively music from Big Style Brass Band, the Kids Adventure Zone and, as always, great deals for shoppers!

New this year, the 'First Thursdays of the Month' events in June and July were a great addition to the street, and we still have two more! On Thursday, August 5, join us on Silver Spring Drive for a few extra hours of shopping—and sipping. Participating stores will be open from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and will offer free samples of wine. Plus, enjoy live music by flamenco guitarist Evan Christian.

The Farmers' Market, with its extended hours, has also been a great success—and there's still time to check it out. Be sure to stop by the Aurora Parking Lot, 325 E. Silver Spring Drive, on Saturdays, now through October 16, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The fresh produce, farm fresh eggs and beautiful flowers are always so wonderful!

For more information on these events, and your local merchants, visit [www.MerchantsOfWhitefishBay.com](http://www.MerchantsOfWhitefishBay.com). Don't forget to follow and "like" us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ShopWFB/>.

Enjoy the last few weeks of summer!!

BY KATIE COMMER,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BID





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### Fall Recreation and Community Education Program Guides Expected Mid-August!

Whitefish Bay Mail Carriers should have the Fall Recreation and Community Education Guides delivered to Whitefish Bay residents by mid-August. Don't wait to sign up for your most wanted classes. Programs can fill quickly!

### Connects Before and After School Program is Currently Accepting Registration for the 2021-2022 school year.

The start of school is right around the corner. Do you have your before and after child care arrangements made yet? The Whitefish Bay School District's Connects program provides Before, After and K4 Wrap-Around Care for its students that attend Richard and Cumberland Elementary Schools. Registration for the 2021-2022 school year is currently in session. All registration takes place at the Recreation and Community Education Department; please call (414) 963-3801 for registration materials and assistance.

### Fall Flag Football Leagues Deadline is August 13

Are you ready for some football? Get your team together and plan to air it out for the trophy, Saturdays this fall starting September 11! We are looking for players in grades 1 through 8. A team t-shirt is included with registration. Further program and registration information is in the Summer and Fall Recreation Guides.

- ▶ **Fee:** \$70.00 Resident/  
\$80.00 Non-Resident
- ▶ **Registration Deadline:**  
Friday, August 13



### High School Community Fitness Center Fall Membership Renewal

Don't "fall" off your fitness schedule this year and remember to renew and/or register for your Fitness Center Membership in time for the Fall 2021 season! Seasonal rates: \$120.00 residents, \$100 resident seniors. Tours available on request. Contact the Recreation and Community Education Department, at 414-963-3947, for registration information and tour requests.



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# WHITEFISH BAY SENIOR "55 AND BETTER" PROGRAMS ....In the Community for the Community



## We look forward to seeing you AGAIN!

The Fall Recreation Guide will be bringing back some senior in-person social programming, including a Thanksgiving Feast! Please remember to stay tuned and keep a look out for our Fall Recreation Guide. We looked forward to bringing our seniors together again.

BY CARIN KELAND, DIRECTOR OF RECREATION AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION



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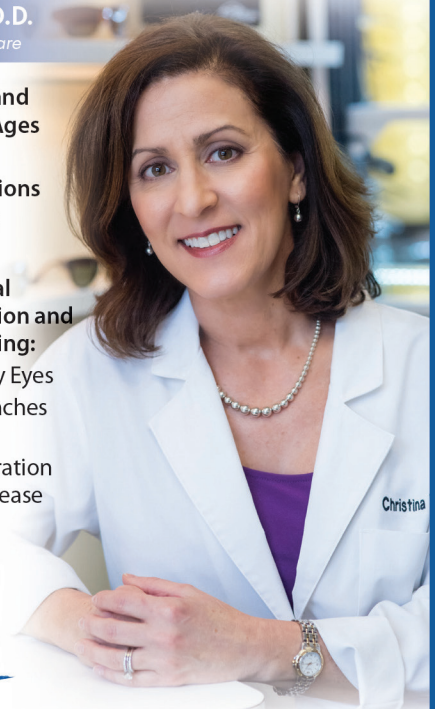
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# A "SOCIAL" AND "SOUNDS" *Make Summer Sizzle*

**THE CIVIC FOUNDATION'S** annual Ice Cream Social will return to School House Park, on Wednesday, August 4, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. We will have some safety modifications at this free, family event to ensure that all can enjoy this great tradition. Watch our Facebook page for final details.

Sounds of Summer will return to Silver Spring Drive on Saturday, August 14, from 5:00 to 10:00p.m. Dance the night away to live music from Whitefish Bay's own Steve Beguhn and Cold Sweat & The Brew City Horns.

- ▶ You've seen him on the 4th and Pumpkin Fest. You've seen him riding a tiny moped door-to-door on his "SB Kind" tour during the pandemic. Now, see him like you never have before—a special, acoustic set at Sounds of Summer! Steve Beguhn is a Whitefish Bay resident and American Idol finalist. As you know, he brings it all to the stage. Every. Time. It's been a year, Whitefish Bay. Shake it off with one of our own. Shake it off with Steve.
- ▶ Cold Sweat: Cold Sweat is Wisconsin's premier show band, featuring some of the area's best musicians, multiple dynamic vocalists and the renowned three piece horn section, the Brew City Horns. Cold Sweat's energy, talent and non-stop fun will infect you until you can't help joining in.

Purchase dinner favorites from the Sendik's food tent and beer, wine and soda from the Civic Foundation. Thank you to the sponsors who make this event possible: Merchants of Whitefish Bay, Sendik's Food Market, Keller Williams Realty, and the Ellenbecker Investment Group.

**BY TOM GLEASON, WHITEFISH BAY CIVIC FOUNDATION PRESIDENT**



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## School District

### In-Person Learning for the 2021-22 School Year

The District will return to five days a week, in-person learning, for the 21-22 School Year. New and returning families visit [www.wfbschools.com](http://www.wfbschools.com) or call for registration information.

- ▶ Cumberland School (414) 963-3943
- ▶ Richards School (414) 963-3951
- ▶ Middle School (414) 963-6800
- ▶ High School (414) 963-3928



The District will return to the traditional school year calendar for the 2021-22 school year. Updates will occur monthly at the Committee of the Whole Meetings.

### Annual Meeting, Budget Hearing and State of the District Address

- ▶ Wednesday, September 1, 2021, at 7 PM
- ▶ Whitefish Bay High School
- ▶ All are invited and welcome to attend.
- ▶ For more information, please visit [www.wfbschools.com](http://www.wfbschools.com)

BY MCKENNA SHAFFER, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR & BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Address	List Price	Address	List Price
4730 N Woodburn St.	\$525,000	5238 N Shoreland Ave.	\$839,900
1200 E Courtland Pl.	\$649,900	511 E Monrovia Ave.	\$995,000
423 E Lexington Blvd.	\$675,000	616 E Carlisle Ave.	\$995,900
1242 E Courtland Pl.	\$724,900	4668 N Lake Dr.	\$2,750,000

**SOLD**

Address	List Price	Sold Price	Address	List Price	Sold Price
6110 N Santa Monica Blvd.	\$375,000	\$420,000	6257 N Bay Ridge Ave.	\$499,900	\$462,000
170 E Birch Ave.	\$399,900	\$441,000	4611 N Woodburn St.	\$624,900	\$662,500
4850 N Santa Monica Blvd.	\$400,000	\$465,000	756 E Lexington Blvd.	\$629,000	\$700,000
6252 N Santa Monica Blvd.	\$408,499	\$375,000	5954 N Kent Ave.	\$699,900	\$685,000
4948 N Hollywood Ave.	\$409,900	\$415,000	5267 N Diversey Blvd.	\$725,000	\$700,000
301 E Carlisle Ave.	\$439,000	\$452,500	6201 N Berkeley Blvd.	\$950,000	\$974,500
5537 N Bay Ridge Ave.	\$445,000	\$455,000	835 E Glen Ave.	\$1,250,000	\$1,300,000
4714 N Sheffield Ave.	\$469,900	\$470,000	2034 E Glendale Ave.	\$1,395,000	\$1,290,000
4930 N Cumberland Blvd.	\$489,000	\$569,900	4687 N Lake Dr.	\$1,495,900	\$1,400,000

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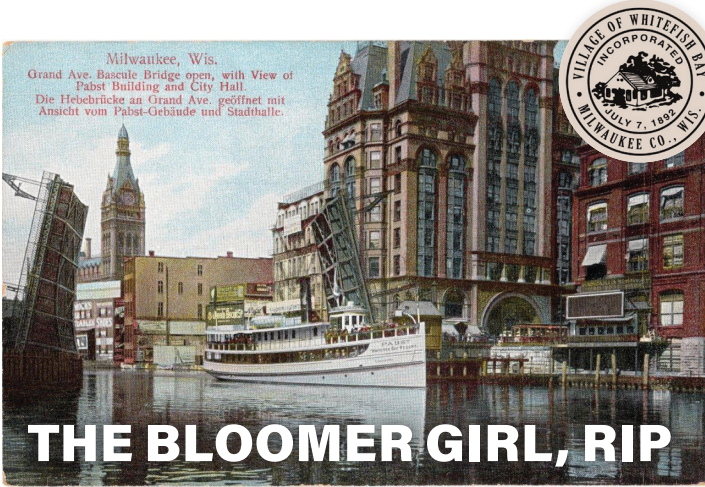
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## THE SUMMER HOUSING MARKET IS HOT!

*Contact me to learn what the information above means to you!*





## THE BLOOMER GIRL, RIP

**W**hen guests at the Pabst Whitefish Bay Resort traveled from sweltering downtown Milwaukee to the pleasant lakeside retreat, they had several ways to get there. By horse-and-buggy on the dirt—later planked—Lake Drive Turnpike (hot and bumpy). By train via the Dummy Line trolley or MLS&W railway (smelly and noisy). Or by Lake Michigan schooner (cool and breezy). On steamy summer days, by boat was the way to go.

There were numerous steamships that sailed the lake route, several owned by one-time sea captain Frederick Pabst, including the Chequamegan, Eagle and Naomi. Best-remembered, perhaps due to her charming name, was the Bloomer Girl.

The beam for the 109-foot wooden steamer was laid in 1894 in Chicago where she was built to serve the Pabst resort. Docked on the Milwaukee River alongside the Grand Avenue Bridge next to the Pabst Building (See photo. Note the English and German text.), she ferried 200 passengers full-circle, four times a day, at a roundtrip cost of 25 cents, to the dock at the foot of Henry Clay St. Bicycles were carried free. An on-board orchestra entertained passengers enroute. She had a seven-man crew.

“The Bloomer Girl of tender memory,” as one scribe wrote, made her last run on July 3, 1903. She was sold to the Little Traverse Bay Ferry Co., renamed the Silver Spray, and operated along the east coast of Upper Michigan’s Keweenaw Peninsula in Lake Superior. In 1911, she was purchased by the Lincoln Park Boat Line Co. of Chicago and did excursions along Lake Michigan’s southern shore.

On July 15, 1914, the Silver Spray (nee Bloomer Girl) met her end when she ran aground on Morgan Shoal, a shallow reef 3 to 10 feet deep about 200 yards off the University of Chicago campus, where she was headed to pick up 200 UC students to take them on a tour of the Gary, IN, steel mills. A three-day effort to pull her free was unsuccessful. Lake storms eventually broke her up.

Remains of the steamer still lie on the shoal. The boiler juts above the waterline while other metal remains, including the propeller and 50-foot drive shaft, are below. Today, over a century later, the remnant of the former Bloomer Girl is a popular spot for snorkelers to explore.

BY TOM FEHRING AND JEFF AIKIN

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# Preparing Your Dog for Returning to Work and School



AS WE FIND OURSELVES PREPARING to go back to work and school we need to help our dog adjust to spending more time alone. Here are some steps you can take to make the transition easier:

- ▶ It's best to slowly acclimate your pup into a new routine. In the weeks prior to your first day back, start leaving your dog alone for short periods of time, gradually increasing them. Be sure to keep your hellos and goodbyes low-key so your entrances and exits seem as uneventful as possible.
- ▶ While making sure your dog gets plenty of exercise is always important, it's even more crucial to help them adjust to your new schedule. Be sure to set your alarm so you have at least 30 minutes to spend giving your dog some exercise before you leave for the day.
- ▶ Toys that provide your dog with mental stimulation, such as puzzle games and objects that hide treats, can keep dogs busy for hours.
- ▶ The silence of an empty house can be alarming for your dog after months of steady companionship. Studies have shown that playing music for dogs can help them feel less lonely, so leave the radio on (Classical works best!).

Following these tips can help your dog adjust to your new routine much more smoothly.

BY KAREN SPARAPANI




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## SUMMER READS



**N**ot quite ready to travel by plane, train or automobile? Let books transport you to distant lands and powdery, sandy beaches while you stay snug and safe at home. Here are some books that will make you feel like you've vacationed in Australia or Greece or walked on the sandy beaches of Hawaii without ever leaving your home.

*The Unhoneymooners* by Christina Lauren is a light-hearted romance that follows twin sisters Olive and Ami, one who believes she is unlucky while the other appears to have all the luck. Things change after Ami's wedding when she's not able to go on her honeymoon to Maui and sister Olive goes in her place.

Take a canoe trip through beautiful Northern Canada with Peter Heller's *The River*—an exciting adventure that will have you on the edge of

your seat. Jack and Wynn's plan for a leisurely summer camping trip turns dangerous when they get caught up in an unexpected wildfire while helping a stranger find his missing wife.

Always wanted to travel to Greece? Try *Honestly, We Meant Well* by Grant Ginder set in the beautiful Greek Isles. Follow the dysfunctional Wright family as they travel the Greek countryside and find redemption and forgiveness along the way.

Travel to Africa with Peter Allison's *Whatever You Do, Don't Run (True Tales of a Botswana Safari Guide)*. Enjoy Allison's adventures on safari and the beautiful landscape with exotic animals that make Botswana a top travel destination.

BY LAURA REILLY, REFERENCE ASSISTANT

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# Two Big Reasons

## TO STOP USING LAWN CHEMICALS



### Two Big Reasons to Stop Using Lawn Chemicals

- ▶ The health of your family
- ▶ The health of our planet

Traditional lawn care products and lawn services use synthetic fertilizers and chemical herbicides that put our families, pets and the health of our planet at risk. Study after study links the use of pesticides and herbicides to many kinds of cancers, nervous system disorders and other illnesses. In 2019 Bayer was held liable for thousands of claims linking exposure to Roundup to cancer cases.

Chemical fertilizers may make your grass look healthier, but it is only skin deep. A synthetic chemically managed lawn has few natural defenses and is unable to nurture or heal itself. Lawns treated with

synthetic chemicals are monocultures, consisting of one kind of grass, creating a desert for birds and bees. Organic treatments enhance the soil, strengthening it, building its structure and balancing its PH so nutrients are available to plant roots, resulting in a lawn more resilient to pests and draught. Organic lawns will become home to many different plants, including some that many have seen as weeds from the 1950s on. Organic lawns are actually rich sources of food for birds, pollinators and insects that are beneficial to us. Watch the Village Newsletter and our website for steps to create a beautiful organic lawn. <https://www.whitefishbaygardenclub.com/lawn-and-garden-tips/first-things-first-know-your-lawn>

BY JILL GRIFFEE ROSS, PHOTO BY LAURA NANKIN



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(Pictured with family at Taylor’s Restaurant at Saint John’s, July 2019)

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# Stay WATER & SUN Safe This August

**S**wimming and other water activities are great ways to cool off from the summer heat, stay active and have fun! Wisconsin is home to over 15,000 lakes, 84,000 miles of rivers and hundreds of coastal miles along Lake Michigan and Lake Superior, making it a great place for water recreation. Water activities offer many benefits, but they are not risk free. However, there are safety measures we can all take to make the water a safe place for everyone and reduce the risk of harm.

The Wisconsin DNR shares the following tips to help you stay safe on the water, avoid getting sun burned and avoid getting sick if there are elevated bacteria levels in the water:

- ▶ **Never** swim alone. Bring a buddy!
- ▶ **Stay** in designated swimming areas.
- ▶ **Wear** a life jacket or use another floatation device if you are in a boat, not a strong swimmer or if you plan to be in the water for an extended period of time.
- ▶ **Know** your swimming ability.
- ▶ **Wash** your hands before eating.
- ▶ **Shower** after swimming.
- ▶ **Avoid** swallowing water.
- ▶ **Avoid** swimming after heavy rain.
- ▶ **Check** online, at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Beaches>, to make sure there is no water quality advisory before swimming. The health department tests for elevated levels of Escherichia coli twice a week at Atwater, Klode and Doctors Park. Signs are posted at each beach indicating whether or not the water is safe to swim in.



Summer heat and humidity can be a dangerous combination. The best way to prevent sunburn and skin cancer is to avoid being outdoors in intense sunlight for too long, and to practice sun safety when you are outdoors:

- ▶ **Drink** plenty of fluids.
- ▶ **Spend** part of your day in shaded areas.
- ▶ **Wear** sunglasses that absorb at least 90 percent of UV sunlight.
- ▶ **Apply** sunscreen (SPF 30 or higher) before heading out in the sun, reapply after swimming and wear a wide-brimmed hat.

BY KAYLA BONACK, MPH, PUBLIC HEALTH SPECIALIST

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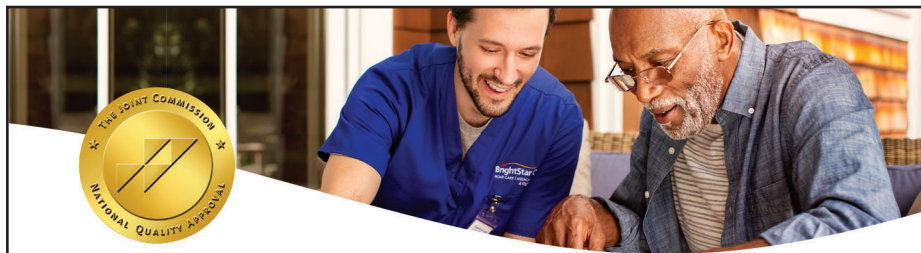


AS WE HAVE STARTED to ramp up our public education and public relations activities again in a post-pandemic world, we've made a lot of great community contacts. One question that frequently comes up is: Why does a Fire Engine or Ladder Truck Come to My Medical Call? This is a great question, and the answer is actually probably much simpler than you might think.

The simple answer is that all of our personnel are trained to at least the Emergency Medical Technician-Basic level (EMT-B). This means that every one of our more than 90 sworn personnel is licensed at minimum as an EMT-B in the State of Wisconsin. EMT's are trained to provide basic life support (BLS) level care. This includes airway management, splinting and bandaging of wounds, CPR & defibrillation, bleeding control and administration of some basic medications. These providers may be riding on one of our ambulances or even a fire engine or ladder truck.

In addition to the EMT-B's, more than half of our personnel are trained to the Paramedic level (EMT-P). Paramedics are the highest level of pre-hospital emergency care in the area. These members are trained above the EMT-B level to provide advanced medication therapies, start and manage intravenous lines (IV's), place advanced airways, perform invasive procedures to treat a collapsed lung or remove fluid from around the heart, provide advanced assessment of cardiac rhythms and more. Like our EMT-B's, when staffing permits, you may find

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some of these paramedic providers riding on our fire engines or trucks in addition to on our ambulances. Additionally, some more critical emergencies may require some extra hands, so our dispatchers may send some additional resources (another ambulance or fire engine/truck) to the scene to assist.

Therefore, the long answer to the question at the start of the article is this: Our goal is to get the right care providers to your side during your emergency in order to begin stabilization and treatment. If that means that the fire engine that might happen to be just down the street responds in addition to our ambulance that can transport you to the hospital, then that is what we'll do. As an organization, we pride ourselves on providing timely, patient centered and professional emergency care to all those who live, work and visit the seven communities we are proud to serve.

Do you have a question you'd like answered about a service or program we provide? Feel free to submit them via our website at [www.nsfire.org](http://www.nsfire.org), or email them to me at [dtyk@nsfire.org](mailto:dtyk@nsfire.org).



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# BUYING A HOUSE IN A SELLER'S MARKET



**Y**ou've certainly heard about the strength of the real estate market. A perfect storm of low inventory, attractive interest rates and big buyer pool has made it one of the hottest markets in decades. The tables are definitely tipped in favor of Sellers. So how does a Buyer compete? Here are some winning strategies.

## Have the Right Mindset

Competing with several Buyers for the same home can be nerve-racking. Enter fully understanding that the market is highly competitive and that you'll be forced to make uncomfortable decisions. You're going to feel pressure. You've got to get to the house fast; decide quickly; and get ready for a competitive battle.

## Understand the Levers

There's only so much you can do to make an offer attractive to sellers. It ultimately comes down to two things: price and contingencies (reward and risk). The offer price gets most of the focus. However, contingencies are important too. Financing, appraisal, inspection, and testing contingencies are all viewed as risk by the seller. Which of these might you be willing to waive? Earnest money is how a Buyer demonstrates their commitment to a property. Three to five percent impresses Sellers. Align your closing date with Seller's needs and consider giving them a few days after closing to transition to their next home. Savvy Realtors can help you package the best combination of price and terms to create a winning offer package.

## Best Offer Upfront

You may never have a second chance to improve your offer when competing with several other Buyers. So, don't hold back for subsequent negotiations. Always lead with your best offer.

## Know your Limits

Always have a clear understanding of your limits. You don't want to win just for the sake of winning. Know what you can afford and your tolerance for accepting the risk of no financing, appraisal or inspection contingencies. No one benefits if Buyer's Remorse sets in later.

## Be Ready to Move Forward



Earlier this year, I represented a Buyer that competed with 22 others for the same home. That's less than a 5% chance of winning. I've also worked with clients who wrote an offer that was \$50,000 over the asking price and didn't win. I have Seller

clients that got well over \$100,000 over their original asking price. Stories like these abound. The reality is that the probability of having the winning offer can be low. So, do your best to not get emotionally attached to any particular home, and be ready to move on. An even better home may be in your future!



SUBMITTED BY ESSAM ELSAFY,  
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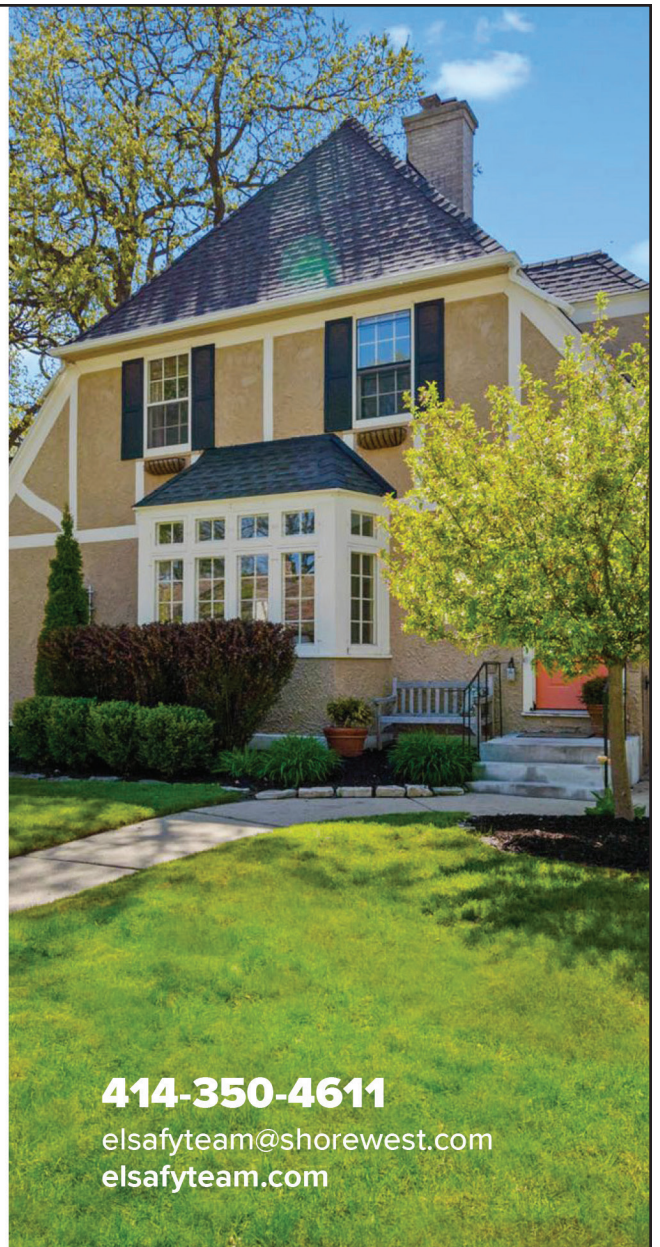
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