



MILWAUKEE COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
& HUMAN SERVICES  
**AGING & DISABILITIES  
SERVICES**

# Handy

# News & Notes

## **Milwaukee Community Update – May 2026**

The month of May is associated with abundance, growth, new beginnings, and the beauty of nature! Allow this month's newsletter to introduce all things new, abundant, and growing beautifully in Milwaukee County! Explore & enjoy!



Department of Health and Human Services  
Aging and Disabilities Services  
Recognizes Older Americans Month

Celebrated every May, Older Americans Month (OAM) is led by the Administration for Community Living (ACL). Established in 1963, OAM is a time to recognize older Americans' contributions, highlight aging trends, and reaffirm commitments to serving older adults in our communities.

This year's theme, "Champion Your Health," focuses on prevention, wellness, and personal responsibility as cornerstones of healthy aging. It encourages older adults to take an active role in their health — advocating for themselves, accessing preventive care, and making informed decisions that support independence.

Milwaukee County Aging is proud to advocate for our residents and for Older Americans Act programs and services that focus on evidence-based disease prevention and health promotion services, including offering wellness workshops like Health Living with Diabetes, Stepping On, and Walk with Ease. These programs are provided by trained facilitators throughout the county to promote healthy living, independence and improved well-being.

Individuals can advocate for their own health and well-being by staying updated on preventive care and screenings, available through Medicare, building and maintaining social connections that support emotional well-being, and incorporating regular physical activity into daily life.

This Older Americans Month, communities and individuals alike can take steps to champion health and advance healthy aging.

# Project CLEAN & GREEN

Let's get clean and green Milwaukee!

Refresh your home with Milwaukee's annual Project Clean & Green program just in time for spring.



**PROJECT CLEAN & GREEN** is a city-wide program designed to foster neighborhood pride and ownership through coordinated clean up. Collection crews will target one zone each week from April 20-June 1 and collect up to six (6) cubic yards per property of unwanted furniture, mattresses or household items, and garden/yard debris in paper yard waste bags.

## How it Works

By 7 AM of your assigned Project Clean and Green day, residents should place their unwanted items at their **regular garbage collection point** – either the curb or alley line. In most cases, everything will be picked up on garbage collection day, but allow through the following business day for all items to be collected.

Residents must use brown paper yard waste bags available at area stores for their garden/yard waste. This is the only collection of the year for yard waste bags.

For curb pick-up, please ensure that all items are kept out of the street and instead placed along the area between the sidewalk and curb, on the lawn edge if there is no sidewalk, or at the end of the driveway. For alley collection, place items at the alley line.

## Items Not Accepted

DPW **will not pick up** appliances, tires, TVs and other electronics (such as computers, printers, scanners, tablets, etc.), construction debris, paint and paint thinner, motor oil, and other hazardous waste. We encourage making use of DPW Drop Off Centers or [MMSD](#) to properly dispose of those items.

*Please note: This program is only available for 1-4 dwelling unit residences serviced by the City of Milwaukee. DPW Sanitation does not collect from apartment complexes (5 or more units) or businesses.*

To access the website for more information, please visit:  
[Project Clean & Green](#)

## ILLEGALLY PARKS CARDS

You are ***ILLEGALLY*** PARKED!  
[@MKECoOPD](#)

The Milwaukee County Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD) has a supply of these cards. If you'd like some, please contact Jacqueline Formanek at 414-278-3938 or email [jacqueline.formanek@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:jacqueline.formanek@milwaukeecountywi.gov) with your complete name and mailing address.



# WHEELCHAIR SOFTBALL

## TRY*i*T

SUNDAY MAY 31ST

● 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

MacDowell Montessori School  
6415 W Mount Vernon Ave,  
Milwaukee, WI 53213



**WASA**  
WISCONSIN ADAPTIVE SPORTS ASSOCIATION  
Be Bold. Belong. Become.



**WASA IS LAUNCHING A SOFTBALL TEAM THIS SUMMER!  
COME TRY IT OUT AND SEE IF IT'S A GOOD FIT FOR YOU.  
FREE, ALL ABILITIES, ALL AGES, EQUIPMENT PROVIDED**



## **What is BOLD?**

BOLD is open to all legally blind people. Event participation is free. BOLD's purpose is to allow the blind and visually impaired to experience outdoor sports and leisure activities while developing their social and athletic skills.

## **BOLD Activities for May:**

### **Birding by Ear**

Expand your birding skills by taking your bird identification to the next level. Beginners, experienced birdwatchers, and birders alike are invited to come and learn to identify birds by their songs and calls. We will use ornithologist tips and tricks from the field to learn 10-ish species and test new skills with live birds on accessible trails.

### **Virtual Bingo**

You are invited to a virtual Bingo game! You can use your own large print Braille and embossed card or provide the numbers of your own card. You can also request a PDF card to be emailed to you that can be printed. Only ONE CARD can be played per person and your card MUST be registered with the activity director.

### **Lisbon Community Park Bike and Hike**

Come and join the fun riding or hiking the Bugline bike trail. BOLD maintains a fleet of 13 tandem bicycles that can be adjusted to fit you. You will be paired with an experienced pilot, who will steer for you as you peddle on the rear seat. When you call to sign up, let us know if you will be biking or hiking. If you plan to hike and are bringing a guide dog, please let us know. Water bottles will be provided, and lunch will be served at 12:30pm by the Sussex Lions who graciously agreed to provide lunch for this event.

### **Rock Wall Climbing**

Adventure Rock has been serving the needs of climbers of all ages in Southeastern Wisconsin for over 20 years. Adventure Rock specializes in offering climbing experiences for new climbers, as well as seasoned rock jocks. All participants must fill out a visitor waiver agreement prior to the event. Lunch is held after the event.

For more information call Kevin Meyers, Outreach Director at 414-839-0635 or Ray Tweedale, President at 262-224-5517.

Milwaukee County Office for Persons with Disabilities & Milwaukee Community Sailing Center  
Proudly Announce:




# SAIL AWAY 2026 RESERVATION FORM

11 Dates Available – **Hoyer Lift is AVAILABLE**

Any person with a disability, older adult, their family and friends are invited to join us for a refreshing sail on Lake Michigan. The Sail Away launches from the Milwaukee Community Sailing Center, 1450 N Lincoln Memorial Dr., Milwaukee, WI.

Please complete this form and return it to: **Sail Away, Milwaukee County Office for Persons with Disabilities, 1230 W. Cherry Street, Milwaukee WI 53233** or Email to: [Jacqueline.formanek@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:Jacqueline.formanek@milwaukeecountywi.gov) Reservation requests will be limited as follows: 11 boats (32 people max) for the morning session and 7 boats (32 people max) in the afternoon session

X = Confirmed (office use only)		Times (Use an "X")		People Sailing (Use numbers please)		
		10:00am – 12:00pm	1:00pm – 3:30pm	Wheelchair ***	Non-wheelchair	Total
	Friday, June 5, 2026					
	Friday, June 12, 2026					
	Friday, June 26, 2026 <b>No Afternoon Boat</b>		NA			
	Friday, July 10, 2026 <b>No Afternoon Boat</b>		NA			
	Friday, July 17, 2026					
	Friday, July 31, 2026 <b>No Afternoon Boat</b>		NA			
	Friday, August 7, 2026					
	Friday, August 14, 2026					
	Friday, August 21, 2026					
	Friday, August 28, 2026 <b>No Afternoon Boat</b>		NA			
	Friday, Sept. 11, 2026					

**PROCEDURE**

Please mark [X1, X2, X3, etc.] in the appropriate box for the date and time desired in priority order.

Please use numbers (1,2,3 ...) to indicate the number of people wanting to sail in the appropriate column and total column.

Please complete the contact and accommodation information needed below.

The boat we will be using is an Ensign (see picture) and can accommodate up to four sailors. There is no charge for the sail.

**Reservations are required and will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.** If you have any questions, please call Jacqueline at 414-239-5679 or email [jacqueline.formanek@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:jacqueline.formanek@milwaukeecountywi.gov)

Other Recreation - If you are interested in other recreation please visit: [OPD Recreation Webpage](#)

**SAIL AWAY PROMO VIDEO**  
<http://bit.ly/SailAwayVideo>

**\*\*\* HOYER LIFT IS NOW AVAILABLE** and there **IS NO SPECIALIZED SEAT** for people with limited upper body mobility.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Special Accommodations**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# SPARK Leadership Camp 2026



**Join us for a fun week of learning!**

SPARK Camp -Speaking up, Promoting change, Advocating rights, Raising voices, Kindling confidence-is a week long summer program for high school students with disabilities in the Milwaukee area. Build confidence, make and learn how to use your voice to create change!

**June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2026 – June 26<sup>th</sup> 2026 10am – 4pm**

**\*\*Please note on June 26<sup>th</sup> we will end at 2pm \*\***

**At Independence First**

**540 South 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Milwaukee, WI 53204**

## **Some of the Benefits:**

- Make New Friends
- Learn about healthy and safe relationships
- Develop valuable advocacy skills
- Be heard and empowered

## **Fun Activities:**

- Songwriting & Music Production
- Games & Raffles
- Comedy Sportz
- Zen Gardens

**To apply (seats are limited) and to request accommodations,**

**Contact: Kristin Stern at 414-226-8332 or [YLS@independencefirst.org](mailto:YLS@independencefirst.org)**

**Reasonable Accommodations** Independence First is committed to providing the highest degree of accessibility when offering agency-sponsored events. Please notify **Kristin Stern** at **414-226-8332 V/Relay** or **[KStern@independencefirst.org](mailto:KStern@independencefirst.org)** with your disability-related accommodation requests by 2 weeks before the group meeting. We will do our best to honor accommodation requests made after this date.

**Environmental Chemical Sensitivities** For the safety and comfort of those with chemical and environmental sensitivities, Independence First requests that when attending agency-sponsored events, please refrain from using any perfumed products such as scented soaps, deodorants, perfumes, colognes and heavily scented fabric softeners. To maintain a smoke-free environment, please also refrain from smoking in paths of travel and doorways.

**Click the link to access the SPARK Leadership Camp application.**

[SPARK YLSapplication26.docx](#)



## Would you like to assist with a research study that can help make streets safer for pedestrians?

Researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee are seeking participants to inform a transportation planning tool called Pedestrian Level of Traffic Stress (PLTS). To be eligible to participate in a focus group, you must meet the following criteria:

Participants must be **either** an older adult (age 75 or over) **or** an adult who has at least one disability (e.g., sensory: vision, sensory: hearing, physical/mobility, mental: learning/remembering/concentrating). People who are older adults and have at least one disability are also welcome, but having both characteristics is not required.

Participants **must be at least 18 years old** and **able to communicate in English** or attend with a caretaker or volunteer who can translate to and from English. **Participants must be able to either walk/roll independently for 0.75 miles within 45 minutes or attend with a caretaker or volunteer who can help them walk/roll for 0.75 miles within 45 minutes.**

All participants will be provided with a \$50 gift card. You will be required to complete a consent form prior to participating in a focus group on the day of the PLTS validation session.

**Saturday, May 9, 2026**

10 am - 12 pm

**Independence First**

540 South 1st Street

Milwaukee, WI 53204

**Event description:** We will meet **inside** in the conference room at Independence First to review the research study, sign consent forms, and discuss the event plan. We will then walk/roll for approximately 0.5 - 0.75 miles. Researchers will ask participants to rate street crossings and road segments, and to provide general feedback about streets. We will return to Independence First to share additional feedback. All walking/rolling will be as a group. Participants will not be asked to cross or walk/roll along streets alone.



**Register!**

[https://milwaukee.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_1AoTEHCnPOslcX4](https://milwaukee.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1AoTEHCnPOslcX4)

**For questions, please contact  
Dr. Robert Schneider:**

rjschnei@uwm.edu  
(414) 977-7740





10150 W National Ave, Suite 100  
West Allis, 53227

Vision Forward offers on-going recreation classes for adults to get together and socialize. All classes are run by volunteers.

**Advanced registration is necessary for all classes.** For questions, or to register, contact **Elle Henderson** at **414-615-0161** or email [ehenderson@vision-forward.org](mailto:ehenderson@vision-forward.org).

**Activities/Meetings**

These are typically held at Vision Forward Association in a meeting area on the third floor, unless otherwise indicated.

**New times and days for 2026!**

**Tuesdays**

Activity - Day	Time	Room
<u>Games</u> - first and third weeks.	1pm-2pm	B
<u>Farkle</u> - second and fourth weeks.		
<u>Closer Look</u> - first and third weeks.	1pm-2pm	A
<u>Book Lovers</u> - second and fourth weeks.		
<u>Bingo</u> - Every week	2:15pm-3:45pm	B
<u>Fitness</u> Every Week.	2:15pm-3:45pm	A

**Thursdays**

Activity - Day	Time	Room
<u>Knitting</u> - Every Week	9:15am – 10:15am	A
<u>Bingo</u> - Every Week	9:15am – 12pm	B



## **Miracle League registration is open for Summer 2026.**

Come and play at a place where everyone is welcome! Miracle League is a baseball program for anyone who does not fit into a typical baseball program. Players are paired with a volunteer on the field to assist with any needs they may have or make a new friend and hang out.

Each night athletes will spend the first 10-15 minutes warming up with their player partner practicing throwing, catching, running the bases, hitting, and fielding. Games are a minimum of 2 innings (more when time permits) and are non-competitive, so each athlete gets a hit and ends up on base. There are no outs in this division, as our emphasis is on fun, friendship, and play. As play progresses, athletes will be encouraged to work towards progressing their baseball skills and knowledge.

### **Schedule:**

Ages 4-7: Tuesdays 6-7pm

Ages 8-12: Wednesdays 6-7pm

Ages 13-15: Mondays 6-7pm OR 7-8pm

Ages 16+: Thursdays 6-7pm OR 7-8pm

Game schedule will be released at the end of May.

Player Fee: \$40/person. Y membership NOT required to participate.

Location: MSOE Raiders Stadium at Maslowski Park. 2200 Bender Road, Glendale WI, 53209

Register online at: <https://www.ycamke.org/programs/adaptive-active/>

Or Call Rebecca Franklin at 414.357.2811

CLTS, IRIS, and other third party pay accepted



RSVP HERE!



THE ABILITY CENTER

RampUp<sup>4</sup>  
Universal Community

**FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY**

**INCLUSIVE** bike rides, **ADAPTIVE** yard games, a cookout, music and more!

# EVERYBODY RIDES TOGETHER!



**Saturday, May 30th, 2026**

1pm-4pm

**TRY OUR ACCESSIBLE HAND BIKES!**

OR BRING YOUR OWN BIKE!

## Wheel Fun Rentals

*Veterans Park South Bike Rentals*

1500 N Lincoln Memorial Drive

Milwaukee, WI 53202





## EMPLOYMENT TRAINING PROGRAM

### *Job Ready: Essential Skills for Life*

Our hands-on, 12-month training program helps people with disabilities (age 18+) develop the essential job and social skills needed to gain employment. Training happens in a supportive, small class where trainees build self-esteem, increase their independence and build friendships.

#### **Trainees learn:**

Time management • Effective communication & social skills • Handling constructive feedback • Consistent production and packaging • Workplace safety and cleanliness • And more!

**Apply Today!**



8649 N. Port Washington Rd.  
Fox Point, WI. 53217

[fcwi.org/etp](http://fcwi.org/etp)  
414-755-5855

## Into the workforce

Graduates receive a professional resume and letter of recommendation that highlights their needs, abilities, and interests to support job placement that fits.

Post-graduation, we collaborate with the trainee's family and support team to assist with job placement. Many of these placements happen through our network of 80+ local businesses that foster safe, accessible, and inclusive employment opportunities.



We are partnering with Milwaukee County Aging and Disability Services (ADS) to provide a stipend to all Employment Trainees upon graduation. Details will be provided upon enrollment in the program.



 **FriendshipCircle**  
of Wisconsin



# WALK OR BIKE 4 FRIENDSHIP

**3 Ways To Participate**  
**All Abilities Welcome / Choose Your Event:**

**1**  
**WALK OR BIKE**  
1-3 Miles

**2**  
**BEGINNER RIDE**  
30 Miles

**3**  
**ADVANCED RIDE**  
60 or 100 Miles



- Get Involved:**
- ✓ Volunteer
  - ✓ Donate
  - ✓ Be an Individual or Corporate Sponsor
  - ✓ Fundraise

**JUNE 28, 2026**  
**9:00 AM**

**Ellsworth Park in Bayside**

Join Friendship Circle for a one-of-a-kind adventure supporting people with disabilities and mental health challenges. Whether you walk one mile or bike 100 miles, you'll be part of a vibrant community built on love, support, and belonging. Enjoy catered meals from Friendship Cafe, family-friendly activities, and encouragement from start to finish.

Get involved and register today at: [FCWI.ORG/BIKE](http://FCWI.ORG/BIKE) or scan here



**WEHR YOUR ADVENTURE AWAITS**

# RESERVE AN AAW OUTDOOR WHEELCHAIR

[WEHRNATURECENTER.COM](http://WEHRNATURECENTER.COM)



Working together on  
"Outdoors Access 4 All!"



## ALL PEOPLE | ALL SEASONS

AAW's only Milwaukee County Host Site: Wehr Nature Center

9701 W College Ave Franklin, WI 53132 | 414-425-8550

# Fly into Spring



**BIRD PROGRAMS FOR ALL ABILITIES**

**APRIL 25**

**8AM-12PM**

## **Birding Beyond the Feeder : Basic ID**

Learn basic bird identification using behavior, field marks, shape, and more, then test your new skills on a hike.

## **Birding Beyond the Feeder: Birding by Ear**

Beginners and experienced birdwatchers and birders alike are invited to come and learn to identify birds by their songs and calls.

**MAY 2**

**9:30AM-12PM**

**MAY 3**

**9AM-4PM**

## **Birdathon for Birders with Vision Loss**

A global celebration for individuals who are blind or have low vision. No experience necessary. No fee. Register by calling Holly at Wehr.

## **Global Big Day Bird Count**

Join naturalists at Wehr or bird anywhere for as short or long as you want and record your sightings in eBird for the world's largest bird count & research project. No registration or fee.

**MAY 9**

**8AM-12PM**

**SUNDAYS**

**8AM**

## **Sunday Morning Wehr Birders**

Every Sunday at 8:00 am we meet in front of the visitor center for a birding hike led by volunteers and fellow birders. All levels of experience are welcome. No registration or fee.



Accessible options are available for all programs  
Registration and fee required for all programs unless noted differently above.  
For information about these programs contact Holly or Carol at 414-425-8550.

**MORE INFO VISIT [WWW.WEHRNATURECENTER.COM](http://WWW.WEHRNATURECENTER.COM)**

## PRIVATE PARTY RENTALS

Looking to book your next family gathering or community-group event? Weddings, family reunions, birthday parties, graduations, showers, organizational meetings, are among the many events held here each year. Both Wil-O-Way facilities are in beautiful Milwaukee County parks. The buildings are accessible and have a large hall and kitchen. The spacious grounds have picnic tables, walking trails, wading pools, and accessible playgrounds.

BOOK AN EVENT NOW!

Current Capacity 180 people

Check out the [Facility Guidelines](#) & [Facility Rentals Calendar](#).

Wil-O-Way Grant (South Milwaukee)



Wil-O-Way Underwood (Wauwatosa)



## SHARE HANDY NEWS & NOTES!

Do you work with someone or know someone who would be interested in or would benefit from the information in Handy News & Notes? If so, please refer them to the link below to sign up for this FREE information source.

<https://county.milwaukee.gov/EN/Sign-Up-for-E--Notify>

## OFFICE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (OPD)

Director: Jacqueline Formanek



P. Coggs Human Services Center • 1230 W Cherry St • Milwaukee County 53205

• (414) 239-5679 • 711 (TRS)

[Office Persons with Disabilities Website](#)