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From the Freeman negatives at the Waukesha County Museum

Ice skating at Wirth Park

This Jan. 13, 1989, photo depicted John Grum of Brookfield leading a group of younger skaters in a chain on the ice at Wirth Park in Brookfield.

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INDEPENDENCE

Ashley's focus is to motivate Carolyn to dress herself, shower, exercise, and keep her strong so she is safe and independent in her home.

Carolyn is an avid sports fan and talented artist. She loves her year round Christmas Tree which Ashley decorates monthly to give Carolyn the joy she deserves.

IT TAKES A TEAM

Yvette gave up living in her own home to be with mom at night. She says, "The time caregivers spend with mom provides me with the needed respite to continue caring for her myself. Comfort Keepers service is as much needed for mom as it is for me."

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Mother-daughter artist duo collaborate in exhibit

By Isabella Kostolni
 ikostolni@conleynet.com
 262-513-2651

WAUWATOSA — A Brookfield mother-daughter duo's celebrated their art collaboration recently at the Wauwatosa Public Library. Forty paintings were exhibited; 24 were Sheahan's and 16 were Stensberg's. Though their styles and techniques contrast greatly, the show has a certain flow to it. That was intentional.

"We laid it out so that our works, even though they're very different, work together in terms of colors or movements," Stensberg explained.

Her paintings create an interesting juxtaposition with her mother's, and Sheahan notes that the organization of the artwork is, in a sense, an invigorating experience. The intricacy of Sheahan's work strikes a balance with the looseness of Stensberg's. Each painting is in conversation with the next.

"The colors coordinate and it's very energetic to look at them," Sheahan noted.

There was no theme for the collection. At its heart, the pair says the show represented the sharing of a passion and the ongoing critique and appreciation of each other's work.

Nearly all of Sheahan's artwork is watercolor, highlighting scenes from nature, like landscapes, vegetation, and animals. Stensberg's, on the other hand, is non-representational abstract, meaning that the paintings aren't intended to depict anything from the real world. She uses acrylic paint on canvas and draws from within to craft her artwork.

"It's just whatever I'm feeling inside is something that's applied onto the canvas. It becomes a language, so to speak, with big brushstrokes or little brushstrokes," Stensberg explained. "It's a little bit more wild than my mom's artwork."

Sheahan's paintings often feature fine lines and smaller details. Titled "Tree Swing," one of her most special pieces in the collection is also one of her most emotional.

"One watercolor is a tree with a swing in it and there's no child on the swing. It's a big field of grass," she said. "And that represents my grandchildren. My grandchildren live far away."

Waxing

This painting also features a relatively new technique in Sheahan's repertoire: waxing. Rather than use a frame with glass to support the painting, she uses a wax on the painting to bind it to a wooden board. It is then buffed to a "dull shine," as Sheahan describes it. A handful of her other paintings in the exhibition utilize this same technique.

A cool tool

Upon viewing, Stensberg's paintings appear to have slightly more spontaneity. Each one starts with some mark making on the canvas. Out of all the tools at her disposal, there is one Stensberg gravitates toward that might seem unconventional.

"A lot of times, I'll use ice cubes and let them melt on the canvas a little bit with some color, just kind of let it move around," she said.

Other times, she'll blindly make marks on the canvas. Stensberg focuses on the movements rather than training her eyes on the surface before her. Then, she'll step back and evaluate the painting. Those initial designs will serve as the base for the artwork as she progresses.



Courtesy of Ann Sheahan

Brookfield artist Ann Sheahan (left) and her daughter, Wauwatosa artist Katie Stensberg (right), with a portion of their recent exhibition at the Wauwatosa Public Library.

“Be creative. That’s the bottom line. It’s so important. It’s so rewarding. It’s just really good for a person to do that in whatever they’re doing, even if they’re just decorating their house or gardening.”

— Ann Sheahan
Brookfield artist



Isabella Kostolni/Freeman Staff

Mother-daughter painting duo Ann Sheahan of Brookfield and Katie Stensberg of Wauwatosa had a collection on view at the Wauwatosa Public Library. The juxtaposition of their contrasting artistic styles highlights the color and movement of each piece.

bring her vision to life, and all of her paintings have a certain organic, individualistic flair about them.

"I don't want to be just a realistic painter, because I'm not a camera. I don't want to be a camera. I want to show that it's art," Sheahan explained.

And she hopes that anyone who views the paintings harnesses that same artistic creativity for themselves.

"Be creative. That's the bottom line. It's so important. It's so rewarding," Sheahan said. "It's just really good for a person to do that in whatever they're doing, even if they're just decorating their house or gardening."

Stensberg feels similarly. With experience not only painting in her own studio, but in installing murals throughout Wauwatosa, West Allis, and Milwaukee, she knows that exposing the community to art is vital, especially in nontraditional settings like libraries and other widely accessible public spaces.



Isabella Kostolni/Freeman Staff

A watercolor wax mounted on cradle board, Brookfield artist Ann Sheahan's painting titled "Tree Swing" is one of her more emotional paintings in the recent exhibition at the Wauwatosa Public Library. Featuring an empty tree swing in a wide field of grass, the painting represents her grandchildren who live far away.

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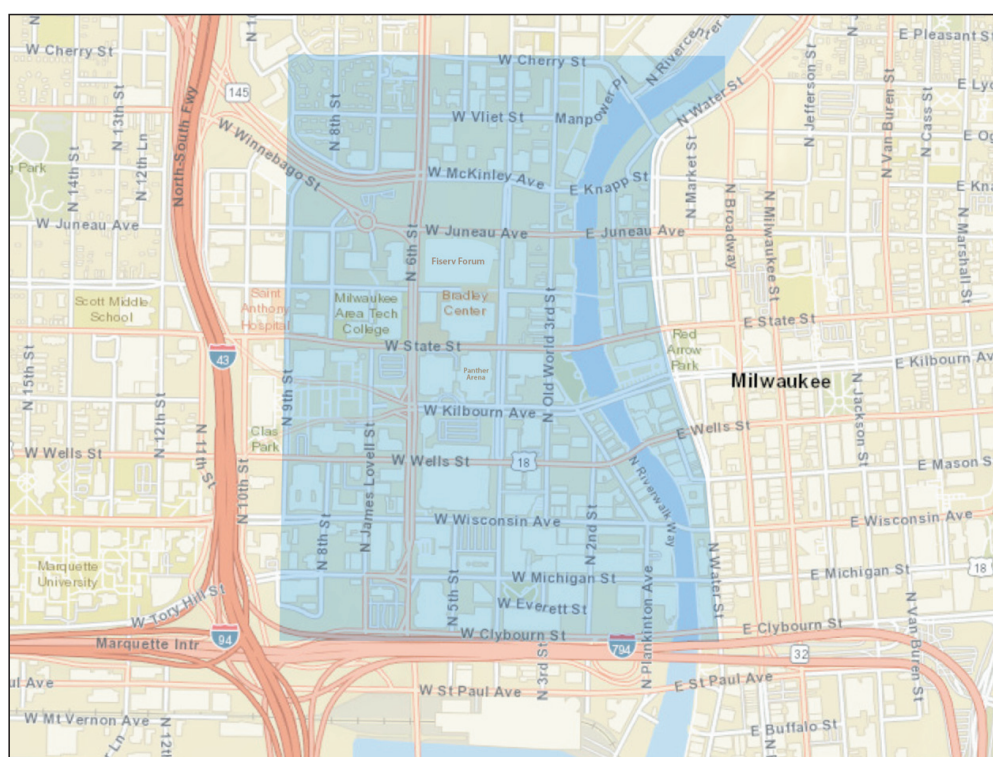
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• IN MEMORIAM (1943-2020) •
James E. Conley Jr.







Secret Service releases impact map for RNC security plan

MILWAUKEE — Safety and security will be crucial for the upcoming 2024 Republican National Convention. The U.S. Secret Service released a map of the general areas expected to be affected by the operational security plan for the convention which takes place in Milwaukee from July 15-18

The RNC will be mostly held at the Fiserv Forum, Baird Center (previously known as the Wisconsin Center) and Panther Arena. Other events will take place throughout the Milwaukee metro area, according to the city of Milwaukee website. Organizers estimate 50,000 delegates, media, law enforcement, staff and visitors will attend the RNC.

"The map is tentative and does not contain exact impacts, such as street closures, parking restrictions, or checkpoints. The map is designed to help members of the public get ready for the upcoming convention by providing them with initial information on whether their home, business or commute could potentially be affected by the security plan," according to a press release.

The full security plan for the 2024 Republican National Convention, including the official security perimeter, is still being worked on. Once that plan is finalized, information regarding traffic, parking and other public impacts will be shared with the public.

The city of Milwaukee is preparing for the RNC.

"The unique challenges of the secure zones as well as normal emergency operations throughout all of Milwaukee's neighborhoods are receiving equal attention. The Milwaukee Police Department and Milwaukee Fire Department, as well as the city and County Offices of Emergency Manage-

ment, are working closely with the United States Secret Service, Wisconsin Emergency Management, and other local, state and federal law enforcement partners to keep residents, businesses and visitors safe during the RNC," Milwaukee's website said.

The city of Milwaukee expects RNC security operations to be paid for by a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice.

"The Secret Service is conducting outreach efforts with individuals who may work or live within the security perimeter, in order to develop a security plan that minimizes public impact while still ensuring a safe and secure convention. Individuals will have multiple opportunities in the months leading up to the convention to speak with the Secret Service and its partners about the security plan and how it could affect them," the release said.

Waukesha County is involved in the operations of the RNC. Paul Farrow, Waukesha County Executive, previously told The Freeman. Farrow said the county will help out with law enforcement support and emergency operations support. The Health and Human Service team, especially public health, will be engaged. "A lot of it is at the direction of the Secret Service and other federal organizations. They bring together a network that says if there is any situation, how do we deal with it? They start those conversations. Similar to what we did when in 2020 the Democratic National Convention was in town. We had a lot of our departments that were engaged to help out and be prepared to assist wherever they might be," Farrow said.

The general impact map and frequently asked questions can be found on the city of Milwaukee's 2024 RNC webpage at: <https://city.milwaukee.gov/RNC>.

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Brookfield city documents

The playground in Wirth Park, 2585 Pilgrim Road, Brookfield, is about to get a major makeover that will transform it into an all-inclusive play area.

BROOKFIELD

Fundraising underway for all-inclusive playground at Wirth Park

BROOKFIELD — The playground in Wirth Park is about to get a major makeover. The existing equipment will be removed, and in its place, equipment that can be used by people of different physical abilities and all ages will be installed.

Renderings submitted by Lee Recreation show different kinds of swings, several slides, wheelchair-accessible playground equipment and benches for sitting in Wirth Park, 2585 Pilgrim

Road. Brookfield Park and Recreation Commission had sent out a bid for proposals for the playground that it should not exceed \$1 million and would be evaluated on cost, design, materials, and installation of a modular play structure and/or free-standing equipment appropriate for ages 2-12. Other factors included play value (quality vs. number of components), layout and design (variety of play areas and circulation)

and safety.

The Elmbrook Rotary Club is hosting a fundraising event on April 13 to help raise money for the new all-inclusive playground at Wirth Park.

More event and ticket sale details coming soon. In the meantime, donations can be made at <https://bit.ly/49d6fYG>.

The Wirth Park Playground Committee has been assigned the task of raising \$250,000.



Submitted photo

The song of the red-winged blackbird, a true harbinger of spring, warms hearts even in the mildest of winters.

The first sounds of spring

WAUKESHA — It's not the swallows returning to Capistrano but we'll certainly take it.

Former Freeman editor Libbie Nolan once called a certain current reporter to report the first hearing of the red-winged blackbird that year, as it was a Freeman tradition to report their arrival in the long-running "Up & Down Broadway" column.

When asked what the significance was, she explained that the "first robin of spring" may have been around here all year long as we live at the northern parts of its natural living area (although some migrate further north in summers). Indeed, the National Wildlife Federation says robins live in the continental U.S. year-round.

The red-winged blackbird, however, is migratory and often among the first migrating birds to return, heralding a spring that is not far behind.

And guess what one of us heard recently. It's been a mild winter, to be sure, but even with the snow that came later, know that just as the red-winged blackbirds return to the area, spring quickly follows.

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