



Elm Grove NEWS- INDEPENDENT



Vol. 9 No. 8

Serving Elm Grove, Wisconsin & Neighboring Communities

October 2021

Freedom of the Press is Essential. Community News Matters.

Elmbrook School District Enrollment Increases

By Eric Hagen

The District's total student enrollment of 7,700 continues to climb, nearing projections and already exceeding last year's enrollment by more than 400 students. In the first two weeks of August alone, the District welcomed 74 students and their families as residents move into the Elmbrook Community and complete their enrollments. Including 4-year-old and 5-year-old Kindergarten students, as well as move-ins, the District has more than 1,300 new students this year.

Superintendent **Mark Hansen** noted, "The School District of Elmbrook continues to be a destination District for families who seek a high-quality education with endless opportunities. I am excited for the (new) school year... (we welcomed) all of our students back to school on September 1.

In February 2021, the District projected enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year to be 7,755, a number that could be exceeded by the official enrollment count date in September. Even without the addition of its 4-year-old Kindergarten program, the District (was) expected to exceed last year's enrollment by 75-100 students. An accurate projection supports a detailed budget and staffing plan and is critical to the District's long-term success. The District's current resident enrollment totals are the highest in the 21st century, and were last seen in 1981.



Photo by Judy Moede

BROOKFIELD HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1961

held their 60th Anniversary of Graduation Reunion in Brookfield and Elm Grove from September 22 – 25.

City of Brookfield Mayor **Steve Ponto** (at left), Class Reunion organizer **Dean Moede** (center), and local historian **Stephen K. Hauser** (at right) pose with one of three proclamations, announcing that it was "Brookfield High School Class of 1961 Day" throughout the City and Town of Brookfield and Elm Grove.

(See story and more photos – Page 2)

Changes to Elm Grove's 2021 Property Tax Collection Process Announced

(ELM GROVE) The Village of Elm Grove's tax collection process has changed for the 2021 tax season. After the 2020 tax collection, Town Bank informed the Village that they will no longer be able to provide tax collection services out of their Elm Grove branch.

On April 13, 2021, Village staff met with Town Bank to discuss tax collection. Town Bank determined they no longer wish to accept tax payments at the local branch; this includes the giving of receipts. Town Bank offered 3 options to the Village: Have the Village collect 100% of the tax bills; Have Waukesha County collect the tax bills; or Utilize a Town Bank partnered Lockbox out of Milwaukee.

These options were based on the assumptions that 2,124 tax payments were taken by the branch over a 6-8 week period of time. They equated 177 hours associated with tax bill processing and cited a lack of teller vacation time at the end of the year and COVID-19 restrictions with social distancing.

Village Clerk **Michelle Luedtke** and Finance Director **Monica Hughes** took this item to the Administrative and Personnel Committee on May 13. The Committee agreed with the recommendation for the Waukesha County Treasurer to collect 2021 taxes.

If the Village Hall receives any tax payments, they will be forwarded to the County. Receipts will be available online 3-5 days after Waukesha County receives the payment. Waukesha County will automatically send a receipt to each resident by mail. This information will also be provided in the tax insert.

Open House
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Find more information at brookfieldacademy.org/Open-House



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"I Know Where You Live!"



Elisabeth Passalis-Bain

Spread *The News*!

As founder and owner and publisher and editor of *The News-Independent* (and a few things more) I am an enthusiastic, constant promoter of this community: our clubs and organizations, our schools, our churches, our local businesses, our residents --- young and old.

In an era when so many “small town” papers have ceased production due to dwindling circulation and a decrease in advertising revenue, the EGNU keeps “pressing” along. It is a testament to how much I love the News Business that has been a part of my life for decades, both here and in my home state of (Northern) California.

“Community News Matters”. I include that on Page 1 of every edition. If you believe that --- consider advertising or sponsoring one of our sections. Tell others about The Paper. Like *The Elm Grove News-Independent* on Facebook. News and information matter. Help me to provide it.



Photo by Elisabeth Passalis-Bain / News-Independent

FALL HAS ARRIVED as evidenced by this festive display in front of Fazio’s at the Elm Grove Park & Shop.

The Elm Grove News-Independent

has been a Chronicler of Elm Grove / Brookfield / Waukesha County for more than 11 years!

READ OUR CURRENT & MANY PAST EDITIONS AT WWW.ELMGROVE.NEWS



Photo by Judy Moede

Members of the Class of 1961 include **Jack Wunderlich** of Denver, Colorado (standing, in gray shirt), (to his right) **Don Davidson** of Rochester, Minnesota, and (to his right) **Dick Burany** of Fort Myers, Florida (holding a book) who was born and raised in Elm Grove. The Burany family owned the Sleepy Hollow Motel on Blue Mound Road from 1954-1976.

Brookfield High School Class of 1961 Holds Reunion

By Elisabeth Passalis-Bain elmgrovenews@yahoo.com

After 6 months of thoughtful planning, **Dean Moede’s** mission to coordinate a 60th Reunion of his Brookfield High School Class of 1961 has achieved by all counts nothing short of an A+.

Of the 240 class members of BHS, the only Elmbrook district high school that existed prior to the creation of Brookfield East, more than 40 travelled from locations far and near to attend a 4-day celebration, September 22 – 25. There was an evening gathering for a presentation by historian **Stephen K. Hauser**; “Class of 1961 Day” proclamations from the City and Town of Brookfield and Elm Grove; breakfast and dinners at 4 different local restaurants,

including Marty’s Pizza “an old Class of ’61 hangout”; and an exciting Brookfield Central vs. Marquette football game at which class members received enthusiastic cheers from the crowd. Attendees also took a special campus tour of Brookfield Central High School (formerly BHS) and discovered that it had certainly changed in many ways, but then so had they.

Moede, now living 100+ miles north in Menasha, Wisconsin, said, “It was a great, great weekend! After 60 years, although we might not all have known each other that well in high school, we are tightly bound now.”



Photo by Judy Moede

Some of the reunion group attend a presentation by historian **Steven K. Hauser** (standing, fourth from left) at the Regal Crest Condos in Brookfield. A special guest who travelled from Houston, Texas stands (at far left) with his sister **Donna Galletin Lautzenhiser** of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, who was born and raised near Ruby Farms in Brookfield and remembers the famous six-horse hitch at Jake Ruby’s Barn.



Photo by Judy Moede

Class of 1961 members stand side-by-side at the September 24th Brookfield Central vs. Marquette football game. Prior to Kick-off, they received a rousing welcome from the crowd. “It was heart-warming!” noted Dean Moede.



Village Recycling Center / Yard Waste Facility
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for Village residents only

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October 1st – 14th
Tuesday & Thursday: 3:30 – 7 p.m.
Saturday: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

October 15th – November 30th
Monday – Friday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Saturday: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sunday: Noon – 4 p.m.

Questions:
Call the Village at **(262) 782-6700**

Who’s Who at Village Hall

13600 Juneau Boulevard, Elm Grove, Wisconsin 53122
(262) 782-6700 www.elmgrovetwi.org

Village President: NEIL PALMER npalmer@elmgrovetwi.org
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GEORGE HAAS ghaas@elmgrovetwi.org
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TOM MICHALSKI tmichalski@elmgrovetwi.org
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Village Manager: DAVE DE ANGELIS ddeangelis@elmgrovetwi.org
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TOM HARRIGAN tharrigan@elmgrovetwi.org
Clerk/Deputy Treasurer: MICHELLE LUEDTKE
mluedtke@elmgrovetwi.org
Finance Director: MONICA HUGHES mhughes@elmgrovetwi.org
Municipal Judge: TIM STEINLE
Village Attorney: HECTOR DE LA MORA
Clerk of Courts: MARY DOYNE mdoyne@elmgrovetwi.org
Public Works Director: RICHARD PAUL, JR. rpauljr@elmgrovetwi.org
Forester: RON HILL forester@elmgrovetwi.org
Recreation Director: JEROD MIKKELSEN jmikkelsen@elmgrovetwi.org
Library Director: SARAH MUENCH muench@elmgrove.lib.wi.us
Elm Grove Public Library (262) 782-6717

POLICE – FIRE – MEDICAL EMERGENCY: CALL 9-1-1
Police Department (non-emergency) (262) 786-4141
Police Chief: JIM GAGE jgage@elmgrovetwi.org
Fire Chief: DAVID KASTENHOLZ dkastenholz@elmgrovetwi.org
Medical Director: Dr. JON ROBINSON jrobinson@elmgrovetwi.org

Village Update

By Neil Palmer, President – Village of Elm Grove npalmer@elmgrovetwi.org

Paving on Highland Drive has been completed and thanks to a significant drop in the price of asphalt we were able to pave Upper & Lower Ridgeway and Meadow Lane. The Village Public Works staff and Public Works Committee have been working hard this year to create a road repair/paving priority list and the Village staff and Finance Committee and Board have been exploring alternative financing options. This work also includes pricing of new pathways. **The Ad hoc Pathway Committee will meet soon to continue prioritizing recommendations for construction of new pathways.**

The **Village Board Finance Committee has begun the annual work to craft a proposed Village Budget** for next year. The Village staff has submitted capital and operating budget proposals as the starting point for the Committee. Following Finance Committee work the Village Board will review and act to approve the 2022 budget package. Dates and times for budget discussions are available online and are open to the public to observe.

REMINDER: The hours of operation for the Village recycling yard change beginning October 15th. Fall hours are 9:00 to 5:00 Monday through Friday, 8:00 to 4:00 on Saturday and 12:00 to 4:00 on Sunday.

Residents can deliver leaves to the recycling center; bags must be emptied. If you prefer to have your yard leaves picked up by the recycling contractor the bags **MUST** have a Village sticker, which are available at Village Hall for \$1.00, including a bag. Bags are collected on your normal garbage/recycling pickup day, but leaf bags must be moved to the end of your driveway at the street.

Please remember not to rake leaves into the ditch along the road where they can clog the drainage systems.

Village Park and swimming pool activity numbers returned to nearly normal this summer and the first summer of operation of the Splash Pad was a big success. The first summer of Beer Garden operations have operated smoothly and experienced good attendance so far. The Beer Garden is scheduled to operate until October 24th.

Fall Recreation guides are available and online signups will use the new registration software.

The annual **Oktoberfest celebration** in the Village Park (September 17-18) enjoyed beautiful weather and very good attendance. Thanks are due to all the volunteers helping the Elm Grove Community Foundation pull this off.

Review of the request to redevelop the School Sister of Notre Dame campus is continuing. Village financial consultants at Ehlers and Associates are finalizing the analysis of the project costs and finances needed to consider the request for Tax Incremental Financing to assist financing. The project developer has requested funding assistance for site demolition costs, environmental remediation, historic build preservation, extension of Lake Michigan water supply from Wauwatosa and underground parking. When finalized, the report will be distributed to the Finance Committee and Board of Trustees for discussion. Also nearing completion is a proposed Development Agreement, which is a proposed contract between the Village and the developer which identifies all commitments, schedules and actions related to the proposed redevelopment of the campus. A public hearing will be scheduled as soon as the financial report and the Development Agreement are available for public review.

The Village lost two long term volunteers in the past month with the passing of Chuck Long and Jim Jodie. All of us who had the honor of knowing and working with Chuck and Jim will miss their friendship and their help.

Business Directory


* Community Organizations



Kiwanis – Golden K of Elm Grove Wisconsin

Come Join Us, men & women, to serve the children of our community. We meet each Friday at 9:30 a.m. in the St. Mary’s Senior Center in Elm Grove. We have wonderful speakers each week, and we have lots of fun.

kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com
www.kiwaniselmgrove.org



Elmbrook Rotary

People of Action
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www.elmbrookrotary.org

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Good Neighbor Stories

Tell us about **YOUR GOOD NEIGHBORS** in 200 words or less, (how they help you, your neighborhood, the community, the world) and the **Good News** might be featured in an upcoming edition.

E-mail your story + a photo of your neighbor(s), if available to: elmgrove-news@yahoo.com

(Subject line: Good Neighbors)

or

Mail it to: EGNI “Good Neighbors”, P.O. Box 372, Elm Grove, WI 53122.



Our History: Remembrances of Things Past

STORIES & PHOTOS WANTED!

Share your memories of Elm Grove / Brookfield during World War II, the 1950s, '60s, '70s, '80s, or '90s.

E-mail stories (200 words maximum) + photos (include caption & identify individuals shown, left to right) to: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com (Subject line: Our History) OR

Mail them to:
EGNI "Our History"
P.O. Box 372, Elm Grove, WI
53122-0372



Photo courtesy of Brookfield Academy

The Brookfield Academy Class of 1971. They were the first students to graduate from the school which was founded in 1962.

Halloween Memories

By Tom Ramstack

When we were kids living in New Berlin during the 1960s, as Halloween approached, we always looked forward to “trick or treat.” There was something spooky and yet thrilling about being little boys wandering around the neighborhood carrying our paper grocery bags in the dark of night. In those days, spraying your father’s shaving cream over a neighbor’s picture window was the typical “trick” of choice. Our brother **Mike** always did the deed as he was the oldest. He would spray it all over a neighbor’s window and then we would all run off in all directions as if our lives were at stake. The next morning when dad asked, “Any of you boys seen my shaving cream?” we would all just shrug our shoulders acting as if we didn’t know what he was talking about.

Back in the 1930s in Elm Grove, dad, as a young boy, would wander off with his young teenage buddies from our Ramstack’s Tavern (now O’Donoghue’s Irish Pub) while next door, at Reusch’s Tavern (now Silver Spur), out popped young **Teddy Reusch** who wanted to join in the fun with the other boys. In those days the “prank” of choice was tipping over outhouses and that’s just what they did. Dad & his buddies quietly snuck across the Plank Road where they found **Mr. and Mrs. Woelfel’s** outhouse standing tall behind their house. To tip it over, they had to rock it back and forth a couple of times. Finally, over it went, except young Teddy slipped and fell deep down into the “aromatic” pit. He began whining, “Hey guys help me out of here!!!” The fellows up above stared into each other’s eyes really not wanting to reach down into the stink, so they quietly slipped away into the night,



leaving poor young Teddy yelling up from below, “Oh, come on guys, don’t leave me down here!!!” Later, as the gang broke up for the night, dad arrived at home and curling up in his bed, upstairs in the tavern, he began feeling a little guilty, wondering if poor ole’ Teddy was still stuck down in that foul-smelling pit.



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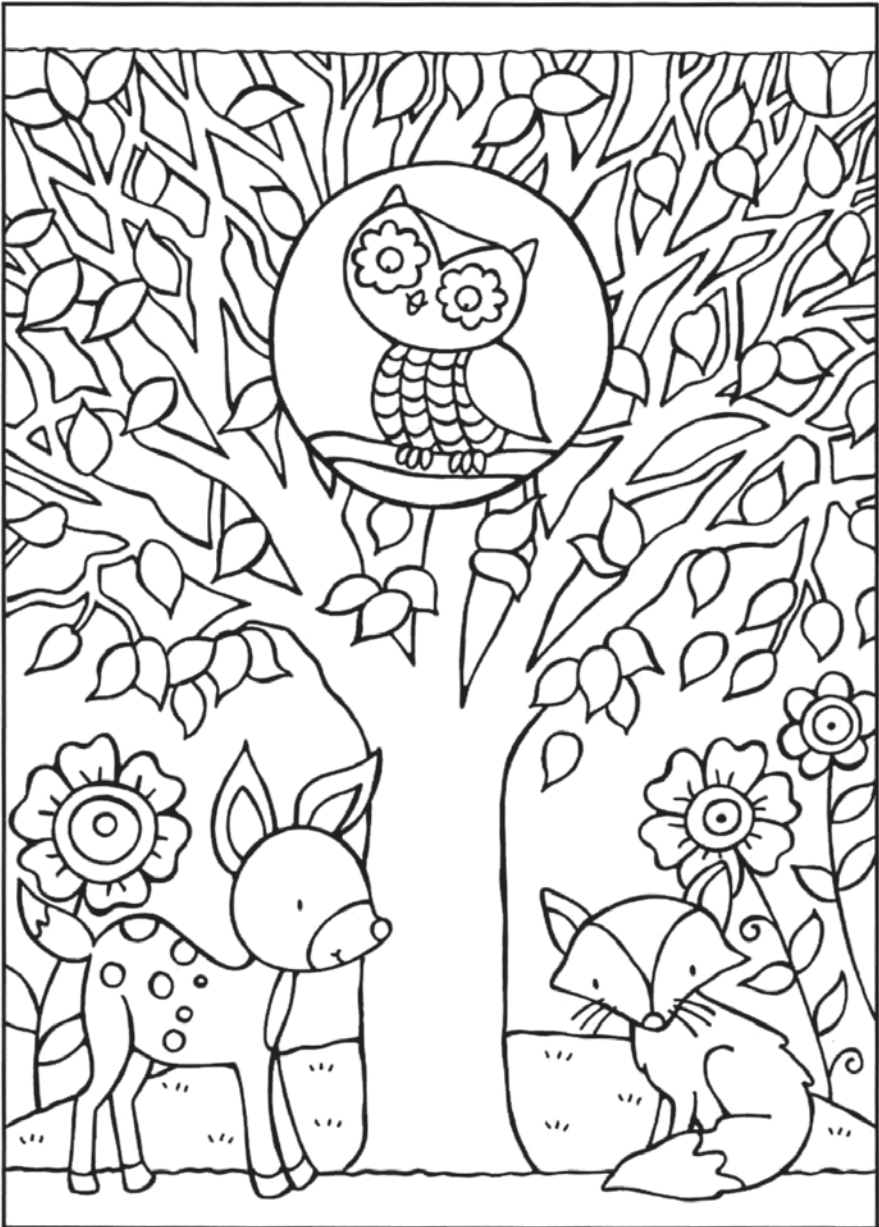


Photo courtesy of Tom Ramstack & Dorothy Haley

DELIVERING FEED, 1930. This Reinders Brothers truck is loaded and ready to deliver part of a 30-ton order of feed to the **George Schneider** farm in New Berlin. Farmers in the area knew that “Old Elm Feed” was from the Reinders mill. In 1976, **George Reinders** noted, “We knew every farmer... in a 3-mile radius of Elm Grove.”

CORRECTION:

When the photo below ran in our September 2021 edition, the last name of the boy standing on the top row (far left) was misspelled. His name is Clement ROESCH.



Photo courtesy: Tom Ramstack

ST. MARY’S GRADE SCHOOL, 1935. The 7th and 8th graders at St. Mary’s in Elm Grove during the 1934-1935 school year. (Front row, left to right) Lucy Marks, Mildred Rademacher, Betsy Rohr, Ruth Reinders, Jane Svehlek, and Catherine Sanders; (Middle row, left to right) Bob Witterholt, Joe Ramstack, Catherine Bobrowitz, Barbara Becker, Bob Jaques, and Gilbert Michel; (Top row, left to right) **Clement ROESCH**, Clarence Blaszyk, Paul Bobrowitz, Harold Gebhardt, Richard Smith, Robert Guiesell, Peter Boos, and Ed Frieberg.

Calendar of Events – October 2021

Friday – OCTOBER 1

- **Elmbrook Rotary Club**
Meeting: 7:00-8:00 a.m.—Western Racquet Club; Program: Damian Buchman, “The Ability Center”
<http://www.elmbrookrotary.org>
- **Elm Grove Kiwanis – Golden K Club**
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center. Speaker: Tom Bentley; Topic: “World Travels of Tom Bentley”.
kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Monday – OCTOBER 4

- **Elm Grove Plan Commission**
Meeting: 6 p.m. at Village Hall
Agenda: www.elmgrovewi.org

Tuesday – OCTOBER 5

- **Elm Grove Building Board**
Meeting: 5:30 p.m. at Village Hall.
Agenda: www.elmgrovewi.org
- **Elm Grove Fire Department**
Open House: 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
@ 13600 Juneau Blvd.

Friday – OCTOBER 8

- **Elmbrook Rotary Club**
Meeting: 7:00-8:00 a.m.—Western Racquet Club; Program: Dan Freas & Fred Gettelman, “Old World Wisconsin and The Museum of Beer and Brewing”
<http://www.elmbrookrotary.org>
- **Elm Grove Kiwanis – Golden K Club**
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center. Speaker: Joyce Hawkins; Topic: “Educational Opportunities for Women”.
kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Monday – OCTOBER 11
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES’ DAY / COLUMBUS DAY

Tuesday – OCTOBER 12

- **Elm Grove Beautification Committee**
Lecture Series: “Intro into Edible Landscaping”; Speaker: Alec Lepoidevin of Fresh Roots, LLC; 6:30 p.m. at Elm Grove Village Hall – O’Neill Room.

Friday – OCTOBER 15

- **Elmbrook Rotary Club**
Meeting: 7:00-8:00 a.m.—Western Racquet Club; Program: Krista Morrissey, “Coaching & Consulting, LLC.”
<http://www.elmbrookrotary.org>
- **Elm Grove Kiwanis – Golden K Club**
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center. Speaker: Dr. Lonnie Richardson; Topic: “Effects of the Pandemic to Churches”.
kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Tuesday – OCTOBER 19

- **Elm Grove Building Board**
Meeting: 5:30 p.m. at Village Hall.
Agenda: www.elmgrovewi.org

Friday – OCTOBER 22

- **Elmbrook Rotary Club**
Meeting: 7:00-8:00 a.m. at Western Racquet Club; Program: TBA
<http://www.elmbrookrotary.org>
- **Elm Grove Kiwanis – Golden K Club**
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center. Speaker: Dell Vilaruz on “College Athletic Recruiting”.
kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Monday – OCTOBER 25

- **Elm Grove Board of Trustees**
Meeting: 7:30 p.m. at Village Hall Court Room. Open to the Public.
Agenda: www.elmgrovewi.org

Friday – OCTOBER 29

- **Elmbrook Rotary Club**
Meeting: 7:00-8:00 a.m. at Western Racquet Club; Program: Ralph Gould, “Business Person of the Year”
<http://www.elmbrookrotary.org>
- **Elm Grove Kiwanis – Golden K Club**
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center. Speaker: Dr. Nikole Freeman PHD; Topic: “Bird Behaviors”, (a follow-up to Bird Migration Presentation).
kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Sunday – OCTOBER 31

HALLOWEEN
Trick or Treat in Elm Grove
5:00 to 7:30 p.m.



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Volunteers Needed to Serve Meals on Weekends

Starting November 6th through April 30th, Hope Center’s Day Center in Waukesha will once again be open seven days a week. We need volunteers to donate, prepare and serve breakfasts on Sundays, and breakfasts and lunches on Saturdays.


If you are able to help out, please call Becky at 262-549-8726, or email at rarnold@hopecenterwi.org.



Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety



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Fire Prevention Week 2021 Open House

Tuesday, October 5th --- 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Elm Grove Fire House, 13600 Juneau Blvd

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News Briefs



Tim Dewane (left, foreground) leads a “Prayer for Peace” song during an International Day of Peace celebration at Notre Dame of Elm Grove on September 21. The School Sisters of Notre Dame welcomed students and teachers from St. Mary’s Visitation and Notre Dame of Milwaukee, campus employees, friends, and community members to their last, public gathering before moving to Trinity Woods in Milwaukee this fall.

(Read students’ “Peace Reflections” in Young Writers & Reporters – Page 9)

Rotary Seeks Applicants for \$30,000 Global Grant Scholarship

By Larry Myers

Rotary District 6270 is pleased to announcement the availability of a Rotary Global Grant Scholarship for matriculation in the fall of 2022 or spring of 2023. This highly reputable scholarship is offered in cooperation with The Rotary Foundation, which annually supports Global Grant projects all over the world.

The amount of the scholarship is USD \$30,000 and must be used for graduate school studies outside the United States. Applicants must be residents of the geographic area of Rotary District 6270 or attending an undergraduate school in the geographic area. In addition, a proposed program of study must be closely aligned with one of Rotary’s seven “Areas of Focus.” Those Areas of Focus include: Disease Prevention & Treatment; Water & Sanitation; Peace & Conflict Prevention/Resolution; Basic Education & Literacy; Maternal & Child Health; Economic & Community Development; and the Environment. Rotarians and family members are not eligible to apply, but Rotaract Club members can apply.

Deadlines are as follow:

- January 14, 2022 – Complete Application Deadline (submit online only)



- February 5, 2022 - In-Person or Zoom Interviews scheduled. An in-person interview is preferred.
- February 14, 2022 – Successful Scholar Notified (for matriculation in 2022-2023 academic year.)

To access the “Scholarships” page of the web site for detailed information, the application form, and other supporting documents, navigate to this URL: <https://rotary6270.org/sitepage/scholarships>. Address any inquiries to Larry Myers, Chair of the D-6270 Scholarships Subcommittee (Email: scholarshipchair@rotary6270.org OR lwmymers2@att.net).



Photo courtesy: School District of Elmbrook

National Merit Semifinalists at Brookfield East High School gather for a group photo.

BEHS Announces National Merit Semifinalist

(BROOKFIELD) Brookfield East is proud to announce that 12 members of the senior class have earned the distinction of National Merit Semifinalist for the 2021-22 school year. The students include: Jane Atkinson, Henry Irwin, Manal Nazir, Claire Peplinski, Zane Rothe, Carter Shulick, Alina Stulenau, Joseph Walters, Carrie Wang, Angelica Yang, Alan Zhong, and Reina Zhou.

Recognition for this great achievement is based on a student’s performance on the PSAT exam taken during their junior year. These students rank among the best in Wisconsin and the United States,

with their PSAT exam scores in the top 16,000, representing less than 1% of 1.5 million United States high school seniors according to the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

National Merit semifinalists have the opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,700 scholarships worth more than \$40 million, which will be announced in the spring. About 15,000 semifinalists are expected to be notified in February that they have advanced to the finalist round, from which the 2,500 winners of \$2,500 National Merit Scholarships will be chosen.

Distinguished Young Women of Wisconsin Competition Held

(BROOKFIELD) In August 2021, Brookfield Central Senior Cynthia Lu competed virtually in the Distinguished Young Women (DYW) of Wisconsin scholarship program and was named DYW of WI 2022. In an unprecedented accomplishment, Cynthia earned scholarship awards in all five categories of the competition: Scholastics, Interview, Fitness, Talent, and Self Expression.

Cynthia will represent both Brookfield and the state of Wisconsin at the National Finals in Mobile, Alabama in June 2022.

Additionally, Jane Atkinson (BEHS ‘22) represented Elm Grove at the state competition, earning awards in scholastics and talent and was also named 1st alternate. Both girls earned cash scholarship awards for post-graduation use.



Photo courtesy: Brookfield Academy

Simran Bhatia, a Brookfield Academy 11th grader, won the Wisconsin Girls State Chess Championship earlier this year and represented Wisconsin in the National Girls Tournament of Champions in July. She had an impressive 10th place finish in the national tournament.

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News Briefs



Brookfield Academy’s National Merit Semifinalists (Top Row, left to right): **Hashir Ahmad** of Brookfield; **Emma Canga** of Brookfield; **Natalie Cartwright** of Menomonee Falls; and **Tegbir Chawla** of Menomonee Falls; (Middle Row, l-r): **Jacqueline Dieck** of Menomonee Falls; **Hannah Ding** of Brookfield; **Ronit Gupta** of Brookfield; and **Anna Marshall** of Hartland; (Bottom Row, l-r): **Megan McCarty** of Hartland, **Pranoy Sangowdar** of Brookfield, and **Alexander Star** of Brookfield.

Brookfield Academy Students Named National Merit Semifinalists

(BROOKFIELD) The National Merit Scholarship Corporation has named 11 Brookfield Academy seniors (shown above) as National Merit Semifinalists.

More than 1.5 million juniors in about 21,000 high schools entered the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program. These students will advance in the process and have the possibility to be named Finalists and then have the opportunity

to be considered for National Merit Scholarships. Merit Scholar designees are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

Brookfield Academy congratulates these students and wishes them the best of luck in moving forward to being named National Merit Finalists and ultimately receiving a National Merit Scholarship Award.

Foundation Offers Pollinator Grants to High Schools

By Casey Langan

Sand County Foundation is now accepting applications from high school teachers for pollinator habitat grants. This competitive grant program gives Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin high school students hands-on experience growing native wildflowers and establishing habitat for imperiled insect pollinators and monarch butterflies.

Successful applications will receive prairie seeds and seedlings, a webinar and consultation, and \$1,000 to support project expenses. The deadline to apply is November 19, 2021. To apply, visit www.sandcountyfoundation.org/SchoolGrants.

Insect pollinators are essential for crop pollination and ecological diversity. In recent years their numbers are low partly due to loss of native wildflower habitat, especially in the agricultural landscape. Restoring habitat for pollinators is a key component of a regenerative food production system.


“Students will germinate and grow native plants in the greenhouse in late winter and early spring, and manage and monitor the site through the summer,” said **Parker Witt**, Sand County Foundation agricultural conservation specialist. “We encourage applicants to partner with landowners to establish pollinator habitat on agricultural and other working lands.”

In addition to the grant program, teachers can access a Pollinator Habitat Curriculum Guide. Aligned with state and national education standards, the guide’s activities engage students in planning, establishing, managing and monitoring prairie habitat. The guide is available for free download at <https://bit.ly/2JHdq1u>.

Sand County Foundation is a national non-profit that champions voluntary conservation practices by farmers and ranchers to improve soil, water and wildlife habitat.



Read All About It!



Library News and Programs



October 2021

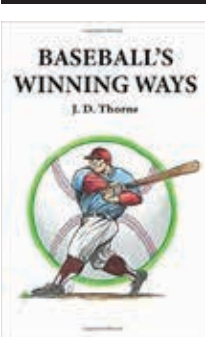
13600 Juneau Blvd., Elm Grove, WI 53122
262-782-6717 / elmgrovelibrary.org

Elm Grove Reads: An Afternoon with Andrew J. Graff, author of *Raft of Stars* / Saturday, October 16, 1:00 p.m. O'Neill Room

In conjunction with the Friends of the Elm Grove Library and Boswell Books, the Elm Grove Library welcomes Andrew J. Graff, celebrating his warmhearted debut novel *Raft of Stars*, an instant classic for fans of Jane Smiley and *Kitchens of the Great Midwest*. When two hardscrabble young boys think they’ve committed a crime, they flee into the Northwoods of Wisconsin. Will the adults trying to find and protect the boys reach them before it’s too late?

Join us at the library for a discussion, reading, and signing of a book praised as "a rousing adventure yarn full of danger and heart and humor and characters worth worrying about." (Richard Russo). **Please register in advance for this event at elmgrovelibrary.org.** Free to attend. Books will be available for sale.





Baseball's Winning Ways

Tuesday, October 19, 6:30 p.m. O'Neill Room


Touch the bases of baseball history and its high profile players with J.D. Thorne, author of the new book *Baseball's Winning Ways*. This presentation covers stories past and present, and ponders the future of America's Game, with a tour of baseball's origins, eras, leagues, teams, and statistics. Just in time for the World Series! Free to attend. No registration required.

Maximize Your Medicare Benefits

Wednesday, October 20, 1:00 p.m. O'Neill Room

Learn about your Medicare options! This presentation will provide an overview of Medicare Parts A, B, C and D as well as supplemental insurance and an explanation of how they fit together. The program will also include information about Medicare’s upcoming open enrollment period (10/15 –12/7) and an explanation of how to use and understand the plan comparison tool on Medicare’s website.

Presented by Jennie Radmer, a Waukesha County Medicare Outreach Specialist, in association with GWAAR (Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc.).



Shelf Life

Have you been getting Shelf Life in your email inbox? If not, you're missing out on the official email newsletter of the Elm Grove Library. To sign up for the latest news, recommendations, card benefits, and library mélange, visit elmgrovelibrary.org. We send one email each month. That's it.



Classifieds

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VOLUNTEER

Young Writers & Reporters

Book: “Everything, Everything”; **Author: Nicola Yoon**
Reviewed by: Alexis Wilson, age 14, Brookfield Academy

“Everything, Everything” by Nicola Yoon documents the life of Madeline Whittier, a teenage girl born with Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (abbreviated as SCID). SCID is a life-threatening disease that basically makes one allergic to countless things. The way that Madeline handles SCID is by being locked away in her house for seventeen whole years. The only way that people or objects can enter the house is through an extensive cleaning routine, and even then Madeline could possibly become ill from their presence. Madeline knows nothing other than her home and the small bit of land that she can see from out of her windows. She has also met very few people in her lifetime, and spends every day with only her mother and her nurse named Carla. That is, until there are

new neighbors moving into the next-door house. Madeline quickly catches the eye of a boy her age named Olly. They exchange emails and become friends very quickly, and suddenly Madeline has a new way to learn about the outside world.

“Everything, Everything” is a realistic fiction story, with elements of romance as well. The only thing that I would have changed about the story is the brevity of the chapters, although at times I did like how each chapter was smaller and had a unique formatting. I enjoyed this story because of its interesting plot twists and unique perspective, and anyone who likes stories about personal growth and new beginnings should consider reading “Everything, Everything”.



International Peace Day Reflection

By Caroline Raster, 8th Grade, St. Mary’s Visitation

Today, I want to tell you about the qualities of sustainability, equitability, inclusiveness, justice, and peacefulness, and how we can use them to create a better local community and overall world.

Sustainability, in our world today, refers to the act of keeping the Earth clean and maintaining its natural state and beauty. This means making sure you’re not wasting uneaten food, picking up garbage, and obviously recycling. These examples have been told to us since we were very young but acting on them is important and can have a significant effect on our Earth. But, if I were to define sustainability in a religious sense, I would say that it’s the keeping of one’s beliefs and core values. As a Catholic, it can be hard to form our beliefs based on God’s word and not the media. Sustainability means sustaining the beauty God made from the beginning.

When God made our Earth, he intended for us to use it in a respectful and clean manner. Fair, impartial, and reasonable are good synonyms for the virtue of equity. Today, equity is giving what is due to each person, an example of this is the Wage Gap where some make more per hour than others, for the same work. In recent years, we have begun to change inequity and have given more people more opportunities. Being an equitable Catholic is challenging because God loves all; those who have sinned, those who turn away from Him, and those who do not believe in Him. We as Catholics and humans have trouble grasping this. I don’t know about all of you but I find it challenging to love everyone and treat them equitably. Yet, I will always go on trying to do this in my life.

Inclusiveness is to provide equal

opportunities and access to every person. Similar to equitability, inclusiveness relating to current topics and issues means giving equal opportunities in jobs, schooling, and legal matters. As a middle school student this is a hard virtue to follow. At recess, in group projects, and even sports. Including everyone can change the day someone is having in an instant. God did not limit his Scripture and teachings to a certain group of people. So, we should not limit our inclusivity to certain groups either. Everyone is welcome to learn and worship, as we should welcome those who are different from us, even when it may feel uncomfortable at first.

Justice has been a big topic of discussion in the last two years in the United States. This is an important virtue that means giving everyone what they deserve. There is injustice in our world that we may never experience. This does not make it any less important to stand against it in solidarity with those who experience it. As Catholics, we must hold ourselves to this virtue. We must have generous spirits and give everyone the education, food, and clothing they need and deserve.

And lastly, the virtue of peacefulness. The definition of peacefulness is avoiding war or violence. Obviously, this virtue is important, especially for world and country leaders. We must hold them responsible for their actions as they make policy that affects the most vulnerable. In the Church I think that this virtue is a good way to participate in community. In conclusion, these virtues need to be followed in our big wide world, but also in our hearts, minds, and actions for the best recovery from the pandemic and for a better future.

The Spookiest Holiday

By Sandie Go, 4th Grade, Brookfield Christian School

Though all the holidays are fun and you can’t choose the one that’s best, There is one holiday that, it is true, is much unlike the rest. It is a scary holiday, with bones on every street, But the best part is when you walk up and yell, “Trick or treat!” There are skeletons and spooky bats and werewolves all around, And little pumpkins of candy, all waiting to be found. A ghost might jump out and yell, “BOO!” and you’ll get really scared, But it’s worth it to finally get the candy to be shared!

International Peace Day Reflection

By Elizabeth Schmidt, 8th grade, St. Mary’s Visitation

How do you help make our community a more just, equitable, inclusive, sustainable, and peaceful place for all? This was the question we were tasked with answering.

As we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, we must make an effort to bring about these positive changes in our community. To make our community more just and equitable we must treat everyone we meet with respect and fairness. No matter someone’s religion, race, gender, or background, we are all important members of the community that deserve consideration and dignity. Inclusion is another way to improve our community as we come together once again. It is sometimes easy to stay with what you know and not branch out, but when we include everyone it not only can make them feel significant and wanted, we can learn from the experience and have an enjoyable time.

With so much change in our modern world, we are looking for sustainable solutions for future generations. Making simple lifestyle changes like taking shorter showers or saving food waste can make an impact on our world and respect God’s creation and gifts that he has given to us to

show we care. This is a day to pray for peace in not only our lives, but the lives of others around the world. We are all God’s children and he cares for each and every one of us.

“For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down his flesh the dividing wall of hostility,” - Ephesians 2:14. This quote means that Jesus came down to unite us and in doing so he died so that we may be saved from sin and oppression. Peace and unity are even more important now after we were all separated from one another during the Coronavirus worldwide pandemic. Volunteering at events like my parish’s Vacation Bible School has taught me how my actions are watched and followed by the younger kids who look up to me for guidance and leadership. I believe that if we practice these virtues of inclusiveness, sustainability, equitableness, and peace in our communities and around the world, we can all live like Jesus intended us to and truly live like the unified Body of Christ. It doesn’t have to be a grand gesture but every kind act makes a difference. Like this quote by F. Genova, *“Together we can make the world a better place... one smile, one kind word, one small act at a time.”*

Peanut Butter Cookies

By Emily Bastjan
4th Grade, Tonawanda

Do you like cookies but you can’t have most cookies because you have gluten allergies or you are allergic to dairy? Well, these cookies are for you!

Ingredients: 1 cup of peanut butter
1 cup of sugar
1 egg

Instructions:
First, preheat the oven to 350 degrees.
Next grab a mixing bowl.
Then grab a measuring cup.
Next grab a big spoon.
Then get a cookie sheet and put a silpat or parchment paper on it.
To make the dough mix all of the ingredients in the big bowl with the big spoon.
Get an ice cream scoop and scoop one at a time onto the parchment paper or silpat about 2 inches apart.
Then get a fork and make a criss-cross on the top of the cookie, but make sure to put water on the fork so it does not stick
After that, sprinkle a little sugar on top.
Then put them in the oven for about 12 minutes.
Then you have peanut butter cookies... wala!

Pumpkin Takes Over Our Garden

By Dhrupud Dimble
4th Grade, Tonawanda

The pumpkin plant was planted in early June, by late June it was 5 feet. By early July, it was 7 feet long. By late July, it was 18 feet! By early August, it was 20 feet long! By late August, it was almost 30 feet long! But now it’s already 38! It’s already run out of room in the garden and now it’s escaped and is planning to climb on our house! You think that’s rough? You should’ve seen it last year!

But that was my point of view, so here’s an interview with my 5-year-old brother Advay:

Me: When did we plant the pumpkin?
Advay: At the start of summer
Me: Were any of your friends growing pumpkins?
Advay: Yes
Me: Is the pumpkin plant big?
Advay: Yes

Remember when I said that the pumpkin plant is going to climb on our house? Well, it turned around and is heading toward the opposite edge of the deck! But I saw a smaller vine that is growing towards our house! Meanwhile, on the opposite side of the garden, there is a huge pumpkin one and a half feet long!

Living in Harmony with Others

By Madyson Clifton, 8th Grade, Wisconsin Hills Middle School

“Living in harmony with others.” What does that mean? This could mean many different things to many different people. In my personal opinion, living in harmony with others is getting along and being kind towards one another. Living in harmony with others is making the choice to positively affect someone rather than negatively affect them. It is making the realization that everybody is different and you might not agree with what they do or how they live but that’s their choice, and you can’t control them.

Also, living in harmony with others is minding our own business and not inserting yourself where you don’t need to be, and causing other people to be unhappy. Most of all, living in harmony is being a good citizen. Being a good citizen means being respectful and conscious of other people and doing your best to make a positive difference in their lives. So, you can see, living in harmony with others can mean so many different things, but one thing that all of the meanings have in common is to make a positive difference in someone else’s life.

Young Writers & Reporters

(Continued from Page 9)

My Birthday

By Jacob K. - 4th Grade, Tonawanda

My birthday is coming up and I'll be 10 soon. My birthday is October 6th. Our family usually doesn't invite anyone to any birthday party, which I'm okay with. I really want a Nintendo Switch for my birthday and other stuff.

This is the first time I am writing for the Elm Grove newspaper.

Halloween

By Susie S. - 4th Grade, Tonawanda

Every year on that one night
When the goblins come
And we scream with fright
When the decorations are a special sight
The day called Halloween

When we laugh and play and fight for candy
And grandma say that we all look dandy
When we look like rock stars in our costumes
You know it's Halloween



Legal Issues

How Are Special Needs Trusts Established?

By Attorney Joanne Leifheit, Pewaukee, WI
Ask@LawOfficeofJL.com (262) 347-2820

(This is Part 2 of a 2-part series)

In Part I of this series (September 2021 edition) on special needs trusts, I discussed what makes a special needs trust "special" (this type of trust is beneficial because it preserves many public benefits for persons with a disability). In this second part, I will explain how special needs trusts (SNTs) are established and how they work.

Persons with a disability may accumulate money and assets of their own that can negatively affect some or all of their public benefits. For example, certain public benefits programs such as SSI (Supplemental Security Income) and Medicaid have strict and low limits on the amount of assets a person may retain to remain on the program (\$2,000, for example). Disabled persons may accumulate assets over these limits in many ways, including: (1) through work programs; (2) by having lower expenses than their benefits income; (3) by personal injury settlements; or perhaps (4) by inheritance. If a person with a disability needs to reduce their own assets, he or she (or others, such as parents and grandparents) may establish a SNT for that person, called a "first-party SNT." Likewise, if a family or friend wants to leave an inheritance to a person with a disability, the family member or friend can establish a "third-party SNT." Third-



Trick or Treating

By Jason R. - 4th Grade, Tonawanda

On Halloween night me, my parents, and cousins went trick or treating. Some people gave me bags of candy!!! We walked by my house. My dad dropped my candy off at the house. There was a fake candy graveyard! Evie was a butterfly. I was black panther for Halloween. We walked down the road. I found my classmates. We started walking back home. When we got home my mom went inside and gave us candy.

The Best Ways to "Be"

By Victoria S. - 4th Grade, Tonawanda

Be kind, if you are kind people will be kind to you.
Be thoughtful, give a person a gift even if they don't give a gift back, be thoughtful.
Be respectful, if somebody is talking to you, don't talk over them, be respectful.
Be helpful, if someone is hurt, help them, be helpful.

Wolf and Rabbit

By Freya H. - 4th Grade, Tonawanda

One day Wolf got really hungry. He decided to look for food! While Wolf was looking around for food, he saw a white fluffy ball by a tree. Wolf went to investigate the fluff ball. And behind the tree Wolf saw... Rabbit! Rabbit was frightened by Wolf. Rabbit started to run while Wolf followed. Rabbit ran and ran all around the woods. Wolf was panting. Rabbit then found a random hole and crawled in. Wolf was angry! He tried to dig a bigger hole in the little hole, but the little hole was too deep. Rabbit was safe! Wolf then got bored of digging and left. Rabbit then crawled out of the hole and looked around. No Wolf! Rabbit sighed in relief. Wolf however was a little impressed and frustrated at Rabbit because of her excellent hiding skills and running so fast. But at least they both lived happily ever after.

How to Make Applesauce

By Teagan Paschke
Grade 4, Tonawanda Elementary

What you need:
4 pounds of apple (preferably honey crisp or granny smith apples) peeled, cored and chopped
¼ cup sugar
1 tablespoon of lemon juice
1 teaspoon of cinnamon or more

What you do:
Combine apples, sugar and one cup of water in a large pot. Bring to a simmer over medium high heat. Stir occasionally. Reduce heat to medium low and cover with a tight-fitting lid. Cook apples until soft, about 18- 20 minutes. Stir in lemon juice and cinnamon. Let cool for 5 minutes then mash with a spoon until desired consistency. Let cool then enjoy.

I love making homemade applesauce, especially when you use fresh-picked apples. I hope you like the recipe.

Halloween

By Alex Habich - 4th Grade, Tonawanda

Halloween! It's a great holiday. Kids get to dress up as whatever they want, going door-to-door getting candy. You might be somebody that leaves out a sign that says take one, two or three or you might be somebody that likes to see the faces of the kids when they say trick or treat. But is Halloween more than that? YES! You can go to a friend's house at night and leave a bag of goodies there and then run and hide, which is called booing and is really fun to do. Also, you might have your own tradition. My tradition is going trick or treating with my neighbors. You can also carve pumpkins. I remember one time my dad carved a witch in my pumpkin. It looked so cool. My favorite part about Halloween is seeing how much candy I collect, then I sort it and trade it with people like my neighbor, Eloise, my brother and my brother's friends. Halloween is a holiday for tradition, scares and fun. Have a happy Halloween!

Halloween Traditions

By Isabel Tendick
4th Grade, Tonawanda

Each year for Halloween we start getting ready a few weeks before. We go to my grandma and grandpa's house to decorate the spooky table. The spooky table is filled with spooky things like brains and fingers floating in water dyed red to look like real blood. We also start to plan our costumes for trick or treat. My cousin Nora and I always have fun coming up with a theme. A few years ago, we were old grandmas together and that was really fun! Also, a few weeks before Halloween we go to the pumpkin patch to pick the most perfect pumpkins to carve for the pumpkin carving contest. My family and I work for hours a few nights before the contest to carve the most creative pumpkin we can think of. Last year, with my dad's help, I carved a porcupine. We drilled holes in the pumpkin and put lights sticking out of the holes. It turned out so great and I even won the contest! On trick or treat night at my grandparents' house, we have a pumpkin carving contest then go trick or treating! Halloween in my family is the best!



The Humane Society

By Brynna Dobbe
4th Grade, Tonawanda

The Humane Society uses money to buy cages for the animals they get every week or so. They have to give the animals that they don't have enough room for shots that make them die peacefully. They don't always have enough room for animals which is why hundreds of animals around the world die every time they don't have enough room for them. And, so, I think that people should donate money to the Humane Society and adopt animals. There are many adorable cats, dogs, guinea pigs, and so on that don't get a good life because they don't have owners who care about them or anyone that they have a special bond with. They are animals that desperately need a loving owner who will feed them every day, walk them, talk to them, love them, and most of all, give them a second chance at life. The shelter thanks everyone who donates or adopts.

We should be grateful for the people who serve the Humane Society. The people who take the dogs in and give them a chance. The saviors who are hardly given credit for the amazing things they do every day for many animals that desperately need someone to protect and care for. So, we ask for money and adoptions to save many animals that need it. I have two dogs at home that I love dearly and hope everyone who adopts a puppy feels the same way.



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News Briefs

COVID-19 Update

To find a COVID-19 vaccine location in Wisconsin, visit [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) or call 211 or 877-947-2211. As we continue to see cases of COVID-19 rise, it’s also important that we all add layers of protection, like wearing masks and staying home when feeling sick.

Know the Facts: Pfizer COVID-19 Booster Shots

On Friday September 24, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced their recommendation that people 65 and older and certain populations who are at high risk of COVID-19 receive a booster shot of the Pfizer vaccine at least six months after the completion of their Pfizer vaccine primary series. This decision follows the authorization by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

DHS recommends that the following populations SHOULD receive a booster dose of Pfizer at least 6 months after receiving their second dose of Pfizer in order to further strengthen their immunity:

- People 65 years and older
- All residents in long-term care
- People ages 50-64 years with certain underlying medical conditions

DHS recommends that the following populations MAY receive a booster dose of Pfizer at least 6 months after receiving their second dose of Pfizer vaccine, after considering their individual risks and benefits:

- People ages 18-49 years with certain underlying medical conditions
- People ages 18-64 years who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of their job or institutional settings. Occupations at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission include front line essential workers and health care workers.

Take Care. Stay Well!

Letters to the Editor

- Letters regarding issues of concern to the Elm Grove / Elmbrook / Waukesha County community will be considered for publication on a space available basis.
- Submissions (max: 200 words) must include the writer’s name, community & phone #
- Mail to: Elm Grove News-Independent, Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 372, Elm Grove, WI 53122-0372.
- E-mail: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com (subject line: Letters to the Editor)

Fair Electoral Maps & Voting Procedures Needed

“The Will of the People Shall Be the Law of the Land.” This quote by former **Governor Robert LaFollette** is enshrined in our State Capitol and reminds us that democracy depends on the ability of the people to exercise their right to vote and that their votes must count.

In our current state of affairs, both these rights are already limited and being further eroded. The gerrymandered electoral maps in Wisconsin and many other states discount millions of votes and create “safe seats” that allow legislators to ignore their constituents. We have seen the effects of this in Wisconsin where the Republican Party has worked much harder to maintain their ill begotten power than to serve the people.

In New York and Illinois, it is the Democratic Party that has promoted gerrymandered maps. Here in Wisconsin, the Republican Party severely rigged the electoral maps in 2011 which cemented their majority. No matter which party rigs the maps, the voters end up being

the losers. The ruling party becomes the “law of the land” and voters of both parties become disillusioned when government does not serve them.

In addition to gerrymandering, current Republican leaders are enacting voting restrictions in Wisconsin and across the country that are likely to keep millions of people from voting. And they are doubling down on creating doubt about fair elections, despite evidence that voter fraud is exceedingly rare. We cannot let these threats to our democracy prevail.

If ever there was a time that proves democracy must be fought for, it is now. We have the power to inform our state and federal representatives that we want nothing less than fair electoral maps and conditions that make it easier, not harder, for voters to cast their ballots. And we will only vote for candidates who pledge to meet these expectations.

Jane Speer
Delafield, WI

Community Crossword #16

By Lisabeth Passalis-Bain / elmgrovenews@yahoo.com

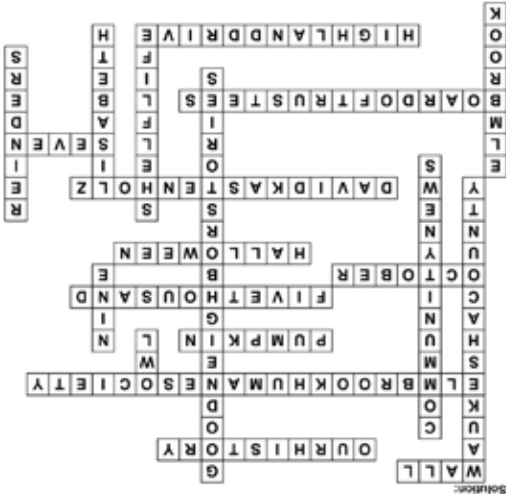


ACROSS

- 1. Village Recycling Center is located on _____ Street
- 3. Name of Page 4 column (2 words)
- 5. Adopt a Pet at this facility featured in News’ Hounds (3 words)
- 7. Orange item carved on Halloween or made into a pie
- 9. Number of copies of this newspaper printed every month (2 words)
- 10. The 10th month of the year
- 11. The day you Trick or Treat
- 14. Elm Grove Fire Chief (2 words)
- 17. Number of days in a week
- 18. Elm Grove governing body that meets on the 4th Monday of every month (3 words)
- 19. Elm Grove street running from Watertown Plank Rd. to North Ave. (2 words)

DOWN

- 1. Elm Grove residents’ property taxes for 2021 will be collected by _____ (2 words)
- 2. Feature promoted at bottom, right of Page 3 (3 words)
- 4. Page 1 heading: _____ Matters (2 words)
- 6. Type of animal in Coloring section, Page 4
- 8. Number of hands shown on Volunteer graphic, Page 5
- 12. Name of Elm Grove Public Library’s official e-mail newsletter noted on Page 8
- 13. Elm Grove family that produced Old Elm Feed at their mill years ago
- 15. *Elm Grove News-Independent* owner/publisher’s first name
- 16. School District noted in Page 1 story



“I’m so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers.”
— L. M. Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*

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