



# Elm Grove NEWS-

# INDEPENDENT



Volume 4, Number 2

Serving Elm Grove, Wisconsin

APRIL 2016

**\* Spring Election – April 5 \* Earth Day Celebration – April 16**  
“Veterans’ Names Project” – Page 2 “Coloring Contest” Winners – Page 8 “Young Poets Contest” – Page 9



Images courtesy of Wangard Partners, Inc.

(Top, left) Architectural renderings of the proposed townhomes. (Top, right) An aerial view of the proposed development site, highlighted in yellow. (Bottom, left & right) Renderings of the proposed apartment buildings.

## Reinders Property Mixed-Use Development in Early Planning Stages, Community In-put Being Sought

By Lisabeth Passalis-Bain, [elmgrovenews@yahoo.com](mailto:elmgrovenews@yahoo.com)

The Village of Elm Grove plan commission received during its March 7 meeting an application from Wangard Partners, Inc. and R & R Investments of Wisconsin, LLC for a proposed re-development of the north portion of the Reinders property, 13400-13430 Watertown Plank Road, to multi-family residential.

The proposal would include four apartment buildings and one building with townhomes — a total of 182 housing units and 402 (238 enclosed and 164 surface) parking spaces. Also considered part of the mixed-use development will be a portion of the existing Shops at Mill Place property. (See Reinders – Page 3)



## ‘The Market’ is Coming!

By Lisabeth Passalis-Bain /EGNI

This summer Elm Grove will see the debut of a decidedly unifying event with the addition of our own village market. Founded by local business owners **Beth Sadowski** (Wild Side Hair Salon), **Jamie O’Donoghue** (O’Donoghue’s Irish Pub), **Pam** and **Brianna Britowski** (Sweet Tooth), and Village resident **Susan Freedy**, the Market will be held on Wednesdays from 4 to 8 p.m., June 8 through October 19 in the Ray’s Auto Body parking lot on the corner of Watertown Plank Rd. and Elm Grove St.

Featuring fresh produce, arts and crafts, it will “bring exposure to local businesses and restaurants, as well as offering a place for the community to come together, socialize, and support this wonderful area,” Sadowski noted.

Vendors interested in reserving a booth are being sought and volunteers are needed for various duties. Please contact Beth at [widesidesalonspa@gmail.com](mailto:widesidesalonspa@gmail.com) or call (262) 784-9453.

The *Elm Grove News-Independent* is proud to be the Media Sponsor for the event. Look for Updates here every month.



**Renaissance Theaterworks & Marquette University** present **CENSORED ON FINAL APPROACH**, a play based on real events surrounding the first American women to fly military aircraft. During World War II, an elite group of female pilots became pioneers, heroes and role models. They were the Women Air Force Service Pilots. Their biggest battles were fought on the ground; the women struggled daily with sexual harassment, discrimination and sabotage. The play tells the story of these young women and the cost of their commitment and patriotism. Written by the late **Phylis Ravel**, a long-time and beloved professor at Marquette University and directed by **Leda Hoffmann**, the cast features Marquette students alongside professional actors.

The play previews on April 1 and runs through April 24 at the **Broadway Theatre Center**, 158 N. Broadway in Milwaukee’s Historic Third Ward. Tickets are \$38, with student and senior discounts available, and can be ordered by calling the box office at (414) 291-7800 or online at [www.r-t-w.com](http://www.r-t-w.com).

For twenty-three years, **Renaissance Theaterworks** has been **Milwaukee’s only professional theater company dedicated to improving gender parity in the arts**. Our mission is to create moving theater — from classics to world premieres — with attention to women’s roles both onstage and off. For more information, visit [www.r-t-w.com](http://www.r-t-w.com).

Elm Grove Woman’s Club  
13885 Watertown Plank Road

41<sup>th</sup> Annual

## Rubies & RUMMAGE + Bake Sale

Saturday, April 16  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

“High Quality / Great Bargains”  
34 vendors – Two floors  
Tools, camera equipment, record player complete with graphic equalizer, receiver, antiques, collectibles, jewelry, purses, crystal, books, artwork, clothing, children’s items, household & MORE!

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News-Independent LLC

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**Published monthly.**  
  
Distributed via the U.S. Postal Service to every Residence, Business & P.O. Box in Elm Grove, Wisconsin 53122, with additional copies available at locations in Elm Grove & neighboring communities.  
  
Mailing address:  
**Elm Grove News-Independent  
P.O. Box 372  
Elm Grove, Wisconsin  
53122-0372**  
  
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“I Know Where You Live!”



Elisabeth  
Passalis-Bain

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual  
**Veterans’ Names Project**

Each year, in addition to publishing details about Elm Grove’s Memorial Day Parade and related community activities, the *Elm Grove News-Independent* devotes space to **REMEMBER & HONOR** area veterans, both living and deceased, for their service to our country. Memorial Day is on May 30, and we again invite Readers to submit the names of relatives and friends for our May 2016 issue **“VETERANS’ NAMES PROJECT”** special section.

Information may include the male or female Veteran’s name, branch of service, rank, dates and location of service (example: World War II, 1941-1945, Army, 7<sup>th</sup> Division, Pacific), membership in any Veterans’ organization(s), their community of residence + a photo in uniform, if possible. (If Veteran is deceased, please note year of birth/death.)

**Mail to: Elm Grove News-Independent,  
P.O. Box 372, Elm Grove, WI 53122  
E-mail: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com**

**DEADLINE: April 18, 2016**



Photo by Elisabeth Passalis-Bain / EGNi

Enthusiastic supporters of the “G.I. Josh” project gathered at American Legion Post #449. Shown (top row, left to right) are **Anita “Sam” Catura, Bev Ziehlsdorf, Rube Ziehlsdorf, Brad Catura, Tom Krall** and **Judy Zielke**; (bottom row, left to right) **Kitty Larkin, Bob Radtke, Marlene Wilson** and **Mike Manowski**.

**G.I. Josh Project to Benefit Children at Fisher House**  
How your donations can help!

During a visit in March to American Legion Post 449 in Brookfield, I spoke with **Anita “Sam” Catura**, Auxiliary Unit 449 Membership Chair and her husband, **Brad Catura**, who serves as Chaplain and Adjutant for the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) about a special project under Brad’s direction that will give extra comfort to children who stay at the Fisher House.

Sam had earlier brought the “G.I. Josh” project to my attention via this letter to the *News-Independent*:

“The G.I. Josh Dog is a stuffed animal wearing a camouflage bandana with the American Legion emblem. Josh is meant to comfort the child of a deployed service member. The Josh puppy is weighted and it basically covers a child’s chest and gives them a very physical presence of somebody who is there with them. These plush Josh puppies are able to transform anxious children who are missing a parent, because of deployment, into creating a friendship for their wellness.

Our Sons of the American Legion have been contacted by the Fisher House for a supply of Josh dogs. The Fisher House is located on the Milwaukee VA Medical Center grounds. It is a facility much like the Ronald McDonald House, providing a comforting “home away from home” while a loved one is receiving care at the VA Center. The Fisher House will need these dogs on a continuous basis, as children who receive them keep them forever.

The GI Josh dog comes as a kit, assembled by the Sons of American Legion. It is made up of a comforting book: *“I’ll be O.K.”*, a box resembling a little dog house, and, of course, G.I. Josh. Each kits costs \$35.00. It is Brad’s hope to make this a state-wide SAL project called Operation Comfort the Children.”

The first group of G.I. Josh dogs were delivered to the Fisher House in mid-March in anticipation of the Grand Opening of the facility on April 23.

Those wishing to help provide financial support for the project may make a check (in ANY amount) payable to S.A.L. Squadron 449, and mail to: American Legion Post 449, c/o Brad Catura, 3245 N. 124<sup>th</sup> St., Brookfield, WI 53005.

For more information, call Brad at (262) 617-2749.

News Brief

**Earth Day Event to be Held in Elm Grove**

By **Irwin Johnson**

Elm Grove’s fourth annual Earth Day celebration will take place on Saturday, April 16, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the basement of the Elm Grove Public Library, 13600 Juneau Blvd.

At 2 p.m. **William Shaffer** of Wauwatosa, one of several active past-presidents of the Southeastern Wisconsin Master Gardeners (SEWMG), will describe the training and cost required of prospective Master Gardeners: sixteen three-hour sessions followed by an exam which students must pass with a score of 70% or more. While many students simply use their training to improve and enjoy their own gardens, about 500 Master Gardeners donate at least 24 hours of their time every year to help take care of a public garden in Waukesha or Milwaukee Counties. Bill will show pictures of about twenty-five of these gardens.

At 3 p.m., **Barbara Agnew**, co-owner of Barb & Dick’s florist shop, at the corner of 124<sup>th</sup> St. and Watertown Plank Rd., Wauwatosa, will speak about “Monarch Butterflies”.

Ms. Agnew is well-known in Southeastern Wisconsin as a knowledgeable and enthusiastic champion of the ecologically threatened orange-and-black butterflies. Monarchs travel three paths every year from western, central, and eastern Canada and the United States to winter in a tree-covered sanctuary in central Mexico. Many flying creatures travel long

distances yearly, but the Monarchs migration is unique in that their round trip each year takes three generations of butterflies!

Barbara is both passionate and persuasive about the amazing Monarchs. She has personally convinced the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to plant milkweed, needed by baby butterflies for survival, on many of the roadsides of the new zoo interchange!



**Children’s Activities Scheduled**

Parents of four-, five-, and six-year-old children are invited to bring those children to the celebration. While the adults learn about Master Gardeners and Monarch Butterflies in one room, the youngsters will be cared for by ten or twelve Brookfield East High School student members of the Key Club, in another room. First, both young and old children will enjoy hearing **Kathy Luck**, a professional children’s librarian, read them a story. Then, the high school students will help the younger boys and girls enjoy cartoons or a short movie. Before the two-hour period ends with an ice cream treat, the youngsters will be given a chance to make up their own story and share it with one of the high-schoolers.

Elm Grove’s Earth Day event is FREE and open to the public.

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County  
**SPELLING BEE**  
SunsetPlayhouse.com  
**APRIL 21 - MAY 8, 2016**

**SUNSET  
PLAYHOUSE**  
\*suggested for mature audiences

800 Elm Grove Road, Elm Grove, WI 53122  
(262) 782-4430 | [SunsetPlayhouse.com](http://SunsetPlayhouse.com)



Reinders

(Continued from Page 1)

The apartment buildings are proposed to include studios, one- and two-bedroom units, ranging in size from 560 sq. ft to 1,372 sq. ft. Building A would be a 5-story, 11,000 sq. ft. structure; Building B: 4-story, 21,000 sq. ft.; Building C: 4-story, 16,000 sq. ft.; Building D: 3-story, 16,000 sq. ft.

The townhomes would feature a combination of 2-bedroom, 2076 sq. ft. units and 3-bedroom, 2,306 sq. ft. units.

To accomplish the development of the 8.28 acre parcel, it has been proposed that the existing warehouse/office structure on the rear of the property and a warehouse building just to the north of the Mill Place shops both undergo demolition.

A “neighborhood meeting” set to take place at Village Hall on the evening of March 29 (after the News-Independent had gone to press) was organized to bring together “Elm Grove residents, neighbors and Wangard Partners, Inc. for an initial open brainstorming session to integrate community ideas into (the) development.”

Wangard’s meeting invitation noted, “It’s important this development serve the needs of Elm Grove and benefits the community. We want to hear and incorporate your ideas! This will be the first of several meetings working with neighbors and residents.”

Look for Updates about this proposed property re-development in upcoming issues of the *News-Independent*, as they become available.

Those wishing to receive more information from the developers may contact Wangard at [info@wangard.com](mailto:info@wangard.com).

Business Directory

\* Community Organizations

Sunset Playhouse  
800 Elm Grove Road, Elm Grove  
(262) 782-4430 (Box Office)  
[www.SunsetPlayhouse.com](http://www.SunsetPlayhouse.com)  
“Let us entertain you!”

\* Financial Services

Edward Jones  
Jim Lemmenes, Financial Advisor  
780 W. Elm Grove Road, Elm Grove  
(262) 785-0516  
[jim.lemmenes@edwardjones.com](mailto:jim.lemmenes@edwardjones.com)

\* Hearing Aids & Testing

Complimentary Hearing Evaluations & Service  
B.S. Wisniewski Hearing Centers  
13000 W. Bluemound Rd., Elm Grove  
(262) 784-0063  
4847 W. Forest Home Ave., Greenfield  
(414) 321-2020  
Call Today! [www.bswhearing.com](http://www.bswhearing.com)

\* Home Improvement

Integrity Services  
Scot W. Stark – Elm Grove resident  
(414) 333-7285  
Painting and refinishing, general repairs, installations and property maintenance.

\* Insurance

Woller-Anger & Company, LLC  
930 Elm Grove Rd., Elm Grove, WI 53122  
(262) 789-2500  
“Building Relationships...  
Insuring Success!”

\* Real Estate

M3 Realty  
Real Estate Sales & Consultation  
890 Elm Grove Road  
In the Village Court  
Ben Mullikin (414) 305-5863  
Martin Mullikin (262) 853-1427  
Pat Mullikin (414) 305-1949  
[www.m3realty.com](http://www.m3realty.com)  
“You know us! We’re Your Neighbors!”

\* Tailoring / Alterations

New Look Tailoring  
13450 Watertown Plank Rd., Elm Grove  
Yelena Dorshak (262) 641-5182  
[www.newlooktailoring.net](http://www.newlooktailoring.net)  
NEW HOURS: Mon.–Wed. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Thurs.& Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat.10 a.m.-1 p.m.

\* Travel

Country Travel DISCOVERIES, LLC  
13500 Watertown Plank Rd., Ste 107, E.G.  
(262) 923-8120  
“Spring Special for our Elm Grove Neighbors:  
SAVE on Summer Getaways before April 29!”  
[SeeCountryTravelDiscoveries.com/EGN](http://SeeCountryTravelDiscoveries.com/EGN)

Imperial Hair Care of Elm Grove

Open nightly 'till 6  
4 on Saturday  
Closed Sunday  
Late on Wednesday

In the Elm Grove Park & Shop  
13425 Watertown Plank Rd.

(262) 784-4242  
Evening Appointments Available

POPE FRANCIS’ ENCYCLICAL

On Care for Our Common Home

A Catholic Response to Climate Change

Join us for a stimulating presentation.  
May 3, 2016 | Tuesday, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Notre Dame of Elm Grove  
13105 Watertown Plank Road  
Elm Grove, Wisconsin

No cost. Reservations requested. Seating limited.  
RSVP Sister Paul-Mary Draxler, [pmdraxler@ssndcp.org](mailto:pmdraxler@ssndcp.org) ~ 262-782-1450 OR Mike Arney, [iammike2350@gmail.com](mailto:iammike2350@gmail.com) ~ 414-771-8850.

School Sisters of Notre Dame  
Central Pacific Province  
[www.ssndcentralpacific.org](http://www.ssndcentralpacific.org)

Read All About It!

Read 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten!

By Noah Weckwerth

Have you signed your child up for “1,000 Books Before Kindergarten” yet? If not, what are you waiting for? Launched nearly two years ago, the early literacy program encourages parents and caregivers to read 1,000 books with their child before he or she enters school — a goal experts say helps children to learn to read. Aside from the incentive to read, there are a couple of neat rewards along the way. When 500 books have been read, the child receives a free book. At 1,000 books, a bookplate will go into a new picture book stating that your child has read 1,000 books before kindergarten. That book will then become part of the library’s permanent collection. To date, five children have already reached the magic number!

Here is another reason to sign up. Keeping track of your books is now as easy as ever with the official 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten application, launched last summer after more than a year in development. Created especially for the Bridges Library System by UW-Milwaukee’s App Brewery, it allows participants in the Elm Grove Library’s



early reader program to easily add and keep track of their child’s reading goals and achievements in a convenient digital format. If you have already been taking part in the 1,000 books program with a paper log, there is a feature at the library which will allow for moving your number of books read over to the app.

Sign up at the library today and visit the Apple Store or Google Play Store to download the free application to your smartphone or tablet. For more information, call (262) 782-6717 or visit [www.elmgrovelibrary.org](http://www.elmgrovelibrary.org).

Reading Practice

(for Grades 1-5) Call (262) 782-6717 to sign up.

- \* Wednesday, April 13: Read to Dexter the cat (4:30, 5:00, or 5:30 p.m.)
- \* Wednesday, April 20: Read to Cooper the dog (4:30, 5:00, or 5:30 p.m.)
- \* Saturday, April 30: Read to Enzo the dog (4:30, 5:00, or 5:30 p.m.)

“Community Memory Screening Day”

Wednesday, April 6, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A memory screen is a wellness tool that helps identify possible changes in memory and recognition. It is not a diagnosis, just a screen to create a baseline of where a person is at so that future changes can be monitored. These FREE, 15-minute memory screens are offered by the Waukesha County Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) and presented by Vicki Beduze, a Dementia Care Specialist for Waukesha County. Vicki will also have resources on hand to help you take any next steps. To make an appointment for your free memory screen at the library, contact Vicki at (262) 548-7848. Appointments are required.



Philip Chard

Philip Chard Lecture

The Elm Grove Public Library is proud to welcome back award-winning columnist and speaker Philip Chard for National Library Week. His talk, “Happiness: What It Is and How We Grow It”, will take an inspiring and thought-provoking look at the behaviors and attitudes that create and sustain life satisfaction.

The FREE event will be held on Wednesday, April 13 at 7 p.m. in the O’Neill Room. Registration is required. Stop by the library or call (262) 782-6717.

To submit News, Calendar Listings, place an AD or, request an AD Rate Sheet  
E-mail: [elmgrovenews@yahoo.com](mailto:elmgrovenews@yahoo.com)  
Or Call: (262) 782-6193

Friends of Elm Grove Library  
Announce  
“Young Poets” Contest  
Details in “Young Writers & Cub Reporters” section  
– Page 9



# Past Times: I REMEMBER...

## The Great Fire at Club Madrid

By Stephen K. Hauser

By the early 1950s, **Sam Pick's** elegant Club Madrid had become a Blue Mound Road landmark, more settled and sedate than in its younger days. Born in the Prohibition era, its classic Spanish-styled architecture, gardens, expansive lawn and long stone-rimmed pool stocked with fish provided a romantic setting that could best the ambience of any other area supper club or cocktail lounge. The finest in food and drink were still on the menu, and the grand stage at the north end of the dining area continued to host nationally known touring bands and singers who plied their trade on the post-World War II "cocktail circuit". The days of the Roaring Twenties and Prohibition, Eliot Ness and Al Capone were long gone. The venerable old night spot had evolved into a respectable venue and a classy destination for those seeking a memorable evening out.

Area high school students even enjoyed meals there prior to Prom and Homecoming dances. They may vaguely have been aware that the club had once enjoyed a more scandalous reputation, but likely were not quite sure why. As for Sam Pick, he played the genial host to "my kids", visiting their tables, his arms draped about the backs of their chairs, asking if they were enjoying themselves, and making sure they had what they needed to make their evening special. "Are you kids alright? Is everything good?" he would ask with a twinkle in his eye, much like a favorite uncle. He did make sure that they didn't venture upstairs, where Sam's special friends and assorted old-timers still enjoyed playing a hand of poker or trying their luck with the aging slot machines. At least one of his former young guests would voice amazement to me years later upon learning that such things were still going on at the club when she dined there with her high school friends. "We were naïve Catholic girls", she told me.

Pick's Club Madrid was situated on the eastern edge of Waukesha County's rapidly expanding suburbs, so its future as a dining and entertainment destination seemed assured. But fate has a way of interfering and Sam Pick was to find that his days as proprietor of Club Madrid were soon to come to a fiery end.

Around 2 a.m. on Thursday, April 9, 1953, a motorist turned onto Club Madrid's long front driveway from Blue Mound Road. In those days, the club was open until 4 a.m. and he had been planning on joining several friends for late night drinks and a bite to eat. What he saw startled him. Flames were racing along the roof line. The fire appeared to have started behind the neon sign that read: PICKS CLUB MADRID. (Firefighters called to the scene later speculated that the fire had been caused by faulty wiring, but it was subsequently determined that the blaze had originated from a bird's nest built directly behind the neon sign. Heat from the light had set the straw lining of the nest ablaze.)

The motorist idled his vehicle and ran inside to alert his friends of the danger. There he encountered Sam Pick, already on the phone to the Town of Brookfield volunteer fire department. In a front page story about the fire run by the Elm Leaves newspaper on April 16, Brookfield fire chief **Franklin Wirth** was quoted by a reporter as saying his 22-man fire crew had arrived "several minutes" after receiving the alarm, but found the club to already be fully engulfed in flame. In addition, the building's trademark red tile roof presented firemen with an immediate hazard, as the intense heat caused the tiles to explode and shatter, sending shards into the air at high speed, often landing several dozen yards away, red hot and still smoking. As a result, the fire crews were told to simply do their best to keep the fire from spreading to nearby buildings and adjoining properties.

Meanwhile, the Wauwatosa fire department

also arrived, but a dispute arose among the men as to whether they were allowed to cross the Milwaukee County line at 124<sup>th</sup> Street to help fight the blaze. (The club was on the Waukesha County side at 12600 W. Blue Mound.) By now, all of the patrons and staff had been safely evacuated, with no reported injuries. Many now formed a semicircle around the long pool and watched the building burn. The Pick family had also escaped their upstairs living quarters, but virtually all of their personal property had been left behind and was consumed in the flames.

Retired Wauwatosa police officer **Warren Purdich** told me in the 1990s that his uncle had been on the scene that night as a Wauwatosa firefighter. He had told him that Sam Pick prowled the parking lot of the club, demanding that the crew from "Tosa join in to assist the Brookfield department. "You guys have been my guests here many a night," he reportedly shouted, "I've bought you free drinks and treated you right. Now get over here and help me! Everything I own is in there!" This harangue brought the Wauwatosa units into action, as they relented and crossed the County line. As their high pressure hoses were trained on the upstairs windows the glass shattered and several slot machines came crashing down onto the driveway, cracking open with a bang and scattering loose change everywhere. This caused some firemen to abandon their tasks to stoop and pick up the still rolling coins. This brought another tirade from Sam Pick: "What're you doin'? That's nickels and dimes! What about my property?"

At this point, it really didn't matter. A Waukesha County sheriff's deputy told the Elm Leaves that Pick had estimated the building had cost him \$100,000 to build over twenty years earlier, and would cost much more to rebuild in 1953. He also guessed that \$12,000 worth of food and liquor had perished in the flames. An estimate of personal property lost was much harder to figure, but would have included furnishings, family heirlooms and personal possessions, along with bonds, cash and personal papers. Nearly all of this was beyond reclamation. It was further noted that Pick only had \$40,000 in insurance on the property.

With the fire out, firefighters left the scene, leaving county sheriff's deputies in charge. They were called back, however, at 8 a.m. the same morning when the fire briefly flared again. Hoses were again trained on the still smoldering walls of the structure.

As for Sam Pick and his family (and some employees), they were now temporarily homeless. Sam's next door neighbors were **Elmer** and **Evelyn Borkow**. Mrs. Borkow would be one of my school bus drivers several years later when I attended Leland School. In 1996, she told me that she and Elmer had offered Sam Pick, his family and staff temporary shelter that night. The Borkow home was a small bungalow at 12550 W. Blue Mound, with little room for such a large assembly of unexpected guests. Still, they made do, while Sam spent much of the early morning on the telephone, speaking with other family and friends and making long-term arrangements.

The blaze at Club Madrid was one of several fires that had beset Elm Grove in the immediate post-war years. Pick's Ship, his other, older and smaller club had also burned in April of 1946, and, according to the Elm Leaves, fires had also occurred in 1949 at the Halfway House, Reinder's mill and the Elm Grove Pharmacy (then located where Sweet Tooth resides today at 13320 Watertown Plank Road). Only in the case of the two Pick properties were the buildings a total loss.

At first, Sam Pick told friends that he would



From the collection of Stephen K. Hauser

A card showing the beautiful dining area, dance floor and stage at Sam Pick's Club Madrid.



From the collection of Stephen K. Hauser

The remains of Club Madrid after the fire is shown in this *Elm Grove Elm Leaves* (April 16, 1953) newspaper clipping.

rebuild his club, although on a smaller scale. Soon, however, he seemed to think better of the idea, and wisely so. The era of the road house and the club on Blue Mound Road was coming to an end. The road itself was continuing its societal and generational evolution. Motels and houses were being constructed where taverns and farms once stood. Ultimately, the Club Madrid property would prove to be no exception. The land was put up for sale, and eventually would boast yet another of the motel establishments.

The remains of the Club Madrid were razed, save for its towering chimney which was still intact, and the imposing stone gates at the front of the property which framed the club's long circle driveway. In 2005, a retention pond was placed on the property as part of the Village of Elm Grove's flood control plan. That spring, I met with Village President Susan Freedy to discuss saving Sam Pick's majestic gates. I was glad to find that she agreed with me, and since

they were still structurally sound and of local historical interest, they were preserved.

When I was interviewed in 2011 for the "I Remember Milwaukee" series for a segment to coincide with **Ken Burns'** Prohibition era project for PBS, I suggested that we film in front of Sam Pick's gates. The program's producer immediately agreed, finding them a visually appealing landmark around which to record the segment. Afterwards, as the film crew packed up to leave, I wondered aloud how many passersby on that busy stretch of Blue Mound Road knew anything of the colorful personalities and wonderful stories that had once unfolded behind those great stone gates. (To be continued.)

Stephen K. Hauser is a long-time Elm Grove resident, a college history professor, and the author of books and articles about local history.



School Sisters  
of Notre Dame  
Central Pacific Province





Invite you to our

Wine & Chocolate Soiree

Saturday, April 16, 2016 ~ 5:30-9 p.m.

Notre Dame of Elm Grove

13105 Watertown Plank Road • Elm Grove, Wisconsin

Enjoy a great evening for \$50 per person

Music by Ceol Cairde ~ also known as the "Music of Friends" and special appearance by Cashel-Dennehy School of Irish Dance, silent auction, hearty hors d'oeuvres with a Celtic flair, wine & beer and decadent chocolate desserts.

RSVP by April 8 ~ [www.ssndcentralpacific.org](http://www.ssndcentralpacific.org)

For more information ~ email: [mmurray@ssndcp.org](mailto:mmurray@ssndcp.org) ~ phone: 262-787-1037



# Calendar of Events for April 2016

## Friday – APRIL 1 APRIL FOOLS DAY

\* **Kiwanis Club of Elm Grove – Golden K**  
Meeting – 9:30 a.m. @ St. Mary’s Senior Center,  
13000 Juneau Blvd. New members / Guests  
welcome. Call Mike (262) 786-1677.

## Monday – APRIL 4

\* **Village of Elm Grove Plan Commission**  
Meeting – 7 p.m. @ Village Hall

## Tuesday – APRIL 5

**SPRING ELECTION: “Voter I.D.” Required**  
Elm Grove residents VOTE @ Village Hall –  
7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Call (262) 782-6700 for information

\* **Elm Grove Woman’s Club**  
11 a.m (social); 11:30 a.m. (business meeting); Noon  
(lunch), followed by program: “Flushing Out a World  
Problem” presented by Terry Tobin. (262) 782-5930.

\* **Village of Elm Grove – Building Board**  
Meeting – 5:30 p.m. @ Village Hall

## Wednesday – APRIL 6

\* **Village of Elm Grove Beautification Committee**  
Meeting – 8:30 a.m. @ Village Hall

## Friday – APRIL 8

\* **Kiwanis Club of Elm Grove – Golden K**  
Meeting – 9:30 a.m. @ St. Mary’s Senior Center,  
13000 Juneau Blvd. New members / Guests welcome.  
Call Mike (262) 786-1677.

## Tuesday – APRIL 12

\* **School District of Elmbrook – Board of Education**  
Meeting – 6 p.m. @ Central Administration Offices  
Board Room, 13780 Hope St., Brookfield. Open to the  
public. (262) 781-3030. [www.elmbrookschoools.org](http://www.elmbrookschoools.org).

## Thursday APRIL 14

\* **Village of Elm Grove – Public Safety Committee**  
Meeting – 6 p.m. @ Village Hall

## Friday – APRIL 15

\* **Kiwanis Club of Elm Grove – Golden K**  
Meeting – 9:30 a.m. @ St. Mary’s Senior Center,  
13000 Juneau Blvd. New members / Guests welcome.  
Call Mike (262) 786-1677.

## Saturday – APRIL 16

\* **Elm Grove Woman’s Club**  
Rummage & Bake Sale — 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. @ the  
Clubhouse – 13885 Watertown Plank Rd.  
(262) 782-5930.

\* **EARTH DAY CELEBRATION!**  
@ Elm Grove Public Library – 2 to 4 p.m.

\* **American Association of University Women**  
West Suburban – Milwaukee Wisconsin Branch  
Annual Fashion Show @ The Wisconsin Club.  
Proceeds to fund scholarships. (262) 227-0823.

## Monday – APRIL 18

\* **Village of Elm Grove Library Board**  
Meeting – 5 p.m. @ Village Hall

\* **Village of Elm Grove Public Works/Utility**  
Committee Meeting – 7 p.m. @ Village Hall

## Tuesday – APRIL 19

\* **Village of Elm Grove Building Board**  
Meeting – 5:30 p.m. @ Village Hall

## Wednesday – APRIL 20

\* **American Association of University Women**  
West Suburban Milwaukee, Wisconsin Branch Meeting  
– 6:30 p.m. (social); 7 p.m. (business); 7:30 p.m.  
(Program: “All Things Political” presented by political  
analyst Mike Gousha.) @ Sunset Playhouse, 800 Elm  
Grove Rd., Elm Grove. Information: Call Carole (262)  
227-0823 or E-mail: [cmcf812@gmail.com](mailto:cmcf812@gmail.com).

\* **OWLS (Older / Wiser / Livelier / Seniors)**  
Sponsored by Community United Methodist Church,  
14700 Watertown Plank Rd., Elm Grove. Carpool  
to Milwaukee’s Third Ward for lunch at “Swig”  
and a matinee performance of “Fallen Angels” at  
the Milwaukee Chamber Theatre. To attend, call  
Carolyn (262) 628-7761.

## Thursday – APRIL 21

\* **Village of Elm Grove Recreation Committee**  
Meeting – 5:30 p.m. @ Village Hall

## Friday – APRIL 22

\* **Kiwanis Club of Elm Grove – Golden K**  
Meeting – 9:30 a.m. @ St. Mary’s Senior Center,  
13000 Juneau Blvd. New members / Guests welcome.  
Call Mike (262) 786-1677.

## Saturday – APRIL 23

\* **Village Shred Day**  
Sponsored by Elm Grove Business Association  
@ Park & Shop – 9 to 11 a.m.

## Monday – APRIL 25

**Last day to enter “Young Poets Contest”**  
@ Elm Grove Public Library – for ages 5 to 14.  
Deadline: 8:30 p.m. (See Read All About It! – Page 8)

\* **Village of Elm Grove Finance & Licensing**  
Committee Meeting – 7 p.m. @ Village Hall – Park  
View Room

\* **Village of Elm Grove Board of Trustees**  
Meeting – 7:30 p.m. @ Village Hall Courtroom  
Agenda @ [www.elmgrovewi.org](http://www.elmgrovewi.org).

## Tuesday – APRIL 26

\* **School District of Elmbrook – Board of Education**  
Meeting – 6 p.m. @ Central Administration Offices  
Board Room, 13780 Hope St., Brookfield. Open to the  
public. (262) 781-3030. [www.elmbrookschoools.org](http://www.elmbrookschoools.org).

## Friday – APRIL 29

\* **Kiwanis Club of Elm Grove – Golden K**  
Meeting – 9:30 a.m. @ St. Mary’s Senior Center,  
13000 Juneau Blvd. New members / Guests welcome.  
Call Mike (262) 786-1677.

## Saturday – APRIL 30

\* **Friends of the Elm Grove Library (FOEGL)**  
“Young Poets Contest” reception for winners – 10  
a.m. in the O’Neill Room of the Elm Grove Public  
Library. Open to the public. (262) 782-6717.

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# Clubs & Organizations



Photo by James L. W. Bain / EGNI

**Katherine Sharpless** with her mixed media work, including a 3D paper cut, backlit pen and ink butterfly fantasy (at center).

## Elm Grove Woman’s Club Presents Art Scholarships

By **Lisabeth Passalis-Bain**, [elmgrovenews@yahoo.com](mailto:elmgrovenews@yahoo.com)

A large and appreciative crowd gathered at the Elm Grove Woman’s Club (EGWC) on the evening of March 10 to view the work of 41 high school students, (30 seniors and 11 underclassmen) representing four area schools: Brookfield East, Brookfield Central, Brookfield Academy and Pius, during the club’s 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Art Scholarship Competition, co-sponsored for the first time by **Amy Carman Designs** of Elm Grove.

Selected as the recipients of the two \$1,500 scholarships were Brookfield Academy seniors **Katherine Sharpless** of Elm Grove and **Shaili Gandhi** of Brookfield. Katherine noted that her college plans include studying painting

and set design for theatre. Shaili, who will attend N.Y.U. next fall, said she will create her own major and continue to study psychology and dance.

Brookfield Central junior **Emma Favill** of Brookfield was the winner of a \$250 underclassman Art Grant. Emma, who plans a career in graphic design and art, told those assembled that the work she entered represented her first experiences with the use of watercolor.

The scholarship and grant winners have been invited, along with their parents and art teachers, to attend the April 5th luncheon meeting of the EGWC where their work will again be displayed.



Photo by James L. W. Bain / EGNI

**Shaili Gandhi** displayed three interconnected pen and ink fantasy drawings featuring hummingbirds and the wavy tendrils of a sprite.



Photo by James L. W. Bain / EGNI

**Emma Favill** with her watercolor and acrylic paintings.



Photo by Mike Ullrich

St. Mary’s Senior Club members at a recent meeting.

## Where Have You Been?

By **Mike Ullrich**

St. Mary’s Seniors Club held its monthly meeting at St. Mary’s Visitation Parish Senior Center, 13000 Juneau Blvd., Elm Grove on Monday, March 7, during which members shared with the group places they had been that left an impression on them.

The topics discussed included Jasper, Canada; La Jolla, California; Ireland; the Holy Land and Rome; the Lost City of the Incas – Mach Picchu, Peru; Edison/Ford winter homes, Ft. Myers, Florida; Walt Disney World Technology, Orlando, Florida; and Moscow, Russia and Kazakhstan.

It was a wonderful meeting. If you are interested in joining our fun group, contact **Dan** and **Dawn Matthews** at (262) 786-3813.

## Kiwanis Club News

By **Mike Ullrich**

The first quarter of 2016 has been a busy one for the Kiwanis Club of Elm Grove – Golden K.

\* The club’s Christmas Kettle fund-raising effort of \$5,481.29 was the second highest dollar amount among county service and community groups, as noted by the Salvation Army in February.

\* A letter from **Carol Rogar** of the Child and Family Center of Excellence stated, “On behalf of the over 400 children and their families enrolled here at Head Start of Waukesha County, we would like to thank you for your very generous donation of children’s books and CDs. As we told Kiwanian **Tom Patmore**, we have a book/literacy family party here on January 21, and your books and CDs will be put into the hands of many, many disadvantaged little children.”

\* About 250 people lined up February 19 at the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Kiwanis Club spaghetti dinner, which Chairman **Dick Boulay** estimated will make the club just over \$4,000 for education and training for our local children.

\* The club donated \$500 for the purchase of an 8-person golf cart for participants at Camp Wabeek, a United Way project for the physically handicapped.

\* On the first Friday of each month, Kiwanis members donate at least 60 boxes of cereal to the Waukesha Food Pantry.

If you wish to be part of the greatest club, call Mike at (262) 786-1677.

### Want to help beautify our local environment?

Become a member of the Elm Grove Beautification Committee!

Contact Sandy at [spommerening@wi.rr.com](mailto:spommerening@wi.rr.com) for information.



# News Briefs



Photo by Kristin Kashian

This year's Battle of the Books participants at Tonawanda Elementary School.

## **“Battle of the Books” Held at Tonawanda Elementary**

By **Kristin Olson**, Tonawanda Principal

Thirty-eight fourth and fifth grade students participated in our annual Battle of the Books event. The students read 10 books from a pre-determined list of books, engaged in some discussions about the books in preparation, and then participated in some competitive battles.

Each of the three rounds of battles consisted of 20 questions — ten questions posed to each team. The correct response earns 5 points. However, if a team does not answer the question correctly on its first

opportunity, the other team can steal the question for 3 points.

All eight teams competed in round 1. The second round included 4 teams and the final championship battle against the two remaining teams.

Our final championship battle was held on Thursday, February 25 between The Flying Pigs (**Oscar Corwin, Noah Hynduik, Nate Munnagle, Maya Kelsey and Lucy Leffler**) and The Pink Fluffy

Unicorns (Noah Alberte, David Spahr, John Tsagalis, Sofija Brazauskas, and Suraksha Kodgi).

The Pink Fluffy Unicorns team won the final championship battle.

The program continues to be a great event due to the Tonawanda PTO's financial support, PTO parent chair Sara Schedler, our staff coordinator Kristin Kashian, and the many parent volunteers!

## Sunset Playhouse to Hold Auditions

**(Fasten your seat belts!)**

Auditions for "Boeing Boeing", a hilarious farce that enjoyed revivals in London and New York, will take place at Sunset Playhouse, 800 Elm Grove Road, Elm Grove on Monday, April 11 and Tuesday, April 12 at 7 p.m.

Play synopsis: "It's the 1960s, and swinging bachelor Bernard couldn't be happier: a flat in Paris and three gorgeous stewardesses, all engaged to him without knowing about each other. Bernard's perfect life gets bumpy when a new and speedier Boeing jet throws off all of his careful planning. When all three stewardesses arrive in town simultaneously, catastrophe looms."

“Boeing Boeing” (written by **Marc Camoletti**; translated by **Beverley Cross** and **Francis Evans**) will be directed at Sunset by **Michael (Paco) Pocaro**.

Auditions will consist of readings from the script. Scripts are available to check out. Auditioners will be asked to fill out an Audition Information Sheet prior to auditions; one may fill this out the night of the auditions or in advance by downloading the form on the Sunset website: [www.sunsetplayhouse.com](http://www.sunsetplayhouse.com).

Rehearsals will be held Monday, April 25 through Wednesday, June 1, 2016. Performances are set for Tuesday, June 2 through Sunday, June 19, 2016.

Contact **Ann Mather** at (262) 782-4431,  
x 221 or [amather@sunsetplayhouse.com](mailto:amather@sunsetplayhouse.com)  
with any questions.



Photo by Lisabeth Passalis-Bain / EGNi

Area residents participate in chair volleyball at American Legion Post 449.

## Players Sought for Chair Volleyball

By **Lisabeth Passalis-Bain**

One player, who will remain un-named, (hint: an EGNI photographer) whacked the ball at a recent session of “chair volleyball” at American Legion Post 449 with such gusto that HE literally fell off his chair!

While I don't recommend that radical (and notably painful) approach to the game, chair volleyball at the Post is, as a flyer promotes, "free to anyone who loves good fun, wants some moderate to light exercise and social activities. No experience necessary!!!!!"

In chair volleyball, players must (theoretically) remain in their chairs(!) while the ball (a beach ball) remains in play. Each player is allowed to hit the ball multiple times in succession. There is rotation as in regular volleyball so everyone gets a turn at serving. Scoring is similar to regular volleyball as well. The net is lower and playing area smaller.

The action takes place every Tuesday from 5 to 6 p.m. at American Legion Post 449, 3245 N. 124<sup>th</sup> St., Brookfield. For more information, e-mail Brad at [BCatura@BCFitness.wi.rr.com](mailto:BCatura@BCFitness.wi.rr.com).



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# News Briefs



Photo courtesy of St. Mary's Visitation Parish

St. Mary's Visitation seventh grade students with senior parishioners.

## Writing Project Unites St. Mary's Students and Seniors

By **Bryanna Nennig**

St. Mary's Visitation seventh graders met with a group of senior parishioners recently for a special luncheon and celebration in the Church Atrium.

Each SMV student met with an older parishioner in November, getting to know them and interviewing them for a narrative they would write about a favorite memory in the parishioner's life. The students enjoyed lunch with

the parishioners and presented their writings to them along with a special framed keepsake they had created.

The project was a collaboration between SMV Jr. High English teacher **Bryanna Nennig** and **Mary Sue Protz**, Human Concerns Coordinator for St. Mary's Visitation Parish.

# Coloring Contest Winners!

\* In our March issue, we announced a **Kids' Coloring Contest**, sponsored by **Imperial Hair Care of Elm Grove** (in the Park & Shop) and the Elm Grove News-Independent. Judging was done in four age groups: 3-5, 6-7, 8-9, and 10-11.

The winners, shown below, each received a \$15.00 cash prize. Thanks to all who entered!



Olivia Webb, age 5, Elm Grove



Isabella Vieaux, age 7, Pewaukee



Maria Glaser, age 9, Wauwatosa



Kaili Auchampach, age 11, Elm Grove

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Kathy Biernat

## SMV Teacher Receives National Award

By **Nora Mihm**

Congratulations to **Kathy Biernat**, St. Mary's Visitation's 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher. Mrs. Biernat was awarded the Paul DeHart Hurd Award by the National Middle Level Science Teachers' Association (NMLSTA), for "demonstrating both exemplary science teaching performance in a middle level classroom, and for her leadership in sharing these skills and ideas with others."

The NMLSTA noted, "Kathy is in her tenth year of teaching science for grades 5-8 at St. Mary's Visitation School in Elm Grove, Wisconsin. After over a dozen years in curriculum design at the Medical College of Wisconsin, it was back to school for a teaching license to add to a bachelor's from Marquette University and a master's from the University of North Texas.

Kathy challenges herself by undertaking professional development workshops in areas she is uncomfortable with! She has been to Houston to experience zero gravity, southern California to learn about radio telescopes and aerospace research, to Connecticut for training in robotics, northern Wisconsin for No Teacher Left Inside, and New Orleans to experience science from the World War II perspective.

She serves on the NOVA Education Advisory Board and the NSTA Aerospace Programs Advisory Board. These experiences energize her and inject new enthusiasm and relevance into her teaching.

When not teaching or writing grants for classroom equipment, Kathy, her husband, three boys and dog can be found on a boat somewhere! Their last vacation had them sailing the Keys in Florida, but most of the summer is spent in beautiful northern Wisconsin catching rays and catching fish!"

## Raising Readers

Research has proven that family involvement is the number one predictor of early reading success and future academic achievement. The School District of Elmbrook is offering a series of workshops taught by Elmbrook reading specialists and classroom teachers.

"Emergent Reading: Bringing Joy to Reading in a Technology-Filled World" will be presented on Thursday, April 14 from 6 to 7 p.m. at Dixon Elementary, 2400 Pilgrim Square Dr., Brookfield.

Visit [www.elmbrookschoools.org/reader](http://www.elmbrookschoools.org/reader) for more information.



# Young Writers & Cub Reporters

## Joe’s New Life By John Tsagalis, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, Tonawanda Elementary

Have you ever had that gut feeling when you think you want to take action about something, but you don’t want to? That one decision will impact your life for all eternity.

Joe dashed into his new school in a new state. He originally lived in San Francisco, California, but moved to Dallas, Texas last July. He was the most excited person in the world to start 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Then, he bumped into Hector and Hector boomed, “Watch where you’re going kid.”

“Okay, okay,” Joe muttered as he dashed to his first class.

Finally, the lunch bell rang. Joe sprinted to the lunch room. Three boys sat next to him. Their names were Billy, Bob, and Greg.

“Hi,” Billy said.

“Hi. Do you know the tall, plump kid in our grade?” Joe asked, jumping to his question, not even asking what their names were.

“Yes, but what does Hector have to do with anything? That’s the kid’s name, Hector, by the way,” replied Billy.

“I never caught your name,” Joe said.

“I’m Billy, that’s Bob, and over there is Greg,” Billy replied.

“About Hector, I.....”

“RRRRRRRRRRing” That indicated it was time for class again.

Joe walked as slow as a snail to class and when he got there, guess who was there? Hector.

“Hi,” Hector said, almost too perfectly.

“Hi,” Joe said, not too nervously.

“Time for class!” Mrs. Woodson shouted over the chatting of the snotty kids. “Take a seat.”

“RRRRRRRRRRRRRRing,” exclaimed the school bell.

“Where ya goin’ squirt?” Hector said to Joe while pinning him against the lockers.

“Let me go! Let me go! I’m gonna miss my bus!” Joe exclaimed while wiggling, punching and kicking to get out of the grip of Hector.

“Awwww. Is little squirt gonna cry? Boo hoo,” teased Hector.

“Brrrrrrrrrr,” buzzed Joe’s bus. Joe caught a glimpse of it leaving.

“My bus left, so LET MEGOOOOOOOOO!” screamed Joe through tears.

“Whimp,” said Hector, grasping on Joe’s neck now.

“SOMEBODY!!!!!! ANYBODY!!!!!!!!!! HELP!!!!!!!!!!” Joe said, half screaming and half choking.

After what seemed like forever, Hector let go of Joe when Hector’s parents came.

At Joe’s house his parents exclaimed, “WHY WERE YOU LATE????!!!!!! WE ALMOST CALLED THE COPS.”

“I forgot to take the bus,” Joe lied.

The next day, Joe told Mrs. Woodsons about what happened to him the day before, and she just chuckled out a “No way. He’s too nice. He wouldn’t hurt a teeny, tiny, puny fly.”

During reading that day, Joe told Billy, Bob and Greg about what happened and what Mrs. Woodsons said to him, and they felt terrible.

“RRRRRRRRRRRRing” The bell shook the whole school while it rang.

Joe managed to avoid Hector, but he knew he would bump into him the next day.

“How was school today?” his parents asked.

“Good,” he said casually.

“We are making your favorite, pizza,” his dad said, trying to change the subject for no reason at all.

“Okay,” Joe simply responded.

Over the night, Joe thought of a perfect plan in his dream about demolishing Hector. A plan that would change life’s paths for him. A plan that was the best plan in the history of plans. A plan that is, that is, diabolical.

At lunch the next day, Joe told Billy, Bob and Greg about his plan. They all agreed to pitch in.

Billy said, “It’s risky enough to work.”

“RRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRing.”

After the school bell rang that day, Joe, Billy, Bob and Greg got into position for the plan.

“I forgot my locker combination,” Greg said to Mrs. Woodsons.

“Okay. I’ll look into the book for the combination. Where is your locker?” Mrs. Woodsons said.

“Over here.” Greg said, a little too enthusiastic.

“Hey Hector, wait up. Wait up!” Billy screamed.

“What do you want kid?” Hector said through gritted teeth.

“Over here. I have to show you something,” Billy said.

That was Joe’s cue. He got into position.

“Come on, hurry,” Billy said while speeding off (without noticing) Hector was far behind.

“PANT. Hey, watch where you’re goin’ squirt,” Hector said to Joe, pushing him against the lockers, not knowing that Mrs. Woodsons was 2½ lockers over.

“What was that? Hold on a second, Greg. Something’s going on,” Mrs. Woodsons said.

“Stop. STOP!” Joe hollered. Joe was so into making that so real, he could be a professional actor.

“Guess who has a front row ticket in detention? The lucky winner is, drum roll please — Hector. First of all, you pull a fake image. And second and last of all, you’ve been torturing smaller kids for the first week-ish. How dare you,” Mrs. Woodsons said with her hands on her hips. “I’m telling Mrs. Less about what you’re doing.”

The next year, up until 7<sup>th</sup> grade was torture-free.

However, the first day of 7<sup>th</sup> grade after school was a different story. Joe said bye to Billy, Bob and Greg. Then, out of the blue, Bob slammed Joe into the lockers.

# News’ Hounds & other beloved creatures

## Adopt a Pet at the Elmbrook Humane Society By Heather Gehrke

Milo is a quiet, independent kinda guy — which is perfect for an individual or family who is on the go but would like a feline family member. He takes a little time to adjust to new situations, but you would never know, as he just quietly hangs out on his comfy bed while doing so.



Photo courtesy of Elmbrook Humane Society  
**Milo**

He’s looking for a loving, quiet household who will be patient while he adjusts to his new life with you. If he sounds like the cat for you, meet him today!

The Elmbrook Humane Society is located at 20950 Enterprise Ave., Brookfield, off Barker Road. Stop by, or call (262) 782-9261 for more information.

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\* Noon Lunch: 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Tuesday–Friday, daily specials

\* Mondays:.....Taco Night Buffet, 4:30 to 8 p.m., Chef Mick

\* 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday:..Big Band Dance, 1:30 to 3 p.m., \$3

\* Tuesdays:.....Move Out Exercise, 5 to 6 p.m. FREE

\* Wednesdays .Dart-ball League, 7 p.m.

\* Thursdays:...Cook-in, 5 to 8:30 p.m., Chef Alex

\* Fridays: .....Fish Fry, 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. / Joyce Bevan, piano / 4:30 to 7 p.m Various live bands, 7 to 10 p.m.

\* Saturdays: ....Food & Raffles, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Various live bands, 7 to 11 p.m. \$5 cover / \$4 members

\* Sundays: .....Open 11:30 a.m. to closing, multi-sport TV coverage w/ Legion family

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17 Caramel Turtle

18 Twix Mix

19 Oreo Cheesecake

20 Turtle Dove

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# Home Improvement

## Home Repair and Maintenance Services

By Scot Stark of Integrity Services

As I travel through the roads and highways there is always one home-related issue that focuses my attention, namely the residential mailbox. It is quite amazing to me the array of “repairs and fixes” I observe. Duct tape, bungee cords, rope, plastic buckets filled with rock, bars of metal scrap--- it goes on and on. All with one goal, keep the mailbox serviceable. Good intentions resulting in an eyesore! It is surprising to me the number of homeowners who discover that proper replacement and repair is quite affordable and results in long-term maintenance free usage, not to mention good looks.

Proper repair or replacement is very important to provide an attractive and long-term fix. Also important is proper location which results in not only making the post office happy but lessens or eliminates winter snowplow damage. USPO does have specifications for proper placement. Quality installation includes setting the new post in cement at a proper depth. There is a myriad of products on the market that are offered as alternatives to the cement method of installation. In my experience these cost more money, and fail to provide a long-term fix. Spring is the time of the year that the mailbox and/or post condition takes center stage. The snowplows, freeze and thaw cycles and water-saturated ground take a heavy toll on mailboxes, especially those that have been incorrectly installed in the first place. A properly installed post and box

provides an attractive as well as functional addition to your property and holds up to ice, water, snow and also (short of a direct hit) the snowplow. Cement installation is a permanent and solid method and with experience actually quite simple. Winter snowplow protection can be maximized by installing two orange reflective marker poles a couple inches in front and on either side of the box.

Mailbox designs are almost unlimited. There are high-end as well as value priced products available. Single box as well as multi box installations. Wood designs can be customized for the individual homeowner to their preference. Accessories such as copper caps and finials can be added for a distinctive look at a reasonable price.

Repair of existing posts, supports and boxes can also be an option if the repair costs do not outweigh replacement. Sometimes I have simply pulled out an old, loose post and set it in cement. Why replace something if it does not need it, right? Integrity Services provides standard as well as high-end and even custom-designed post and box repair and replacement all to USPO specifications and placement. Replacement, repair or upgrade, with Integrity you have a choice. Call Scot now for some free advice!

Next month: Deck maintenance and repair – Problems and solutions

# Legal Issues

## Estate Planning: Where Do I Begin?

By Attorney Isabell M. Mueller

Whatever the size of your financial estate, it is important to plan. The legal and financial issues raised by your death or incapacity, will be more difficult and expensive for your loved ones without a proper estate plan. Unfortunately, most of us procrastinate because thinking about and then planning for death or disability is an unpleasant prospect. It is far easier to focus on the more day-to-day concerns of our lives. However, while estate planning may seem like a daunting task, it need not be. As with almost everything else, getting started is the hardest part.

A good estate plan will involve a number of legal documents, the most common of which are wills or revocable trusts, beneficiary designations, financial and health care powers of attorney and living wills. However, before any legal documents can be drafted, there are initial steps you will need to take and issues to which you must give at least some preliminary thought.

First: Consider yourself. If you become incapacitated, but do not die, who should manage your finances? Who should make decisions regarding your health care? What values are important to you regarding your health care?

Second: Consider your spouse. If you pass away, should everything go to your spouse? Do you have a blended family?

Should part of your estate pass to your children even if you have a spouse? Have you signed a prenuptial agreement that addresses this?

Third: Consider your children. Who should raise them if they are minors? Who will be their guardian? Choosing a guardian will force you to decide what values are most important to you: religious beliefs, cultural identity, parenting styles, education, family size, geographical location, financial skills, just to name a few. Also, consider whether your children are mature enough to manage their inheritance. If not, the funds should be placed in a trust for their benefit. Who should be the trustee? The trustee will not only manage the trust funds, but also decide when and why to make distributions to your children.

Fourth: Consider your other beneficiaries. If you do not have a surviving spouse or children, who should receive your assets? Would you like to leave your money to other family members, your church, your favorite charities, or all of the above?

The initial phase of the estate planning process is the hardest because the non-financial decisions are always more difficult to make than the financial ones. Once these decisions have been made, however, the rest of the process should flow smoothly.

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# Letters to the Editor

\* Letters regarding issues of concern to the Elm Grove / Elmbrook community will be considered for publication on a space available basis. Submissions (400 words maximum) must include the writer's name, address & phone number.  
\* Mail to: Letters/Editor, Elm Grove News-Independent, P.O. Box 372, Elm Grove, WI 53122 \* E-mail: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com Subject line: "Letters to the Editor".

## FOEGL’S 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Used Book Sale a Success!

Thank you to everyone who helped make the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Used Book Sale a big success for friends of the Elm Grove Library. We grossed close to \$22,000 and put books into new hands, big and small. It took over eighty of us to run the sale, and we couldn't do it without our wonderful volunteers. We also had high school students who came and helped with the heavy lifting for set up and take down. Kudos to all for a job well done.

A big thank you to all of you who brought in donations. This really is a community event. We don't want to forget our community partners. **Woller-Anger Insurance Company** allowed us to post a sign on their property, as did **TWP Architecture** at the St. Mary's Triangle (Juneau Blvd & Watertown Plank Rd.) In Brookfield, a big thank you to **Napa**

**Auto Care** on 124<sup>th</sup> St. and North Ave. for letting us post a sign. We applaud you all for your community spirit.

We have made donations with the items left over to other libraries, Milwaukee Correctional Facility, and many other non-profits. Our goal is to start every sale with new items and find homes for what is left.

If you want to help your Library, join Friends of Elm Grove Library ([www.friendsofelmgrovelibrary.org](http://www.friendsofelmgrovelibrary.org)) or donate items for our next sale, March 2 to 5, 2017. We accept donations year 'round during regular library hours.

Thanks for another GREAT sale!  
**Pat Ruttum**  
Elm Grove

Classifieds

Listings are \$15.00 per issue (for up to 20 words) + 25 cents for each additional word. Call (262) 782-6193 or E-mail: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com

Kiwanis Golden K of Elm Grove, Wisconsin

COME JOIN US, men and women to serve the children of our community. We meet each Friday morning 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. For membership details, talk to one of the 80 Kiwanis members, e-mail Mike Ullrich: michaelullrich@yahoo.com, or call (262) 786-1677.



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LINDA



# News Briefs



Benjamin Ewert



Matthew Ewert

## Ben & Matt Ewert Earn Eagle Scout Awards

By Debbie Pankow

Congratulations to Elm Grove Lutheran Troop 64 Eagle Scouts **Benjamin** and **Matthew Ewert**.

The cousins separate Eagle projects were within the Brookfield village area at the Hoffman Street lot, which is the site of the newer Farmer’s Market. Ben constructed an enclosure for the outdoor portable toilet and Matt built a bridge over the creek.

Benjamin, a junior at Milwaukee Lutheran High School, earned 34 merit badges. He participated in National Youth Leadership Training, was the Senior Patrol Leader, Asst. Senior Patrol Leader, Scribe, Webmaster, and Asst. Patrol Leader at various times and fulfilled requirements for the Duty to God, Reverent Scout, and World Conservation Awards. His Eagle Award was earned on December 19, 2015.

Matthew, a junior at Waukesha North

High School, earned 35 merit badges. He participated in National Youth Leadership Training, completed the requirements to earn the NYLT bolo award, was elected to the Order of the Arrow, and earned his OA Brotherhood rank. He was the Senior Patrol Leader, Asst. Senior Patrol Leader, Quartermaster, and OA Rep., Patrol Leader and Asst. Patrol Leader. He fulfilled requirements for Duty to God, Reverent Scout, World Conservation Award, Mile Swim Award, Master Sailor Award, Master Climber Award, and Snorkeling Award. His Eagle Award was earned on January 16, 2016.

Many friends, family, and church members celebrated with Benjamin and Matthew at their joint Eagle Court of Honor at Elm Grove Lutheran on February 20, 2016. Congratulations to these fine young men, and to the Troop 64 leaders and scouts who guided them along their trail to Eagle.

# Gardening in the Grove

## Spring Ahead and Don’t Fall Behind

By Janet Wolski, owner of J.W.’s Lawn & Snowplow Service

Spring has certainly sprung early this year in Elm Grove, and I am pleased to say we haven’t had any snow predicted for March. With that being said, there are many pros and cons to having an El Nino kind of weather pattern this year. On the pro side of things, I have seen some of my perennial plants peeking through as early as February 25. The grass is also ahead of schedule, so it’s nice to see it greening up quickly. We love to see the signs and smells of spring arrive early to our part of town and have the warm spring sun kiss our cheeks as we walk our dogs or drive to do our daily errands. Consequently, the cons to having an El Nino weather pattern is that every single weed will be popping through the soil before we know it! We have already seen some weeds on lawns and flower beds as early as March 5! We need to take action A.S.A.P.!

We should be applying a crabgrass preventative down as early as possible this year since weeds and crabgrass begin to emerge when the soil temps are at 55 degrees. We certainly have had our fair share of high 60s and even two 70 degree days in March with lots of nice sunshine. This has made it a very ripe year for weeds to germinate quickly, over a longer period of time.

I would suggest treating your flower and mulch beds with a pre-emergent

type of product that is specifically intended for flower and mulch beds. This will create a barrier for 3 to 4 months of weed suppression so you will have less hand weeding to do in your beautiful perennial gardens.

Do not forget to treat your lawn as well. Spring has come to Elm Grove about 2-3 weeks in advance, so if you normally treat your lawn with a 4-step program to keep weeds at bay, you may want to think about having it treated with a 5-step program for better results. Make sure your lawn care provider is licensed and certified in applying any quality product for your property, and get ready to enjoy a longer spring than normal. Don’t forget to help support your local lawn care company.

“Flowers always  
make people better,  
happier & more helpful.

They are sunshine,  
food & medicine  
to the soul.”

Luther Burbank



Ron Lieber

## Brookfield Academy Special Event

By Bridget O’Donnell

“An Evening with Ron Lieber: Raising Kids Who Are Grounded, Generous, and Smart About Money” will be presented on Tuesday, April 12 at 7 p.m. at Brookfield Academy’s Patriots Hall Upper School.

Don’t miss the special event with **Ron Lieber**, *New York Times* personal finance columnist, husband, dad, and best-selling author of “*The Opposite of Spoiled*”. Ron likes conversations, so bring the toughest question your child has ever asked about money or stories of your own efforts to raise grounded young kids who know how to save, splurge, and give in the most mature and meaningful ways. There is no cost to attend. Reserve your seats at [brookfieldacademy.org](http://brookfieldacademy.org) by Friday, April 8.



Jack Halquist

## Brookfield Academy Student Athlete Honored

By Bridget O’Donnell

Brookfield Academy senior offensive lineman **Jack Halquist** has been selected to participate in the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association All-Star game in July. The game will benefit Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin.

Jack is the son of **Thomas Halquist** of Elm Grove and **Julie Halquist** of Brookfield.



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