Volume 5, Number 2

Serving Elm Grove, Wisconsin

APRIL 2017







Photos by James L. W. Bain / EGNI

FLOWER POWER: A variety of colorful blooms beautify the landscape at an Elm Grove residence, one past spring.

#### **Reinders Redevelopment a** "No-Go", Proposal Withdrawn

By Lisabeth Passalis-Bain, elmgrovenews@yahoo.com

Nearly 6 weeks after Wangard Partners, Inc. "respectfully withdrew" its application to the Village of Elm Grove for a proposed multi-family development at 13420 and 13500 Watertown Plank Road in Elm Grove (i.e. the Reinders property), company President Wayne Wiertzema issued the following statement (dated March 13) regarding the status of the project:

"Wangard Partners has made the difficult decision to withdraw indefinitely its redevelopment proposal for the Reinders property in Elm Grove. We wish to express sincere gratitude to the village board for their collaboration over the past year, and we thank the Reinders family for their hard work and professionalism.

While the Wangard redevelopment at Reinders was simply not the right project at the right time for the Village of Elm Grove, Wangard has valued the opportunity to learn more about the village and its residents, and we hope that Elm Grove continues to identify unique and varied opportunities to progress as a community in ways that respect its rich tradition. We welcome the chance to work with the village again in the future."

#### **Village to Celebrate Earth Day**

By Lisabeth Passalis-Bain

Your opportunity to help "Save the World" comes a bit earlier this year. While Earth Day falls, officially, on April 22, a special event to mark the occasion will take place in Elm Grove on Tuesday, April 18 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the lower level of the Elm Grove Public Library.

Event coordinator Sue Jabonski of Elm Grove has announced the following trio of speakers:

- \* Village President Neil Palmer will present details about "fixing the flood plain: how flooding problems here were solved and regional clear water issues/the Menomonee River Watershed" from 6:30 to 7 p.m.
- Tony Garcia, a graduate research assistant at UW -Milwaukee, will speak about "Climate Change and its affect on us" from 7 to 7:30 p.m.
- \* Dr. Marissa Jablonski, a development engineer and educator, is a faculty member of the Master's of Sustainable Peacebuilding program at UWM, and serves as an International Coordinator of a Guatemalan-led and run NGO that builds infrastructure to meet indigenous communities' needs. She will discuss actions you can take and how they matter, from 7:30 to 8 p.m.

The event is FREE and open to the public. Come and oin the discussion!

#### **Election - Tuesday, April 4**

By Lisabeth Passalis-Bain

All Elm Grove residents vote in the Community Rooms at Village Hall. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Photo identification must be provided. To register on Election Day, proof of residency is required.

The Official Ballot (Nonpartisan Office) lists the following seats up for election & the candidates:

- \* State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Evers & Lowell E. Holtz
- \* Justice of Supreme Court Annette Ziegler
- \* Court of Appeals Judge, District 2 Brian K. Hagedorn
- \* Circuit Court Judge, Branch 3 Ralph M. Ramirez
- \* Circuit Court Judge, Branch 4 Lloyd V. Carter
- \* Circuit Court Judge, Branch 11 William Domina \* Elm Grove Village President – Neil Palmer
- \* Elm Grove Village Trustee **Thomas Michalski**, Katy Cornell, Jim Koleski & Patty Kujawa

(Vote for no more than 3)

Elmbrook School District School Board Member (Area 1 Seat – Jon J. Dzurak & Allison Malnar) (Area III Seat – Leanne Wied & Jian Sun) (At Large Seat – Kathryn Wilson)



## Jian Sun For Elmbrook School Board

Vote SUN on Tuesday, April 4th

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through local control of curriculum and programs Maintain community and property value through

best-in-state school district

AUTHORIZED AND PAID FOR BY SUN4ELMBROOK: MELANIE BATHURST, TREASURER

#### **BACKGROUND:**

- Resident of Brookfield for 17 years
- Two children, Brookfield Elementary, WHMS, BCHS
- Marguette University: MS in Chemistry, MS in Math, **Master of Business Administration**
- Professional experience in business and education management, teaching, scientific research

ENDORSED BY: Neil Palmer, Kate Bloomberg, Matt Gibson, Jimmy Schulgit, Dale Kooyenga

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Lisabeth Passalis-Bain

#### "It's the Little Things..."

APRIL 18 is "National Columnists Day"

We journalists mark this day in honor of the late Ernie Pyle, the great newsman and World War II correspondent who wrote countless stories — first-person dispatches from Europe and later (because he believed that there were so many more "GI Joe" stories that needed to be told) from the Pacific - about ordinary people who, in the course of battle, often did extraordinary things. His life was lost on April 18, 1945, killed by machine gun fire while on patrol with Marines on the small island of le Shima, west of Okinawa.

That my late father, Theodore Passalis, fought with the Army's 7th "Hourglass" Division, 17th Infantry Reg. on Okinawa - and lived to tell about it — gives Pyle's presence on nearby le Shima island, during the same time period, added meaning.

Throughout his career, many of Pyle's stories were based on his belief that: "It's the little things that count," as he once explained to his editor. His reporting decades ago about the day-to-day experiences of people he encountered continues to inspire my own writing/publishing, which focuses on "all the little things" that make OUR community and its residents unique.



Photo courtesy of School District of Elmbrook / Tonawanda website

Tonawanda's 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Brownies visited Crumby Art Bakehouse & Cakery, 890 Elm Grove Road, Elm Grove in March. The girls learned about Women in Business from co-owner Natalia Roman (shown at far right) and practiced working with fondant and other methods of cupcake decorating.

Visit the Elm Grove News-Independent's website: www.elmgrove.news

> Click on ARCHIVE to view our current issue & many past issues.

## **Good Works!**

# Greater Waukesha Literacy

www.WaukeshaLiteracy.org

#### **Volunteers, Support Needed for Literacy Program** By Jim Hahn

county neighbors struggling to understand and communicate with the world around them to provide meaning and purpose to

Our programs reflect the reality that "it all begins with literacy" --- from education to employment and from choosing a place to live, shopping for something to eat, or deciding which candidate to elect. Every aspect of life is enriched by foundational literacy skills.

The prosperity enjoyed by many in our county is not shared equally by all of the people who live and work here. Many of our neighbors struggle in the real selfimposed shame and silence of illiteracy as they raise families in our community but never fully realize their aspirations for a better job, a better home, or a better sense of their place in our community.

Literacy is a complex issue and modernization has expanded the types of knowledge and skills beyond reading and

For the past three decades, Greater writing that comprise a literate citizen in Waukesha Literacy (founded in 1986) has 2017. In addition to providing basic skills been at the forefront of empowerment of and ELL tutoring, Greater Waukesha Literacy embraces them all: computer literacy, financial literacy, family literacy, health literacy, civics literacy, nutritional literacy, etc.

> On the most modest of non-profit budgets, we strive to meet the needs of more than 300 individual students each year. Through a few signature events, we raise critical operating funds and keep our issues in front of the public (Scrabble Games, Corporate Spelling Bee, Celebration of Literacy).

> Occasionally, our hundreds of dedicated volunteers are recognized for their contributions to our community. In 2013, we were named the Waukesha County Outstanding Small Non-profit by the county executive. In 2015, we were awarded the Outstanding Workplace Literacy program in the state by Wisconsin Literacy, Inc.

(See LITERACY – Page 3)



262-782-4430

SunsetPlayhouse.com

## **Good Neighbors**

#### Elm Grove residents are invited to nominate their "Good Neighbors" for this new feature.

Do you have a special neighbor who steps up in case of emergency; brings food and comfort during a time of illness; helps with lawn work / snow shoveling; watches your property when you are out of town, etc.? Honor their efforts by telling us about them in 300 words or less.

Submit your story to elmgrovenews@ yahoo.com or mail it to: EGNI - "Good Neighbors", P.O. Box 372, Elm Grove, **WI 53122-0372.** If published, you AND your "Good Neighbor" will each receive tickets for an upcoming performance at Sunset Playhouse. Questions? Send an e-mail or call Lisabeth at (262) 782-6193.

## **Doctor Who What** Where When Why & How

By Lisabeth Passalis-Bain elmgrovenews@yahoo.com

"Journalism 101" traditionally teaches the major elements that reporters should routinely include within a news story: WHO was involved? WHAT happened? **WHERE** did the incident/event take place? WHEN did it occur? HOW was the action done? And, if possible to discover, **WHY**?

So, (as a Dr. Who fan & long-time journalist who has reported plenty of the 5-Ws and many Hows throughout my career) I hereby invite and encourage readers to ask questions for this new feature. I will confer with reliable sources / local experts to seek The Truth and publish the answers in future editions.

What do YOU want to know about community issues, people, places, local organizations, area history, etc?

Questions can be e-mailed to: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com or mailed to Elm Grove News-Independent - Dr. WWWWW&H, P.O. Box 372, Elm Grove, WI 53122-0372.

"The Doctor" is in!

#### \*Question of the Month:

Dear Doctor Who, What, Where, When, Why & How,

How did Elm Grove become known as a village? When it was incorporated, was there a choice between "village" and

And were Elm Grove's borders the same then as now? Or was the northeastern corner added after its initial incorporation? When Stephen Hauser writes (in Past Times – March 2017), Dunwoody Drive was "a street that had begun when the northeastern segment of the village had been separated from the Fredrick farmstead at North Avenue and 124th St." was he suggesting that this plot around Dunwoody Drive was added after Elm Grove was incorporated?

Thanks, Richard Groh

\*See the ANSWER in our PAST TIMES column - Page 4.

#### **Literacy** (Continued from Page 2)

There are numerous ways to help. Here are some of them:

- Become a volunteer tutor who meets once per week with a student in a local library.
- Join a committee to help plan and conduct one of our annual events.
- Make a financial donation or donate your skills to support our programs.
- Donate new items, gift cards, or handmade gifts for one of our event raffle baskets.
- Volunteer a few hours per week in our office to help with administrative items.
- Make phone calls from your home to lists of supporters, businesses, schools, etc. to help coordinate details about upcoming programs.
- · Help with mailings.
- Put up posters, distribute brochures to **E-mail:** director@waukeshaliteracy.org county social service agencies, libraries, coffee shops...
- Write a letter to the editor in support of GWL.

- "Like" our Facebook page and posts.
- Visit a preschool program & read aloud
- · Volunteer on the day of an event to assist with set up, greeting guests, food, clean
- Tutor an inmate in a local jail.
- Any other way you choose...

Contact Greater Waukesha Literacy find out how you can begin to change two lives — one of them is yours!

Greater Waukesha Literacy is located at 217 Wisconsin Avenue – Suite B16, Waukesha WI 53186.

Visit:

www.WaukeshaLiteracy.org; (262) 547 - READ (7323) for more information and to offer your support.

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#### \* Dentist

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#### \* Financial Services

#### **Edward Jones**

Jim Lemmenes, Financial Advisor 780 W. Elm Grove Road, Elm Grove (262) 785-0516

jim.lemmenes@edwardjones.com

#### \* Insurance

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#### \* Tailoring / Alterations

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#### \*Travel

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\* We're collecting items for Homeless Vets.

- \* Lunch: ........ 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- \* Mondays:..... Taco Night Buffet, 5 to 8 p.m., Chef Mick
- \* 2nd Monday ... One More Time Band (Big Band Music & Dancing), 1:30 to 3 p.m., \$3
- \* Tuesdays...... Chair Volleyball, 5 to 6 p.m. FREE. Call Sam Catura (414) 418-0289
- \* Wednesdays . Dart-ball League, 7 p.m.
- \* Thursdays: ... Cook-In, 5 to 8:30 p.m., Chef Tom
- \* Fridays: ...... FISH FRY, 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. CARRY-OUTS AVAILABLE Joyce Bevan, piano - 4:30 to 6:30 p.m

Various live bands, 6:30 to 10 p.m. (no cover charge)

\* Saturdays: .... Food & Raffles, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.,

Various live bands, 7:30 to 11 p.m. \$5 cover / \$4 members

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

#### **Special Events:**

#### Plan to attend Elm Grove's annual MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Monday, May 29

See details in the *Elm Grove News-Independent* next month.

## **Support Our Veterans!**

## Past Times: I REMEMBER...

#### Wisconsin Townships and Municipalities

By Stephen K. Hauser

A question from Mr. Richard Groh (to the News-Independent's new feature: "Doctor Who, What, Where, When, Why & How" - Page 2) was referred to me for a promised answer. Mr. Groh actually posed several related questions, and they are not easily answered with a brief reply, so I decided to use this month's Past *Times* column to respond at greater length.

First, as to "towns" or townships: Such things are created by the territorial or state legislature. In Wisconsin, the first townships were created when our lands were still a part of the Michigan territory in 1827. When the Wisconsin territory was organized by Congress in 1836, the new territorial legislature meeting in Belmont authorized 18 counties. Some had only a single township existing within their borders, making the counties and townships somewhat indistinguishable. County supervisors served simultaneously as town supervisors. There were, however, various crossroads settlements existing within township borders that had no legal recognition or established boundaries, but truly existed in a "de facto" rather than a "de jure" sense.

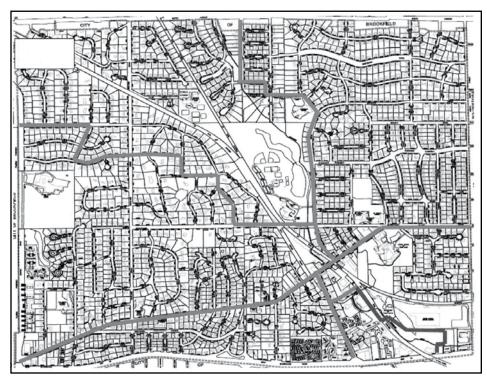
In 1843, the 36-square-mile Town of Brookfield was established by the Wisconsin territorial legislature meeting at Madison. It included the crossroads settlements of Elm Grove and Goerke's Corners (originally known as Blodgett, after an early settler in the area). As noted above, these two settlements had no legal standing, but were little more than names by which locals identified their places of residence. The federal government, however,

**Imperial Hair Care** of Elm Grove Open nightly 'till 6 4 on Saturday Closed Sunday Late on Wednesday 13425 Watertown Plank Rd. In the Elm Grove Park & Shop (262) 784-4241 **Evening Appointments Available**  distinguished both Elm Grove and Blodgett as U.S. Post Office locations, meaning little more than that they were "mail drops" where area farmers could pick up letters or mail parcels. Elm Grove's Post Office was placed over the years in a variety of businesses near the railroad tracks, including Reinders' general store and Reusch's tavern.

Townships in Wisconsin were originally rural by design, and it was assumed by the legislature that when portions of a town began to increase in both enterprise and population, a special act of the legislature could be used to create a new municipality. (Townships possess no municipal charter and are not classified as municipalities under the law.) Over the years, such "special acts" established 323 cities and villages, but politics often played a major role in this. By 1892, amendments to the state constitution had outlawed this practice altogether, creating a new process for creation of municipalities.

In the twentieth century, portions of townships seeking to incorporate as a village or city could petition the courts to duly announce and hold a referendum vote on the matter. The process was more complicated and proper procedures had to be followed. Incorporation would ensure legally established borders, preventing later annexation by any adjoining cities or villages. In the attempt to gain approval, the would-be new municipality would need to show proof of adequate population and land mass and a tax base sufficient to support delivery of necessary services (police and fire protection, waste disposal, etc.) at a cost comparable to or less than what could be provided by an established municipality, if one was already in existence. Part of the goal of such a process was not only to ensure financial viability of the new legal community, but also to limit the growth of additional units of local government within close proximity, thus avoiding duplication of services.

To forward to 1955 when the village of Elm Grove was incorporated, the primary motivating force in this case was the fear of annexation by one of two sources. The city of Milwaukee was pursuing a policy of rapid expansion in the mid-1950s under the leadership of Mayor Frank P. Zeidler (1948-1960) who had argued that the city was being strangled in its growth by "an iron ring" of suburbs. Zeidler brought the unincorporated towns of Granville (to the northwest) and Lake (to the south) into the city, along with large portions of the towns of Brown Deer and Wauwatosa. Oak Creek escaped Milwaukee's intentions by a last-minute incorporation as a city in 1955. A fascinating book could be struggles of Elm Grove's incorporation process,



The boundaries of Elm Grove's 1955 incorporation are roughly the same as one sees them today...

written about Milwaukee's border wars of the 1950s. The end result was that Mayor Zeidler's efforts had more than doubled the size of his city by 1960, from 42- to 96-square-miles.

Still, it was only a remote possibility that Milwaukee's leaders would seek to cross into Waukesha County to attempt to add eastern portions of the town of Brookfield to the city's holdings. A more immediate threat came from other residents of the town of Brookfield, where leading citizens, such as Rolland Ruby and Franklin Wirth, were attempting to organize the town's more settled and suburbanized eastern portion into a new city of Brookfield. They counted on the population, businesses and property values in the Elm Grove area to be an important part of their new municipality.

Many Elm Grove residents felt differently, however. They believed that their portion of the town had a unique character and heritage all its own... and they feared that the cost of city services in Brookfield would result in higher property taxes and a bigger, more bureaucratic government. To be blunt: In a nutshell, the village of Elm Grove was incorporated in 1955 to keep it from later being annexed by or being forced in some manner to become a part of the city of Brookfield. Others in Brookfield knew this full well, and rancor on both sides persisted for some years thereafter, with Franklin Wirth insisting at one point that Brookfield's fire department should not be expected to assist in battling fires in the village of Elm Grove. (In a couple of previous Past Times columns, I have detailed the

including the unsuccessful attempt in 1954 and the court challenges and other attempts of the town of Brookfield to prevent it.)

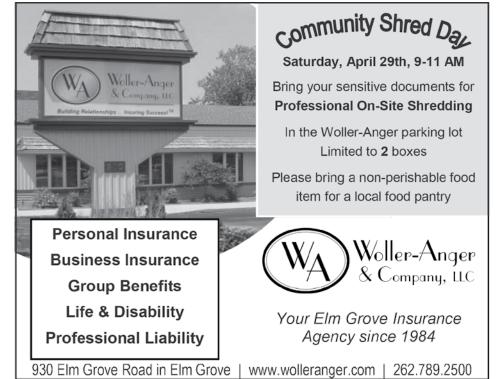
Nonetheless, Elm Grove was incorporated as a village of roughly four-square miles on January 14, 1955 with its present borders of North Avenue to the north, County Line Road (i.e. 124th Street) to the east, Blue Mound Road to the south and present-day Pilgrim Parkway to the west. The boundaries then were basically the same as one sees them today, although a few stray parcels fronting onto North Avenue were added in the 1980s. It is interesting to note here in passing that an early effort to include the old Blue Mound Heights subdivision south of Blue Mound Road was aborted, even though some residents there had initially worked on Elm Grove's incorporation process. That neighborhood was shortly thereafter absorbed into the city of Brookfield.

Today, the 36 square miles of 1843's Brookfield Township are divided into the city of Brookfield (population: 37,920), the village of Elm Grove (population: 5,934) and, to the west, the town of Brookfield (population: 6,116).

CORRECTION: The name of the Fredrick family was incorrectly spelled as "Frederick" in last month's Past Times column. The Fredrick family owned several farms in the town of Brookfield which were part of Elm Grove's incorporation as a village in 1955.

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





## Calendar of Events for April 2017

Saturday – APRIL 1 APRIL FOOL'S DAY

Monday – APRIL 3

\*Village of Elm Grove Plan Commission Meeting – 7 p.m. @ Village hall Agenda: www.elmgrovewi.org.

**Tuesday – APRIL 4 SPRING ELECTION** 

\*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: "Victorians' Secrets" presented by Leslie Bellais, Curator of Costume & Textiles at the Wisconsin Historical Museum. www.egwc.org (262) 782-5930

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

Wednesday – APRIL 5

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

Friday - APRIL 7

\*Kiwanis Club of Elm Grove – Golden K Meeting – 9:30 a.m. @ St. Mary's Senior Center, 13000 Juneau Blvd. Guests welcome. kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

**Tuesday – APRIL 11** 

\*School District of Elmbrook Board of Education Meeting – 6 p.m. @ Central Administration offices 13780 Hope St., Brookfield. Open to the Public. www.elmbrookschools.org (262) 781-3030.

\*History Buffs Book Group

Meeting – 7 p.m. in Study Room of Elm Grove Public
Library. Call Don (262) 860-1315.

Wednesday – APRIL 12

\*American Association of University Women,
West Suburban – Milwaukee Wisconsin Branch
Meeting – 6:30 p.m. @ Sunset Playhouse, 800 Elm
Grove Road, Elm Grove. Program: "The 7 Cs for
Challenges, presented by Sue McKenzie, Rogers
Memorial Hospital. (414) 476-6919.
http://westsuburbanmilwaukee-wi.aauw.net/

Friday – APRIL 14 GOOD FRIDAY

\*Village Hall Closed

\*Kiwanis Club of Elm Grove – Golden K Meeting – 9:30 a.m. @ St. Mary's Senior Center, 13000 Juneau Blvd. Guests welcome. kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

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Open: Monday, Tuesday, Friday: 9 a.m.–4 p.m.; Thursday: 9 a.m.–7 p.m.; Saturday: 9 a.m.–Noon Visa & Mastercard Accepted.

Saturday – APRIL 15

\*Elm Grove Junior Guild's annual Easter Egg Hunt 9:30 a.m. @ Village Park, large gazebo, near the playground. FREE & open to the Public.

Sunday – APRIL 16 EASTER

Monday – APRIL 17

\*Village of Elm Grove Library Board
Meeting – 4:30 p.m. @ Village Hall, Park View Room

Meeting – 4:30 p.m. @ Village Hall, Park View Room Agenda: www.elmgrovewi.org.

\*Village of Elm Grove Public Works/Utility Comm. Meeting – 6:30 p.m. @ Village Hall Agenda: www.elmgrovewi.org.

Tuesday – APRIL 18

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

\*Earth Day Celebration in Elm Grove 6:30 to 8 p.m., Library lower level (Details - Page 1)

Thursday – APRIL 20

\*OWLS (Older – Wiser – Livelier – Seniors)
Sponsored by Community United Methodist Church,
14700 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove.
Explore Greendale, WI - Chimney Tour & Trimborn
Farm Park; Lunch: Buca di Beppo.

Call Carolyn (262) 628-7761

Friday – APRIL 21

\*Kiwanis Club of Elm Grove - Golden K

Meeting – 9:30 a.m. @ St. Mary's Senior Center, 13000 Juneau Blvd. Guests welcome. kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Saturday – APRIL 22 EARTH DAY!

enior Citizei

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purchase

**EVERY** 

**'UESDAY** 

Monday – APRIL 24

\*Village of Elm Grove Finance & Licensing Comm. Meeting – 7 p.m. @ Village Hall, Park View Room Agenda: www.elmgrovewi.org.

\*Village of Elm Grove Board of Trustees

Meeting – 7:30 p.m. @ Village hall Court Room.

Agenda: www.elmgrovewi.org.

Tuesday – APRIL 25

\*School District of Elmbrook Board of Education Meeting – 6 p.m. @ Central Administration offices 13780 Hope St., Brookfield. Open to the Public. www.elmbrookschools.org (262) 781-3030.

Friday – APRIL 28

\*Kiwanis Club of Elm Grove – Golden K Meeting – 9:30 a.m. @ St. Mary's Senior Center, 13000 Juneau Blvd. Guests welcome. kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Saturday - APRIL 29

\*Community Shred Day

Sponsored by Woller Anger & Co. – 9 to 11 a.m. (262) 789-2500.

\*Elm Grove Woman's Club: Annual Rummage Sale 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. 13885 Watertown Plank Road. FREE admission.

CALENDAR SPONSORED BY:

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OF IMPERIAL HAIR CARE OF ELM GROVE

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Sunday, April 30

11:30 am – 2 pm Patriots Hall



Program

Information

Tours

We'd love it a bunch if you'd come to our brunch!

RSVP by Wednesday, April 26 to 262-783-3200, x141, or go to brookfieldacademy\_openhousebrunch.eventbrite.com

Admission Screening for 2017-18
Saturday, May 6
(by appointment)

(by appointment)



#### BROOKFIELD ACADEMY

3462 N. Brookfield Rd. • Brookfield, WI 53045 262-783-3200 • brookfieldacademy.org An Independent College Preparatory School 4K – Grade 12

## **Clubs & Organizations**



Photo courtesy of Jane Condon

Gerise LaSpisa (at left) of the Elm Grove-based Variety, Children's Charity of Wisconsin, accepts a \$6,000.00 check on March 2 at O'Donoghue's Irish Pub, from Jane Condon, coordinator of the 100 Women Who Care - Milwaukee Metro West organization, and Lynn Salonen, (at right) the 100 WWC-MMW member who nominated the charity during the group's February meeting.

#### **American Association of University Women Meeting to Feature Presentation on Mental Health**

By Betsy Haushalter

Sue McKenzie, Program Director at Rogers Inhealth — Rogers Behavioral Health System and facilitative lead for WISE (Wisconsin's Initiative for Stigma Elimination) will be the keynote speaker at the Wednesday, April 12, 2017 meeting of the American Association of University Women's West Suburban - Milwaukee Branch, at the Sunset Playhouse Studio Theater, 800 Elm Grove Road, Elm Grove.

The meeting will begin with a social at 6:30 p.m. followed by a brief business meeting. At 7:30 p.m., Ms. McKenzie will speak about "The 7C's for Supporting Resilience through Mental Health Challenges". Come and learn how family, friends, teachers and even co-workers can effectively offer support, inspire hope and encourage recovery to individuals struggling with mental health issues. Learn the 7 C's that research has shown are key to prevention and recovery.

Ms. McKenzie has more than 30 years of experience developing and providing educational programs and trainings designed to help people effectively address mental health challenges. Passionate about reducing the stigma of mental illness and offering hope to those affected with mental health issues, she has provided national training under grants from the CDC and the Federal Department of Education.

This thought provoking and informative program is FREE and open to the public. Prospective members, interested in joining the AAUW, West Suburban -Milwaukee Branch, who have earned at least a two-year Associate degree, a Bachelor's degree or higher, should call (414) 476-6919 or e-mail: aauw.wsn. membership@gmail.com for additional membership information.

#### **Public Invited to Attend Toastmasters Club Event**

By Ken Bjorkquist

local non-profit public speaking club, will be conducting, as a public service, a FREE seminar on how to improve one's ability to speak confidently to groups. The event of 15,000 Toastmasters International will take place on Tuesday, April 11 from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at the City of Brookfield Public Library. No reservations are

The Brookfield Toastmasters Club, a needed. For additional information, call **Ken** at (262) 696-6105.

> Brookfield Toastmasters Club is one clubs with 350,000 members worldwide and one of the 130 Toastmasters clubs in Wisconsin.



Kiwanis member **Roy Uelner** reads aloud a Dr. Seuss book to young children.

#### Kiwanis Club Helps Celebrate 113th Birthday of Dr. Seuss

**By Jerry McCormick** 

Do you remember the excitement of first hearing the Dr. Seuss stories and learning about those wonderful characters? Many things have changed, but what hasn't is the excitement, interest, and enthusiasm of preschoolers hearing the stories today.

The 14th Annual Dr. Seuss' Birthday Read-Aloud event was held on March 2, 2017. Volunteers read aloud to preschool children and provided books for local families to read aloud to their children. The events are sponsored county-wide throughout March. It is cruel that children are granted the desire of knowledge, but often are denied the opportunity to learn. Reading aloud to our children at an early age greatly improves their ability to learn.

With this in mind, the Greater Waukesha Literacy Council is partnering with the Elm Grove Golden K Kiwanis "Read Around the World" project and the Waukesha Family Practice Centers' "Reach Out and Read" program to provide appropriate books to families to read aloud to their children. This same partnership sponsors county-wide reading events for preschool children. Volunteers read to preschoolers in groups of 10 to 12 from Dr. Seuss books. They dress the part; they read aloud with animation, have fun and laugh a lot. This partnership will conduct about 40 events, reading aloud to as many as 1,500 children.

The Elm Grove Golden K Club, as a partner in the Seuss Birthday read aloud event, provides volunteers to read to preschoolers and Dr. Seuss books for them to take home. One of the several sites for these volunteer readers was Grandma's House Day Care Center. The Director, Jess Donohue and her staff of about 30 maintain prop boxes including Dr. Seuss books containing themes for learning.

She said, "It is rewarding and motivating to see the Kiwanis volunteer readers' enthusiasm and the animated responses of the 3- to 5-year-old preschoolers. We are thankful the volunteer readers come year after year to celebrate Dr. Seuss' Birthday with our children."

Greater Waukesha Literacy is an awardwinning, non-profit agency which provides volunteer one-on-one tutoring in reading, writing, speaking, mathematics and the English language.

The Elm Grove Golden K Kiwanis Club is made up of more than 75 senior members. They are committed to improving the world one child and one community at a time, and the Dr. Seuss read-aloud program fulfills their mission.

The club meets at 9 a.m., Fridays at St. Mary's Catholic Church Senior Center in Elm Grove.

APRIL SHOWERS TO OUR FOLLOWERS.

The Milwaukee West Suburban **Christian Women's Connection** Invites you to BRUNCH...

Monday, April 17 9:30 – 11 a.m. Davian's 16300 W. Silver Spring, Menomonee Falls

<sup>\$</sup>15/Call Lois, (262) 251-3841 by April 10

Speakers: \***Heidi Hornung** of Shady Lane Greenhouses on "Time to Grow"

\*Judy Moore Vader of Escanaba, MI about "Untangling The Yarns".

Please bring canned goods for the Food Pantry.

#### Friends of the Monarch Trail: **Annual Fund-Raiser!**

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

at the Historic Eschweiler Building, 3rd Floor Ballroom 9810 Echelon Lane, Wauwatosa

#### SAVE THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY & HABITAT!

Stop in after work to view our educational displays and bid on fabulous Silent Auction items. Mingle with Monarch enthusiasts and enjoy hors d'oeuvres and beverages. Proceeds from this event will go toward continued restoration of the Monarch Trail Conservancy — restore, preserve, educate and enjoy! All Welcome!

**FREE ADMISSION!** 

For more information, contact **Barb Agnew**, Friends of the Monarch Trail — Member: Habitat Restoration Plan Team @ (414) 454-0222.

Visit: www.theMonarchTrail.org.

#### **SAVE THE DATE!**

Saturday, May 20 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

#### **OPEN DOOR ELM GROVE**

Tour a select group of Elm Grove's newly remodeled/built homes.

Proceeds go to Best Buddies Wisconsin & St. Mary's Visitation

Tickets: \$20 per person Questions: dlembe23@gmail.com

## **News Briefs**









Photos courtesy of Brookfield Academy

Brookfield Academy Primary School students and Elm Grove residents show their creative side. (Top, left) Susan Schoyer (first grade) created Lady Liberty; (Top, right) Lauren Jones (second grade) created Violin; (Bottom, left) William Klein and Devan Pillai (kindergarten) created Teddy Bear Chairs; and Ella Milsch (K4) created a Squirrel Nutkin Raft.

#### **Brookfield Academy Invites Public to Primary School Art Gallery Night**

(Constitution Hall, 3466 N. Brookfield 30 from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Enjoy light refreshments with your Road, Brookfield) to peruse works of art family on Thursday, April 27 from 4 created by the school's youngest artists. to 6 p.m. as you wander the halls of Artwork will also be available for viewing Brookfield Academy's Primary School at the Open House Brunch, Sunday, April

#### Pilgrim Park Students Perform at Music Festival

By School District of Elmbrook

Students from Pilgrim Park Middle School participated in the Solo and Ensemble Festival held at Brookfield Central High School on March 11. More than 700 students participated from across the district.

Every student was rated from 1-5 on their performances and those who did a Class A event and received a starred first on that rating will advance to the State Music Festival later this year.

PPMS students who will perform at the State Festival include:

- Dani Ewing (Vocal Solo)
- Paula Franco (Vocal Solo)
- Mia Yiannias (Vocal Solo)
- Carrie Wang (Violin Solo) • Michelle Xavier (Violin Solo)
- Jane Atkinson (Cello Solo)
- Collin Schmocker (Cello Solo)
- Eli Hoffmann (Horn Solo)
- Maxwell Ting (Piano)
- Josh Williams (Piano Solo)





Photo courtesy of St. Mary's Visitation

St. Mary's students (Top row) Nick Kroog (at left) and Matthew Schmainda; (Middle row, left to right) Jonathan Harmeyer, Mitchell Henry, Ben Parsons and Joe McCrea; (Bottom row) Jacob Parsons (at left) and Killian Olbrantz.

#### St. Mary's Chess Team Victorious at Tournament By Brigid Harmeyer

The St. Mary's Visitation Chess team recently took first place in the K-6<sup>th</sup> grade division of the Marquette University All Catholic Chess Tournament. This is the 9th

Annual All Catholic Chess Tournament in which SMV has participated. The eightmember team is shown above.



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## Read All About It!



Photo courtesy of the Elm Grove Public Library

#### Welcome to the Library!

Elm Grove resident Bob Fischer gives a definite "thumbs up" to the Elm Grove Public Library's recently installed ease-ofaccess-door. The new device was made possible by a donation from the Elm Grove Woman's Club.

#### **Gardening Expert/** TV-Radio Host/ **Author Visits Library**



Photo courtesy of the Elm Grove Public Library

#### Melinda Myer

Melinda Myer brought her horticultural wisdom to the library recently for a presentation focused on jump starting outdoor spaces for a beautiful yard from spring to fall. The free program was sponsored by the Friends of the Elm Grove Library (FOEGL).

#### Pizza and Poetry @ The Elm Grove Library

By Noah Weckwerth

As part of National Poetry Month, the Friends of the Elm Grove Library (FOEGL) will sponsor a lively, fun-for-all-ages program on Friday, April 21, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the O'Neill Room, located below the library. The event will bring poetry alive, with a performance by the Brookfield East Jazz Quartet, poetry readings by poetry

contestants from Brookfield Central High School, improv comedy from Comedy Sportz, and free pizza!! For creative spirits in attendance, the event will also feature an open mic. Advance sign-up is required to participate; visit the library for details. Don't miss out on this wonderful evening of poetry in action.

"Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; They are the most accessible and wisest of counsellors, and the most patient of teachers."

Charles W. Eliot, "The Happy Life" - 1896

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#### **Library Programming Sees Blooming Attendance**

**By Noah Weckwerth** 

As the Elm Grove Public Library marks National Library Week, April 9 -15, there is cause for celebration. After record program attendance figures for 2016, the library is off to a roaring start in 2017 — with capacity crowds welcoming programs related to The Milwaukee Mafia, Alexander Hamilton, and a gardening seminar featuring TV/radio host Melinda Myers. The variety of free offerings has people looking for what might be coming

next, and the month of April could be the biggest yet, as the library kicks off baseball season in style and welcomes a mega bestselling author to the Village.

If you've yet to experience what there is to offer, visit www.elmgrovelibrary.org for the full listing of upcoming programs for all ages. Check out (some of) what's happening in April:

#### Talkin' Baseball with Tim O'Driscoll

#### Tuesday, April 11, 7:00 p.m. O'Neill Room

The 2017 baseball season will mark Tim O'Driscoll's 31st year as official scorekeeper for the Milwaukee Brewers. As holder of one of the most unique jobs in the world, O'Driscoll is tasked with making big decisions on a nightly basis. Join us for an evening of stories, as Tim discusses what's it's like to work in Major League Baseball, favorite interactions with players and coaches, and other lessons learned

from more than 2,400 games at the ballpark. Free to attend, no registration required.

#### Children's Entertainer David Landau

Friday, April 21, 10:30 a.m. @ the Library For kids of all ages, and especially those in kindergarten

and preschool, award-winning children's entertainer David Landau will be at the library for a morning of music and silliness. Landau's always popular concerts educate children about the world around them while being immensely entertaining at the same time. The



show begins at 10:30 am and is free to attend.

#### Elm Grove Reads 9, featuring Kristin Hannah Wednesday, April 26, 7:00 p.m. @ Elm Grove Woman's Club

The Friends of the Elm Grove Library, Boswell Book Company, and the Elm Grove Public Library welcome New York Times bestselling author Kristin Hannah as the featured guest for Elm Grove Reads 9. Hannah's appearance is in conjunction with the paperback release of her bestselling novel The Nightingale.



Tickets are \$5, with proceeds to the Friends of the Elm Grove Library. Tickets can be purchased at www.brownpapertickets.com. Boswell Book Company will have books for sale at the event, and Ms. Hannah

will be signing. The Elm Grove Woman's Club is located at 13885 Watertown Plank Road.











## **News Briefs**



Photo courtesy of St. Mary's Visitation

YOUNG ASTRONAUTS! Students at St. Mary's Visitation School in Elm Grove donned Space Masks during a special "Mission to Mars" program that was part of their Astronomy unit. (See story and another photo – Page 11.)

#### Young Writers / Reporters Wanted!

Students in Kindergarten – Grade 12 are invited to submit ARTICLES (reporting about School, Club, Neighborhood, Church, Scouting & Athletic activities (400 words maximum); CREATIVE WRITING: (Short Stories - 600 words maximum) & POETRY.

> Selected items will be published based on quality of writing and space availability. Submissions (with writer's name / school / grade) should be sent to: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com (subject line: Young Writers).

> > Questions: Call Lisabeth (262) 782-6193.

## Young Writers

NOTE: Three St. Mary's Visitation Girl Scouts in seventh grade, are working to earn their Silver Award. One of the prerequisites is to do a journey. Journeys have many topics, and Troop 4398 chose air pollution. One of the major causes of air pollution is smoking, so that's what they decided to focus on.

#### **Smoking Is a Concern**

By Sarah Winkler, Sofia Spano & Isabella Kim

Cigarettes contain many harmful chemicals, over 4,000 of them. They contain nicotine, lead, cyanide, and at least 60 cancer-causing compounds. Smoking can cause many problems including causing cancer, living a shorter life, and saving less money due to smoking. Many people smoke because they think it is cool or they are bored, but they do not know the harmful causes of smoking.

There are millions of families who care for each other, but those who smoke around their families are harming their children and other relatives. They are also threatening the pets that live in the household. Children, infants and pets are more likely to receive cancer from secondhand smoking. Women who smoke while pregnant are unaware that they can harm their baby due to smoking. The effects on a baby are stillbirth, premature delivery, underweight, and lack of oxygen due to the nicotine. Children will also be highly affected because some may have asthma and breathing in secondhand smoke may worsen their health conditions. Moving on to pets, their health can be severely affected by second-hand smoking. The chemicals from the cigarette can travel onto the pets' fur or plumage. They will then lick themselves in order to stay clean and the chemicals will travel into their bodies. This will then cause them to get severely sick and perhaps even get cancer. People can prevent this by not smoking so that children, infants, and pets are well

care of in order for them to live longer and healthier lives.

About 2,000 dollars are spent every year for cigarette packs, instead of being saved for more important supplies like food for family or toothpaste for a healthy smile. Smokers earn about 20% less than non-smokers which can be up to 10,000 dollars less per year. Smokers should also be concerned about their health because smoking can cause heart disease, stroke, lung diseases like chronic bronchitis and emphysema, osteoporosis, and cataracts. Smoking can also make a person look older at a young age, so they could be 45 but look 70 years old. Also, a non-smoker can live 10 years longer than a smoker. Another fact that smokers and overall people should pay attention to is that every year in the U.S., more than 480,000 people die from tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke, making it the leading cause of preventable death in this country.

Smokers should quit smoking because they can live a healthier and longer life for themselves and others. Smoking can cause many problems and should be taken seriously, so smokers should quit now in order for health improvement. Generally, smoking can leave permanent damage to the smoker's body, others around him or her, and pets too. It is possible for those smokers out there to quit because there are past smokers out there who stopped and they feel great about stopping.



- Kit Kat Swirl
- **Salted Double Caramel Pecan**
- **Brownie Thunder**
- **Chocolate Chip Cheesecake**
- **Nestle Crunch Swirl**
- Raspberry Cordial **Bonfire S'mores**
- **Chocolate Oreo Volcano**
- **Caramel Turtle**
- 10 Double Strawberry
- 11 Mint Brownie
- 12 Caramel Fudge Cookie Dough
- 13 Peanut Butter Cup
- 14 Caramel Cashew
- 15 Butter Pecan 16 Restaurant Closed

- 17 Twix Mix
- 18 Chocolate Eclair
- 19 Blueberry Cheesecake
- 20 Chocolate Dream
- 21 Turtle
- 22 Double Strawberry 23 Hershey Almond Fudge
- 24 Chocolate Covered
- Strawberry
- 25 Really Reese's
- 26 Butter Brickle 27 Mint Chip
- 28 Cookies & Cream
- 29 Crazy for Cookie Dough
- **30 Turtle Dove**



## Legal Issues

#### **Estate Planning: The Revocable Trust**

By Attorney Isabell M. Mueller

A trust is a legal arrangement under which there are three primary roles: the Grantor, who is the creator of the trust, the Trustee, who manages the property owned by the trust, and the Beneficiary, for whose benefit the trust exists. The creator of the trust may also be referred to as the Donor or the Settlor. Depending upon the purpose of the trust, these three positions may be held by a single party, or they may be held by three separate parties. It is also possible for a single trust to have more than one Grantor, more than one Trustee and more than one Beneficiary. Once a trust is created, it is capable of owning property. It may even have its own tax payer identification number and be required to file income tax returns. There are many different types of trusts, differentiated from one another by the purpose for which they were created.

Probably the most common type of trust is the revocable trust, also called the living trust. The primary purpose of a revocable trust is to provide a means of settling the Grantor's financial affairs upon his or her death in a manner that does not involve the probate process. The Grantor serves as the Trustee of the revocable trust, and during his or her lifetime, is the only Beneficiary. In Wisconsin, a married couple can create one joint revocable trust for the both of them. The trust document itself contains instructions as to how the Grantor's assets are to be divided after his or her death, and also names a successor Trustee. The assets owned by the trust avoid probate because although the Grantor may have died, the trust itself continues to exist. The successor

Trustee receives his or her authority and instructions from the trust agreement, not the probate court. The successor Trustee's duties, however, are essentially the same as those of the Personal Representative of a probate estate in that he or she has to pay the final taxes, expenses and debts of the deceased and then distribute the balance of the trust assets to the beneficiaries according to the Grantor's instructions. Once this is done, the trust is terminated.

Simply creating a revocable trust is not enough to avoid probate. Rather, after the trust has been created, the Grantor's assets should in some manner be coordinated with the trust. With some assets, such has real estate, automobiles, bank accounts or nonqualified investment accounts, this will mean changing the actual title to the trust. The Grantor does not lose any ownership or control of these assets because although the trust owns the assets, the Grantor owns the trust. With other assets, such as life insurance, IRA's, 401k's or annuities, the beneficiary designations will be changed, not the title. In some instances, however, the beneficiary designations should not be changed at all. Coordinating the assets with the trust is a detail oriented process and should always be undertaken carefully.

It is important to note, however, that while a revocable trust can be quite useful, it is not necessarily the best choice for everyone. Consultation with an estate planning professional is necessary to determine whether or not a revocable trust is the best fit.

#### Isabell M. Mueller

Attorney at Law

Estate Planning, Probate, Elder Law, Wills, Trusts & Powers of Attorney

IMueller@MuellerLawOffices.com 414-430-1722 (Phone) 262-780-4808 (Fax)

890 Elm Grove Road, Suite 202, Elm Grove, WI 53122

### 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 (400 words maximum) must include the writer's name, address & phone number.
- \* Mail to: Letters, EGNI, P.O. Box 372, Elm Grove, WI 53122-0372
- \* Email: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com (subject line: Letters to the Editor)

#### Elect Jian Sun to Elmbrook School Board

Tuesday, April 4, is election day. I encourage you to vote for and help elect Jian Sun to the Elmbrook School Board.

Jian Sun and his wife have 2 children, one a recent graduate and one attending BCHS. Jian is a long-time community volunteer and a successful international business leader. He understands the importance of setting high standards, attracting and supporting high quality teachers and running the school system efficiently.

Elmbrook schools consistently rank among the best in the state and I believe all of us want that excellence to continue. Highly regarded schools are important Elm Grove, Wisconsin

Dear Elmbrook School District Families, for families whose children attend those schools and for families whose children attend private schools or are out of school as good schools make our communities a more desirable place to live. Jian is committed to creating a system which helps all students excel and attracts the best faculty.

> Jian Sun is an intelligent, kind and focused leader. I believe he has the best background to help our district educate students for a world that is very different than the one most of parents grew up in. I encourage you to vote for Jian Sun for Elmbrook School Board on Tuesday, April 4.

Neil Palmer

## **News' Hounds**

& other beloved creatures

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

Petey found his way to us when his family was no longer in a position to keep him. He is currently spending his days helping Becky, our Volunteer Coordinator, in her office, so make sure to ask to see him when you stop in. Living with Becky has helped us learn a lot about him. She absolutely adores him as he is gentle, playful, incredibly loving and loyal, and is low key.

Given that he has lived with other cats before, he may enjoy having the company of



Photo courtesy of Elmbrook Humane Society

Petey

another cat. However, if this is not possible, he should be perfectly happy with your love and companionship. Stop in and meet this sweet guy today!

The Elmbrook Humane Society is located at 20950 Enterprise Avenue, Brookfield, just off Barker Road. Visit www.ebhs.org

#### **Classifieds**

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

#### Kiwanis—Golden K of Elm Grove, Wisconsin



#### **COME JOIN US,**

men and 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. For membership details, talk to one of the 70+ Kiwanis members.

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## **News Briefs**

#### Tonawanda Science Fair Held

By Allison Kelly

presented its annual Science Fair on Thursday, March 23. All students, Kindergarten through 5th grade, were eligible to participate.

Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> graders displayed posters, experiments, and collections of their favorite science topic. Entries included subjects such as volcanoes, rocks, the human body, and gravity and friction.

complete an experiment using the scientific method to investigate an hypothesis within

Tonawanda Elementary in Elm Grove biology, earth science, mathematics, engineering, chemistry, physics, astronomy and space or social science.

> Participants presented their findings to judges from the community. Entries represented a variety of topics, including: Lemon Battery, Water Explosion, What Makes a Plant Grow, and Dancing Raisins. Extraordinary Effort Awards were given to the top six young scientists.

Thank you to Gold Level Sponsors: the The 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders were required to **Philips and Paradis Families** and Silver Level Sponsor: the **Tan Family**, as well as the **Tonawanda P.T.O**.



Photo by Allison Kelly

Tonawanda 5th grade student Fletcher Allenstein, demonstrates how the strength of a magnet varies with temperature.



Photo by Allison Kelly

Tonawanda 2<sup>nd</sup> graders Julia Philips and Lilli Falci report on The Amazing Human Body.



Photo by Allison Kelly

Tonawanda Science Fair Extraordinary Effort Award winners are honored during the event.

#### St. Mary's Students Lead "Mission to Mars"

By Kathy Biernat

On March 22, SMV 8th graders led the "Mission to Mars" in the school gym, part of an interactive program featuring SMV's ShareSpace Mars Map. SMV was chosen by Buzz Aldrin's ShareSpace Foundation to receive the giant map after I, (the school's Jr. High Science Teacher), was one of 50 educators across the U.S. selected from a competitive application. The map, 25- x 25-feet, is an interactive, engaging educational tool designed to ignite students' interest in science, technology, engineering, and math.

In addition to being tour guides, the 8<sup>th</sup> graders led students through several other learning stations as part of their Astronomy unit. These stations included learning about the rovers on Mars with a display of model rovers built by the 8th graders. There were also stations with facts about Mars from the 1st graders, looking at robot pictures from the second graders, launchers from the 4th graders, and landers from the 5th graders. Additionally, the students used virtual reality goggles to see what the surface of Mars is like, put on some tattoos, tried out the photo booth, and colored some pictures. It was out of this world!

(See another "Mission" photo on Page 9.)



Photo courtesy of St. Mary's Visitation

St. Mary's students learn about space exploration.

"We cannot always build the future for our youth, But we can build our youth for the future."

Franklin D. Roosevelt













5K Run and 2 Mile Walk / Roll to benefit Fisher House Wisconsin and the Zablocki VA Hoptel

Sat., May 20, 2017 7 AM to 11 AM Rain or Shine Start time – 8 AM Fowler Park in Oconomowoc, WI

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