



Elm Grove NEWS-

INDEPENDENT



Vol. 13 No. 8

Serving Elm Grove, Wisconsin & Neighboring Communities

April 2023

Elm Grove to Hold Earth /Arbor Day Celebration - April 29th

By Lisabeth Passalis-Bain
elmgrovenews@yahoo.com

The 3rd annual Earth and Arbor Day celebration, coordinated by the Elm Grove Beautification Committee, will be held at Village Park from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 29.

This family-friendly event will feature numerous informational booths / vendors including: Birders of the Grove, Milwaukee Riverkeeper, Waukesha Recycling Specialist, Elm Grove Green Team, Southeast Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium, Plowshares Fair Trade Marketplace, Wild Ones Menomonee River area chapter, Elm Grove Community Foundation, handmade jewelry and art, locally-produced bread, maple syrup, honey and juice, food trucks, solar, composting, plants, our Village Forester, *The Elm Grove News-Independent* and others.



Additionally, there will be 3 separate guided bird walks, the availability of No Mow May signs, a kids' tree climb, make-and-take bird feeders projects, face painting, a rain barrel raffle, a Beautification Committee basket raffle, live music, and Grazing Goats (with babies)!

A special highlight of the **FREE, PUBLIC EVENT** will be a ceremony at noon with the Lieutenant Governor's office to celebrate Elm Grove becoming the first community in the state of Wisconsin to be certified as a National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat.

Read details about a Community "Bird House Auction" fundraiser, Bird Bingo, Underwood Creek Day (April 22), and the Elm Grove Beautification Committee's Lecture Series program: "Organic Fruit and Vegetable Gardening" (April 12 at the Elm Grove Public Library) elsewhere in this edition.

Write -in *Mary Inden* For Village President

Experienced: Village Trustee, 10 Years
Committee Memberships: Public Works, Public Safety, Recreation, & Building Board
Chair July 4th "Family Fun Fest" 34 Years
Chair Annual Shred Day & Holiday Open House
Co-editor of Village Calendar 15+ Years
Involved, Committed, Experienced in Retail & Real Estate



Spring Election



Tuesday, APRIL 4th
7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

View a Sample Ballot at
<https://MyVote.WI.gov>

CORRECTION:

In *The News-Independent's* MARCH 2023 printed edition, responses to some candidates' *On the Ballot* questions (Page 3) exceeded the established word count. This fact was discovered after that edition had already been sent to the printer. The responses in question were subsequently edited to within the word count limits.

A revised Page 3 can be viewed at:
www.elmgrove.news. Click on Archive.

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See **Friends of The News**
details & form – Page 11

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"I Know Where You Live!"



Elisabeth Passalis-Bain



Photo courtesy: EGPD

Paul Weber

New Elm Grove Police Officer Appointed

Officer Paul Weber joined the Elm Grove Police Department on February 20, 2023, and is currently assigned to patrol. Officer Weber has approximately 18 years of law enforcement experience, as well as 8 years prior military experience with the United States Airforce, where he completed deployments to both Afghanistan and Iraq.

(EDITOR’S NOTE: Johnny Koremenos was appointed to fill the Waukesha Co. Board of Supervisors – District 8 seat formerly held by Elm Grove resident Tom Michalski, who resigned that position following his election to the Wisconsin State Assembly.)

Waukesha County Board of Supervisors

By Johnny Koremenos, Waukesha County Supervisor – District 8
jkoremenos@waukeshacounty.gov

I am a proud graduate of the Elmbrook School District and have lived nearly my entire life in Waukesha County. I chose to start a family here because I believe, as my parents and grandparents did before me, there is no better place to call home. That is why it is a privilege to be appointed to the Waukesha County Board to represent the Village of Elm Grove and part of the City of Brookfield.

The Waukesha County Board of Supervisors is a 25-member legislative body that sets policies through ordinances and resolutions and makes decisions about how to spend more than \$100 million of your tax dollars. I believe local government should be administered efficiently; exercise accountability, restraint, and fiscal responsibility; and adhere to the rule of law.

I am excited to get to work this month on behalf of District 8. I will be serving on two important County Board committees: Health and Human Services (HHS) and Judiciary and Law Enforcement (JLE). These two committees oversee the most essential functions of county government and account for 65% of tax dollars sent to Waukesha County each year.

HHS and JLE work hand in hand tackling some of the most pressing issues facing the county, including the fentanyl crisis and mental health. Unfortunately, these are topics with which I am all too familiar and from which no family or community is immune. In my work with the Wisconsin Department of Justice I managed a statewide prescription drug abuse prevention campaign and developed an opiate abuse prevention training curriculum that was used nationally. My background in criminal justice issues will help me contribute to the many successful programs the county already has in place.

Waukesha County was the first county in the state to declare fentanyl a community health crisis. Waukesha County Health & Human Services has launched its ‘One Pill Can Kill’ media campaign, in partnership with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, to educate the



Johnny Koremenos

public on the dangers of fentanyl. The County Board has a unique opportunity to build upon this campaign and reduce the impact of the opioid epidemic in Waukesha County.

Last year, Waukesha County Health & Human Services partnered with the Sheriff’s Department to create a program to address the significant amount of time law enforcement spends on mental health calls. The embedded mental health professional program has clinicians listening to 9-1-1 calls and responding to the scene with law enforcement when a mental health response is appropriate. I am looking forward to learning how the county can build on the success of this program and find creative solutions and partnerships to tackle other public safety issues.

Representing the constituents of District 8 is an honor that I take seriously, and while I have a strong background and passion for public safety, my primary focus always will be listening to constituents.

Please reach out to me at any time:
jkoremenos@waukeshacounty.gov.



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Village Update

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

While the typical Wisconsin Spring weather may have you thinking Spring will never come, the **Summer 2023 Recreation Guide will arrive soon**. Kudos to Assistant Village Manager Katherine Gehl for getting it all pulled together in the absence of a Recreation Director.

While I am handing out kudos, **please join me in thanking the Elm Grove Junior Guild** for their 2023 financial support of: EMT service needs, playground updates, Fire Department equipment, annual fish stocking of the pond (one of my favorites), Movies in the Park and the tree replacement fund.

Thanks, are also extended to the Elm Grove Foundation 2023 contributions support: downtown street light flower baskets, Concerts in the Park, July 4th fireworks and the July 4th FREE open swim at the Village pool.

During my shift as “pack mule” at the annual Elm Grove Library Used Book Sale I had numerous opportunities to be reminded of how truly special the members of “Friends of Elm Grove Library” are. This year the sale raised \$19,000 which FOEGL will use to help support our library activities.

I have received a couple of inquiries recently about **where to dispose of hazardous waste** in the Village.

The Village itself does collect hazardous or electronic equipment waste, however those services are available through Waukesha County at: <https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/hazardouswaste/>

If you haven’t already voted, please remember to make time on Tuesday, April 4th to stop at Village Hall to vote. It only takes a few minutes, you will, no

doubt, see friends and neighbors and it is important for your vote to be counted in races for Village Board seats and Elmbrook School District seats.

The **2022 Elm Grove Police Department annual report is available** on the Village website. The report illustrates the outstanding work our officers do, often under trying conditions. Thank you EGPD.

Current Trustees Katie Cornell and Tom Michalski will be leaving the Board at the end of this term on April 17th. Katie and Tom worked hard and committed countless hours to help preserve and improve Elm Grove. During their terms they both always approached issues and problems with an open mind and desire to find solutions that best serve the Village in both the short and long term.

I will also be leaving the Board on April 17th. It has been a great honor and pleasure to serve as your Village President since 2005 and as a Trustee since 1991. From helping negotiate settlement of the Sewer Wars dispute and lawsuits, 1997 & 1998 flood disasters and recovery, leading the effort to create our stormwater management plan (daylighting the creek between Watertown Plank Road and Wall Street soon is the only remaining structural requirement), employee contract negotiations, deer, turkey and coyote control, annual budget deliberations, countless zoning, planning, development and redevelopment projects and issues as Planning Commission Chair and judging the annual Bike Decorating contest on July 4th, I have mostly enjoyed it all.

Many of you know that my professional career requires me to work with local governments in numerous states. I can tell you with absolute confidence that Elm Grove is blessed to have the best staff



I have encountered. We have this great staff and have the good fortune to keep them because the Board has respected their expertise and experience. Municipal governments have different obligations and responsibilities and operate under different funding and accounting laws than private businesses. The job of the Village Board is to set policy. Implementation of policy and day-to-day operations is the job of the staff.

I will miss many things, especially the camaraderie of people working together to solve problems. I will not miss having to weed through what often seemed like hundreds of emails a President receives trying to sell everything from table drapes to fire trucks to latex gloves. Wait, I did receive one email this week that would be fun to respond to; the Miami Grand Prix offered a cabana at the yard club to watch the race. It accommodates seven people and includes chef prepared food. All for only \$69,000! After 32 years that only works out to about \$2.00 per hour.

Thank you for your support and letting me serve.

Business & Club Directory

* Community Organizations



Kiwanis – Golden K of Elm Grove, Wisconsin

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

kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com
www.kiwaniselmgrove.org

Elmbrook Rotary

People of Action

Where neighbors, friends and problem-solvers share ideas, join leaders and take action to create lasting change. Fridays – 7:00 a.m.

www.elmbrookrotary.org
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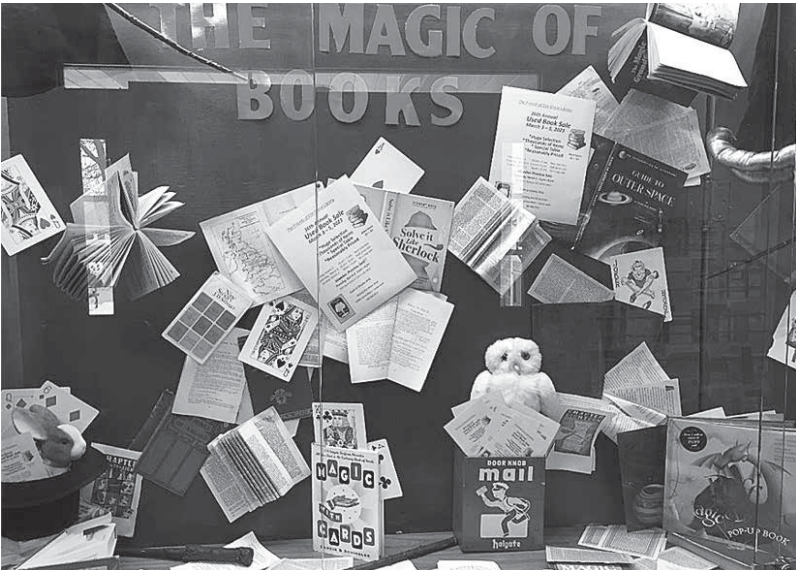
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Thanks for Being Part of the Magic!

The theme for the 36th Annual Friends of the Elm Grove Library Used Book Sale was “The Magic of Books.” We discovered the true magic was in transforming the O’Neill and Community Rooms into a Used Book Store in a matter of days! Over 100 volunteers show up every year to help. Whether you donated books, sorted them, set up tables, unpacked boxes, took a shift (or several) during the sale, helped shoppers, shopped until you dropped, or let us put a sign in your yard we appreciate it so very much!

Thanks to the entire community for all you have done to make the ‘Magic Happen’ this year. The proceeds of the sale will go to enhance the library’s collections. With the community’s help we magically raised over \$19,650 for the library! Thanks again.

Kathy Tusing and Carla Stensberg
Friends of Elm Grove Library (FOEGL)



“Mr. Hugh's History” by Drew Sternitsky



Our History: *Remembrances of Things Past*



Photo courtesy: Tom Ramstack

THE VILLAGE OF ELM GROVE LOOKING WEST ON THE WATERTOWN PLANK ROAD (circa 1911) SUNDAY MORNING: To the left, on the south side of the plank road is the gate to the Catholic Parish cemetery, Frank Ramstack’s horse stable, tavern & boarding house. Beyond, stands Charles Reusch’s tavern, boarding house, and horse stable. Ladies can be seen, in the distance, walking up the grade of the road dressed in their Sunday best while warding off the sun with their open umbrellas. On the north side of the road is Charles Sanders’ wagon & blacksmith shops. Telegraph poles run along the roadside, leading down to the train station at the base of the hill where village residents often gather to get the latest news over the wire. The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad runs through the village here, out of view, at the base of the hill, beyond the thick grove of Elm Trees. Overall, the scene gives the appearance of quant, quiet village, while in reality “The Grove” provided only a short 20-minute rail jaunt to the large metropolitan city of Milwaukee.



Photo from the collection of Margaret Moore

Leland School in 1930, awaiting its first incoming class of elementary school students.

WHATZZIT? By Stephen K. Hauser

The above photograph is of Leland School, Elm Grove’s first “modern” school facility. It was taken in the late summer of 1930, prior to opening for its first year of classes that fall. Located at 700 Sunny Slope Road, it sat on land donated by **Charles Leland**, son of pioneer settler **Joshua Leland**, a farmer from Massachusetts. The two-story red brick building was located on the east side of the road, about 300 yards south of the intersection of Watertown Plank Road and Sunny Slope. It replaced Gregg School, a small wood frame structure to the north, not far from the present location of the Elm Grove Woman’s Club. Gregg School had said goodbye to its last students that spring while Leland was under construction. A farewell picnic was held on May 25th on school grounds.

Over the next fifty years, Leland School was expanded, remodeled and modernized, but the original portion of the building still remained on the northern side of the structure. (My fourth grade classroom was in the “old” portion of the building.) Eventually, the building was repurposed when the enrollment in the Elmbrook school district declined. It became a facility for special needs students, and was later closed when the Elmbrook school district sold the property for residential development. In spite of some community opposition, Leland was demolished in 1983.

Soon, the new homes of Woodfield Hills were under construction at the site. Attractive cul-de-sacs, Fairfield Court and Stonefield Court, were approved. (A plan for a third court with an entrance from Meadow Lane was subsequently abandoned.) Interestingly, the entrances to the courts all utilized the previous entrances to Leland’s parking lots and circular driveway. In retrospect, I

regret not asking the village board if one of the Woodfield Hills courts might be named Leland Court, keeping the name of the old school as part of local lore and memory.

The only remaining evidence of Leland School today is the old tennis court at the north end of the property. It is now the western auxiliary parking lot for the Elm Grove Woman’s Club. The old Century chain-link fence that separated Leland’s lower playground from the Woman’s Club property remained for many years, but was quietly removed a few years ago.

It should be noted that the photo of Leland school in 1930 was passed to me from the collection of **Margaret Moore**, a longtime member of the Elmbrook school board and a lifelong advocate for public education. She was also a stalwart member of the Elmbrook Historical Society and of Elm Grove Community United Methodist Church. Margaret passed away in 2022 at age 99, but left behind a legacy of love for local history and quality education.

Stephen K. Hauser is a retired college history professor and a longtime resident of Elm Grove.

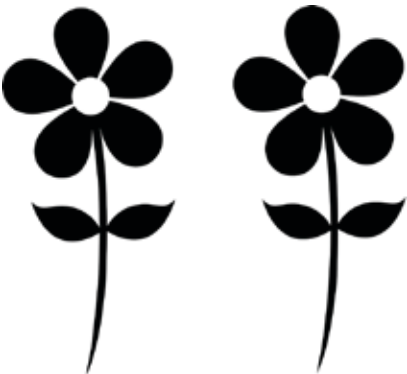


Photo courtesy: Tom Ramstack

VILLAGE OF BROOKFIELD JUNCTION, BROOKFIELD ROAD (circa 1900)

MARKET DAY: The *Milwaukee Sentinel* reported the following regarding the village of Brookfield on May 25, 1902: “The big day of the week is Friday, when the farmers do their marketing. On that day as many as eighty vehicles of all sorts may be seen grouped about the depot. As the major rail center of the town, dairy products, potatoes, grains, and livestock are brought in, while feed, dry goods, and other necessities are taken out. On this day, old acquaintances are renewed, and new ones formed. Farmers may be seen socializing in large numbers, while smoking cigars in a true metropolitan fashion.”

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Elm Grove Community Foundation

www.elmgrovefoundation.org

NEW at the Community Foundation

Community Foundation to Sponsor Tunes on Tuesday

The Elm Grove Community Foundation is proud to be the official sponsor of the annual concert series, "*Tunes on Tuesday*," held at the gazebo in the Elm Grove Village Park.

Scheduled performers include:

- Tuesday, June 13th – Andrea & The Mods
- Tuesday, June 27th – TBD
- Tuesday, July 18th – Saturday June Band
- Tuesday, August 1st – Kaleidoscope
- Tuesday, August 15th – Hungry Williams Band

We hope to see you and your friends at these free kid-friendly concerts this summer!

BOOK IT! Oktoberfest - September 15 & 16, 2023

Calendar of Events – April 2023

Tuesday – APRIL 4
SPRING ELECTION
• Vote 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Wednesday – APRIL 5
PASSOVER Begins at Sundown

- **Elm Grove Building Board**
Meeting: 5:30 p.m. at Village Hall – Park View Room. (262) 782-6700
Agenda: www.elmgrovetwi.org
- **Elm Grove Beautification Committee**
Meeting: 6:30 p.m. at Village Hall – Reinders Room.
egbeautification@gmail.com

Thursday – APRIL 6
• **Elmbrook Garden Club**
Meeting - 6 p.m. in Community Room at Brookfield Public Library, 1900 N. Calhoun Road.
Topic: Rose Society
Speaker: Diane Sommers.



Friday – APRIL 7
GOOD FRIDAY
Elm Grove Village Hall Closed

- **Elmbrook Rotary Club**
Meeting: 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.; Speaker: Mark Hanson - VP - Aire Care Alliance – Public Benefit Flying/ Partnership with Rotary’s Flying Fellowship.
<http://www.elmbrookrotary.org>
- **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center. kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Sunday – APRIL 9
EASTER

- Monday – APRIL 10**
- **Listening Session regarding Wisconsin State Budget:** 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Elm Grove Village Hall Court Room. In attendance will be State Senator Rob Hutton, State Assembly Representative Tom Michalski, District 13 (Brookfield and Elm Grove) and State Assembly Representative Dave Maxey, District 15, (New Berlin)

Wednesday – APRIL 12
• **Generally Speaking Toastmasters Club** - Meeting: 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Brookfield Public Library, 1900 N. Calhoun Rd. – Harnischfeger Room. Open to the Public.

Friday – APRIL 14
• **Elmbrook Rotary Club**
Meeting: 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.; Speaker: Matthew Wolak - Crisis Prevention Institute.
<http://www.elmbrookrotary.org>

• **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center. kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Saturday – APRIL 15
• **Shred Day**, presented by the Elm Grove Business Association, 9 a.m. to NOON at Park & Shop parking lot.

Sunday – APRIL 16
ORTHODOX EASTER

Monday – APRIL 17
• **Listening Session regarding Wisconsin State Budget:** 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the New Berlin West High School (Little Theatre). In attendance will be State Senator Rob Hutton, State Assembly Representative Tom Michalski, District 13 (Brookfield and Elm Grove) and State Assembly Representative Dave Maxey, District 15, (New Berlin).

Tuesday – APRIL 18
I.R.S. Tax Filing Deadline

Wednesday – APRIL 19
• **Elm Grove Beautification Committee** Wine & Cheese Book Club discussion of Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring*.
egbeautification@gmail.com

Thursday – APRIL 20
• **OWLS – Seniors’ Group**
Local Coach Trip: Basilica of St. Josephat / Frank Lloyd Wright homes; Sponsored by Community UMC, Elm Grove. Guests are welcome.
<http://www.cumceg.org>

Friday- APRIL 21
• **Elmbrook Rotary Club**
Meeting: 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.; Speaker: Dr. Catherine Wolf - Executive Director – Friends for Health in Haiti (ERC International Project).
<http://www.elmbrookrotary.org>

• **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center. kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

Saturday – APRIL 22
EARTH DAY

• **Elm Grove Beautification Committee** “Underwood Creek Day”
(See story – Page 7)

Monday – APRIL 24
• **Elm Grove Board of Trustees**
Public Meeting: 7:30 p.m. at Village Hall Court Room. Agenda & Live Stream: www.elmgrovetwi.org. (262) 782-6700

Wednesday – APRIL 26
• **Generally Speaking Toastmasters Club** - Meeting: 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Brookfield Public Library – Harnischfeger Room. Open to Public.

Friday – APRIL 28
• **Elmbrook Rotary Club**
Meeting: 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.
<http://www.elmbrookrotary.org>

• **Elm Grove Kiwanis Club – Golden K**
Meeting: 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Senior Center. kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com

- Saturday – APRIL 29**
- **Earth Day / Arbor Day Celebration in Elm Grove:** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Village Park; Informational booths, food trucks, face painting, guided bird walks, kids’ tree climbing, make-and-take bird feeders, rain barrel raffle, Beautification Committee basket raffle, live music, baby goats! (See story – Page 1)
 - **Elm Grove Woman’s Club’s 53rd Annual Art Scholarship Competition**
Public Open House: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (See story – Page 6)

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BIRD BINGO

Sponsored by the Elm Grove Business Association

Can you spot these birds of Elm Grove?

Cut out this Bingo Card and match the letter for each bird at these Elm Grove locations:

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| A. Elm Grove Library | I. RJ's Ice Cream | Q. Piccola Salon |
| B. Elm Grove Travel | J. O'Donoghues Irish Pub | R. Remedy Within |
| C. M3 Realty | K. Liv & Phia's Boutique | S. Sunset Playhouse |
| D. Moxie Midwest | L. Welke's Florist & Gifts | T. Elm Grove Esthetics |
| E. Patched Works | M. Town Bank of Elm Grove | U. Vantage Financial |
| F. The Ottoman Society | N. Renaissance Design & Renovation | V. Fazio's Chocolate |
| G. g.home | O. Great Harvest of Elm Grove | W. The Den Emporium |
| H. S.J. Janis | P. Weber Physical Therapy | X. Silver Spur |

The first 100 completed Bingo Cards can be redeemed for a frozen treat at RJ's Ice Cream in Elm Grove between 4/1/23 - 4/30/23

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News Briefs

ELM GROVE WOMAN’S CLUB Invites Local Young Artists and the Public to the 53rd Annual Art Scholarship Competition April 27-29, 2023

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE: Saturday, April 29, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Elm Grove Woman’s Club invites all high school students who reside in Elm Grove OR attend high school in Brookfield to submit two pieces of original artwork to be judged for a chance to win. A college scholarship will be awarded to the winning senior artist, and a monetary grant to continue artistic pursuits will be awarded to a winning student artist in grades 9-12. Every student entrant will receive feedback from a credible professional artist. Student art drop off will be from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 27. The private judging will take place on Friday, April 28.



On Saturday, April 29, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. the public is invited to the clubhouse at 13885 Watertown Plank Road to view the works of art and vote for one piece of art to be awarded the People’s Choice Award, monetary prize to be award directly to the winning artist.

American Association of University Women

**Invites you to our
Wednesday, April 12 Branch Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
Sunset Playhouse, 700 Wall Street, Elm Grove**

Topic: “Children’s Mental Health and Well Being”

Speaker: Dr. Cheryl Brosig,
Professor of Pediatrics
Medical College of Wisconsin



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Photo courtesy: St. Mary’s Visitation

St. Mary’s students (Top, from left) **Claire Fee** (6th Grade), **Eli Hagman** (6th Grade), **Jacob Lewis** (7th Grade), **Thomas Kearney** (7th Grade); (Bottom, from left) **Max Falk** (6th Grade), **Anna Zeidler** (6th Grade), **Thea Barthe** (7th Grade)

Local Students Perform at Music Festival

(ELM GROVE) Seven St. Mary’s Visitation Catholic Parish School students participated in the Wisconsin School of Music Association’s Solo & Ensemble district festival at West Allis Central High School on Saturday, February 25th . This festival is an opportunity for 6th-8th graders to prepare a solo or ensemble piece and perform in front of a judge for comments and a rating.



Photo courtesy: Elmbrook Rotary

Elmbrook Rotary Vision Team members assist residents of Guatemala with housing needs.

Elmbrook Rotary Partners with Common Hope, Improving Lives in Guatemala

By Jackson Bubolz

Since 2011, the Elmbrook Rotary Club has sent 11 Vision Teams to Guatemala. They have partnered with Common Hope, whose mission is “Promoting hope and opportunity in Guatemala. Partnering with children, families, and communities who want to participate in a process of development to improve their lives through education, healthcare, and housing”.

Did you know that:

- More than 50% of Guatemalans live in poverty.
- More than 25% of Guatemalans live on less than \$2/day.
- There are explosive rates of poverty, alcoholism, violence, mistrust, and unemployment.

There is a great educational need:

- On average adults have completed 3.5 years of education.
- 30% of the children fail first grade at least once.
- 7th grade school attendance drops as children go to work to supplement their family income.
- 18.6% of students graduate from high school.

The need for Housing is high:

- 67% of families live in homes without roofs and sufficient living space.

- Homes with cornstalk walls and dirt floors are unsafe and unsanitary.
- Families often live without basic electricity.

This year, the 9-person Elmbrook Rotary Vision Team assisted in preparing a school for the return of students by cleaning and organizing the school. **The Team also constructed a house in three days!** They started with building prefab panels, delivered them to the site, and created a home for a family in need. A great accomplishment by the Vision Team and a housing upgrade for the family.

Vision Team, thank you for your selfless contribution of time and labor in assisting the Common Hope organization in their mission of “helping poor people out of poverty”.

How can you be a contributing member to the Elmbrook Rotary and Common Hope’s great Guatemalan mission?

- Be a member of the Annual Vision Team that builds homes, works with students, and assists in healthcare.
- Sponsor a student – currently Elmbrook Rotary sponsors 2 students and 16 are sponsored by individuals associated with the Rotary.

To learn more about Common Hope, visit www.commonhope.org.

News Briefs



Photo courtesy: Elm Grove Woman's Club

These bird houses, decorated by Elm Grove Woman's Club members, will be auctioned during the organization's "Flock Together" fundraiser in April.

“Flock Together” to Celebrate Elm Grove’s Bird City Initiatives

By Lisa Becker

With spring in full swing and birds migrating to their summer destinations, April is the perfect time to celebrate Elm Grove’s status as a Bird City. This year, Elm Grove earned the additional distinction of becoming a High Flyer community, of which there are just 32 in Wisconsin. This designation is achieved through great effort in creating a healthy habitat for birds and a strong commitment to educating the public about the contributions that birds make to a healthy community.

To support Elm Grove’s Bird City initiatives, the Elm Grove Woman’s Club (EGWC) organized a fundraiser called “Flock Together”. A portion of the

proceeds will go to support Elm Grove’s participation in the Great Wisconsin Birdathon taking place on April 29th at the Village’s Earth and Arbor Day Celebration. In addition, monies raised from the auction will be used to enhance the EGWC property with bird-friendly amenities to aid in certifying the property as a Wildlife Habitat with the National Wildlife Federation.

The fundraiser consists of having local artists, including many EGWC members, paint 50 birdhouses. The birdhouses will be displayed in various shops and businesses in Elm Grove through the month of April, during which time they will be available to be bid on in an online auction. The auction will close April 30. Special thanks to Elm Grove Travel, Moxie Midwest, M3 Realty, g. home, S.J. Janis, The Ottoman Society, and Patched Works for underwriting the Flock Together project.

Elmbrook Schools Take Top Spots in State Battle of the Books

The Wisconsin Educational Media & Technology Association ([WEMTA](#)) recently hosted the statewide Battle of the Books competition, in which three Elmbrook elementary schools placed in the top 20 out of more than 220 Wisconsin schools. Tonawanda Elementary (coached by **Briana Sokolowski**) took fourth place with 355 points, only 20 points shy of the first place team. Dixon Elementary (coached by **Christina Welch** and **Kristin Parulski**) tied for 13th place with 315 points, and Swanson Elementary (coached by **Robyn Rubenstein**) tied for 19th with a total score of 300.

Schools within the top 20 spots are given the distinction of being named to the Honors Club. The statewide Battle of the Books program is designed to promote a love of reading among students by encouraging them to read a variety of books and remember information about the plots, characters, and settings of the books.

Underwood Creek Day to be Held – April 22

By the Elm Grove Beautification Committee

Show your Elm Grove pride on Underwood Creek Day. Village residents have 3 ways to celebrate--pick and choose what works best for you!

A **Milwaukee Riverkeeper** event starts at 10 a.m. All volunteers are encouraged to be a part of the huge community group photo taking place at 11:45 a.m. at the bridge over the pond via drone.

Village wide clean up--pick up your yard, your neighborhood, your school, your church, or your community any time that week or the morning of April 22. Bring yourselves (and the trash!) to be a part of the group photo.

A **Watershed Workshop** hosted by the village will be held from Noon to 1 p.m. in the basement of the library. There will be speakers, interactive learning material, and giveaways. It's a family event with a separate children's program being held at the same time with the help of the Friends of Elm Grove Library (FOEGL).





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ELF THE MUSICAL : December 1 – 18, 2022
LOVE, SEX, AND THE I.R.S. : January 19 – February 5, 2023
THE CEMETERY CLUB : March 2 – 19, 2023
YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN : April 20 – May 7, 2023
SPIDER'S WEB : June 1 – 18, 2023
THE LITTLE MERMAID : July 13 – August 6, 2023

Musical MainStage Concert Series

WE WILL ROCK YOU! : September 19 – 20, 2022
AMERICANA : October 24 – 25, 2022
SONGWRITERS HALL OF FAME : December 12 – 13, 2022
BROADWAY'S BEST! Schwartz & Sondheim : January 23 – 24, 2023
ROCK 'N' ROLL ROAD TRIP : March 6 – 7, 2023
PARTON & PARTNERS : April 24 – 25, 2023

SideNotes Cabaret Series

ROCK & ROLL ROYALTY : October 13 – 16, 2022
FESTIVE FOLK : December 7 – 11, 2022
BEST OF BACHARACH : February 9 – 12, 2023
KAREN & CARLY & KERRY : March 23 – 26, 2023
IRRESISTIBLE: Bobby Darin Tribute : May 11 – 14, 2023
IT'S MY PARTY SINGALONG : June 8 – 11, 2023

After Sunset Studio Series

ANDRÉ'S MOTHER & MOTHERS AND SONS : November 4 – 6, 2022
5 WOMEN WEARING THE SAME DRESS : April 28 – 30, 2023

Special Events


DAVID SEEBACH: Illusions In The Night : October 21 – 23, 2022
FAIRY GODMOTHER'S (SONG) BOOK OF WISDOM : Nov. 12, 2022
JAYNE TAYLOR CHRISTMAS SHOW : November 26, 2022
THREE TENORS MKE HOLIDAY CONCERT : December 6, 2022
GLORY DAYS: Bruce Springsteen Tribute : December 31, 2022
THE BEST LITTLE WHOREHOUSE IN TEXAS : Jan. 6 – 15, 2023
SUNDAYS AT SUNSET : June 25 – August 20, 2023

bug in a rug Children's Theater

MOSTLY MONSTERLY : February 22 – 25, 2023
LITTLE RED RIDING HOODIE : May 3 – 6, 2023

Entertainment begins at Sunset!


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Common Scams and Frauds / Wednesday, April 5, 1:00 p.m.
The Wisconsin Bureau of Consumer Protection will discuss the details of common scams, the warning signs of a scam, and what to do if you or someone you know falls victim to a scam or fraud. Helpful factsheets from The Bureau of Consumer Protection will also be available.

Paul Gauguin: “Where Do We Come From, Where Are We Going” Tuesday, April 11, 6:30 p.m.

Paul Gauguin found in the exotic surroundings of Tahiti the inspiration of offering the imagination something new and strange. It was as if the artist found in the chaos of the universe a new pattern, and was attempting, clumsily at first and with anguish of the soul, to paint something revolutionary. In his attempts, Gauguin ultimately captured, with great originality, beauty in its purest form.

In this presentation, discover the life and works of the experimental post-impressionist, Paul Gauguin, made famous and celebrated only after his death in 1903. Presented by Professor Karri Fritz-Klaus of Cornerstone History Symposium.



Six Pillars of Brain Health / Wednesday, April 12, 10:30 a.m.
It’s never too late to focus on your brain health! In the interactive session, you will learn about the six pillars of brain health, activities that support brain health, and hopefully be inspired by others. Learn about the latest research, lifestyle suggestions, and resources to learn more. This free workshop is presented by AARP Wisconsin.

Organic Fruit and Vegetable Gardening (EG Beautification Committee Winter Lecture Series) / Wednesday, April 12, 6:30 p.m.

Are you interested in learning how to grow your own food organically and with the most proven methods? Or would you just like to hear the latest about small scale organic, ecological-minded food production? With graduate courses in agronomy and horticulture and over 15 years experience in local business, John Harrigan, the head gardener for Parkside 23, will enlighten you on the science based and time tested recommendations on growing food.

This is the sixth and final program in the 2022-23 Elm Grove Beautification Committee Winter Lecture Series, with partner support from the Elm Grove Library.



Writing the Second Half of Life / Wednesday, April 19, 1:00 p.m.

The second half of life is not defined by a particular age. Rather, it begins in a moment brought about by all manner of life changing circumstances--a time when we recognize the need to reconsider who we are apart from roles, occupations, and daily duties. Join us to explore this rich, creative time of life through writing, discussion, and mindfulness exercises. Presented by author and writing coach Joanne Nelson.

Nature's Ways: Emotional Healing and Spiritual Growth Through Nature Interaction / Wednesday, April 26, 7:00 p.m.

The power of nature to heal and grow the human spirit is substantiated through an increasing body of behavioral research. Philip Chard, a thought leader in the field of eco-psychology and an award-winning newspaper columnist, illustrates how interacting with nature helps to overcome debilitating feelings, heal emotional wounds, promote self-understanding, nurture creativity, and further spiritual growth.



Youth Program with Musician David Landau Friday, April 28, 10:30 a.m.

Young children will enjoy this blend of silly jokes, active songs and familiar music. Kids of all ages and their caregivers are welcome. Recommended for ages 2-7.



Photo courtesy: Janavi Wagle

Local residents celebrate Holi, the festival of colors.

Holi: The Festival of Colors

By Janavi Wagle, 8th Grade – Pilgrim Park Middle School

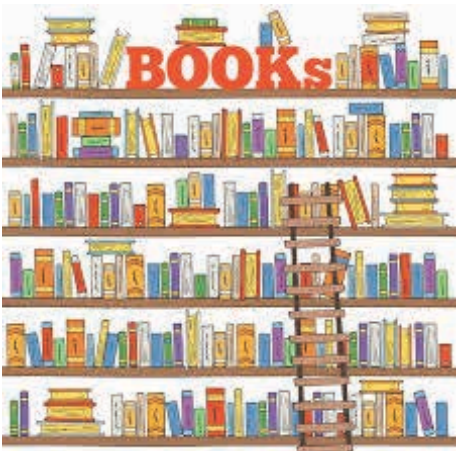
In my family, we celebrate a lot of festivals throughout the year. In the city I live in, Milwaukee, we can tell that spring is almost here when the winter sports seasons are over and the spring sports season starts. Several cultures have ways to celebrate the beginning of seasons. In order to give winter a grand farewell, we do something similar to a color run. As a practicing Hindu we celebrate the festival of colors called Holi (pronounced holy). Holi is an ancient festival celebrated with great joy by South Asian communities throughout the world. This is another festival, where we celebrate the victory of good over evil (If you are into mythological stories, I would recommend searching the story of Holi). Every year in Mid to late March, family and friends come together,

bring dishes to share, socialize and then the fun begins. In my family, it is the only day of the year where you can be as childish as you want with no rules. We put color on each other’s faces followed by singing and dancing. My favorite thing about Holi is the positive vibes among everyone. It represents out with the old and in with the new. My second favorite thing about Holi is the party with good food and fun with colors. Lastly, you can be as childish as you want. During the pandemic we could not have a big Holi celebration due to COVID taking over our lives. Last year, we were in Connecticut during Holi and finally had fun with family and friends. This year again the Nepali community in Brookfield celebrated Holi with great enthusiasm.

“A World Made of Books” Couplet

By Caroline Scholz, 8th Grade – Pilgrim Park Middle School

Walk amongst the trees in Green Gables
Or battle a dragon in Aesop’s Fables
Scramble down the streets of London with Oliver Twist
I bet that one’s on Goodreads Reading List
Charlie’s Expectations are Great
Can’t say the same about Romeo’s fate
Of the Greasers, my favorite’s Dally
Watch out for the Socs in the next alley.
Bella’s obsession for Edward is a bit much
After all, his skin’s cold to the touch
The Devil Wears Prada was based on a book
I bet Miranda has a mean right hook
The Fiddler on the Roof was also inspired
Though the original title is left undesired
Of all the titles alluded to...
At Elm Grove Library, pick up a few!



News’ Hounds

& other beloved creatures

Adopt a Pet at the Elmbrook Humane Society

By Morgan Gourley

Busch is a timid girl who came to EBHS as a stray with her brother. Since then, she has become increasingly interested in people. She likes to sit and watch her foster family as they go about their day, and she has even started to play with them. Busch is not sure about being touched yet, but she is showing interest by reaching out and pawing at hands. She frequently displays her growing comfort level (and adorable white spots) by rolling over and showing her belly to her foster family.

Busch would do best in a quieter home with older kids. Her adopter will need to be patient and willing to give her the time and space she needs to overcome her fears. She has been around dogs, but is understandably apprehensive about them. Her ideal home would have another cat to play with and help her continue to build confidence.

Apply today! Visit: <https://ebhs.org>.
Call (262) 782-9261 for more information.



Photo: Elmbrook Humane Society

Busch



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Young Writers & Reporters

The Other Side

By Talulah Pearson, 8th Grade - PPMS

click...click...I lock in both feet
As I get on the chair lift
I still feel incomplete
I still can't hit this trick
Last time the snow was too slick

As I stand at the top looking down
I think to myself if I fall
I will look like a clown
I've been trying all year to hit a box
But all I've been getting is snow in my sox

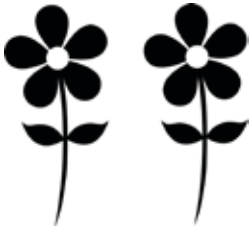
I'm about to jump up on top
But my stomach is in knots
I forget about all my fears
And just try to hold back my tears

It's my last time down the slope
before I head in
I'm just praying I won't land on my shin
I get a lot of speed and give it a good slide
I open my eyes and realize
I'm on the other side

Spring

By Adrian Monfils, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

Super fun
Pink lemonade
Run a lot
In the heat
No snow
Great time



Rosie

By Venushkha.Saravanan
7th Grade - Pilgrim Park Middle School

Once upon a time, there lived a girl named Rosie. She is short, has blue eyes, red hair, and looks like her mother. Her parents died in a car accident when she was ten. Then she was adopted by her aunt. Her aunt's name is Jule and has two daughters named Bella and Stella; they were the same age as Rosie. They all were mean, arrogant, and selfish to her. Her aunt always said that she was an unlucky girl because she did not have her parents. She wasn't sent to school and was used to doing her daily chores. When she was with her parents, she used to be free and loved but when her aunt adopted her, she wasn't as free and loved as she was before. Her aunt was a cruel woman. Her daughters used to bully her so much that she cries a lot at night thinking about it. She was given to sleep in a really small tight room, was given to eat leftover food, and was given old dresses that her daughters wore. She was forced to wash the dishes, vacuum the hall, fold the clothes, cook food, and garden the flowers. If she did not do her work, she wouldn't get her food and she would be locked in her room for a day. When Rosie's cousins were having friends invited, she was being bullied because she looked ugly in bad clothes. She was upset that she did not have any friends and was miserable that she wasn't loved and happy like her cousins.

One day she asked her aunt "Why am I treated like a maid, not respected and loved like my cousins too?" Her aunt responded, "You little girl never think about it again so you're being punished for asking me about this." She started crying when she was locked in the room because she was not allowed to be free like her cousins and happy. After a few minutes, a fairy suddenly appeared in front of her face. The fairy asked, "My little girl, why are you so upset?" "I am really upset because I am not loved, free, and happy like my cousins." So, the fairy said, "I will give you a wish and use it wisely. So, what do you wish for?" "I wish that I would be free from my aunt and live happily." After that, the fairy disappeared. When she went out of the room, she saw that her aunt wasn't there but she was with kind parents who treated her like their daughter.

Easter

By Lillian Rydze, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

Hop, hop goes the bunny putting eggs in your basket. Run, run you go down the stairs so you'll be the first one down. Then, come your Mom and Dad, sister and brother. "Happy Easter" you say. "Let's go find the EGGS!"

Easter

By Taylor Guse, 3rd Grade – Tonawanda

I like it when the Easter bunny comes because she gives us a basket of gifts. Then she puts eggs everywhere. It is the best. I don't know why I just love EASTER!

Springtime

By Midori Sutherland and Anaya Sati
4th Grade - Tonawanda

Here comes the robin,
flying through the trees.
Here comes the robin, drifting in the breeze.
Spring is here, the sky is blue.
Spring is here, the birds see you.
Winter has ended, leaves are growing.
Winter has ended, rivers are flowing.
Summer is coming, the clouds float by.
Summer is coming, the sun rises high.

Interview: Arely Zosel

By Abigail Balter, 4th Grade - Tonawanda

- *Do you like fourth grade? "Yeah"
- *What's your favorite subject? "science"
- *Do you have a favorite book? "My favorite genres are mysteries and realistic fiction."
- *What are some of your hobbies?
"I like to dance, I like to sing and I like to do cheer (Cheer is my favorite hobby.)"
- *What's your favorite animal?
"Rabbits and Red Pandas."
- *What's a place you want to go?
"Paris and Italy"
- *Do you like chocolate, mint or vanilla ice cream better? "I love chocolate ice cream!"
- *Who's your favorite musician/ Singer?
"Taylor Swift!!!!!"
- *What's one of your favorite Italian foods?
"spaghetti with marinara sauce"

Leo

By Olivia Webb, 7th Grade – Pilgrim Park

Leo adores fingernail scratches on his belly
When rubbed, Leo nibbles on belly
Rolls over and needs to play
Will do most hated things for smallest treat
Chews on our feet like squeaky toys,
kinda naughty
Perky puppies are extremely hyper

Occasionally though he's not hyper
When worn out, he chills on belly
Milliseconds later,
will find ways to be naughty
Quiet as a mouse,
he opens kitchen door with paw
Sneakily locates bag with favorite treats
Can't remember it's not a game to play

Leo cherishes time outside
Only area we actually allow hyperness
Watching Leo sprint fast as a train is a treat
When he runs out of steam, flops onto belly
Stretching out his tired paws
Acting like he's never been naughty

Sometimes Leo doesn't realize
he's being naughty
Will attempt to get my cat to play
Tries to engage her by touching her tail
Gracie is irritated with his hyperness
She hisses like a snake and claws his belly
Poor kitty just came for a treat

When I rub his belly,
it leaves a paw print in my heart
He loves us even more than cheese,
his favorite treat
Most hyper boy until he can't be anymore

Team B.U.I.L.D.

Wins State Championship

By Hannah Zhang
7th Grade - Pilgrim Park Middle School

"Finally, the first-place champion's award goes to...team B.U.I.L.D 44199!"

"Oh my god," said Coach Black

We all jumped up and out of our seats, and ran towards the high-five line. The feeling of excitement and happiness coursed through our veins. We've done it! The day was February 4, 2023. It was the First Lego League (FLL) Wisconsin State Championship. We have been a team for about 8 years. Every year, the FLL season starts in August with a theme that is important in our life. Teams that came from all over the state would work on three parts, project, core values and robot missions, to compete through regional, sectional and finally advanced to the State level.

"You know, earlier today, I was looking at this huge trophy thinking, we are going to be the ones to get that trophy," I said.

This year the theme was Superpowered. We created an innovative Benkatina turbine LED system to use during a blackout with renewable clean energy. We had field trips, consulted experts and helped other teams.

We can't wait to travel to Houston in April, representing Wisconsin! Visit our website at tinyurl.com/BUILD44199 to help us with fundraising to the Worlds.

Basketball

Gio Russo, 7th Grade – Pilgrim Park

All thought targeting ball.
No matter what team gotta work.
Keep all commotion concealed in gym.
Fighting through injuries, grit.
Team lives on court.
Our house, our rim, our net.

Watch as ball goes through net.
Warmups over, time to ball.
Stepping on court.
About to zoom through another day of work.
This takes grit.
Hours in gym.

Voices echo in small, compact gym.
Doing everything to keep ball from net.
Opposing team unveiling,
showcasing strength and grit.
Eyes on ball.
Just a normal day of work.
More and more bodies hit the court.

Leaving it all on court.
Moments seem too grand for this old gym.
Winning thanks to dedication and work.
Even surprised net.
Only thing needed to recover is game ball.
Whole crowd confused "What is grit?"

Work and determination on court.
Grit in gym, shows dedication.
Net swishes, ball glides through hoop.

Littering!

By Lena Janz, 3rd Grade – Tonawanda

Are you wondering why you should stop littering? One reason is that animals won't get sick. This means animals will be healthier and safer. Another reason to stop littering is because it will help our planet Earth. Our plants won't die as much if we stop littering. Second, the litter won't go into our soil and make our foods bad for us. Third, our plants will grow. Fourth, Earth will be healthier for everyone. That is why we should stop littering!

April

By Ella Rhode, 3rd Grade – Tonawanda

April showers bring May flowers
April is tricky because... **April Fool's Day.**
In April it rains a lot, so you might want to have your umbrella close by.
But next month there will be flowers!
April has spring showers! **Go April!!**

Mrs. Callahan

By Joy Kim, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

Everyone should appreciate Mrs. Callahan. Why you might ask, because she teaches us a lot of things. For example, she teaches reading, writing and word work. I know you might feel like this is not enough information, so let me tell you a little bit more about Mrs. Callahan. She is very kind; she never leaves people out. She always helps people. In addition, she cheers people up when they are sad. Lastly, she makes you feel better every day. She hugs you; she talks to you and she makes you laugh. This is why we need to appreciate Mrs. Callahan!

Dance / Sestina

By Isabella Radomski, PPMS - 7th grade

"Give it everything,
like you're at the Marcus about to dance."
Yank on flat shoes
Two, sharp, clean turns
Develop side, struggle through pain
But keep hammering away, for passion
For dance, for love

Ballet defines my love
My motive to dance
Teacher speaks of my powerful passion
Secure ribbons on pointe shoes
Stiff, cutting pain
Push through, only one turn

Observe her, three turns
Share with me, the love
Seems as if she holds no pain
Enhancing, watching her dance
Feel jealousy as she's confident on her shoes
She flies, a beautiful passion

Jazzing with a giddy passion
Three parallel turns
Black jazz shoes
Jazz, new kind of dance
Hair down, different, clothes, no pain

Teachers office, cozy, full of love
Speak of my passion
Coming performance for dance
"You got the lead, don't worry about turns"
Pulled into hug, squeezed with arms
Feet ricocheting in my shoes

Whisper "Merde" to her,
sweat seeping through shoes
Waiting, in b+, to start what i love
Adrenaline leaking through veins in my arms
Around people with shared passion
Curtains lift, music starts, all heads turn
8 counts cymbal crash, start to dance

Most comfortable in my dance shoes
Turn with all my love
Transfer all passion through arms

Easter

By Zac Boldt, Mason Kressin and Brady Dugan, 3rd Grade - Tonawanda

When you wake up you find a basket with stuff in it. You go on an Easter egg hunt too! You may find candy or money (if you are lucky) in your eggs. In your basket you may find Peeps, some chocolate and other stuff. We love Easter! Do you love Easter?

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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 (**about 200 words**) must include the writer’s name, community & phone #.
*E-mail: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com (Subject line: Letters to the Editor)

Response to State Representative Michalski’s Article

The February 2023 issue of *The News-Independent* included a letter from Representative Tom Michalski in which he cites the three principles of redistricting as “compactness, contiguity, and preservation of community interests”. Regarding the third principle, Representative Michalski states that District 13 “represents a community, including those portions of Wauwatosa and the Town of Brookfield, which are populated by individuals arguably similar to their Brookfield and Elm Grove neighbors.”

It should be noted that while compactness and contiguity are easy to assess using generally-acknowledged mathematical calculations, the principle of preservation of community interests is subjective, and can lead to “packing” and “cracking”, two tools

used to gerrymander districts (see page 10 of “Redistricting in Wisconsin 2020: The LRB Guidebook” https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lrb/wisconsin_elections_project/redistricting_wisconsin_2020_1_2.pdf).

Representative Michalski’s letter also states that he did “not wish to discuss the perceived impact of redistricting on some of the 99 assembly districts”. We trust that Representative Michalski and his co-representatives have not used preservation of community interests to pack or crack districts, but if this has occurred, we trust that Representative Michalski will in the future wish to discuss this issue in a follow-up letter to *The News-Independent*.

Mark Polczynski
Elm Grove

Wait No Longer

Sam Hughes is the candidate we have been waiting for to serve on the Elmbrook School Board. He received his under graduate degree in engineering and his MBA from Marquette University. He comes with a well-rounded background to lead. He is a clear and concise communicator using active listening. Sam has lead 100+ teams and has served as a board member on a no-profit. His platform is to improve TRUST, share the TRUTH, and be

TRANSPARENT. He will bring these values and will fight for your children to ensure they receive the BEST education possible. These values are why we are endorsing and will vote for candidate SAM HUGHES to serve on the Elmbrook School Board. VOTE APRIL 4th

Susan & Paul Freedy
Past Trustees & Village President
Elm Grove

Legal Issues

Estate Planning and Remarriage

By Attorney Isabell M. Mueller

Marriage is a time for celebration. However, in the event of a remarriage, it is imperative that you and your future spouse also focus on the less romantic process of redrafting your estate plans. Wisconsin is a Marital Property state, which means your marriage will affect the ownership of all of your assets, regardless of how the asset is titled. This change in ownership will affect not only the division of your assets in the event of a divorce, but also the distribution of your assets upon your death. In many instances it will result in a distribution that is substantially different from what you intended.

You and your future spouse’s respective financial situations and family situations are most likely more complex than when you first married. You probably have more assets and one or both of you may have children from previous relationships. It may, therefore, be in both parties’ interest to execute a prenuptial agreement. In deciding whether or not a prenuptial agreement is appropriate, you and your future spouse should address the following issues:

1. How do the two of you plan to share, or not share, your income and expenses?

Do either of you have any significant liabilities for which the other should not be held liable? Health care costs and the cost of long-term care should be a significant part of this discussion.

2. In the event of a divorce, how do you want your assets divided? Do either of you have strong feelings about keeping any assets as your “individual” property in the event of a divorce?

3. In the event of your death, how do you want your property to be divided between your surviving spouse and your children? Do you want the majority, if not all, of the assets going to your surviving spouse? Or do you want your children or other family members receiving a significant share? These are the most significant issues that must be addressed and are also the factors which will determine whether or not a prenuptial agreement is needed. Once these issues have been addressed and, if necessary, a prenuptial agreement has been signed, the rest of your estate planning documents, (Wills, Revocable Trusts, Powers of Attorney, etc.) should be updated to reflect both your decisions and your new marriage.

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Mary Inden-The Right Choice for Elm Grove Village President

As a 40-year Elm Grove resident, and a 33-year Elm Grove business owner, Mary Inden understands what makes our Village unique and wants to preserve that. Mary has always been generous with her time and epitomizes the spirit of Elm Grove volunteerism. For 34 years., she chaired the Grove’s July 4th Family Fun Fest. As a 25-year member of the Elm Grove Business Association, she coordinated the Holiday Open House, Village Calendar and Shred Day. When help is needed, Mary steps up.

Mary also possesses great leadership qualities. She believes in transparency and open communication. She is a good listener and willing to respectfully consider all sides of an issue. She encourages collaboration

and is a consensus builder. Having served as a Village trustee for 10 years., Mary understands governmental procedure and knows how to get things done.

During her tenure, she was appointed to the Public Works, Public Safety and Recreation committees and the Building Board. She is optimistic about Elm Grove’s future and understands its issues and challenges. She will work hard to ensure Elm Grove remains a great place to live, work and play.

On election day, Write in “Mary Inden” for Village President

Laurie Reinders
Elm Grove

Vote: David Irwin, Preetha Kurudiyara for Elmbrook School Board

David Irwin and Dr. Preetha Kurudiyara are the best candidates for the two contested seats on the Elmbrook School Board. Both exemplify longtime commitments to education, professionalism, thoughtful analysis, civic life, and to Elmbrook Schools.

David and Preetha know that partisan political agendas and outside political action committees have no place in our schools.

Neighboring school districts that have seen political takeovers of their boards are experiencing increased teacher and administrator resignations and other chaos. Elmbrook schools attract top talent. It would be a shame to see good educators leave because of foolishness in the Board room.

Moreover, the people we elect this year are likely to hire the next Elmbrook superintendent. We need school board

members who respect our institutions, individuals who can guide continuous improvement without breaking the system.

In our opinion, David Irwin and Preetha Kurudiyara bring valuable career experience, communication skills, and impressive credentials to the table (a Wharton graduate and an MD, respectively). David Irwin and Preetha Kurudiyara have our confidence and our vote.

Kathryn Wilson
Brookfield Alderperson,
Past President, Elmbrook School Board
Matt Gibson
Former Superintendent, Elmbrook Schools
Neil Palmer
President, Village of Elm Grove
Tom Curl
Business Leader and Past President,
Elmbrook Rotary

Jim is our answer!

I have been a resident of Elm Grove for 45 years. Never have I seen our village in such turmoil. We are in desperate need of a strong experienced leader. James Koleski fits this need. For 30 years he has been a business man involved with financial issues, such as contract negotiations and contract

modifications. We need Jim! He has the experience to make decisions. Our village needs strong, honest, thoughtful and unbiased leadership. Vote James Koleski on April 4th.

Frank Lorenz
Elm Grove

Elmbrook School Board Candidates Need a Stake in the Game

I have paid close attention to the Elmbrook School District and Board operations for several years now, and this year’s School Board candidates slate feels different. And not entirely in a positive way.

When I researched candidates this year, I found a striking difference between candidates in both the At-Large and Area III seats. As a voter for a public school district, I find two factors essential: First, that candidates support public education and our district, and second, that candidates have kids in the district or been closely involved as an advocate. David Irwin (At-Large candidate)

and Preetha Kurudiyara (Area III candidate) are the best candidates who fit those criteria.

If perhaps you’ve heard the narrative that the school district is broken, that’s simply not accurate. We need board leaders like Mr. Irwin and Ms. Kurudiyara who believe in the excellence of Elmbrook, and want to be a part of the solution rather than tear it down or divert funds away from public schools. Electing board members who don’t advocate for Elmbrook Schools would mean irreparable damage to the district.

Katie Rasoul
Brookfield

Elect Mary Inden, Write-In Candidate for Village President

Where are you going to find a candidate for Village President who has been a Village Trustee (1986 - 1996)? A tireless volunteer who has experienced decision-making on four committees (Public Works, Public Safety, Recreation and the Building Board). Someone who has organized countless special events (July 4th Family Fun Fest for 34 years!, Shred Day, Holiday Open House, and the Village Calendar). A strong proponent for Elm Grove businesses (25 years as a member of the Elm Grove Business Association including many years a EGBA President). Former owner of the award-winning fine arts gallery Gilded Edge in downtown Elm Grove and a current owner of Professional Home Staging.

For more than 40 years as an Elm Grove resident, Mary Inden has helped protect the spirit of Elm Grove while supporting progress that has helped the Village grow. As Village President, she will continue to listen, lead, encourage open and honest communication and volunteerism. These are critical times where experience is essential. Now is not the time for training wheels.

Mary Inden for Village President -- Write her in!

Holly Kuusinen
Elm Grove resident for 68 years

News Briefs



Brookfield Academy writing award winners (Left to right, top row): **Madison Kob, Maranda Montgomery, Isabelle Jurgens, Anvesha Guru, Marina Matson, Olivia Greipp**; (Bottom row): **Claire Tian, Leo Chen, Adrian Yin**.
(Not pictured: **Leah Johnson, Max Hong, Gabriel Fernandez-Tyson**.)

Brookfield Academy Students Earn Scholastic Writing Awards

By Melissa Eriksen

- Brookfield Academy is proud to announced that the following 12 students received recognition in the Scholastic Writing Awards -Wisconsin:
- ***Leo Chen** (Gold Key & American Voices Award nominee – Short Story, Honorable Mention (HM)– Poetry)
 - ***Gabriel Fernandez** (HM- Flash Fiction)
 - ***Olivia Greipp** (Gold Key – Critical Essay)
 - ***Anvesha Guru** (Silver Key – Journalism)
 - ***Max Hong** (Gold Key – Poetry, Gold Key – Writing Portfolio, Silver Key – Poetry, Silver Key – Writing Portfolio, HM-Poetry)
 - ***Leah Johnson** (Silver Key – Writing Portfolio, HM – Critical Essay)
 - ***Isabelle Jurgens** (Silver Key – Short Story, HM – Humor, HM – Poetry)
 - ***Madison Kob** (Silver Key – Poetry, HM – Short Story)
 - ***Marina Matson** (HM – Poetry, HM – Personal Essay & Memoir)
 - ***Maranda Montgomery** (Gold Key – Poetry, HM – Flash Fiction, HM – Personal Essay & Memoir, HM – Short Story)
 - ***Claire Tian** (Silver Key – Poetry, HM – Science Fiction & Fantasy)
 - ***Adrian Yin** (Silver Key – Critical Essay, HM – Journalism)

EDITOR’S NOTE: **Tom Ramstack** ----- a descendant of early settlers and business owners in Elm Grove (notably the Ramstack Tavern on Watertown Plank Road, later known as Verbrick’s Inn, and now O’Donoghue’s Irish Pub) ----- has been a frequent contributor to the “Our History” section. Read excerpts from his new book - Page 4.

Historian Tom Ramstack’s Local History Book Published “Brookfield: A Fine and Fertile Land - Volume 1”

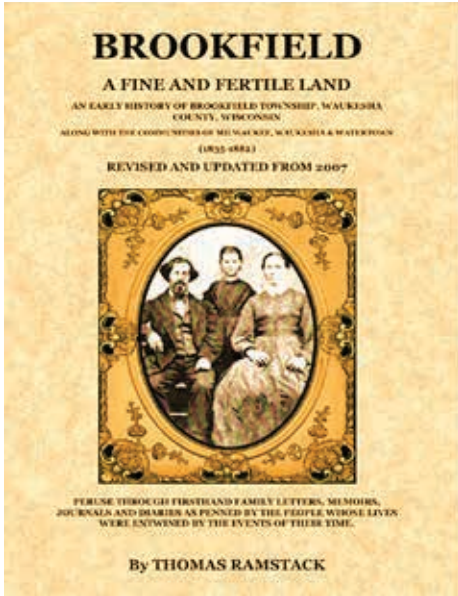
Reviewed by **Arline Kirkham** (formerly of Brookfield) / Publisher: Brookfield Questers

Award winning author, **Thomas Ramstack** has been writing Brookfield/Elm Grove history for over seventeen years. Mr. Ramstack has now released a new work. His latest publication (revised from the 2007 edition) provides wonderful insights into Brookfield/Elm Grove’s earliest residents, with the presentation of an assortment of photographs, along with primary source letters, journals, diaries & memoirs. An all-around fascinating work sharing with us our towns earliest ancestors’ determination to build new lives in this new heavily forested land. You will read about our community’s earliest immigrants, Wisconsin’s first railroad, plank roads, early farming practices, our local boys experiences in the Civil War, disease, social gatherings and much, much more.

With his accumulated knowledge, Mr. Ramstack has been invited to present talks on regional historic topics at numerous Southeastern Wisconsin area venues—community libraries, regional historical societies, the Waukesha Civil War Round Table, Milwaukee German Fest, as a guest on “All Things Considered” DAR. FM Radio Talk Show, the Sturgeon Bay, and the Door County Library readers group, along with the McHenry County, IL, “Trail of History” speaker’s forum. Extremely knowledgeable on his subject, the author presents his work with great passion and the hope that others might be inspired from his shared accumulated knowledge. All in all, a great read!



Tom Ramstack



For more information, contact Tom Ramstack at bayernimmigrant@aol.com.

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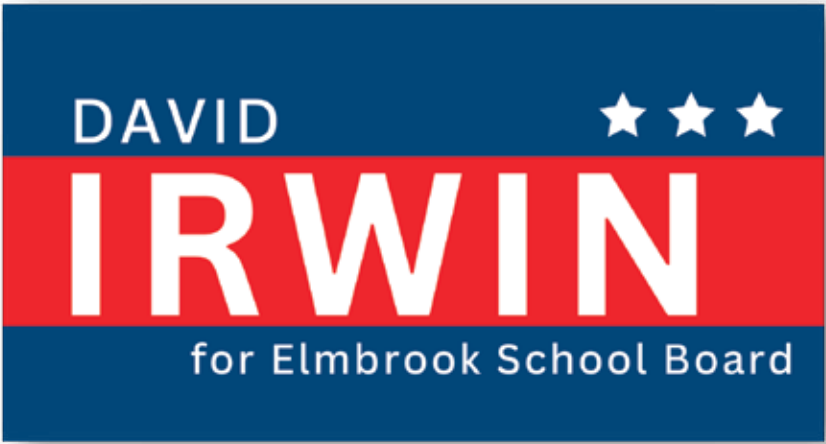
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Betty Hunter

Village of Elm Grove Plan Commission, 1994-2017

Tom Curl

Business Leader & Past President, Elmbrook Rotary

Kathryn Wilson

Brookfield Alderperson
Elmbrook School Board, Past President

Jennifer Rospkopf

Current Elmbrook School Board Member

Glen Allgaier

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Dr Matt Gibson

Former Elmbrook Superintendent 1995-2012



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